



DRAFT MINUTES

Dressage NZ Planning Forum 2024

Date: Tuesday 23 April 2024 & Wednesday 24 April 2024

Agenda items:

1. February Annual Starts & Income
2. Projected 23/24 I & E : Finance Officer to report
3. Fees 24/25
4. Draft Calendar 2023/24 – Areas were asked to check carefully and send changes/additions to Jos Gresham via the Google Form
5. Dressage Conference & Awards Dinner 2024 & ESNZ Hall of Fame

Apologies:

Sarah Hazlewood
Mura Love
Linda Warren-Davey

Board Finance *Wednesday only
Observer /JSC
Observer

Attendees:

Sue Hobson
Sarah Hazlewood
Christine Latch
Judith Cunningham
Suzanne Inglis
Andrea Raves
Meg Johnston
Rachel McCallum
Fiora Au
Anna Gale
Wendy Hamerton
Judy Collin
Jos Gresham
Olivia Goggin
Barbara Clarke
Lauren Haig
Susan Tomlin
Sue Harris
Angela Valentine
Lois Andrewes
Genevieve Quin

Board Chair
Board Vice Chair/ Finance
Board Marketing
Board Judges
Board Technical
Board Development
Youth Council Delegate
Steward General
NI Rider Rep/Auckland Manukau
SI Rider Rep/Marlborough
Sport Manager
Minute Secretary
Asst Secretary/Points /Calendar
Ashburton
Bay of Plenty
Canterbury
Central Districts
Gisborne
Nelson
Northland
Nth Hawkes Bay

Jackie Thomas
Stuart Bishell
Rachael Fouhy
Carolyn Jones
Bernice Frost
Becky Corlett
Christine Weal
Tracey Cooper
Andrea Feuhrer
Jacqui Thompson

Otago
SCNO
Sth Hawkes Bay
Southland
Taihape
Taranaki
Waikato
Wairarapa
Waitemata
Wellington

Observers

Belle Clark	Observer
Jenny Pearce	Observer
Jody Hartstone	Observer
Juliet Iremonger	Observer
Nicole Sage	Observer
Sandra Cleaver	Observer
Sharon Muirhead	Observer
Sonja Swale	Observer
Wendy Butler	Observer
Chris Lovelady	Observer

Observers

Tuesday only

Catriona	MacFarlane
Gina	Mabey
Jane	Robertson
Julie	Malcolm
Kate	Walker
Laura	Hayes
Lynda	Clark
Mary	Craine
Rochelle	Smith

Observers

Wednesday only

Betty	Brown
Leonie	Coker
Phoebe	Brown

Welcome

Sue Hobson (Chair) welcomed participants and thanked Judy Collin (Minute Secretary) and Jos Gresham (Zoom Co-host) for their assistance. As Sarah Hazlewood (Finance) advised she may be late to this meeting, it was decided to bring the agenda item of Remits forward.

REMITTS & DISCUSSION ITEMS

Suzanne Inglis addressed the meeting re Remits.

Remits from the Dressage Technical Committee unless otherwise stated

1. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 417.1

REMIT: change wording

A whip may be carried in any test of any level, including FEI tests, at any event, ridden under ESNZ Dressage rules

For all competitions run under FEI rules, refer to the FEI rules

RATIONALE:

To make it clearer, so the whip rule is the same for all ESNZ dressage competitions on the calendar, remove confusion.

PASSED

1A: ART 417: EXCESSIVE USE OF WHIP: RIDERS REPS

Clarify excessive Use of Whip

Moved: Anna Gale /SI Riders Rep

Seconded: Fiora Au / NI Riders Rep

REMIT:

Use of whip

Excessive and/or misuse of the whip maybe considered abuse of Horse/Pony and will be reviewed case by case by the Ground Jury according to the following but not limited to the following principles.

- A) The whip is not to be used to vent an athlete temper
- B) The whip is not to be used after elimination.
- C) The whip is not to be used on a horse's head.
- D) Multiple excessive use of a whip throughout the test
- E) If a Horses skin is broken or has visible marks the use of the whip will always be deemed excessive.

RATIONALE: (Add separate pages or attachments if necessary)

As DNZ rules stand there is no explanation what is deemed as excessive use of the whip, DNZ use of whip rules need to be brought in line with other disciplines so therefore it becomes clear what is defined as excessive use of the whip.

FAILED

2. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 420.3 STIRRUPS

Amend

REMIT: Delete words current rule

Stirrup leathers and English style stirrups or safety stirrups are compulsory and must be attached to the saddle and used in the conventional way. Stirrups must have closed branches, and no attachments. Safety stirrups may have an opening on the ~~inside~~ or outside branch.

Delete – inside or

To ALIGN with FEI rules

PASSED

3. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER : 422 - REINS

Remit: Amend wording

A rein is a continuous, uninterrupted strap or line from the bridle bit to the hand. Each bit must be attached to a separate rein and reins may only be attached to the bit. Reins must not be made of rope or rope-like material. *Rein additions or attachments, including knots, coloured tape or loops are not permitted without a Dressage NZ approved dispensation under Article 413*

Discussion:

Clarification – any item that is not part of the standard purchased reins.

PASSED

4. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 423 EAR HOODS

REMIT: Add to current rule

Extra padding cannot be added to the ear hood, the ears must be able to move freely, anything that impedes freedom of movement is not allowed.

PASSED

5. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER : 429 & 431 PENALTIES

REMIT: Add to current rule

Add

Penalty for rider presenting in space around arena and/or inside the competition arena without two Identification numbers (one on each side of horse) or back number (if applicable), minus 2 penalty points per judge.

RATIONALE: To keep in line with other penalties for incorrect gear or dress

Discussion:

Penalty for riders who continuously present without numbers. Judges discretion.

PASSED

6. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 441.3 FALL OF HORSE OR RIDER – updated explanation

REMIT: Amend wording and add

Current rule

441.3 In case of a fall of an athlete and/or horse at any time in the competition arena, in the practice arena, or elsewhere within the grounds of the event, the athlete must be checked by the event's medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available) before he/she may be permitted to take part in the next round or competition at the event.

Amendment to 441.3

.....medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available) before the athlete ~~he/she~~ may be permitted ~~to take part in the next round or competition at the event.~~ *to remount and continue to participate in the event and /or competition.*

Addition to rule

If an athlete, having had a fall, remounts or leaves the grounds without first having a medical check, they may, at the discretion of the Ground Jury be given a verbal warning, an ESNZ Official warning or a fine not exceeding \$100

PASSED

7. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 441.5 : 441.3 FALL OF HORSE OR RIDER

REMIT: ADD New wording

DELETED– combined with remit 6

8. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER : 454.3 Updated Explanation

REMIT: Amend current wording

Current rule

If there is to be a change of rider at any time during an Event, (for any reason other than injury or illness, or special competition) the horse must then compete Hors Concours in any further competitions at that Event. The change of rider must be notified to the OC and their approval for the substitution of the rider granted. Refer to Article 412 - Competing "Hors Concours" for other restrictions.

Change wording of rule

If there is to be a change of rider at any time during an Event for any reason other than (~~for any reason other than injury or illness~~ special competition/s, Art 407, the horse must then compete Hors Concours in any further competitions at that Event. The change of rider must be notified to the OC and their approval for the substitution ~~of the rider granted by the TD or Ground Jury~~. Refer to Article 412 - Competing "Hors Concours" for other restrictions.

RATIONALE:

Remove wording, as there is no qualifying statement as to who makes the ruling.

Add wording, as it should be TD or GJ who make the decision

PASSED

9. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 470.7.3 ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION - JUDGES

Amend

REMIT: Amend current wording

Judges may use electronic communications (walkie talkies or phones) to confer over missed movements or issues in a musical freestyle class only

RATIONALE:

It can use up a lot of time when judges all must get out of the cars to discuss missed movements, and it's a more discreet way of dealing with it, when everyone stays in their cars or boxes.

Discussion:

Emphasized this option for musical freestyles only. It is an internationally recognized practice for judges to confer but phones not allowed. If walkie-talkie communications, then a secure channel should be used. More discreet than getting out of cars/boxes especially in inclement weather.

PASSED

10. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 486.4 ARENA FAMILIARISATION

REMIT: Add to current rule

Any person leading a horse in an arena familiarisation, ~~must be wearing a correctly fitting yellow tagged helmet~~. All horses being lead ~~must be wearing a bridle with a permitted bit~~, and with two bridle numbers. A newmarket lead may replace the reins for this purpose.

RATIONALE:

For safety purposes, ~~riders are more likely to get kicked when walking round in a big group~~, and horses are easier to control when in a bridle.

Discussion:

The SM suggested this remit be divided into 10.1 wearing of ~~a currently approved helmet~~ and 10.2 bridle or no bridle. Christine Weal asked for clarification if a person needed to wear a helmet when assisting a horse and rider e.g. through the indoor entrance. The SM clarified this rule included grooms in arena familiarisation as well as riders because of risk of injury. Chair reminded participants that DNZ were responsible to ensure the safety of everyone on the grounds.

10.1 & 10.2 PASSED

11. ESNZ By Law No.17 Dressage NZ Rules For Administration

Amend

REMIT: Change Steward General term (clause 20.a)

Change the term of a Steward General from being appointed annually to every three years

PASSED

12. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER : 420.6 seat savers not allowed unless dispensation

REMIT:

Moved: Julie Malcolm: Judge/Coach

Seconded: Jody Hartstone: Rider/Coach

Amend

Allow seat savers

RATIONALE:

Currently seat savers are not allowed without dispensation.

Our pelvis/pelvic floor is not designed for the trauma associated with the forces generated by the horse. As people age the structures of the pelvic floor become thinner and less able to withstand this force.

Studies in UK and Europe have shown that over 80% of riders suffer pelvic, hip or back pain when riding. Many saddles are fitted for the horse but often don't fit their riders, forcing them to sit in compensatory patterns to avoid pain or stabilise themselves. Many just take painkillers!

Seat savers can enable some relief from this pain, or can be shimmed so that the rider can sit biomechanically correctly without the vast expense of changing saddles.

At present many riders who have age related changes feel embarrassed to apply for dispensation. Allowing seat savers to be used (shimmed or unshimmed) would enable more riders to enjoy the sport and improve the welfare of the horse. Riders sitting in poor balance due to saddles that don't work for them affect the way of going and muscle development of the horse. Allowing seat savers that can help the rider to be comfortable in their saddle allows greater participation as many folk find the saddle that fits their horse and compromise themselves.

Discussion:

Participants agreed in principle that seat savers would be acceptable. They may prevent some riders from leaving the discipline. Julie agreed that the wording be amended with the colour and type of seat saver. Eg no bright colours. To cover the seat of the saddle only.

PASSED

13. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER : Article 405 AGE OF HORSES

Amend

Moved: Jody Hartstone

Seconded: Julie Malcolm

REMIT: That the minimum age for competing a horse be changed from three years of age to 4 years of age

RATIONALE:

We believe this is a simple and easy way to show that dressage in New Zealand is adapting and changing their rules to be kinder and fairer on the horse which is a vital part in keeping our social licence to operate

We realise that not many people DO compete 3 year old horses, but the fact that it is allowed means Dressage New Zealand condones the starting of horses in their two year old year in order for them to be ready to compete as a three year old.

We believe that the practice of riding horses so young can be detrimental to their mental and physical wellbeing and that setting a minimum age of Four years of age will go some way towards improving horse welfare and the public perception of the sport.

PASSED

14. CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER : Article 422.1 NOSEBANDS

Amend

Moved: Jody Hartstone

Seconded: Rebecca Kerr

REMIT: The use of a noseband on the bridle is optional at all levels

RATIONALE:

We believe this is a simple and easy way to show that dressage in New Zealand is adapting and changing their rules to be kinder and fairer on the horse.

We realise that not many people wish to compete without a noseband, however the fact that the use of a noseband is compulsory, and riding without one will entail a 2 point penalty per judge means that the general riding and non-riding public view it as something we demand.

There is a vocal part of the equestrian community who would feel a lot better about the direction of our sport if we gave riders the choice of riding with either a noseband or not, at their discretion.

This is a small move that we believe could have a positive impact on our social licence to operate, without directly affecting the majority of riders competing

PASSED

15. USE OF BITLESS BRIDLES

Moved: Gina Mabey

Seconded: Vanessa Way

Application for a rule change to allow use of a bitless bridle in Dressage Competition in New Zealand.

This application is made on the basis of Dressage becoming an all-inclusive sport where all equestrian riders can participate in Dressage with the horse's welfare as the number one priority. This is particularly in an era where public perception is vital to the continued existence of equestrian sports.

The public want to see happy, relaxed, and calm horses therefore by enabling riders to opt for bitless bridles when there are situations which warrant its use, such as injuries to the mouth area, dental issues, accidents, or illness that result in the horse no longer being comfortable using a traditional bridle with a bit. This would improve the public's perception of Dressage and its attention to animal welfare which can only benefit the longevity of equestrian sports.

By opening Dressage up to riders who wish to ride bitless, we are encouraging an all-inclusive sport. This would result in greater participation and as a result more growth within the dressage sector hence closing the divided among the equestrian community.

We are seeing a movement of riders from around the world questioning the ability to ride in a bitless bridle in the Dressage discipline. An example of this was on the 10th of March 2023, the World Bitless Association made an application to the FEI for modern bitless bridles to be used. Riders who opt for a Bitless solution are often looking for a way to create a more comfortable horse so that they can continue to enjoy the horse they have and still participate in the Dressage sport.

New Zealand could join the Royal Dutch Equestrian Federation by allowing riders to opt for a bitless bridle and compete in local and regional competition initially at the lower levels. Pony club Australia have made the progressive change to allow riders to apply for an exemption to ride Bit-free on the grounds of horse welfare.

Netherlands bit-free riding is allowed up to 2/3rd level. Levels 1-3 as a trail and reassessing after 1-2 seasons with the possibility of it being extended to the higher levels later date.

Similar rules would need to apply to riders using bitless bridles as that of riders using a bit, in that they must not be used in such a way to cause harm or distress to the horses. Similarly, there is unlikely to be a safety issue surrounding the use of a bitless bridle, as both bitless and horses ridden using a bit can be unsafe when incorrectly trained or handled. Therefore, it would be handled in the same way by our stewards.

Dressage New Zealand must keep animal welfare to the forefront of all decision making moving forward as it is now in the spotlight of the public and their perception of animal welfare. It will determine the fate of our sport. Therefore, please take your time when considering this application as this could be a chance for Dressage New Zealand to move with the modern thought patterns of society.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gina Mabey

The three bitless bridles I recommend for my remit are

The Side Pull

This is one of the mildest types of bitless bridles and very little discomfort to the horse, it works by applying direct pressure on the horses muzzle with no leverage action.

Cross Under

The cross under bitless bridle is a clever Design that was design that was developed by DR Robert Cook nearly two decades ago. It gives as much control over the horse as a bitted bridle making it ideal for transitioning riders.

The reins of the bridle connect to a strap that slides through a ring on either side of the noseband crossing under the horse's jaw and running up the cheek to the poll. There it connects to the strap from opposite side of the head. The cross under design makes it possible for the rider to simultaneously apply pressure to the muzzle, lower jaw, cheek and poll. Because of the bridle's "headstall" mechanism, there are no pressure points that could develop into sores on horse's head.

Wheel hackamore

Functions exactly the same as a side pull.

Discussion:

The meeting was supportive of bitless bridles in principle. NZ tests under licence with USDF and legality to amend the conditions under which they may be ridden would have to be investigated. Wording of tests that include "contact" is another aspect to consider. The SM suggested TOC could be ridden bitless as a separate division using prior DNZ tests that are not under license. Gina suggested trialling this Lvs 1 – 3 initially. Gina was asked to seek information from the Netherlands so that we have a better understanding and supply to Wendy by Friday 17 May.

Agreed to discuss further at Conference. The remit as presented failed.

FAILED

16. SCORING of PENALTIES & ERRORS

REMIT: Add to current rule

Update Note: This amendment applies only to non cumulative penalties – not course errors

Amend (To align with ESNZ & FEI score sheets) **All FEI tests should use same scoring system run under national rules and FEI rules**

For all ESNZ Dressage tests – Two (2) points per judge. These penalties are not cumulative and will not result in elimination (incl Freestyles Test)

Course Errors (Cumulative)	1st -2	2nd -4 (=6)	3rd Elimination	Minus Total Faults
Penalties - Minus 2	Reason			Minus Total Penalties

For all FEI tests - zero point five percentage points (0.5%) will be deducted per fault by each Judge, but these deductions are not cumulative and will not result in Elimination (including for Freestyle tests):

To be deducted / penalty points

Errors of course are penalised

1st error = 2 percentage points

2nd error = Elimination

Other Penalties – Technical faults: 0.5% (percentage points) to be deducted per fault.

PASSED

17. RIDERS WITH DISPENSATIONS

CURRENT RULE/ARTICLE NUMBER: 413.5

REMIT: Add to current rule

Riders who hold a current dispensation must wear a DNZ blue disc on their saddle cloth to signify to officials that they have a dispensation for extra equipment and/or allowances for the level they are riding



RATIONALE

To make it clearer to all around these riders, that they can have extra equipment, and to make it clear to the officials/judges, to check the run sheets for rider specific allowances.

Discussion:

Concern was raised about discrimination. The SM suggested could make this optional to riders with the understanding that disruption to their test may occur. Stewards thought this identification would be helpful to them.

PASSED

18. RULE CHANGES – PROPOSED CYCLE

ESNZ Bylaw 17.23

NEW

REMIT: Add to current rule

Unless for matters of Safety or Horse welfare that Dressage Rule Changes be made on a four Year cycle to align with FEI rules cycles and rules where applicable

**That after ANY 2024 changes, no more changes be made to the rules except relating to safety, horse welfare or alignment with FEI rules, until the year after the next FEI full revision is done in 2026

PASSED

19. GRADING, DOWNGRADING & RELATED ART 411

Additions: Horses & Ponies

Level 3/Grade 3

Elementary & FEI Childrens Tests

Level 5 / Grade 5

Advanced Medium & FEI Junior Tests

New

PONIES & PONY RIDERS

Pony Level and grading as Art 410

Ponies graded Level 5 and above may compete in any grade or level of test within Levels 4-9 **ONLY when ridden by a pony rider**

Rationale/Explanation: To align with grading of horses whereby horses can compete in any FEI Level 7-9 without downgrading, ponies can compete at Pony FEI Level (L4) or above without downgrading. Eg a pony graded level 5-9 does not have to be downgraded to compete at Level 4 or above.

This encourages the transition from Pony classes to FEI Junior classes where flying changes are required.

It follows the same principle as for horses at their highest levels

Ponies graded L5 and above only need to be downgraded to compete in Levels 1-3

DOWNGRADING AMENDMENTS

411.6 A downgraded horse or pony may not compete, with the rider who made the application to downgrade the horse or pony, at the horse or pony's original level in any National Championship Competition (NCH) OR **any HOYS DRESSAGE title classes**, or other Event/Series/Class specified by Dressage NZ, within 12 months of the downgrading, ***including any qualification competition subject to the following***

ADD: Any HOYS title classes for clarity as a lot of questions and confusion about this, especially from multi-discipline pony competitors

Remove deleted words. Rationale: meaning unclear and difficult for OC to police/manage
If qualifications are required for any competition they must simply be gained at the level required

PASSED

Rename this clause to 411.7

A downgraded horse or pony may compete in any class or combination of classes which do not contribute to an ESNZ title at U25 National Championships, Open National Championships and Horse of the Year Show in the first **12 months** year of being downgraded.

Delete year and replace with twelve months for clarity and to align with 411.6

Note: The list of ESNZ titles is listed in the ESNZ General Regulations

<https://www.nzequestrian.org.nz/esnz/rules-regulations/esnz-rules/>

Rationale: Is a natural follow on and further explanation of 411.6

PASSED

Delete 411.7

~~411.7 Once a horse or pony has been downgraded, subject to Article 411.5 the horse or pony may not compete with any rider, at any level, in any Island (ICI), National Championship Competition (NCH) or other Event/Series/Class specified by Dressage NZ within 12 months of the downgrading being approved, regardless of ownership.~~

Rationale: If a horse is sold or leased during the 12month period the downgrade is automatically revoked and the new rider should immediately be able to compete it at any eligible level any competition. Having been downgraded is no advantage.

PASSED

411.9

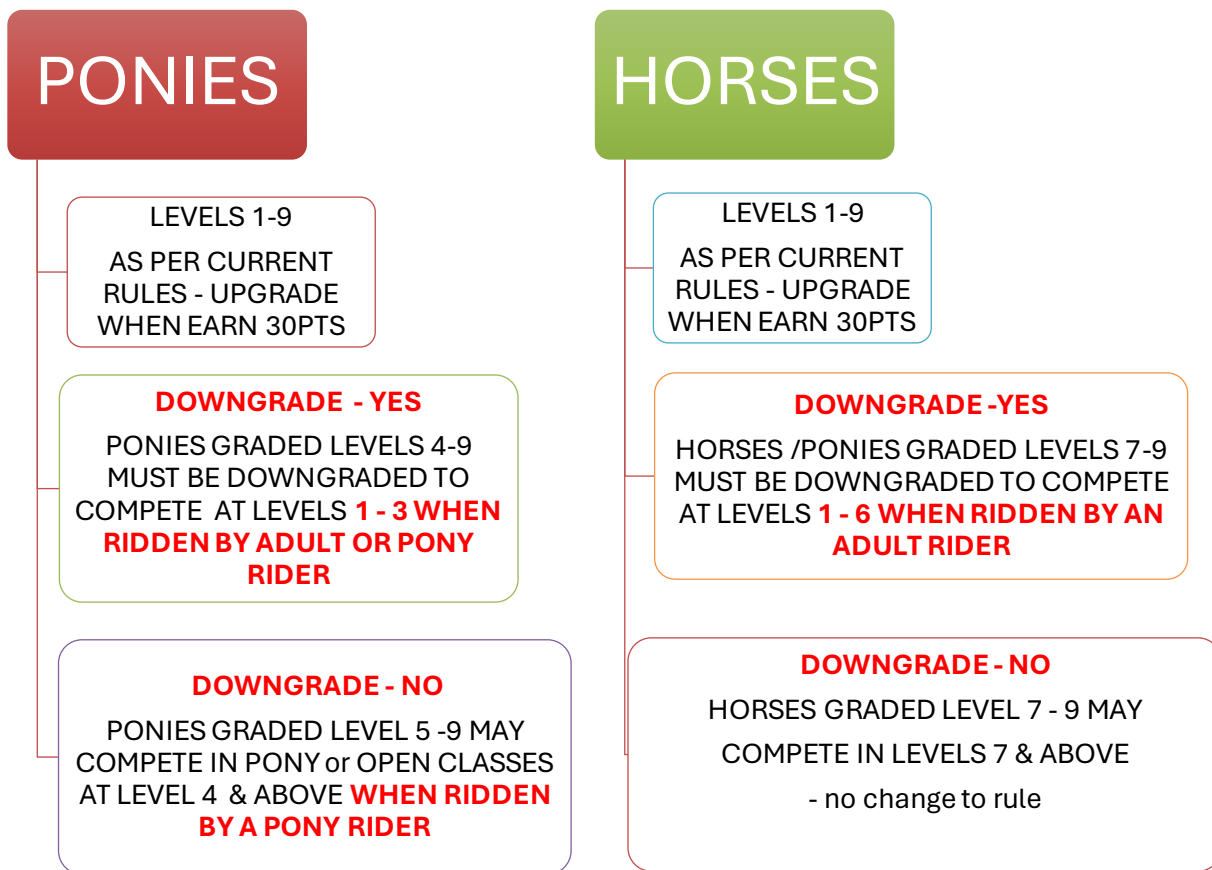
9 The ~~annual registration fees~~ **Dressage Annual Start fees** for the downgraded horse or pony will be charged at the amount set from time to time by Dressage NZ for the horse or pony.
Horses or ponies downgraded to Level 1 need only pay Level 1 annual fee at time of next registration owing but after that pay as per graded eligibility.

PASSED

Discussion:

The SM answered questions and gave further explanation. Stated that this would help in the development of young riders with more flexibility considering age of rider and pony. After a request from Chris Lovelady, the SM agreed to produce a flowchart to make this clearer for all.

PASSED



20. NUMBER OF JUDGES : Art 471

From the Judges Sub-Committee

At National Championships & named events (HOY) it is proposed to allow **only** 2 x judges on classes from Preliminary(L1) up to Advanced (L6) inclusive, rather than 3 x judges per class as is currently required.

Rationale: It is often difficult to be able to have this number of judges available over all these classes at a big show— especially if some judges become unavailable due to illness & unforeseen circumstances close to the event.

PASSED

Discussion:

The SM suggested a change to the wording of this remit to include the word **Minimum** of 2 judges. Judith Cunningham supported this suggestion.

The SM clarified that voting would be for the remit with the inclusion of the wording **minimum** of 2 judges rather than **only** 2 judges.

Areas could have more than this number of judges if they were available.

Voting polls were launched.

Meeting concluded at 9.50pm

Minutes of DNZ Planning Meeting via Zoom,

7pm, Wednesday 24 April 2024

Sue Hobson welcomed participants and advised the FO might be a little late. The SM will start financial report then work through agenda until Sarah comes on line.

AGENDA ITEMS - DISCUSSION

1. FEES

This remit is not specifically covered in the Rule Book

****Fees are an annual policy decision recommended by the Board based on Budget requirements**

Moved: Carolyn Jones (Southland Delegate)

Seconded: Rochelle Robertson (Southland Chair)

REMIT: Remove the Centre Line cost for non-graded classes.

RATIONALE: To make entry fee for non-graded classes cheaper in order to encourage riders to participate in dressage. This reduction in entry fee may help with the financial constraints that may be discouraging these riders from taking part. We need to make our non-graded days as user friendly as possible, encouraging true grass-roots to enter our sport.

Discussion:

Chair advised that it still costs the OC's to run nongraded classes. Some nongraded riders feel they don't have to register below level 3 as they receive same benefits at shows as other riders without the extra cost of registration. Some felt it was the culture with some shows not being user-friendly. Becky was asked to send ideas through to Sue or Wendy as to how this could be improved. Leonie felt that PL shows were very necessary for riders to achieve their goals including overseas representation. Chair reminded all to be considerate of other riders on the grounds when socializing late at night.

Vote - 92% of participants voted to keep those training fees.

FAILED

2. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Canterbury Dressage Group would like to see a return of the National Championships to Christchurch. The South Island has not hosted a National Championships since 2013. We feel that in the eleven years that have since passed, the standard of horses and riding has made huge bounds ahead, to the point that now many of our South Island riders who travel north to compete are very competitive amongst their North Island counterparts. There are also many combinations who do not have the resources or time to travel north who would also be incredibly competitive and amongst the top placings. We understand that there may be North Island riders without the resources or time to travel South, but this is a 'roadblock' that a huge number of South Island riders face season after season.

The National Equestrian Centre in Christchurch has greatly improved infrastructure and arena surfaces and has the capacity to accommodate the number of horses and riders that a National Championship would bring as well as a beautifully manicured and maintained venue.

We would like to discuss the possibility of hosting the National Championships in 2027 – a year which is not an Olympic or World Championship year. The South Island has a large host of international quality horses working their way up through the grades currently, and while we don't have a crystal ball – we suspect many of these will be up the grades from Small Tour to Grand Prix by then, and potentially also pushing towards competing internationally. Our Advanced Medium classes this season have been dubbed the "mini Olympics".

The date of this championship would be up for discussion, as we have been made aware that the dates for the SJ calendar are up in the air and may be in for an overhaul. With SJ Nationals normally being held in Christchurch, we would have this to work around – but this also potentially poses a great opportunity to run these 'back to back' and present a real show case of Equestrian Sport NZ in one location.

Finally, while the ultimate goal for Dressage NZ is to get riders competing on the world stage with success – it should be remembered that for the majority of riders here, our sport is a much loved hobby, and not a profession. There are a big number of riders in the South Island who are incredibly talented riders with lovely horses underneath them who just cannot drop everything and head off to the North Island to compete. Factoring in additional travel time, we are generally away from jobs, families and other commitments for well over a week. We feel that to support the riders that fall into the above categories, a return of the National Championships to the South Island once every three years (or so) would be a huge boost to these riders, and create a more even playing field between the SI and the NI riders.

Discussion:

Leonie suggested every 3rd year could run as a World Challenge i.e. same judges in each Island competitions. Best scores. Some suggested every 5 years.

The SM asked delegates what they thought would be suitable time gap for riders between a SI Nationals and HOY. Wendy advised 2027 will be in qualification period for 2028 Olympics

Jackie Thomas asked if Canterbury successful what would happen to SI Champs?

Christine raised the point that we need to consider thoughts of national sponsors.

Considerations need to be given to the calendar to incorporate HOY and Challenge finals.

Leonie suggested there could be adjustment to the closing dates for Challenge finals.

Chair suggested delegates send information to either herself or the SM, on how this would work before discussion with the Board.

Meeting agreed to keep this as a working paper.

3. AREA GROUP MEMBERSHIP

From Nicky Hallen – President Dressage Waikato

That all ESNZ registered Dressage, Introductory, Casual and Full members belong to their local dressage group (honorary or small annual fee)

We would like to bring an awareness to all dressage riders that without the infrastructure surrounding dressage the sport would not exist.

Over the years we have tried by supporting riders through our training squad programme and whilst this has been helpful it's not enough.

By making membership compulsory, it would bring it to top of mind and develop an awareness that our sport needs all riders to unite in order to develop and grow dressage.

To run premier league shows, support judges and riders, hold monthly meetings and be under the umbrella of DNZ takes more volunteers than we currently have.

Note: The Sport Manager is undertaking to seek more information about the new constitution

Discussion:

Christine Weal spoke to this advising their area was struggling to get people to help at shows and this may be easier if they riders had to be members of their local group so that there was a larger pool of people to communicate needs to.

The SM informed the meeting that one of the main problems is identifying those in the area who are ESNZ members. They are working on this at present and the SM advised the new constitution may assist us with that.

Noted that some areas do not pay a fee to become a member of their local group.

4. Level 7 & above Test Scheduling

From Becky Corlett – Dressage Taranaki Delegate on behalf TDG members

TOPIC: Advising organising committees on the need for sufficient rest times for horses at the higher grades

We request that the Committee issue an advisory notice to dressage committees that horses Level 7+ need at least 20 hours between tests.

We appreciate that some committees like to use these classes as part of social evenings, however it is not fair to these horses to then expect them to compete in the morning the next day. This often happens at two day shows where the organisers quite understandably want all tests finished by lunch time. The work required of these horses is at a strenuous level, and their welfare must be put first. With our calendar taking advantage of the summer months this also means that we have the added consideration of heat stress on these horses as well.

We also appreciate that some people on committees may not have experience riding at this level or be aware that these horses need sufficient rest time after these tests. We think it would be prudent for the Committee to issue this advisory to give organising committees a clear guideline for the time required between these tests.

Discussion:

Wendy suggested areas give as much time as possible between tests for advanced horses and riders. OC's to be aware to give horses as much time as possible.

Susan's opinion from a veterinary point of view, was that there was no reason to have a long gap between rides and that riding at night and then in the morning was fine for the welfare of the horse. Sue had not seen any FEI ruling on this. Jacqui advised they alternate advanced riders with the lower grades when riding late at their show spectacular.

5. Premier League Calendar

TOPIC: Premier League events being clustered together on the calendar

In the interests of maximising participation at Premier League events and participation in the national leagues we suggest that the Committee do more to encourage at least one weekend break between Premier League events in the same island region, ie not having Premier League events the weekend after each other.

For example, Taranaki riders during the 2023/2024 season were affected by:

- BOP and Wellington being the weekend after each other
- SHB and Taihape being the weekend after each other
- Taranaki and Wairarapa being the weekend after each other, and then the Youth Festival the week after for youth riders

All of these shows are attended by the same group of riders from the lower North Island, with some from Waikato and Auckland as well. There are other areas which have the same issue, eg NHB and Gisborne, and Northland and Waikato being the weekend after each other for example.

Many Taranaki riders elected to attend one show or the other for reasons which could include:

- Horses having to travel long distances for these shows. For example, those horses coming from Taranaki have to travel a minimum of three hours to our closest out of region show; Taupo and Masterton are a minimum five hour drive. Making them do this two weekends in a row is not in their best interest, especially when we consider the heat at some times of the year, as well as roadwork hold ups which have been considerable in all areas of the country.
- Riders and volunteers having to take leave two Fridays in a row which may not be appealing to some businesses or bosses, and may be a reason for bosses declining leave in the first place. This also puts pressure on families where child care may be needed two weekends in a row.
- Riders and their support people being burned out by attending shows clustered together.
- Judges, officials, and volunteers being burned out by volunteering at shows clustered together. They may elect to help at one show or the other if shows are the weekend after each other, but may be more willing to help at both if there is a weekend in between.

While we appreciate that there are many considerations that go into booking venues and the timing of hosting shows, we think it would be worthwhile for the Committee to notice when there are Premier League events close together and to go back to those organising committees and see if there is any way dates could be adjusted before publishing the calendar.

It may also be worthwhile asking for Premier League event dates two years in advance so we have more time to make adjustments if necessary. Dressage Taranaki books out our Showgrounds two years in advance to ensure we have the grounds available and we would assume some areas are doing the same. If we have the dates that far in advance we have even more time to consider other options.

This may also result in the calendar being 'stretched out' so it does not feel like we have no Premier League events for long periods of time. This helps to 'peak' those horses aiming for squads, qualification, or overseas competition, and those aiming for titles at HOY and Nationals. It also more importantly gives all riders competing in the Premier League the feeling that they have been given the opportunity to fully participate whilst putting the welfare of their horse and themselves first.

Discussion:

Fiora suggested 5-7 year future planning of calendar in order to work towards a workable plan. Many venues difficult to book/change but could possibly do with future planning.

Fiora agreed to put a working party together from riders reps and OC's to look into a possible draft calendar, taking into account consideration of series, HOY and National qualifications if calendar different.

Leonie asked if it would be possible to change the criteria of series points to maybe the best 3 scores for the season that count for the series. Squad conditions could state selected shows that must be attended.

Judith asked if some areas could hold shows in the Autumn, scores count for qualification for the following year Nationals & HOY or any other shows.

In absence of the FO, the Chair undertook to send financial departmental reports to all Delegates giving more detailed information.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. Annual Starts

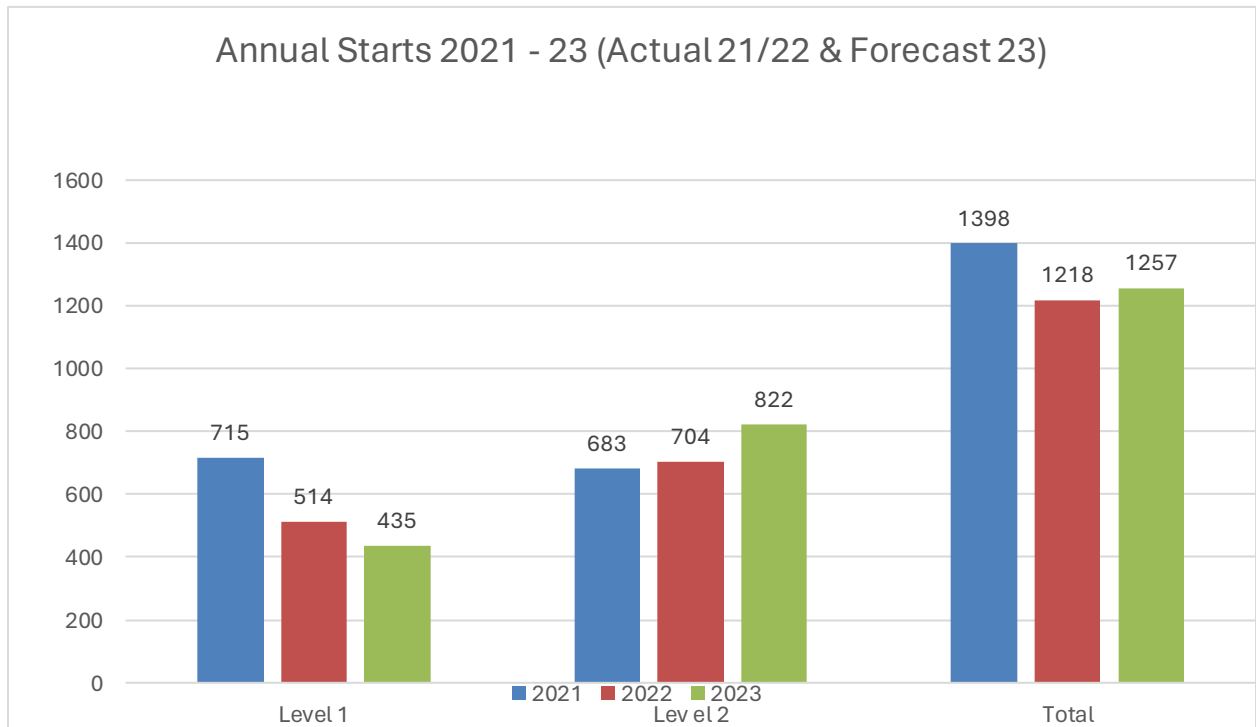
1. Annual Start Income Summary February 2024 & Registration Number

Income	This Month Actual	Month Budget	Year to Date Actual	Date Budget	Variance	Full Year Budget
Annual Start Levies (Discipline)	3,417	5,000	98,970	98,500	470	118,500

Forecast Level 1 = \$28,370.00

Forecast Level 2+ = \$82,200.00

Total Forecast = \$110,570.00 against budget \$118,500.00 = - \$7,930.00



2. All Income from Starts & Downgrades

This income does not include Annual Start Income from March as not processed by ESNZ until approx 20th month following approx. Historically approx \$4,000 is received in March

Income	Year	to	Date	Full
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Year
Annual Start Levies	95,931	107,650	-11,719	121,463
Downgrading Fees	1,565	2,140	-575	2,320
Flexi Starts	4,393	4,550	-157	5,000
Training & Development Levy	64,030	75,500	-11,470	82,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	177,719	192,340	-14,621	213,783

The SM spoke to graph figures. ESNZ have not provided us with March figures yet so couldn't update for tonight.

Projection 121,000 YTD 95, Budget 107. Negative 12,000

TD income is sometimes a little behind doesn't yet show Nationals and HOY.

Questions –

Becky – can we get some more explanatory notes before Conference this year.

Sarah will be able to screen share more detail re department spend. Grants funding not forthcoming this year.

Travel has gone up this year and will continue to do so.

Held fees for last 2 years but we can't continue to hold fees and deliver same level of service.

Sonja – people saying registration is reason they are not registering . What is being done to cut expenditure?

Sue might be able to speak on behalf of ESNZ

Sarah may be able to give details of expenditure reduction.

Last year looking at 70,000 profit. Accountants decided this should come out of annual accounts. Poss \$30,000 profit which will be split between areas.

Sue – becoming a very expensive sport. Cost cuts are being made. We are all very aware of what it costs to run and how we can tighten our belts.

DNZ & ESNZ keeping in person meetings to a minimum. Mainly using Zoom.

Sonja – is there any consideration for Prelim & Novice lower registration fee.

Presently Prelim only. Could Novice be included in the reduction?

Wendy – would have to get the data. Lvl 2 and above has grown. Lvl 1.

Centreline levies data needed to see if training levels going up or down.

Lvl 1 fees – you can sit on that for a whole year. This was an encouragement thing.

Angela – they already just renew their level 1.

Wendy – already cross over point between lvl 1 and lvl 2 whereas you can compete at Lvl 2 at the lower fee level.

Sonja – increased fees start at Lvl 3.

Wendy – we would need to pull off data before we could make a decision on that.

3 Fees 24/25

To maintain income with inflation and considering factors such as no increase for previous two years and falling Level 1 annual start numbers, the Board has agreed the following proposal to ESNZ for ratification. Level 1 Annual start be maintained at \$75.00. Trust funding more difficult to secure post covid with both increased events and true community hardships.

1. Level 2 and above be increased by \$10 incl GST to \$125.00 (additional 8k approx)
2. Centre line levies be \$5 per start for all levels/all events. That these no longer be called TD levies as the income is not targeted but represents approx 45% income to deliver all aspects of the sport, including Training and Development projects where budgeted. (additional 12k approx)

In addition, it is proposed to consider how to incentivise grassroots riders who wish to take advantage of belonging to a national organization which offers insurances, national rules and tests, trained officials, horse welfare and athlete medical care standards, training and development opportunities, area group and national structured competitions/series, supporting delegates conference travel.

Discussion:

Centreline fees to increase from \$4 & 4.50 to \$5. This will then be the same amount for all levels which will be easier for Areas to administer.

Annual starts and centreline fees are the only fees DNZ receives from which a service fee is paid to ESNZ. All affiliated events pay a centreline fee.

4 ESNZ Hall of Fame, Dressage AGM, Conference, Awards Dinner & Committee Meeting

Notice of Meetings

Rydges Hotel Latimer 59 Federal St Auckland Fri 5 July - Sunday 7 July 2024

This will incorporate the ESNZ Welcome & Hall of Fame / ESNZ of the Year Awards Cocktail Party on Friday 5 JULY. Separately ticketed and payable to ESNZ at \$40pp with advice to be received when available.

Accommodation Link- <https://www.rydges.com/private-page/equestrian-sports-nz-incorporated/>
Rates are valid only for stays from **05 - 07 July 2024**, and for bookings made until **5 June 2024**.

Saturday:

9am – 4pm: Dressage AGM & Conference: Registration forms will be available early May

6.30pm until done: Dressage Awards Dinner = **Theme: ? Your Ideas please**

Sunday: Dressage Committee meeting 8.30am – 1pm

Board Vacancies 2023- 2026

1. **Judges Officer:** Judith Cunningham retires by rotation and is eligible for a further three year term.
Nominations will be sought for this elected position.
2. **Finance Officer:** Sarah Hazlewood retires by rotation and is eligible for a further three year term
EOI will be sought for this appointed position
3. **Other Vacancies**
 - a) **Judges Sub-Committee: - Appointed position.** EOI to be sought
Mary Craine retires by rotation. Eligible for another three year term
 - b) **Committee Representative to Appointment Panel. Elected position**
Nominations to be sought. Debra Cowen currently holds this role.
 - c) **2 X Island Rider Reps (Committee Positions) Elected by riders**
Nominations to be sought. If more than one nomination for either role an election will be held.
 - d) **Youth Council Rep:** to be appointed by Youth Council

Nomination Forms & Conference Registration Forms will be distributed separately

Discussion:

Board Vacancies – The Chair noted the agenda item details...

The SM advised re Youth Council - Meg Johnson will be their representative for a further term.
The SM encouraged Areas to be proactive around these nominations. Ask around.

Conference

Versailles suggested as fancy dress theme.

Conference starts 9.30 Saturday morning. Hotel not adjacent to airport. ESNZ Hall of Fame nominations out soon. Price will be similar to last year – confirmed at 40.00. The Sunday meeting will finish about lunchtime with late morning tea.

Registration forms for conference will be sent soon.

Very proud of Melissa not only for her 10th place at the FEI World Cup Final but also being a wonderful ambassador for us all.

No further general business

Meeting closed at 9pm.