

**PROPOSALS FOR RULES CHANGES OF
DRESSAGE RULES 2025**

10 October 2025

Dear National Federations,

Please find below a summary of the proposed changes to the Dressage Rules together with the corresponding explanations, the comments received as well as the reasoning for accepting or not accepting each proposal.

In the following document you will find 2 sections as follows:

- A.** [Proposed Rules changes to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025;](#)
and
- B.** [Proposed Rules changes that have been rejected or deferred to a future Rules revision.](#)

Sincerely,



Ronan Murphy,
Dressage Director

A. PROPOSED RULES CHANGES TO BE VOTED AT THE FEI GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2025

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
IDOC
Article No.–Article Name
Art 404 Dressage Tests
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes.</p> <p>Including movements where the suppleness and self-carriage of the horse could be assessed - Stretching and Give and Retake the reins - in the Big Tour tests.</p> <p>The assessment of these movements would put more emphasis on the correct training, according to the Scale of Training, thus contributing to the welfare of the horse.</p> <p>Include above suggested movements in the FEI Dressage tests.</p>
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
Tests to be updated, no change in wording for the Rules.
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<p><u>DEN NF</u>: We agree - already implemented in the Danish Grand Prix tests. Ideally implemented on all levels to secure maintenance of suppleness in all stages of education. Also, movements testing self-carriage could be implemented.</p> <p><u>EEF</u>: proposal supported by EEF.</p> <p><u>GBR NF</u>: We fully support this proposal, although we would recommend that the full review of tests should be undertaken by a specialist group that includes relevant and appropriate technical representation from the NFs as well as stakeholder groups.</p> <p>The overall length of the tests at Big Tour level should not be increased, but the more demanding aspects of the test (such as piaffe) can be reduced in emphasis to allow for these other movements (such as stretching or give and take of the rein) to be included.</p> <p>We also submit for consideration that directives on score sheets should be reviewed for suitability and alignment with the Scale of Training and wider education system.</p> <p><u>IDRC</u>: Proposal supported by IDRC.</p>
FEI Feedback
<p>The DTC is in full agreement that all the Dressage tests should be revised to include movements where the suppleness and self-carriage of the horse can be better assessed, placing greater emphasis on assessing correct training, in accordance with the Scale of Training. For this purpose, a Working Group has been established to review all tests and consult with Stakeholders regarding proposed amendments where appropriate.</p>

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025

No change in the Dressage Rules; tests to be updated as part of the Dressage Strategic Action Planning Process.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article No.–Article Name

408. Scheduling Possibilities Youth Events
1.3 & 1.4 CDI Young Riders, Juniors and Pony Riders; 2.3 CDI for Children; 3.3 CDIU25

Explanation for Proposed Change

Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc.
The current wording contradicts Article 424.5.1 Lameness for these age categories.

Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025

1.3. The Team Competition. Open to all Athletes who ~~completed~~ **competed in** the first Competition or open to all Athletes if scheduled as first Competition.

1.4. The Individual Competition is open to all Athletes who ~~completed~~ **competed in** the Team Competition.

2.3. The Team Competition. Open to all Athletes who ~~completed~~ **competed in** the first Competition or open to all Athletes if scheduled as first Competition.

3.3. The Grand Prix 16-25. This Competition is either open to all Athletes, or if scheduled as a second Competition, it is open to all Athletes who ~~completed~~ **competed in** the Intermediate II Competition. If this test is scheduled as a Final, it is limited to six (6) (minimum) to eighteen (18) (maximum including ties for 18th place) best Athlete/Horse combinations who qualified in the Intermediate II.

Comments Received by 26 August 2025

IDRC: Supported by the IDRC.

FEI Feedback

As above.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025

Wording as proposed on 8 July 2025.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
IDOC
Article No.–Article Name
Art 411 Arena and Footing and Art. 424.5 Reasons for Elimination
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes.</p> <p>The concept of "Field of Play" should be clearer described in the rules, which should specify that the Field of Play encompasses not only the official arena but also the area that surrounds it.</p> <p>Therefore, any resistance lasting more than 20 seconds or that may bring danger to the rider, horse, public or officials in the whole area of the Field of Play (arena and area that surrounds it) should be cause of elimination of the combination, even before entering the arena at A.</p> <p>The concern on the welfare of the horse and safety of the Athletes should not be limited just after entering the official arena. All the area that surrounds it should also be taken into consideration.</p> <p><u>Proposed wording:</u></p> <p>Art. 411.3 Arena Specification The Field of Play encompasses the official arena and the area that surrounds it.</p> <p>Art. 424.5.2 Resistance Any resistance in the Field of Play which prevents the continuation of the test longer than twenty (20) seconds is punished by Elimination. However, resistance that may endanger Athlete, Horse, Officials or the public will result in elimination for safety reasons earlier than within twenty (20) seconds. This also applies to any resistance before entering the Dressage arena.</p>
FEI Feedback
<p>The DTC understands the intention of this proposal; however, by introducing the concept of "<i>Field of Play</i>" we would need to revise the entire Dressage Rules accordingly. On the other hand, defining the "<i>Field of Play</i>" as encompassing the official arena and the surrounding area only, may be somewhat limiting and/or imprecise. Therefore, without deviating from the spirit and intention of the proposal, the DTC suggests an alternative wording that utilizes a term already included in the Dressage Rules: "<i>the space around the arena.</i>"</p>
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
<p>Art. 424.5.2 Resistance Any resistance which prevents the continuation of the test and lasts longer than twenty (20) seconds is punished by Elimination. However, resistance that may endanger Athlete, Horse, Officials or the public will result in elimination for safety reasons earlier than within twenty (20) seconds even if the duration of the resistance does not exceed twenty (20) seconds. This provision also applies from the moment the Combination enters the space around the arena (i.e. before entering the competition arena at A).</p>

Comments Received by 26 August 2025

DEN NF: agree

EEF: proposal supported by EEF. Clear definition of space around the arena is needed. The proposal of the FEI is supported to further evaluate with the IDRC, IDTC and IDOC. In principle every step towards more transparency is good.

GBR NF: In principle, we support the update to the rule and agree that the definition of 'Field of Play' should be expanded to include the space around the arena. However, if this is intended to also include any resistance outside the boards lasting 20 or more seconds, prior to the test commencing, then the wording needs to be amended for clarity.

The proposed wording states that "any resistance which prevents continuation of the test and lasts longer than 20 seconds results in elimination. Importantly, the test has not yet begun, so this point could be confusing.

There are already rules in place that provide 45 seconds to enter without penalty and 90 seconds resulting in elimination. This allows horses to acclimatize to the competition arena. Inexperienced or young horses unfamiliar with a championship environment may often freeze, refuse to move forward, spin round, or display signs of resistance until they settle.

We would support elimination in the 'Field of Play' or space around the arena if it endangers the athlete, horse, officials or the public. In addition, if a horse is clearly showing signs of distress or displaying signs of lameness, then judges need to be able to intervene on welfare grounds before the combination enters the arena and starts the test.

GBR NF wording proposal:

Any resistance **in the competition arena** which prevents the continuation of the test **and lasts** longer than twenty (20) seconds is punished by Elimination.

Any resistance that may endanger Athlete, Horse, Officials or the public may, for safety reasons, result in immediate elimination, even if this lasts less than twenty (20) seconds. **This provision also applies from the moment the Combination enters the space around the arena (i.e. before entering the competition arena at A).**

GER NF: We support the proposal to speak of "the space around the arena" rather than the "field of play". We propose to define, however, what exactly that space is, to avoid possible misunderstandings or conflicts.

IDRC: Supported but a clear definition of space around the arena is needed.

NOR NF: We assume, that the words "this provision" in the last sentence of this article: "This provision also applies from the moment the Combination enters the space around the arena (i.e. before entering the competition arena at A), only refers to resistance that may endanger Athlete, Horse, Officials or the public which will result in elimination for safety reasons even if the duration of the resistance does not exceed twenty (20) seconds. If this is the correct interpretation, maybe the last sentence could be more clear.

USA NF: We are supportive of the proposed change; however, we have concerns regarding the practical application of the rule. We are hesitant to ask for a complete definition of Resistance as it may be difficult to comprehensively define this. We suggest there is training and guidance to officials and athletes regarding the application of the rule.

FEI Feedback

The FEI DTC defines the “Field of Play” as the arena and the space around the arena, after the Combination leaves the Stewards’ supervision and is visible to the Ground Jury, i.e. the area around the arena where the Combination is in the field of vision of the Ground Jury Judges.

Resistance is defined by the Horse physically or mentally not cooperating with the Athlete.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025

As per the proposed wording on 8 July 2025.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article No.–Article Name
Art 418.2.1. Practice arena
Explanation for Proposed Change
Welfare of the horse.
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
2.1. At least one (1) practice arena of sixty meters (60 m) by twenty meters (20 m) must be placed at the disposal of the Athletes preferably a minimum of two (2) days before the first Competition of the Event. This arena should be of the same consistency as the Competition arena footing. Organisers are permitted to make video recording / live streaming of the practice arena(s).
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<p><u>GBR NF</u>: Addition of: Organisers are permitted to make video recording / live streaming of the practice arena(s). We recommend that, where this practice occurs, riders should be informed in advance. If a camera is used arena-side, it should remain static, with consistent operating conditions throughout the competition to avoid creating any issues for spooky horses.</p> <p>In the warm-up area, where cameras could potentially be positioned closer to the arena, a clear protocol should be established. The final moments before a rider enters the arena are critical, so care should be taken to avoid creating unnecessary pressure during this time.</p> <p><u>IDRC</u>: Supported by the IDRC.</p> <p><u>USA NF</u>: In the event that the practice arenas are recorded/streamed, it should be limited to those practice arenas under FEI rules (not exhibition, national horses, etc.).</p>
FEI Feedback
If this option is to be used, then the Athletes and Trainers should be informed in the first meeting. The camera should remain static.
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025
2.1. At least one (1) practice arena of sixty meters (60 m) by twenty meters (20 m) must be placed at the disposal of the Athletes preferably a minimum of two (2) days before the first Competition of the Event. This arena should be of the same consistency as the Competition arena footing. Organisers and the FEI are permitted to use a static camera to make video recording / live streaming of the practice arena(s) to be shown at the venue.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
AUT NF / EEF / IDRC (similar proposal below from GER NF)
Article No.–Article Name
Art 423.9
Explanation for Proposed Change
Urgent repair for horse welfare
Proposed Wording
Two collective marks: after the Athlete has finished their performance, two collective marks GENERAL IMPRESSION in accordance with horse welfare will be introduced: 1.scale of training rhythm, suppleness, contact, impulsion, straightness and collection 2.harmony of Rider and Horse position, effectiveness and sensitivity of Riders aids both with a coefficient 2 firewalls for both marks have to be developed
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
9. Collective mark: After the Athlete has finished their performance, a collective mark is awarded for General Impression Harmony and demonstration of the Training Scale.
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<p><u>GBR NF:</u> We support the proposal to rename the 'General Impression' mark as Harmony, to include harmony, co-operation, lightness, effectiveness, and sensitivity of aids. However, we would argue that adherence to the Scale of Training (rhythm, suppleness, contact, impulsion, straightness and collection) should already be included in the mark for each movement, so this is arguably double counting. We agree that an additional collective mark would be a retrograde step as it reintroduces the potential for subjectivity and bias, which is why the collectives were reduced to just one mark in the first place. In connection with the above (and potentially to be included as part of the full dressage rules revision in 2026), we propose that the term "submission" currently used on test sheets and related documents is replaced with "co-operation" or a similar term that more accurately reflects the intended meaning.</p> <p>We would also support a review of all Directives on score sheets to ensure alignment with the Scale of Training, with consideration for alternative proposals such as stretching or give and take of the rein in Big Tour tests, to reflect the evolving nature of the sport. As an additional point, we would recommend that pages 2 and 3 of the Dressage Handbook Guideline for Judges, which outline the Training Scale, is included under the Dressage Useful Documents section on the FEI website and incorporated into the Dressage Judging Manual to ensure open access to this key information for all, in the interests of openness and transparency. More public education on the Scales of Training would be extremely beneficial for the sport as a whole.</p>

GER NF: We do not question the findings of the scientists. We attach greatest importance to horse-friendly, correct riding, training and education. People tend to train what is asked in competition, and therefore we see our proposal as a really good way to promote rhythm, suppleness, contact, impulsion, straightness, collection. Wording as originally proposed.

IDRC: Proposal not supported by the FEI, IDRC will bring it back for the full rule revision. GER proposal for the same article also supported.

SWE NF: The SWE NF is supporting the proposed change of wording in the collective mark to "Harmony and demonstration of the Training Scale". This to emphasize the importance of the overall harmony in the tests and the ability to demonstrate performance of the training scale.

FEI Feedback

The DTC does not support a change to the number of collective marks. This topic was considered in 2018 by the Dressage Judging Working Group (Task Force), supported by Research from Nottingham Trent University, and it was concluded that collective marks exacerbate the cumulative impact on cognitive load. The Dressage test concludes with the final halt and salute, and all aspects are judged continuously throughout the course of the test. Therefore, we should not disregard the science, nor the information provided by the experts from Nottingham Trent University who specialize in these matters.

However, the DTC is particularly sensitive to the issue of evaluating Harmony and the Scale of Training.

The DTC proposes renaming the "General Impression" mark "Harmony" to include harmony, cooperation, lightness, effectiveness, and sensitivity of aids **as well as adherence to the Training Scale.**

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025

As per the proposed wording on 8 July 2025.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
GER NF
Article No.–Article Name
Art 423.9
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>Criterion 1: Urgent repair for horse welfare</p> <p>Good training is the best way to protect the horse! We all know that the Athlete trains what is required in the Dressage test. Therefore, we repeat our request to add a collective mark for the training status of the horse.</p> <p>We are aware of the findings of the Nottingham Trent University (“collective marks exacerbate the cumulative impact on cognitive load”) and that the topic was further discussed at a Level 4 Dressage Judges’ meeting. We feel we urgently must get on with the topic, it must not continuously be postponed.</p> <p>We must ensure that the basic requirements of rhythm, suppleness, contact, impulsion, straightness and collection are not neglected, but remain paramount in judging the performance of a rider/horse combination. We do not agree that these important criteria are sufficiently addressed when they are only considered as part of each movement mark, together with the technical execution. They must be explicitly checked separately.</p> <p>The final, explicit assessment of the training status of rider and horse makes an important contribution to the welfare of the horses!</p>
Proposed Wording
<p>9. Collective mark: After the Athlete has finished their performance, two collective marks are awarded for General impression.</p> <p>9.1. Scale of Training Rhythm, suppleness, contact, impulsion, straightness and collection</p> <p>9.2. Harmony of Athlete and Horse Position, effectiveness and sensitivity of Athlete’s aids</p> <p>10. The collective marks are given the coefficient 2. Furthermore, certain difficult movements can be given a coefficient, which is fixed by the FEI.</p>
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
99. Collective mark: After the Athlete has finished their performance, a collective mark is awarded for General Impression Harmony and demonstration of the Training Scale.
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<p><u>DEN NF</u>: For collective marks to truly have an impact and to guide the judging and riding into what clearer reflects at taps into what is described in the dressage handbook and guidelines thus supporting good horse welfare we need more collective marks that covers several very clear subpoints.</p> <p>All marks given in our current system covers the whole picture, making the scoring less clear when something is scored up or down and why - which makes us vulnerable to critics as we are blamed for not taking into account for instance problems with contact and tight necks and/or backs. In Denmark we have implemented specific collective marks that support clearer communication without needing to make comments public. By implementing collective marks that covers very specific areas such as “contact” and “frame” and “positive acceptance of the aids” (among others see attached document for full system) and giving them coefficients that impacts the final score sufficiently it really</p>

helps the riders to strive for true self-carriage and suppleness in the horse to achieve the highest scores.

The system gives a communicative advantage as the judge without making comments official can communicate very clearly if the tendency is in a good or a bad way on very specific points. And it makes it clear if there is spotted some problems or positives to specific areas which makes us less susceptible to critic as we can "show" that we have seen it at that it is clear that we judge by it. As to the argument that the judges can use the system to "make the ranking" it will in this case be very obvious as the marks cannot be camouflaged with arguing that other matters that the mark should also cover will push in one direction or the other as the mark only covers specifics. The suggested two collective marks in the memo have the same weakness as previous marks as they cover too much and it will be unclear again how the judge reaches the conclusion.

We support the use of clear collective marks as a tool to support correct riding and education as well as a communicative tool to make the judging more transparent for the outside world, and to avoid that we end up unwillingly rewarding somewhat tension-based spectacular horses over correct education and suppleness. See enclosed attachment.

EEF: GER proposal for the same article also supported.

NOR NF: The NOR NF primarily supports the proposed wording from GER NF including two separate marks for the General Impression.

Subsidiarily, we support the proposed wording from the FEI.

FEI Feedback

The DTC does not support a change to the number of collective marks. This topic was considered in 2018 by the Dressage Judging Working Group (Task Force), supported by Research from Nottingham Trent University, and it was concluded that collective marks exacerbate the cumulative impact on cognitive load. The Dressage test concludes with the final halt and salute, and all aspects are judged continuously throughout the course of the test. Therefore, we should not disregard the science, nor the information provided by the experts from Nottingham Trent University who specialize in these matters.

However, the DTC is particularly sensitive to the issue of evaluating Harmony and the Scale of Training.

The DTC proposes renaming the "General Impression" mark "**Harmony**" to include harmony, cooperation, lightness, effectiveness, and sensitivity of aids **as well as adherence to the Training Scale.**

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025

As per the proposed wording on 8 July 2025.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article No.–Article Name
Art 424.4.3
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc. Contradicts Art 424.4.1.2, which correctly notes that errors are deducted from the total score: For Young Horses tests, Children, Pony and Junior tests, the deduction for the first error is zero point five percentage points (0.5%) from the total score, for the second error one percentage point (1%) and for the third error, Elimination.</p>
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
<p>Penalty Percentage Points.</p> <p>The penalty percentage points are deducted on each Judge's sheet from the total points obtained by the Athlete. In Children classes and classes for 7 yo Horses, penalty percentage points have to be deducted from both judging procedures (technical judges and quality judges).</p>
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<p><u>IDRC</u>: Supported by the IDRC.</p>
FEI Feedback
<p>N/A</p>
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025
<p>As per the proposed wording on 8 July 2025.</p>

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article No.–Article Name
424.5.1 Lameness
Explanation for Proposed Change
Clarification. Replace "FEI Veterinarian" with " <i>the FEI Veterinary Delegate or member of the Veterinary Commission</i> "
Proposed Wording
In a case of marked lameness, the Judge at C informs the Athlete that they are eliminated. There is no appeal against this decision. In competitions that are not qualifying for a next test, the Horse needs to pass a re-inspection by the FEI Veterinarian FEI Veterinary Delegate or member of the Veterinary Commission to be able to start the next test (i.e. normally the test that takes place the day after).
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
In a case of marked lameness, the Judge at C informs the Athlete that they are eliminated. There is no appeal against this decision. In competitions that are not qualifying for a next test, the Horse needs to pass a re-inspection by the FEI Veterinarian FEI Veterinary Delegate or member of the Veterinary Commission to be able to start the next test (i.e. normally the test that takes place the day after).
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<p><u>EEF</u>: in principle supported by the EEF DWG but an addition is requested. The re-inspection needs to be done by the President of the Ground Jury, the FVD or a member of VC. We refer here to the FEI Veterinary Regulation. There should be no contradiction in horse or re-inspections.</p> <p><u>GBR NF</u>: While we understand that this is just a clarification of the current rule, we would express concerns about the PR consequences of a horse being eliminated for lameness and then approved by a vet to compete the following day. While a horse can temporarily show signs of lameness and be fine 24 hours later, this is difficult to justify and explain to the wider public. When welfare is under sharp focus, the optics of this would not look good.</p> <p>If a horse can be eliminated for minor blood issues without being able to return to competition the next day then arguably the same principle should apply for lameness.</p> <p><u>GER NF</u>: We share the view of the EEF Dressage Working Group and agree in principle but propose to add that the re-inspection needs to be done by the President of the Ground Jury, the FVD or a member of VC. We refer here to the FEI Veterinary Regulation. There should be no contradiction in horse or re-inspections.</p> <p><u>IDRC</u>: In principle supported by the IDRC but an addition is requested. The re-inspection needs to be done by the President of the Ground Jury, the FVD or a member of VC. We refer here to the FEI Veterinary Regulation. There should be no contradiction in horse or re-inspections.</p>
FEI Feedback
No change to the proposal. While the GBR NF makes a valid point, blood issues do not fall under this point.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025

As per the proposed wording on 8 July 2025.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

IDOC

Article No.–Article Name

Art 424.5.5

Explanation for Proposed Change

ARTICLE 424 PENALTIES – ERROR – ELIMINATION

5.5. Unauthorised Assistance.

Any outside help by voice, signs, etc. (earphone and/or electronic communication devices included) is considered as illegal or unauthorized assistance. Illegal or unauthorised assistance will result in elimination of that combination.

Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc.

Above mentioned article does not specify time frame for assistance to be considered as unauthorised. In addition to that ART 419 par. 4.1 states that **“Any incidents before the beginning or after the end of the test have no effect on the marks”**

In consequence Athlete can acquire external help prior the beginning of the test and there is no legal base for the judge to penalise the combination in reference to article 419.4.1. Therefore, the article 424 should be more specific. The proposal is to add a phrase ‘from the moment Athlete and a Horse enter Field of Play until the conclusion of the test’.

Proposed wording:

5.5. Unauthorised Assistance.

Any outside help by voice, signs, etc. (earphone and/or electronic communication devices included) **from the moment Athlete and a Horse enter Field of Play until the conclusion of the test** is considered as illegal or unauthorized assistance. Illegal or unauthorised assistance will result in elimination of that combination.

Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025

5.5. Unauthorised Assistance.

Any outside help by voice, signs, etc. (earphone and/or electronic communication devices included), **from the moment the Combination enters the space around the arena until the test is concluded, is** considered as illegal or unauthorized assistance. Illegal or unauthorised assistance will result in elimination of that combination.

Comments Received by 26 August 2025

DEN NF: agree

EEF: IDOC proposal supported by EEF. Clear definition of space around the arena is needed.

GBR NF: While we support these rule changes in principle, it may be better to defer any decisions on 'Field of Play' / space around the arena to the full dressage rule revision process in 2026, to consider these proposals as a whole, rather than make individual changes that could have unintended consequences. Several rules could fall into this category.

Ideally, judges should have the authority to act and apply rules from the moment a combination enters the Field of Play / space around the arena until exit. No marks would be awarded until the point of entry into the competition arena (or after the final movement), as it is at present, but crucially all welfare rules would still apply at all times.

We would also recommend that this rule should be referenced in Art 424.5.6.1 Bleeding, and that blood rules are harmonised across all disciplines for consistency. We fully support the SWE NF comments on this matter and would request that this is addressed as a priority.

In summary, we agree with the new definition of the blood rule, as proposed, but would expand the wording to cover the 'Field of Play' / space around the arena principle.

IDRC: Proposal supported by IDRC, same clarification as for Art. 424.5. requested.

FEI Feedback

Please see the feedback regarding the space around the arena given to Art. 411 above.

The DTC understands the intention of the proposal; however, by introducing the concept of "*Field of Play*" we would need to revise the entire Dressage Rules accordingly. On the other hand, defining the "*Field of Play*" as encompassing the official arena and the surrounding area only, may be somewhat limiting and/or imprecise. Therefore, without deviating from the spirit and intention of the proposal, the DTC propose an alternative wording that utilizes a term already included in the Dressage Rules: "*the space around the arena.*"

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025

As per the proposed wording on 8 July 2025.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
IDOC
Article No.–Article Name
424.5.6.2 PENALTIES – ERROR – ELIMINATION Bleeding
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>ARTICLE 424 PENALTIES – ERROR – ELIMINATION 5.6. Bleeding. 5.6.2. If the FEI Steward discovers fresh blood in the Horse’s mouth or in the area of the spurs during the check at the end of the test, they inform the Judge at C, who will eliminate the Horse and the Athlete.</p> <p>Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes. The wording makes disputable injuries like on attached photos as the blood is not in the mouth. Proposal is to add a phrase ‘in the Horse’s mouth or in the area of the mouth and the spurs.</p>
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
<p>5.6.2. If the FEI Steward discovers fresh blood in the Horse’s mouth or in the area of the mouth or the area of the spurs during the check at the end of the test, they inform the Judge at C, who will eliminate the Horse and the Athlete.</p>
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<p><u>DEN NF</u>: agree</p> <p><u>EEF</u>: IDOC proposal supported by the FEI and EEF. SWE proposal not supported by the EEF.</p> <p><u>GBR NF</u> (as above): While we support these rule changes in principle, it may be better to defer any decisions on ‘Field of Play’ / space around the arena to the full dressage rule revision process in 2026, to consider these proposals as a whole, rather than make individual changes that could have unintended consequences. Several rules could fall into this category.</p> <p>Ideally, judges should have the authority to act and apply rules from the moment a combination enters the Field of Play / space around the arena until exit. No marks would be awarded until the point of entry into the competition arena (or after the final movement), as it is at present, but crucially all welfare rules would still apply at all times.</p> <p>We would also recommend that this rule should be referenced in Art 424.5.6.1 Bleeding, and that blood rules are harmonised across all disciplines for consistency. We fully support the SWE NF comments on this matter and would request that this is addressed as a priority.</p> <p>In summary, we agree with the new definition of the blood rule, as proposed, but would expand the wording to cover the ‘Field of Play’ / space around the arena principle.</p> <p><u>GBR NF proposed wording</u>: If the Judge at C suspects fresh blood anywhere on the horse during the test from the moment the Combination enters the space around the arena until the test is concluded, they will stop the Horse to check for blood.</p>

If the FEI Steward discovers fresh blood in the Horse's mouth, or **in the area of the mouth**, or the area of the spurs during the check at the end of the test, they inform the Judge at C, who will eliminate the Horse and the Athlete.

IDRC: Proposal supported by the IDRC.

FEI Feedback

The DTC remains with the wording proposed on the 8 July 2025 for Art 424.5.6.2, and additionally is positive to adding the wording proposed by the GBR NF for Art 424.5.6.1

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025

5.6.1. If the Judge at C suspects fresh blood anywhere on the horse ~~during the test~~ **from the moment the Combination enters the space around the arena until the test is concluded**, they will stop the Horse to check for blood. If the Horse shows fresh blood, it will be eliminated. The elimination is final. If the Judge through examination clarifies that the Horse has no fresh blood, the Horse may resume and finish its test.

5.6.2. If the FEI Steward discovers fresh blood in the Horse's mouth or in **the area of the mouth** or the area of the spurs during the check at the end of the test, they inform the Judge at C, who will eliminate the Horse and the Athlete.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article No.–Article Name
Art 425.5.4
Explanation for Proposed Change
Correction of inconsistencies: Art 425.5.4 to be adjusted, as “0.0011” should read “0.0010”
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
Percentages: all percentage calculations must be rounded up or down to three (3) decimals after the decimal point as per the following principle and example: 0.0011 0.0010-0.0014 down; 0.0015 – 0.0019 up.
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<u>IDRC</u> : Supported by the IDRC.
FEI Feedback
N/A
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025
As per the proposed wording on 8 July 2025.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article No.–Article Name
429.3.1 Young Riders, 4.1 Juniors, 7.1 U25
Explanation for Proposed Change
Correction of inconsistency.
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
<p>3.1. Young Riders may not compete both in an FEI Championship for Young Riders and in any FEI Championship or Games for Seniors in the same calendar year. (Except the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses).</p> <p>4.1. Juniors may not compete both in an FEI Championship for Juniors and in any FEI Championship or Games for Seniors in the same calendar year. (Except the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses).</p> <p>7.1. U25 Riders may not compete both in an FEI Championship for U25 Riders and in an FEI Championship or Games for Seniors in the same year. (Except the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses).</p>
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<p>GER NF: Instead of adding “Except the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses”, for the sake of consistency across the disciplines, we propose to add the same wording that is used in the Eventing Rules and that we also propose for the Jumping Rules: “This provision does not apply to championships for young horses.”</p> <p>GER NF proposed wording:</p> <p>3.1. Young Riders may not compete both in an FEI Championship for Young Riders and in any FEI Championship or Games for Seniors in the same calendar year. (Except the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses). This provision does not apply to championships for young horses.</p> <p>4.1. Juniors may not compete both in an FEI Championship for Juniors and in any FEI Championship or Games for Seniors in the same calendar year. (Except the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses). This provision does not apply to championships for young horses.</p> <p>7.1. U25 Riders may not compete both in an FEI Championship for U25 Riders and in an FEI Championship or Games for Seniors in the same year. (Except the FEI WBFSH Dressage World Breeding Championship for Young Horses). This provision does not apply to championships for young horses.</p> <p>IDRC: Supported by the IDRC.</p>
FEI Feedback
The FEI DTC thanks the NFs for their feedback and has clarified the final wording of the proposal as follows:
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025
<p>3.1. Young Riders may not compete both in an FEI Championship for Young Riders and in any FEI Championship or Games for Seniors in the same calendar year. This provision does not apply to Championships for Young Horses.</p> <p>4.1. Juniors may not compete both in an FEI Championship for Juniors and in any FEI Championship or Games for Seniors in the same calendar year. This provision does not apply to Championships for Young Horses.</p>

7.1. U25 Riders may not compete both in an FEI Championship for U25 Riders and in an FEI Championship or Games for Seniors in the same year. **This provision does not apply to Championships for Young Horses.**

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

SWE NF

Article No.–Article Name

431.2 Spurs

Explanation for Proposed Change

Spurs are mentioned in the table under article 431.2 as compulsory. According to article 431.4 spurs are optional. To mention spurs as compulsory in one article and optional in another article is a contradiction. The propose is to not have spurs in the table under 431.2.

Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025

Remove the line concerning spurs from the table to ensure consistency.

2. **Civilians.** The following is compulsory:

Protective Headgear	black or dark colour
Breeches	white or off white
Stock or tie	white or off white
Gloves	white, off white or same colour as coat
Riding boots	black or dark colour
Spurs	Refer to article 431.4

Comments Received by 26 August 2025

DEN NF: agree

EEF: SWE proposal, supported by the FEI and supported by EEF.

IDRC: Proposal, supported by the FEI and supported by the IDRC.

FEI Feedback

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025

As per the proposed wording on 8 July 2025.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
AUT NF / EEF
Article No.–Article Name
New 434.2.1.7 / NEW 2.1.8
Explanation for Proposed Change
Horse welfare
Proposed Wording
2.1.7. A double bridle must have a cavesson noseband and bridoon and a curb with a covered/padded curb chain. NEW 2.1.8. A correctly fitted curb chain should come into effect when engaging the curb rein nor more then but approximately 45 degree angle.
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
2.1.7. A double bridle must have a cavesson noseband and bridoon and curb with a curb chain which may be covered/padded . A combined noseband may be used without the lower “flash” strap. Neither a cavesson noseband nor a curb chain may ever be as tightly fixed so as to harm the Horse.
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<u>DEN NF</u> : Agree with the FEI. <u>GBR NF</u> : We agree that cover/padding on the curb chain should be optional. We would not support the suggestion to measure the angle of the shank of the curb bit, unless a repeatable and reliable methodology can be established. This would need to account for variation in bridle fit, head and mouth conformation, and the specific points at which measurements are taken. Developing such a tool may require substantial research. <u>IDRC</u> : EEF proposal partially supported by the FEI, we will bring it back for full rule revision.
FEI Feedback
The DTC, in agreement with the Dressage Strategic Action Planning Working Group, does not support making a curb chain cover mandatory, but optional, as every Horse is different, and for some adding the padding may increase the pressure on the Horse’s mouth. Measuring the angle of the shank of the curb bit needs to be considered carefully to ensure repeatable methodology can be utilized. This proposal will be considered as part of the full rules revision process.
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025
As per the proposed wording on 8 July 2025.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article No.–Article Name
Art 434.2. Bridle with a noseband (434.2.2.2)
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>Other scenarios not foreseen by this Policy as considered and approved by the Board.</p> <p>Currently the choice of either a snaffle or a double bridle is permitted in CDI1*, CDI2*, CDIO1* and CDIO2*, CDIJ, CDIOJ, CDIY, CDIOY, CDIU25 (for the Inter II test) and CDIYH for seven (7) year old horses, and Junior and Young Rider Championships.</p> <p>The Dressage Technical Committee and the Dressage Strategic Action Planning Working Group have considered the level of expertise required to use the double bridle and conclude that the choice of using either a snaffle or double bridle at Grand Prix level should be permitted up to and including CDI3* and CDIO3* events. While the Dressage Technical Committee remains of the opinion that using the double bridle at top sport level is not a welfare issue, we also believe that this proposed Rule change would be an important step in gathering further data and evaluating the choice of bridles from an Athlete and Officials perspective.</p>
Proposed Wording
<p>2.2. A snaffle bridle or double bridle is allowed in CDI1* and CDI2*, CDIO1*, CDIO2*, CDIJ*, CDIOJ*, CDIY, CDIOY, CDIU25 (for the Inter II Test) and CDIYH for seven (7) year old Horses, and Junior* and Young Rider Championships. A snaffle bridle or double bridle is also allowed in CDI3* and CDIO3*.</p> <p>Note*: As part of the Full Rule Revision for Dressage in 2026, an item under consideration is to no longer permit the use of the double bridle in CDIJ, CDIOJ and Junior Championships. If such a proposal were to be brought forward and ultimately approved by the FEI General Assembly in 2026, it would take effect as of 1 January 2027.</p>
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
As above
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<p>AUS NF: To allow the use of a snaffle bridle or double bridle in CDIU25 Grand Prix.: 434.2.2.2 A snaffle bridle or double bridle is allowed in CDI1* and CDI2*, CDIO1*, CDIO2*, CDIJ*, CDIOJ*, CDIY, CDIOY, CDIU25 (for the Inter II Test), and CDIYH for seven (7) year old Horses, and Junior* and Young Rider Championships. A snaffle bridle or double bridle is also allowed in CDI3* and CDIO3*.</p> <p>Note*: As part of the Full Rule Revision for Dressage in 2026, an item under consideration is to no longer permit the use of the double bridle in CDIJ, CDIOJ and Junior Championships. If such a proposal were to be brought forward and ultimately approved by the FEI General Assembly in 2026, it would take effect as of 1 January 2027</p> <p>DEN NF: We fully agree with the proposed wording. And would also vote for the revision considering the CDIJ, CDIOJ and Junior Championship.</p>

EEF: The EEF DWG supports the optional double bridle in CDI3*/CDIO3*. We would like to see a trial period of 2 years and then evaluate numbers and judging. The EEF DWG is strictly against the limitation in CDIJ, CDIOJ and Junior Championships in the future. We want to keep the double bridle optional for Juniors.

GBR NF: Our position remains that snaffle bridles should be optional at all levels, as it is at our British Dressage national competition, so we fully support the introduction of this at CDI 3* level. We would see this as a trial to inform future decision making and as a prelude to expanding this further for all FEI competition, as part of the full dressage rules revision process. Given that no qualifying score is required to compete at CDI3* level, the level of rider expertise can vary, including the use of the double bridle. We would therefore recommend that a formal process is established to collect and evaluate data on bridle choice, incorporating feedback from athlete and official perspectives.

This information can then be reviewed and considered as part of the full dressage rules revision process in 2026, with a clearly defined timeline for implementation. This will be important, as NFs will need to ensure that combinations are assessed for selection under the same conditions that will be in effect at the Championships, and allow sufficient time to align their preparations accordingly.

Our view is that, when fitted and used correctly, the double bridle is not a welfare issue and should not be presented as such. The most important consideration is that riders should be free to choose the tack and equipment that is most suitable for them and their horse, which can depend on a variety of different factors.

For this reason we would not be in favour of banning double bridles entirely at Junior level. More consideration should be given to the correct education of young riders, including potentially introducing competency tests / MERs at national level as a pre-requisite before they are eligible for international competition.

At the upper levels, the focus should be on establishing minimum standards of competency rather than on age, otherwise you could have a situation whereby a 16-18 year old is allowed to ride in a snaffle or double in a CDI at Grand Prix but forced to ride in a snaffle only when they compete at Junior level. This would seem rather arbitrary and unfair

GER NF: We share the opinion of the EEF Dressage Working Group and support the optional double bridle in CDI3*/CDIO3*. We would like to see a trial period of 2 years and then evaluate numbers and judging.

We are strictly against the limitation in CDIJ, CDIOJ and Junior Championships in the future. We want to keep the double bridle optional for Juniors.

IDRC: The IDRC supports the optional double bridle in CDI3*/CDIO3*. We would like to see a trial period of 2 years and then evaluate numbers and judging. The IDRC is strictly against the limitation in CDIJ, CDIOJ and Junior Championships in the future. We want to keep the double bridle optional for Juniors.

NED NF: We are very pleased with the proposal to allow snaffle and double bridles in the CDI3* and CDIO3*. Since it is now permitted in the CDI3/CDIO3*, we believe it is a logical next step to also allow it throughout the entire U25.

NED NF proposed text: A snaffle bridle or double bridle is allowed in CDI1* and CDI2*, CDIO1*, CDIO2*, CDIJ*, CDIOJ*, CDIY, CDIOY, CDIU25 (for the Inter II Test) and CDIYH for seven (7) year old Horses, and Junior*, Young Rider and U25 Championships. A snaffle bridle or double bridle is also allowed in CDI3* and CDIO3*.

SWE NF: The SWE NF welcomes the proposed change to permit Athletes to compete with snaffle bridles in CDI3* and CDIO3* competitions. The SWE NF also believe that this

proposed Rule change would be an important step in gathering further data and evaluating the choice of bridles in all levels.
We also support the proposal to no longer permit the use of the double bridle in CDIJ, CDIOJ and Junior Championships.

FEI Feedback

The FEI DTC agrees to the proposal from AUS NF and this is integrated into the final wording proposal.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025

2.2. A snaffle bridle or double bridle is allowed in CDI1* and CDI2*, CDIO1*, CDIO2*, CDIJ*, CDIOJ*, CDIY, CDIOY, CDIU25, ~~(for the Inter II Test)~~ and CDIYH for seven (7) year old Horses, ~~and~~ Junior* and Young Rider Championships. ~~A snaffle bridle or double bridle is also allowed in CDI3* and CDIO3*.~~

Note*: As part of the Full Rule Revision for Dressage in 2026, an item under consideration is to no longer permit the use of the double bridle in CDIJ, CDIOJ and Junior Championships. If such a proposal were to be brought forward and ultimately approved by the FEI General Assembly in 2026, it would take effect as of 1 January 2027.

B. PROPOSED RULES CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN REJECTED OR DEFERRED TO A FUTURE RULES REVISION

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
AUT NF / EEF / IDRC
Article No.–Article Name
Art 401.7
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>Recently introduced rule that has proven to problematic in its implementation.</p> <p>Proposed wording: CDI4*/CDIO4* and CDI-W WEL no minimum qualification requirements.</p>
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
N/A
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<p><u>GBR NF</u>: We agree with the principle of a qualifying score in order to maintain minimum standards. However, it is important to note that the implementation of this can be challenging, particularly for combinations required to travel to the continent to compete. We wouldn't want this to act as a disincentive to competing at top levels internationally.</p>
FEI Feedback
<p>As stated in 2024, the DTC believes that this principle of qualifying in a CDI3* is effective in maintaining a high standard in the CDI4* and CDI5* competitions. Also, it is positive for the CDI3* OCs to have top Athletes participating. Consequently, the DTC does not support the proposed change.</p>
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025
N/A

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
IDOC
Article No.–Article Name
Art 422.4 Paperless judging
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes.</p> <p>Publicizing the remarks of judges will illustrate how deeply committed is the Dressage judging with the welfare of the horse. It also highlights the important of transparency within the sport, the understanding of the public and our social license to publish these remarks as soon as competitions are finished.</p> <p>Proposed wording: Art 422.4 Paperless Judging The electronic judges’ sheets will be made available to the Athletes in an electronic format via the FEI platform after the Competition. The access to the Athletes’ electronic judges’ sheets is strictly personal. The Athlete, however, has the right to keep the Judges' remarks and comments strictly personal. For this, the Athlete must make a request not to have their remarks publicly opened.</p>
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
N/A
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<p><u>GBR NF:</u> We agree that openness and transparency is vitally important and can help to build public trust and confidence in the fairness of the sport. However, we do need to be aware of potential unintended consequences from such a move. We would recommend that an ‘all or nothing’ approach is adopted. If riders ‘opt out’ then they could potentially be subject to baseless accusations that they have something to hide.</p> <p>There is also potential that judge comments could be taken out of context and used as criticism against the rider when quoted in isolation and not as part of the test as a whole. In addition, there is a danger that this could lead to judges watering down their marks and feedback for public consumption, resulting in a reversion to the mean and more anodyne comments, which would not help to support the rider’s progression. Therefore we would recommend that a comprehensive consultation process takes place before any decision is made, ahead of the full dressage rules review in 2026.</p> <p>Should the proposal be adopted, we recommend that the judge education system reinforces the use of appropriate terminology and provides accurate language translation. This will help promote clear and respectful communication, providing constructive and encouraging feedback to riders, while ensuring consistency in implementation.</p> <p><u>GER NF:</u> The proposal of the FEI is supported to further evaluate with the IDRC, IDTC and IDOC. In principle every step towards more transparency is good.</p>

Depending on the quality of the scribes there is a chance for errors and misunderstandings. The publication of the comments could result in less openness and clearly reduce the honesty and therefore will be less helpful to the athletes.

IDRC: The proposal of the FEI is supported to further evaluate with the IDRC, IDTC and IDOC. In principle, every step towards more transparency is good.

SUI NF: There should maybe be a difference between the different levels of shows? Maybe start with Championships (very experienced judges)?

USA NF: Instead of athletes making a request to not have their remarks publicly opened, athletes should be permitted to 'opt in' to having their remarks publicly opened and published. It is not standard in other sports for the public to see comments on a test or performance - this topic needs further discussion.

USA NF text proposal:

Art 422.4 Paperless Judging The electronic judges' sheets will be made available to the Athletes in an electronic format via the FEI platform after the Competition. ~~The access to the Athletes' electronic judges' sheets is strictly personal.~~ **The Athlete, however, has the right to keep the Judges' remarks and comments strictly personal and the Athlete must give permission to have their remarks publicly available.**

FEI Feedback

The DTC is, in principle, supportive of this proposal as an initiative that may enhance transparency and understanding of the sport.

The DTC suggests that there should first be consultation with the Athletes (IDRC) and Trainers (IDTC), and following this consultation process, the proposal could be trialed on a pilot basis at selected events. Furthermore, it is the opinion of the DTC that no changes to the existing rule should be made until further consideration following the consultation and trial process as outlined above.

The DTC agree that Athletes should have the option to choose whether or not their respective comments are made public. This option should be clearly presented and easily manageable for the Athletes (e.g., by ticking a box).

Deferred to the full rules revision in 2026.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025

N/A

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
SWE NF
Article No.–Article Name
GR 2025 Art 142.1-142.2 – Abuse of Horse DR 2025 Art 424.5.6.1-424.5.6.4 – Bleeding DR 2025 Art 438 – Abuse of Horse JR 2025 Art 241.3.30-241.3.31 – Eliminations JR 2025 Art 242.3-242.3.1 – Disqualifications JR 2025 Art 243.1-243-2.3 – Abuse of Horse ER 2025 Art 526.1-526.4 – Abuse of Horse; Definition, Warnings and Penalties, Use of the Whip, Blood on Horses
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc There are obvious differences in the Rules regarding Abuse of Horse, Blood on the Horse and penalties between the Olympic disciplines Dressage, Jumping and Eventing, as well as in the General Regulations. The above-mentioned Rules are dealing with the same issue, but in different ways.</p> <p>Proposal, to oversee the regulations regarding Abuse of Horse with the goal to harmonise these regulations among all disciplines.</p>
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
N/A
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<p><u>DEN NF</u>: Agree with the proposal from the SWE NF.</p> <p><u>IDRC</u>: SWE proposal not supported by the IDRC.</p>
FEI Feedback
<p>No change.</p> <p>This is a cross-discipline issue. In the Dressage Rules, bleeding is already addressed in strict terms.</p>
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025
N/A

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
AUT NF / EEF
Article No.–Article Name
Art. 425.5.4., 5.8. and 5.9.
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>Correction of inconsistencies, etc.</p> <p>Due to the rounding up or down and then divided by the number of Judges it can lead to a rounding difference by 0.001. If that happens one Rider can be ahead of another Rider by that margin but having achieved the higher median score and the same number of points.</p> <p>The calculation of scores will be done by points and the final score achieved (total number of points) is divided by the number of Judges (3, 5 or 7) to get the final score in percentage points.</p>
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
N/A
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<p><u>DEN NF</u>: Agree with the FEI feedback.</p> <p><u>IDRC</u>: Proposal not supported by the FEI, IDRC will bring it back for the full rule revision.</p>
FEI Feedback
<p>No change.</p> <p>Not supported at this time, as the proposed change would not solve the issue and discrepancies would remain.</p> <p>The DTC is of the opinion that these are two different calculation methods. While the calculation method proposed may ensure that the combination with the higher median score is ranked ahead, the method currently used is illustrated by an example in the Dressage rules, to avoid any doubt about calculation.</p> <p>With the current way of computing the final percentage of a combination, we have the guarantee (mathematically speaking) that the rounded average of the 5 Judge percentage gives the final percentage.</p> <p>But if we compute the final score as proposed by the AUT NF/EEF, we may have a situation where the rounded average of the Judge percentage differs (by 0.001) from the final percentage of the combination, i.e. as the Judge Percentage is not just a step in the computation but is also a valuable (and displayed) information. Therefore, from a sport point of view, we do not support a change at this time.</p>
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025
N/A

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

POL NF

Article No.–Article Name

Art 433.2 Horse / Pony Ages

Explanation for Proposed Change

The movements required in Grand Prix dressage demand that the equine athlete be both mentally and physically mature. As our world becomes more efficient, pushing things to happen earlier and faster, there is a temptation to push horses at a younger age as well. While some exceptionally talented horses may show the ability to perform at a younger age, we must resist the urge to show them too soon. Not everyone in our community recognizes that individual horses may not be ready to perform safely at a young age, and the majority will push their horses too hard, rushing the results. The FEI should act as a guardian in this matter, ensuring that the dressage world avoids a hasty approach to training and prioritizes the health of the horses. Setting the age at 9 y/o for GP horses will help protect them at home allowing their musculoskeletal system and mentality to mature.

Proposed wording:

1. Horses of any origin may take part in International Dressage Tests as following :

Dressage Test categories		Minimum Horse age
Senior Tests	CDI1* Tests	Minimum seven (7) years old
	CDI2* and above Tests	Minimum nine (9) year old

Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025

N/A

Comments Received by 26 August 2025

DEN NF: Propose GP from 9 years old

GBR NF: We still question whether it is appropriate for eight year old horses to compete at Grand Prix and would support the suggestion of increasing this to nine. It is asking a lot for a horse to progress from AM / PSG level as a seven-year-old to GP in a year. However, as an alternative solution, we would agree that consideration should be given to minimum number of starts and / or consistency of scores achieved before horses can qualify for GP.

As part of the full dressage rules revision in 2026 we would strongly recommend that minimum ages are reviewed at all levels of the sport, especially for FEI Young Horse classes, where there is evidence that horses are over-faced and pushed too hard, too soon in their dressage careers.


IDRC: Proposal, not supported by the FEI. A counterproposal has been made by the FEI. Further discussion for 2027.

FEI Feedback

This has been discussed with the Dressage Strategic Action Planning Group and the statistics show that the number of 8-year-old Horses competing at GP level is very low. Based on this analysis, we would not support making a change to the minimum age of Horses taking part in GP competitions. Instead, it is proposed to consider the average number of starts for 8-year-old horses in GP competitions per month / year as part of the full Rule Revision process in 2026.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025

N/A

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
ARG NF
Article No.–Article Name
Art 434.2.1 Bridle with noseband and 434.3 bits
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>1. In the rules there is not anything specifying the width of a noseband (cavesson) Should you write the minimum (in mm) allowed width.</p>  <p>2- The rules only mention the minimum thickness allowed for a bridoon and the same for a snaffle. What would be the maximum thickness allowed for a bridoon, and the maximum for a snaffle? Would it be logical to take the maximum of the bridoon the same as the minimum of the snaffle.</p>
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
N/A
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<p><u>DEN NF</u>: agree with the FEI. <u>EEF</u>: ARG proposal, not supported by the EEF. <u>IDRC</u>: Proposal, not supported by the IDRC.</p>
FEI Feedback
<p>Regarding the noseband, the DTC prefers to issue a recommendation that there should be adequate distance between the noseband and the bit so as not to pinch the flesh of the cheeks. This ensures that the noseband is fitted correctly and this should be discussed with the FEI Tack App Working Group.</p> <p>The DTC sees no need to stipulate a maximum dimension of the bridoon bit as all Horses' mouths are different.</p>
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025
N/A

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
IDOC
Article No.–Article Name
Art 434.3.3 Curb bits
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes.</p> <p>Proposed wording: Art. 434.3.3 - Curb Bits 3.3.1. - The length of the lever arm below the mouth piece of the curb bit is limited to ten centimetres (10 cm). The upper cheek must not be longer than the lower cheek and must not exceed five centimetres (5 cm). If the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the lever arm of the curb bit below the mouth piece should not measure more than ten centimetres (10 cm) when the mouth piece is at the uppermost position. The angle of the shank should be limited at 45 degrees, when it rotates backwards.</p>
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
N/A
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<u>DEN NE</u> : Agree with the FEI.
FEI Feedback
Measuring the angle of the shank of the curb bit needs to be considered carefully to ensure repeatable methodology can be utilized. This proposal will be considered as part of the full rules revision process.
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025
N/A

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
IDOC
Article No.–Article Name
Art 441 Ground Jury
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>FEI L1/2* and L2/3* Dressage Judges can be used as scribes in every level of competition, including Big Tour.</p> <p>The opportunity would provide more experience and, thus, better education for upcoming dressage judges, especially outside Western Europe, where there are considerably fewer shows, therefore, and no so many opportunities to gain experience.</p> <p>Proposed wording: Art. 441.4 Each Judge must be assisted by a secretary who speaks and writes English. Scribes must be able to operate electronic Dressage scoring systems when applicable. FEI L1/2* and L2/3* Dressage Judges can act as scribes in every level of competition, including Big Tour.</p>
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
N/A
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<p><u>DEN NF</u>: Agree with the FEI.</p> <p><u>IDRC</u>: Proposal partially supported by the FEI, we will bring it back for full rule revision.</p>
FEI Feedback
The Dressage Technical Committee agrees; however, this proposed change does not meet the criteria for the current partial Rules Revision Process and will be considered as part of the full Rules Revision process next year.
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025
N/A

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
IDOC
Article No.–Article Name
Art. 441.9 - Appointment of Judges
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>2. Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc. As a FEI recognized stakeholder and having almost 400 members (199 FEI Officials), the International Dressage Officials Club understands it should have a voice on indicating the official panel in the Championships.</p> <p>Proposed wording:</p> <p>Art. 441.9.1 For FEI Championships and Games on Grand Prix level, the President and the other members of the Ground Jury are recommended by the JSP from the FEI list of L4 Judges, taking into account proposition made by the International Officials Club (IDOC), and appointed by the FEI Dressage Technical Committee/FEI HQ. The President and all members will judge all Competitions. All Judges must be of different nationalities.</p> <p>Art. 441.9.2 For all FEI Championships and Games on any level except on Grand Prix Level, the President and the other members of the Ground Jury are recommended by the JSP from the FEI list of L3 and L4 Judges, taking into account proposition made by IDOC, and appointed by FEI Dressage Technical Committee/FEI HQ</p> <p>Art. 441.9.3 For FEI Continental Championships for U25, Young Riders, Juniors, Children and Pony Riders, the President and the other members of the Ground Jury are appointed by the FEI with the cooperation of the Dressage Technical Committee, taking into account recommendation made by IDOC, from the FEI list of L4 and L3 Judges. One (1) member of the JSP is appointed by the FEI with the purpose of supervision of the judging process for the European Youth Championships.</p> <p>Art. 441.9.3.1 When FEI Championships for Youth are held jointly a Ground Jury of five (5) members including one (1) President shall be appointed by the FEI, taking into account recommendation made by IDOC, from the list of L4 and L3 Judges for each FEI Continental Championship.</p> <p>Art. 441.9.4 For FEI World Cup™ Dressage Finals, the President and the other four (4) members are appointed by the FEI with the cooperation of the Dressage Technical Committee, taking into account recommendation made by IDOC, from the list of L4 and L3 Judges. Minimum four (4) L4 Judges and one (1) L3 Judge. At least four (4) foreign Judges of different nationalities shall be appointed. Minimum one (1) L3 Judge must be appointed.</p>
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
N/A
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<p><u>DEN NF</u>: Agree with the FEI.</p> <p><u>EEF</u>: IDOC proposal strongly rejected by the EEF DWG, and the decision of the FEI is welcomed.</p>

IDOC: IDOC understands that, since its members are effectively present in the competitions as officials, therefore having the opportunity to follow the development of the sport on the field of play, has the position to suggest names for the official panels in championships. Remains with original wording proposed.

IDRC: IDOC proposal, strongly rejected by the IDRC and the decision of the FEI is welcomed.

FEI Feedback

Not supported. It would be a conflict of interest for IDOC to recommend the Officials to be appointed to CHs/Games/Finals. IDOC may be consulted as needed, but the current procedure of appointments will remain unchanged.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025

N/A

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
IDOC
Article No.–Article Name
449.6 Officials reimbursement
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>The Fee for some officials group has already been changed (last GA 2022). All officials (Judges, including para judges, and stewards) should get the same fee, not depending on the level/discipline etc. In the name of harmonization.</p> <p>We should not create different groups of officials, but always try to balance inequality and differences.</p> <p>Inflation has been sky-high, due to the global financial circumstances (War and Covid). We have good support from all stakeholder clubs on this matter.</p> <p>After the suggestion of the FEI, IDOC met with DO in 2023 and both stakeholders agreed on 160 EUR per day.</p> <p>Proposed wording:</p> <p>6. Per diem of hundred and twenty sixty (±20 160) EUR per day, (remuneration for miscellaneous costs. This amount is net after relevant taxes being borne by the OC), the per diem is due for all officiating days (including rest days between Competitions) plus one. At the discretion of the Official, the per diem for this additional day may be forfeited if the Official can conveniently travel on the officiating days.</p>
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
N/A
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<p><u>DEN NF</u>: Agree with the FEI.</p> <p><u>IDRC</u>: Proposal, supported by the IDRC.</p>
FEI Feedback
<p>The proposed increase in the Officials Per Diem is supported by the Dressage Technical Committee. However, this proposal does not meet the criteria for a partial Rule change and will be considered at the next full Revision of the Dressage Rules in 2026 for implementation on 1 January 2027.</p>
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025
N/A

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
IDOC
Article No.–Article Name
FEI Dressage Education System
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>FEI L1/2* and L2/3* Dressage Judges can shadow judge in Big Tour competitions, even if appointed in the official panel.</p> <p>National judges could attend FEI Dressage courses as observers. The opportunity would provide them learning and knowledge and would serve as a preparation for transfer up courses.</p>
Proposed Wording on 8 July 2025
N/A
Comments Received by 26 August 2025
<p><u>EEF</u>: The IDOC proposal is not supported.</p> <p><u>IDRC</u>: Proposal is not supported by the IDRC.</p>
FEI Feedback
This proposal does not concern the Dressage Rules and can be discussed as part of the Dressage Education System.
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025
N/A