



PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

MEMBER FEEDBACK INVITED

FEEDBACK TO info@hrcav.com.au BEFORE 30TH OCTOBER 2025

STALLIONS AT EVENTS

EVENT RULES

Proposed amendment to current Event Rule 7.4

Current Event rule:

7.4. Stallions and rigs cannot be excluded from Official Events except in Showing where the over-riding body of a Show does not allow stallions.

Proposed rule

7.4. Stallions and rigs cannot be excluded from Official Events except in Showing where the over-riding body of a Show does not allow stallions or if the event is being run in conjunction with an equestrian body that does not allow stallions.

***Rationale:** This rule change would allow clubs to co-host events with organisations that prohibit stallions at their competitions. By enabling such partnerships, clubs can enhance event viability through increased participation, shared resources, and a larger volunteer base, while also improving financial outcomes.

TOUCHING OF GEAR/HORSE BY OFFICIALS

EVENT RULES

Proposed New Rule – Event Rule 30

30. HANDLING OF HORSE OR EQUIPMENT

30.1 Officials must not touch a competitor's horse or equipment unless there is immediate and urgent concern for the welfare of the horse or rider. In such cases, the official must immediately notify a member of the Ground Jury, who will oversee and assist with the situation to ensure appropriate support is provided while minimising disruption to the competition.

30.2 Touching of a horse by an official is permitted if there is mutual consent between the competitor and the official, provided it does not interfere with the competition or compromise safety or welfare standards.

30.3 If an official touches a horse, rider or equipment outside of these conditions, the ground jury is to be notified immediately, and an incident report submitted to the HRCav office.

***Rationale:** to improve safety of gear checkers, rider, horse and spectators

CHIEF COURSE DESIGNER ROLE

EVENT RULES

Current rule ER 32.1.2 Current: The Chief Course Designer (CDD) shall oversee the design and construction of Show Jumping courses to ensure that courses are built in accordance with HRCav specifications and recommendations for course design. The CCD shall have the authority to make changes to courses to address compliance and/or safety issues. All Show Jumping courses are to be accredited by the CCD prior to being opened for walking

Proposed new rule 32.1.2 The JSC may appoint a Chief Course Designer (CCD) to oversee the design and construction of Show Jumping courses to ensure that courses are built in accordance with HRCav specifications and recommendations for course design. The CCD shall have the authority to make changes to courses to address compliance and/or safety issues.

Add 43.6 Course Designers are to be approved in advance by the JSC who may decide approval is subject to a Chief Course Designer (TD equivalent) being appointed to check the courses on the day (refer Event Rule 32)

Delete 43.7 Course accreditation by the Technical Delegate – refer ER 33

Delete 44.6 Course accreditation by the Technical Delegate – refer ER 33

Add 44.6 SJ Course Designers are to be approved in advance by the JSC who may decide approval is subject to a Chief Course Designer (TD equivalent) being appointed to check the courses on the day (refer Event Rule 32)

***Rationale. If the proposed CD is very experienced, it is likely they would have more experience than a nominated CCD. The rule change would allow the JSC to determine whether appointing a CCD is necessary once the CD has been proposed for approval.**

SPOT VET CHECKS

EVENT RULES

Add new rule 37.8 (Rule 37 is Cruelty and Abuse of Horse)

Spot vet checks may be undertaken at any event at any time at the discretion of the HRCav, to determine whether the Horse Welfare Policy has been breached. Checks will follow protocols outlined in Appendix 16 (new appendix)

- a) All costs associated with the vet checks are to be borne by HRCav
- b) If the vet check is made during or before the commencement of the event and the vet determines that the horse is not in a fit state to continue in the event, it will be immediately eliminated and a report sent to the HRCav who will determine whether further action under the Complaint Handling Rules is appropriate.
- c) If the vet check is made after the combination has already finished competing for the day and the vet determines that the horse is lame, exhausted or suffering from some other health issue causing it serious distress, it will be immediately eliminated and a report sent to the HRCav who will determine whether further action under the Complaint Handling Rules is appropriate.

Appendix 16 Spot Vet check Protocols

1. HRCav Office will book the vet and liaise with Event Organising Committee.
2. Host Club must provide HRCav Office with the final draw for the Event as soon as it is released.
3. Host Club must keep the existence of the vet check confidential until riders arrive on the day of the Event, but make appropriate adjustments to timing of the day eg require riders to report earlier than usual for gear check if checks are to be performed before commencement of the event
4. Host Club must provide suitable facilities for the vet check, including a space for trotting up and lunging (part of an arena)
5. HRCav Office will liaise with the vet over selection of combinations to check
6. The vet will check for lameness, fitness, general condition and any signs of a serious health issue. No samples are to be taken from the horse unless Swabbing has also been declared in accordance with Event Rule 35.3
7. The vet will advise the Host Club if any combinations are to be eliminated and provide a report to HRCav Office

***Rationale. Welfare**

MONITORING OF HORSES' FITNESS

NAVIGATION RIDE RULES

Add new rule 9.3 (Rule 9 is Monitoring of Horses' Fitness)

Spot vet checks may be made before, during or after the combination has taken part in the event in accordance with Event Rule 37.8. This may include trotting in an arena before and or after the event, either under saddle or in hand.

Add to 9.1

The name of the steward is to be communicated to HRCav Office before the commencement of the event

Add to 9.2

The Ground Jury must report to the HRCav any combinations eliminated from the event or which withdraw during the event on fitness grounds.

***Rationale. Welfare**

LEVEL 2 3PE STYLE PHASE

Update to Level 2 Style Phase – Judging Criteria

Obstacles Affected:

- 13. Pole Pick Up
- 14. The Ring
- 15. Pole Drop Off

Change: Remove “Walk” as an acceptable gait for these obstacles.

***Rationale: Riders at this level should be expected to complete these obstacles at a minimum of trot, demonstrating a greater level of control and competence.**

LEVEL 3 GATE OBSTACLE IN 3PE

Updated Wording – Obstacle 7: Gate

Replace current wording: Level 3 and above, hand must remain on the gate or rope. Riders are not required to dismount to replace the rope if dropped – must move onto the next obstacle.

With: For Level 3 and above, a hand must remain on the solid gate or rope gate at all times during the manoeuvre. However, if the solid gate or rope gate is dropped, it may be picked up to complete the task without the rider dismounting.

***Rationale: To provide further clarification regarding expectations and permitted actions during the manoeuvre.**

HORSE TRIALS DRESSAGE TESTS

HORSE TRIALS AND COMBINED TRAINING RULES

Current rule:

HT/CT rule 6.2. The following Official HRCav Dressage Tests must be used for Horse Trials only:

6.2.1. Level 1 Competitors – Tests 1.1 or 1.2

Level 2 Competitors - Tests 2.1 or 2.2

Level 3 Competitors – Level 3 Tests

Level 4 Competitors - Level 4 Tests

Level 5 Competitors - Level 5 Tests

Proposed rule:

HT /CT rule 6.2. The following Official HRCav Dressage Tests must be used for Horse Trials only:

Level 1 Competitors – Test 2.2

Level 2 Competitors – Test 3.3

Level 3 Competitors – Test 3.1

Level 4 Competitors - any Level 4 Test

Level 5 Competitors – any Level 5 Test

***Rationale: Feedback from riders that current tests used for L3 and above Horse Trials and Combined Training events are too difficult, especially in comparison with other organisations.**