

RULE CHANGES

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY - Safety

3 PHASE EQUITATION RULES

STYLE PHASE: 15 TABLE OF PENALTIES

NEW PENALTY – 0 SCORE

After the rider has passed through the transition markers, entering the Bridge, Varied Footing or Wooden Bank from the long side of the obstacle.

RATIONALE: *Safety*

SPEED & ACCURACY PHASE: 16 TABLE OF PENALTIES

NEW PENALTY – ELIMINATION

After the rider has passed through the transition markers, entering the Bridge, Varied Footing or Wooden Bank from the long side of the obstacle.

RATIONALE: *Safety*

CURRENT RULE: 19 VARIED FOOTING

The Varied Footing frame must be a minimum of 3 metres in length, 1 metre wide and no more than 20cms high, with a min plank size of 45mm x 75mm or equivalent. It must be constructed of planks/sleepers with edges rounded, no internal braces, boxes or sections and no sharp protrusions. The footing must be non-slip material. No mattresses, plastic tarps or other plastic to be used. The footing must be only one type of footing. Examples of suitable a footing would be low pile plain carpet, wood chip, rubber mat or fake grass.

UPDATED RULE 19 VARIED FOOTING

The Varied Footing frame must be a minimum of 3 metres in length, 1 metre wide and no more than 20cms high, with a min plank size of 45mm x 75mm or equivalent. It must be constructed of planks/sleepers with edges rounded, no internal braces, boxes or sections and no sharp protrusions. The footing must be non-slip material. No mattresses, plastic tarps, **water boxes** or other plastic to be used. The footing must be only one type of footing. Examples of suitable a footing would be low pile plain carpet, wood chip, rubber mat or fake grass.

RATIONALE: *Safety*

CURRENT RULE: ADVANCED

ALL Trot Work Sitting

PROPOSED CHANGE

All trot work sitting unless stated otherwise'. Allow rising trot in medium/extended trot only

RATIONALE: *Horse welfare. Some riders struggle with sitting trot which causes the horse discomfort. The HRCav demographic includes many older riders, less experienced riders, less confident riders and horses which are not purpose bred for dressage*

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES/NEW RULES

Feedback Closes 30th October 2026

NAVIGATION RIDE RULES

CURRENT RULE: 1.2 SAFETY

It is strongly recommended that if the course traverses a busy road or highway that traffic controllers be placed with slow/stop signs to control traffic. There must be no questions on these parts of the course.

PROPOSED CHANGE Delete (to be placed into a recommendation / guideline for running a successful Nav Ride document).

RATIONALE Move recommendation out of the Rules and into recommendations/guidelines.

EVENT RULES

CURRENT RULE: 3.2.1 OFFICIAL EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

Clubs running Official Dressage Events may nominate to:

- Offer one Dressage Test per Level which enables competitors to compete at their Assessed Level and one Level higher. It is mandatory to offer two Advanced Tests, the harder of which is open to Advanced Combinations only, if this option is used, **or**
- Offer two different Dressage Tests in each Level, which enables competitors to ride two Tests at their Assessed Level plus two tests one level higher if conditions of entry permit

NOTE: Combinations **MUST** enter at their assessed level & are limited to riding a maximum of four dressage tests, in any discipline on one day.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

Clubs running Official Dressage Events may nominate to:

- Offer one Dressage Test per Level which enables competitors to compete at their Assessed Level and one Level higher. It is mandatory to offer two Advanced Tests, the harder of which is open to Advanced Combinations only, if this option is used, **or**
- Offer two different Dressage Tests in each Level, which enables competitors to ride two Tests at their Assessed Level plus **ONE** test one level higher if conditions of entry permit

NOTE: Combinations **MUST** enter at their assessed level and are limited to riding a maximum of **THREE** dressage tests, in any discipline on one day.

RATIONALE: *Horse welfare. Four tests in one day can be excessive for horses lacking fitness. Timing of tests may not allow sufficient rest breaks.*

CURRENT RULE 17 ORDER OF DRAW

17.1 A copy of the competition draw is to be posted on-line. The Event Program shall provide the web address for the draw and include a reminder to competitors to check for updates prior to the event. No changes to riding times may be made within 48 hours of the event unless the affected rider/s have agreed to the change.

17.2 The order of the draw will be strictly adhered to except in the event of scratching's. Competitors may be requested to compete earlier or later than the allotted time at the request of the Organising Committee. If a competitor declines the request, Event Rule **17.3** is not applicable.

17.3 A Competitor risks elimination (by any Event Official) if not prepared to ride at the allotted time.

17.4 At events which include Dressage, the Organizing Committee is required to provide each officiating Dressage Judge with a copy of the competition draw no less than 5 days (where possible) prior to the competition to ensure compliance with Dressage rules 4.8 and 4

PROPOSED RULE

17.1 A copy of the competition draw is to be posted on-line. The Event Program shall provide the web address for the draw and include a reminder to competitors to check for updates prior to the event. No changes to riding times may be made within 48 hours of the event unless the affected rider/s have agreed to the change.

17.2 The order of the draw will be strictly adhered to. Competitors are required to report to the judge or other relevant official at their allotted time. In the event of scratching's, competitors may be requested to compete earlier or later than the allotted time at the request of the Organising Committee. If a competitor declines the request, Event Rule 17.3 is not applicable.

17.3. A Competitor risks elimination (by any Event Official) if not prepared to ride at the allotted time.

17.4. At events which include Dressage, the Organizing Committee is required to provide each officiating Dressage Judge with a copy of the competition draw no less than 5 days (where possible) prior to the competition to ensure compliance with Dressage rules 4.8 and 4.

RATIONALE: *To clarify that riders are required to report to the judge prior to competing.*

DRESSAGE RULES

PROPOSED NEW RULE 1.2 OFFICIAL DRESSAGE TESTS

Clubs may offer unofficial walk/trot tests for training purposes. These tests must be conducted, as far as practicable, in accordance with HRCav rules and are subject to the following conditions:

- a) Entry is limited to assessed horse and rider combinations.
- b) Placings must not be awarded. Each participant will receive a test sheet with feedback from the judge. At the discretion of the organising committee, participants may also receive a ribbon for successfully completing the test.
- c) The test must be officiated by HRCav accredited judges.
- d) The entry fee is at the discretion of the organising committee but should not exceed half the entry fee charged for official classes.

RATIONALE: *The walk/trot tests are designed to provide a supportive, low-pressure environment for less experienced horse & rider combinations. Limiting entry to assessed combinations ensures safety, while HRCav-accredited judges provide consistent and constructive feedback.*

By removing placings and allowing flexible entry fees and recognition, these events encourage participation, skill development, and confidence building, aligning with HRCav's focus on learning and rider development.

CURRENT RULE: 35.1E HRCav DRESSAGE JUDGE ACCREDITATION SCHEME

Candidates must 'pencil' at the appropriate levels at an official HRCav event On at least one occasion (minimum of 5 tests each level)

PROPOSED CHANGE

Candidates must 'pencil' or 'sit in' at the appropriate levels at an official HRCav event on at least one occasion (min of 5 tests each level)

RATIONALE: *Candidate judges to be allowed to sit in car or judge box during judging for training purposes*

CURRENT RULE: 12.3 SADDLERY

Saddles must be secured by at least two points of attachment (eg: double buckle girth or girth and surcingle) or by a double wrapped latigo on both sides of the saddle. A rear cinch on a western saddle does not constitute a second point of attachment under these rules

PROPOSED CHANGE

Saddles must be secured by at least two points of attachment (eg: double buckle girth or girth & surcingle) or by a double wrapped latigo on **one or** both sides of the saddle. A rear cinch on a western saddle does not constitute a second point of attachment under these rules

RATIONALE: *Latigo girthing systems most commonly utilise a single wide leather strap, known as a latigo, on the near (left) side to secure a cinch (girth) to the saddle's rigging. The off (right) side uses a shorter, fixed leather strap called an off billet. A saddle modification to accommodate a latigo on both sides may be necessary.*

EA sport of reining (which puts a lot of pressure on girthing system) does not specify what type of system is required. Just states 'a western saddle must be used'.

3 PHASE EQUITATION RULES

CURRENT RULE: 14.1 COURSE PLAN

Obstacles will be selected from those listed under rule 20. Course plans must be submitted to the HRCav office with the competition program for approval, or at least 6 weeks prior to the date of the event. Course plans must be distributed with the draw.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

Obstacles will be selected from those listed under rule 20. Course plans **and Appendix A – Course Design Checklist from the Course Design Guidelines** must be submitted to the HRCav office with the competition program for approval, or at least 6 weeks prior to the date of the event. Course plans must be distributed with the draw.

RATIONALE *To streamline the course approval process by reducing administrative requirements, enabling more efficient assessment and faster approval of course maps.*

CURRENT RULE: 16. WATER OBSTACLE

The water obstacle should be at least 2m across and no more than 30cm deep with good footing. It should have a graduated ramp entry and exit, although a step up may be allowed at level 3 and above. The rider approaches the middle of the obstacle, riding straight through the water.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

The Water obstacle shall be a cross-country style water obstacle and shall not be substituted with a contained water box or similar obstacle. The obstacle shall:

- be a minimum width of entry 2m.
- have a maximum water depth of 300 mm;
- minimum distance across the water 3m
- provide safe footing with a graduated entry (no drop down into the water)
- Graduated exit for Level 4 and 5.
- permit a step-up exit at Level 3 and above only.
 - with the maximum obstacle height permitted 40cm.

The rider shall approach the centre of the obstacle and ride straight through.

RATIONALE: *To clarify that the Water obstacle refers to a cross-country style water obstacle and not a contained water box.*

HORSE TRIALS & COMBINED TRAINING RULES

CURRENT RULE: TABLE OF HEIGHTS, SPEEDS & DISTANCES (see table below)

DESCRIPTION OF FENCE	LEVELS				
	1	2	3	4	5
Vertical fence	1050mm	950mm	800mm	650mm	500mm
Minimum width of face (maximum of two obstacles) \$	1200mm	1350mm	1500mm	1500mm	1500mm
Drop Fence	1400mm	1200mm	1000mm	700mm	500mm
Brush Fence					
brush height **	1250mm	1150mm	1000mm	800mm	650mm
Front rail height	950mm	800mm	700mm	550mm	400mm
Rear rail height	850mm	700mm	600mm	450mm	300mm
Spread without height	2400mm	2000mm	1400mm	950mm	650mm
Spread with height:					
at highest point	1200mm	1000mm	800mm	650mm	500mm
at base	1800mm	1500mm	1200mm	800mm	650mm
Height of obstacle or bank into water					
With a drop	800mm	650mm	500mm	0	n/a
Without a drop	800mm	650mm	500mm	0	n/a
Drop not to exceed	1200mm	900mm	800mm	400mm	0
Height of jump out of water	900mm	750mm	500mm	400mm	n/a
Depth of water	300mm	300mm	300mm	300mm	300mm
Width of crossing	Min 9000mm	Min 9000mm	Min 6000mm	Min 6000mm	Min 6000mm
Cross country distance mtrs ##	2000-3000	2000-2800	1600-2400	1200-2000	1200-1600
Cross country speeds in meters per minute	500	450	400	350	300
Distance to finish (min – max mtrs all levels) (Note that there should be a broad relationship maintained between distance and efforts)	25-400-50				
Distance start box to first fence (m)	50-75				
<u>Notes</u>					
# must have ramp option					
\$ Fences less than the described minimum face may be offered but must have an option fence given.					
## The course distance must be measured using the option which measures within the table of height, speeds and distances.					
**Brush fences must be regularly maintained and allow horses to pass readily through the brush and not present a ‘solid’ element to the fence. Back of brush box MUST NOT be higher than front. The material used must be such that the risk of injury to horses is a small as possible. Thick stems and sharp ends after trimming/cutting must be avoided. Back rail must be 100mm lower than front rail.					
Show Jumping specifications					
Show Jumping heights (maximum)	1050mm	950mm	800mm	650mm	500mm
Show Jumping widths (maximum)	1200mm	1000mm	800mm	650mm	500mm
Show Jumping speeds in mpm (large arena)	325	300	300	275	250
Show Jumping speeds in mpm (small arena <2400m2)	300	275	275	275	250
Distance from start to first fence & last fence to finish m	6-15m (all levels)				
Fences less than the described minimum face may be offered but must have an option fence given. The course distance must be measured using the option which measures within the table of height, speeds and distances.					

PROPOSED CHANGES – See In Red

DESCRIPTION OF FENCE	LEVELS				
All measurements in cm	1	2	3	4	5
Maximum height	105	95	80	65	50
Minimum width of face (maximum of two obstacles) \$	120	135	150	150	150
Drop Fence max height	140	120	100	70	50
Brush Fence Max brush height ** (front and back heights removed)	125	115	100	85	70
Max Spread without height	240	200	140	95	65
Max Spread with height:					
at highest point	120	100	80	65	50
at base	180	150	120	80	65
Max Height of obstacle or bank into water # With or without a drop Max drop incl.obstacle Height of jump out of water Depth of water Width of crossing	80 140 90 30 Min 900	65 120 75 30 Min 900	30 100 50 30 Min 600	15 50 40 30 Min 600	n/a 0 n/a 30 Min 600
Number of efforts (Note that there should be a broad relationship maintained between distance and efforts)	20-25	15-25	15-25	15-25	15-20
Cross country distance mtrs ##	2000-3000	2000-3000	1500-2500	1500-2500	1200-2000
Cross country speeds in meters per minute	500	450	400	350	300
Distance to finish (min – max mtrs all levels)	25-50				
Distance start box to first fence (mtrs)	50-75				
Notes					
# L3-5 must have ramp option into and out of water					
\$ Fences less than the described minimum face may be offered but must have an option fence given.					
## The course distance must be measured using the option which measures within the table of height, speeds and distances.					
**Brush fences must be regularly maintained and allow horses to pass readily through the brush and not present a ‘solid’ element to the fence. Back of brush box must be 5 cm lower than front rail. The material used must be such that the risk of injury to horses is as small as possible. Thick stems and sharp ends after trimming/cutting must be avoided.					

DELETE

Table of Number of Fences/Jumping Efforts on Cross County after 12.8

PROPOSED CHANGE:

Replace with simple number of efforts in amended table

RATIONALE

To align with PCV and EA dimensions, allowing clubs to use shared courses without requiring changes to dimensions. Will enable clubs to run events in conjunction with PCV or EA clubs.

Changes in water jump dimensions resulting from feedback from competitors that our current dimensions are too challenging versus PCV or EA thus discouraging entries.

Changes in brush dimensions to simplify requirements