

DRESSAGE ETIQUETTE



The following is a short précis, for more details please go to the Equestrian Australian website and download the Dressage competition rules www.equestrian.org.au. It is the responsibility of the rider to be aware of these rules.

- The on line entry form requires all relevant information by a definite time on a day designated as close of entry. Don't be disappointed...get those entries in early!
- A gear check is required before **each** test. Failure to do this will result in disqualification.
- Your draw time is the time that you should be entering the arena at A, not the time you report to the judge.
- You have 45 seconds to enter the ring once the Judge has pressed his/her car horn.
- Check the draw and make a mental note of who is on before you. This will give you an idea of whether the arena is running to time.
- When you and another rider are approaching head on in the warm up area, stay on the 'right side of the road' if at all possible so that you pass with your left shoulder approaching the rider's left shoulder.
- When warming up try to avoid riding too close to another horse. Please use your common sense and don't ride up another horse's **rear**... you may well be kicked!
- Whilst there are medium paces in the different tests, **please be aware that other horses can adversely react to sudden changes** in the warm up areas.
- Please do not warm up behind the judge's car unless you will be competing in the next 20 minutes in that arena.
- If you are unable to attend and compete on the day, please advise the Event Secretary (this **contact** is shown on **the draw**). If you arrive and then wish to scratch from a test, please advise the Judge in that arena immediately. Failure to do this results in judges waiting unnecessarily for competitors.
- It is not necessary to stop at the judge's car **before riding a test**. **Make sure** the judge and writer have seen and noted your bridle number. **The judge will acknowledge having seen you by signalling in some way (e.g. nodding their head or a hand signal)**. When you have ridden past the front of the judge's car, the judge will assume that you are ready to start your test, so be aware that they can ring the bell/car horn quickly.
- Remember if we are all a few minutes late it will make the arena run very late and will inconvenience other riders and of course the judge.
- Smile at the first and last halt, looking directly up at the judge. This conveys that you have appreciated their undivided attention for the time you have ridden. Judges are human, like everyone else, and always appreciate a smile and a thank you.
- If you make an error of course, don't panic and race off and make more mistakes. The Judge will **signal in some way (sound their horn or ring a bell)** and tell you where to restart again. If you are not sure ASK.
- You may have a caller but you cannot ask for 'directions' from an observer alongside the arena.

- Talking/clicking to your horse during your test **can** result in a 2 point penalty.
- When you have finished your test, please move away from the area. All spectators must stay a minimum distance of 10 metres from the arena (with the exception of Callers, **who usually position themselves at 'B' or 'E'**).
- Whilst you can warm up in a running martingale, this is not permitted for the test. You are not allowed to use bearing, running or balancing reins during lunging or warm-up, however you may use two single direct side reins when lunging.
- Spurs - may be worn by competitors at all levels, but the tip of the shank must not point up or point inwards.
- Whip – must not exceed 1.2 metres including the tassel.
- Saddles – a fully-mounted dressage type (including all purpose) saddle of traditional or treeless construction is compulsory. A crupper may be worn by ponies.
- Breast plates – permitted up to and including Medium level only where a snaffle bridle is used.
- False tails – permitted.