

Dressage NZ Tests Review 2018:



Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the Tests Review was approved at the December meeting of the Dressage NZ Board

It was further agreed that the Review sub-committee as appointed at the October meeting be activated and undertake the review as soon as possible

Members of the Review Committee:

Sue Hobson, Linda Warren-Davey & Judith Cunningham (the Dressage NZ JSC)

Bill Noble & Andrea Raves (Coaches)

Jude Nickolls & Alicia Zee (Island Rider Reps)

Wendy Hamerton (Sport Manager)

The TOR to include:

- a. Development of the sport of dressage in New Zealand
- b. Welfare of horses and progression through the grades
- c. Impact on stakeholder groups
 - i. Competitors
 - ii. Area Dressage groups, member organisations, NZ Pony Club Assn
 - iii. Judges
 - iv. Coaches
- d. Impact on grading of horses / ponies as related to the current system
- e. Financial implications for Dressage NZ

It was agreed an on line survey to be conducted for riders following the review and recommendations from the review

Proposal & Rationale for Change from Dressage NZ Judges Sub-Committee

Background:

We have the opportunity to join with Australia to create "Oceania" tests for use by both countries. These tests are the latest new USDF tests adapted by Equestrian Australia and we feel the time is right within our sports expectations and development to make the change to introduce these new tests and to align ourselves more within the Asia Pacific region.

Reason for the Review:

To provide a forum for a range of people within the sport including representatives of trainers, judges & riders to review these new Australian (USDF) tests with a view to replacing the National tests currently being used by DNZ.

Rationale:

- The sport needs to develop and grow throughout the levels in line with the DNZ mission statement
- We believe these tests better support the ongoing growth and development of dressage in NZ, and that it will assist the growth pathway for both riders and judges
- We have an opportunity to align with the Equestrian Australia (EA) judges' system including their education pathway, judges' levels, and their tests. Presently 8-10 judges travel yearly both ways across the Tasman in a Judges Exchange. This opportunity benefits the sport as our judges expand their knowledge and further develop their skill base, by observing and judging different combinations and officiating in a different environment

Benefits:

- The changes that are in the test we believe will be of real value to our dressage community. They have been written and designed to have a natural flow, good progression and to build a strong and systematic foundation from one level to another.
- The test directives are very explanatory and helpful to both rider and judge.
- The main difference that we will see, is the introduction of a single flying change each way in the Medium test. By introducing the flying change two levels before PSG rather than just one level as is current in NZ, will allow for a longer period of consolidation before PSG & co-ordinate better with the 6-year-old Young Horse tests.
- By splitting the introduction of flying changes over two levels, this is considered a more progressive introduction to the horse and rider, with one level including one change each way rather than what we have currently in NZ with two levels including only simple changes, and then the next level introducing flying changes and sequence changes.
- EA has indicated they are happy to provide educational and support material for both the tests & the judges education system.

Currently	Proposed Name change	Introduces
Level 0	Training	
Level 1	Preliminary	Working trot and canter, medium and free walks, 20m circles in trot and canter, stretch circle in trot, serpentine in trot
Level 2	Novice	10m half circle and full circle in trot, 15m circle in canter, lengthening of stride in trot and canter, leg yielding, change of lead through trot, counter canter
Level 3	Elementary	Walk-canter transitions, collected and medium trot and canter, 10m circle at canter, shoulder-in, rein back, half turn on hind-quarters, simple changes, counter canter in serpentine, Travers
Level 4	Medium	Extended paces, half pass at trot, single flying change, walk pirouette, Renvers, release of rein at canter, half pass at canter, rein-back to trot
Level 5	Advanced	Collected walk, very collected canter, multiple flying changes on diagonal, counter changes of hand in trot and canter, tempi changes every 3 rd and 4 th stride, working partial pirouettes in canter, 10m half circle in counter canter, half working pirouettes in canter