

8.1 Dressage

Interschool Dressage runs in accordance with current EA Rules which were updated January 2025. The new dressage tests were effective 1st Jan 2023 and are used at all interschool competitions. Information can be downloaded from the [Equestrian Australia website - Dressage Rules](#).

Riders cannot compete in any Dressage competition if their helmet is not tagged to confirm compliance with the safety standards.

8.1.1 General rules

- a.** Primary students are able to compete in higher grades of dressage – they are not restricted to ride in classes with Primary levels. However, Primary riders are not permitted to ride at higher levels at Interschool National Championships, irrespective of their ranking.
- b.** Draws for Interschool Dressage events should be completed in accordance with EA guidelines. Riders should not ride in the same order in both tests.
- c.** If entries in a particular dressage level exceed 35 in number, the entries will be split randomly into two divisions, or a reserve list can be established. It is important divisions are not formed according to year level, ability, school, etc.
- d.** Primary Preparatory is designed for beginner riders. If a rider is cantering confidently, it is recommended they enter Preliminary Primary. Some competitions place further restrictions on entry to this level.

- e.** When PSG and Inter 1 are offered, horse/ rider combinations must have achieved a minimum of 60% or above, on 2 occasions (2 tests) at Advanced official dressage or Interschool events prior to entering.
- f.** Riders are permitted to enter two consecutive levels per horse where the competition is spread over two days. EA rules set a maximum of 3 tests per horse per day to Medium level.
- g.** Whips are permitted (not exceeding 1.2m including tassel for horses and 1.0m for ponies)
- h.** Only snaffle bits are permitted unless competing at Medium or above
- i.** Horses may not compete below their graded level (if an official dressage grading applies) unless H.C. However, horses graded FEI are permitted to compete Advanced if no FEI classes are offered.
- j.** At State Championship level tests (e.g. EV State Championships, VEIS Grand Final, and Victorian Youth Dressage Interschool Championships) cannot be called except for Preparatory level.



8.1 Dressage continued

8.1.2 Dressage scoring

Dressage scoring to determine places at interschool events is consistent with EA Dressage scoring methodologies and is as follows:

- a.** In each class, 1st placed horses are allocated 35 points, 2nd 34 points, 3rd 33 points and so on to the last-placed horse.
- b.** The aggregate points over the two classes determines the Championship placings.
- c.** In the event of a tie for the Championship placings, the higher placing is awarded to the combination with the highest aggregate percentage over the two tests. In the event of a further tie, the higher placing is the combination with the higher percentage score in the more difficult test.
- d.** In the event of equal placings in a test, no half/split marks are allocated. The equal placings receive the same points, then the next placing and points are skipped. i.e. 2 riders finishing equal 4th receive 32 points, with the next placing being 6th receiving 30 points. If a clear winner or placing is required in a class for individual tests the best total of the 4 collective marks would place higher.
- e.** The Dressage classes that may be offered at interschool events are in Table 1



8.1.2 Dressage scoring continued

TABLE 1

DRESSAGE			
CLASS	YEAR LEVEL	ARENA SIZE	NAT CLASS
Preparatory (Primary only)	Primary Only	40m x 20m or 60m x 20m	No
Preliminary Primary	Primary Only	60m x 20m	Yes
Preliminary Intermediate	Secondary Only	60m x 20m	Yes
Preliminary Senior	Secondary Only	60m x 20m	Yes
Novice Primary	Primary Only	60m x 20m	Yes
Novice Intermediate	Secondary Only	60m x 20m	Yes
Novice Senior	Secondary Only	60m x 20m	Yes
Elementary	All *	60m x 20m	Yes
Medium	All *	60m x 20m	Yes
Advanced	Secondary	60m x 20m	Yes
Prix St Georges **	Secondary	60m x 20m	Yes
Intermediate 1 **	Secondary	60m x 20m	Yes

* Both Primary and Secondary riders are eligible for the Victorian Team (January 2025)

** May be run as Small Tour. Rider/horse combinations may only compete in 2 tests at the higher levels - either one Adv. and PSG or PSG and Inter 1. They require qualifying 60% as per EA rules.

Dressage Update January 2025 - Up to three tests may be ridden in one day to Medium level. If Elementary, Medium and Advanced Freestyle and Pas de deux are offered at the EV State Championships, any placings awarded do not accrue points for individual or team prizes.

The first and second placegetters based on the Championship results at the Equestrian Victoria State Championships in the National qualifying events, and those placing first and second in the VEIS series, are selected to represent Victoria at the Australian Interschool Championships. If two divisions are required, the Champion in each division at State Championships will be selected to the team.