



Thank you to all of our Judges for the knowledge, skill and commitment you have brought to our wonderful sport over the past year. We really appreciate the time and effort you contribute.



Birthday wishes to Benita!

Dressage Judges Taskforce joined with many WA judges to celebrate a significant birthday for Benita Wilson (pictured left) at Swan Valley Equestrian Park for their annual end of year get together last week. Benita has judged Dressage for 32 years, and at many smaller events, has judged from Grand Prix to Preliminary on the same day. After a long career, and thousands and thousands of kilometres of driving with her husband Tony to judge at events in regional locations including Albany, Geraldton, Kojonup, Esperance, Margaret River, Narrogin, Katanning and many more, Benita announced her retirement at the celebration on 29 November. Benita has been contributing to equestrian events in WA since she and Tony first came to Australia in 1963!

The 2013 EA Rules & the new EA Freestyle Tests are now up on www.dressagewa.org

Hot Weather Policy

WA can be very proud of the fact that EA has adopted a very large portion of DWA's Hot Weather Policy, for use in all disciplines across Australia, and it is now in force. For the welfare of our horses, and to comply with the EA Hot Weather Policy, in Summer please try to educate our organisers, so they schedule the more demanding higher tests for the coolest time. Unless Wet Globe Bulb Temperatures are below 30 degrees, tests should not run through the hottest hours of the day from 11.00-4.00.

Approved Safety Helmet Rule Changes EA Dressage for 2013

Please note - from 1 January 2013, the Dressage Rule will be amended. Below are key points:

Rule 5.1.2 – 1st dot point will be amended to read:

5.1.2 Dress and Saddlery

Failure to comply will entail elimination

- ☐ Approved safety helmets are to be worn in **ALL** 4/5/6 year old competitions – this includes qualifying events, and State/Australian Championships

2.1 Compulsory Dress by Level

2.1.1 Preliminary to Elementary Levels

- ☐ riders of horses under 7 years of age – approved safety helmet
- ☐ riders 18 years and over riding horses 7 years or older - hunt cap, bowler hat or approved safety helmet

2.1.2 Medium Level &

2.1.3 Advanced Level

- riders under 18 years - approved safety helmet
- rider of horses under 7 years of age – approved safety helmet
- riders 18 years and over riding horses 7 years or older - hunt cap, bowler hat or approved safety helmet

2.2 Headgear

Riders under 18 years and riders of horses under 7 year of age MUST wear an approved safety helmet with the retaining harness secured and fastened in ALL EA competitions, regardless of the level or venue. Where riders under 18 compete at an FEI-sanctioned event, FEI rules for dress and saddlery will apply www.fei.org unless otherwise specified by the OC or venue management.

Riders 18 years and older and who are riding horses that are seven (7) years and older may wear a top hat/bowler instead of Protective Headgear. However, this exception is limited to the **actual Competition** and the **warming-up directly prior to the Competition** (with no break before the Competition), which **includes riding between the stable and the warm-up area, riding of the competing Horse in the warm-up area, and riding back to the stable**. It is however **recommended** that riders falling under the above nonetheless wear Protective Headgear at all times for their own safety.

French Blinkers



Blinkers are not allowed at Dressage events.
The gear pictured on the left gear is called 'French Blinkers'.
Bridle padding should be under the bridle,
The 'padding' in the picture is not allowed as 'bridle padding.'

Have a great Christmas and New Year!

Wendy Barker