

**Below are some of the discussion points raised at the Riders Forum held at the State Equestrian Centre on 16 March 2022**

**Key Points/ other topics arising from questions**

Young Horse Competition

- Will there be 7-year-old tests?
  - Discussion - medium tests to be incorporated instead of PSG.
- What age?
  - Age as at the day of competition.
- If anyone is considering qualifying for *Dressage with the Stars* in 2023, please approach the EWA Dressage Committee so that an event may be organised to comply with the selection criteria.
- Wendy Barker and Hannie Byrne, young horse judges.

Stewards' Report

Note latest rules are available here: <https://www.equestrian.org.au/Dressage-rules>

- Weight of horse to rider guideline.
- Helmet tagging by 1 July 2022
  - Do helmets need to be tagged for lessons with EA coaches?
  - Best practice is to ensure helmets are tagged for any lesson, especially those endorsed by EWA (training seminars, etc.)
  - If any outstanding questions, please check with insurer.
- As of **1 July 2022**, there is **No** whisker removal.
- Currently no ruling on removal of ear hair.
- More swabbing to occur at competitions.
  - Random choice of horse
  - Need people to become medication stewards. Course mid-June 2022.
- Strongly encourage clubs to allocate participant riders numbers, easier for identification.
- 2 numbers on horse, as of 1 July 2022.
- No blackened hooves (*since rescinded by EADC*).
- Gold/rose gold stirrups are allowed, not yellow.
- Only 2 tests per horse per day, EA.
- Can start tests from inside arena, at discretion of OC.
  - Riders need to know at least 30 minutes before
  - 1-2 laps before starting.
  - If tests are starting from inside, every rider must do so.
  - Next rider does not enter the arena until the previous horse has exited.
  - Show organisers allow more time for this to happen.

Dressage Judges' Taskforce

- Looking for Judges' Taskforce member(s) for Geraldton area.
- Jane Ventura to attend Judges' Seminar and Young Horse seminar.
- Virginia Creed Freestyle Seminar in July 2022.
- G seminar, 8-9 April 2022.

State Championships September 3 and 4.

- Freestyles.
  - Many comments, decision made that **no** freestyles will be included at The States.
  - Idea, for just advanced up, as it is at nationals. This will provide riders with an opportunity to ride Freestyles before the Nationals.
  - Freestyle ridden before their other tests? Thoughts shared.
  - DWA can run separate freestyle events.
  - Consensus, no freestyles, as the States will be over 2 days.

- Should participant be at states? Consensus that yes, participant entrants generate money.
- Qualification
  - 61%, where you get grading points. Improving by setting bar higher.
  - Large agreement that there should be qualifications.
  - Encourages people to attend competitions.
  - Consensus that there should be 1 qualification score only for participants.
  - Qualification period from close of entries last year, to close of entries this year.
- Teams competition
  - 3 riders to a team, a draw, random.
  - Aim for riders to get to know each other.
- Need a working party for the States. Encouraged to contact committee if interested.
- Need sponsors, specifically cash sponsors.
- Could clubs sponsor classes at states?
- People in roles to interact with sponsors/VIP.
  - Maybe have riders interacting with sponsors as helper duty, could use squad riders, like WA Ballet, or just riders with enough knowledge to chat to potentially non-equestrian sponsors.