

# DRESSAGE TASMANIA NEWS

Issue 11 Autumn 2025

# Autumn greetings everyone!

Can you believe it's March 2025 already?! How quickly time flies when busy and enjoying life. Nearly time for long coats, shorter days and cooler mornings – but how about the gorgeous colours of deciduous trees – the joys of Autumn!

If you would like to communicate with the Dressage Tasmania Committee, please email: dressagetasmania@outlook.com.

Decision-making is achieved through meetings which usually occur monthly. Your Zone committee is your first contact point (refer contact details below).

Please consider supporting your Zone and offering to assist our amazing volunteers. We're all in this together!

#### Zone contacts

### **North**

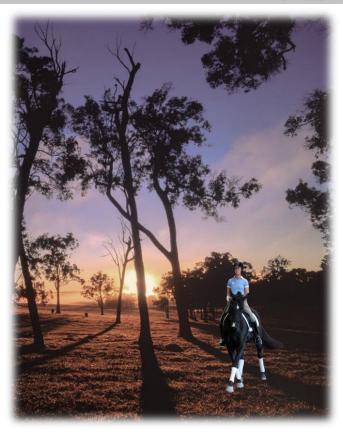
Chair – Sue Lamont Vice Chair – Judy Atkinson
Secretary – Jess Midson Treasurer – Jayne Blyth
General committee: Judy Harding, Teresa Darcy,
Maryann Smink, Sandra Butorac, Kate Brennan,
Annie McCaughey, Molly Evans, Lisa Buckby, Megan
Whalley, Philippa Cassidy, Alana Fazackerley
Email address: dressagenorth@gmail.com

#### **North West**

Chair – Linda Smink Vice Chair – Penelope Moore Secretary – Jodie Towns Treasurer – Penny Higgins General committee: Rose and Paul Kemp, Kenya

Broad, Alison Hall and Jessica Tilton.

Email address: <a href="mailto:nwdressagezone@gmail.com">nwdressagezone@gmail.com</a>



#### South

Chair - Jill Suban

Vice Chair - Gill von Bertouch

Secretary - Wendy Asman

Treasurer – Katherine Drake

General Committee: Sue McDermott, Jenny Wilson,

Jill Schwartz, Heather Stewart, Annelise Bellett,

Wendy Asman.

Email address: dressagetassouth@gmail.com

# 2024-25 Dressage Tasmania – State Dressage Authority

President Judy Atkinson Treasurer Alison Hall

Vice President Sue Lamont Committee Penelope Moore, Heather Stewart

Secretary Alana Fazackerley Tania Hay

# Seasonal quote:

"Before I enter the arena I try to think, "This is only dressage". It's not a life-or-death situation. I remember this and it helps take the pressure off."

Carl Hester





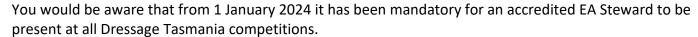


#### **NEW DRESSAGE RULES!**

In effect from **1 January 2025**. Please make yourself aware of the new requirements so there are no surprises when you attend or compete. Highlight is the ability to ride THREE tests per day!

See new Rules here.





Congratulations to those accredited. We now have a number of accredited Level 1 and 2 Stewards in Tassie. You can search for one <a href="here">here</a>.

EA membership is mandatory to be included on the EA Officials' List.

# Dressage judge information:

https://www.tas.equestrian.org.au/dressage/content/judges-information

https://www.equestrian.org.au/officials/dressage

# **Equestrian Australia Committees**

Access who's who in the zoo here!

# Glossary of FEI Competition Acronyms

Confused about the difference between a CSI and a CHIO? Here is a quick-reference guide to various discipline abbreviations. <u>Link to glossary</u>

#### WANTED - Writers!

It's amazing how much you can learn by writing for a judge. Zones are always looking for those interested in writing. Make contact through email or on the day of a competition and express an interest. You are always welcome to sit in to learn how it's done, or reach out to an experienced writer to organise a run-through.

#### **Helpful resources:**

Step by Step Video on how to use Nominate - <u>Live Score</u> Equestrian Australia How to Guide – <u>Quick Reference</u> Dressage - guidelines for writers and pencillers.pdf

# For more information on how you can help at your next competition please contact:

Northern Zone – <u>dressagenorth@gmail.com</u>

North West Zone – <u>nwdressagezone@gmail.com</u>

Southern Zone - <u>dressagetassouth@gmail.com</u>



NEW RULES:

# Dressage Tasmania membership

Annual membership is to 30 June each year. Twelve and six-monthly memberships are available. If intending to join for a 12-month period, please keep in mind that this will only be from 1 July each year. Various membership categories are available: Senior, Junior, Young Rider, Family, Social, Official etc. To join and for information on cost, access the Dressage Tasmania web site <a href="https://example.com/hemosphereship-each-year.">https://example.com/hemosphereship-each-year.</a>















# Dressage Tasmania Autumn Calendar (Information as at newsletter distribution date.)

Please consider contacting your Zone by email to help at an event.

Roles range from organising an event to putting letters out and any help would be greatly appreciated.

MARCH						
Date	Venue	Event	Contact			
12	TEC	Southern Zone Training Day	dressagetassouth@gmail.com			
APRIL						
6	TEC	Southern Zone Unofficial Series – Round 1	dressagetassouth@gmail.com			
13	Thirlstane	Northern Zone Club Day	dressagenorth@gmail.com			
19	TEC	Southern Zone Training Day	dressagetassouth@gmail.com			
MAY						
4	TEC	Southern Zone Unofficial Series – Round 2	dressagetassouth@gmail.com			
17	TEC	Southern Zone Training Day	dressagetassouth@gmail.com			
25	Thirlstane	NW Zone Training Day	nwdressagezne@gmail.com			



# Dressage Tasmania events calendar

To access events through Nominate, flag in Nominate to receive email notifications of upcoming events. An email will be sent to you when an event opens. Access the Dressage Tasmania online calendar here.



View the Boneo Park calendar <u>here</u>.



View the Werribee Park calendar <u>here</u>.



**DRESSAGE** 

View the Dressage National Calendar of Events <a href="here">here</a>

'My life has been such a surprise': Carl Hester on what he's learnt during his career

Horse and Hound Read the article here.

Learning from dressage great Carl Hester (Masterclass New Zealand)

Equestrian Life Read the article <u>here</u>.

The Half Halt – As elusive as a Unicorn!

The Horse Magazine Read the article <u>here</u>.















# 2025 McGrath Launceston – Equestrian Tasmania Dressage Championships

**Thank you** to the 2025 Northern Zone organising committee: Judy Atkinson, Alana Fazackerley, Jayne Blyth, Jennifer Shepherd, Lisa Buckby, Teresa Darcy, Jess Midson, Megan Whalley, Sue Lamont, Kate Brennan, Lydia Eastwood and Linda Smink from the North West Zone.

It's impossible to name everyone who stepped up to help, but a HUGE thank you to all of you! Without the sacrifice of time and effort the Champs would not have been possible, let alone so successful.

Naming rights sponsor: McGrath Launceston

**Judges**: Tasmania – Kerrie Swan-Bates, Sue McDermott, Sue Lamont and Judy Atkinson – Mainland – Belinda Snooks, Connie Murray and Virginia Creed – New Zealand – Cushla Cain, Suzanne Inglis and Mel Can der Pol.

Please support the sponsors that made the event rewarding for all prize winners, and made it possible for everyone (refer to page 7 for alphabetical listing). 2026 sees North West Zone take the reins! Don't be shy in offering to help to make 2026 even more successful than 2025.

Congratulations to everyone who qualified and competed – you made it happen!

# Saddleworld Participant Preliminary Championship

Champion - Carole Coates riding Lethal Choice
Reserve Champion - Liana Seadon riding Wanna Thrill

# Iron Horse Equine Nutrition Pony Preliminary Championship

Champion - Heather Stewart riding Barringa Alexander
Reserve Champion - Rebecca Brooks riding Weston Park
Minstrel

#### Makers Mark Equine Preliminary Championship

Champion - Philippa Cooper riding Tennyson Stud Witchcraft

Reserve Champion - Jennifer Shepherd riding New World Contagious

# Mud Grids Tasmania Participant Novice Championship

Champion - Alison Henderson riding Cleo Rose
Reserve Champion - Joanna Conroy riding CSU Highland
Dancer

#### Makers Mark Pony Novice Championship

Champion - Sabrina Jackson riding Charming Blueberry Reserve Champion - Scarlett Burns riding Shalida Park Carousel

# Iron Horse Equine Nutrition Novice Championship

Champion - Abbey Sultan riding HV Feuertanzer
Reserve Champion - Joanne Rhind riding Southern Stars
Velocity

# **Equestrian Tasmania Pony Elementary Championship**

Champion - Sabrina Jackson riding Charming Blueberry

### **Action Auto Glass Elementary Championship**

Champion - Penelope Moore riding Clearview Rain Dancer

Reserve Champion - Philippa Cassidy riding Machiavelli

# Clearview Performance Horses Medium Championship

Champion - Lydia Jackson riding Faberge R
Reserve Champion - Penelope Moore riding Clearview
Rain Dancer

#### **Voler Equestrian Advanced Championship**

Champion - Lydia Jackson riding Faberge R

Reserve Champion - Amy Griffiths riding Debussy

#### **Equestrian Tasmania FEI Big Tour Championship**

Champion - Breanna Turner riding Carrera

Reserve Champion - Judy Peel riding Regensturm

#### **Chaballo Young Rider Championship**

Champion - Sasha Alexander

Reserve Champion - Kindra Martin-Shepherd

#### **Equestrian Tasmania Interschools Championship**

Champion - Sasha Alexander

Reserve Champion - Kindra Martin-Shepherd

#### **SPECIAL AWARDS**

Masters Trophy Jennifer Shepherd

Ray Webster Young Rider award Sasha Alexander

Gentleman Rider Jonathan Coombe

Tonnerre Trophy Breanna Turner riding Carrera

**Nora O'Shea Perpetual Trophy** Sabrina Jackson riding Charming Blueberry

#### **Sorrell Regional Shopping Centre trophy**

Abbey Sultan riding HV Feuertanzer with a percentage of 75.625%

### Casa Real perpetual trophy

Abbey Sultan riding HV Feuertanzer with an average percentage of 73.848%

**Paul Brown Memorial Trophy** Kenya Broad riding Wolter Van Gelder

**TasRacing Off The Track award** Georgia Pearce riding Oceana Incognito







# Scruples Lodge Thoroughbred award Georgia Pearce riding Oceana Incognito Clearview Performance Horses Harmony & Sportsmanship Award Abbey Sultan

### **Zeep Encouragement Award**

- Saturday Sarah Hingston
- Sunday Sasha Alexander

#### **Zeep Best Presented Award**

- Saturday Caitlin Radford
- Sunday Kenya Broad

MBPhotography, Caitlin How Photography and Sue Crocket (request proofs via email: <a href="mailto:crockettsue@icloud.com">crockettsue@icloud.com</a>) took some exceptional photographs – make contact if you would like to browse and order.

#### **Photo Gallery**



Overall Para Champion - Alison Hall



FEI Champion, Breanna Turner - Reserve Judy Peel



Participant Novice Champion Alison Henderson – Reserve Joanna Conroy













Some of the organising committee displaying RB Sellars generous donation of the amazing 'Sandy' shirts and caps in the Trade Village: MC Will Flynn, Jennifer Shepherd, Lisa Buckby, Lydia Eastwood, Linda Smink and Judy Atkinson (Event Director).







Preliminary placegetters, Sharon Cure and Maryann Smink



Super MC – Will Flynn









# 2025 McGrath Launceston – Equestrian Tasmania Dressage Championships ALPHABETICAL LIST OF SPONSORS and SUPPORTERS

Action Autoglass	Joe and Ponic
Aitkens Saddlery	JF Machinery
Alberts Diesel	Little Rivers Brewery
Allan Atkinson	JS Aitken Pty Ltd
Annie McCaughey	Makers Mark Equine
Anvers Tasmania	McGrath Launceston
Arena Rakes Tasmania	Mud Grids Tasmania
Ariat	Nicole Wells
Art of Equestrian	Pizza Pub
Bison Constructions	Podium Equestrian
Brooklyn Park	RB Sellars
Caitlin Radford Dressage and Freestyle Music	Rio Tinto – Bell Bay Aluminium
Cavalor	RMW Repairs
Chaballo	Saddleworld
Clearview Performance Horses	Samantha McCarthy
Coal Valley Equestrian Centre	Shearwater Garden Features
Cripps	Tasmanian Horse Transport
Earlwood Equine	TasRacing
Equestrian Tasmania	The Tea Equation
Exeter Farm and Feed	Troy Animal Health
Financial Streams	Voler Equestrian
Hygain	Woodend Equestrian Centre
Iron Horse Equine Nutrition	Zeep

Please support our generous sponsors, without whom our championships would not be possible.









#### Tips from the experts . . .

#### **Laura Graves**

"The idea is we must ride back to front, which is all true, but the second part to the equation, to get the horse sharp to the leg is to educate the hand. You get all types of sensitivity to the leg, some are jumpy, some feel safe. It's the same for the mouth. Some horses don't like to take contact from the beginning, some really hang on the rein. Confidence in the bridle is the main thing I want to give the horse."

"I want you to always to create the amount of pressure in your hand that you like. For every rider this is different, and that's ok. We're also going to help him work more through the body. I don't think this is discussed enough. Nobody talks about the part of the horse between the front and the back."



#### **Isabell Werth**

It takes at least 4-5 years for a horse to develop into a top athlete. When you want to make your vision come true, the relationship with the horse and how to handle it is the most important thing.

There will be many ups and downs, especially in the beginning.

It's an intrinsic feeling of knowing you're good enough if you work at it. And day by day getting better and better because of your work. Then you are confirmed in your beliefs.

Off course you make mistakes. It happens for everyone. But there are no failures, only learning experiences. Failure shouldn't be final unless you accept that it is.



#### **Frederic Wandres**

What are your long-term goals as a dressage rider?

There are always the competition goals, I mean in 2025 we have the European Championships in Crozet, then there's the World Championships in Aachen 2026, and maybe Los Angeles 2028 – that's something we're working towards. But outside of the sports achievements, you always want to bring your horses further, you want to develop and educate them.

What personality trait do you value most in a horse?

Over the years, I've had horses with all sorts of personalities. I've had shy horses and strong-willed horses, but I cannot say that one personality has been more successful than the other. They were all perfect in their own way. I'm there to assist them, to help them out with their traits. If a horse is a bit shy, it's my job to take them by the hand and tell them "Come on, we can do it!". And for the horses that are a bit overpowered, I must tell them to go a bit easy. In general, the most important thing for me is the feeling that the horse really wants to work with you. You cannot force something. I have had horses that didn't have

#### **Dorothee Schneider**

I think that is very important, to be invisible. I think it is a big point to not ask the horse things that are not possible, instead to ask the horse to go with me, and to ask myself, am I doing it right? Can I help, not that I want to ask too much, I want the feeling that the horse is able to do it with me together, in a good mental situation then I am happy, and that's my job.

the best movements, but they went far because they gave their all since they wanted to work with me.

The horse shows it, I am able to collect in the hind leg, I am able to take the weight in the hind leg, then you develop it step-by-step. From the five year old, you ride a good transition on the hind leg, and try to move the hind leg under the body, and one or two years later, you are able to ride small steps, and one year later perhaps, you are able to ride piaffe. But it comes from the horse. What happens if I try to ride a classical piaffe with a four-year-old horse? It is not possible because the body is not prepared. When the body of the horse is prepared, and the rider has the feeling, there comes the point when we can go forward together and the horse is happy because it feels, okay I am able to do it. Then you have a good mental situation to go forward.











#### 3.13 Scale of marks

Under both EA and FEI rules, the scale of marks is as follows:

10 – excellent	5 - marginal (EA) (sufficient - FEI)	
9 – very good	4 – insufficient	
8 – good	3 – fairly bad	
7 – fairly good	2 – bad	
6 – satisfactory	I – very bad	
0 - not executed (means practically nothing was performed)		

- a) all half marks from 0.5 to 9.5 may also be used both for movements and collective marks, at the discretion of the judge - this also includes freestyle competitions
- b) whole marks should be written as 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, etc
- c) in freestyle tests 0.1 decimals may be used for the artistic marks

#### 3.14 Called tests

In regards to a test being called:

- a) tests may not be called
  - · at any level above Advanced at any event
  - · in any competition where the Conditions of Entry excludes it
  - at any FEI-sanctioned competition (e.g. CDI-W)
- b) where callers are permitted, it is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that only the printed text, or extracts thereof, is read out and that no other form of assistance is given
- c) the caller may read each movement once or twice only. Failure to observe this rule may entail elimination

#### 3.15 Execution of tests

All movements contained in tests must be:

- a) executed in the order laid down by the test sheet
- b) carried out at the specified point in the arena

In a movement that must be carried out at a certain point or letter of the arena, it should be done at the moment when the competitor's body is above this point or letter. In transitions where the horse approaches the letter from a diagonal or perpendicular to the point on track where the letters are positioned, the transitions must be done when the horse's nose reaches the track at the letter so that the horse is straight in the transition.

#### 3.15.1 Holding the reins

Riding with the reins in both hands is compulsory in all Dressage competitions - deduction from marks -2 per judge. The exceptions to this rule are:

- a) leaving the arena after the final salute
- b) during a Freestyle test as part of the degree of difficulty
- c) a discreet 'pat on the neck' for a well performed exercise, or for reassurance, is perfectly acceptable (as is the situation of a rider needing to wipe a fly from their eye, or other situations such as adjusting clothing, saddle pads etc)

If the rider intentionally takes the reins into one hand to use either the reins or the other hand to produce more impulsion from the horse, or to promote applause from the spectators during the test, it will be considered a fault and will be reflected in the mark for both the movement and the collective mark.

In the competition arena, under no circumstances is a rider to take the reins in one hand, whip in the other and use it on the horse - such action will entail elimination.







#### 3.16 Use of voice

The use of the voice or clicking the tongue as an aid by the rider repeatedly is a serious fault, which will be penalised by the judge/s who hear it with a deduction of 2 marks from the mark that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement.

NOTE: The use of voice is permitted in some cases in Para-Equestrian Dressage as an aid. See Section 11 for more details.

#### 3.17 Penalties, Technical Faults and Errors of Course

Technical faults will incur a 0.5% deduction from the final percentage mark as per Annex E. The deduction is from each judge and all judges must have the same number of penalties recorded.

Error of Course, whether the bell is sounded or not, must be penalised and is cumulative. The penalties for an error of course are as follows:

EA level tests (up to Advanced)

- the first by -2 marks
- · the second by -4 additional marks
- · the third by elimination

FEI level tests

Senior, U25 and Young Rider

- first error 2% from total score
- second error elimination

Young Horse, FEI Children, Pony and Junior and Para

- first error 0.5% from total score
- second error 1% from total score
- third error elimination
- a) if the bell is not sounded when an error of course is made, and the test requires the same movement to be repeated and the error is made again, the rider is only penalised once. The Chief Judge must be aware of the effect of one movement on the next and where mirror images occur, in order to be prompt in notifying the competitor
- b) if eliminated, if time permits and the type of event or competition is appropriate, the Chief Judge may invite the rider to continue the test to the end with the marks being awarded in the ordinary way. In such a case it is not necessary for the collective marks to be completed
- c) the use of the rider's voice, referred to in rule 3.16, is not an Error of Course
- d) it is not always necessary for a judge to ring the bell for an error of course. Below are instances that will and will not require the sounding of the bell. However, not all cases can be quoted and it is the Chief Judge who will decide to sound the bell. In deciding not to ring the bell the judge must consider the effect this will have on the rest of the test

The Chief Judge WILL ring the bell:	The Chief Judge need NOT ring the bell:
when the rider enters the arena at the incorrect gait	• when the final halt is at X instead of G or vice versa
when the rider turns right instead of left or vice versa	when the rider makes a transition not clearly at the marker
when the rider omits a movement	<ul> <li>cantering up the centre line from A, the rider makes a pirouette at D instead of at L</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>when a movement is the first of a mirror image and the competitor rides rising trot instead of sitting trot and vice versa and/or an incorrect circle size</li> </ul>	the rider does rising trot instead of sitting trot or vice versa in a non-mirrored movement







- e) if the Chief Judge does ring the bell, they should show the rider the point at which they are to re-take the test, which could be a movement prior to where the error occurred. Judging will re-commence when the rider reaches the point where the error of course occurred
- f) in principle, a rider is not permitted to repeat a movement of the test unless the Chief Judge decides on it being an error of course (rings the bell)
- g) however, if the rider has started the execution of a movement and attempts to do the same movement again, the judges must consider only the first movement shown and at the same time penalise for an Error of Course
- h) each judge must have the same number of errors marked on their sheets with a notation explaining where the error was made. The Chief Judge must make the final decision as to the number of errors if there is a discrepancy
- i) if the judges have not noted an error, the competitor has the benefit of the doubt

NOTE- Errors of course are to be deducted from the total score from the test sheet of each judge

### 3.17.1 Other technical faults with penalties - refer to Annex E

All of the following are considered technical faults and 0.5%will be deducted for each one, and this is applied each time a technical fault occurs but will not result in elimination. (including for Freestyle tests):

- a) a rider entering the space around the arena with whip (where not permitted) or riding in a dressage arena with a whip (when not permitted) or with boots on the horse's legs or with discrepancy in dress (e.g. lack of gloves). See rule 5.6(e) for whip penalties at FEI events and Australian and State Championships and 9.1.2(f) for Young Horse.
- b) if the test has already started before the above discrepancies have been noticed, the Judge at C stops the rider and, if needed and where possible, an assistant may enter the arena to remove the item(s). The rider then continues the test, either starting from the beginning (from the inside of the fence) or from the movement where they were stopped. The marks given before they were stopped are not changed
- c) a rider entering the arena before the sound of the bell
- d) a rider not entering the arena within 45 seconds after the bell
- e) a rider not saluting at either the first or last halt
- f) a rider not taking reins in one hand at the salute
- g) in Freestyle tests, a rider not giving the signal to start music within 45 seconds, entering the arena after more than 30 seconds of music
- h) if the Freestyle test is longer or shorter than stipulated on the test sheet 0.5% will be deducted from the total artistic score

# **Yellow Warning Cards**

Q1 Who is eligible to issue a Yellow Warning Card?

A As per Dressage Rule 1.5.1(b):

FEI Stewards, EA Stewards, EA Technical Delegates, FEI Judges, EA Judge Educators.

**Equestrian Australia information available here** 

# EA Equipment Annex – Dressage Rules

The new Equestrian Australia Equipment Annex - Version 22 - 04.04.2023 has been effective since **23 April 2023**. Access through the EA Dressage Rules Webpage: <a href="https://www.equestrian.org.au/Dressage-rules">https://www.equestrian.org.au/Dressage-rules</a>
The summary of changes to the National Dressage Rules effective 1 January 2023 is now available at this link:

Summary - Dressage Rule Changes 1 January 2023 23112022.pdf (equestrian.org.au)







### Friendly reminders

- Judges who do not hold a current Working with Vulnerable People registration/card, will not be included on the Equestrian Australia Judges' List.
- Riders may now ride THREE tests per day at any level.
- Numbers at a height of 3.5-4cm need to be visible on BOTH SIDES of a saddle pad or bridle when competing and BOTH SIDES of a halter at any other time at Dressage Tasmania events.
- All EA dressage competitions must have an accredited EA Steward on duty.

A Steward or Steward-appointed person is necessary to check gear at competitions.

Checking of gear is undertaken AFTER a test.

Please check the current Dressage Rules and Equipment Annex before attending Dressage Tasmania events to ensure your equipment is correct, to prevent any surprises!

#### **Values**



**Dedication** Committed to supporting dressage in Tasmania.

Respect Everyone is valued and treated accordingly.

**Excellence** Striving to provide the best possible experience.

**Solidarity** We are all in this together.

Safety Horse and rider welfare is the priority.

Access An environment where everyone is welcome.

Growth Nurturing membership development.

**Encouragement** Dressage as a positive experience.

# Your feedback matters!

Members are encouraged to have input into the way we do dressage in Tasmania. Ideas and ways of improvement are welcome. Email dressagetasmania@outlook.com or your Zone contact.

Likewise, if you think of anything you'd like included in future newsletters, let us know.

### Web links

Dressage Tasmania (equestrian.org.au)

Horse Registration | Equestrian Tasmania

Your Membership | Equestrian Tasmania

Insurance | Equestrian Australia

Medication Control | Equestrian Tasmania

Discipline rules & regulations | Equestrian Australia

Dressage Tasmania web site:

https://www.tas.equestrian.org.au/dressage/ Dressage Tasmania E-mail:

dressagetasmania@outlook.com



https://www.facebook.com/dressagetasmania





