



## OVERVIEW

The constitution of **Dressage SA (DSA)** empowers the National Dressage Council to make and pass rules, by-laws or regulations and to add to, repeal or alter such rules, by-laws or regulations and further to administrate and implement such rules, by-laws or regulations in terms of the Constitution and the attainment of the objects of **DSA**. The objective of this policy document is to regulate rule changes and specifically to add clarity to the timing and procedure for the implementation of any addition, alteration, deletion or variation of any existing rule.

## POLICY PRINCIPLES

It is **DSA's** intention to follow the FEI Dressage Rules and FEI General Regulations as closely as possible although, for very specific reasons, there may be from time to time a need to refer to a set of rules known as the **DSA** – National Dressage Rules and the Regulations, known as **The General Regulations of DSA**, which have been drawn up specifically to assist in the regulation of Dressage in South Africa. Although these rules and regulations may differ in some respects from those of the FEI Dressage Rules and Regulations, should any relevant point or matter not be covered in the **DSA** Dressage Rules or Regulations then the relevant FEI rule will apply.

FEI rules and regulations always supersede **DSA** rules and regulations especially as there are many instances where the **DSA** rules and regulations are silent. When **DSA** rules conflict with the FEI rule, the **DSA** rule serves to substitute or amplify the applicable FEI rule in order to lend clarity to specific local conditions.

## SECTION 1 - PROCEDURES

### ***Dressage SA – NATIONAL DRESSAGE RULES and GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR DRESSAGE (hereinafter referred to as Rules and Regulations)***

#### **1.1 FREQUENCY AND EFFECTIVE DATES OF RULE AND REGULATION CHANGES**

- 1.1.1. The **DSA Rules and Regulations** will be changed no more than once a year during the months of November and December.
- 1.1.2. The **DSA Rules and Regulations** will be published on the DSA website during December of each year, but no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of December of that year and be effective as at the 1st of January the following year.
- 1.1.3. If there is any **Rules and Regulations** change between the publication of any Schedule and the commencement of any show, then the **Rules and Regulations** change will not be applicable for that show.

#### **1.2 PROCEDURE FOR RULE and REGULATION CHANGES**

- 1.2.1. It is recognised that Rule Change decisions have far reaching implications for our sport and a thorough understanding of the interrelationships of **Rules and Regulations** when compared with the impact on athletes, officials, show holding bodies, administrators, ground juries and judicial bodies is needed.

- 1.2.2. For the reasons stated in 1.2.1. above, it is essential that all rule changes are made subject to the rigorous consideration of absolute specialists which have both knowledge and experience in the affairs of dressage and the impact of the **Rules and Regulations**.
- 1.2.3. The decisions made by experts mentioned in 1.2.2. above as well as the appointment of such experts, must in addition be subject to a process of appeal and review respectively to ensure a very high level of oversight. This oversight will be fully expanded on in the sections below.

### 1.3 THE RULE CHANGE COMMITTEE (RCC)

- 1.3.1. The **RCC** shall consist of 5 members as well as a secretary.
- 1.3.2. **Rules and Regulations** changes will be decided on by a simple majority vote, although unanimous decisions should be sought which would require a more intensive debate on the individual merits.
- 1.3.3. The **RCC** shall consist of a representative from each of the following portfolios and be selected by that portfolio committee: Technical, coaches, judges, athletes' representative and an EXCO member.

### 1.4 DEFINING THE PROCESS OF RULE AND REGULATION CHANGE

- 1.4.1. All registered **DSA** members in good standing are encouraged to submit any **Rules and Regulations** change requests to the secretary of the **RCC** by no later than 17 October 2022. Each member is allowed to submit a maximum of 5 (five) rule change requests.
- 1.4.2. The members of the **RCC** may also submit rule change requests, but they are not limited as to the number of requests that they are allowed to submit.
- 1.4.3. All rule change submission forms must be fully completed by the Proposing member who must be in good standing with **DSA** and such an application must be seconded by another member of **DSA** in good standing.
- 1.4.4. The Proposing Member must submit their rule change submission form, via email, to the Secretary of the **RCC** and the member must also copy ("cc") this email to the President of their Provincial Dressage Council at the same time.
- 1.4.5. This version of the submission will be deemed to be the only one for consideration. Should you not receive an email from the Secretary of the **RCC** confirming receipt by 5pm on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2022, then the rule change submission will be deemed to have not been submitted. If proof of submission is presented to the secretary of the **RCC** by 5pm on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of October which timeous submission in line with para 1.4.1. above, then the secretary will add the request to the list of requests for that rule change season.

- 1.4.6. The rule change request must be made on the standard format and on a form as determined and supplied by **DSA** and the motivation contained in the application must be comprehensive as no additional submissions by letter, email or by phone will be allowed.
- 1.4.7. The **RCC** may make suggestions related to the wording or principles of any **Rules and Regulations** as well as check the suggested **Rules and Regulations** against current FEI **Rules and Regulations** in order to check for any potential conflicts. These suggestions and changes must be minor and the member who submitted the rule change application must be advised in writing and generally such changes will be grammatical, numbering and similar.
- 1.4.8. The **RCC** will make their decisions after consultations with their peers and vote on which changes will be accepted or rejected. Each decision must be clearly documented and a final draft list prepared.
- 1.4.9. The final list of rule changes accepted by the **RCC** will be emailed to the Provincial Councils for consideration by 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2022. Each Province must then prepare a Mandate to vote at an SGM to be held 21 days after the final list has been distributed and no later than the last day of December. The Rule Changes will be ratified at this EXCO meeting.
- 1.4.10. The member who submitted the original request will also be advised in writing by the Secretary of the **RCC** by the 14<sup>th</sup> day of November 2022 if the rule change request has been successful or not, with clear reasons for any rejection.
- 1.4.11. The rule changes will then be incorporated into the existing rules and regulations and these will be published, including all changes shown as mark-ups on the **DSA** website, by the 15<sup>th</sup> of December of each year.
- 1.4.12. A notice will be sent to all members by email advising them of the new publications and providing a link to the **Rules and Regulations** documents on the **DSA** website.

## SECTION 2 - FEI RULES AND GENERAL REGULATIONS

- 2.1. FEI rule changes and General Regulations are published on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of each year, however, FEI directives are announced all year round and these need to be acted upon by our Discipline and therefore the procedure is outlined hereafter:
  - 2.1.1. The Secretary of **DSA** will check the FEI website weekly for all new directives.
  - 2.1.2. The Secretary of **DSA** is required to send notification of all the FEI directive changes to all council members and ensure that these notifications are date stamped.
  - 2.1.3. All new FEI directives will be in effect 30 days from the date of circulation of such a directive by **DSA** this will be known as a settling-in period.

- 2.1.4. In the case of Dressage shows, all FEI directives that are in effect at the time of publication of the schedule will be deemed to be applicable subject to the 30-day notice period between the notification referred to in 2.1.2. above and the first date of the show. If there is less than a 30-day period between this notification and the first day of the show, the FEI directive will not be applicable.
- 2.1.5. The **DSA** website must contain a schedule showing all FEI directive changes and detail the notification circulation date as well as the Directive Effective date.

### SECTION 3 - SAEF REGULATIONS

SAEF Veterinary Regulations will apply.

### SECTION 4 - GENERAL POLICIES APPLICABLE TO RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 4.1. Meetings of the **RCC** may be conducted by a gathering of the participants or virtually and minutes of such meetings should be kept by the secretary of the **RCC**.
- 4.2. No distribution or publication of any **Rules and Regulations** or policy may be published by any individual or organisation prior to that being published by **DSA** on their official website.
- 4.3. No council members or office bearers of **DSA** may make comments related to **Rules and Regulations** changes, other than legitimate consultation related to the promotion of a **Rules and Regulations** change prior to **DSA** publishing any **Rules and Regulations** including any statements on social media prior to a **Rules and Regulations** change announcement.
- 4.4. Regarding all CN status shows, the **Rules and Regulations** in play at the time of publication of the first event schedule publication will be in play for the entire duration of the show as they may extend over a number of months.

### SECTION 5 – APPEAL PROCESS

- 5.1. The Appeal Committee (**AC**) shall consist of the DSA EXCO members as well as a secretary.
- 5.2. The member that submitted that original rule change submission will then be required to submit a petition to the **AC**. The petition must contain a different and expanded motivation for the rule change and if the complete motivation remains unchanged, then the appeal will be rejected.
- 5.3. The petition must be sent to the Secretary of the **AC** by no later than the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2022, who must confirm receipt thereof to the member.
- 5.4. The **AC** will convene and make its determination by no later than the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 and the member will be advised of such decisions by no later than close of business on 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2022.