



## April 2023 News Update

Dear Members

There are a few important items that we would like to inform you about. Please take the time to read the information on the new dressage tests that we are planning to start using from October this year. The FEI has updated the tack list as well so please check that.

We are in the middle of a severe outbreak of AHS and we at DSA are sending condolences to all those who have lost horses.

### Updated Tack List

FEI have updated their guidelines on use of Tack, Equipment and Dress. Please click [here](#) to view the changes, to come into effect on 10 April 2023.

### Updated Rules

We have updated our Rules, please click [here](#) to view the updated rules which will come into effect on 10 April 2023.

### DSA AGM

We welcome Elana Hopkins (Finance and Administration), Fiona Muhl (Technical) and Adriaan van Wyk (Athlete's Representative) onto Council. Thank you to all outgoing Council Members for your hard work and dedication to the sport.

## New Dressage Tests

We in South Africa were lucky enough to have had various FEI 5\* judges judging and assisting with training of judges, coaches, and riders in 2022.

One of the points that kept coming up was that our dressage tests need reviewing and the suggestion was that instead of 'reinventing the wheel', we use pre-existing tests from one of the countries that has invested time, money and research in their tests.

We have therefore researched Dressage Tests offered in numerous countries and after looking at German, British, Australian, Canadian and New Zealand tests - we found that some of these countries are in fact using the US tests.

The United States are far away from Europe and have over 50 states spanning massive area and the US dressage athletes are often on the international podium. They have been very successful in establishing the training level requirements for each grade and designed the tests cleverly to ensure that horse athletes are tested against those requirements.

By providing instructions on each test sheet as well as having video backup available, judges, riders and coaches are easily able to refer to what is required in each test as well as per level.

The Tests are beautifully designed with lovely movements that build from the 1<sup>st</sup> Test to the last test in each grade. The Tests are redesigned and issued every 3 years.

DSA, with the advice of the DSA Judges Committee, is replacing the existing tests with the USDF tests,

which we have secured under license from the USDF.

The USDF tests do not have EM level. We have a significant number of EM horses so we would like to offer the following options.

1. Phase it out over time by using DSA tests with simple/flying change options.
2. Allow EM riders to either go back to E or upgrade to medium.
3. Make EM an optional level.

Should you have any comments please feel free to direct them to [judges@dressagesa.co.za](mailto:judges@dressagesa.co.za)

## AHS & Flu Vaccine Update

### AHS Vaccine

The SAEF is aware that the availability of AHS vaccine this year has been very erratic. There are still Veterinarians waiting for orders to be filled, in order to vaccinate their client's horses. There is no pattern to the delivery, and despite numerous attempts by various organizations to engage with OBP, little or no information is forthcoming.

The SAEF have therefore decided to further extend the dispensation on AHS to the **31st of October 2023**. This means that for competition purposes horses **must have received one AHS 1 and one AHS 2 between 1st June 2021 and 31st October 2023**. **This dispensation DOES NOT APPLY TO horses residing in the Controlled Area of the Western Cape.**

Vaccination outside of the 1 June to 31 October window in all areas of the country outside of the AHS controlled area remains a recommendation rather than law for the AHS infected area of RSA. While this recommendation should be taken seriously vaccination outside of this recommended window, especially in the face of shortages can still be done, but should be done with advice and recommendation from your veterinarian and extra precautions to ensure protection from biting midges should be applied. The window for AHS vaccination in the Controlled Area expired on the 31<sup>st</sup> October, and NO extension will be allowed. Vaccination before 1 June 2023 will not be permitted within the AHS controlled area.

The SAEF is also aware of a number of passports presented at events where the AHS vaccine has been administered within 20 days. Both vaccines automatically are invalidated. The SAEF would like to urge competitors and veterinarian to ensure correct vaccination this year and in future to avoid becoming ineligible to compete. It is the responsibility of the competitor and horse owner to ensure that they know the rules as well as the administering veterinarian.

The SAEF reminds its members that no horse may compete for 7 days following any vaccination. In our earlier Communique there appears to have been some confusion with regards to Endurance Riding members. ERASA, has a specific rule that no horse may compete within 21 days of an African Horse Sickness Vaccine. The 21 day rule, applies to members of ERASA, and has good scientific evidence as well as the Welfare of the Horse behind its application. The SAEF have always supported and upheld ERASA's rule with respect to AHS vaccine.

## Equine Influenza

There is currently no Equine Influenza vaccine available in Europe, who predominantly use the Boehringer Ingelheim Protec Influenza vaccine. However, we are assured by the other Equine Influenza manufacturer (MSD), that there is no shortage of their product, Prequenza. The SAEF have decided after consultation, that we will not follow the Global Derogation announced by the FEI of annual vaccination for competition purposes from 1st October 2022 to 1 April 2023. Therefore, for competition purposes at SAEF events, horses will still be required to have an Equine Influenza vaccine within 6 months and 21 days of competition.

**Please be reminded that no vaccine may be administered within 7 days prior to competition.**

## Solidarity Stars 2023

We would like to congratulate the following riders for being selected as part of the 2023 Solidarity Stars Project:

- Zondani Stoffel (Gauteng)
- Eddie Newman (Western Cape)
- Grace Ramokgolo-Terwey (Limpopo)
- Bonga Gumbo (Gauteng)
- Xolani Lumbe (KwaZulu Natal)
- Shepherd Zira (Gauteng)
- Nhlanhla Vilakazi (Gauteng)
- Aatiqah Galant (Western Cape)



## DSA Challenge

We are looking forward to a fantastic DSA Challenge and are excited to announce that there will be an Adult Amateur Division for Prelim, Novice, Elementary and EM riders (an Adult Amateur will be defined as a rider who has never ridden Medium level or above at any graded Dressage show).

- 15 to 16 April KwaZulu Natal
- 5 to 7 May Western Cape
- 27 to 28 May Eastern Cape
- 3 to 4 June Mpumalanga
- 16 to 18 June Gauteng
- 22 to 23 July NC / FS / NW

We would like to say an enormous thank you to our judges Suzanne Horne and Janice Barrett and also our Challenge Convenor Janeese Silen.

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