

**PROPOSALS FOR RULES CHANGES OF  
PARA DRESSAGE RULES 2024**

16 October 2024

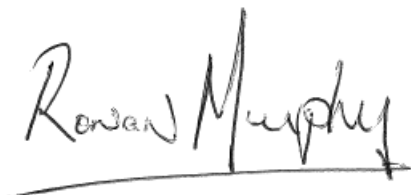
Dear National Federations,

Please find below a summary of the proposed changes to the Para Dressage Rules together with the corresponding explanations, the comments received as well as the reasoning for accepting or not accepting each proposal.

In the following document you will find 2 sections as follows:

- A.** [Proposed Rules changes to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024;](#)  
and
- B.** [Proposed Rules changes that have been rejected or deferred to a future Rules revision.](#)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronan Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Ronan Murphy,

Para Dressage Director

**A. PROPOSED RULES CHANGES TO BE VOTED AT THE FEI GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024**

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)				
FEI				
Article Number – Article Name				
<b>8402.7 – FEI World and Continental Senior Championships Format</b>				
Explanation for Proposed Change				
Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc				
The table explaining the format is difficult to understand and so the PETC suggested to clarify this. The content remains the same, but the explanation is clearer.				
Proposed Wording				
<del>Competition</del> / <b>Medals</b>	<b>Para Dressage Test</b>	<b>Participation</b>	<b>Medals</b>	<b>Description</b>
<del>First Competition – Individual Medals in each Grade</del> <u>Individual Medal Event</u>	Para Grand Prix A	All Athletes	<u>Individual medals in each Grade</u>	<del>First qualifier for the Individual Final &amp; Individual Championships</del>
<del>Second Competition Team Medals</del> <u>Team medal event</u>	Para Grand Prix B	All Athletes	<u>Team medals</u>	<del>Second qualifier for the individual Final and Team final</del>
<del>Third Competition</del> <u>Individual Freestyle Medal Event</u>	Para Grand Prix Freestyle	For qualified Athletes	<u>Individual Medals in each Grade</u>	<del>Individual Final</del>
Comments Received by 21 August 2024				
No Comments received.				
FEI Feedback				
NA				
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024				
As above.				

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article Number – Article Name
<b>Article 8421.5.2 Eliminations (Lameness)</b>
Explanation for Proposed Change
Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes
In the interest of horse welfare, the Para Dressage rules needed to include more information on the protocol to be followed in the event of Elimination from competition

due to lameness of a horse, should that horse be entered to start in another competition at the same event.

### Proposed Wording

In a case of marked lameness the Judge at C informs the Athlete that the combination is eliminated. There is no appeal against this decision. The Horse must be reinspected by an Inspection Panel prior to competing in any further competitions at the Show (including shared when Horses are shared with other Athletes).

### Comments Received by 21 August 2024

No Comments received.

### FEI Feedback

NA

### Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024

As above.

### Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

### Article Number – Article Name

### Article 8421.5.3 Eliminations (Fall of Horse and / or Athlete)

### Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes

In the interest of athlete and horse welfare, the Para Dressage rules needed to include more information on the protocol to be followed in the case of a fall of horse and / or athlete.

### Proposed Wording

#### **5.3 Fall of Horse and/or Athlete**

5.3.1 Any fall of Horse and/or Athlete during the test shall result in immediate elimination from that test. A horse is considered to have fallen when its shoulders and quarters have touched the ground. An Athlete is considered to have fallen when, involuntarily, the Athlete is separated from their Horse.

#### **5.3.2 Protocol to be followed in case of a fall of an Athlete and/or a Horse**

In the case of a fall of an Athlete and/or a Horse at any time in the Competition arena, in the warm-up arena or elsewhere within the grounds of the Event, the Athlete must be checked by the Event's medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available) before they may be permitted to remount any horse at the Event. Respectively the Horse must be cleared by the Veterinary Delegate, before it may be permitted to take part in any further Competition at the Event. According to the provisions outlined in paragraphs below. the Ground Jury may, at its discretion, decide to delay the rider's test by a reasonable amount of time that allows them to be checked by the Event's medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available) or respectively the Horse to be cleared by the Veterinary Delegate.

#### **5.3.3 Fall in the Competition Arena**

##### **5.3.3.1 Fall prior to starting the test (before the entry at A)**

In the event of a fall of an Athlete and/or Horse at any time prior to starting the test by entering the arena at A, the combination is not eliminated but will not be permitted to start in the test in question; in this case the combination shall be listed in the results as "did not start" in that competition. If the Athlete has entered more than one Horse in the Competition concerned, they must be checked by the Event's medical service (or by a

medical doctor if the medical service is not available) before they can be permitted to take part in the round in progress with their other Horse(s). In this case the Ground Jury may give the Athlete a later starting position if considered necessary. In the case of a fall of horse, the Horse must be cleared by the Veterinary Delegate, before it may be permitted to take part in the next round or Competition at the Event.

#### 4.1.25.3.3.2 Fall during the test

In the event of a fall of an Athlete and/or Horse during the test, the combination is eliminated. If the Athlete has entered more than one Horse in the Competition concerned, they must be checked by the Event's medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available) before they can be permitted to take part in the round in progress with their other Horse(s). In this case the Ground Jury may give the Athlete a later starting position if considered necessary. In the event of a horse fall, the Horse must be cleared by the Veterinary Delegate, before it may be permitted to take part in the next Competition at the Event.

#### 4.1.35.3.3.3 Fall after finishing the test (after the salute as the horse moves forward)

In the event of a fall of an Athlete and/or Horse after finishing the test, the combination is not eliminated from the competition in question. The Athlete must be checked by the Event's medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available), respectively the Horse must be cleared by the Veterinary Delegate, before the Athlete and/or Horse may be permitted to take part in any further Competition at the Event.

#### 4.2.3.3.4 Fall in the warm-up arena, and training areas

In case of a fall of an Athlete and/or a Horse in the warm-up arena or training areas, the Athlete must be checked by the Event's medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available), respectively the Horse must be cleared by the Veterinary Delegate, before the Athlete and/or the Horse may be permitted to take part in the any Competition at the Event. ~~in progress.~~

### Comments Received by 21 August 2024

#### **GBR NF:**

Should this rule be in the Dressage Rules for consistency, to ensure welfare of horse and athlete is taken into consideration?

#### **GER NF:**

In 5.3.1 the fall of an Athlete is defined that they are separated from the horse involuntarily. What is the consequence if an Athlete jumps off voluntarily, for example to pick up a whip that was lost? Grade IV and V could do that.

Our other remarks are self-explanatory -

5.3.2 replace "competition arena" by "Field of Play"; replace "rider" by "Athlete"

5.3.3 replace "competition arena" by "Field of Play"

5.3.3.1 "Fall prior to starting the test" (before the entry at A) add: "around the Dressage Arena"

5.3.3.2 "Fall during the test" add: "inside the Dressage Arena"

5.3.3.3 "Fall after finishing the test" add: "inside and around the Dressage Arena"

Proposed wording:

5.3.1 to be determined

5.3.2 Protocol to be followed in case of a fall of an Athlete and/or Horse

In the case of a fall of an Athlete and/or a Horse at any time in the ~~Competition arena~~ **Field of Play**, in the warm-up arena or elsewhere within the grounds of the Event, ...  
..., the Ground Jury may, at its discretion, decide to delay the ~~rider's Athlete's~~ test ...

5.3.3 Fall in the ~~Competition Arena~~ **Field of Play**

5.3.3.1 Fall prior to starting the test **around the Dressage Arena** (before the entry at A)

5.3.3.2 Fall during the test **inside the Dressage Arena**

5.3.3.3 Fall after finishing the test **inside and around the Dressage Arena** (after the salute as the Horse moves forward)

#### FEI Feedback

GBR: This would need to be considered for the next rules revision.

GER: This article is relating to Falls. Athletes should remain mounted at all times during the test. The PETC agreed to the suggestions to change wording.

#### Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024

### **5.3 Fall of Horse and/or Athlete**

**5.3.1** Any fall of Horse and/or Athlete during the test shall result in immediate elimination from that test. A horse is considered to have fallen when its shoulders and quarters have touched the ground. An Athlete is considered to have fallen when, involuntarily, the Athlete is separated from their Horse.

### **5.3.2 Protocol to be followed in case of a fall of an Athlete and/or a Horse**

In the case of a fall of an Athlete and/or a Horse at any time in the ~~Competition-arena~~field of play, in the warm-up arena or elsewhere within the grounds of the Event, the Athlete must be checked by the Event's medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available) before they may be permitted to remount any horse at the Event. Respectively the Horse must be cleared by the Veterinary Delegate, before it may be permitted to take part in any further Competition at the Event. According to the provisions outlined in paragraphs below, the Ground Jury may, at its discretion, decide to delay the ~~Athlete~~rider's test by a reasonable amount of time that allows them to be checked by the Event's medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available) or respectively the Horse to be cleared by the Veterinary Delegate.

### 5.3.3 Fall in the ~~Competition-Arena~~Field of Play

#### 5.3.3.1 Fall prior to starting the test, around the Dressage arena (before the entry at A)

In the event of a fall of an Athlete and/or Horse at any time prior to starting the test by entering the arena at A, the combination is not eliminated but will not be permitted to start in the test in question; in this case the combination shall be listed in the results as "did not start" in that competition. If the Athlete has entered more than one Horse in the Competition concerned, they must be checked by the Event's medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available) before they can be permitted to take part in the round in progress with their other Horse(s). In this case the Ground Jury may give the Athlete a later starting position if considered necessary. In the case of a fall of horse, ~~the~~ Horse must be cleared by the Veterinary Delegate, before it may be permitted to take part in the next Competition at the Event.

#### 5.3.3.2 Fall during the test, inside the Dressage Arena

In the event of a fall of an Athlete and/or Horse during the test, the combination is eliminated. If the Athlete has entered more than one Horse in the Competition concerned, they must be checked by the Event's medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available) before they can be permitted to take part in the round in progress with their other Horse(s). In this case the Ground Jury may give the Athlete a later starting position if considered necessary. In the event of a horse fall, the Horse must be cleared by the Veterinary Delegate, before it may be permitted to take part in the next Competition at the Event.

5.3.3.3 Fall after finishing the test, *inside and around the Dressage Arena* (after the salute as the horse moves forward)

*In the event of a fall of an Athlete and/or Horse after finishing the test, the combination is not eliminated from the competition in question. The Athlete must be checked by the Event's medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available), respectively the Horse must be cleared by the Veterinary Delegate, before the Athlete and/or Horse may be permitted to take part in any further Competition at the Event.*

5.3.3.4 Fall in the warm-up arena, and training areas

*In case of a fall of an Athlete and/or a Horse in the warm-up arena or training areas, the Athlete must be checked by the Event's medical service (or by a medical doctor if the medical service is not available), respectively the Horse must be cleared by the Veterinary Delegate, before the Athlete and/or the Horse may be permitted to take part in any Competition at the Event.*

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
FEI
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
<b>8431.1.3</b>
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes
A clarification was required for the safety of the athletes, as to what stirrups could be used with straps from the stirrup iron/leathers
<b>Proposed Wording</b>
If Athletes are using a strap from stirrup iron or leather to girth, they must use safety stirrups as <u>a strap from the stirrup iron or leather to the girth</u> <del>these straps</del> prevent the stirrup leather releasing from the saddle.
<b>Comments Received by 21 August 2024</b>
No Comments received.
<b>FEI Feedback</b>
NA
<b>Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024</b>
As above.

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
FEI
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
<b>8431.2.8</b>
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
Other scenarios not foreseen by this Policy as considered and approved by the Board.
The reference to noseband testing in the Stewards Manual needed to be updated to refer to the Noseband Protocol in place from 1 January 2025.
<b>Proposed Wording</b>
At any level of Competition a noseband may never be so tightly fixed that it causes harm to the Horse, <u>Article 1044.8 of the FEI Veterinary Regulations applies in relation to the permitted tightness of the noseband</u> <del>and must be checked as per the Stewards Manual noseband protocol.</del>

<b>Comments Received by 21 August 2024</b>
<p><b>USA NF:</b>            Given that there will very little time, if any, for athletes, grooms, and officials to become accustomed to the new noseband tightness device, we propose that an implementation period be considered where the warning system can be used opposed to an immediate yellow card for the first quarter of 2025.            This will give time for all to become accustomed to using the new device and provide the officials the option to use a warning system opposed to an official yellow card if there is an unintended tightening of the noseband.            FEI to determine wording for phased implementation period utilizing the warning system.</p>
<b>FEI Feedback</b>
Please refer to the Veterinary Rules memo which will detail the processes of implementation of the noseband tightness.
<b>Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024</b>
As above.

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
FEI
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
<b>8432.3.3 Hard Hand Holds</b>
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
<p>Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc.</p> <p>The removal of the sizing of soft hand holds in 2023 meant that the sizing was also lost for hard hand holds, where it should have remained. This addition was necessary as it was left out of the rules unintentionally.</p>
<b>Proposed Wording</b>
<p>Athletes within nominated Functional profiles may use a hard (fixed/rigid) handhold if required. The hard handhold must <del>not be more than 10cm high and 30cm wide, comply with the same measurement criteria as the soft handhold above.</del> Any deviation from these measurements will be considered as a non-standard compensating aid. Hard hand holds must be stated on the FEI Classification Master List for that Athlete.</p>
<b>Comments Received by 21 August 2024</b>
No Comments received.
<b>FEI Feedback</b>
NA
<b>Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024</b>
As above.

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
FEI
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
<b>8432.5.7.1</b>
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
New/recently introduced rule(s) that has(ve) proven to be problematic in its implementation.

In 2023 the description for looped reins was updated, but needed further clarification for stewards and athletes understanding of the rule.

**Proposed Wording**

**Looped Reins:**

Maximum of four loops per rein. Each loop strap measuring no more than 30cm in length, measured inside the loops. These can be attached to the rein by a fixed attachment or by a loop that is clipped to attachments on the rein to allow for adjustment. There can be up to eight attachments on each rein.

or

A maximum of six fixed finger loops can be stitched to the rein. Each loop measuring no more than 10cm in length.

**Comments Received by 21 August 2024**

No Comments received.

**FEI Feedback**

NA

**Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024**

As above.

**Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)**

FEI

**Article Number – Article Name**

**Annex IV – Compensating Aids Summary**

**Explanation for Proposed Change**

Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc.

The profile specific compensating aids in the Manual for Classifiers included “Velcro strap mid-thigh”, which needed to be added to the Summary table for completeness

**Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024**

See Compensating Aids summary table.

**Comments Received by 21 August 2024**

No Comments received.

**FEI Feedback**

NA

**Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024**

As above.



**B. PROPOSED RULES CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN REJECTED OR DEFERRED TO A FUTURE RULES REVISION**

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
<b>Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024</b>
<b>Comments Received by 21 August 2024</b>
<b>FEI Feedback</b>