

Dressage Event Guidelines [Equestrian Australia Dressage Committee]

New rules from 1 January 2026

These guidelines have been put together as a simple easy to understand guide for Clubs and Organisers grappling with the new rules and how to structure their events. More information can be found in the EA Dressage Rules.

Type of Competition	Membership Type	Level of Competition
Official		
Competitive	Open to all EA Competitive Members Horse/ponies – EA full registration required with a current Competition License	Prelim to Grand Prix
Participant	Open to all EA Participant or Competitive members Horse/pony EA registration is not required but encouraged	Prep to Elementary
Restricted Competitions (Horse/pony EA registration is not required)		
Closed Restricted (CR)	Open to host club members only	Prep to Grand Prix & Para
Closed Un-Restricted (CUR)	*'Invited' EA Competitive & Participation members (can also be a host club member)	Prep to Elementary & Para

* Invited means the host club invites all EA members to enter (see page 2 for more information)

It is important that Clubs/Organisers make it clear to competitors re the types of competitions they are offering for each event in their schedules and conditions of entry and on results.

Clubs can continue to run a mixture of types of competitions as they currently do e.g. (Official and Closed) .

An example of a Host Club Schedule could include a competition programme as described below:

1. [Host Club Name] [Date] [Event]

Including, Official Competitive/Participation & Closed Restricted Competitions

List the competitions offered at the event e.g.

Official Competitive:

Prep; Prelim; Novice; Elementary etc..... [i.e. all levels]

Official Participation:

Preparatory to Elementary only

Closed Un-restricted:

Preparatory to Elementary only

Closed Restricted:

Prep; Prelim; Novice; Elementary etc..... [i.e. all levels]

2. [Host Club Name] [Date] Closed & Closed Restricted Event

Including, Closed Un-Restricted & Closed Restricted Competitions

List the competitions offered at the event e.g.

Closed Un-Restricted

Preparatory to Elementary only

Closed Restricted

Prep; Prelim; Novice; Elementary etc..... [i.e. all levels]

Competitions:

Competition types can be abbreviated using this code:

OC = Official Competitive; OP = Official Participant; CR = Closed restricted; CUR = Closed un-restricted.

See below for more information

- a) **Official Competitor** competitions: Open to all EA Competitor members. Official competitions attract grading points.
- b) **Official Participation** competitions: Open EA Participant or Competitor members. Participant competitions **do not** attract grading points.
- c) **Closed Restricted** competitions: Open to members of the host Club only.
- d) **Closed Un-restricted** competitions: Open to Host Club members **and** EA members (Competitive or Participant) are invited to enter.

Horses/ponies EA registration:

- a. **Official Competitive** competitions are open to horses or ponies with EA full horse registration.
- b. **Official Participant** competitions are open to horses/ponies and EA horse registration is not compulsory but encouraged for Participant competitions.

Closed events (CR/CUR): EA horse registration is not required.

Closed events do not need to be approved by the SDA. They can be conducted at any time with an Official event.

Judges:

The Dressage Rules describes the judges required for Official competitions.

For closed restricted , the appointment of judges is at the club's discretion, however EA accredited judges are encouraged. Refer rule 4.7 . g.

Refer Rule 4.7 for more information relating to Closed events.