

# **CHAPTER FOUR**

## **DRIVEN DRESSAGE GRADING SYSTEM**

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### DRIVEN DRESSAGE GRADING SYSTEM

Not to be confused with CDE Grading

#### 1. Introduction

- a. By definition, the object of dressage is the harmonious development of the physique and ability of the horse through progressive training.
- b. It seems that many people have now become involved in competitive driving without prior experience of ridden dressage. This means that they may not have a background that would help them with the systematic training of the horse. Rather, they have been thrown in at the deep end and expected to produce the requirements of an Open test without knowledge of how to achieve even the basic principles.
- c. The aim of the grading system in driven dressage is to encourage the correct training and development of the horse while offering achievable goals for the driver.
- d. The structure of a grading system which offers five different levels of competition is an effort to guide the competitor and the horse through this training in a continuous, systematic and progressive manner to achieve a calm, supple and obedient horse which is also confident, attentive and anxious to please in his work.
- e. Viceroy's are not permitted in graded dressage.

#### 2. The Grading System

Annex A details the specifications of requirements and movements for each level. The tests currently being used fit the levels described. Additional tests can be developed to fit within the parameters of the movements of each level outlined. Tests are at Annex F.

#### 3. Grading

- a. It is the horse/pony or combination in multiples which is graded, not the driver. Multiples may start competing at any level and consist of:
  - (1) Pairs and Tandems - three nominated horses; and
  - (2) Four-in-hands - six nominated horses.
- b. Any of the nominated horses may be substituted into the multiple for a competition.
- c. Competitors are allowed to compete in the test of the graded level of their horse or combination and the level immediately above. If, however, the competitor elects to compete at a higher level, the horse may not return to a lower level.
- d. Caller – Provision is made for competitors in Preliminary and Novice levels to have a caller in a competition if required. However, there is a 10 point penalty which is deducted

from the final score. Intermediate and Open competitors may only have a caller if they compete hors concours.

#### 4. Upgrading

- a. A horse will receive one grading point on each occasion it achieves 60% or more at its graded level or the level above.

A horse will be upgraded in accordance with the following table:

- i) Preliminary to Novice – 4 grading points achieved in Preliminary or Novice
- ii) Novice to Intermediate – 6 grading points achieved in Novice or Intermediate
- iii) Intermediate to Open – 4 grading points achieved in Intermediate or Open
- iv) Open Advanced – horses consistently gaining over 60% in open tests (minimum of six times).

- b. A horse may only be downgraded if subsequently purchased/leased by an inexperienced driver. It can only be downgraded by one level and only on application to the State Dressage Panel.

**Upgrading Preliminary to Novice** – when 60% or over has been attained on four separate occasions either in a Preliminary test or at Novice level.

For example:

Preliminary Test A	61%
Preliminary Test B	63.2%
Novice Test A	53.0% (no grading point)
Novice Test A	60.5%
Preliminary Test A	63.8%

Therefore Pony/horse upgraded to Novice and will carry one grading point in Novice.

**Upgrading Novice to Intermediate** – when 60% or over has been attained on 6 separate occasions in either Novice or Intermediate Tests

For example: Pony already has 1 grading point in Novice. They then must gain 60% on a further 5 occasions in Novice or Intermediate levels

Novice No 1	64.4% (1 grading point)
Novice CC	61% (1 grading point)
Intermediate No 1	58% (no grading point)
Novice BB	63.5% (1 grading point)
Novice CC	65.2% (1 grading point)
Intermediate No 2	62.3% (1 grading point)

**Intermediate to Open** – 4 grading points

**Open to Open Advanced** – more than 60% on 6 occasions in Open.

#### 5. Graded/Ungraded Competitions

Ungraded competitions should be held at the conclusion of the graded competition. Similarly, competitors wishing to compete hors concours may only do so with prior permission of the organisers.

## 6. State Championships – Guidelines

It is **recommended** that these be adopted and followed by all States so that there is a standardisation of the procedure throughout Australia. This will ensure that interstate competitors will compete under the same conditions.

### ORGANISATION

- a) Club wishing to host the State Dressage Championships must apply to the State Branch.
- b) The host club will be responsible for the conduct of the Championships in collaboration with the State Dressage Panel.
- c) The Dressage Panel will make available to the Club a current Grading list, as of the date of the Schedule being sent out.
- d) The organising Club will submit the names of all prospective and confirmed judges to the Panel, along with the Schedule.
- e) The tests to be driven at the Championships will be selected by the Dressage Panel, who will notify the host club.

### CONDITIONS

- a) **Qualifying** – All horses should have competed in a minimum of two official competitions to qualify to enter the state championships.
- b) Horses may only compete at the championships in their graded level, as at the close of entries.
- c) All competitors will drive two tests of their graded level.

These being:

First- The test which has been selected by the Panel and used in the official competitions throughout the year.

Second - A test of the same level, selected by the Panel two months prior to the championships, but not used in any official or unofficial competitions during the current year (or used in the period immediately before the Championships).

The purpose of this is to see if the competitor can present their horse in a new test having prepared it on their own (or with the assistance from a coach), without the benefit of competing previously in this test.

- d) Singles and Multiples will have separate classes in each level.
- e) All levels will be offered at the State Championships with a champion at each level.
- f) The champion in each level is the competitor with the highest aggregate gained from the 2 tests driven.
- g) A freestyle competition may be offered at the State Championships with separate classes for Preliminary/Novice and Intermediate /Open (as per Manual).

### OFFICIALS

- a) **Judges:** It is necessary to have a minimum of two Advanced judges. Several novice judges may be used and rostered to judge on the side along with an advanced judge. In special circumstances a candidate judge (learner) may be used as a side judge or a ridden dressage judge who is familiar with carriage driving.
- b) **Pencillers:** Preferably one penciller should be allocated to a specific judge exclusively.
- c) **Stewards:** A steward is required for each arena.
- d) **Scorers:** Two scorers will be required to check all scores.

### JUDGING

- a) The competitors should each be judged by different judges for each test.  
e.g. Prelim AA is judged by Judge A & Judge B  
Prelim No 1 is judged by Judge C & Judge D

This applies to all levels.

- b) All tests (including Preliminary & Novice) should have an Advanced judge at C.

## **TIMETABLE**

The following are some suggestions which may help organisers with the time table for running the Championship. Both the arrangements have been successfully used and found equal acceptance with organisers, competitors and judges. Much depends on the number of entries as to which method is used.

**Arenas:** Two arenas may be required dependent upon the number of entries received.

**Timing:** Each preliminary & Novice test should be allocated 10minutes per test. Each competitor drives 2 tests i.e. allow 20 minutes per entry.

Each Intermediate and Open test requires 15minutes per test, which is therefore 30minutes per entry.

### **For Example:**

If in the combination of Preliminary & Novice Levels there are a total of 10 entries, these will take a total of 3 hours 30 minutes to complete. (including 10 minutes for judges to change over). Similarly, if say there are 8 Intermediate & Open entries, these will take 4 hours 15 minutes to complete.

A Total of 8 hours running non-stop, and this is not allowing time for the Freestyle.

Result: Any greater number of entries will entail having two arenas -

- a) An 80m x 40m
- b) An 100m x 40m

If entry numbers are low enough to warrant only having one arena, a suggested format is as follows :-:

1st Preliminary Test, then 1<sup>st</sup> novice Test  
Change judges.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Preliminary Test, then 2<sup>nd</sup> Novice Test  
Freestyle  
Change Arena  
Same arrangement for Intermediate and Open

If two arenas are used it is also a good idea to the same system for alternating the test and the judges.

**Rest breaks for Judges and Pencillers;** if the above format is used, then breaks are inbuilt. If however, two arenas are used, care must be taken to ensure that judges and pencillers are given sufficient time for breaks from judging.

## **AWARDS**

- a) Rosettes should be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each test (or more if numbers warrant it).
- b) All levels will be offered at the State Championships with a champion at each level.
- c) The champion in each level is the competitor with the highest aggregate gained from the two tests driven.
- d) Each level will have a champion and reserve champion rosette or sash.
- e) The freestyle will have a champion and reserve champion rosette or sash at both levels. All place-getters in the freestyle should receive a place ribbon /rosette.
- f) If sponsorship can be obtained, it is rewarding for each Champion to receive a Trophy.

## **7. Judges**

- a. There is to be a minimum of two judges, one of whom, but preferably both, must be from the Judges list. In special circumstances a candidate judge (learner) may be used as a side

judge or a ridden dressage judge who is familiar with carriage driving. To judge intermediate and open levels, one of the two judges must be an Advanced Judge.

- b. Judges require knowledge of the requirements, movements and specifications of each level, particularly at the preliminary level where it is so important to be realistic and encouraging to the inexperienced or new competitor.

**8. Grooms** are optional for singles however multiples must have a groom – pairs one groom, tandem one groom, four-in-hand two grooms.

**9. Scoring**

- a. All scores are calculated in positive points and converted to a percentage (see Annex E). Results from graded dressage competitions are to be sent to the State Driven Dressage Panel within 30 days and will be retained for grading purposes. The return form used for this is at Annex B.

- b. Grading lists will be circulated to all clubs at the commencement of each year. Subsequent upgrading will be sent to the competitor and all clubs.

- c. Grading points are carried forward to the subsequent year.

## Annex A to Chapter 4

### DRIVEN DRESSAGE GRADING SPECIFICATIONS

Level	Current Tests	Arena	Movements	Specific Requirements for each Level
Preliminary	ACDS AA Prelim No.1 Prelim No.2 Prelim No.3	80 x 40	Working trot - no lengthening. 40m circle. Halt through the walk 3-4 secs. Rein-back 2-3 steps. Free walk on long rein.	Horse should show basics of correct training: calmness, obedience, forward movement maintaining rhythm and relaxation through the back and neck and acceptance of the bit. It should track up in trot and show some lateral bend. Straightness improving. The walk should be free with neck stretching down and forward into the bit while the steps should be energetic and unconstrained.
Novice	ACDS BB ACDS CC Novice No.1 Novice No.2	80 x 40	Working trot. A few steps of lengthened stride. 20m circle. Halt through the walk 4-5 secs. Rein-back 3-4 steps. Free walk on long rein with a short distance of walk to contact. Serpentine at working trot.	In addition to the above Preliminary requirements, the horse should now show more impulsion and activity of the hindquarters, more engaged from behind. There should be increased lateral bend and flexion on corners and circles with improved suppleness and balance. The horse should work more consistently on the bit and straightness is becoming much more established. It is now able to show some lengthened strides. The outline should be more rounded and the forehand a little lighter.

Level	Current Tests	Arena	Movements	Specific Requirements for Each Level
Intermediate	Intermed No.1 Intermed No.2 Intermed No.3	100 x 40	Working trot. Lengthened trot across diagonal or moderate extension. Collected trot on curve or ½ circle. Deviation and loops. 20m circle. Halt through the walk 6-8 secs. Rein-back 4-6 steps. Serpentine. Reins in one hand on long side	While showing that the Novice training is established, the horse needs to have more consistent paces, straightness, suppleness, balance and acceptance of the bit. There should be more engagement of the hindquarters and the forehand lighter and higher. More lift and cadence throughout.
Open	ACDS Open No1 (2008) ACDS Open No.2 (2008)	100 x 40	. Working trot. Collected trot. Extended trot. Deviations and loops. Reins in one hand 20m circle and deviations. 15m circles. Halt 10 secs. Rein-back 3m.	As per Manual definitions. Show that the horse has established a greater degree of balance, suppleness and engagement of quarters while remaining lightly and consistently on the bit. The horse should be able to produce more impulsion and lift in the collected trot.

## Annex B to Chapter 4

### GRADING TEST SCORE SHEET

Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Event: \_\_\_\_\_ Dressage Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Test: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge at C \_\_\_\_\_ Judge at E \_\_\_\_\_ Judge at B \_\_\_\_\_

No.	Horse	Driver	Judge C	Judge E	Judge B	Total	%	Place
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								

**Annex C to Chapter 4**  
**NOVICE - TEST NOVICE BB**  
 (example only)

**Judge:** 1 John Smith \_\_\_\_\_

**Judge:** 2 Sue Jones \_\_\_\_\_

No.	Horse	Driver	Judge 1	Judge 2	Total	%	Place
1	Narcoola Parc A	Sandy	90	104	194	64.7	2
2	Narcoola Parc B	Chris	99	87	186	62	3
3	Karma park	Linda	99	91	190	63.3	H/C
4	Jencuer	Diana	74	71	145	48.3	
5	Dirtwater	Gillian	82	75	157	52.3	
6	Wendamar	Midge					scratched
7	S & B	Pauline	93	89	182	60.7	
8	Narcoola Parc C	Chris	94	87	181	60.3	
9	Narcoola Parc D	Sandy	94	112	206	68.7	1

## Annex D to Chapter 5

### DRIVEN DRESSAGE GRADING 2003 – Example Only

horse	driver	c/fwd qual ex 2002	15/02/2003 A&HCDC	06/04/2003 M Dist.	31/05/2003 State CDE				
<b>Preliminary</b>									
Arnie	E Oliver								
Bridie	S Goodman	1							
Dirtwater Vision	G Woodstock			50.40%					
Dunolly Nobility	M Bojcun	1							
Gino	G Wicks		52.80%						
Glen Avon Stroatley	H Fillear	1							
Glowbrook Pelaco	H Chapman	1							
Holmwood Chip	Carol Fawcett								
Jencuer Locket	D Jolly			52.10%					
KH Ambition	L Lycholit								
Keirfield Juliet	J Neilson		55.70%		59.66%				
Lord Jasper	C Payne								
Lymehill Louie	D Nicholas	1							
Lymehill Prince	Carlie Fawcett								
Lyn Jeavon Lady Blue	L Hunt		45.30%						
MV Gwen	B Thomas	3							
MV Gwilliam	D Wise	2							
MV Maestir	K Dean				60.33%				
Monteagle Masterpiece	M Pollard				58.99%				
NP Baldwin	S Elliott	1	74.60%	63.90%	70.33%				
NP Baldwina	J Pope	1	66.40%	64.30%	63.99%				
NP Moeson	C Gray			57.10%					
NP Nathan	M Steward	2		53.60%	61.33%				
Riccadona	S Suvaljko				67.67%				
Rocket/Courtney/Gino	C Wicks		68.50%		70.66%				
Sam & Bailey	P Johnson		72.80%	58.60%	63.33%				
S Eelamar jack	D McCosh	2							
Tiffany	C Hallett								
T Leprechaun	S Tighe	1			66.67%				
T Mr Mischief	S Tighe		52.19%						
T L Pippin	H Pow	1			58.99%				
Towerbank Timothy	D Dean				55.99%				

## Annex E to Chapter 4

### SCORING DRESSAGE TESTS TO OBTAIN A POSITIVE PERCENTAGE

(not for use for CDE)

1. Add up the score for each test.
2. Add together the score from each judge.
3. Divide the total by the number of judges.
4. Deduct from this result any penalties given by the judge at C (e.g. error of course - 5 penalties).  
Note: there will not necessarily be any error of course.
5. Take the result from 4 above and divide by the total possible score and multiply by 100 to obtain a percentage.

Example:

Total points	120 from judge at C
Total points	115 from judge at B
Total	235
Divide by 2	117.5
Penalty	-5 for error of course
New Total	112.5
Possible score	150
Percentage calculation	$\frac{112.5}{150} \times 100 = 75\%$