



## NEW GRADING SYSTEM – EFFECTIVE 1/7/10

The Australian Dressage Committee (ADC) in conjunction with the State Dressage Authorities (SDAs) will be introducing a new grading system effective from 1 July 2010. Whilst this implementation date is not ideal for everyone the same would be true for any date selected for such an implementation – it will not suit everyone - so please bear with us on this. We are caught between a rock and hard place with determining the implementation date.

The following information gives riders over 3 months to become familiar with the new system which will hopefully enable them to plan their competition schedule to prevent any upgrading between now and 1/7/10.

- The new system is based purely on performances
- Placings will not count for grading
- Preliminary and Novice are once again separate levels
- Horses/ponies are only upgraded once they have gained 30 up-grading points in a higher level than their grading

### How will the system work?

- On 1/7/10 a horse or pony will be graded at its current level (e.g. Elementary) with no grading points.
- The horse/pony can continue to compete in Elementary competitions until such time as it gains 30 upgrading points that have been gained by competing successfully at a higher level than Elementary (e.g. Medium or above)
- Once the horse/pony has gained 30 upgrading points at a higher level than it is graded then the horse/pony will be upgraded to the next level (e.g. Medium). After upgrading the horse/pony has zero (0) grading points and zero (0) upgrading points until it competes at a higher level (e.g.) Advanced.

### Performance Card

A new performance card is being developed that will look and work like this (based on the horse being graded Elementary as at 1/7/10):

Date	Venue	Comp	Total %	Grading Point/s	Upgrading Points	Total Upgrading Points	Grading
30/6/10	Horse/Pony graded Elementary	-	-	118	-		
1/7/10	Horse/Pony graded Elementary	-	-	Zero	Zero		
2/7/10	Behind the Black Stump	3B	67.8%	4	0	0	Element
2/8/10	Ditto	3C	72.2%	7	0	0	Element
2/9/10	Back of Bourke	3B	72.2%	7	0	0	Element
7/9/10	Ditto	3C	74.4%	7	0	0	Element
		<b>4A</b>	74.75	7	7	7	Element
		<b>4B</b>	76.65	7	7	14	Element
		<b>4C</b>	71.4%	6	6	20	Element
		<b>5A</b>	70.6%	6	6	26	Element
		3D	76.85	7	0	26	Element
		3C	76.2%	7	0	26	Element
		<b>4B</b>	69%	5	5	<b>31</b>	<b>Medium</b>
		4A	65%	3	0	0	Medium
		4C	65.5%	3	0	0	Medium
		4B	70%	6	0	0	Medium
		4B	75.9%	6	0	0	Medium
		<b>5A</b>	70.6%	6	6	6	Medium

The above horse/pony can continue to compete Medium until such time as it accrues 30 upgrading points gained in Advanced or above competitions.

## Rule Book

The rule book will be amended as follows:

### 1.13 Grading Points

- horses and ponies are graded on a points system based on percentage gained
- points are accrued when the horse or pony gains 60% or above in Official competitions from Preliminary level and above
- points gained at Official competitions outside Australia will also be counted
- for pony competition, grading points are only applicable when the competition is open to any rider aged 10 years and over (i.e. not divided into separate Junior and Senior competitions)
- when, for any reason, the height of a horse/pony changes and they are required to change from a pony to a horse (or vice versa), the grading and any upgrading points of the horse/pony shall be retained in the new category

#### 1.13.1 Awarding of Grading Points

- grading points are awarded based on percentage only (not placing)
- grading points are only awarded from performances in **Official** competitions as follows regardless of placing:
  - Between 60% to 61.999% = 1 point
  - Between 62% to 63.999% = 2 points
  - Between 64% to 65.999% = 3 points
  - Between 66% to 67.999% = 4 points
  - Between 68% to 69.999% = 5 points
  - Between 70% to 71.999% = 6 points
  - 72% and over = 7 points

The following competitions do not incur grading points

- Freestyle competitions
- Young Rider competitions
- Young Horse competitions
- Associate competitions – open or restricted (e.g: interschool)

### 1.14 Eligibility of Horses and Ponies for Each Level

- in Official competitions the following criteria apply at the closing date of entries
- upon gaining 30 points in any higher level than the horse/pony is graded as defined in the table below, that horse/pony may not compete in any level below that grade **except HC**
- all points earned during an event will be added to the horses grading points at the level at which they were earned

Level	Points Required
• Preliminary	horses/ponies with less than 30 points in Novice or above
• Novice	horses/ponies with less than 30 points in Elementary or above
• Elementary	horses/ponies with less than 30 points in Medium or above
• Medium	horses/ponies with less than 30 points in Advanced and above
• Advanced	horses/ponies with less than 30 points in FEI competitions
• Prix St Georges and above	horses/ponies that have on two occasions <b>at different events</b> achieved <del>58</del> <b>60%</b> or above in Official Advanced competitions (unless already competing at Prix St Georges prior to 1/1/08)
• Grand Prix	horses that have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• achieved <del>58</del><b>60%</b> in Intermediate II for entry to EA competitions</li><li>• achieved 60% in Intermediate II <b>or Grand Prix</b> for entry to CDI events</li><li>• <b>horses must have a Grand Prix performance to compete Grand Prix at a CDI</b></li></ul>
• FEI Pony	<b>ponies graded at least Elementary</b>
• FEI Young Rider (CDI-Y)	<b>horses that have gained 60% or better at Prix St Georges</b>

Any request for exception to the minimum point requirement to compete at Prix St Georges or above must be made to the SDA. To be considered for exemption the horse must:

- ~~compete at least twice in Official Advanced competitions~~
- ~~gain at least 60% or higher at two separate events~~
- ~~there must be at least two judges one of whom must be A level~~

~~On successful completion of the above, the SDA will grade the horse/pony FEI~~

#### 1.16 Down-Grading of Horses/Ponies

Applications for down-grading of horses/ponies for any category of competition must be directed to the SDA and the following applies:

- each request will be considered separately and on its merit
- applications for down-grading must be made in writing with supporting documentation
- the decision to down-grade is entirely at the discretion of the SDA

#### Down-grading

The following is our current downgrading rule:

- may occur only once in the duration of a rider's partnership with the horse/pony
- may occur more than once in a horse/pony's lifetime but not more than once in a two-year period
- will only apply to those graded at least Elementary level **and above**
- if approved, a horse/pony will be down-graded a maximum of three levels e.g: Advanced to Novice
- ~~half the points of the new level will be allocated. e.g: Medium horse/pony downgraded to Elementary will be allocated 15 points at Medium level~~
- if the horse is ridden by someone other than the rider for whom the downgrade is requested, it must compete at its previous level and any grading points earned will be awarded in relation to that previous level

1.19 **Hors Concors (HC) – Amend the first dot point to read 'horses/ponies may compete HC at any level' below their grade and only level above their grade**

#### Downgrading

You may have been upgraded too quickly in the recent past. Some horses have actually been upgraded from say Novice to half way through Elementary without even having an Elementary start!!!!

If you find yourself in this sort of position then you need to apply to your SDA for a down grade, stating the reason for your application.

#### Comments and Feedback

Please be advised that the ADC is prepared to reconsider changes to 1.14 above in relation to the criteria to compete in the FEI levels when it meets with SDAs in September. Any changes as a result of this meeting will be effective from 1/1/11.

All comments/feedback/suggestions must be forwarded to Lesley Sullivan, Chair ADC – contact details listed below under NT/QLD – and must be received **no later than 31 July 2010**.

#### Queries – Who to Contact

If you have any queries about how the new grading system will operate or how it will affect you personally please contact the following person in your state:

<b>NSW</b> Robyn Targa Phone: 02 4448 6442 or Mobile: 0402 117 142 E-mail: <a href="mailto:targas@bigpond.net.au">targas@bigpond.net.au</a>	<b>NT &amp; QLD</b> Lesley Sullivan PO Box 6221 TWEED HEADS SOUTH NSW 2486 Mobile: 0412 896 360 E-mail: <a href="mailto:lsullivan11@optusnet.com.au">lsullivan11@optusnet.com.au</a>	<b>SA</b> Lorraine Wohling Phone - 08 8536 2449 (ah) Mobile - 0408 851 636 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Lorraine_Wohling@yahoo.com.au">Lorraine_Wohling@yahoo.com.au</a>
---	---	---

<b>TAS</b> Pia Nowell E-mail: <a href="mailto:pnowell@bigpond.com">pnowell@bigpond.com</a>	<b>VIC</b> Jess Harmans, EV Dressage Co-ordinator Phone: 03 9013 0707 ext 105 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dressage@equestrianvictoria.com.au">dressage@equestrianvictoria.com.au</a>	<b>WA</b> Kim Thomas Mobile: 0409 101 707 E-mail: <a href="mailto:zao5@bigpond.com">zao5@bigpond.com</a>
--	---	---