

Section 5 – Young Horse

National Young Horse (YH) competitions are a series conducted throughout Australia composed of qualifying competitions and a Australian Final. Applications from the SDA to conduct the annual Australian Young Dressage Horse Championships must be submitted to the ADC the year prior to the final and before the mid-year ADC meeting. Young Horse rules and tests may also be used to conduct Young Pony competitions.

5.1 General Conditions

- in principle, the YH competitions will consist of one mandatory round at qualifiers and two mandatory rounds at the State Championships and Australian Young Horse Championships
- a third round where a guest rider shall ride the horses is optional • judging score sheets to be used for 4-, 5- and 6-year-old competitions are available on the EA website
- at all competitions, the judges must sit together
- horses will be judged on walk, trot, canter, rideability and overall impression as a future dressage horse, including standard of training on the basis of the Training Scale
- competitions will be Official but will not attract grading points
- horses must be registered with the EA and hold a current Performance Card
- horses must exceed 149cm with shoes
- horses may qualify for the Australian Championships from 1 August of the year they turn 4, 5 or 6 until the closing date of entries to the Australian Championships
- birth dates for all horses will be as at 1 August
- riders and horse owners must be current financial members of the EA
- riders must turn 12 years of age or over in the calendar year of competition
- all Young Horse results must be forwarded to EA for recording on the EA data base

5.1.1 Judges

- All Young Horse **qualifying** competitions must only be judged by NOAS-accredited Young Horse Judges.
- At least two suitably accredited judges are required to judge all YH competitions.
- The **Australian Final and State** Young Horse Championships, including the Consolation Final must be judged by NOAS accredited Young Horse judges or FEI-accredited judges. There may be a 3rd judge who is a recognised foreign Young Horse specialist
- all Judges for the **Australian final** must be accredited Young Horse Judges with the EA or the FEI and their appointment approved by the ADC

5.1.2 Dress and Saddlery

- Head Gear to be worn in Young Horse Competitions:
 - 4 year old competitions at qualifying events, State and Australian Championships - safety helmets are to be worn
 - 5 and 6 year-old competitions at qualifying events and Australian Championships – a top hat or bowler may be worn
- a whip is permitted to be carried in all age groups at qualifying event
- a whip is permitted to be carried in the 4-year-old age group (only) at the Australian Championships
- a whip is not permitted to be carried in the 5- and 6-year-old competitions at the Australian Championships. In the practice area, the use of one whip with a total maximum length of 120cm is allowed. The whip must be dropped before entering the space around the competition arena or the rider will entail a penalty of 0.1 points from the total score
- horses are to be ridden in a snaffle bridle as defined in Section 2
- the Mexican/Crossed noseband is not permitted
- all other dress and saddlery requirements as per Section 2

5.2 Conduct of Qualifying Events

- qualifying events consist of one round with the following tests:

Age	Mandatory Round
4YO	Highest current EA Preliminary test (scored on YH Judging Sheet, not Preliminary test sheet)
5YO	FEI Young Horse Preliminary test for 5-year-olds
6YO	FEI Young Horse Preliminary test for 6-year-olds

- to be ridden one horse at a time in the arena
- two judges will sit together at C assisted by one scribe to discuss and arrive at a score for each of the requirements of the Young Horse Judging Sheet.
- Decimal points may be used.

5.3 State Young Horse Championships

- states may conduct their own championships each year; however horses may qualify for the Australian Championship without attending a State Championship
- competitions will be offered for 4-, 5- and 6-year-old horses
- the age of horses is taken from the 1 August

5.3.1 Tests to be ridden at State Young Dressage Horse Championships with Two Rounds

	First Round	Second Round
4YO*	EA YH commanded test for 4-year-olds	FEI Young Horse Preliminary test for 4-year-olds
5YO	EA YH commanded test for 5-year-olds	FEI Young Horse Preliminary test for 5-year-olds
6YO	EA YH commanded test for 6-year-olds	FEI Young Horse Preliminary test for 6-year-olds

(* using the EA 4 year old Material Test and conditions is optional.)

5.3.2 First Qualifying Round

- to be ridden two horses at a time in the arena
- two/three judges will sit together at E or B to discuss and arrive at a score for each horse for each requirement of the Young Horse Judging Sheet
- decimal points may be used

5.3.3 Second Qualifying Round

- the top ten combinations from the first round are eligible for the second round. If there is equality of placings for 10th place, equal horses must be included in the second round
- two/three judges will sit together at C to discuss and arrive at a final score for each horse
- the mark from the first round will **not** carry forward to the second round
- the mark from the second round will determine the final placings

5.3.4 Commentary

Ideally there should be commentary by the judging panel available to the public on either the second round or both rounds

5.4 Australian Young Dressage Horse Championships – for 4, 5 and 6 Year Old Horses

5.4.1 Administration

- the draft schedule must be submitted to the ADC for approval at least 6 months prior to the event
- the ADC must approve the appointment of the TD
- the TD must provide a report to the ADC within 21 days of the event
- the OC must provide a report to the ADC within 21 days of the event

5.4.2 Eligibility for Australian Young Dressage Horse Championships

- horses must qualify by achieving at least 6.5 (65%) at a **YH Qualifying Competition** conducted **under** these rules at the age group they are entering
- competitors are to submit on the entry form **two performances** in the above-mentioned competitions for eligibility as detailed above. If performances are at events with 2 rounds, the entry form must state in which round the score was achieved
- horses may qualify with one performance, however preference will be given to horses with two performances
- to verify the performance, a copy of the test paper or result sheet must be submitted with the entry
- competitors will be ranked from the highest average of the two performances to the lowest
- the final will be limited to 36 horses from each age group
- a ballot will take place of the highest ranked horses to determine order of starting
- a reserve list in ranking order will be established
- in special circumstances, the OC can request permission from the ADC to increase the number of entries to the final
- imported horses that only have international qualifications may be accepted, provided proof of appropriate qualification in one or more overseas YH competitions accompanies the entry

5.4.3 Tests to be Ridden at Australian Young Dressage Horse Championships

	First Round	Second Round
4YO	EA 4 Year Old Material Class Test	N/A
5YO	EA YH commanded test for 5-year-olds Current	Current FEI Dressage Test for 5 year olds - Final
6YO	EA YH commanded test for 6-year-olds Current	Current FEI Dressage Test for 6 year olds – Final

5.4.4 4 Year Old Horses

- the test will be the EA 4 Year Old Material Test, and will be commanded, consisting of **ONE ROUND ONLY**
- horses will enter the arena in groups of 3 under the direction of a caller
- the Ground Jury to consist of 3 judges – two must be FEI Young Horse judges (one of whom must be a foreign judge). The third judge can be either an FEI, EA Young Horse judge or a foreign Young Horse specialist
- all judges will stand together on the outside of the arena at E or B
- judges will award a mark out of 10 for walk, trot, canter and general impression as a dressage horse
- horses will then be unsaddled outside the arena and then as directed by the steward, be re presented individually to the judges' in-hand on the centreline at X where they will be required to stand up, walk directly away from, and back towards the judges in a straight line
- horses will be awarded a mark out of 10 for conformation
- the top 3 horses will be ridden by a guest rider, whose score out of 10 will be added to the other scores to decide the top 3 places
- the placings are decided by the total score accumulated from the ridden and led sections
- each group will be allocated approximately 15 (**20**) minutes
- where possible there should be commentary for the public after each horse

5.4.5 First Round - 5 and 6 Year Old Horses

- to be ridden two horses at a time in the arena
- the Ground Jury is to consist of 3 judges – two must be FEI judges (one of whom must be a foreign judge). The third judge can be either an FEI or an EA Young Horse judge or a foreign Young Horse specialist
- all judges will sit together at E or B
- each horse will be awarded a mark for each of the requirements on the judging sheet and a final score calculated
- the top ten combinations from the first round are eligible for the second round. If there is equality of placings for 10th place, equal horses must be included in the second round, provided they have attained a score of no less than 6.5 (65%) in the first round
- where possible there should be commentary for the public given after each horse

5.4.6 Second Round 5 and 6 Year Old Horses

- the Ground Jury to consist of at least three FEI Judges (one of whom must be foreign) and sit together at C
- to be ridden one horse at a time
- the mark from the first round will **not** carry forward to the second round

- the mark from the second round will determine the final placings
- where possible there should be commentary for the public given after each horse

5.4.7 Third Round – 5 and 6 Year Old Horses

- the top 3 horses in each age group to be ridden by a guest rider whose score out of 10 will be added to the other scores of the judging panel to decide the top 3 places

5.4.8 Champion of Champions Prize - 4, 5 and 6 Year Old Horses

In the event that a Champion of Champions prize is awarded, a guest rider may ride the winner of each age group as an exhibition in front of a panel of judges who together with the guest rider will determine the overall winner.

5.5 Consolation Finals

5.5.1 4 Year Old Horses

- the test to be ridden will be the current FEI Young Horse Test for 4 year olds
- horses must achieve at least a score of 6 (60%) in the Material Class to be eligible for the Consolation Final
- only horses placed from 4th and below in the Material Class will be eligible
- the top 3 horses in the Material Class will not be eligible for the Consolation Final
- to be judged by 2 accredited Young Horse judges sitting at C

5.5.2 5 and 6 Year Old Horses

Horses that do not place in the top 10 in the first qualifying round will be eligible to compete in the Consolation Final.

- tests to be ridden will be as follows:
 - **5YO** Current FEI Dressage Test for 5 year olds - Final
 - **6YO** Current FEI Dressage Test for 6 year olds – Final
- to be judged by 2 accredited Young Horse judges sitting at C

5.6 Selection of Young Horses to Represent Australia Overseas

The EA National Dressage Selectors will select the Australian representatives for the FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Dressage Horses based on merit and with reference to; any EA Selection Policy that may be in place, the below performance requirements, and the rules of the FEI/World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses. In particular, horses must be registered with a stud book recognised by the WBFSH.

5.6.1 Young Horses domiciled in Australia

To be eligible for selection to represent Australia at the FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Dressage Horses, horses must score at least 7 for the walk and 7.5 for trot and canter in the final round at the Australian Young Dressage Horse Championships or at any Young Horse Qualifier in Europe.

5.6.2 Young Horses not domiciled in Australia

- riders of Young Horses competing overseas must apply in writing to the EA by 1 August of previous year if they wish to be considered to represent Australia
- riders must forward overseas results to the EA National Office by 30 June
- the horse must have a minimum of 2 performances of at least 7.5 (75%) to be considered.

5.7 Guide for Riders and Judges

- to be judged on rideability, basic paces, general impression and suitability as a dressage horse
- basic ideas which should be considered by the judges:
 - ❖ is the horse clearly demonstrating correct education according to the Training Scale?
 - ❖ does the horse demonstrate a desirable picture of a dressage horse?
- fundamental criteria of paces, rideability and general impression as a dressage horse are evaluated as follows:
 - ❖ the steps and strides must be in a regular rhythm and free from tension
 - ❖ keeping in mind the training level of the horse, special emphasis should be placed on:
 - a smooth and steady contact
 - the willing acceptance of the bit
 - a submissive poll in the three basic paces and in the different tempi and the transitions
 - flexion and bending
 - the harmonious development on both reins
 - suppleness
 - desire to go forward
 - ability to engage the hindquarters
 - potential to collect
- horses, which during the initial movements of the test, still show signs of tension and concentration lapses, or which may even be shying or unsettled, should be judged more benevolently than in a normal dressage competition
- minor mistakes should not be given weight if, in principle, the horse is demonstrating good movements **and** is demonstrating the adoption by the trainer of desirable training technique
- it is recommended that one of the judges provides a commentary after the completion of each horse's test in at least the 2nd round but preferably for both the 1st and 2nd round. This commentary is mainly for the benefit of spectators and the main purpose thereof is to explain the rideability and strengths of the individual horse in relation to the demands at each level of competition, the quality of the three basic paces, and the horse's ability to perform as a high-level dressage horse
- see FEI Dressage Handbook for further notes on the purpose of and judging of Young Horse competitions

5.8 Young Horse Tests

All Young Horse tests and score sheets are available for download from the Equestrian Australia website – www.equestrian.org.au