WESTERN CAPE DRESSAGE

Date: 26 March 2026

All Western Cape Members
WESTERN CAPE

Dear Members

RE: RULE CHANGES

We refer to the abovementioned matter and confirm that we have asked your Clubs to distribute the below Rule Changes to you so voting could be initiated and completed. Unfortunately, we only received votes from Constantia Valley Riding Club for which we thank them.

The Council requested the opinion from certain role players and debated the Rule changes which are listed below:

1. Age Categories
1.1 Young Riders
Proposal: That the **Young Rider category be removed**.
Rationale: There are currently very few competitors participating in this category, and only one competition per year is offered.

1.2 Children
Proposal: That the **Children category be discontinued from 2027**.
Rationale: There are very few competitors in this category, and entry numbers remain low. This makes it difficult for Show Holding Bodies (SHBs), who are within their rights not to offer these classes due to limited viability.

1.3 Juniors
Proposal: If the **Children category is retained**, that **competitors from the age of 12 be permitted to compete in the Junior category**.

Committee Members: Elana Hopkins (President), Luzaan Slabbert (Vice-President), Suzie Michaelides (Treasurer) Armin Fritz (Development and Transformation), Jade Kirkbride (Public Relations and Communication); Chanda Bailey (Judges and Officials), Anja Lourens (Athlete's Representative), Anlé Hattingh (Teams Selection and Awards), Sally Knittle (Show Holders and Venues)
Address: 120-122 Edward Street, Bellville, Western Cape
Governing Body: Dressage South Africa, Block 6 FFE Office 2, Beaulieu Office Park (c/o Stallion Dr and Papenfus Drive, Beaulieu), Midrand, South Africa

2. Object and General Principles of Dressage
Proposal: That the section **"Object and General Principles of Dressage" be removed from the DSA rules** in order to **align with FEI**.

3. Appendix DS/6 – Freestyle Rules
Proposal: That **Appendix DS/6 – Freestyle Rules be added** to align with the **DSA Freestyle Tests adopted from USDF**, ensuring the rules correspond with the tests currently being used.

The Council then decided that the Western Cape will vote as follows:

1. That we retain young riders category;
2. That we retain the children category and children from 12 can compete as Juniors; and
3. "yes" to no 2 and 3.

If you have any queries please contact me directly before close of business tomorrow to discuss.

Kind regards,
WESTERN CAPE DRESSAGE
ELANA HOPKINS
PRESIDENT