



Gear check rule changes for EA Dressage Events.

From 1 January 2024, the gear check is to be conducted after the rider has completed their test (this brings Australia in line with FEI regulations). To ensure riders are presenting to the judge in correct saddlery and dress, the following guidelines are recommended. Clubs, and Organising Committees, and appointed stewards need to consider the location and size of their events and the layout of arenas and warm-up areas to determine the best method to ensure gear checks are conducted in an efficient manner and in accordance with the rules.

Guidelines for Organisers, Clubs, Stewards, Judges, and Riders

The official gear check is to be conducted after the rider has completed their test.

To avoid riders presenting to the judge in incorrect gear the following is recommended:

Riders, please introduce yourself to the steward before you warm-up so that the steward knows you are present and intending to compete. The steward can then mark you on the draw and let you know if your arena is running on time.

Riders (especially riders new to the sport) are encouraged to ride past an official steward at the check area/warm-up before proceeding to the competition arena for their test.

- Stewards will do a **visual** check (eg, check bridle numbers, helmet tags, spurs, and look for any other anomalies), **before** riders proceed to the competition arena.
- Riders may ask the steward to check certain bits of gear if they want to ensure compliance with the rules (eg. whip length etc)
- After each competition the rider is to present immediately after their test to the steward for the gear check. Do not alter or change any gear beforehand and no-one is to touch the horse before the check.
- Clubs/Organisers are encouraged to provide judges and stewards with phone numbers should they need to contact one another during the event.
- To facilitate contact with stewards, it is recommended that stewards are listed on the draw.
- Final sign-off of a class should not be completed until the C-judge has been advised by the steward or OC that there were no gear check issues. This should happen as soon as practically possible, so as not to hold up the release of final results.

Extract from rule 1.1

- *competitors are responsible for knowing and complying with these rules. It remains the full responsibility of the rider to comply with the equipment rules as outlined in the rules*