

THE SOUTH AFRICAN EQUITATION ASSOCIATION (SAEQA)



EQUITATION

South African Equestrian Federation

NATIONAL EQUITATION RULES

3rd EDITION

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2018 3rd Edition

PREAMBLE

These National rules for the Equitation Discipline are produced specifically for use at CN or lower status Events and have been drawn up in the broadest possible terms so as to allow Organising Committees affiliated to the South African Equestrian Federation (SAEF) and the SAEQA, as much freedom as possible in the management of their Events and in the preparation of their schedules.

If there is any doubt about the meaning of any of these rules, they should be interpreted in the sense of providing fair conditions for all athletes. It is quite obvious that however complete the rules may be, they can never cover every eventuality. If the matter cannot be resolved by interpreting the rules to the letter, the solution to be adopted should lie in the principle which follows as closely as possible to the spirit of the official text.

These rules must be read in conjunction with the prevailing General and Veterinary Rules and Regulations. These General Regulations will apply unless specifically excluded or amended.

In all Equestrian sports, the welfare of the horse / pony must be considered paramount.

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DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO EQUITATION

ADULT – an athlete may compete as an Adult from the beginning of the year they turn 16. Adult Athletes may ride a pony in the Welcome and Novice classes, but must ride a horse for Intermediate and Open classes.

CN STATUS – shall mean National Status

COMPETITION – shall refer to an Equitation class

COURSE DESIGNER – a person that is suitably qualified according to the official course designers' panel as endorsed by SAEQA, particularly pertaining to the level of the competition for which they have been engaged.

DISCIPLINARY CODE – as defined in the prevailing General and Veterinary Rules and Regulations.

EVENT – shall refer to an Equitation show

GRADED COMPETITION – Novice, Intermediate or Open levels

GROUND JURY - appointed to control a Competition or Event. The number and category of Judges and / or officials to be appointed as members of a Ground Jury for a competition or Event is laid down in the GRs and Rules for each Discipline.

HORS CONCOURS – H/C - Any athlete may compete H/C within their age group, and may compete in Part 1 and Part 2. They may also participate in Part 3 without swapping horses. H/C athletes are not taken into account when calculating the number of prizes or any prize money that may be given.

JUNIOR – an athlete may compete as a Junior from the beginning of the year they turn 12 up to the end of the calendar in which they turn 18. Junior Athletes may ride a pony in the Welcome and Novice classes, but must ride a horse for Intermediate and Open classes .

MYSTERY HORSE – also known as a strange horse. This will be a horse that none of the finalists has ridden throughout the event. In a team competition, this will not be a horse from either of the teams involved in the final. If possible, this will be one of the horses that has competed in Parts 1 and 2, who does not go through to Part 3, which the judges would like to use. The rider of the horse / pony in question should be asked as soon as the final 8 have been announced.

PONY – a pony is a small equine whose height at the withers, having been measured on a smooth level surface is 1.48m without shoes and 1.49m with shoes and which complies with the height definitions as detailed in the current Annexure B as per SASJ (SA Showjumping) rules and Appendix F which forms part of the current SAEQA rules.

PONY RIDER – an athlete may compete as a Pony Rider up to the end of the calendar year in which they turn 16. They will ride a pony as described above.

SANESA COMPETITIONS – South African National Equestrian Schools Association

SENIOR JUDGE – This would be the judge at the competition who holds the highest qualification, if all judges at the competition hold equal rank on the judges panel they shall decide amongst themselves who will act as 'Senior Judge' for the duration of the competition.

SPOTTER – This is a person who, during a competition, will note down any mark deductions incurred by the athletes and the reasons therefore on a Spotter sheet. At CN Status events and competitions, this must be a judge on the Provincial panel or higher. For other competitions, it should be a person who is on the judge's panel.

UNGRADED COMPETITION – Welcome, Training, 10 & Under levels

VETERINARY - as defined in the prevailing General and Veterinary Rules and Regulations.

SECTION 1 - GENERAL

- 1.1 All horses and ponies are required to be registered with SAEQA.
- 1.2 The heights for each level are stipulated at the top of each test. It is up to the athlete (or their guardian if under 18) and their instructor to ensure that they and their horse / pony is capable and competent to compete at the set level of competition. See Appendix C for fence dimensions, etc.

SECTION 2 – DRESS, TURN OUT AND SADDLERY

2.1 DRESS

- 2.1.1 Riding attire should preferably always be of a conservative nature. At the discretion of the Ground Jury or Senior judge, an athlete who is improperly dressed may be refused permission to take part in the competition.
- 2.1.2 Three Point Safety Helmets:
 - The wearing of three point safety helmets whilst mounted is compulsory at all times.
 - The helmet must be correctly fastened.
 - Failure to comply will result in the athlete being eliminated.
- 2.1.3 Hair should be worn in a hairnet or in a single neatly plaited ponytail, unless sufficiently short.
- 2.1.4 Body Protectors may be worn, but should be of a conservative colour.
- 2.1.5 Jackets:
 - Should be Tweed, Black, Navy Blue, Brown or Grey.
 - UNGRADED COMPETITIONS – school blazers or a waistcoat with a collared shirt and tie may be worn
 - SANESA – school blazers or a school waistcoat may be worn
- 2.1.6 Shirts:
 - White or lightly coloured collared shirt with a tie.
 - White or lightly coloured American style shirt.
 - SANESA – school ties may be worn
- 2.1.7 Gloves:
 - Are recommended at all events and graded competitions.
 - SANESA – gloves are recommended
- 2.1.8 Jodhpurs or breeches in white, beige or light fawn may be worn. No sponsors' logos are permitted on jodhpurs or breeches.
- 2.1.9 Footwear:
 - Jodhpur boots on their own may be worn with jodhpurs, with the jodhpurs fitting over the top of the boot and securely fastened with elastic or clip on straps.
 - Jodhpur boots with matching leather leggings (suede is not recommended).
 - Long leather boots (suede boots are not recommended).
 - Boots should be either black or brown in colour.
 - SANESA – school shoes may be worn below Level 7.

2.1.10 Spurs:

- The wearing of spurs is optional; however spurs of excessively severe design are not permitted. These include, but are not limited to:
 - ❖ spurs with necks in excess of 4cm in length (measured from the boot to the tip of the spur)
 - ❖ spurs with necks set on the inside of the heel
 - ❖ spurs with moving rowel / ball and fixed with diameters in excess of 1cm
 - ❖ spurs with roughened or cutting edges
 - ❖ serrated spurs with or without necks
- Spurs are only to be worn in the traditional manner with the curve of the neck directed downwards.
- The end of the neck must be blunt.
- The neck must only point to the rear.
- Spurs made of plastic are not permitted.
- Hammer spurs are permitted, provided that the neck does not exceed 4cm (from boot to end of neck), the end is blunt and must only point towards the rear.
- PONY RIDERS & PONY RIDERS - only blunt spurs with necks not exceeding 2cm in length will be permitted.
Hammer spurs with necks not exceeding 2cm in length are permitted with provisions as mentioned above.
Metal “impulse spurs” with round hard knobs and “Dummy” spurs with no neck are allowed.
Pointed, sharp and rowel spurs are forbidden in these age categories.

2.2 TURN OUT

- 2.2.1 Horses and ponies should have their manes plaited, unless the mane is hogged.
- 2.2.2 The plaiting of forelocks and tails is optional.

2.3 SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT

- 2.3.1 Sponsors
 - May only be worn in Individual competitions, unless the sponsor is the sponsor of the Provincial Team and is limited to the saddle cloth and blanket only.
 - The name and logo of the sponsor may appear on a surface area not exceeding twenty square centimetres on either side of the saddle cloth.
- 2.3.2 Blinkers and the like are not permitted.
- 2.3.3 Only unrestricted running martingales are permitted.
Standing martingales are only permitted in Pony / Pony Rider competitions, provided that they are correctly fitted and attached to the cavesson part of a correctly fitted noseband.
- 2.3.4 There are no restrictions on bits for Junior and Adult athletes.
The list of permitted bits and nosebands for Pony Riders is as per Appendix A.
- 2.3.5 The Ground Jury or Senior Judge will have the right, based on veterinary advice, **or in the interests of welfare of the horse / pony**, to forbid the use of a bit that may cause injury / **harm** to the horse / pony.
- 2.3.6 Reins must be attached to the bit(s) or directly to the bridle. As per Appendix A, only single reins are allowed for Pony Riders and Pony Riders.

- 2.3.7 Bearing, Side, Running reins and the like are prohibited in all competitions, including in the practice arena.
No modification or extensions are permitted to the reins or stirrups.
- 2.3.8 Triangular reins are not permitted.
- 2.3.9 Tongue-straps are prohibited. Tongue guards are only permitted if used correctly - separate items must not be incorporated around the bit so as to cause welfare concerns.
- 2.3.10 Whips:
- May not exceed 75cm in length including a compulsory flap. This applies to both the competition arena and the warm up arena.
 - The flap may not be weighted.
 - Failure to comply with the above may result in elimination.
 - For excessive use of the whip refer to the General Regulations.
- 2.3.11 In the interests of safety, the stirrup iron and the stirrup leather must hang freely from the bar of the saddle and the outside of the saddle flap. The athlete must not directly or indirectly tie any part of his body to the saddlery.
- 2.3.12 No sheepskin saddle covers are permitted.
- 2.3.13 No saddlery changes, including the bridle, are allowed during a competition, except when authorised by the Senior Judge.
- 2.3.14 All boots must be correctly fitted.

SECTION 3 – EVENTS

3.1 SCHEDULES

- Refer to 'The Show Holding Bodies Handbook' – Guide to running an equitation event, which includes all relevant templates.
- A template for the schedule is available.
- The final schedule will need to be approved by the National Office prior to being published and distributed.

3.2 ENTRIES

- 3.2.1 A list of all final entries must be sent to the SAEQA National Office prior to the event for checking of correct registration and grading.
- 3.2.2 Should there be fewer than six starters in either or all of the Adult, Junior, Child and Pony Rider competitions at an Event, which the organising committee could, without contravening the conditions and rules of the event make run concurrently, then those Adult, Junior and Pony Rider competitions may, at the discretion of the judge/s be combined for the purpose of judging. However, rosettes, grading, victor ludorum/rider ranking points and instructor award points shall be awarded as for separate competitions.
- 3.2.3 If an athlete is eligible to ride as a Pony Rider and Junior, the athlete must nominate which age group classification he or she wishes to ride in, if both competitions are held concurrently at the same event.
- 3.2.4 An athlete may only enter one horse/pony in a competition.

- 3.2.5 In the event of there only being 1 competitor in any Open Competition, grading points will only be awarded if a mystery horse is included for the competitor to ride in Part 3 of the competition in order to achieve a correct result. The mystery horse or pony must have taken part in one of the equitation competitions at the event. The heights of the jumping exercises in Part 3 only will be set at a height suitable for the capabilities of the mystery horse / pony.
- 3.2.6 There must be at least 10 starters in the South African Championship Competitions.
- 3.2.7 Athletes entering an Equitation competition do so on the understanding that their horse/pony must be available should it be required by the judges or Organising Committee for a draw or a mystery horse for other athletes to ride.
- 3.2.8 Members from one province may compete in another province. The event organizing committee must have the entries signed off by the SAEQA National Office and must inform the Provincial Chair of the relevant province(s) of entries received from their province.

3.3 PROGRAMMES & PRIZES /PRIZE MONEY

3.3.1 PROGRAMMES

The official final programme should contain the following minimum information

- It should state that the competition is run under the current SAEQA National Rules
- The name of the Course Designer / Builder
- The order of riding, showing the athlete's number, athlete's name, horse/pony ridden and instructor. These will all be detailed on the entry form.
e.g.: No. 1 Mary Jones Black Beauty Instructor Name
- Prize money is entirely optional except for CN Status and Individual South African Championship classes, in the event of prize money being paid the prize money for each competition must be detailed – i.e. there must be a specified amount shown for first place, second place, etc.
- The name of the judge (s) for each competition. Judges should be listed in order of seniority, with the Senior judge named first.

3.3.2 PRIZES & PRIZE MONEY

- Prize money is NOT required to be paid except for the CN Status events and the Individual South African Championship in each age category this will be paid out for one (1) place in every four (4) athletes or part thereof, excluding H/C entries.
- Percentage of prize money for a CN Status Event or the Individual South African Championship to be paid out will be stipulated on the schedule.
- Rosettes should be handed out to sixth place at the discretion of the event organising committee.

3.4 SUBSTITUTIONS

- 3.4.1 In accordance with prevailing General Regulations, a substitution may be made of either horse or athlete or both provided that they compete in the correct age group and level, and that they are eligible to compete in the competition.
- 3.4.2 Substitutions must be made prior to the start of the competition and on the relevant Form.

- 3.4.3 In the event of a horse going lame after the start of the competition, the following will occur:
- a. If a horse goes lame during Part 1 and 2, the athlete must retire.
 - b. Should the judge/s deem a horse to be lame after the commencement of Part 3 of a competition where the athletes have swapped, the athlete may ride another horse from those horses in Part 3 by a draw.
 - c. If the mystery horse is deemed lame during Part 4, the horse may be substituted.

3.5 PROTESTS

- 3.5.1 Any protest must be made immediately, in writing and accompanied by the deposit as set out in the prevailing General Regulations.
- 3.5.2 Any protest must be lodged before the start of the next part of the competition, with exception between Parts 1 and 2, where the protest must be lodged before the start of Part 3.
- 3.5.3 No verbal protest will be accepted.
- 3.5.4 All protests will then be dealt with as per the prevailing General Regulations.

3.6 IN THE EVENT OF TIES

- 3.6.1 In the event of equality of points after the last part of the competition, the athlete with the highest score in that last part will be placed higher.
In the event of an equality of points in the last part, the highest score in the preceding part will be placed higher (and so on until reaching Part 1).
This will be true for all competitions as well as Individual Championships.
- 3.6.2 In the event of the need to hold a Part 4 and an equality of points of the 2nd highest score after part 3, the athlete with the highest score for part 3 (including ties) will go through to part 4.
This will be true for all competitions as well as Individual championships.

3.7 RESULTS

- 3.7.1 To enable the SAEQA to maintain control of the Grading, Victor Ludorum, Rider Ranking and Instructor award points of athletes, the organising committees of all recognised Events must send the signed score sheets from each competition at the event, to the National office within fourteen (14) days of the last day of the event.
- 3.7.2 Results of out of province athletes must be sent to the relevant Provincial Chairperson of all athletes, and any points obtained will count towards any Victor Ludorum points, as well as qualifying criteria for any Provincial Championship or team.

SECTION 4 – COMPETITIONS & COMPETITION RULES

All recognised competitions will be judged under the SAEQA National Equitation Rules with provisions for SANESA competitions as set out in these rules and in the Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix B).

4.1 COMPETITION RULES

4.1.1 SANCTIONED EVENTS & COMPETITIONS

In order for an event or competition to be deemed as “sanctioned”, the following criteria must be met:

- a. The venue must be approved by the relevant Provincial committee and /or the SAEQA NEC.
- b. The schedule must be approved by the relevant Provincial committee and / or the SAEQA NEC.
- c. Officials used must be approved by the relevant Provincial Committee and / or the SAEQA NEC.

4.1.2 WARM UP ARENAS AND SCHOOLING AREAS

- a. Only athletes as listed in the programme are permitted to school or warm up their horses / ponies competing in Equitation competitions anywhere at the venue during the event. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.
- b. A minimum of two obstacles will be placed in the warm up area, one of which will be a vertical and one a spread.
- c. The heights and widths of the obstacles in the warm up arena may be no more than 10cm more than the stipulated maximum height and width of the obstacles for the competition currently in progress in the competition arena.
- d. The obstacles in the warm up arena will be flagged and must be jumped in the correct direction indicated by the flags (i.e. with the red flag on your right)
- e. It is compulsory for all horses / ponies in the warm up area to be mounted.

4.1.3 COMPETITION ARENAS

- a. Athletes on foot may only enter the competition arena when it is announced that the course for their competition is open for inspection.
- b. Once the course has been announced as being closed, no athlete may enter the arena, either on foot or mounted, unless called to compete or permission is given by the Ground Jury or Senior Judge. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.
- c. Athletes may not exercise their horses / ponies in the competition arena for the duration of the event, under penalty of disqualification by the Ground Jury or Senior Judge.
- d. Athletes may not jump or attempt to jump any obstacles in the arena during a parade before the competition or during the lap of honour after the competition. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.
- e. Athletes must enter the arena when called except in the case of an emergency or when competing at a multidiscipline show and a higher arena may take precedence. Failure to do so incurs elimination at the discretion of the Ground Jury or Senior Judge.
- f. Athletes should enter or leave the arena mounted, except with the permission of the Ground Jury or Senior Judge or in the case of a fall.

- g. Any athlete or horse / pony leaving the arena before completion of their round without the permission of the Ground Jury or Senior Judge, including prior to starting, will be eliminated.
- h. At recognised events where fixed obstacles (banks, ditches, water jumps, etc.) will be used; neither athletes nor their mounts may jump any of these obstacles after the closing date of entries. Failure to comply will result in disqualification. Notwithstanding the above, in exceptionally rare cases where a different discipline may have an event at the same venue and using the same obstacles after the closing date of entries and an athlete has entered said event, an exception may be made at the discretion of the event organisers.

4.2 GRADING & POINTS

- 4.2.1 There is a National grading system in place in order for an athlete to progress through the levels from Novice to Open as detailed in Appendix E. Notwithstanding this, special circumstances for relaxation of the grading rules may be considered upon written application from the athlete and presentation of Portfolio of Evidence to the relevant Provincial Committee.
- 4.2.2 Pony riders / Children moving into Juniors may elect which level they wish to compete in. This is provided the horse they wish to compete on has successfully completed events in the equivalent height category in either Eventing/Showjumping/SANESA (Portfolio of Evidence is required.)
- 4.2.3 Juniors moving into Adults may elect which level they wish to compete in. This is provided the horse they wish to compete on has successfully completed events in the equivalent height category in either Eventing/Showjumping/SANESA (Portfolio of Evidence is required.)
- 4.2.4 All points awarded out of province will count towards any Victor Ludorum, as well as qualifying criteria for any Provincial Championship or team as per rule 3.7.2.
- 4.2.5 Once an athlete has gained points in an Intermediate competition, they may not downgrade or compete in a Novice competition or below unless participating as an H/C entry, unless they have not gained any points over the previous 12 months. Such downgrading must be approved by the Provincial Equitation Committee and the National Office must be notified.
- 4.2.6 Once an athlete has gained points in an Open competition, they may not downgrade to compete in an Intermediate competition or below unless participating as an H/C entry unless they have not gained any points over the previous 12 months. Such downgrading must be approved by the Provincial Equitation Committee and the National Office must be notified.
- 4.2.7 Once an athlete has gained points in a Novice competition and they wish to keep their grading points, they will not be able to compete in a Welcome competition or below unless participating as an H/C entry.
If they wish to downgrade to Welcome level or below, they will lose any grading, victor ludorum and rider ranking points earned in Novice and will have to start from 0 when moving back up to Novice and earn grading points as set out in Appendix E in order to progress to the next level.
Such downgrading must be approved by the Provincial Equitation Committee and the National Office must be notified.
- 4.2.8 **SANESA**
Please refer to the Appendix B - Memorandum of Understanding with SANESA.

4.2.9 GRADING POINTS

As set out in Appendix E.

4.2.10 VICTOR LUDORUM POINTS

As set out in Appendix E.

4.2.10 RIDER RANKING POINTS

As set out in Appendix E.

4.2.11 INSTRUCTOR AWARD POINTS

As set out in Appendix E.

4.3 FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION

In all competitions, the test will be deemed to have started once the announcer begins to call the test or in the case of the test not being called, once the rider signals they are ready to commence. Upon entering the arena, the athlete should make their way directly to their starting point.

This is the standard format of competition for SAEQA Provincial competitions, Provincial Championships and National Championships.

The competition usually consists of a test prescribed in the official Test Books, consisting of Parts 1 and 2, and Parts 3 and 4 where applicable.

Special Tests may be ridden for Championship competitions and Special events.

Before commencement of the competition

- The judges will walk the course first and place their chairs.
- Athletes will collect their numbers and, once the course is open, plan their tests and walk the course.

Instructors are permitted to walk the course with athletes except at Team Events provided that they are neatly and appropriately dressed. Team Managers / Chef D'Equipes are permitted to walk the course with their Team at all Team Events.

PART ONE

- Athletes should ride in programme order.
- This consists of movements both on the flat and over fences. Spread obstacles may only be jumped in the direction indicated by the position of the number. Verticals may be jumped in either direction.
- Any jumps in the arena that are not flagged off may be used.
- The form of the track in Part 1 is at the athlete's discretion, but should be planned in such a way that it leads smoothly into the first jump of Part 2.

PART TWO

- The athlete goes straight onto this phase after completing Part 1 without adding any un-prescribed movements, and without leaving the arena.
- The track is ridden as numbered, and should be ridden at a show-jumping pace . There will be no starting bell or flags. The direction of the jumps will be indicated by the position of the number on the right side of the obstacle.

- The track should consist of between 8 to 10 numbered fences and include at least one combination.

PART THREE

- Only applicable for Intermediate and Open level competitions. This part must take place in order for the competition to be graded. In Open level competitions, there must be a swop in order for the competition to be graded. For Open competitions also refer to 3.2.5.
- It is recommended that the top six athletes or 50% of the class, whichever is the greater, go forward to this part, except in Provincial and National Championships where 8 athletes go through to Part 3. Where there is a tie for 8th position all athletes tying for 8th position will be included.
- All athletes taking part in Part 3 must enter the arena mounted and together and must line up where instructed. Once the athletes enter the arena they may not receive outside assistance, verbal or otherwise, or they will be eliminated.
- If they are to swop horses, the draw is done via a random draw. In Intermediate competitions, in the interests of safety, this could be decided by the judges. If the athlete draws their own number, the number is returned and the athlete draws again.
- It is recommended that one of the judges supervise the draw. If one of the horses is deemed unsuitable or dangerous, the senior judge may rule that that horse be replaced with another from an athlete not going through to Part Three.
- The athletes must all remain in line until they have all adjusted their stirrups. Girths may be tightened if necessary.
- Athletes may ride with or without whips and/or spurs regardless of whether those aids were used in Part One and Two.
- The only time saddlery may be changed is at the discretion of the senior judge.
- Once all athletes are ready they will be given sixty seconds to familiarise themselves with their new mount. For safety purposes it is recommended that they all take their practice jumps after the sixty seconds are up, one at a time. They may only attempt one jump, which may not be a combination.
- Once the trial period is up, athletes will line up where requested and must remain so until they are called to ride their test.
- Athletes will ride Part 3 in reverse programme order.
- The test consists of movements both on the flat as well as over fences. Spread obstacles may only be jumped in the direction indicated by the position of the number. Verticals may be jumped in either direction.
- Any jumps in the arena that are not flagged off, may be used.
- Once all athletes have completed their Part 3, all athletes will remount their own horses, apart from any riders going through to a Part 4 where applicable.

PART FOUR

- In Open competitions, where there are less than 4 marks difference between the top two places, Part 4 should take place.
- Two athletes qualify to ride in Part Four, unless there is a tie. In the event of an equality of points of the 2nd highest score after Part 3, the athlete(s) with the highest score for Part 3 (including ties) will go through to Part 4. This will be true for all competitions as well as Individual championships.

- Where there is no Part 4 in the test provided (i.e. in the Standard Tests), the finalists will ride Part 3 on the mystery horse / pony.
- The finalists draw for the order of riding. They then ride the prescribed test (including a sixty second trial period) one after the other, on the same horse.
- The athlete is first allowed sixty seconds to familiarise themselves with their mount. They may take one jump during this minute, which may not be a combination.
- The remaining athlete(s) may not watch whilst the athlete(s) taking part ahead of them's sixty seconds trial period and tests are in progress.
- This consists of movements both on the flat as well as over fences. Spread obstacles may only be jumped in the direction indicated by the position of the number. Verticals may be jumped in either direction.
- Any jumps in the arena that are not flagged off, may be used.
- The judges' scores are not displayed or announced until after all the finalists have ridden, but are relayed directly to the scorer.
- All athletes remount their own horses.

RESULTS

- The results are announced in reverse order starting with last place.
- Names of the instructor(s) of the athlete are announced in conjunction with the names of the athletes. Names of the horses are of secondary importance.

4.4 SCORING

A number system is used, with judges holding up their scores simultaneously at the end of each athlete's round in each Part, with the exception of Part 1, when the scores will be shown after the completion the athlete in Part 2.

The Senior Judge (or Spotter) shall hold up mark deductions prior to the other judges' scores being shown. The mark deduction numbers shall clearly show a minus sign, and the judge or spotter must record the reasons for the deductions on the relevant Spotter's sheet.

4.4.1 HOW THE TESTS ARE MARKED

- In Graded competitions, each Part is marked out of 20 per test per judge
- In SANESA competitions, the marking system may vary according to the level.
- Mark deductions are made as follows:

Reason for Deduction	Amount deducted from each judge
Error of test	-2
Knocking down an obstacle	-2
Disobedience	-4

These deductions are from each judge's score.

- The scores for each athlete by all judges are to be added together at the end of each Part, including any deductions per judge, and totalled at the end of the competition to decide a result.
- An athlete may be eliminated from the competition during any Part as set out under section 4.4.3.

4.4.2 DEDUCTIONS

During any Part, deductions are incurred for

- a. Error of test
- b. Knocking down an obstacle
- c. A disobedience
- d. Deviation of course

a. Error of test (-2 from each judge)

It is considered an error of test if the athlete

- does not ride the set exercises correctly (as explained in Appendix F)
- omits an exercise or movement as set out in the test or adds a movement that is not set out in the test.
- rides the movement with stirrups contrary to how it is set out in the test
- rides the movement with two hands contrary to how it is set out in the test
- circles around the last obstacle jumped unless the track of the course so requires

b. Knocking down an obstacle (-2 from each judge)

c. Disobedience (-4 from each judge)

Refusal, run-out or deviation of course.

4.4.3 ELIMINATIONS

- Elimination means that the athlete and the horse/pony in question may not continue in the current competition.
- Once eliminated, the athlete may not take a jump.
- Athletes will be eliminated
 - a. If they jump or attempt to jump an obstacle in the arena before the start of their round.
 - b. If they jump or attempt to jump an obstacle which has been flagged off.
 - c. If they jump the incorrect track in Part 2
 - Omitting a fence
 - Jumping the fences in the incorrect order
 - d. Failure to represent after a refusal in any Part.
 - e. Three (3) refusals in any one Part. This is not accumulative to Parts.
 - f. An athlete and / or their horse/pony leaving the arena, without the permission of the Senior judge, once they have entered the arena for their round. This includes prior to them starting their test.
 - g. Unauthorised changing of tack or mount during the competition.
 - h. Unauthorised assistance
 - Any physical intervention by a third party from the time the athlete enters the arena for Part 2 until they complete their round in Part 2, whether solicited or not, with the object of assisting the athlete or their mount.
 - Any help given to a mounted athlete to adjust their saddlery or to hand them their whip whilst mounted during Part 1 or 2 by an unauthorised party.
 - Handing a mounted athlete their spectacles during their round is not considered to be unauthorised assistance.
 - After the athletes enter the arena for Part 3 until the completion of the competition, no athlete may receive outside assistance

from anyone, other than during the swop of horses/ponies when the assistance may be given by the judges or member of the organising committee with regards to holding the horses/ponies or giving a leg up, unless authorised by the Senior Judge.

- i. If anyone other than the athlete as listed in the programme warming a horse/pony up in the practice arena.
- j. For a fall of athlete or horse/pony at any stage during the competition.
 - An athlete is considered to have fallen when, either voluntarily or involuntarily, they are separated from their horse/pony in such a way that they touch the ground or find it necessary, in order to get back into the saddle, to use some form of outside assistance.
 - A horse/pony is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and quarters have touched the ground or the obstacle and the ground.
- k. If the athlete jumps an obstacle in the wrong direction
- l. If, following a refusal where the obstacle needs to be rebuilt, the athlete jumps, or attempts to jump the obstacle before it has been rebuilt or before being given the all clear to continue.
- m. If the athlete does not re-attempt to jump a combination or a related distance exercise (as in Parts 1,3 or 4) from the first element, after having a refusal at any of the elements.
- n. If they use a whip contrary to what is set out in 2.3.10 in the warm up, collecting or competition arenas or elsewhere in the immediate proximity of the showground. No Substitute for a whip may be carried.
- o. If an accident to either the athlete and / or their horse/pony prevents them from completing the competition.
- p. If the Ground Jury or Senior Judge feels that for any reason, either the athlete and / or the horse are unfit to continue in the competition.
- q. at the discretion of the Ground Jury or Senior Judge in the following circumstances
 - the athlete not entering the arena when their name and/or number is called
 - not entering the arena mounted or not leaving the arena mounted
 - the athlete not stopping when signalled or asked to during the round
- r. the athlete entering the arena on foot once the competition has started

4.4.4 DISQUALIFICATIONS & FINES

1. Disqualification means that the athlete and his horse/pony may take no further part in a competition and / or in any other competition at the event.

The severity of the disqualification will be at the discretion of the Ground Jury or the Senior Judge.

The Ground Jury or Senior Judge may disqualify an athlete

- a. for misuse or excessive use of the whip
- b. rapping horses as defined in section 1 under abuse of horses
- c. exercising horses/ponies during the course of an event, over obstacles not provided by the Organising committee
- d. jumping the obstacles in the warm up arena in the wrong direction
- e. all cases of cruelty and / or ill treatment reported by a member of the Ground Jury, appeal committee or steward

- f. all cases laid down in the SAEF and FEI Veterinary regulations.

2. Fines and Warnings

The Ground Jury or Senior Judge is authorised to issue a warning and /or impose fines in accordance with the General Regulations in the following cases:

- a. an athlete who has been eliminated or who retires and makes more than one attempt to jump a single obstacle or jumps it in the wrong direction before leaving the arena.
- b. An athlete who jumps one or more obstacles after the completion of their round or the competition without the permission of the Ground Jury or Senior Judge
- g. An athlete who exercises their horse/pony during the course of an event, over obstacles not provided by the Organising committee
- c. An athlete who disrespects the directives of the Organising committee
- d. An athlete who touches an obstacle to the effect of changing it.
- e. An athlete who does not follow the orders of the officials or shows incorrect behaviour towards event officials or any other party connected with the event.
- f. An athlete who repeats offences after a warning
- g. An athlete who disrespects the rules regarding dress and saddlery.
- h. Abuse of horses/ponies in any form

All fines imposed at events holding CN status are paid to the National Office. All fines imposed at events below CN status are paid to the relevant Provincial Committee.

All warnings, fines and the details thereof will be kept on record at the National Office.

4.5 TYPES OF COMPETITION

4.5.1 STANDARD PROVINCIAL COMPETITIONS (FOR EACH AGE CATEGORY)

- a. These are competitions that are run under SAEQA Rules in each of the Provinces and, throughout the year, serve as qualification competitions for the annual Provincial and National Equitation Championships.
- b. No points are required to compete at any level however, the horse/pony must be eligible to compete at the level entered and a portfolio of evidence must be provided. The format of these competitions will be as per Section 4.3
- c. The competition consists of a test prescribed in the official Test Books, consisting of Parts 1 and 2, and Parts 3 and 4 where applicable.
- d. They are split into Development (which includes 10 & under and training competitions) and Welcome Level competitions which are classified as ungraded and Novice, Intermediate and Open Level competitions which are classified as Graded. These are more fully described in section 4.2.
- e. Grading Points, Victor Ludorum Points, Rider Ranking Points and Instructor Awards points are accumulated as set out in Section 4.2 and in Appendix E.

4.5.2 INDIVIDUAL PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (FOR EACH AGE CATEGORY)

- a. In order to compete in an Open Provincial Equitation Championship, athletes must have taken part in at least two qualifying competitions at the relevant level being entered, in the time period after the last day of the relevant Provincial Championship until the closing date of entries for the next upcoming relevant Provincial Championship.

- b. Subject to the approval of the National Committee, a Provincial Committee may impose additional qualification conditions for the Provincial Championship. Should there be any additional requirements these must be clearly stated on the schedule for the Championship concerned.
- c. At the discretion of the relevant Provincial Committee and motivation thereof to the SAEQA NEC, dispensation may be made with regard to cancelled events or athletes unable to compete due to quarantine issues or AHS Movement restrictions, etc.
- d. An athlete who has taken part in at least two official Equitation competitions within their Age Category at level, in the year prior to the relevant Championship and who during that year moves up an age category on or before the day on which the relevant Provincial Equitation Championship takes place, may compete in that Championship provided that they comply with 4.5.2a and 4.2.2 or 4.2.3 above.
- e. These Championships may be run over all levels of competition; however, qualifying criteria does not apply below Open level.
- f. At Open level, this is a special test comprising Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 and, if less than 4 marks between 1st and 2nd place, Part 4.
- g. A maximum of the top 8 athletes will go forward to Part 3. In the event of a tie for 8th place, all athletes tying will go forward to Part 3.
- h. Double Grading, Victor Ludorum and Rider Ranking points are awarded for Open classes as per the tables in Appendix E for these Championships.
- i. A minimum of two judges are required and at Open level one must be a Master/National level Judge.
- j. The Provincial Championship may be run as a closed competition, restricted to the members of that Province only, but must be stipulated on the schedule.
- k. The winner of this Championship becomes the Provincial Equitation Champion in their age category for that year, however, at Open level, the winning athlete must score an average of 15 marks across the competition to be awarded the Provincial Championship title.

4.5.3 THE INDIVIDUAL OPEN EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIP OF SOUTH AFRICA (FOR EACH AGE CATEGORY)

- a. These Championships are open to athletes who have obtained a minimum of 4 grading points in Open Equitation competitions in their relevant age category in the time period after the last day of the relevant SA Championship event until the closing date of entries for the next upcoming relevant SA Championship event.
- b. Additional qualifications for the South African Individual Championships, may be determined by the National Technical Committee from time to time, and will appear on the relevant schedules.
- c. At the discretion of the SAEQA NEC, dispensation may be made with regard to cancelled events or athletes unable to compete due to quarantine issues or AHS Movement restrictions in their area on motivation thereof from the relevant Provincial Committee and accompanied by any relevant documentation.
- d. An athlete who has taken part in at least two official Equitation competitions within their Age Category and level, in the year prior to the relevant Championship and who during that year moves up an age category on or before

the day on which the relevant Equitation Championship takes place, may compete in that Championship provided that they comply with 4.5.3a and 4.2.2 or 4.2.3 above.

- e. These championships are held annually at the South African National Championships.
- f. The track will be as for a Championship level 1.10m (Adults and Juniors) and 0.90m (Pony Riders) track.
- g. A Special Championship test will be made available after the closing date of entries. This test may be called.
- h. There will be no qualifying competition at the event.
- i. Athletes will ride parts 1 and 2.
The top 8 athletes go forward to part 3. Where there is a tie for 8th position, all athletes tying for 8th position will be included.
The athletes with the top 2 scores after part 3 will go through to part 4 if there are less than 4 marks between 1st and 2nd. In the event of an equality of points of the 2nd highest score after part 3, the athlete(s) with the highest score for part 3 (including ties) will go through to part 4.
- j. These Championships must be judged by three (3) Master/National Judges, of which the senior judge must be a Master Judge, approved by the SAEQA NEC.
- k. A fourth judge of Provincial or higher status will be the Spotter and give mark deductions. This judge should not sit with any of the other judges, and should record on a penalty sheet, reasons for any penalties.
- l. The winner of these Championships becomes the Equitation Champion of South Africa in their age category for that year and will receive the Trophy and a Gold Medal.

4.5.4 THE OPEN EQUITATION TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS OF SOUTH AFRICA (FOR EACH AGE CATEGORY)

- a. These championships are open to all Provincial Teams and are held annually at the South African National Championships.
- b. Each province may select a team of between 3 and 5 athletes according to the Provincial Selection Criteria specific to each province and may award Provincial Colours at any time before the relevant South African Championships. Should one of the athletes selected agree to put forward a second horse/pony, this may be nominated as a reserve horse/pony for the team.
The selection criteria must be published on the National website and be distributed within each province in sufficient time to allow all athletes enough time to fulfil the criteria.
- c. Where a province has insufficient athletes, they may form a combined team with other provinces.
- d. Out of the selected athletes for each team, a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 4 will compete in the Championship competition.
- e. Athletes and horses / ponies, as well as the riding order, must be declared by the Chef D'Equipe, by the time stipulated on the programme.
Horses / ponies may only be substituted thereafter on presentation of a veterinary certificate.
Athletes may not be substituted after declaration, unless a doctor's certificate is produced.

- f. The first athlete from each team will ride a special test, followed by the second, etc. The lowest score from each team will be discarded, except where the team only consists of three athletes.
- g. The two top scoring members from each team will ride Part Three, in reverse team order, not numerical order. There will be no part 4 except in the event of equality of points.
- h. Any athlete who is eliminated in Part 3 will be awarded the lowest score in that part minus 20 points.
- i. At the end of the competition the scores of the three top scoring members from each team (including the scores for Part 3) are added together to give the final Team score and thus the team placing.
- j. In the event of equality, the Chefs d'Equipe of the teams tying will nominate an athlete from their team to ride Part 4.
The judges for the competition will select a horse from one of the other teams to be the mystery horse / pony.
- k. The athlete who rides second may not watch while the first athlete's sixty seconds trial period and test is in progress.
- l. The track will be as for a Championship level 1.10m (Adults and Juniors) and 0.90m (Pony Riders) track.
- m. A Special Championship test will be made available after the closing date of entries. This test may be called.
- n. These Championships should be judged by three (3) Master/National Judges, approved by the SAEQA NEC.
- o. A fourth judge of Provincial or higher status may be the Spotter and give mark deductions. This judge should not sit with any of the other judges, and should record on a penalty sheet, reasons for any penalties.
- p. The winning team of these Championships will become the Equitation Team Champions of South Africa in the relevant age category for that year.

4.5.5 THE INTERMEDIATE EQUITATION INDIVIDUAL & TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS (FOR EACH AGE CATEGORY)

- a. The Team and Individual Competitions will run concurrently, but will be treated as separate competitions.
- b. **Individual Qualification** - These championships are open to any individual athlete eligible to compete at this level as at the closing date of entries for the next upcoming relevant SA Championship event provided that they comply with 4.2.2 or 4.2.3 above.
- c. Additional qualifications for the South African Intermediate Championship may be determined by the National Technical Committee from time to time, and will appear on the relevant schedules.
- d. **Team Qualification** - These championships are open to all Provinces. Each province may select a team of between 3 and 5 athletes of which a minimum of three and a maximum of four athletes will compete in the Team competition. Where a province has insufficient athletes, they may form a combined team with other provinces.
- e. Both athletes and horses/ponies must be declared by the Chef D-Equipe, by the time stipulated on the schedule.

Horses may only be substituted thereafter on presentation of a veterinary certificate.

Athletes may not be substituted after declaration, unless a doctor's certificate is produced.

- f. All athletes will ride Parts 1 and 2 in programme order and will be accumulating individual as well as team scores.
- g. The declared team athletes must be identified as such on the programme.
- h. The top 8 athletes go forward to part 3. Where there is a tie for 8th position, all athletes tying for 8th position will be included.
- i. The scores of the top 3 athletes per team after Part 2 will determine the final team result.
- j. Scores for Part 3 will only count for individual results and the highest individual score after Part 3 will determine the individual winner.
- k. Notwithstanding the above, in the event of equality for 1st place for the team event, the highest individual score of a team member in Part 3 will determine the winner.
- l. A Special Championship test will be made available after the closing date of entries. This test may be called.
- m. The track will be as for a Championship level 1.00m (Adults and Juniors) and 0.80m (Pony Riders) track.
- n. These Championships should be judged by at least two judges, one (1) of whom should be a Master/National Judge, approved by the SAEQA NEC.
- o. An additional judge of Provincial or higher status may be the Spotter and give mark deductions. This judge should not sit with any of the other judges, and should record on a penalty sheet, reasons for any penalties.

4.5.6 THE NOVICE EQUITATION INDIVIDUAL & TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS (FOR EACH AGE CATEGORY)

- a. The Team and Individual Competitions will run concurrently.
- b. **Individual Qualification** - These championships are open to any individual athlete that is eligible to compete at this level as at the closing date of entries for the next upcoming relevant SA Championship event provided that they comply with 4.2.2 or 4.2.3 above.
- c. Additional qualifications for the South African Novice Championship may be determined by the National Technical Committee from time to time, and will appear on the relevant schedules.
- d. **Team Qualification** - These championships are open to all Provinces. Each province may select a team of between 3 and 5 athletes of which a minimum of three and a maximum of four athletes will compete in the Team competition. Where a province has insufficient athletes, they may form a combined team with other provinces.
- e. Both athletes and horses/ponies must be declared by the Chef D-Equipe, by the time stipulated on the schedule.
Horses may only be substituted thereafter on presentation of a veterinary certificate.
Athletes may not be substituted after declaration, unless a doctor's certificate is produced.

- f. All athletes will ride Parts 1 and 2 in programme order and will be accumulating individual as well as team scores.
- g. The declared team athletes must be identified as such on the programme.
- h. The scores of the top 3 athletes per team after Part 2 will determine the final team result.
- i. The highest individual score will determine the individual winner.
- j. Notwithstanding the above, in the event of equality for 1st place for the team, the highest individual score from each team in Part 2 will determine the winner.
- k. In the event of a tie for the individual champion, Part 3 will be ridden on their own horse/pony.
- l. A Special Championship test will be made available after the closing date of entries. This test may be called.
- m. The track will be as for a Championship level 0.90m (Adults and Juniors) and 0.70m (Pony Riders) track
- n. These Championships should be judged by at least two judges, one(1) of whom should be a Master/National Judge, approved by the SAEQA NEC.
- o. An additional judge of Provincial or higher status may be the Spotter and give mark deductions. This judge should not sit with any of the other judges, and should record on a penalty sheet, reasons for any penalties.

4.5.7 INTER-AFRICA CUP INVITATION TEAM EVENT

1. This championship is open to all Group IX Teams by invitation.
2. Each team may have a minimum of three and a maximum of four members, nominated by their National Federation.
3. All athletes must have reached their 15th birthday.
4. At the discretion of the Organizing Committee, countries may apply to field both a Junior and an Adult team.
5. In the event of a country not being able to field a full Adult team or Junior team, a mixed team from that country will be accepted.
A mixed country team will also be accepted.
6. This event will be run as an Intermediate level competition and athletes will be restricted as follows:
 - a) No athlete may have competed in Open level equitation in the Junior or Adult age categories in the preceding 24 months.
 - b) Horses must either have competed at Junior or Adult Intermediate and Open level equitation or be registered to show-jump graded or at SANESA at 1.00m or be registered to event at 1.00m, so as to ensure fairness for all athletes taking part as to the capability of the horse to jump 1.00m.
7. The test will be determined by the National Equitation Technical Committee.
8. Both athletes and horses must be declared, by the Chef D'Equipe, by the time stipulated on the schedule.
Horses may only be substituted thereafter by approval of the SAEF and SAEQA Representatives on presentation of a veterinary certificate.
Athletes may not be substituted after declaration, unless a doctor's certificate is produced.
9. The order of the teams will be drawn, and the order of riding must be nominated by the Chef d'Equipe. The first athlete from each team will ride a Special Test

- followed by the second, etc. The lowest score from each team is to be discarded, except where the team only consists of three athletes.
10. The two top scoring members from each team will ride Part 3, in reverse team order, not numerical order.
 11. Any athlete who is eliminated in Part 3 will be awarded the lowest score in that part minus 20 points.
 12. There will be no part 4 except in the event of equality of points.
 13. At the end of the competition, the scores of the three top scoring members from each team (including the scores for Part 3) are added together to give the Team score and thus the team placing.
 14. In the event of equality, the Chefs d'Equipe of the teams tying will nominate an athlete from their team to ride Part 4.
The two athletes draw for the order of riding.
They then ride the prescribed test one after the other, on the same horse, which will be selected by the judges, from the one of the other teams.
 15. The athlete who rides second may not watch while the first athlete's sixty seconds trial period and test is in progress.
 16. A Special test will be made available after the closing date of entries. This test may be called.
 17. This event should be judged by three judges, two (2) of whom should be Master/National judges, approved by the SAEQA NEC.

4.6 LEVELS OF COMPETITION

4.6.1 DEVELOPMENT & WELCOME COMPETITIONS

a. Definition:

The ability of the athlete and their influence over the horse / pony is judged. The athlete's position is above all BALANCED & FUNCTIONAL. The most effective position is invariably the most aesthetic. The athlete should

- have 'sympathetic', steady hands
- be aware of the correct diagonal at trot and the correct lead leg at canter, particularly in Part 1.
- have basic control to ride upward and downward transitions
- maintain the forward movement and to direct the horse / pony to perform the required movements.

The judge would rather see an athlete with a good 'feel' and sympathetic hands, riding forwards with a positive outlook (not necessarily on a contact, although that is the aim) than an athlete who hangs onto the horse / pony's mouth, possibly for security.

Jumps need not necessarily be jumped from canter, especially with younger pony riders, but the rider is expected to maintain a reasonably consistent pace and rhythm. Accuracy of stride is not demanded at this level. The athlete must be balanced over the jump, with sympathetic hands and should present the horse / pony straight to each obstacle and in the middle.

- b. The tests should be planned so that the movements flow seamlessly from one to another.

Part 1 should flow seamlessly into Part 2 without halting, unless otherwise specified in the test.
- c. In these competitions, only Part 1 and Part 2 are ridden.
- d. No grading points are awarded in these competitions; however, Victor Ludorum points will be awarded on a Provincial Level.
- e. It may be at the discretion of the event organisers as to whether or not prize money should be paid, however rosettes should be given out as per rule 3.3.2.
- f. These competitions should be judged by a recognised judge on the Learner Panel or higher as defined in Appendix E and Section 5 of these rules.

4.6.2 NOVICE COMPETITIONS

- a. Definition:

The ability of the athlete and their influence over the horse / pony is judged. The athlete's position is above all BALANCED & FUNCTIONAL. The most effective position is invariably the most aesthetic. The athlete should

 - be balanced, with a correct seat.
 - have 'sympathetic', steady hands
 - be aware of the correct diagonal at trot and the correct lead leg at canter, both on the flat and over fences.
 - have basic control to ride upward and downward transitions
 - maintain the forward movement and to direct the horse / pony to perform the required movements.
 - know the correct aids and be able to apply them
 - be aware of correct bend on circles and show changes of bend on serpentines.

The judge would rather see an athlete with a good 'feel' and sympathetic hands, riding forwards with a positive outlook on a soft, elastic contact, than an athlete who hangs onto the horse / pony's mouth, possibly for security.

Jumps should be jumped from canter and the rider is expected to maintain a reasonably consistent pace and rhythm. Accuracy of stride is not demanded at this level. The athlete must be balanced over the jump, with sympathetic hands and should present the horse / pony straight to each obstacle and in the middle.
- b. The tests should be planned so that the movements flow seamlessly from one to another.

Part 1 should flow seamlessly into Part 2 without halting, unless otherwise specified in the test.
- c. No grading points are required in order to compete at this level. However, proof of competency of the horse / pony, at the relevant height of the jumping course is required.
- d. In these competitions, only Part 1 and Part 2 are ridden.

- e. Grading points, Victor Ludorum points and Rider Ranking points are awarded in these competitions, as per Appendix E.
- f. Prizes should be awarded as per rule 3.3.2.
- g. These competitions should be judged by a recognised judge on the Learner Panel or higher as defined in Section 5 of these rules.

4.6.3 INTERMEDIATE COMPETITIONS

a. Definition:

The ability of the athlete and their influence over the horse / pony is judged. The athlete's position is above all BALANCED & FUNCTIONAL. The most effective position is invariably the most aesthetic. The athlete should

- have 'sympathetic', steady hands
- ride on the correct diagonal at trot and the correct lead leg at canter, both on the flat and over fences.
- be able to ride smooth, accurate upward and downward transitions
- maintain the forward movement, with the horse / pony between hand and leg and with the correct bend.
- be able to ride movements on the flat without stirrups where required
- Judges shall look for a correct seat and application of the aids and control of the horse with maximum efficiency and minimum visible effort.
- The athlete should show correct bend on circles and changes of bend in figure 8 and serpentines.
- Movements on the flat should be ridden accurately and correctly
- Jumping exercises should be executed with accuracy, correct approach, correct landing, pace, effectiveness and style.
- In Part 2, judges shall look for the correct track and rhythm (remember this is a show-jumping round and should be ridden at the correct speed), as well as the ability of the athlete to maintain the correct positions and use the aids effectively, whilst keeping the horse under control between fences.
- The athlete should present the horse / pony straight to each obstacle and in the middle.
- If swapping in Part 3, judges shall look for the ability of the athlete to have assessed, and adjusted where necessary, to the new ride. The horse / pony should be taken into account whilst judging and compared to how it went for its own rider.

b. The tests should be planned so that the movements flow seamlessly from one to another.

Part 1 should flow seamlessly into Part 2 without halting, unless otherwise specified in the test.

c. No grading points are required in order to compete at this level. However, proof of competency of the horse / pony, at the relevant height of the jumping course is required.

- d. These competitions consist of a Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3.
- e. Athletes will swop horses / ponies for Part 3 at the discretion of the judges. This could be via a random draw or in the interests of safety, could be decided by the judges. If a draw is done and the athlete draws their own number, the number is returned and the athlete draws again.
- f. Grading points, Victor Ludorum points and Rider Ranking points are awarded in these competitions, as per Appendix E.
- g. Prizes should be awarded as per rule 3.3.2.
- h. These competitions should be judged by one or more recognised judges on the Provincial Panel or higher, as defined in Section 5 of these rules, and may be assisted by a Learner Judge.

4.6.4 OPEN COMPETITIONS

- a. Definition:
The ability of the athlete and their influence over the horse / pony is judged. The athlete's position is above all BALANCED & FUNCTIONAL. The most effective position is invariably the most aesthetic. The athlete should
 - be balanced
 - have 'sympathetic', steady hands
 - be able to ride smooth, accurate upward and downward transitions
 - maintain the forward movement, with the horse / pony between hand and leg, with the correct bend and on the bit.
 - be able to ride with one hand where required.
 - Judges shall look for a correct seat and application of the aids and control of the horse with maximum efficiency and minimum visible effort.
 - Movements on the flat should be ridden accurately, correctly and without stirrups.
 - The athlete should show correct bend on circles and changes of bend in figure 8 and serpentines.
 - all changes of canter lead should be ridden as a simple change through walk or by way of a flying change unless otherwise specified
 - Jumping exercises should be executed with accuracy, correct approach, correct landing, pace, effectiveness and style.
 - In Part 2, judges shall look for the correct track and rhythm (remember this is a show-jumping round and should be ridden at the correct speed), as well as the ability of the athlete to maintain the correct positions and use the aids effectively, whilst keeping the horse under control between fences.
 - The athlete should present the horse / pony straight to each obstacle and in the middle. Accuracy and competence is a key factor.
 - In Part 3, judges shall look for the ability of the athlete to have assessed, and adjusted where necessary, to the new ride. The horse / pony should be taken into account whilst judging and compared to how it went for its own athlete.

- In Part 4, judges will look for the ability of the athlete to have assessed, and adjusted where necessary, to the new ride. The horse / pony should be taken into account whilst judging, and compared to how it went for its own athlete, but will also compare the finalists as to which handled the horse better.
- b. The tests should be planned so that the movements flow seamlessly from one to another.
- Part 1 should flow seamlessly into Part 2 without halting, unless otherwise specified in the test.
- c. No grading points are required to compete at this level except at the SA Individual Championship. See rule 4.5.3. However, proof of competency of the horse / pony, at the relevant height of the jumping course is required.
- d. These competitions consist of a Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 and where required a Part 4.
- e. Athletes will swop horses / ponies for Part 3 via a random draw. If the athlete draws their own number, the number is returned and the athlete draws again.
- f. Athletes going through to Part 4 will ride the same mystery horse / pony.
- g. Grading points, Victor Ludorum points and Rider Ranking points are awarded in these competitions, as per Appendix E.
- h. Prizes should be awarded as per rule 3.3.2.
- i. These competitions should be judged by a minimum of two (2) judges, one of whom should be on the National Panel. No Learner judge may judge an open competition.
- j. A minimum of four (4) Open level competitions (including the Provincial Championship) should be held annually in each province.

SECTION 5 – JUDGES & OFFICIALS

5.1 JUDGES

Please also refer to the SAEQA Judge's Handbook for more details on the process for becoming a judge, including fast tracking of judges.

All judges from Candidate Panel to the National / Master Panel are encouraged to keep their activity sheet up-to-date.

Equitation judges are divided into five main panels:

1. Candidate Learner
2. Learner
3. Provincial
4. National
5. Master

5.1.1 CANDIDATE LEARNER JUDGES

- Candidate Learner Judges are not permitted to judge any competitions whilst on this panel.

- After filling in an application form and returning it to your provincial committee, the applicant's name will be added to the Candidate Learner Panel.
- All Candidate Learner judges must gain experience working in the official's office, carrying out the duties of announcing, scoring, spotting, assisting with the horse/pony swop, correlating mark sheets for collection by athletes, preparing judges' files, allocating numbers, etc.
- They are also encouraged to scribe for as many different judges as possible.
- Applicants may then apply to the Provincial Committee to sit the Learner Judge exam.
- On passing the Learner Judge exam, the candidates will be promoted to the Learner Judge Panel.

5.1.2 LEARNER JUDGES

- Learner Judges may only judge Novice level competitions and below alone.
- Learner Judges may judge Intermediate competitions if accompanied by a Judge on the Provincial C Panel or higher.
- Learner Judges are encouraged to 'sit in' with various judges to gain a well-rounded knowledge of terminology and experience on how the competition works.
You may not interrupt or question the judge at any time whilst they are judging, but may discuss the competition with them after its completion. Please request permission from both the judge and the Event Organiser before entering the arena. You must then stay for the entire competition.
- The Learner Candidate may be assessed as a 'Dummy' Judge from the side of the arena, where their marks won't count and they won't be required to display their scores.
- Learner Judges should be able to describe and set up a basic equitation course for all movements, as well as a basic gymnastic and should also know distances between combinations and related distances.
- Based on progress, a Learner Judge may be invited by the relevant Provincial Committee or may apply to the relevant Provincial Committee to write the Judge's examination.
This will include a practical assessment by a Senior Judge.
The written exam will be assessed by a Senior Judge or the SAEQA technical committee.
- On passing the examinations, they will be promoted to the Provincial C Panel.

5.1.3 PROVINCIAL JUDGES

- The Provincial Panel is divided into 3 levels - C, B and A.
- **Provincial C Panel** Judges may judge alone at Intermediate level and below. They may judge at Open level accompanied by a Judge on the Provincial A Panel or higher.
- **Provincial B Panel** Judges may judge alone at Intermediate level and below at SAEQA graded events and at SANESA Open level Regional Qualifying Shows. They may judge at SAEQA Open level accompanied by a Judge on the Provincial A Panel or higher.

- **Provincial A Panel** Judges may judge any competition below a Provincial Championship either alone or accompanied by another judge. They may judge at a Provincial Championship if accompanied by a National Judge.
- Promotion between the levels should be assessed by the relevant Provincial Committee, who will inform the SAEQA NEC of any promotions.
- Notwithstanding the above, any of the provincial committees may from time to time elect to promote / admit judges on to the various Provincial Panels via the RPL process. (Recognition of Prior Learning).

5.1.4 NATIONAL / MASTER JUDGES

- The National Panel is divided into 2 levels - National & Master Level.
- **National Panel** judges may judge any competition. They may judge the National Championship Individual and Team equitation event in each age category providing they are accompanied by a Master judge.
- **Master Panel** judges may judge any competition.
- National Judges are required to have judged either out of Province or at a Provincial or National Championship, SANESA events included, and to have attended seminars. Recommendations will be discussed and finalised at the SAEQA NEC meeting held annually.
- Should a judge who has come off the Master / National Panel wish to be re-instated, they may be recommended by their Provincial Chairman, provided that it is within a 2 year period, and that they have judged and been to seminars for at least one year prior to their re-instatement.
- It is recommended that all invitations to judge out of Province be directed through the relevant Provincial Committee Chairman, who should try to rotate their judges as much as possible.

It is recommended that judges wishing to remain on all National / Provincial panels be required to judge at a minimum of two events per year and attend seminars.

National Judges retire at the age of 70. However, retired judges may serve a further two periods of two years at the recommendation of their Provincial Body, and by the approval of the National Council.

5.2 SPOTTERS

A spotter is a judge who, during the competition, will note down any deductions incurred by the athletes and the reasons therefore, on the Spotter's Sheet.

- At CN status events and competitions, this must be a judge on the Provincial Panel or higher.
- At events below CN status, this could be a judge on the Learner Panel or higher.

5.3 COURSE DESIGNERS

- Any course designer on the Learner Panel of Course Designers or higher may build for any competition below Provincial status.
- Learner course designers may design and build, so long as their plans are signed off by someone on the National panel of Course Designers or higher.

They may have their log books signed off by the event organisers.

- c. All Provincial Championships must be designed by someone on the Provincial Course designer's panel or higher.

A learner course designer may assist the Provincial designer or build the courses designed by someone on the Provincial Course Designer's panel or higher.

- d. All National and International Championships and Events must be designed by someone on the National panel of Course designers or higher.

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