



## Dressage Tasmania All Abilities Program

### Aim

To encourage riders who may find standard dressage classes too challenging to participate and to encourage involvement in dressage in a supportive and inclusive environment.

This initiative may include:

- Riders who require more support than the current competitive structure allows
- Riders who may be eligible for Para or Virtus classification but do not wish to undertake that process at this time.

*Dressage Tasmania is currently seeking assistance from the Tasmanian Institute of Sport to make classification more accessible for athletes.*

### Guiding principle

The focus of All-Ability Dressage is participation, confidence, and correct basics, while maintaining fairness, consistency, and recognisable dressage standards across all tests.

### Rider eligibility

Riders must be current members of Dressage Tasmania or hold Equestrian Australia (EA) membership.

### Tests offered

#### 1. Preparatory Tests (2 tests)

- Riders may choose to walk the entire test, or
- Walk any trot movements if preferred.

Additional allowances:

- Horses may be led for safety, provided the:
  - rider maintains control of the reins
  - lead is attached to a well-fitted halter, not the bit, and
  - rider supplies their own leader (e.g. family member or coach).
- A caller may be used, and may not coach but provide more direction than is permitted under National EA rules.

#### 2. Preliminary Tests (2 tests)

- Horses must not be led.
- Riders may elect to trot any canter movements if preferred.
- A caller may be used, and may not coach but more direction may be provided than is permitted under National EA rules.



## Officials and support

Judges appointed to officiate All-Ability classes may be of any judging level.

Experience in RDA or Para dressage judging is advantageous but not essential.

Zones are encouraged to nominate a liaison person to be available at events to support riders and officials and to help build confidence in the class structure.

## Judging guide

All-Ability tests should be judged in a manner consistent with current Preparatory test judging principles.

Marks are to be awarded in accordance with the standard judging scale.

### **Pace Modifications**

If a rider elects to perform a movement at a pace below the required gait (e.g. walk instead of trot, or trot instead of canter), the:

- movement must remain recognisable
- horse should show no resistance
- correct figure must be demonstrated
- maximum mark awarded for that movement would be 5.

### **Led Horses (Preparatory Tests)**

Where a rider elects to be led scores will generally be lower than those of riders competing unassisted, provided the overall quality of the performance is otherwise comparable.

Enquiries may be made to [dressagetasmania@outlook.com](mailto:dressagetasmania@outlook.com)

A link to the EA National Dressage Rules and tests is [here](#)