



## New rules concerning gear check and how it will work at PRARG:

The new EA dressage rules commence 1.1.24. The below rule regarding gear check and the need for it to be DONE after your test is a new rule.

### Rule 4.4 Gear check:

- a) gear check is compulsory for each test and failure to have a gear check will entail elimination
- b) An Accredited Steward (or approved representative of the Steward) must be appointed to check the saddlery of each horse immediately after it leaves the arena. Any discrepancy will be reported to the Judge at C. The checking of the bridle must be done with the greatest caution, as some Horses are very sensitive about their mouths.**
- c) If the Steward discovers fresh blood in the Horse's mouth or in the area of the spurs during the check at the end of the test, they inform the Judge at C, who will eliminate the Horse and the Athlete
- d) If the Steward discovers fresh blood on other parts of the horse they inform the Judge at C.
- e) A visual check before leaving the last warm up arena may be conducted by the Stewards/marshall to prevent Athletes going into the field of play with any forbidden equipment. A visual check can be declined, as it is designed to help Athletes but is not compulsory. However, it remains the full responsibility of the Athlete not to enter with any forbidden piece of Saddlery.**

**Rule 6.4 Stewards:** A steward is a trained, accredited EA or FEI official. All official competitive events must have a minimum of one Level 1 Nationally accredited dressage steward or higher-level Steward appointed and recommended at other times.

### At the Gear Check Area: A trained Steward is responsible for:

- a) ensuring every consideration is given to avoid disturbing the harmony of the horse and rider
- b) checking each competitor off the draw
- c) assisting the ground jury by checking competition arenas set-up, safety, surface
- d) communicating with the Organising Committee
- e) guiding the rider on the legality of the saddlery, equipment and dress referred to in Section 5 and the current equipment annex
- f) checking the gear of each competitor for each test immediately after the test is completed
- g) ensuring that if the bit/bridle is in question, a bit check should be undertaken, illegal bits will entail elimination by the C Judge. • if bit inspection requires the removal of the bridle, a head collar/halter must be made available for this purpose or the horse can be taken to a safer environment such as a stable any removal of equipment must be done by the rider or their agent h) consulting with the TD or, in their absence, the Chief Judge, if doubt exists regarding any item of saddlery or other equipment.

A Marshal is a volunteer who is neither an EA-accredited Steward or non-accredited Candidate Steward who is appointed by an EA-accredited Steward or OC to assist with the management of riders and horses on the field of play to ensure the smooth running of an event.

### How it will flow at PRARG:

