

Dressage/Showjumping/Eventing (FEI Disciplines)

All three FEI Disciplines, Dressage, Showjumping and Eventing are Olympic Sports.

Dressage

Dressage is a French word that roughly translates as "training". Dressage is the basic training of all riding horses. Showjumpers, Show Hacks and Pleasure Horses will all benefit from dressage training - dressage training creates a horse that is more comfortable, safe and pleasurable to ride.

For those who have determination, patience and a love of horses, dressage offers many attractions. It entails the pursuit of perfection, with attention to detail being the basis for success.

Competitive Dressage

Competitive Dressage takes the form of a series of tests of ever-increasing difficulty. Each test is a rigorous routine of set gymnastic movements, which are performed with absolute exactness in front of judges. The sequence of movements is designed to show the suppleness, obedience and strength of the horse.

Australian National Tests are ridden from Preliminary to Advanced Level. The International Tests, issued by the FEI are executed at five levels, from Prix St Georges through to Grand Prix Special. Freestyle to Music is also part of the Dressage repertoire. In Freestyle tests, riders perform their own choreographed pattern of movements from a list of compulsory elements suitable for each level.

Showjumping

Showjumping is riding horses in competitions over set courses to demonstrate skill in jumping over obstacles. The discipline is a test of horsemanship and the horse's athletic ability. The discipline is a competitive sport consisting of many elements. The course is pre-arranged, the event may be timed and a judge or panel of judges scores. The horses are allowed a certain number of refusals to take a jump.

Eventing

Eventing is a three-part competition consisting of dressage, cross-country and showjumping. This discipline that is commonly seen as a 'triathlon of the equestrian world' has its roots as a comprehensive cavalry test requiring mastery of several types of riding. All three tests (dressage, cross-country and show jumping) can take place on the same day but, at the advanced levels, they are spread over two or three days. The willing temperament and athletic versatility of Australian Stock Horses proves they are a suitable breed for this discipline.

For more information contact the Equestrian Federation of Australia.