



The window for time penalties has been adjusted to discourage athletes from riding too fast in the Ev65 to Ev95 levels. In the previous rules, athletes could finish 45 seconds under the optimum time and would not receive any time penalties. Now, that window has been reduced to 20 seconds to put us in line with other eventing federations around the world. The reason for this change is to encourage safer riding amongst athletes and horses.

Time penalties for riding too fast are awarded at 1 penalty per second. Time penalties for finishing after the optimum time are awarded at 0,4 penalties per second.

Here are some examples if the optimum time is 5:00:

- an athlete who finishes in 5:15 will be 15 seconds over the optimum time and will get $0,4 \times 15 = 6$ penalties
- an athlete who finishes in 4:54 is 6 seconds under the optimum time and will not be penalised
- an athlete who finishes in 4:40 is 20 seconds under the optimum time and will not be penalised
- an athlete who finishes in 4:31 is 29 seconds under the optimum time, 9 seconds more than the 20 seconds allowed, and so will get 9 penalties
- an athlete who finishes in 4:00 is 60 seconds under the optimum time, 40 seconds more than the 20 seconds allowed, and so will get 40 penalties

The new rules are available on the ESA website: <https://web.eventingsa.co.za/esa/eventing-rules/>



Like the FEI, Eventing SA now has Athlete Categorisation to allow our more experienced athletes the privilege of upgrading a talented horse slightly quicker. Categorisation works by looking at the number of MERs you have at different levels over the last four years. The more MERs at higher levels you have, the better your categorisation will be and the quicker you will be able to progress with a new horse.

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Minimum Eligibility Requirements have changed to require athletes to qualify for different levels on a specific horse as a combination. Athletes will not simply be able to buy a going horse and begin competing at their highest grades without first demonstrating that they are competent at lower, safer levels first.

To allow experienced athletes to progress faster, Athlete Categorisation will recognise competent athletes and afford them the privileges of progressing faster than inexperienced athletes.

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ESA is introducing its own dressage tests designed specifically for Eventing to better align with the skills that are expected of Eventing horses rather than a horse who is focused only on dressage.

Ev65 and Ev75 classes, along with all Pony Rider classes, now will ride their tests in a 20m x 40m (pony-sized) arena. Ev85 and Ev95 tests will still be ridden in a 20m x 60m arena.

The new dressage tests are available on the ESA website:
<https://web.eventingsa.co.za/esa/dsa-tests/>



Athletes in 2* and up who get 20 penalties or more in Show Jumping, excluding time penalties, will be eliminated and are not allowed to compete in the Cross Country Test under any circumstances. The T.D. may not grant permission for you to compete in the Cross Country Test, even H.C., for your own safety. This only applies to short-format competitions where the Show Jumping Test is before the Cross Country Test.

The new rules are available on the ESA website: <https://web.eventingsa.co.za/esa/eventing-rules/>



The course length and number of jumps in the Ev95 level has been reduced to bring it in line with the progression from Ev85 to 1* level. Technical Delegates and Course Designers should consult the table of dimensions for further information.

The new rules are available on the ESA website: <https://web.eventingsa.co.za/esa/eventing-rules/>