

Summary of Changes to 2026 ANWE Rulebook

Section	Summary of change
Preface Page 1	The ANWEL Rule Book will automatically align with any changes to obstacle requirements in the WAVE rulebook for Consagrados 2, Consagrados 1 and Masters.
Removal of Training and Competitor level descriptors	
Glossary	Removal of transition markers Expanded definition and use of entrance and exit markers Definition of fall Definition of levels
Organisers	
3.10	The Organising Committee must send a full written description (within 14 days) of the situation to the Technical Sub-Committee so that a rule may be considered for the next Rule Book edition.
3.17 Time between phases	Recommended time between phases for individual horse/rider combinations is to be a minimum of 15 minutes .
Judges	
4.2 Course walk Also see 14.20	Judges are not required to course walk with riders. They can be available for questions.
Riders	
6.3 6.4 6.5 Helmet requirements U18	<p>Protective headgear must conform with one of the current approved safety standards outlined below. See Tack and Attire.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the rider to ensure they are using a current standard safety helmet. Helmets must conform to EA approved standards. It is recommended that helmets be tagged for ease of identification of helmet compliance to gear check stewards.</p> <p>Wearing a non-certified helmet is cause for elimination.</p>
6.7 Riders with restricted movement	<p>Riders with restricted movement, preventing correct execution of an obstacle must provide a medical certificate to the Organising Committee at the time of entry. It is the rider's responsibility to present their certificate to the relevant Judge if required. The supporting document should be available on the day. It is at the discretion of the Organising Committee to adjust the course to accommodate requests.</p> <p>Reference to para riders removed.</p>

Tack and Attire	
7.4 Helmet Requirements	Riders participating in competitions or events of ANWEL or its affiliated States and Clubs are strongly recommended to wear an approved safety helmet with the chin strap fastened. All safety helmets are to conform with Equestrian Australia standards. It's recommended that helmets are tagged for ease of identification of helmet compliance to gear check stewards. Wearing a non-certified helmet is cause for elimination
7.11 Shank measurement	Shanks measurement changed to 12cm, in line with WAVE
7.17 Nose nets	Nose nets are permitted to be used in competitions and warmup with a supporting letter from the horse's usual veterinarian. Use of a nose net is to be declared at the time of entry and the supporting letter be available on the day of the competition.
7.20 Fly masks	Fly masks are not permitted in the competition phases unless a supporting letter from the horse's usual veterinarian is provided for the use of the equipment. Use of a fly mask is to be declared at the time of entry and the supporting letter be available on the day of the event.
Scoring	
8.1 and 8.3 Scores	Redefinition of score 0 to allow for the pass system for Levels 1 and 2.
8.9.4 / 8.9.5 Placing for championships	Rules on placings for eliminated riders and those who request a pass so they cannot place above a rider who has completed all phases.
8.10.6 Teams	Teams may be made up of riders from L1-L8 except where there is a cattle phase it will be L2 – L8.
9.2 9.3 Protests	Protests may only concern matters of protocol, procedure or administration. Judging decisions made in the Dressage, EOH, Speed or Cattle phases are considered final and are not open to protest. All protests must be submitted in writing within one hour of the publication of the results of the relevant phase. A fee of \$100 must accompany the protest and will be refunded in full if the protest is upheld.

10 Levels	
Introductory 10.1.4 (L1) 10.2.6 (L2) 10.3.4 (L3)	A soft elastic connection is established between the rider's hand and the bridle. The horse's position while maintaining this contact will vary according to the level of training. The horse must go actively forward without hurrying within this frame. Change in definition wording.
10.1.8 / 10.2.10	Double Bridles, Pelhams, curb or shank bits are not permitted
10.1.15 10.2.12 PASS	Requesting a Pass on an Obstacle for L1 - if a rider has two refusals at an obstacle, they may make a request to the Judge to bypass the obstacle and will receive a score of 0 for that obstacle. Riders may only bypass up to two obstacles in a course after two refusals at each obstacle. Elimination will occur if the rider attempts to bypass a third obstacle or after three refusals on a third obstacle. The rider must clearly signal to the Judge their intention to bypass an obstacle after two refusals by calling "Pass!" and raising their hand to alert the judge. The Judge will acknowledge that they have heard and the rider can continue the course. A rider with a score of 0 on any obstacle cannot place above a rider who has not bypassed any obstacles in either the phase or the overall placings.
10.1.16 10.2.13	The Garrocha Pick Up and Deposit cannot be passed.
10.1.17 10.2.14	Rule 10.1.15 does NOT apply to State and National competitions.
Levels 4,5,6,7,8	Removal of reference to trot steps linked to marks
10.7.8 10.8.9 One handed riding	Using two hands on the reins (apart from a momentary adjustment) or use of the right hand to correct the horse or apply any pressure to the bit while adjusting the reins, will incur elimination.
Eliminations 12.1.13	Using two hands on the reins at L7 or L8 (apart from a momentary adjustment of the reins) or use of the right hand to correct the horse or apply any pressure to the bit while adjusting the reins
10.7.10 / 10.8.11	Double bridles are allowed, but the rein of the snaffle bit has to be loose on the neck of the horse.

EOH Phase	
14.7 Obstacles used twice in the course 14.23	If any part of the obstacle is knocked down during the execution of that obstacle which needs to be executed again later in the course it should be replaced by a course steward before it is to be completed again.
14.18 Definition of completing an obstacle	In order for an obstacle to be successfully performed a rider must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ pass between the two entrance markers ○ perform the technical manoeuvre required by the obstacle ○ pass between the two exit markers
14.23.6 14.24.2 and 3 Elimination for refusal	Three refusals on any one obstacle (a horse may have two refusals on all obstacles on course) with the exception of L1 and L2 (refer 10.1.15 and 10.2.12) This last sentence is added to the rules listed
14.25 Definition of an error and how to correct it	Errors in the performance of an obstacle can be corrected prior to commencing the next obstacle. The rider MUST re-present to the obstacle and restart the pattern from the beginning. For instance, if an incorrect pattern is performed on the three barrels the rider may restart the whole obstacle (and will incur a lower score). However, if the rider commences the next obstacle before the correction is made, they will be eliminated. This does not apply to the sidepass pole obstacle.
<p>Obstacles</p> <p>All obstacles have the following sections</p> <p>Specifications – which describe the obstacle and includes measurements and requirements</p> <p>Criteria – which describe how the obstacle is to be performed</p> <p>Aspects to perform and judge – which describe how to maximise marks and what the judges are looking for</p> <p>Severe mistakes – which describe what to avoid doing</p> <p>While they will all look somewhat different, much of this information is not new and I will only highlight what is new here.</p>	

15.2 Use of entrance and exit markers	<p>Obstacles may include entrance and/or exit markers which can indicate a change of gait or the start and finish of an individual obstacle.</p> <p>There are no longer Transition markers on any obstacles.</p>
15.2.1 Use of entrance and exit markers	<p>When the entrance and exit markers indicate where a transition is to be made, they should be placed approximately 1 metre out from the obstacle unless otherwise indicated. The downward transition should be completed before the horse's nose crosses the line between the entrance markers. The upward transition should occur as the horse's tail passes the line between the exit markers.</p>
15.2.2 Use of entrance and exit markers	<p>The following obstacles must have red and white markers to indicate the entrance and exit, the direction of the obstacle and/or where the transitions should be performed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge • Single Slalom • Double Slalom • Jug • Side Pass Pole • Water Filled Ditch • Bank.
15.3	<p>.....they will incur a lower score.</p> <p>Reference to specific marks for errors have been removed throughout the book and may have been replaced by this phrase.</p>
Gaits required 15.8.4 Clarification of FC in L4	<p>L4 - Canter with walk changes. Flying changes between obstacles are permitted but will not be awarded a higher collective score. Incorrect flying changes will be penalised. Flying changes within an obstacle will be penalised.</p>
15.9 Two Barrels	<p>Expansion of this obstacle to include detailed information on how to perform and judge the rein back between barrels</p>
15.10 Three Barrels	<p>This obstacle must be performed with the first barrel on the right.</p>
15.11 Bell Corridor	<p>Slight change to the height of the corridor</p> <p>L4-8 may walk or canter inside the corridor</p>
15.12 Bridge	<p>Entrance and Exit markers <u>must</u> be used in the EOH phase (1m on entrance and 1m on exit).</p>

Speed (Bridge)	<p>L4 and below anything other than walk will incur a 30 second penalty. Deliberate trot steps (i.e. diagonal pairs of legs with a moment of suspension) or canter will incur elimination.</p> <p>L5 and above may walk, trot or canter over the bridge. If a horse jumps over the bridge without touching with at least one hoof this will incur elimination.</p>
15.13 Garrocha pick up 15.14 Ring 15.15 Garrocha Deposit	<p>L1 and L2 – garrocha can be between 1.8 and 4m</p> <p>Expanded information on the canter leads for L4-8 (it should be right lead and the horse should not change leads while performing the obstacle) and emphasis on a straight line to remove / deposit the pole.</p> <p>This is the same for spearing the ring and garrocha deposit.</p>
15.16 Gate	Clarification of the transition to walk – 3-5m before the gate and the departure should be perpendicular to the gate.
15.17 Jug	Clarification of right lead canter to approach the jug for L4-8
15.19 Rein back obstacle with cup	L4-8 the cup can be replaced in movement or at halt.
15.20 Parallel post rein back with cup	<p>L4-8 the cup can be replaced in movement or at halt.</p> <p>Only the first and last pairs of posts have to be replaced if knocked down.</p>
15.21 Switch Cup	No changes to the execution of the obstacle, the criteria has been rewritten.
15.22 Moving Cup	<p>This was a variation of the Switch Cup and now has been given its own category.</p> <p>A minimum distance of 10 m between posts.</p>
15.23 Side pass pole	<p>If two poles are used, they can have an angle of 90 degrees or are placed in a straight line with a minimum space of 6m between them. If the poles are placed parallel a minimum of 4m must be between them.</p> <p>This obstacle is to be performed at walk for L1 to L5. Riders in L6 to L8 can choose to walk or canter.</p> <p>If the horse leaves the pole with all four feet by stepping forward or backwards the rider should restart the obstacle from at least the point at which the mistake happened. Rule 14.24 does not apply in this instance.</p> <p>If one of the horse's legs steps to other side of the pole, this will add a 5 second penalty.</p> <p>Knocking the pole off its supports will add a 5 second penalty.</p>

Speed	This obstacle is not to be used in Speed for L2.
15.24 Single Slalom	Distance of posts for L1-L5 is 8m. Information on judging in the APJ - L5 and above - if the rider uses the same number of strides between the flying changes, a higher mark will be given. Change in the preferred lines for all levels
15.25 Double Slalom	Distance of posts for L1-L5 is 8m. Change in the preferred lines for L5 and below
15.26 Stockpen Change in size of pen for L1-5 Change in gaits required for the levels	L1-L5 - 8m diameter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ L1 – L2 should walk inside the pen, walk a half circle/turn on the haunches and re-enter in walk in the opposite direction. ○ L3 - L4 may walk or canter inside the stock pen, perform a half pirouette/half circle at walk, then re-enter in walk or canter perpendicular to the entrance and in the opposite direction. ○ L5 – L8 may walk or canter inside the pen, perform a half pirouette/half turn followed by a flying change before re-entering perpendicular to the entrance and in the opposite direction. If the obstacle is performed at walk, the outside part of the pen must be performed at canter
Australian Obstacles Removal of Varied Footing Obstacle and the Dismount / Remount Obstacle.	
Oilskin 15.29 15.30	The Oilskin obstacle has been separated out into a Oilskin Pick up and Oilskin Deposit with some expansion of the criteria.
Speed phase	
16.3	The Side Pass Pole must not be used for speed for L2
Bridge 16.3.10 / 16.4.2	As discussed above, expanded definition of trot steps on the Bridge so that only deliberate trot or canter will incur elimination

Penalties	Side pass pole - One of the horse's legs steps to the other side of the pole.
16.5.3	Knocking down any part of an obstacle while performing that obstacle or knocking down a dead obstacle.
16.5.4	
Cattle Phase	
This section has been reordered and only the aspects that have changed will be highlighted.	
17.4 Arena surface	Sand no longer specified – it has to be suitable surface and depth for cattle
17.7 Number of Head of cattle in containment zone	The containment zone should contain a maximum of ten to twelve head of cattle plus one clean skin at any one time as determined by the Organising Committee. Each beast will be numbered or marked in a suitable manner (tagged, paint or collars) to be easily identified except for the clean skin. The containment zone must have equal number in the herd for all teams.
17.10.1 Cattle teams	Teams may be made up of riders from L2-L8 ... they may wear numbers 1-4
17.14.1 / 17.15.4 5 head leaving Containment Zone at any one time	A penalty of 10 seconds is added whenever a beast, other than the one being separated, leaves the containment zone. More than five head, other than selected beast, leaving the containment zone at any one time will incur elimination.
17.15.11 Elimination	Horse bucking or rearing. The horse is required to leave the arena.
Grading	
Removal of the distinction between Training Levels and Competitive Levels.	
18.3.4 18.4.1	Riders will apply to their State Committee to move down a level or downgrade a horse.
18.5	Results to ANWEL Secretary within 7 days
18.5.3	Horse of the Year Competitions for Club, State and National Horse of the Year Competitions should include all levels.
The rule change submission process information will be moved to the ANWEL website	
The Bosal fitting information will be moved to the Gear Checker's Manual.	

Transitions mark

The EOH score sheet will no longer have a mark for Navigation. This has been replaced by a score for **Transitions**.

This has implications for judges, paying particular attention to correct, balanced and well ridden transitions throughout the EOH round.

		ANWE		%: _____ Place _____
Rider: _____		class		
Horse: _____				
	JUDGE 1 2	Max Marks	Judge Mark	Comments
1		10		
2		10		
3		10		
4		10		
5		10		
6		10		
7		10		
8		10		
9		10		
10		10		
11		10		
12		10		
13		10		
14		10		
15		10		
SUB TOTAL OBSTACLES		150	0	
NOTES FOR COURSE				
DIRECTIVE		SCORE		
A	Transitions	10		
OVERALL IMPRESSION				
DIRECTIVE		SCORE		
B	Paces	10		
C	Impulsion	10		
D	Submission	10		
E	Rider	10		
SUB TOTAL COLLECTIVES		50	0	
TOTAL MARKS		200	0	
FINAL MARK			0	JUDGE:
PERCENTAGE			0	SIGNATURE:

In the Speed phase, the new Speed score sheet will be used.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL WORKING EQUITATION																			
SPEED TRIAL				Penalties and Bonuses															
Class	#	Rider	Horse	Time	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Final Time	Points
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All of these documents will be sent out when the 2026 Rulebook is published.