

Please see below email from DSA. Please address all queries directly to the DSA.

On 20 December the Gauteng Dressage Council sent out an email (and posted on FB) a communication which indicated that we were aware that our members needed clarity on three topics namely:

1. Parity on membership fees (and the 2018 fees)
2. Proposed Horse de-registration
3. The introduction of Recreational rider fees

We've addressed both 1 & 3 but as a recap:

1. Parity on membership fees (and the 2018 fees)

The 2018 membership fees were set in order to strike a balance between affordability to members and the revenue DSA requires to administrate and make a meaningful contribution to the sport.

Furthermore, the objectives of DSA as set out in section 6 of the constitution (please see attached), obliges an organisation to carry out several weighty responsibilities which, with very low funding becomes almost impossible to achieve in a meaningful fashion.

There has been a three-year project to bring all provinces in line with each other from a basic membership fee perspective, and DSA advised that this would be complete by 2019. The intention remains to continue to offer support to our smaller areas and DSA remains open to communication on how we can achieve these objectives.

## 2. Proposed Horse de-registration:

We are currently in discussion with the DSA on this topic and will revert once we've had further clarity.

## 3. Recreational fees:

DSA has an ongoing mandate to grow our sport as much as possible - the introduction of recreational riders during 2017 was as a result of that imperative, and it has seen a dramatic increase in numbers at that level. Now, by increasing the level of input these riders will now receive (predominantly in the form of their results being captured and now having access to the insurance which ALL registered DSA members are covered by), this will mean they can move into the category of competitive rider when the time is right for each of them.

Its also not feasible for competitive members to subsidise recreational members as the numbers of recreational members participating in shows has grown enormously thereby affecting the finances of the Show Holding Bodies, the province as well as the National budget. In addition, the insurance burden for recreational members can no longer be shouldered by other paying members. DSA are required to insure all members (recreational and competitive) and, by introducing a nominal Recreational Rider subscription fee this takes the burden off the competitive riders and in lieu of the fee introduced, athletes will now have their records kept on the system.

If a Recreational Rider chooses to move over to a competitive member within a year, all their records will be converted to graded points.

For information purposes, we have added the [member fee document](#), including all descriptions for the different types of memberships available, to this communication.

Here's wishing you all a very happy New Year. With best wishes from the  
Gauteng Dressage Council