



Protocol for Judges

A dressage event is a joint effort between organisers, competitors & judges and all deserve to be treated with equal respect & courtesy

Impartiality

All riders should be greeted & treated in the same way – first names for none or for all

Accepting Invitations

- Check details that are important to you & advise organisers of your requirements at the time of first contact
- Be definite about your expectations. This does not include continually judging at only your highest level of accreditation

Conflict of Interest

Judges must declare their interest in any close relatives or in a person or horse who may enter that they have

- Trained
- Owned/part-owned
- Had any other business interest in

Even if the competitor competes HC, a judge with a conflict of interest should not officiate for that competition

Contacts with Organisers

- Ask for a contact name, phone number & email address, & request that details be confirmed in writing within the fortnight
- Follow up 2 weeks prior to the competition if arrangements have not already been confirmed
- Have the organiser's mobile phone number in case of a delay
- Advise the organisers prior to the day if you are bringing your own writer (penciller)

Long Distances

- Make sure the organisers are aware of the distance you must travel
- If there will be more than a 2-hour drive to the venue, the judge has the right to ask for accommodation to be provided the night before (or the night after).

Draw

Make sure you receive the draw when the competitors do – you then have an opportunity to request adjustments prior to the day

The draw must indicate:

- Breaks – 15 mins every 15 horses
- No more than 40 horses per judge per day
- No more than 35 horses in one competition
- Names of judge/s for each competition where possible

Breaking A Judging Commitment

- Let the organisers know of any unavoidable changes to your availability as soon as possible
- Your commitment to judge is paramount & should only be broken if circumstances beyond your control intervene
- Should such circumstances arise, try to provide organisers with the name of a replacement who is willing to take your place



Dress Code

Your dress should be at least 'smart casual' - a matter of respect for all involved in the event

Arrival

- Arrive at the venue 30 minutes before starting time
- Let the organisers know you are there
- Have your rule book with you
- Advise the organisers if you require a car
- Inspect the arena, make any adjustments needed
- Park the car well before starting time
- Check operation of horn, windscreen wipers, automatic windows etc

Judging

Brief your writer (penciller) prior to the first test about the way you will give marks & comments

A Quiet, Private Space

Judges should be provided with a quiet, private space away from the scoreboard and spectators. Judges can confer there, as colleagues. Judges should be given access to a duplicate copy of the full result sheet and individual judge's marks and sheets for their perusal.

Where riders and judges confer, it should be in a quiet space and the rider should bring the relevant test sheet with them.

All Judges Must Remain 30 Minutes after Scores Are Posted

This time can be put to good use:

- Sitting in a quiet area with fellow judges, discussing the splits (see the organisers beforehand and ask them to provide a copy for judges), & evaluating your judging performance
- Reviewing scores with the Chief Judge before the scoreboard copy is signed. This ensures the correct results are posted
- Allowing riders to speak to judges about their tests – constructive feedback can be useful for both parties

Scoreboard

- It is recommended judges do not attend the scoreboard during the break
- It is recommended never to have discussions about judging near the scoreboard.

Inappropriate Behaviour

Judges should treat others with respect and expect the same from competitors & their supporters. Raised voices, smirking, sarcasm, belittling comments, intimidating body language and other bullying are not acceptable and should be reported to the Organising Committee

