



DRESSAGE JUDGES CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

OVERVIEW

This Code of Conduct applies to Dressage Judges at all times when attending or judging at competitions. This document should be read in conjunction with the current General Regulations for Dressage as well as the Rules of Dressage as amended from time to time by Dressage SA as well as the FEI Code of Conduct.

1. PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR

The overall effectiveness of judges depends not only on their technical competence and knowledge of the rules, but also on their maturity of judgement, self-control, flexibility and basic fairness and integrity. The following points should be borne in mind:

- 1.1. Judges should act with integrity and always put the sport and the horse's welfare first.
- 1.2. Judges should be open and honest, objective, fair and unbiased.
- 1.3. Judges should always conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner when acting in any official capacity.
- 1.4. When at a show or acting in an official capacity, judges should be considerate and respectful to other judges, competitors and show officials.
- 1.5. Your opinion and comments on any of the combinations you have judged should be heard only by your scribe and/or any person(s) invited to sit in with you, and shared only with the competitor in question.
- 1.6. Avoid gossiping with your scribe about competitors. Be careful not to discuss particular tests with anyone else and do not voice opinions to individual prize winners on their performance during prize giving presentations. If you wish to say something, keep it to a short "Well done" or similar positive words.
- 1.7. Be discreet and loyal to your fellow Judges at all times.
- 1.8. Judges should be smartly and neatly dressed when judging whether it be Affiliated or non-affiliated venues.
- 1.9. Judges should under no circumstances smoke in the judge's box or during prize giving.
- 1.10. Judges should also under no circumstances drink alcohol before or during judging.
- 1.11. Switch off your cell phone before judging and ensure that your scribe has switched off his/hers.

2. APPOINTMENT, SUSPENSION AND REMOVAL

2.1. The Provincial Dressage Judges Sub-Committee is responsible for:

- 2.1.1. The recruitment appointment, training, development and promotion of dressage judges up to and including Provincial List 2.
- 2.1.2. The recommendation to Dressage SA Judges sub-committee for promotions to National Candidate and above by way of a resolution passed by the sub-committee in this regard.
- 2.1.3. The suspension and removal of Provincial List 2 and below judges from the panel, and liaising with the provincial Dressage Chairman in this connection by way of a resolution passed by the sub-committee in this regard.
- 2.1.4. Liaison with the Provincial Disciplinary Committee in cases where disciplinary procedures should be followed.

2.2. The Dressage SA National Judges Sub-Committee is responsible for:

- 2.2.1. The recruitment appointment, training, development and promotion of dressage judges up to and including all National List 1 and 2.
- 2.2.2. The consideration of all recommendation from Provincial Judges sub-committee for consideration of Judges to National Panel and should they concur with the recommendation, the notification to the President of Dressage SA by way of a resolution passed by this sub-committee in this regard.
- 2.2.3. The suspension and removal of National List 1 and National List 2 judges from the panel, and liaising with the provincial Dressage Chairman in this connection by way of a resolution passed by this sub-committee in this regard.
- 2.2.4. Liaison with the DSA disciplinary committee in cases where disciplinary procedures should be followed.

2.3. The effective date of any appointment or promotion will be the date of a letter signed by the President or Vice President of Dressage SA confirming the appointment or promotion which shall be done without any reasonable delay after receiving the resolutions as quoted in 2.1.2 or 2.2.2 above.

3. JUDGES MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE PANEL, OR DEMOTED TO A LOWER PANEL:

- 3.1. If the judge is in serious or repeated breach of this Code of Conduct.
- 3.2. If they are not seen to be actively judging at their level at Affiliated Venues. As a guideline, judges must judge at their level a minimum of 3 preferably 4 times at Affiliated venues within a calendar year and attend a minimum of one seminar per year.
 - 3.2.1. It is the responsibility of the judge to keep their own activity sheet up to date with their judging assignments and this activity sheet should be available to the Dressage Judges Sub-Committee at any time requested.
- 3.3. If they are seen as repeatedly turning down requests to judge at Affiliated events in



preference to SANEESA or Non-Affiliated events.

- 3.4. If the judge commits any act of dishonesty or criminal offence or is heard to use foul language at any time on the show grounds.
- 3.5. If the judge brings dressage into any form of disrepute.

4. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES

- 4.1. Reply promptly to judging invitations.
- 4.2. All judges must be prepared to accept judging commitments at the lower levels, also Juniors and Pony Riders from time to time, as it is essential that the lower grades get the benefit of the more senior judges.
- 4.3. Make sure you have with you the show venue's or show organiser's telephone number in case you are unavoidably delayed in travelling to your judging assignment (e.g. traffic holds ups, etc).
- 4.4. Ensure that you know the appropriate test(s) and Rules.
- 4.5. Make sure that you have downloaded a copy of the Rule Book and that you have this with you and a copy of the test(s) that you will be judging.
- 4.6. Arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the class and report to the Show Director.
- 4.7. Inspect the arena, check the going and the positioning of the letters.
- 4.8. Be courteous to your scribe and ascertain her level of experience.
- 4.9. Ensure that your comments are succinct and precise and do not overburden your scribe unnecessarily.
- 4.10. Keep to the riding times
- 4.11. If you are judging with another judge or panel of judges, be prepared to discuss the judging results afterwards in private.
- 4.12. Once you have accepted a judging assignment it is an obligation to take this responsibility seriously and ensure that you keep to your commitment. If by any chance you are not able to fulfil a judging commitment one week before the date of the show, it is up to you to do everything possible to assist the organisers to find a replacement.

5. OUT OF PROVINCE/OUT OF COUNTRY JUDGING

All National judges should obtain permission from the Dressage SA Judges Sub-Committee, and all Provincial A Judges and below should obtain permission from the Provincial Dressage Judges Sub-Committee in the following circumstances:

- 5.1. If they are requested to judge out of province.
- 5.2. If they are requested to judge one level higher than they are currently entitled to judge (e.g. at Inter-Schools Events, or at other non-affiliated events where a judge at the



correct level cannot be obtained). In such circumstance, the competitors will not receive grading points.

- 5.3. All Judges at whatever level should obtain permission from Dressage SA, in connection with requests to judge out of country. Judges below Provincial List 2 are not allowed to judge out of country under any circumstances.

President (D Smith)

Vice-President (S Horne)

Acceptance Date