



International Eventing Officials Club

Newsletter June 2002

Some "extracts" from the latest edition of the International Dressage Club's Newsletter.

1. Judge's Training:

The IDJC are introducing a new system for training their judges.

- On the first day there will be theory
- The second day they will use 'headsets'
- The third day will consist of 'shadow judging, followed by discussion.

This system has lots of advantages, in that more people can attend the seminars, and those who do not fulfil the 'criteria' can attend the seminar, without doing the examination.

The aim is to promote the 'more talented', more rapidly.

2. Conflict of Interest:

The judge can only train a rider / horse combination for three days in any one year. Any more training than this will mean that the judge **cannot** judge that combination at all. Some judges have been teaching, even in the 'warm-up' arena – **from January 2003 the FEI will become much stricter.**

This point needs to be handled carefully and seriously.

- International judges have to be independent, and it's not possible to train and / or 'deal' and the next weekend, to judge the same people.
- Judges are 'experts' and are often invited to give clinics.
- In future they will have to bear in mind whether this could also lead to a conflict of interest.
- In 2003, for a six-month period before an event there should be **no** training at all, so this should be considered **now**.
- This is extremely important for the **status and independence** of the judges.
- This rule will apply, whether or not there was any payment for the lesson.

3. Seminars:

International Eventing Officials Club

- A Seminar for “O” judges [only] has been created, and will be held at a national show in Germany, in November 2002.
- Other seminars will be for “I”’s, and then others for Candidate judges and Nationals.
- It’s important for “O” judges to know what is ‘wanted’ from each other practically – in theory and in behaviour.
- It’s necessary to work from the base to the top, and indeed from the top to the base, to make the judges strong.
- It is considered to be of great importance that all FEI judges are able to **speak, read and write, either English or French [the 2 official FEI languages]**. This is essential from a communication point of view, and this rule should be ‘strictly’ applied.
- From 1st January 2003, FEI Judges who have not judged for a period of three years, or attended a judge’s course in the past three years, will be removed from the list of International Judges.
- Wherever possible there should be two Course Directors to conduct FEI Judges Courses – preferably one of these should be ‘local’ to save costs.

4. Centre Line:

- There has been some discussion about the centre line.
- With many of the ‘new’ arenas [surfaces] it’s very difficult to see a centre line.
- It was agreed that in 2003 a centre line would still be required.
- However, there would be **no** cross lines.

5. Payment of judges:

- The judges are still asking to have a ‘per diem’ officially recognised.
- It’s suggested that it should be 100 Euros or 100 US\$ per day

6. Scores:

- From 2003 the scores will be shown **only** in percentages
- This makes it easier for the ‘lay person’ to understand, and therefore to promote the sport.

7. Judging Opportunities:

International Eventing Officials Club

- The International Dressage Judges Club is fighting for opportunities for the less experienced judge, and is asking their members to contact them to ask for judging possibilities.
- The IDJC will then ask organisers to identify possible ‘opportunities’.
- Usually such organisers say that they can come, but only if they ‘pay their own way’.
- If the judge agrees, then the IDJC will go back to the organiser, and the judge should contact the organisers, directly.
- **The IDJC is therefore bringing the judges and organisers into contact.**
- The club will help everybody, from the weak and strong countries.
- Everybody should feel responsible for giving the less experienced judges an opportunity.
- It’s extremely important that when judges from ‘developing’ regions are appointed for Championships, they should be given the opportunity to judge International events, prior to the Championships, so that they can obtain the practice necessary to function as they should.
- The Committee confirmed that once a judge is **over 70 years of age**, they are not permitted to judge at FEI competitions. They may only officiate as a member of the Appeal Committee.

8. Judging Problems [as in Ice Skating]:

- Apparently in Ice Skating, judges have been nominated and indeed ‘paid’ by their National Federation.
- There is a worry that this ‘current debate’ on judging at the Olympics, might affect ‘dressage’, or indeed any sports that are ‘subjective’.
- It was pointed out that the Dressage judges have to ‘minimise’ any ‘subjective’ tendencies.
- They must stay as close as possible to the rules.
- Above all they must be **“honest”**.
- So, judges need to be ‘strong characters’.
- They must have a ‘good eye’.
- They also need ‘good knowledge’.
- **If they are strong – they don’t weaken under pressure.**

9. Rule Modification: [FEI Dressage Rules] **Article 429.2**

International Eventing Officials Club

- **Publicity on dressage arenas.**
- If publicity is applied on the arena fence, it may be in black or white only.
- **With the exception of A, at least 1.5 m must be left free of advertising, on each side of the arena letters.**
- The short side of MCH must be **completely free** of advertising.
- **There must be at least 3m free of advertising on either side of B and E.**
- A maximum of 44m of advertising on the arena is accordingly permitted.
- **The advertising must be positioned in a regular manner, and each long side should reflect the other, exactly.**
- The height of the sponsor brand / logo should not exceed 20cm and the advertising must be fixed level with the top of the arena fence.
- **Publicity may only be placed on the inside of the arena fence,.**
- Any requirements in terms of agreements between the FEI and television broadcasters, as may be in force, must be respected.
- **Any publicity applied on the arena fence must be previously approved by the Foreign Judge / Foreign Technical delegate.**

Bits:

- The Committee confirmed that 'plastic' bits would continue to be accepted, and that they would be included in the 'rules revision' that will come into effect on 1st January 2003.