

17. Dressage training programmes for an eventing judge, United States Eventing Association

By Marilyn Payne, USA

Becoming a 'licensed' Eventing judge in the United States involves a rigorous commitment that involves a series of training programs covering dressage, cross-country, jumping and course design. This article focuses on the dressage training programs for "r" (Recorded) and "R" (Registered) Eventing judges, which are designed for individuals who are not already licensed Dressage judges. An "r" judge may officiate at Novice, Training and Preliminary levels, while an "R" judge may officiate through Advanced. To become an FEI Eventing Judge, the applicant must be an "R" Eventing judge.

Eligibility for Training

To become a candidate for "r" training, the individual must have either ridden two horses, trained two horses, or coached two students who have completed four or more horse trials at the Preliminary Level or higher. The person must also have been an active member of an organizing committee, preferably serving as the director or secretary, and have worked as a scorer, timer or fence judge.

To move up from "r" to "R", the candidate must have a current license as an "r" Eventing judge and must have judged at least ten horse trials, including five at the Preliminary Level as a member of the jury. He or she must also have either ridden two horses, trained two horses, or coached two riders who have completed two or more horse trials at the Intermediate level or higher, and a CCN or CCI.

Dressage Training Program for "r" Candidates

This program consists of two training sessions, independent study, and apprenticing. Lectures, discussions and practical exercises are used to demonstrate how a dressage test is judged, with many opportunities for input from the candidates.

Initial Dressage Training

The first training session held over four days is conducted by two judges, one of whom must be an "R" Eventing judge, and the other a Senior USEF Dressage judge. This initial educational experience aims to give the candidates a good understanding of the levels of competition and performance, which are to be expected through a solid foundation of the training scale and correct biomechanics. The subject of Methodology – how a judge arrives at a score, use of the marks and the scale 0-10, the essence of each movement and its modifiers, the relationship between comments and scores and how this is reflected in the collective marks and final summary are thoroughly presented. Videos, live demonstration riders, practice in

judging movements and also collective marks follow the theory sessions and are a vital part of this first session, as are discussions on rules and relationships among the officials, organizers and competitors.

Independent Study: The View From C

Candidates must complete the independent study, with the exception of apprenticing, before the second training session. This includes scribing for a total of four hours and sitting with a dressage judge for a total of eight hours. These tasks are to be performed with two or more judges at recognized competitions, at the Novice, Training and Preliminary levels.

The Second Training Session

The second training session is two days long and consists of judging full tests at the Novice, Training, and Preliminary levels. The instructors discuss scores and comments with the candidates.

Apprenticing

After the second training session, the candidate must apprentice with at least four different licensed Eventing or Dressage judges, judging a minimum of 75 tests. Apprenticing must take place at a minimum of two separate competitions, and include at least fifteen tests each at the Novice, Training and Preliminary levels. The presiding judge fills out an evaluation form after comparing his or her own scoring and comments with the apprentice's. These evaluations play a significant part in determining whether the candidate is accepted as a judge.

The Final Examination

Having completed the program, candidates are tested on their knowledge of the dressage phase. Before the testing, they must submit a minimum of 15 confidential evaluation forms from licensed eventing officials or from members of the USEF Eventing Committee.

The dressage testing is one day, with two examiners presiding. It consists of oral, written, and practical judging tests.

Continuing Education

The learning process isn't over once the coveted "r" is achieved. To maintain "r" status, the individual must judge a minimum of three horse trials every three years. He or she must also attend a continuing education clinic every three years, and pass a written test.

Training Program For Promotion to "R"

Judges seeking promotion to "R" must also complete a multi-faceted training program. Once qualified for admission, the judge must apprentice with two different Presidents of the Ground Jury at horse trials at the Intermediate Level or higher, and with a President of the Ground Jury of a CCN or CCI. An "R" candidate must also apprentice with one of the U.S. Course Advisers. In addition, the advanced dressage training program must be completed unless the candidate is also a licensed Dressage judge.

Dressage training consists of a two and a half day session, using lectures, discussions and practical exercises to educate the candidates in judging higher level dressage tests. Two judges, one FEI Eventing judge and one USEF Senior Dressage judge conduct it.

The goal is to provide candidates with an understanding of the standards of training and performance expected of horses and riders at the Intermediate and Advanced levels. Judging exercises, in which riders perform selected test movements or ride complete tests, are at the heart of the program.

The required rhythm, suppleness, acceptance of the bridle, impulsion, straightness and collection appropriate to the levels are emphasized. Current FEI Rules for Eventing and for Dressage are covered, including standards for dressage at the one and two star levels.

All candidates must also submit a minimum of 15 evaluations from Licensed Eventing Officials or from members of the USEF Eventing Committee, and pass the final examination. The examination is similar in structure to the "r" final testing; including oral, written and practical judging tests, but covers the upper levels.

Two examiners, one of whom must be an FEI Eventing judge and one who must be a USEF Senior Dressage judge, administer it.

Promotion to "R" Registered Status

To move up from "r" to "R", the candidate must have a current license as an "r" Eventing judge and must have judged at least ten horse trials, including five at the Preliminary Level as a member of the jury. He or she must also have either ridden two horses, trained two horses, or coached two riders who have completed two or more horse trials at the Intermediate level or higher, and a CCN or CCI.

Maintaining "R" Status

Every three years, "R" judges must judge a minimum of three horse trials, attend a continuing education clinic, and pass a written test.

Seeking an FEI License

All USEF and FEI requirements must be met before the applicant may be recommended to the FEI. Each applicant must either have ridden two horses, trained two horses, or coached two riders that have completed two or more horse trials at the Intermediate Level or higher, and a CCN or CCI.

The applicant must also have been a "R" Eventing judge for at least three years, and have been President of the Ground Jury at ten horse trials, including five at the Intermediate or Advanced Levels. In addition, the applicant must have been President or a member of a Ground Jury at a minimum of two CCI*'s, CCN's or CIC's, during the current or preceding two years.

Training required for Candidate status includes working on an Organizing Committee of a CCI; apprenticing with the President of a Ground Jury of a CCI; and apprenticing with the Technical Delegate of a CCI. The candidate must also successfully complete an FEI approved course for Candidate Judges, including demonstration of sufficient knowledge of the rules and conduct of Eventing and a satisfactory ability to judge dressage and jumping. Candidates must also receive a minimum of 15 evaluations from Licensed Eventing Officials or from members of the USEF Eventing Committee.

While the road to becoming an FEI official is a long one for judges in the U.S.A., candidates are thoroughly prepared by the national training and continuing education programs before they apply. Thus they possess the necessary experience for officiating at the highest levels of our sport.

18. Best wishes for a healthy recovery to Peter Herrick

The editors have received the sad information, that on November 13th Peter Herrick, New Zealand had an accident when he was trying out a young horse and fractured his pelvis.

The accident split the symphysis pubis, and the pelvis then opened to 42.3mms – an open book diastases. The initial split was caused by the stock saddle being driven up into the groin when the horse bucked as Pete was mounting. The horse then bucked another couple of times before Pete was tossed off – but by then all the damage had been done!

Recuperation is according to his wife Chris very slow and still quite painful. The orthopaedic consultant initially thought that surgery would be necessary, but apparently plating across the symphysis after dislocation is often not successful because of the amount of cartilage and fibrous tissue, so they decided to treat Peter conservatively. The pelvic girdle – rather like a neoprene chastity belt – that he wears full time, has reduced (but not closed) the diastases but we won't know until the next x-rays are taken at the end of January if healing is taking place.

So life is on hold at the moment. After 3 weeks in hospital in Hastings Peter was flown home by rescue helicopter as he wasn't allowed in a car. He is on crutches until the end of January & also has to wear his chastity belt full time until then. Peter can now go in a car if he lies back – no driving! – and he shouldn't sit for more than 30mins. So a lot of time is spent lying on the bed or the lazy boy chair.

Best wishes to Peter, for a healthy recovery, from everyone involved in the IEOC!

19. IEOC Regional Meetings and AGMs 2006 and 2007

- **The Scandinavian Group** will meet at the World Cup in Malmö, Sweden **11th – 12th August** [by the courtesy of the OC]: Contact Anne-Mette Binder binder-struck@private.dk
- **UK Regional meeting** in the Director's Tent at Badminton [by courtesy of Hugh Thomas and the committee] on **Friday 4th May**, after the dressage
- **The AGM of the IEOC** will be in the President's Marquee at Burghley [by courtesy of Liz Inman and the committee] on **Friday 31st August** - after the dressage
- Details of other 2007 Regional meetings, and local contacts, will be shown on the web site: www.i-eoc.org

Minutes from the 7th AGM of the IEOC held at Burghley International Horse Trials on Friday 8th September 2006, the regional meeting of IEOC/New Zealand 8th December 2006 and the IEOC regional meeting/FEI development meeting in Mexico City 13th December 2006 are also available on www.i-eoc.org

Memories from Mexico City, Mercedes Campdera: