



CODE OF CONDUCT

Dressage Judges

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 NAMEF Rules and the FEI Code of Conduct.

Professional Behavior

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

1. Judges should act with integrity and always put the sport and the horse's welfare first.
2. Judges should be open and honest, objective, fair and unbiased.
3. Judges should always conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner when acting in any official capacity.
4. When at a show or acting in an official capacity, judges should be considerate and respectful to other judges, competitors and show officials.
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. 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.
6. Be discreet and loyal to your fellow Judges at all times.
7. Judges should be smartly and neatly dressed when judging whether it be Affiliated or non-affiliated venues.
8. Judges should under no circumstances smoke in the judge's box or during prize giving.
9. Judges should also under no circumstances drink alcohol before or during judging.
10. Switch off your cell phone before judging and ensure that your scribe has switched off his/hers.

Appointment, Suspension and Removal

NAMEF is responsible for:-

1. The appointment, training, development and promotion of dressage judges up to and including Provincial A Judges
2. The suspension and removal of Provincial A and below judges from the panel, and liaising with NAMEF in this connection.
3. Liaison with the NAMEF in cases where disciplinary procedures should be followed.

Judges may be removed from the panel, or demoted to a lower panel if:

1. If the judge is in serious or repeated breach of this Code of Conduct
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 4 (four) tests per year at Affiliated venues within a calendar year and attend a minimum of one seminar per year. It is the responsibility of the judge to keep their own activity sheet/NAMEF Official booklet up to date with their judging assignments and this activity sheet/booklet should be available to NAMEF at any time requested.
3. If the judge commits any act of dishonesty or criminal offense or is heard to use foul language at any time on the show grounds.
4. If the judge brings dressage into any form of disrepute.

Procedural Guidelines for Judges

1. Reply promptly to judging invitations
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.
3. Make sure you have with you the show venue's or show organizer's telephone number in case you are unavoidably delayed in traveling to your judging assignment (e.g. traffic holds ups, etc)
4. Ensure that you know the appropriate test(s) and Rules
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.
6. Arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the class and report to the Show Director.
7. Inspect the arena, check the going and the positioning of the letters.
8. Be courteous to your scribe and ascertain her/his level of experience
9. Please make sure your comments are succinct and precise and do not overburden your scribe unnecessarily.
10. Keep to the riding times
11. If you are judging with another judge or panel of judges, be prepared to discuss the judging results after-wards **in private**.
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 fulfill a judging commitment one week before the date of the show, it is up to you to do everything possible to assist the organizers to find a replacement.

Out of Province/Out of Country Judging

All National judges should obtain permission from the NAMEF in the following circumstances:

- If they are requested to judge out of province.
- If they are requested to judge one level higher than they are currently entitled to judge (where a judge at the correct level cannot be obtained). In such circumstance, the competitors will not receive grading points.)

All Judges at whatever level should obtain permission from NAMEF connection with requests to judge out of country. Judges below Provincial C level are not allowed to judge out of country.