



Dear Judges,

Trust you all had a safe and happy break over Christmas and New Year. It's great to have time to refresh and unwind.

I would also like to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of several of our National and NZ FEI Judges who attend the IDOC Dressage Seminar in Frankfurt GER in late December.

Thank you all for your time and effort it is a real investment in our future and upholding the principles standard of Dressage in NZ. A big thank you to Mary Craine for keeping us updated while the judges were at the seminar, and also Sue Hobson has completed a few brief notes of her own from the seminar and agreed to share and circulate amongst the judges. You can read these notes on the DNZ Judges Education Group FB Page. Thank you, Mary and Sue, for sharing with us all.

Following on Dressage NZ and ESNZ advise with regret that Sue Hobson has resigned as Chair of Dressage, effective immediately. This was not an easy decision for Sue who wishes to be able to spend more time judging nationally and internationally and continuing her role as Horse Sport Technology (AUS) liaison assisting organizing Oceania on-line and in person national judges' education. Sue's commitment to the sport she is so passionate about will continue.

The Dressage NZ Board wishes her well and looks forward to Sue's continued involvement.

Sarah Hazlewood (Vice Chair & Finance Officer) has stepped up as Acting Chair in the interim until conference in June 2025 when a new Chair will be elected. Nomination forms and a Role Description document will be available in February.

All the best everyone for 2025, happy judging,

Warm regards Mura, Mary & Lesley

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE APPOINTED GROUND JURY AT EVENTS

Please make sure that you are familiar with this, it was published in the December Newsletter. Re-publishing for refreshment

These roles have become increasingly important to events and to the resolution of issues arising at events, that need to follow the correct steps and process.

When you accept the position of being on the Ground Jury for the said event, please ensure you are familiar with the process and steps taken from the ESNZ Judicial Process.

You can find this in the ESNZ General regulations chapter 9 The Legal System page 29 to 50.

Issues around complaints and protests, please ensure you are aware of the time frame involved in these processes.

If you are appointed as the president of the Ground Jury, ensure you are somewhat familiar and have access to ESNZ General Regulations chapter 9 The legal System, as you will need to lead the process.

Also be clear about the situation, evidence & context before decisions are made.

Process; Issues arising from the field of play need to be firstly taken up with the TD who will inform the ground Jury of a situation if not easily resolved first. Issues also need to be addressed at the event following the correct steps and with clear processes in place.

This is stated very clearly in the ESNZ General Regulations. Link below & also the flow diagram that outlines the process.

<https://www.nzequestrian.org.nz/esnz/rules-regulations/>

REVISIONS TO THE TECHNICAL JUDGES MANUAL: VERSION 6 EFFECTIVE FROM 1ST JANUARY 2025

This has been updated and brought into line with Education process

There are notes of interest outlined in this newsletter, and changes to Sit in and Shadow Judging Guidelines and Forms.

On the final page of the Manual, there is a list of the updates you can follow.

Another new feature the JSC is developing a Centralised Hub for Administration of Dressage Judges which is exciting.

The purpose of this will be to keep a track of all candidates' judging activities upgrading or moving through the system, including dates, criteria and other important factors.

It will also capture the activity of individual Judges, trends and accreditation information.

We are currently working on this system and will keep you updated.

Candidate Protocols around applying for Official Sit-Ins and Shadow Judging Assessments

- All requests for official Assessments are to be made through the candidates' AJO who will contact the Judge organiser directly and together plan and arrange the assessment and necessary details.
- Impromptu or unplanned assessments on the day are at the discretion of the Mentor to accept or decline.
- Candidates are required to be familiar with the Sit In process as outlined in the Tech manual.
- Candidates must have the correct forms they need completing on hand.
- The JSC may also assist in creating opportunities for candidates at events.

Mentor & Support Mentor Protocols.

-Your role is an important part of the assessment and education process of Judges.

-Be familiar with the Guidelines for Sit Ins and Shadow Judging processes and procedures and how to implement this as outlined in the Tech manual.

-Please ensure you are using the correct forms to complete your assessments. The forms have been updated from January 2025, make sure the forms are current.

-Shadow Judging guidelines need to be followed to ensure the assessment is consistent with all other candidate assessments.

-Before accepting an Official Assessment, check that the candidate has fulfilled their 2 years minimum judging at their current level to be eligible to start their assessments.

In some cases, special permission may be issued for this to happen from the JO /JSC due to varying circumstances.

-Mentors are also responsible for the completion of assessment forms and ensuring these are sent into the JSC. (not the candidate)

-All assessments must be discussed with the candidate. If you have to take the sheets home to complete follow up still needs to happen to complete the process.

Feedback is paramount to the candidates ongoing education

How will this affect Mentors & Support Mentors?

Once the Interim Reporting form procedure is in place It will allow Mentors and Support mentors the opportunity to cross check potential upgrading candidates against the 2-year timeline before agreeing to accept any Sit In's or Shadow Judging requests.

Important note.

For the interim however Mentors & Support Mentors, need to check the status of the candidate with the JSC, Mary Craine who can advise if the judge has met the minimum 2-year period at their existing level, before Mentors/Support Mentors can accept to do a SI or SJ assessment.

Exceptions are at the discretion of the JO & JSC.

These guidelines will be set out in the DNZ Tech manual in due course.

AJO's also have a role to play here with the guidance and direction they need to give candidates in their area, and ensuring the judges are meeting requirements in line with the level they are upgrading to with the correct mentors and ensuring paperwork is in place.

All Judges from F - A Level wishing to Upgrade must complete the minimum of 2 years judging at their level, before they start their upgrading criteria. This time is important to consolidate the requirements at each level and build more depth and experience through this process and future progression.

Change of terminology.

In the Tech Manual We will be using words.

Maintenance to replace Accreditation

Transfer Up to replace Upgrading

Here is the updated re-wording for Practical Exams in the Tech Manual, from under examinations.

^ These exams should be held at regional or named events where possible such as ICH, National Dressage Champs, or HOY.

Candidates must follow the process toward organising their practical exam as set out in the guidelines, and the JSC can assist candidates where possible with the organisation of the exam.

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Added wording; (Under Examinations)

Where possible, it is **recommended** that Judges transferring up to D level, sit their practical exam out of their area.

Judges transferring-up to C-A levels **must** sit their practical exam out of their area.