



Dear Judges,

It's hard to believe the year has moved so fast and another festive season rolls around. Premier League Events have been very busy around the country with a good number of Judges officiating at these events and competition.

Congrats to all judges who have been working toward their upgrading & Moved to a new level or who are in the process of upgrading. Well done keep up the great work.

I too have been working on my upgrading or as the FEI call it Transfer Up, having passed the FEI 4*Dressage Level 3, Exam in Stuttgart in November.

It was in conjunction with a World Cup Qualifier, so many top German & European combinations were competing in a very spectacular indoor stadium in downtown Stuttgart city. Having judged a variety of levels and types of horses at many other CDI's in Europe, it was good to actually judge a quality field of Grand Prix horses for the Exam. Although nothing could replace the pressure, tension and the ongoing stress of an exam held over 3 days with high expectations and a bit of do or die attitude, when you left the final interview knowing you had passed with good feedback from the course directors, all your efforts had been rewarded.

Having come to Stuttgart, on the back of a number of International CDI's I had been judging at across Europe and the UK including India as the FEI foreign Judge for the World Dressage Challenge followed by a CDI in Bangalore was the best preparation I could have had. It was great experience and learning curve working with many different Ground Jury teams in a number of Countries and judging a variety of horses and riders at all levels from YDH, Children's Tests to Grand Prix, at some very stunning venues. Having the opportunity to discuss with other Judges marks, way of going, overall picture, contact, precision, quality and correctness was a vital part of most conversations that strengthened your knowledge base.

Having said that, it's encouraging to see three of our FEI & Six National Judges are winging their way to Frankfurt this month for the IDOC Seminar, run in conjunction with an international Dressage show to be refreshed in their learning. I hope they remember to take warm clothing to brace the European winter & enjoy the time there and travel safe.

Finally, thanks again everyone for your commitment and dedication to our sport. A big thank you to the JSC for their time and energy, and all the others who have assisted us throughout the last 6 months, your efforts have been thoroughly appreciated.

Have a safe and joyous Xmas & see you all in the New Year,

Best Wishes, Mura, Mary & Lesley...JO & JSC.

UPDATES TO THE DNZ JUDGES TECHNICAL MANUAL

Please also note that there are updates to the DNZ Judges Technical Manual coming up. Some are outlined in this newsletter and more details will coming into effect once made available.

You will be notified when the Tech Manual updates are fully completed, and the latest version is finalised and released for circulation.

I will also send out a reference page that will Track all changes, so you can cross reference the changes for your own knowledge.

This page is also located at the back of the Tech manual.

This review of our educational process and procedures is essential to the ongoing development and consolidation of DNZ Judges so all judges are secure and confident at each level before progressing.

This process supports our application & alignment toward FEI Equivalency.

CLINIC WITH HENNING LEHRMANN FEI 5* JUDGE

When: Sunday March 23rd,

following Nationals at NEC Taupo. HP riders will have a meeting with Henning from 8-9am followed by the Judges clinic 9am-and will finish by 12.30pm, as Henning has a flight to catch.

It will be held in the main building at NEC.

Details will be updated closer to the time.

Registration for the clinic will be through Evo Events

NOTES ABOUT FREESTYLES.....

Novice Tests – Entry; can only be shown in walk to Halt, or trot to halt.

Depart from Halt and into final halt can only be shown by walking to Halt or trotting to Halt.

Riders cantering to halt will be given technical penalties of -2.0 from each judge and a reduced mark for the movement.

Level 3 – Entry; can be from walk, trot to Halt. When entering in canter, on approach to Halt from canter the rider must show clear walk steps or trot steps into halt. This is the same for the final halt as well.

Cantering to halt is not allowed at this level, therefore the rider will be penalised, by a reduced mark for the Halt and a technical penalty of -2.0 from each judge, deducted from the technical score total.

Counter canter in a Novice or Elementary freestyle, can be shown through a curved line or a straight line at least once. The degree and duration of the counter canter will be dependent on the level of training and suppleness of the horse and rider.

Under **PERMITTED MOVEMENTS**;

Counter Canter can be shown on a straight or curved Line.

Ref; ESNZ Dressage Tests 2023 - Pages 37 Novice / 49 Elementary

If movements of the above are shown, it is not elimination, but reduced marks for these movements and additional technical penalties.

Any mistakes that happen before the halt are considered in the mark for the Halt.

INCIDENTS AT EVENTS

Regarding riders with dispensations and additional tack, including Para Dressage riders this is often noted on the Running order sheet of competitors in a class.

Please check and ensure that the rider can only use what is listed. If you notice anything that is not listed and additional tack is evident, follow up with the rider and where necessary the steward/s to clarify the situation.

If the additional tack is not on the list of specific compensatory aids for that rider, then the rider is deemed to be using illegal gear and the result is elimination.

For Para Dressage riders, there is a list of standard Compensatory aids that all Para riders are entitled to use. These do not have to be listed on their rider notes, so please ensure you have a list with you when judging para dressage if you need to check something against it.

Overall, these situations can be dealt with case by case, but most importantly firstly establish the facts, listen to what people have to say, consider the evidence and context before making decisions.

Should this situation arise, Judges check the actual Rule, so you are familiar with the technicality.

The link to the list of Standard Compensatory Aids is below.

<https://www.nzequestrian.org.nz/disciplines/para-equestrian/about-para-equestrian/compensating-aids/nz-list-of-aids/>

DISCREPANCY FORMS

Please ensure these forms are completed and sent into the JSC. The forms provide information for the JSC to self-review, and identify areas of focus for future clinics.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE APPOINTED GROUND JURY AT EVENTS

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](#).

As Official members of ESNZ we must also adhere to the Code of conduct for Officials;

[ESNZ Officials' Code of Conduct](#)

CROSS REFERENCING & MONITORING JUDGES UPGRADING CRITERIA AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

A reminder to all candidates regarding upgrading procedures, you must adhere to the requirements & criteria of the DNZ Technical manual.

It is your responsibility to keep track of your judging assignments, timeframes and following due process at your level.

From F Level upwards all candidates timelines should be at least 2 years between upgrading from one level to the next Level. Candidates should have different mentors for their Sit ins and Shadow Judging assignments.

All criteria must be done at Graded Dressage competitions, and on Graded classes.

Time frames for exams must also be not less than 2 years and only applied for once all criteria has been met and checked off.

Support mentors can only sign judges up to and including E Level.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF HORSES NEEDED FOR A SIT IN AND/OR SHADOW JUDGING CRITERIA

For all Candidates upgrading there must be a minimum number of 4 horses in the class for any official Sit in or Shadow Judging assessment to be accepted.

The rationale is to allow the Mentor enough range and point of difference to effectively assess the candidate.

This has been updated will be effective as from Jan 31st, 2025

INTRODUCING MUSICAL FREESTYLES

The JSC are requiring the Judging of Musical Freestyles to be a compulsory requirement of the Official Judging component list on the Judge Upgrading Application Form.

Musicals Freestyle performances are an integral part of our Regional, National and CDI events and are also offered throughout the year at other events.

Judges who are already judging MFS, this will continue as usual.

For those judges at their current level who have not Judged MFS, this is a good time to develop your understanding of the artistic section and in turn the complete performance of a MFS.

This can be done through more informal Sit-ins and discussions with experienced judges over time, until you feel confident & knowledgeable to judge MFS.

Please note an additional Musical Freestyle Requirement has been added to the There will be 3 Sit-In requirements on Upgrading assessment sheets

This will come into effect with all other updates of the Technical Manual early in 2025.

REGARDING MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

All registered DNZ Judges must meet their accreditation requirements at their level to remain on the list.

If a judge is unable to meet their maintenance requirements, the judge will be transferred down to the next level to the following year. If Maintenance requirements are still not met the following year the Judge will no longer be able to judge at any local, regional or National Dressage events or classes of Graded dressage but may judge at training events.

IN THE NEW YEAR 2025, THE JSC WILL BE IMPLEMENTING INTERIM POINTS REPORTS

The purpose for these will be to keep a track of all candidates' movements transferring up or maintaining through the system. Including dates, criteria and other important factors.

It will also capture the activity of individual Judges.

We encourage all Judges to use the current google form. If any areas need support with using this form please contact Lesley Jacobson at jakes4@xtra.co.nz

Just as a reminder here is the link to the new form:-

<https://forms.gle/XjMDwyPsdizZ7U11A>

Hint: Before you save it remember to delete the old form and clear your history cache

THE FEI JUDGES MANUAL; RESOURCE - USEFUL FOR ALL NATIONAL JUDGES

Thanks, Wendy Hammerton, for sharing this note & link.

Attn Judges & Riders: ESNZ has offered a new Dressage service to judges and riders on the SHOP site. The FEI Judges Manual which is downloadable from the FEI web site is now available in print copy in A4 size - the link and information here

This version to be considered in connection with the FEI Dressage Rules and the FEI Dressage Handbook Guidelines for Judging. Effective from 1 January 2024. \$11.50 PLUS POST

<https://horsereg.com/#!/memberships/equestrian-sports-new-zealand/store/official-store>

This version not as comprehensive as the Handbook but very useful nonetheless

