

## DC Officials Post - January 2009

2009 is a year of change. New rules, new levels of shows, new tests. As officials, it is imperative that we are aware of the new rules. But first, here is what you need to know about mandatory updating and upgrading in 2009.

### DEVELOP YOUR EYE CLINICS

If you haven't seen the DC website, we are changing the format of our mandatory updating clinics to include auditors. Please invite your friends to attend these Develop your Eye clinics. Let them see first hand what we judges look for. The dates and locations are:

Ontario – June 6 – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Palgrave, Ontario  
Quebec – June 26-28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Blainville, Quebec  
BC – August 28-30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Chilliwack

Dressage Stewards clinics in 2009 are also being offered:

March 8th, 2009 at Ontario Equestrian Federation (Board Room), 9120  
Leslie Street, Suite 203, Richmond Hill, ON

June 23 – 24, 2009 - FEI Seminar for Dressage Stewards General – Blainville  
Quebec

### JUDGES REQUESTING PROMOTION

The criteria for upgrading has changed for 2009, however, this will be a year of transition. Judges wishing to upgrade in 2009 have a one year extension on the 2008 rules. You may write to the OC to request that your application be based on the criteria stipulated in the 2008 rule book. This will be applicable only in 2009 and all the criteria must be fulfilled. In 2010 the criteria as outlined in the 2009 rules will be in full implementation.

The Apprenticeship program is on-going. However, it will only be applicable to those judges wishing to upgrade to Medium status. Anyone wishing to upgrade to Senior must fulfill the Intermediare II competition riding criteria.

A new testing process is being implemented this year in an effort to address concerns expressed that testing at a non-show venue does not adequately reflect the ability and working knowledge of a judge. If you wish to upgrade in 2009, which applies to those using the 2008 criteria as well, the following is the process for your testing.

- You must apply as per the rules and submit your application fee of \$25.00 as indicated in the rule book. The deadline for applications is April 30<sup>th</sup>. Remember if you wish to use the 2008 rules you must state this in your application.
- The Applicant will be requested to attend a show wherein they will be required to shadow judge the highest level of class(es) required for upgrading.
- An Evaluator Judge will be assigned. The Evaluator Judge is an FEI judge who will be officiating at the show in question.
- The Applicant will be required to judge the highest level of class in which there must be a minimum of 16 horses competing. If the class does not have 16 horses, additional classes will need to be judged so there is a minimum of 16 horses being evaluated. (i.e. two classes of 8 horses each).
- The Applicant must shadow judge the appropriate classes and should be situated close to the Evaluator (i.e., a "C" or at the side).
- The class must be judged as if it is an actual show. Test sheets, to be obtained by the Applicant from the EC office are to be used.
- The tests are to be handed to the Evaluator Judge during a break or immediately following the class.

**The Applicants responsibilities are:**

1. Applicant is responsible for:
  - Obtaining show's permission to shadow judge
  - Supplying their own scribe
  - Supplying appropriate tests from EC (need to be official tests) – at the highest level required by the Rules
  - Applicant to collect and forward to EC the official show results showing actual scores of ALL JUDGES who judged the class.
  - NOTE: Show Organizer is not required to provide anything, other than their approval for the Applicant to Shadow Judge.

Because the FEI Evaluator is actually judging the competitor, their responsibilities are limited to:

- Collecting the Applicants test during the first break or immediately following the class and submitting them to EC. Post-marked envelop to be provided to Evaluator.
- Recording their own collective marks in those classes judged by the applicant along with any 'untoward' or

noteworthy incident to see if applicant noted same (form to be developed and provided to Evaluator).

- Providing a short commentary about the general impression of the applicant

The Applicant will also attend an updating clinic, in the year of application for promotion.

## **NEWS BRIEFS**

### **Rules of Note**

Late entry no longer entails elimination. Exceeding 45 seconds after the bell has sounded will result in a penalty of 2 points per judge. This applies to all levels, inclusive of FEI.

### **FEI News**

Much has been said and written about the upheaval at the FEI. The end result, for now, is the appointment of an Interim Dressage Committee for the period of one year.

### **New Tests**

All of the FEI tests have changed, effective 2009. As well, there are also new Young Horse Tests which you can find on line at the FEI website.

One of the issues addressed at the recent USEF Convention was the proposed USEF performance standards. The USDF Dressage Committee recognized the negative financial impact and decided instead to focus on the concept of rider tests. These tests are to be developed over the next year and presented at next years' USDF convention. They are intended to assess the rider only. The Committee recognized the need to focus on a training program for the judges to ensure they understand how to judge the tests.

The USEF has also changed the definition for a score of 5 from "**sufficient**" to "**marginal**" which they feel more accurately describes the verbal meaning of the score.

As well, the US is currently developing new tests and has requested input from members of the OC. This project is being spearheaded by Joan Macartney.