



DC Officials Post

An Officials Committee Publication

September 2010

Greetings – hope that everyone had a super summer and good experiences with officiating and competing.

Now as we head into the Fall, we look forward to receiving the revised USEF dressage tests. I am certain that most of you are aware that the tests have been under revision and that new national tests will be available for 2011. In speaking to our colleagues in the Equine Canada Office, they are expecting to have the tests in the coming few weeks.

The Officials Committee will be meeting in November to review the applications for promotion as well as planning for 2011 activities. For those of you applying for promotion, please ensure that all of your supporting documentation is

submitted by the deadline date. We will also be reviewing the concept and frequency of Officials Post. In order to enhance communications amongst all officials and improve Officials Post, we welcome your input as we prepare for a new year.

Please contact us at officials@dressagecanada.org with any suggestions.

The WEG is only a week away – best wishes to our Canadian riders and to all the many supporters who are travelling to Kentucky.

Joan Macartney

DRESSAGE SURVEY RESULTS

FEEDBACK FROM SHOW

ORGANIZERS – “THROUGH THE ORGANIZERS’ EYES”

THE NUMBERS

Thanks to the organizers who responded to this survey. There were 39 responses from organizers who represented dressage competitions from across the country, from shows with 25 to 30 competitors to those with 400 competitors. The largest percentage of respondents were an experienced group with 36% having organized shows for more than eight years. The next group of 31% were the newer organizers having organized shows for less than two years. The largest percentage (74%) organize gold shows, however, input was received from organizers of all levels of shows.

THE ISSUES

Overall there was the message that shows are costly for all involved, particularly in this current environment and the challenge is to ensure the best quality of competition, officiating, etc for the competitors. Thus, the strong percentage of organizers (87%) who were not willing to hire lower level judges in order to gain experience necessary for upgrading. In terms of justification, organizers indicate that, given the cost of running a show today, it is critical that experienced and/or senior judges be hired in order to ensure that the competitors receive the best possible judging. There are also organizers who combine gold and silver and/or bronze

shows and these require a senior judge to cover all levels. Use of a lower level judge would require two judges and result in higher costs.

With regard to any difficulties regarding officials, organizers responded almost equally – 51% said no and 49% indicated yes. Difficulties include –

- problems finding officials willing to travel to their part of the country
- need for more local stewards as well as senior and medium judges
- handling judges preferences re accommodation, transportation, scribes, scheduling changes, etc
- officials do not always know the rules well enough

Organizers indicate their efforts to resolve some of these problems – primarily booking earlier to ensure appropriate officials, attempt to meet demands, etc.

Organizers were asked to identify the major challenges they face – these include attracting competitors, hiring judges and stewards and getting volunteers. Cost is an on-going challenge.

Dressage Survey Results

A number of respondents checked the “Other” category of challenges, but unfortunately details were not provided. This information should be sought in a future survey.

In completing the survey, a number of additional comments were provided. A summary follows:

- big financial risk of organizing shows, particularly with limited facilities suitable for large shows and with appropriate footing.
- communicating with EC and PSO’s can be frustrating
- the need for more judges and stewards at the local level – more needs to be done to encourage judges and stewards into the system as well as to increase the number of senior and FEI judges and stewards.
- education of lower level judges needs to be improved
- shortage of volunteers
- Date notification process is cumbersome – forms too long, suggest a centralized forum where OC’s can submit date requests and be able to see if there are potential conflicts.
- Follow-up reporting software to EC not very user friendly
- Disappointed that DC Levy Fund is not available for capital equipment to support shows, eg judges booths.
- sponsorship is a large issue.

In summary, it is helpful to understand the dressage competition “through the organizers eyes” and appreciate the challenges they face. This information will be reviewed by the Officials Committee for potential future action.

The Steward’s Corner

Thanks, Maggie, for your contribution relating to blood on a horse. As a reminder, Article E 9.6 Elimination from a Class includes “evidence of blood on the horse (environmental causes such as insect bites shall not normally be cause for elimination)”.

There have been several instances this show season of blood caused by excessive use of spurs. Be very careful when examining spurs and horses’ flanks. Any sign of blood is immediate elimination (exception is the environmental causes/insect bites as above). In order to protect your decision, use tissue to absorb the blood and place in a small plastic bag, show this to the judge so that your decision to eliminate is understood.

Question of the Month

Doreen Horsey has completed marking the judges’ exams and she reports that the following was the most problematic question on the exam:

The Steward may eliminate a competitor who has not followed the dress or tack rules. True/False

Check page 121 – I6.12.9

That’s it for this issue of Officials Post!