

Dressage Judging Working Group

Recommendations for Rules amendments for 2018

Introduction

Please find below the Dressage Judging Working Group's (DJWG) proposals for changes and clarification to the Dressage Rules for 2018. The listed proposal have been reviewed by the Dressage Technical Committee and you will find their comments below.

The DJWG has chosen to propose the listed measures for 2018, as short term measures until they come to an agreed revised judging system.

The rationale of the Dressage Judging Working Group for proposition their amendments are indicated in italics.

The recommendations of the Dressage Technical Committee are indicated in purple.

DRESSAGE RULES – modifications and amendments proposed for 2018

Chapter II – Dressage Events

Article 429.6 JUDGE'S HUT:

Each Judges hut must be equipped with a button linked to the Judges Signaling System, allowing each judge to discreetly inform the C-Judge in case of blood, lameness, error of course or saddlery/equipment. ~~A Judges Signaling button is optional for other Events~~

Dressage Judging working Group

The DJWG agrees with the usefulness of the signaling button and recommends that it is used at all Events.

Dressage Technical Committee

The Dressage TC unanimously supports this proposal (for all Events with IT Provider).

Article 434 CLASSIFICATION

HILO DROP SCORING PER MOVEMENT

Recommendation: Adopt HiLoDrop scoring per movement for all FEI dressage competitions, with the exception of Young Horse events and for all juries with 3 judges

Dressage Judging working Group

In HiLoDrop the highest and lowest scores awarded by the judges for each movement in the test are not taken into account and the average score for that figure is formed from the remaining scores. The final score awarded to the rider and horse is formed by the coefficient weighted sum of this score for all the movements. Each judge's score sheet is unaffected by this process and the final scores per judges form part of the record of the event. Such a system is widely used in other Olympic judged disciplines and also in other equestrian judged sports.

Following a detailed analysis of almost 1000 competitions from 2017 it is shown that the average effect on final scores is a shift of +0.1% with a spread (standard deviation) of 0.2%. In fact only 3% of all GP/GPS results would change by more than 0.5% - in almost every case a small upwards change. The correlation of the HiLoDrop score and the score from the current system is perfectly linear. While the changes are almost invisible for the vast majority of cases in a few cases an important correction would be made; HiLoDrop

ensures that the consensus view of the jury predominates in the final result and is not unduly influenced by one judge being exceptionally high or low for whatever reason. The DJWG recognizes that in some circumstances that judge may have been more correct were a detailed re-examination of each movement carried out, but believes that the consensus result is the one that should go forward to the eventual ranking. All movement scores from all judges will go forward to the official record and be communicated to the rider in the normal way.

Dressage Technical Committee

There are different feelings and opinions within the DC. Three are in favor, one against (placings are more important than marks) and two are undecided. The following concerns were raised:

- *A judge may mark lower than the others, but will not necessary be wrong in his/her judgement.*

It is acknowledged that with such system, the Riders will in any case receive their score sheets with all the marks and comments given by all Judges, to include the mark per movement which was dropped.

COLLECTIVE MARKS

Recommendation: Collective marks should be partially removed from all FEI tests in 2018, keeping only the collective mark for the Rider. This will not be applicable for the Young Horse Tests.

Dressage Judging working Group

With the possible exception of the Rider/Aids mark, the DJWG feels that the collective marks are already taken into account in the movement scores. The switch of emphasis from a movement mark - based on exactly what the judge sees at the moment of execution - to a collective note that is designed to summarize the entire test, does not aid the judge's focus. In analysis of the ~1000 2017 tests it is seen that while technical and collective scores are quite correlated, the riders at the top of the ranking do typically receive an extra boost from the collective marks. We also observe that even in some high level events the ranking of the technical marks is effectively overruled by that of the collective marks. The completion of the collective marks also takes time between starters and, particularly for televised events, a small gain *in overall competition time can be expected if collective marks are no longer used.*

Dressage Technical Committee

In principle the DC agrees to this suggested change. The DC however would like to insist that relevant comments are made for each movement so that the submission of the Horse is marked. The DC agrees that the mark for the Rider should be maintained as suggested.

Article 437.2

GROUND JURY

Recommendation: Maintain the current use of 7-member juries for specific higher-level championships

Dressage Judging working Group

The DJWG has examined evidence showing that seven judge juries are beneficial at the highest level championships. While HiLoDrop may in the longer term mitigate this effect, it was agreed that a change would not be recommended for 2018.

Dressage Technical Committee

This proposal is unanimously supported

Recommendation: the JSP no longer corrects scores in championship events, but that this is replaced with the introduction of HiLo drop by movement and 6% Rule would no longer apply with the HiLoDrop scoring (for CDI with 5 and above Judges).

Dressage Judging working Group

The JSP has two main functions, the supervision of the judging corps and more recently the correction of specific judging mistakes at championship events. This second role will become largely redundant with the introduction of HiLoDrop scoring as most movement "judging mistakes" will automatically be corrected. (For example an unseen change-error by one judge will automatically be removed from the final score). In addition, with a system of not correcting marks, the awarded score will remain part of the public record.

Dressage Technical Committee

Should the HiLo drop system be adopted, the DC agrees to the review of the tasks and composition of the JSP.