

Emails from IDTC :

From: Linda Keenan
Sent: samedi 25 mars 2017 13:43
To: Bettina De Rham <Bettina.DeRham@fei.org>
Subject: FW: IDTC statement

Dear Bettina,

I note that various reactions to the Judging Working Group proposal have been published on the FEI/Sports Forum website.

Below is the position of the IDTC board. It would very much appreciate if this statement could be added to the supporting documents as the email currently displayed does not speak specifically to the JWG proposal.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Kind regards,
Linda

The IDTC recognizes the need for development in the dressage judging system. Issues surrounding judging are consistently mentioned by it by spectators, competitors or governing bodies such as the IOC. Dressage is a technically complex sport and therefore judging is not an easy task. We must be constantly seeking ways to make the judging more easily understandable to spectators and to give participants, (riders, trainers, sponsors etc.) confidence that all rides are consistently evaluated on an equal basis and to provide a coherent rationale for the scores. Nothing is perfect and we foresee dressage judging to be a constant work in progress.

The IDTC proposes a Code of Points based on the current Dressage Handbook would go far to improve the status quo.

A Code of Points would clarify the specific impact of each technical fault. It would also provide clear guidance regarding marks for positive elements of a score e.g. expressiveness. The Code of Points would also insure technical correctness must be achieved before a ride can benefit from more esoteric elements such as expressiveness. This would improve riders' understanding of their score and should reduce the discrepancies between judges (viewing angle notwithstanding).

The Dressage Handbook is the result of extensive thought, experience and deliberation. It should be the basis of the Code of Points which, in our view, is actually already embedded in this document. To extract a code of points in an easily understandable format is a relatively straightforward task. The IDTC put forth a sample of how this could be achieved at the recent Stakeholders meeting.

The IDTC does not support the proposal to remodel the judging system basing it on the elements of the training scale. The primary reasons for our resistance to this proposal are that we believe it would increase the disparity amongst the judges and would be more difficult for the public to understand than the current system. The elements of the training scale interactive with one another thus it is

fundamentally debateable how much of each element is responsible for a particular result. We currently ask the judges to evaluate what they see. To ask them to infer the cause of the observation puts an unreasonable and unrealistic burden on them. Scores should be the outcome of objective observation.

From: Linda Keenan, IDTC

Sent: samedi 18 mars 2017 13:29

To: Bettina De Rham <Bettina.DeRham@fei.org>

Subject: Feedback from the International Dressage Trainers Club

Dear Bettina,

As I mentioned at the Stakeholders meeting. The IDTC has conducted a consultation regarding many of the items mentioned on the March 13 meeting agenda. Approximately 50 IDTC members responded to the request for input and herewith is a summary of those responses.

1. Degree of Difficulty – There was general support for the concept however many/most people were having teething problems utilizing the App. However there was a general willingness to persevere.
Some need to tweak the difficulty measures are necessary. One major concern was raised regarding inconsistencies of judges' recognition of combinations etc. and what redress is there for a rider when the judge does not spot a combination. It is suggested that judges have the opportunity to review the programs ahead of the class to facilitate their scoring.
2. New Tests: There was a moderate desire to refresh tests. The Inter B was criticised as being very difficult especially the passage tour.
3. OG Qualification score- Overwhelming support to increase this score to at least 66%
4. Ranking List- Riders supported more emphasis on recent scores and downgrading the impact of major championships
5. Generation Games- This concept received nearly unanimous support.
6. Age limits- A majority of respondents supported the lowering of the Pony age to 15. It is felt that after this age the vast majority of kids are significantly too big for the ponies. This was felt to be both a welfare issue and also not beneficial to the development of the child's riding.
7. Dress Code- Respondents were cautiously support of minor changes to the dress code. They could accept a relaxation of the allowed colours and patterns (e.g. subtle stripes). The maintenance of the tailcoat was strongly urged.
8. Judging Working Group- The group is clearly open to a change if it succeeds in making the judging more transparent and understandable.
9. Rule Change Ideas- This will be discussed at our meeting at Blue Hors.

If you would like further information regarding the above, please don't hesitate to ask.

Best regards,

Linda