FEI PARA EQUESTRIAN FORUM

25-26 February 2025

Birmingham (GBR)

Development in Judging

Marco Orsini (GER)

FEI Para Dressage Judge General

Development in Judging

"The judge's decision must always be accepted as final."

Development in Judging

Judges and judging have always been criticised since Dressage became an Olympic sport in 1912.

Development in Judging

Various systems have been tested:

- **3, 5, 7 Judges**
- **Judges sitting together, Judges sitting separately**
- **Highest/Lowest scores dropped**
- **Final results according to rankings of each judge, not the sum of points for each movement**
- **Timing of tests – penalties for being too fast/too slow**
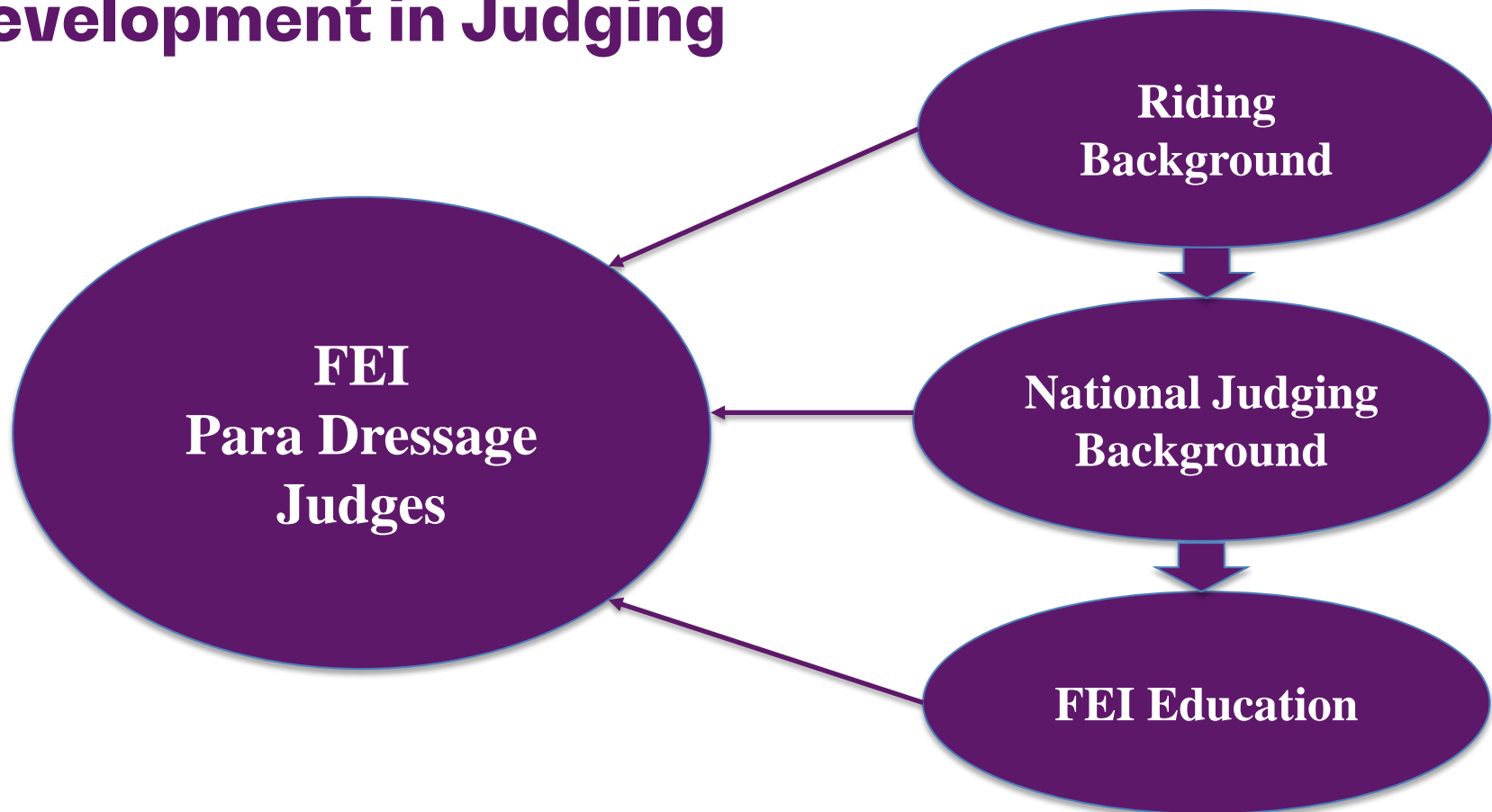- **Counting of steps and strides – penalties for too many/too few**

Sometimes with strange effects:

- **Results were only available after 2 days**

Development in Judging

Acceptance

- Need to be transparent and understandable
- Expertise and Experience
- Discussions and Constructive Criticism
- Mutual Respect

Development in Judging

Riding Background

National Judging Background

FEI Education

FEI Para Dressage Judges

Development in Judging

FEI Education

Competency-based Evaluation System (CES):
Online Test on rule changes and basic knowledge

Every year

Maintenance Courses:
Online or in-person with exam

Every 3 years

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FEI Education

Global Dressage Analytics (GDA):
Statistical analysis of judging performance (5 factors) – Traffic-light-system:
- Self-evaluation
- Evaluation by Judge General and JAG

For each competition

Judges Supervisory Panel (JSP):
Correcting differences of $\geq 6\%$

At Paralympic Games

Development in Judging

FEI Education

Open scoring and paperless judging systems:
e.g. BlackHorseOne, Equipe
- Direct results with single marks after each performance
- Marks and remarks of all judges can be seen together

At Championships and many CPEDIs

Discussions of the judging panel after each competition (day) – critical (self)-reflection on judging performance

At every event
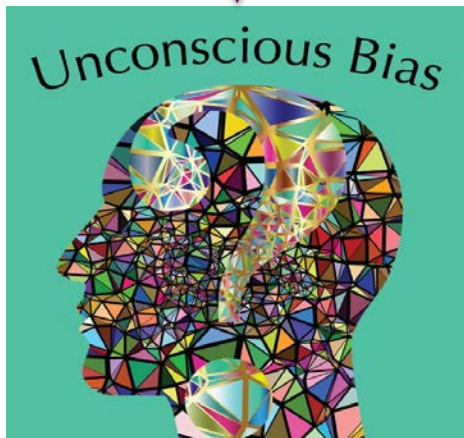
Development in Judging

AND YET!

there are

BIG DIFFERENCES

Development in Judging

Possible Reasons for (big) Differences

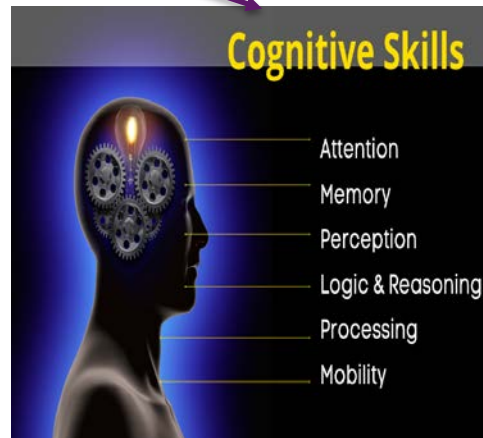**Different Seating Position**

Unconscious Bias

Cognitive Skills

Attention
Memory
Perception
Logic & Reasoning
Processing
Mobility
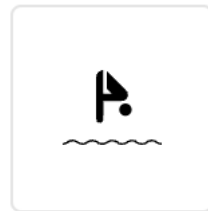
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Tennis

Skateboarding

Snowboard

Diving

Football

Figure Skating

Artistic Gymnastics

Equestrian

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Artificial Intelligence

Development in Judging

Fujitsu JSS Judges Support System (Gymnastics)
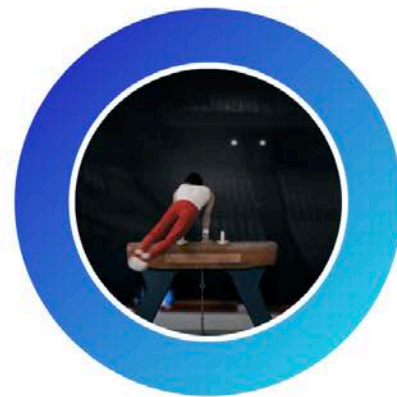
Development in Judging

Judging
"Support" - Judges

Judging Support
With 360 degrees 3DCG data

Training
"Perform" - Gymnasts

Same system as the World
Championships for training

Entertaining
"View" - Spectators

Enriching contents with 3D
data
New viewing experience for
fans

Development in Judging

Eye Tracking

Could be used as an
educational tool,
esp. for less experienced
(upcoming) judges.

Development in Judging

"Se vogliamo che tutto rimanga com'è, bisogna che tutto cambi."
Giuseppe Tomasi Di Lampedusa

"Everything must change so that everything can stay the same."

- ➤ **Keep your Core Principles!**
  - ➤ **Classical Principles of Riding/Training Scale**
  - ➤ **Welfare of the Horse**

- ➤ **Adapt to changing conditions and circumstances!**

Development in Judging

Thank you!