

FEI™ PARA EQUESTRIAN

**LATEST FROM FEI HQ and
DEVELOPMENTS IN JUDGING**

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FEI™ PARA EQUESTRIAN

LATEST FROM FEI HQ

Latest from FEI HQ

- Update from Sports Forum and FEI Board meeting
- Tokyo Update
- NF Engagement



Update from Sports Forum & FEI Board meeting

- Gender Equality
 - good gender balance in all levels of decision making
 - including the Board and leadership positions
- Tokyo 2020
 - Difficult climate conditions at the OG and PG
 - Presentations by Veterinary dpt and Medical committee
 - Panel of Coaches from each discipline

Update from Sports Forum & FEI Board meeting

- FEI Legal system
 - Removal of need for Appeal Committee
 - How to discipline an Athlete's entourage
 - Use of non-official video as evidence



Update from Sports Forum & FEI Board meeting

- **New equipment approval process**
 - No consistency across all disciplines, lack of transparency, lack of scientific research
 - On-site: decision by Stewards if equipment is compliant or not
- **Equipment expert group:**
 - 1 vet
 - 1 medical doctor
 - 1 independent person (with academic background in engineering)
 - 1 steward from the relevant discipline
 - Discipline director or his representative (TC)
 - 1 athlete representative
 - 1 FEI Legal dept representative

Tokyo update

- Warm-up recommendations
- Proactive in case postponement or cancellation of Events
- IPC contingency plan
- Key messaging to Athletes and entourage
- Messaging to the Officials
- After test event:
 - oblige to take measures or recommend measures?
 - Removal of jackets – obligatory or recommended?

NF Engagement



Rules Revision Process (FEI Statutes)

1 March	NFs propose amendments
8 July	Draft Rules available to NFs for comment
30 August	NFs revert to FEI HQ with comments on draft
14 October	Final draft rules published
19 November	General Assembly

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DEVELOPMENTS IN JUDGING

Developments in Judging

- DJWG Recommendations
- E-Dressage

Introduction

Dressage Judges Working Group

Final report

E-Dressage:

paperless judging

Dressage Judges Working Group Final Report

Charge given to the DJWG by the Bureau

- General evaluation and review of current dressage judging system
- Identify relevant factors and practices in other subjectively judged sports
- Make recommendations of current FEI dressage judging system

DJWG Final Report

DJWG Members

Chair

- Frank Kemperman (NED) – Member FEI Bureau – Chair DC

Members

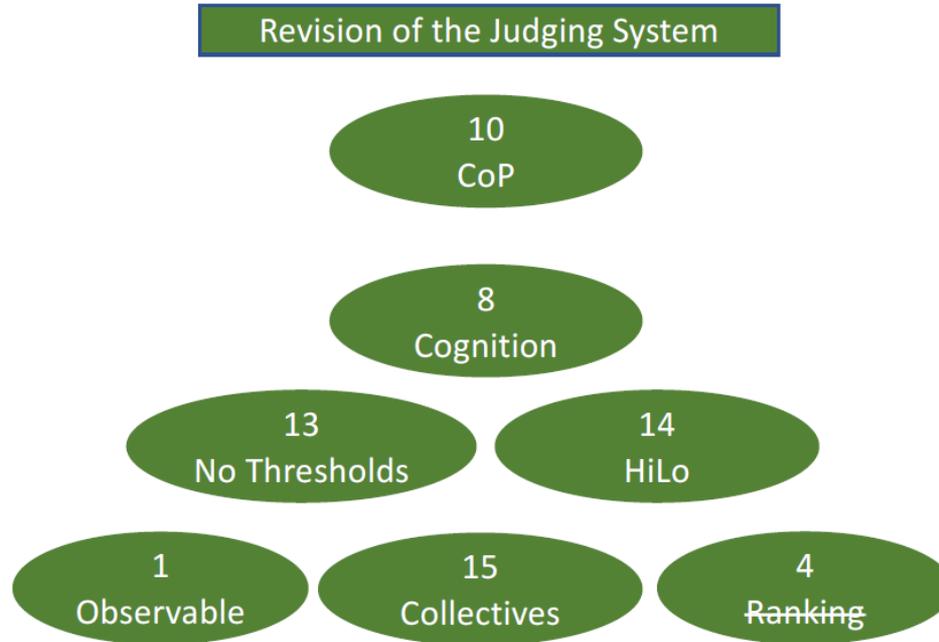
- Maribel Alonso (MEX) – FEI 5* Dressage Judge
- Richard Davison (GBR) – Olympic Rider
- Kyra Kyrklund (FIN) – Olympic Rider and Trainer
- David Stickland (GBR) – Princeton University Physicist at CERN
- Bettina de Rham (SUI) – FEI Dressage Director

DJWG Final Report

Recommendations – four major axis

- Revision of the judging system
- Organisation changes
- Technology
- FEI High level actions

DJWG Final Report



Recommendation 1

- **Everything judged must be an explicit observable**
- The DJWG recommends that all future standard judging directives and references (e.g. Code of Points etc) be formatted to ensure that they are relevant to the specific viewing position of each judge. The DJWG consider that judging directives and references should not be 'silent' on what is able to be observed/not observed from the various judging positions, as this leaves the priority of observations to the discretion of individual judges. Such discretion could lead to inconsistent judgements and a lack of fairness to athletes.

Recommendation 4

- Ranking as a consequence of each mark
- Change in the feedback emphasis
- The DJWG recommends to the FEI that the focus on ranking should be reduced, especially for the purposes of evaluating judging performance. Instead the DJWG recommends that evaluation is assessed by scrutinising the appropriateness of each mark awarded for each movement.

Recommendation 8

- Cognitive load is real and determines each judging performance
- The DJWG recommends that the FEI publishes guidelines for judges on how to optimise their cognitive function and what factors can affect it both positively and negatively.

Recommendation 10

- **The Code of Points**
- The DJWG recommends to the FEI that they proceed with the draft Code of Points and, subject to testing and review, roll it out for use in all relevant classes. The DJWG recommend that the proposed Code of Points is supported, where possible, by appropriate visual imagery.

Recommendation 13

- **Threshold-based corrections are always unfair**
- The DJWG recommends to the FEI that score correction models that are based upon a percentage threshold should not be used as they fail the DJWG's test of equal treatment and fairness to all athletes within the same class.

Recommendation 14

- If score correction is required, HiLo is the fairest
- *However, the DJWG recommends that the FEI wait until the impact of the proposed Code of Points is evaluated before assessing the need for score correction models.*
- The DJWG are of the opinion that if a score correction model is to be employed then the model based upon Hi/Lo drop per movement provides the highest level of fairness as it applies to all athletes within the same class.

Recommendation 15

- **Collective marks exacerbate the cumulative impact on cognitive load**
- *The FEI accepted the recommendation of the DJWG to remove three out of the four standard 'collective' marks at the FEI GA 2017.*
- The DJWG recommends to the FEI that summary marks awarded post-completion of the test be discontinued. Their reasoning for this is that, as this relies upon a longer-term memory retrieval when compared to awarding a mark at the conclusion of each individual movement, there is a lower degree of probability of precision when selecting the appropriate mark and leaves too much to the discretion of each individual judge. When considering the length of many FEI classes the impact of the cumulative cognitive load reduces the probability of accurate mark selection and increases the probability of inconsistency thus increasing the likelihood of unfairness to some athletes.

Code of Points (CoP) – steps

- Steps for the drafting of the Code of Points:
 - Step 1: Technical Input from Dressage experts
 - Step 2: Scrutiny from perceptual and cognition experts
 - Step 3: Language check
 - Step 4: Back to technical dressage experts for further amendments and final approval

Code of Points – Extended Walk – Example

- From the definition, four defining observable characteristics were derived:

The defining observable characteristics of the movement	Visual search - which part of the horse
1. A regular and well-marked four (4) beat gait with equal intervals between each beat.	Horse limbs
2. Optimal ground cover - each hind foot is placed on the ground considerably in front of the hoof prints of the corresponding front foot (overtrack)	Horse's hind foot placement relative to front foot hoofprint
3. Maintenance of a consistent head and neck position and movement with its neck stretched outwards in a forward and downwards direction, and it's nose in front of the vertical (perpendicular).	Head, neck and nose
4. The rider maintains a consistent rein contact with the horse's mouth	Head and neck, reins

Code of Points – Extended Walk – Example

<u>10</u>	As above, with 4+ hoof overtrack
<u>9</u>	As above, with 3+ hoof overtrack
<u>8</u>	As above, with 2+ hoof overtrack
<u>7</u>	As above, with 1+ hoof overtrack
<u>6</u>	Barely overtracking, rhythm still in 4 beats, but with less equal intervals between each beat.
<u>5</u>	No overtracking, losing clarity of 4 beat, lacking suppleness (*), relaxation(*) and range of movement (ROM) of the upper forelimbs
<u>4</u>	Regularity of 4 beat not seen, some pacing steps(*), loss of suppleness(*), relaxation(*) and ROM
<u>3</u>	Irregular steps, clear pacing steps(*) throughout, obvious tension(*) and resistance(*)
<u>2</u>	Irregular steps, breaks in rhythm, pacing steps throughout, severe tension(*) and resistance(*)
<u>1</u>	Severe rhythm breaks (several times) No clear 4 beat, extreme tension(*) and resistance(*)
<u>0</u>	No walk steps shown (Eg passaging or trotting etc throughout)

Half marks will be used at the judge's discretion

Deductions

Possible deductions (Even when the rhythm is in clear 4 beats and there is still clear overtrack)

No clear lengthening of the head and neck (Deduct 1 - 2 points depending on degree)

Open mouth, unsteady rein contact. Horse not stretching neck and head forwards and/or no rein contact (Deduct 1 - 2 points depending on severity)

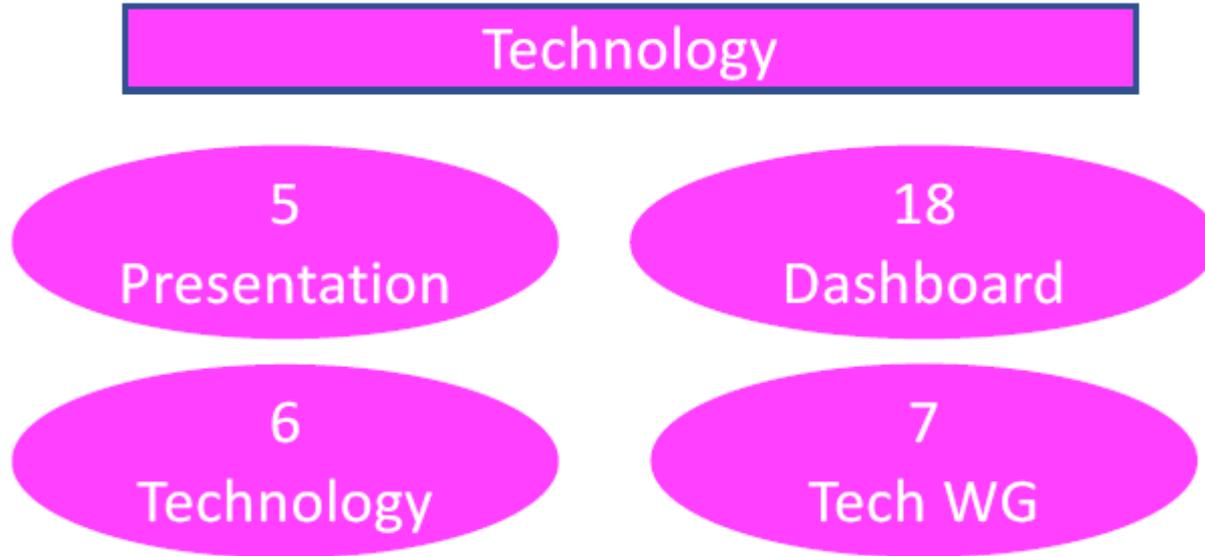
Obvious crookedness, or losing the prescribed line (Deduct 1 - 2 points depending on severity)

Code of Points – Extended Walk – Example

Firewalls (must be 5 or lower)

- Loss of rhythm, jogging or pacing steps.
- Severe resistance in the mouth, tongue obviously and consistently out to one side.

Technology



Recommendation 5

- **Presentation can change perception**
- The DJWG recommends to the FEI that the way results and marks are presented be amended to simplify comparison of results for judges officiating from similar viewing positions.

Recommendation 6

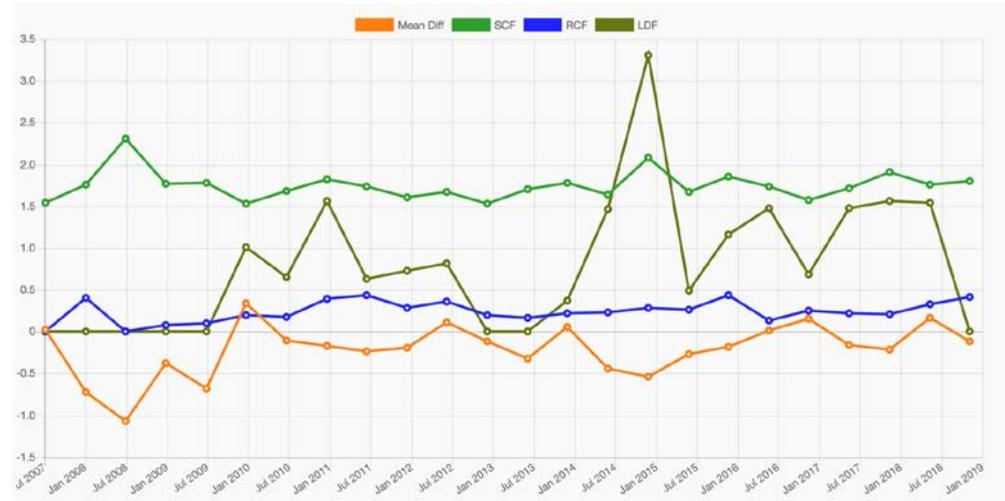
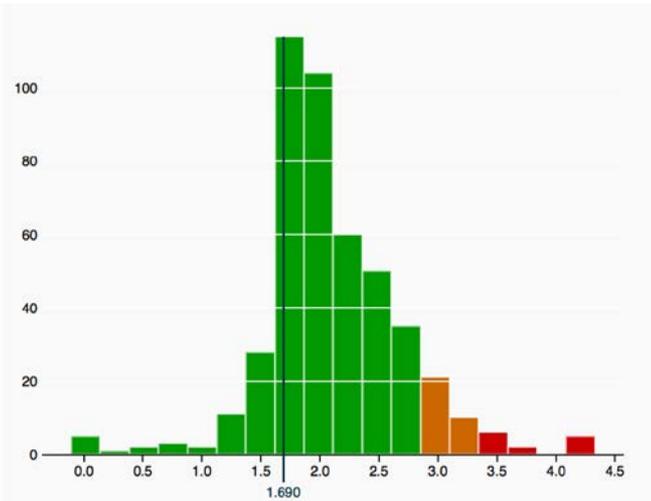
- **Technology for judges**
 - The DJWG recommended that technology within each judge's hut be established to facilitate the communication of observations regarding a limited number of breaches of regulation. These breaches should be strictly limited to prohibited equipment, the appearance of blood etc. Each judge should have the facility to alert the President of the Ground Jury that action needs be taken during the test.
 - *The proposal was accepted at the FEI GA 2017 for implementation 2018 onwards.*

Recommendation 7

- **Manage the use and impact of new technology**
- The DJWG recommends the FEI set up a sub-group to provide advice on development, innovation and use of modern technology in order to assist judges and improve accuracy and therefore fairness to athletes. The DJWG recommends that new and existing technology is reviewed to, among other things, assess the impact upon cognitive load for judges

Recommendation 18

- Review of the Judge's Dashboard
- The DJWG recommends to the FEI that they review the utility of the Judge's Dashboard in 2019 and how it can be used to support the education of judges.



FEI High level Actions



Recommendation 11

- Code of point: not fixed, subject to evolution and review
- The DJWG recommends that the Code of Points should be formally reviewed by a panel of dressage experts every four years and that this review becomes a regulatory obligation and be budgeted for accordingly.

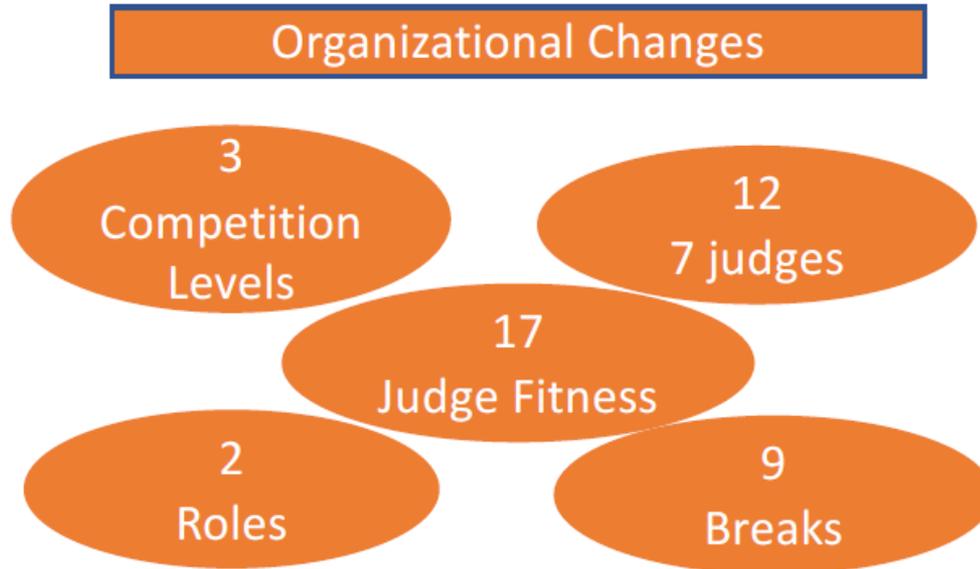
Recommendation 16

- The Code of Points will become the foundation of the education system
- The DJWG recommends to the FEI that the Education Working Group be tasked to embed the proposed Code of Points into the education system along with those relevant recommendations from the FEI Officials Working Group report

Recommendation 19

- The Judges Advisory Panel – evolution of JSP and Judge General roles
- The DJWG recommends to the FEI that a Judging Advisory Group be established as an evolution of the current Judging Supervisory Panel and incorporating also the role currently held by the FEI Judge General.

Organisation Changes



Recommendation 2

- The appropriate mark per movement is judge's primary role
- The DJWG recommends to the FEI that the judge's primary and secondary roles are more clearly defined and embedded in the job descriptions as recommended by the FEI Officials Working Group.

Recommendation 3

- **Competitions or training classes?**
- The DJWG recommends to the FEI that, where appropriate, competition levels are redefined and their objectives more clearly identified.

Recommendation 9

- Maximise judging performance – provision of fairness to all athletes
- The DJWG recommends that the FEI provides evidence-based guidelines to Organising Committees regarding the duration of breaks and other appropriate requirements for judges to support and enhance optimal cognitive function.

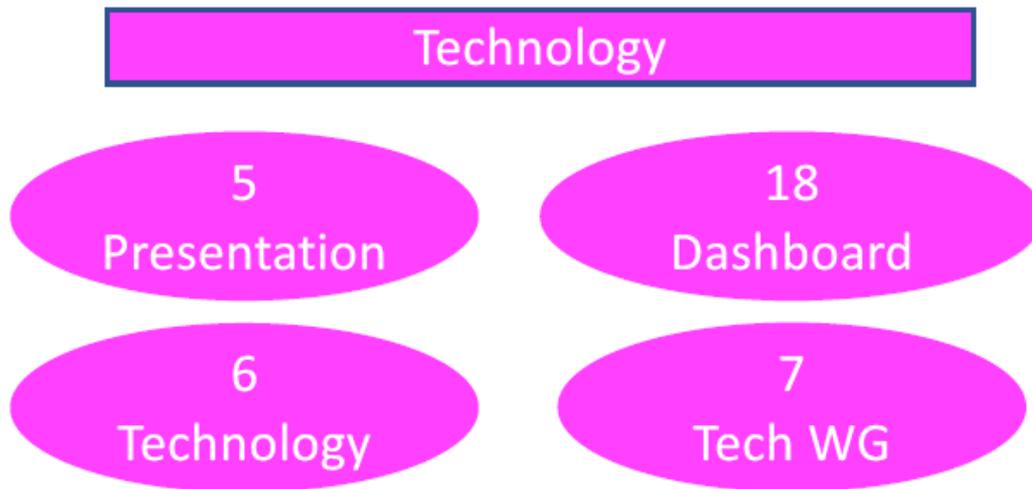
Recommendation 12

- **7-Judges - good**
- The DJWG recommends to the FEI that the current practice of using 7 judges at Senior Championships and Games, as defined in the FEI Dressage Rules, is continued.

Recommendation 17

- A fit judge is a prerequisite
 - The DJWG recommends to the FEI that guidelines should be provided to judges to make them aware of factors that can impact upon their cognitive performance when judging, such as attention and concentration.
 - The DJWG recommends that, in the interest of fairness to the Athlete, the FEI seeks further advice on the impact of medical conditions and medications upon judging decisions.

DJWG Final Report



DJWG Final Report

Code of Points – Timeline

- 2019: Code of points for Grand Prix finalised
Test phase of Code of Points /
Introduction into the Education system
and courses
- 2020: Training of Judges, Athletes, Trainers, ...

Official introduction of the new Judging System –
Code of Point in **2021**

E-Dressage project

eDressage Summary

- No paper scoresheets – runs on iPads with similar look to scoresheets
- Judges sign each scoresheet
- Athletes receive scoresheet automatically after competition
- Only 1 person next to each Judge, no runners or score checker
- Data is safely transmitted

eDressage Advantages for Judges

- No more (time-consuming) **corrections**
- **Education** can be significantly improved by reading remarks
- Significant improvement for **Shadow Judging**
- JSP can **understand differences** in marks
- Commentators and speakers can **explain results**
- More **precise discussions** after competitions
- **One scribe less** to direct – more time to focus on judging

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