

THE STEWARDS GUIDELINES

1. **Be friendly, do not disturb the riders**

Impartiality: same way of stewarding for all disciplines

No politics: no influence from external factors (Press, Gossip...)

A neutral, keen, watchful eye

Presence more important than intervention

Discretion in case of intervention

Explain to the riders instead of negative remarks

Police manner to be avoided

In case of intervention: as soon as possible a psychological approach (do not wait until the rider has to go into the main arena)

2. **All Depends on the way you intervene**

It is impossible to make exact rules in relation to what can be accepted and what cannot be accepted.

To deal with the tension of competition as well as trainers and competitors (and owners) the intervention has to be done with diplomacy, with a kind eye towards the horses.

All depends on:

* The behaviour of a rider, on a specific day, in specific weather and footing conditions?

* Knowledge of the rules by the rider/trainer?

* Do they know they are violating rules?

* Do they violate the rules on purpose?

* What will be the reaction when you intervene:

- Do they agree with the remark you made?

- Do they want some more explanation?

- Do they not accept? Do they protest? Are they rude?

3. **In case of abuse or maltreat: no excuse**

Where there is an abuse or ill-treatment of horse: act immediately with discretion and tact;

Immediately put a stop to the abuse and explain to the rider the reason for the intervention;

Inform the President of the Ground Jury of the incident and of the action taken;

Draw the attention of the Treating Veterinarian (define exactly the circumstances) to the incident (injuries, irregular breathing, excessive sweating, general health problems);

Carry out the decision of the President of the Ground Jury.

The Steward must understand the difference between "abuse" and "correction".

The Steward must be able to go into the schooling area and stop rough riding, rough and discourteous behaviour.

Always immediately act in cases of exaggerated sweating, irregular breathing (take into account the weather conditions).

Always immediately act in case of overriding, signs of exhaustion (if necessary ask the assistance of the Treating Veterinarian).

Long, deep and round riding is accepted, unless used excessively or prolonged (hyper-flexion of the neck). There is a danger when copied by unskilled riders. There is a fine line between training and overtraining!

Stewards must be vigilant in the stables, reporting to the FEI Veterinarian/ Ground

Jury items with which they feel uncomfortable, such as the use of poultice on a horse's lip to reduce swelling and pain.

Trainers are not permitted to ride horses at events in the back arena using prohibited tack etc...

It is not permitted to return to the schooling arena following a poor performance in the competitions arena and school the horse abusively.

The Steward should intervene if the whip is used three times.

What are injuries:

- Blood on the spur(s)/ flank(s)
- Blood in the bit/ mouth
- Swelling on the flank(s) (spurs)
- Burn behind the ears (from sweating/ scouring)
- Swelling on the flanks/ hind quarters (use of the whip)
- Burn at the girth (from sweating/ scouring)
- Wounds on the leg/ feet/ hoofs
- Blood coming from the nose

4. **Team spirit**

- Cooperate with athlete/ trainers
- Cooperate with other Officials
- Cooperate with Organisation Committee

Each member, within her/his own responsibilities, has to try to work together with the others with only one idea in mind:

To participate in an event, where everybody wants to help each other, and where horses and sportsmanship are more important than personal profit.

We must understand that we also represent the rights of the riders to ensure fair competition for all.

5. **The athlete should understand that Stewards are there to help/ assist**

General information

Starting order (call up)

Paddock schedule

Stable security

Help in solving personal problems

Help with contacts (names, telephone numbers, addresses...)

Intermediary to help and solve problems between riders-organizers-Ground Jury

Help with information concerning the Rules (FEI Dressage Regulations, FEI General Regulations, FEI Dressage Stewarding Manual...)

6. **A Steward has an educational role**

Making the athletes apply the Rules minding the spirit behind those Rules;

Strict but human;

Impartiality;

Give them the benefit of the doubt;

Never discuss when feelings start running high;

Keep in mind that athletes/ trainers are under a lot of pressure and that they don't need much to overreact.

Your behaviour will be crucial here!!! (control yourself).

Avoid a quarrel that will end up in having a blazing row.

If you have to make a remark:

- Be polite
- Be discrete

- Not in public

7. External factors in stewarding

Third party (family, fans, friends):	Partiality
Press and television:	Sensation
Other athletes/ trainers:	Jealousy
Contradiction in communication:	Be Clear and unanimous
Organizer:	Conflict regulations – Rules
EADCMR control:	Apply the Rules

Extreme weather conditions:

In close consultation with the President of the Ground Jury and the Organizer, we can make propositions (very early warming up, change of training areas, longer training sessions in the main arena...).

Epidemics:

Guidelines from the Health Department through the Treating Vet.