

DRESSAGE

Guidelines for Shadow Judging (SJ)

Please see FEI Education System for Judges Dressage as there is a specific maximum number of shadow judging attempts per star-level according to the entry requirements. <http://www.fei.org/fei/your-role/officials/dressage/education-system>

(In these Guidelines, the use of the masculine shall be interpreted to also include the feminine form)

In general:

- All Level 4/5* judges are automatically Mentor Judges (MJ). **One** Mentor Judge from the FEI list of MJs must be used for each SJ.
- For the evaluation and discussion with the candidate regarding the outcome of his SJ a 2nd judge, min. a 4* judge, can be chosen by the MJ as 'Reference Judge' (RJ), but this is not compulsory.
- All SJs have to be done in the 1st competition on the respective level
- Sit-Ins and SJ may be done at the same CDI but **the SJ must be done before the Sit-In/1:1 Tutoring.**
- MJ/RJ and Candidate must be of different nationalities. MJ and RJ can have the same nationality.
- A MJ cannot accept more than 1 candidate per competition.
- **Minimum 8 horses per competition to be judged.**
- The candidate is not allowed to use e-Dressage.
- If a judge is part of the official panel he cannot do a SJ at the same event.

Tasks of the Candidate

The candidate has to

- check that one FEI approved MJ will judge the competition in which he wants to do the SJ.
- contact the MJ min. 4 weeks before the event and ask for permission to shadow judge.
- contact the OC min. 4 weeks before the event, ask for official permission to shadow judge and clarify details (additional table, additional scribe, judges sheets ...).
- contact OC and/or MJ again shortly before the event and ask for all details concerning his SJ (timetable, number of competitors etc...).

Tasks of the OC (SJ)

If an OC is willing to allow a candidate to shadow-judge, they should provide an additional table (possibly under a roof when outdoors), an additional scribe and judges' sheets. The candidate and the MJ should preferably sit next to/opposite each other to have the same perspective.

The show office should add up the results of the candidate and - if not done with eDressage - copy the sheets of the MJ and possibly also of the RJ for the assessment of the candidate before these are handed out to the competitors.

Tasks of the Mentor Judge:

The MJ should

- meet with the candidate prior to the competition to explain the procedure and to give him the possibility to ask questions.
- remind him to give remarks for all marks of 5 and below; if possible also for higher marks.
- ask for short conclusive sentences summarizing the most important issues.
- point out that candidates may mention on their sheets if their view is affected.
- take care that the sheets are collected after each ride.
- arrange the possibility of using a 2nd judge as RJ.
- assess the candidate according to the FEI Assessment Form for SJ:

1. Appearance and behaviour:

The MJ evaluates the appearance of the candidate: e.g. friendly, open-minded, appropriately dressed, well on time etc. and also checks his spoken English as well as the correct use of technical language.

2. Organisation of SJ, knowledge of test:

The MJ checks how the candidate has organised his SJ, e.g. contact with OC and MJ beforehand, instructions to the scribe, knowledge of test, etc.

3. Ranking:

After the class, the MJ assesses the candidate's **results** and compares his ranking **with his own**, taking into account the following criteria:

a. Candidate's Placing (with focus on the best placed 50% of competitors)

The placing of the MJ is relevant to the decision. Ideally, the candidate's placing is close to the MJ's placing. When obvious differences to the MJ's placing occur, it is up to the MJ (possibly together with the RJ) to decide whether the candidate's results are still acceptable. Placing differences, caused by horses having nearly the same final result in % should be considered more leniently.

If the MJ admits that he made an error, the official placing should be taken as parameter.

b. Spread of final scores

The spread of final scores (highest and lowest mark) must be indicated on the assessment form. It should be positively remarked if the candidate is able to spread appropriately.

c. Percentage (%): Ideally, the candidate's % is close to the % of the MJ.

More than 3% difference needs supporting arguments, 5% difference or more without a valid reason - especially among the **placed** competitors - cannot be accepted and has to negatively influence the general outcome of the candidate's SJ.

The number of significant differences in % must be mentioned on the assessment form.

4. Appropriate Use of Marks and Remarks:

a. Correct use of marks: The MJ looks in detail through the sheets, comparing the marks movement by movement.

- 1 point difference from the MJ is allowed, 1.5 point difference needs a valid reason (e.g. tongue visible) otherwise it counts as ½ mistake (→ ½ m)
- 2 and more p. difference: 1 mistake, to be noted on the front page of the test sheet (→ 1m)
- 1 serious mistake (e.g. overlooking a basic mistake) to be **clearly** marked (e.g. → 1m!)
- If the candidate has omitted a mark/ a course error it has to be counted as a mistake.

b. Correlation between marks and remarks/ correct use of technical language:

Incorrect, not fitting remarks/missing remarks for a mark of 5 and below etc. are counted as ½ mistake, to be noted on the front page of the candidate's test sheet (→ ½ m)

c. Spread of single marks:

The MJ assesses whether the candidate has used the whole range of marks. Inappropriate and excessive use of 6.5 should be negatively noticed.

The number of mistakes (marks and remarks) has to be added up for the assessment. The total number of mistakes acceptable is calculated by multiplying the number of horses by two.

More than an average of 2 mistakes per horse can only be accepted when the ranking, placing, spread of final scores and % - in comparison to the MJ - are good.

More than an average of 2.5 mistakes per horse is not acceptable and leads to the failure of the whole SJ.

Basic mistakes must always seriously be taken into consideration.

Final Assessment of the SJ:

The MJ has the task to evaluate the outcome of the candidate's placing and the quality of his marks and remarks.

The total number of mistakes, the spread of final scores and the % in comparison to the MJ must be mentioned on the assessment sheet.

Priority on ranking and marks.

If the placing was very much in line with the MJ's results, the MJ can be slightly more lenient with the assessment of the %. If the placing was very divergent (e.g. would have significantly changed the official ranking of the class), the candidate may not pass.

If the candidate's marks are very much in agreement with the MJ's marks, the MJ can be slightly more generous with the assessment of the remarks.

If the candidate shows in his marks that he lacks basic understanding of the judging and riding principles and/or has an average (Ø) of more than 2.5 mistakes per horse, he must not pass.

5. Outcome:

After having gone through the sheets, the MJ discusses the outcome with the candidate - possibly in the presence of the RJ who functions as a witness to both sides. The MJ gives the candidate the opportunity to explain his marks/remarks and thereby checks his knowledge of riding- and judging principles.

After the discussion the MJ should inform the candidate about the outcome of the SJ, emphasise his strong and weak points, and give him further recommendations on which topics still need to be focused on.

The MJ should keep the candidate's test sheets for three (3) months after the SJ and send them to the FEI as per the below:

The Assessment Form for Shadow Judging + an official result sheet will be sent to the FEI Dressage Dept. (anna.milne@fei.org) by the MJ, within two weeks after the event. Unsuccessful attempts (mark < sufficient) must also be sent in.