

Job description - Judges Supervisory Panel (JSP)

Introduction

Starting from 01 January 2011 a JSP will be mandatory for Olympic Games, WEG, Continental Championships on Grand Prix level as well as World Cup Finals. The cost for the JSP at the shows where its presence is mandatory will be carried by the OC. The strategy is to have the JSP in operation at 2-3 smaller events. When the JSP is sent by the FEI to other events than the mandatory ones, the cost would be carried by the FEI. The JSP team for the non-mandatory events should ideally have equipment to correct the given marks but should at least take part in discussions after the competition and gain knowledge about the judging in the event.

Composition of a JSP team

The JSP at any of the mandatory events would consist of 3 members, and the ideal composition would be two 5* judges, preferably course directors, and max. 1 trainer. However, the total pool of people needed to always have a JSP available if needed is estimated at six persons. There can be max. 1 person per National Federation in the JSP, however the most important thing is to have the most experienced and respected people in this team. There is no age limit for the members. The JSP members must be independent and experienced, the trainers preferably "fellows". The trainers who are members of this JSP pool should attend 5* judges seminars.

- All JSP members must be well respected and diplomatic, must be prepared to travel to events, follow the judges' codex and must have integrity as well as communication skills.
- The judges on the JSP need to take time off from judging Senior Championships and CDI Os. Similarly, trainers would take time off training potential riders/horses of CDI3* and above in order to avoid any perceived conflict of interest. Trainers should preferably be a national judge.
- The stakeholders will be consulted to propose members.

Responsibilities of the JSP at an event / in a competition:

The JSP will have the authority to lower marks (if a judge has missed a clear mistake) but also to rise marks (if the JSP is sure that a rider has been punished for a mistake which did not happen) if there are a minimum of 2 marks difference between the judges. Above all the JSP has to follow the rule that it can only correct clear, definite technical mistakes and counting errors, such as:

- Numerical mistake in flying change series
- Numerical mistake in canter zig-zag or mistake in the changes in canter zig-zag
- Changes late or short behind or late in front either in a series or single changes
- Clear change of leg (not just jumping together) in pirouette

- Clear break of gait in trot, canter or extended walk (gait changes in passage or collected walk e.g. jogging, should be the verdict of the judge), for example change to canter in a trot half pass or falling into trot in a canter movement
- Number of steps in piaffe
- Number of steps in rein-back

The correction mark does not have to be the average of the other judges' marks but the JSP would not be able to set marks outside the range of the judges' given marks (for example, if the judges' marks range from 5-8, the JSP may only correct a judge's mark within this range).

If a judge's final score for a Horse/Athlete combination varies (above or below) by five (5)% or more from the average of the scores of the other judges for the same combination, the JSP may, by unanimous decision, change that particular score to be the same as the next closest score.

The JSP members have to complete and sign a JSP protocol for the rider whose mark(s) have been changed. This protocol includes:

- the reasoning for changing the mark
- the original judge's mark and
- the corrected JSP mark.

This original JSP protocol will be attached to the judges' protocols and made available to the rider after the competition. Furthermore there should be taken copies of the JSP protocols which can then serve as a supportive document for the judges' debriefing.

Immediately after the competition the JSP will inform the judges which marks have been changed (no information will be given to the judge during or immediately after a ride).

JSP will supply input for the debriefing of the respective competition. Notwithstanding it is the task of the President of the Ground Jury and the Foreign Judge to actually lead the debriefing. The JSP may also mention general observations during the debriefing which don't necessarily have to be debated in specific details during that debriefing. Instead it should be noted that there is an area in need of attention which can then be further analyzed in a judges' seminar.

After each event the JSP team has to send a confidential evaluation report to the FEI Dressage

Working conditions for a JSP at an event:

- Seated in a position which gives good overview on the entire arena (JSP must not be placed where their discussions could disturb or be overheard by public/press)
- JSP computer screen developed according to FEI Guidelines
- Video recording of all rides which gives the JSP the possibility to rewind real time
- Provision of enough copies of the JSP protocol
- One secretary whose task is to fill in the JSP protocol
- Direct communication with the calculation office (if possible in the same room, otherwise via phone)

- The JSP's correction mark has to be included in the rider's confirmed score which is announced after the subsequent competitor

Other responsibilities of the JSP:

The JSP should also:

- Evaluate the quality of judges in general
- Identify any judges in need of remedial training
- Prevent the possibility of nationalistic or other impartial judging.
- Making proposals for the education / assessment of judges and their status (promotion)
- Provide a "long list" proposal of judges to the Dressage Committee and FEI HQ for the Olympic Games, WEG, Continental Championships on Grand Prix level as well as World Cup Finals
- Be aware of trends in judging to prevent "drifting" of standards or cases where clarification of rules is needed
- Provide a general overview of the "judges' world"
- Receive the Foreign Judge's reports from events they are not present
- Receive the Foreign Rider's report if there are remarks concerning the judging
- Focus on some movements to achieve uniform judgment, e.g. halt, extended walk or piaffe

The JSP will report these issues to the FEI

Codex for JSP members

1. The member of the FEI Judges Supervisory Panel (JSP) is an expert on Dressage and horses, who must have knowledge of the principles of Dressage, of the FEI-Rules and, based on his/her technical competence, is qualified to officiate at FEI International dressage competitions.

He/She is always representing the FEI.

2. A JSP member must avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest. A JSP member must have a neutral, independent and fair position towards riders, owners, trainers, organizers and other officials and integrate well into a team. Financial and/or personal interest must never influence or be perceived to influence his/her way of judging.

3. Activities which will lead to or may lead to a "conflict of interest" when officiating at a CDI, include but are not limited to:

- Training a participating horse/rider for more than three days in the twelve month period prior to an event or any training of a horse/rider during a period of nine months before Olympic Games, WEG, Continental Championship on Grand Prix level, or World Cup Final, and three months before any other FEI event.
- Acting as Team chef of National teams at international level or being responsible/co-responsible for selecting teams and/or individuals or training riders within the NF.
- To be owner/part-owner of horses taking part in the event.

- Being in a situation of financial dependence or gaining financial profit from owners, riders, trainers, organizers or other related organisations.
- Having a close personal relationship with a competitor.
- Nationalistic influencing.

A JSP member has the responsibility to notify the FEI of any of the above or other possible conflicts of interest or situations that may be perceived as such.

4. During a Dressage event a JSP member has to be punctual and correct in the way of behaviour.

5. A JSP member has to be well prepared for the tests he/she is observing and has to cooperate well with the organizer and his/her colleagues.

6. A JSP member has to be dressed appropriately and must always be aware that he/she is representing the FEI.

7. A JSP member can only present him/herself in the role of a JSP member and interfere as such at an event, if sent by the FEI to officiate at that specific event. If not sent by the FEI the JSP member is only entitled to act as a silent observer, reporting back to the JSP colleagues and the FEI.

8. The FEI and the FEI Dressage committee have the right to undertake disciplinary actions against JSP members who do not follow the Codex and FEI rules.

Such disciplinary actions may consist of: 1) Warning letter 2) Temporary suspension and 3) Removal from the list of FEI JSP members.

Lausanne, **18 January 2011 (updated on 16 October 2019)**

Signature

Date

Name