

DRESSAGE NSW ZOOM CLUB FORUM, SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY 2021

How do we as judges, all 165 of us across all levels, service your needs?

There are 44 clubs with 151 competitions per year plus Regionals, States, Nationals, Australian Dressage Champs, PE, Eventing, Pony Club, Breed and Ag Shows. You can see that we cannot provide judge support for this.

Our talk today and this presentation is all about **CHOICES** and we have them at our disposal. We also need to make **CHANGES**. We've taken the first step and **CHANGED** the Education System.

CHANGES TO OUR FREE EDUCATION SYSTEM

It is, in this life, one of the few things that are free to the judges and any interested people. We have been encouraged to embrace the online technology which is a game changer for education. We have been asking for some of the theory component to be an online and now we have been given this opportunity.

CHOICE 1: We can still provide workshops and seminars face to face as we used to do but only when it is safe to do so.

CHOICE 2: Now we can deliver the seminars in 3 parts.

Part 1. The judges complete the reading and comprehension on the Modules such as Conflict of Interest, Risk Management, Health and Safety online. At the end of this session the judges will be given a Certificate of Participation.

Part 2. The theory session can now be delivered online. It does mean that we are unable to insert videos but the powerpoint presentations come across well and there is room for discussion. At the end of this session the judges will be given a Certificate of Participation.

Part 3. There is no getting around the need for watching live dressage horses. We need to see and discuss horses as they are performing the movements just as we have always done. This will be the only face to face component and the judges will receive a Certificate of Participation for this as well.

3 Certificates of Participation and the judges remain accredited for another 3 years.

ADVANTAGES OF CHOICE 1:

Ease of discussion, opportunities for easy debate,

The opportunity for us all to be together and share our experiences

ADVANTAGES OF CHOICE 2:

Less time commitment in face-to-face sessions

A safer way to deliver the information whilst Covid is still a major problem

The Modules can be completed in your own time and at your own pace.

The theory component can be done the week before and at a time that suits everyone

I don't see any disadvantages.

CHOICE 3: We could introduce in NSW, as has been in WA for many years now, a system of two-tier judging. I wrote this system in 2008 and submitted it to the EADC at which point it was promptly rejected. It was rejected also by DNSW but WA embraced it and implemented it.

Roughly, it was a quicker entry system and less onerous exam system for judges up to Elementary level. It meant that these judges could judge at Pony Club, Eventing, Breed Shows, Agricultural Shows, Interschools and shows whose scores do not lead to qualification for Regional, State, National and Olympic qualifications. The judges filled a very real need to support these groups and take the load off the National qualified judges.

To cross from, let's call it a State System to the EA National Officials System, the judge would have to do all the work required at either Novice or Elementary level including all the shadow judging, sit-ins, pass the theory and practical exams before they could be accredited in the National system.

CHOICE 4: Clubs could run 2 official days per year for those riders that need qualifying scores for the major events and then rest of the comps, as frequently as could be supported, they could run "Unofficial events", Club days, restricted days, training days or whatever else you want to call them. Not all Club members want to ride at the State or National Champs and do not need the official judges and official results. What they most want is an opportunity to ride, be assessed by an official and also assess their own performance under competitive conditions.

CHOICE 5:

- a. Find a YOUNG member of your Club who wants to be a judge.
Create opportunities and then support them both financially and whatever other way is required for this person to enter the system and become a judge. There is funding available for this type of education. I say YOUNG because it is a slow process as it needs to be to some extent to acquire the knowledge and experience required to judge. Unlike other officials, like Stewards, whose job is definitely not easier, but whose training is much shorter and doesn't require many hours of watching horses, learning how the conformation can affect the movement, learning what good quality horses look like and how to mark them compared with less athletic types etc.
- b. We can run a Ready Steady Judge weekend in your region as we do for Young, Hunter Valley, Taree, Shoal Haven Clubs.
- c. Now that the theory can be completed online, we need only hold the practical component face to face and with live horses. It saves costs as we don't need a classroom and catering.
- d. Identify a rider who could be interested in becoming a judge and make use of the Fast Track System to encourage them to join. Again, support them however you can.
- e. Make better use of your Regions and neighbouring Clubs to unite and have a judge's seminar and/or workshop to support the people in your area. We are happy to bring the knowledge to you to make it easier.

- f. If the coaches don't know what we are looking for, as judges, then how can they coach the rider that wants to compete?? Invite and involve the coaches in your area. The EA Coaching people are now onboard with more inclusive participation and we are hoping that attending a judge's seminar or workshop will now give coaches points towards accreditation.
- g. It's fine to be a small Club because all Clubs provide a service and fill a need. But perhaps think about joining forces for your Club Champs or Regional Champs or for a specific event that you may have found a sponsor to support. If you join forces for comps then you have a better opportunity for sponsorship, you give the riders a better opportunity to compete in a bigger field, they also get to watch horses and riders that may be better than themselves and learn something rather than just the same, small group against whom they always compete.
- h. ASK FOR HELP. If you are unsure about what to do ASK your neighbouring Club, ASK DNSW and myself for help. If you would like more information, or information in a different format, JUST ASK.

CHOICE 6: A Star System for our events.

Qld have introduced this system to help them identify and quantify events so that riders competing at larger events have an increased weighting on their scores for qualification for States and nationals or for the Leaderboard for things like the State AOR Champ. For example, the benefit of a One Star Event, as opposed to a regular Competitive day is for weighted scores (1.02) towards end of year trophies and inclusion in the Adult Amateur Owner Rider Series.

The number of stars also designates the level of judges that will officiate at the competition.

This will not affect the grass roots riders and members of your Clubs, but it will help the more competitive riders in your areas and then leads to more combined competitions to enable the riders to have a wider pool of competitors.

THANKYOU

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