



DRESSAGE JUDGE

1 LICENSING AND PROMOTION OF DRESSAGE JUDGES

All applicants for recorded status, or promotion up to and including FEI Level, are to be made in accordance with these policies.

1. All licensed officials must pay their Dressage affiliate fee and hold an EC Gold Sport Licence.
2. It is the responsibility of the applicant or licensed judge to accomplish all necessary requirements for obtaining/maintaining a judge's licence.
3. Application must be made by January 31st using the official EC Dressage Judges application form for consideration for licensing/promotion in the following calendar year. The form and relevant fee must be sent to Equestrian Canada – Officials Programs. Application forms may be printed from the EC website www.equestrian.ca. The application fee for promotion of any official can be found on the application form.

Note: No late applications will be accepted.

4. Completed documentation as required and outlined in these rules must be submitted by October 1st of the same year in which the initial application is made.

Note: No reminders will be sent by the EC office to applicants.

5. Equestrian Canada will review all completed applications by the end of November of each year. The decisions will be sent to applicants in writing in December. EC will outline reasons for their decision and offer remedial suggestions for future promotion.
6. Judges may apply to upgrade during the year in which they meet the minimum number of years required at a given card level. Approval to upgrade, if given, does not take effect until the following January.
7. All promotions are at the discretion of Equestrian Canada and are probationary for one year.

2 RECORDED (r)

Must have:

1. Competed as an athlete in three EC Bronze, Silver or Gold dressage competitions or NF recognized dressage competitions at Second Level and achieved 60% at three different competitions under three different judges.

Note: Complete Documentation must be provided.

2. Judged a minimum of two non-sanctioned dressage competitions up to and including the equivalent of first level within two years of making their application for recorded status. Documentation must be provided.
3. Completed a minimum of 12 hours of scribing at EC Silver or Gold dressage competitions. The judge scribed for must sign the EC Scribing Form. The applicant must submit the form with their final documentation by October 1st of the year in which their application is made for carding. Scribing forms may be printed from the EC website www.equestrian.ca.
4. Attended and received a positive assessment at an EC sanctioned judges' promotion clinic for "r" judges, in the year application is made for carding.
5. Completed and passed the EC judges' examination in the year application is made for carding.



6. Recorded applicants must submit a completed application form giving the names and addresses of five references all of whom must be EC sport license holders in good standing, and two of whom must be EC Basic, Medium or Senior judges listed on the current EC judges' roster (see Policy 3.6 Judge references).
7. Audited with a Senior or FEI judge at a minimum of two 2-day EC sanctioned competitions. No Shadow judging is required.

Note: Recorded judges are not required to upgrade. However, to retain their recorded status, they must follow the rules outlined in Policy 3.1 Updating - Promotion Clinic and Exam Requirements. Failure to do so will result in being removed from the list of licensed officials.

3 BASIC (B)

Must have:

1. Been licensed as a recorded judge.
2. Competed as an athlete, in three EC Silver or Gold dressage competitions or NF recognized dressage competitions at Third Level and achieved 60% at three different competitions under three different judges. Complete documentation must be provided.
3. Judged a minimum of five EC Bronze, Silver or Gold competitions up to and including Second Level within three years prior to making application for Basic status.

Note: Complete Documentation must be provided.

4. Completed a minimum of 12 hours of scribing at Third Level or higher (includes FEI six-year old young horse class) in Gold, Silver and/or Bronze competitions. If scribing at a Bronze competition, the official judge must hold a medium or higher card. The judge scribed for must sign the EC Scribing Form. The applicant must submit the form with their final documentation by October 1st of the year in which their application is made.
5. Attended and received a positive assessment at an EC sanctioned dressage judges' promotion clinic for Basic judges, in the year application is made for promotion.
6. Completed and passed the EC judges' examination in the year application is made for promotion.
7. Basic applicants must have a minimum of five references, all of whom must be EC sport license holders (in good standing) and two of whom must be EC Medium, Senior or FEI dressage judges listed on the current EC judges' roster (see Policy 3.6 Judge references).

4 MEDIUM (M)

Must have:

1. Held a Basic card for a minimum of two years.
2. Competed in three EC Silver or Gold or NF recognized dressage competitions at Prix St. Georges and achieved 60% at each competition under three different judges. Documentation must be provided.

Note: If applicant cannot meet the competition riding requirements above, they may apply using the Apprenticeship Program. See rule below.

3. The Apprenticeship Program will allow those applicants who are unable to fulfill the competition criteria as set out in the rules for promotion to select and fulfill the apprenticeship program as outlined below.



- a. This Apprenticeship Program replaces only criteria point 2 of the Medium status requirements and is to be completed in addition to all other criteria as outlined in the rules for promotion.
 - b. Prior to commencement of the Apprenticeship Program, the applicant must submit a plan to the Equestrian Canada for approval. This plan must include the name(s) of the Mentoring Judges(s) indicating their agreement to their participation in the Apprenticeship Program.
 - c. The applicant must submit a video to the Equestrian Canada demonstrating their ability by riding Fourth Level Test Three. Included with the video, there must be a letter of recommendation from an EC High Performance 1 Coach or an International Elite Rider.
 - d. Video Requirements:
 - i. Video to be taken from “C”
 - ii. Horse to be confirmed at the level
 - iii. Video to be submitted without cuts
 - iv. Video to be taken outside or in an arena with good lighting.
 - e. The applicant's ability to ride the half-pass, tempi changes and pirouettes will be evaluated.
 - f. The applicant must apprentice under Senior or Canadian FEI dressage judges (called Mentoring Judges) at a minimum of Fourth Level at three EC Silver, Gold or CDI shows. One or two Senior or FEI judges may be used by each applicant.
 - g. Each show must be a minimum of two days in duration.
 - h. The applicant must spend the entire two days of the show working with the Mentoring Judge in order to create an overall learning opportunity and to develop judging theory and expectations based on progression through the competition levels.
 - i. A total of three shows must be used with a minimum of one show being outside the applicant's province of residence. One show must be a championship show. The range of classes covered must include Fourth Level and above.
 - j. Applicants must have apprenticed with a minimum of 50 horses at Fourth Level and/or above.
 - k. The Mentoring Judge(s) must submit an evaluation of the applicant at the conclusion of the Apprenticeship Program when the applicant is applying for promotion. The form is to be prepared by the OC.
 - l. All criteria must be fulfilled within two years.
4. Judged at EC Silver or Gold competitions in the following capacities:
- a. *Co-judged at Training through Third Levels at two EC Gold competitions.*
 - b. *Senior judge at five Silver or Gold competitions at Third and Fourth Levels with documentation to be provided.*
 - c. With a Medium or higher level judge as co-judge up to Fourth Level at four EC/NF Silver or higher competitions. Scores for the applicant and all judges must be submitted.
 - d. Shadow judged at Third and Fourth Levels or higher under two different judges at EC Silver or Gold competitions with a complete report to be submitted from both judges to the EC office. Auditing/shadow judging forms may be obtained from the EC website:
www.equestrian.ca
5. Applicants for Medium status must also complete a minimum of 12 hours of scribing in FEI Levels at EC Silver or Gold competitions. The judge for whom the applicant scribes must sign the EC Scribing Form. The applicant must submit the form with their final documentation by October 1st of the year in which they apply to upgrade. Scribing forms may be obtained from the EC website:
www.equestrian.ca.

6. Attended and received a positive assessment at an EC sanctioned dressage judges' promotion clinic for M and S judges in the year application is made for promotion.
7. Completed and passed the EC judges' examination in the year application is made for promotion.
8. Medium applicants must have a minimum of three references, all of whom must be EC sport license holders (in good standing), and two must be EC Senior or FEI dressage judges listed on the current EC judges' roster (see Policy 3.6 Judge references).

5 SENIOR(S)

Must have:

1. Held a Medium card for a minimum of two years.
2. Riding Experience:
 - a. Riding criteria: competed at Intermediate 1 at three EC Gold or Silver Dressage competitions or NF recognized Dressage competitions, achieving three separate scores of 62% or higher from one judge per class. The three scores awarded by two FEI judges and one Senior dressage judge. Note: complete documentation must be provided.
 - b. The applicant must also submit a video of him/herself riding an Intermediate 2 test. Video to be reviewed and assessed by current Canadian FEI judges. A standard of 60% is expected.
3. Judged ten (10) days of EC Gold competitions or NF recognized dressage competitions at a minimum of Third and Fourth Levels. Each day of a multiple day competition will count toward the 10 required days of judging. Complete documentation must be provided.
4. Co-Judging and Shadow Judging:
 - a. Co-judged a minimum of four EC Gold or NF recognized competitions in the Prix St. Georges and Intermediate I with a minimum of four horses per class, and two EC Gold or NF recognized competitions at Grand Prix with a minimum of three horses per class.
 - b. Shadow judged the Grand Prix level at least three times with three different judges and a minimum of three horses per class.

Note: The applicant must submit a copy of the official class result sheet for all judging completed in 4 a & b. Failure to submit the class result sheet will make the application invalid.

Note: co-judging may be conducted either as a recognized judge of a sanctioned show or as an audit function at the same shows where the co-judge's scores do not count in class placings. In the case of an audit co-judge, full class sheets with all judges' scores/placings and the audit judge's scores, need to be forwarded to Equestrian Canada October 1st of the year in which the application is made for promotion.

5. Judged Third and Fourth Levels and/or above at two Championships (regional or provincial).
6. Attended and received a positive assessment at an EC sanctioned dressage judges' promotion clinic for M & S judges in the year the application is made for promotion.
Note: Officials are encouraged to retain a copy of all competition results for proof of their scores for promotion purposes.
7. Completed and passed the EC Judges Examination in the year application is made for promotion.
8. Senior applicants must have a minimum of three references, all of whom must be EC sport license holders (in good standing), and two must be either EC Senior or Canadian FEI dressage judges listed on the current EC judges' roster (see Policy 3.6 Judge references).



6 FEI STATUS

It is to be understood that the FEI requires attendance at specifically identified FEI clinics for dressage judges before a nominated National Federation (NF) judge may be considered to receive an FEI 3* or FEI 4* Judge's card.

There are three categories of FEI Judge:

- FEI 3*
- FEI 4*
- FEI 5*.

5* judges are selected by the Bureau of the FEI on the advice of the FEI Dressage Committee, from the FEI list of FEI 4* Judges and put on the list of FEI 5* Judges (current FEI rules for Dressage events).

The qualifications for each category may be found in the FEI General Regulations, and the FEI Rules for Dressage Events www.fei.org: International Dressage Judges.

To be eligible for invitation by Equestrian Canada, for submission of their name for consideration by the FEI, applicants must fulfill the following requirements.

7 FEI 3* JUDGE

1. Applicants must have completed the following criteria to apply for FEI 3* dressage judge status. (complete documentation must be provided to EC review):
 - a. Hold a senior card for a minimum of two years.
 - b. Judged a minimum of nine national Grand Prix level classes in the three years prior to making their application for 3* Dressage Judge status. A minimum of three classes must be judged in the 12 months prior to making application. A minimum of 50 horses in total must be judged at the Grand Prix level.
 - c. Shadow judged two Grand Prix classes, with a minimum of eight horses, with at least two FEI judges.
 - d. Judged on a jury with two or more FEI judges on at least two occasions.
 - e. Attended and been assessed in writing at a EC sanctioned dressage judges' clinic in the year application is made for FEI 3* Dressage Judge status.
 - f. Obtained two sponsorship letters from two different FEI judges (one of whom must be from outside Canada). The letters must be written within two years of submitting application for FEI 3* Dressage Judge status.
 - g. EC Senior Dressage judges having fulfilled the above criteria and wishing to be considered for FEI 3* Dressage Judges' status must apply by January 31st using the official EC Dressage Judges application form for consideration for licensing/promotion in the following calendar year. The form and relevant fee must be sent to Equestrian Canada – Officials Programs. Application forms may be printed from the EC website www.equestrian.ca. The application fee for promotion of any official can be found on the application form.

Note: Applicants who meet the above criteria and are approved by EC for nomination to the FEI must note that the FEI does not necessarily accept all nominations. Accepted applicants who receive a recommendation letter from the NF, should refer to the FEI Education System for Dressage Judges, available on FEI website ww.fei.org, for additional requirements. Please note that some of the FEI requirements will have already been fulfilled through completion of the above criteria. Applicants should also refer to the FEI Rules for Dressage



Events, Annex 7 for details regarding the FEI age restrictions for International Dressage Judges.

8 FEI 4* STATUS

1. Applicants must have completed the following criteria to apply for FEI 4* dressage judge status. (complete documentation must be provided to EC review):

FEI 3* judges wishing to be considered for FEI 4* status must first complete the FEI requirements (FEI Education System for Dressage Judges, available on FEI website www.fei.org, for additional requirements. Applicants should also refer to the FEI Rules for Dressage Events, Annex 7 for details regarding the FEI age restrictions for International Dressage Judges).

Note: If proposed by EC, it should be noted that the FEI does not necessarily accept all nominations.

9 REFERENCES FOR JUDGES

1. Recorded applicants must have a minimum of five (5) references, all of whom must be EC sport license holders (in good standing) and two of whom must be EC Basic, Medium or Senior judges listed on the current EC judges' roster.
2. Basic applicants must have a minimum of five, all of whom must be EC sport license holders (in good standing) and two of whom must be EC Medium, Senior or FEI dressage judges listed on the current EC judges' roster.
3. Medium applicants must have a minimum of three references, all of whom must be EC sport license holders (in good standing) and two must be EC Senior or FEI dressage judges listed on the current EC judges' roster.
4. Senior applicants must have a minimum of three references, all of whom must be EC sport license holders (in good standing), and two must be either EC Senior or Canadian FEI dressage judges.
5. All references must have been active in their capacity for a minimum of two (2) years.
6. References must come from judges the applicant has worked with.
7. Equestrian Canada will send an Evaluation form or survey to each reference provided by the applicant.
8. Evaluation forms or surveys must be completed by the reference on or before September 1st of the same year in which the application is made for promotion.
 - a. Basic judges may not provide references in their probationary year.
 - b. Medium judges, in their probationary year, may only provide references to applicants for recorded status.
 - c. Senior judges, in their probationary year, may only provide references to applicants for recorded and Basic status.
9. For every application for carding/promotion/promotion, new reference evaluations must be provided. Reference evaluations cannot be held over.

10 SHADOW JUDGING FOR APPLICANT JUDGES

1. Shadow judging can be done with an EC Medium, Senior, USEF Senior or FEI dressage judge in one or both of the following ways:
 - a. An applicant can sit with the clinician judge while judging and discuss movements and marks when queried.

- b. An applicant can judge the class(es) and discuss the marks and comments with the clinician judge afterward. To download the listing of EC Medium, Senior and FEI dressage judges see the EC online official's directory at www.equestrian.ca.
2. A shadow judge must judge all the competitors in the required class(es).
3. In order to shadow judge, an applicant must obtain the consent of the competition involved and the competition's senior and/or clinician judge prior to the competition. The clinician judge must complete and submit the official evaluation forms on the applicant to Equestrian Canada – Officials Programs. Shadow judging forms may be obtained from the EC website: www.equestrian.ca
4. Applicants must supply their own score sheets and scribes when judging a class(es). Applicants are responsible for retaining copies of their final scores and must send a list of their total scores with the official total scores of the judge they shadowed to Equestrian Canada – Officials Programs.

Note: No copies of tests from shadow judges are to be sent to Equestrian Canada – Officials Programs.
5. Shadow judging evaluations used for promotion purposes must include both practical (judging tests) and observation (in the booth) at the same competition under the same judge

11 NON EC-SANCTIONED PONY CLUB AND EVENTING DRESSAGE

These competitions qualify for promotion only up to Basic.

12 NOTWITHSTANDING CLAUSE

1. Notwithstanding the above, applicants who live in areas where it is not possible to fulfill all the above requirements, or where there are other extenuating circumstances, (including applicants from another national federation) may apply to the Equestrian Canada – Officials Programs for special consideration.
2. FEI 3* and above Dressage judges who relocate to Canada and establish residency will be automatically accepted as EC Senior Dressage judges provided they are EC Sport License holders, have paid EC fees and applied to be listed in the EC Directory.
3. FEI judges from a discipline other than Dressage who wish Dressage status with EC must make application under the current rules through Equestrian Canada – Officials Programs.

13 MAINTAINING STATUS

Active Officials – Minimum requirements:

BASIC JUDGES

To be considered active and to retain their status, Basic, judges must officiate at two of any of the following every two years:

1. EC-sanctioned dressage competitions.
2. Eventing competitions in which they have judged the dressage.
3. Other National Federation (NF) dressage competitions. If foreign NF competitions are used, they must be national.



MEDIUM JUDGES

To be considered active and retain their status, Medium judges must officiate at any two of the following every two years:

1. EC-sanctioned dressage competitions
2. Foreign NF national dressage competitions

SENIOR JUDGES

To be considered active and retain their status, Senior judges must officiate at any two of the following every two years:

1. EC Gold dressage competitions
2. EC Silver dressage competitions
3. Foreign NF national dressage competitions

Note: Under extenuating circumstances, if an official is unable to meet the requirements of this rule, they may apply in writing to the Equestrian Canada – Officials Programs for consideration to receive a waiver. If granted, a waiver will not exceed one year.

Note: Any official who fails to pay their annual EC Sport License and Dressage affiliate fee by April 1st will not be permitted to officiate in that year.

Note: Judges that are inactive for two consecutive years will be required to re-apply to the Equestrian Canada – Officials Programs for confirmation of their status.

Note: Any judge who fails to fulfill their clinic requirements will not have his/her status automatically renewed and will have to re-apply for his/her status.

14 JUDGE REQUIREMENTS/SUSPENSION

1. Effective 2010, Equestrian Canada will be requiring EC dressage judges to satisfy the minimum judging requirements as set out in the Policy 3.10.
2. If a judge does not satisfy the annual requirements, his / her judging status will be suspended at the end of the year. For reinstatement, he/she will be required to pay a \$50.00 reinstatement fee and attend a Dressage Judges Updating/Promotion clinic in the year of having requested reinstatement.
3. If he/she is suspended for a period of one year and does not reapply for reinstatement within that time frame, he/she will lose his/her official judging status and his/her name will be removed from the online judges directory.

15 UPDATING - PROMOTION CLINIC AND EXAM REQUIREMENTS

CLINICS

1. EC judges may use specific USEF judges' clinics for updating, but must request approval, in writing, from the Equestrian Canada – Officials Programs prior to attending, and must complete and return the EC judges' written test within the timelines set.
2. FEI clinics are also acceptable.
3. Applicants for carding and promotion must attend and be issued a Certificate of Attendance and Completion from the EC sanctioned updating/promotion clinic for their level during the year in which their application is made for carding or promotion.



EXAMINATIONS

1. All EC licensed dressage judges (recorded, Basic, Medium and Senior) must pass the appropriate judges' examination once every three years to maintain their status.
2. Applicants for carding or promotion must pass the judges' exam in the year for which their application is made for carding or promotion.
3. Written requests for deferral of any of the requirements list in these rules must be made prior to November 1st. A deferral is for one year only.
4. Failure to comply with these rules will result in the following:
 - a. the judge will have to reapply to the Equestrian Canada – Officials Programs for confirmation of their status
 - b. the judge may be removed from the list of licensed officials.

16 DOWNGRADING OF OFFICIALS

Any licensed dressage judge may request “downgrading” by submitting their request to the Equestrian Canada – Officials Programs along with their reasons for such a request.