

DRESSAGE/PARA-DRESSAGE JUDGES REQUIREMENTS AND EDUCATION

Requirements for Recorded, Basic, Medium, Senior and FEI Level 1



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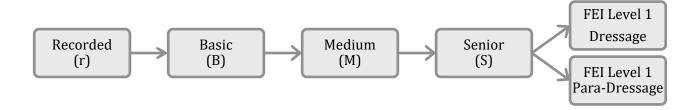
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CAREER PATHWAY

General

This document outlines the process for obtaining EC credentials as a Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge. Details on maintaining judge status as well as developing and progressing are also explained.



Definitions

Auditing: Accompanying (to sit in) and being evaluated by a higher-level competition judge during a competition, without taking an active part in it. For each auditing (sit in) experience, a Dressage Judge Auditing Report must be completed and submitted to EC.

Shadow Judging: To informally judge at a competition and be examined by a mentor judge. Shadows judge the required tests, with a scribe, in an area close to the judge at "C", with their scores and comments to be reviewed. Scores from the shadow judge do not count towards the competition. Both the shadow judge and mentor judge results are to be submitted to EC with a completed Dressage Judge Auditing Report. Shadow judges must obtain permission in advance from the competition organizer and mentor judge, and are responsible for supplying their own tests, scribe and calculations.

Co-Judge: To judge at a competition on a panel of judges, with scores to count towards the competition.

Recorded Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge Prerequisites (r)

The Recorded ("r") status is the entry level for becoming an Equestrian Canada accredited Dressage/Para Dressage judge. This designation carries the responsibility of maintaining and enhancing one's judging skills through continued education and experience. A Recorded judge must demonstrate a thorough understanding of dressage competition, test criteria and the requirements of each level, and correct training principles. Recorded judges must have knowledge of Dressage/Para-Dressage terminology, in addition to an understanding of the EC Dressage and Para-Dressage rules and EC General Regulations. They are expected to provide scores and appropriate comments to competitors that align with the standards of correct dressage training, while maintaining fairness, confidence, and professionalism in their interactions with organizers, volunteers, competitors, and other officials.



Criteria	Description
Eligibility	 Current EC Gold Sport Licence holder in good standing. Completion of EC Safe Sport education, including Fostering Healthy Equestrian Environments and Concussion Awareness courses. Application submitted to EC by January 31. Completed documentation as required must be submitted by October 1 of the same year in which the initial application is made. Minimum of 19 years old. Fluent in spoken English and/or French.
Experience	 Competition Experience Competition Experience Competed in a minimum of three different EC Bronze, Silver or Gold Dressage competitions at Second Level achieving a score of at least 60% from three different judges.
	within two years of applying for Recorded status (ex. Pony Club, 4-H, provincially sanctioned competitions, Eventing Dressage competitions). For each judged competition, supporting documentation must be submitted to EC (ex. Prize list, letter from organizer).
Education	 1. Applicant Judge Education Video test judging up to and including Fourth Level Written test on: The Rules of Equestrian Canada, Section A: General Regulations and Section E: Dressage and Para-Dressage Dressage terminology Basic movements and figures Ringcraft (Ring/arena placings, measurements) Scoring system including penalties, eliminations, errors Application of the training scale Purpose of the tests
	 2. Scribing/Auditing Experience Scribe a minimum of 20 hours up to Grand Prix level with an EC Medium, Senior or FEI Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge at EC sanctioned competition(s). For all scribing hours, a Dressage Judge Scribing Report must be completed and submitted to EC. Audit (sit in) a minimum of 20 hours up to PSG level with an EC Senior or FEI Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge at a minimum of two 2-day EC Silver or Gold competitions, including a minimum of 2 hours at Fourth Level. For each audit (sit in), a Dressage Judge Auditing Report must be completed and submitted to EC.



Criteria	Description
	In the year of application, must attend and receive a positive assessment at a promotion clinic for EC Dressage/Para-Dressage Judges. Candidates will be evaluated on the following criteria: Professionalism, including appropriate attire, unbiased attitude, timeliness Preparedness Working knowledge of test/movements Confidence in applying appropriate comments to score Knowing how to work in a team environment Practical judging and participation in discussions Ringcraft Familiarity with safe sport Understanding Code of Ethics, welfare of the horse/abuse 4. Exam Must pass the EC Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge exam with a minimum score of 85%
References	Reference letters from a minimum of five EC sport licence holders in good standing must be submitted to EC, three of whom must be EC Medium, Senior or FEI Dressage/Para-Dressage Judges.
Status	 Listed as a Recorded Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge in the EC Officials Directory. Officiate as a Recorded judge at non-EC sanctioned Dressage/Para-Dressage competitions, provincially sanctioned competitions, Pony Club or 4-H competitions, Eventing Dressage competitions, as well as officiate at EC sanctioned competitions as listed under EC rules Section E: Dressage and Para-Dressage, Article E 3.0 Competition Requirements, Levels & Officials.
Maintenance	 Current EC Gold Sport Licence holder in good standing. Pay annual Official's fee as set out in the EC Schedule of Fees. Maintenance of EC Safe Sport education, including Fostering Healthy Equestrian Environments and Concussion Awareness courses. Attend an EC Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge Maintenance Clinic every three years. Pass an EC Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge exam with a minimum score of 85% every three years. Act as a Recorded Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge at a minimum of three competitions within a three-year period. At least two of these competitions must be EC sanctioned Dressage/Para-Dressage competitions. The third competition may be non-EC sanctioned Dressage/Para-Dressage, Pony Club, 4-H, provincially sanctioned, or Eventing Dressage competitions.



Basic Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge Prerequisites (B)

For those who have gained experience as a Recorded Judge and wish to continue the pathway to becoming an EC Basic Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge, the requirements of the Basic level include a more comprehensive understanding of the criteria and purpose, as well as the movements and figures, for all national Dressage and Para-Dressage tests, up to and including Rising Stars and Freestyles. Basic judges must have knowledge of Dressage/Para-Dressage terminology, in addition to an understanding of the EC Dressage and Para-Dressage rules and EC General Regulations. Basic judges must uphold classical dressage standards and demonstrate proficiency in aligning scores with appropriate comments, including a solid grasp of scores and their meanings, penalties, eliminations, errors, and the application of the training scale. Basic judges must also ensure that their decisions remain unbiased and are in strict adherence to EC's Code of Ethics, Safe Sport policies, and horse welfare principles. They are expected to provide scores with matching comments to competitors and make suitable remarks in the collective marks, while maintaining fairness, confidence, and professionalism in their interactions with organizers, volunteers, competitors, and other officials. Continued education through video clinics and other learning opportunities is essential for ongoing development.

Criteria	Description
Eligibility	 Current EC Gold Sport Licence holder in good standing. Completion of EC Safe Sport education, including Fostering Healthy Equestrian Environments and Concussion Awareness courses. Application submitted to EC by January 31. Completed documentation as required must be submitted by October 1 of the same year in which the initial application is made. Minimum of 21 years old. Fluent in spoken English and/or French.
Experience	 Competition Experience Competed in a minimum of three different EC Silver or Gold Dressage competitions at Third Level achieving a score of at least 60% from three different judges. Copies of each test result, identifying judge(s) must be submitted to EC. Judging Experience Must have held a Recorded Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge status for a minimum of two years. As a Recorded Dressage Judge/Para-Dressage:
Education	1. Scribing/Auditing Experience



Criteria	Description
	 Scribe a minimum of 12 hours at the FEI level with an EC Medium, Senior or FEI Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge at EC Silver or Gold competition(s). For all scribing hours, a Dressage Judge Scribing Report must be completed and submitted to EC. Audit (sit in) a minimum of 10 hours up to Grand Prix level and above with an EC Senior or FEI Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge at EC sanctioned competitions, including a minimum of 2 hours at Intermediate II level. For each audit (sit in), a Dressage Judge Auditing Report must be completed and submitted to EC.
	2. Course In the year of application, must attend and receive a positive assessment at a promotion clinic for EC Dressage/Para-Dressage Judges. Candidates will be evaluated on the following criteria: Professionalism, including appropriate attire, unbiased attitude, timeliness Knowledge of purpose of tests and criteria of movements Assigning appropriate scores and comments Participation in discussions Understanding Code of Ethics, welfare of the horse/abuse Practical judging 3. Exam Must pass the EC Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge exam with a minimum score of
References	1. Reference letters from a minimum of three EC sport licence holders in good standing must be submitted to EC, two of whom must be EC Medium, Senior or FEI Dressage/Para-Dressage Judges.
Status	 Listed as a Basic Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge in the EC Officials Directory. Officiate as a Basic judge at non-EC sanctioned Dressage/Para-Dressage, Pony Club, 4-H, provincially sanctioned, or Eventing Dressage competitions as well as officiate at EC sanctioned competitions as listed under EC rules Section E: Dressage and Para-Dressage, Article E 3.0 Competition Requirements, Levels & Officials.
Maintenance	 Current EC Gold Sport Licence holder in good standing. Pay annual Official's fee as set out in the EC Schedule of Fees. Maintenance of EC Safe Sport education, including Fostering Healthy Equestrian Environments and Concussion Awareness courses. Attend an EC Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge Maintenance Clinic every three years. Pass an EC Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge exam with a minimum score of 85% every three years. Act as a Basic Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge at a minimum of three competitions within a three-year period. At least two of these competitions must be EC sanctioned



Criteria	Description
	Dressage/Para-Dressage competitions. The third competition may be non-EC sanctioned Dressage/Para-Dressage, Pony Club, 4-H, provincially sanctioned, or Eventing Dressage competitions.

Medium Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge Prerequisites (M)

Applicants for Medium status must have developed confidence in officiating at Gold level competitions. At this stage, judges are required to demonstrate an advanced working knowledge of all previous competencies and the ability to provide competitors with accurate scores and constructive comments, including suitable remarks in the collective marks. Medium judges must have knowledge of Dressage/Para-Dressage terminology, in addition to an understanding of the EC Dressage and Para-Dressage rules and EC General Regulations. A solid understanding of the criteria and purpose, as well as movements and figures, for all national Dressage and Para-Dressage tests, as well as familiarity with FEI tests, is essential. Medium judges should be able to discuss or defend decisions with competitors in the event of questions. Medium judges are expected to play an integral role within the competition team, collaborating and communicating effectively with organizers, fellow officials, and support staff to ensure the smooth operation of events.

Criteria	Description
Eligibility	 Current EC Gold Sport Licence holder in good standing. Completion of EC Safe Sport education, including Fostering Healthy Equestrian Environments and Concussion Awareness courses. Application submitted to EC by January 31. Completed documentation as required must be submitted by October 1 of the same year in which the initial application is made. Minimum of 24 years old. Fluent in spoken English and/or French.
Experience	 Competition Experience Competed in a minimum of three different EC Silver or Gold Dressage competitions at Fourth Level achieving a score of at least 60% from three different judges. Copies of each test result, identifying judge(s) must be submitted to EC. Alternative experience: Three separate videos of the applicant riding at PSG level, filmed on three different occasions, to obtain a score of at least 60% must be submitted to EC. Videos to be taken from "C" with no edits. A letter of recommendation from a High Performance Coach must be submitted to EC with the videos. Judging Experience Must have held a Basic Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge status for a minimum of three years. As a Basic Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge:



Criteria	Description
	a. Been the most senior judge for a minimum of six days at EC Gold
	competitions. b. Judged a minimum of 20 rides at Fourth Level at EC Gold sanctioned
	b. Judged a minimum of 20 rides at Fourth Level at EC Gold sanctioned competitions (tests may be cumulative).
	c. Co-judged a minimum of 8 rides at PSG or Intermediate 1 level with a
	Senior or FEI Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge at EC Gold Competitions
	(tests may be cumulative).
	For each competition, supporting documentation must be submitted to EC. For co-
	judging, test results of the panel judges and applicant must be submitted to EC.
	1. Scribing/Auditing/Shadowing Experience
	 Scribe a minimum of 12 hours up to and including Grand Prix level with a Senior or FEI Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge at EC Gold competitions.
	For all scribing hours, a Dressage Judge Scribing Report must be completed and submitted to EC.
	 Audit (sit in) a minimum of 8 hours up to Grand Prix level with an EC Senior or FEI Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge at EC Gold competitions, including a minimum of 2 hours at Grand Prix level.
	For each sit-in (audit), a Dressage Judge Auditing Report must be completed and submitted to EC.
	Shadow judge a minimum of 10 rides at large tour level (Intermediate A/B,
	Intermediate 2, U25, GP or GPS) with an EC Senior or FEI Dressage/Para-Dressage
	Judge at EC Gold competitions.
	For each shadow judging, a Dressage Judge Auditing Report must be completed and submitted to EC, along with results from both the shadow and senior judge.
Education	2. Course
	 Course In the year of application, must attend and receive a positive assessment at a
	promotion clinic for EC Dressage/Para-Dressage Judges.
	Candidates will be evaluated on the following criteria:
	 Professionalism, including appropriate attire, unbiased attitude,
	timeliness
	Knowledge of purpose of tests and criteria of movements
	 Assigning appropriate scores and comments
	 Participation in discussions Understanding Code of Ethics, welfare of the horse/abuse
	Practical judging
	3. <u>Exam</u>
	Must pass the EC Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge exam with a minimum score of 85%
References	Reference letters from a minimum of three EC sport licence holders in good standing must
	be submitted to EC, two of whom must be EC Medium, Senior or FEI Dressage/Para- Dressage Judges.



Criteria	Description
Status	 Listed as a Medium Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge in the EC Officials Directory. Officiate as a Medium judge at EC sanctioned competitions as listed under EC rules Section E: Dressage and Para-Dressage, Article E 3.0 Competition Requirements, Levels & Officials.
Maintenance	 Current EC Gold Sport Licence holder in good standing. Pay annual Official's fee as set out in the EC Schedule of Fees. Maintenance of EC Safe Sport education, including Fostering Healthy Equestrian Environments and Concussion Awareness courses. Attend an EC Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge Maintenance Clinic every three years. Pass an EC Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge exam with a minimum score of 85% every three years. Act as a Medium Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge at a minimum of three EC sanctioned Dressage/Para-Dressage competitions within a three-year period.

Senior Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge Prerequisites (S)

Having attained proficiency at the lower levels and meeting the criteria, Senior judges will now take on the added responsibility of being senior judge in EC Gold shows and be able to assist in education of judges coming up through the levels. All previous competencies will have been completed ensuring that a senior judge is confident, knowledgeable and professional. Senior judges must have knowledge of Dressage/Para-Dressage terminology, in addition to a complete understanding of the EC Dressage and Para-Dressage rules and EC General Regulations. They must also have working knowledge of the FEI General Regulations, FEI Dressage and Para-Dressage Rules and the FEI Dressage Handbook. Senior judges must accept EC's Code of Conduct and commit to act according to EC's principles, rules and regulations.

Criteria	Description
Eligibility	 Current EC Gold Sport Licence holder in good standing. Completion of EC Safe Sport education, including Fostering Healthy Equestrian Environments and Concussion Awareness courses. Application submitted to EC by January 31. Completed documentation as required must be submitted by October 1 of the same year in which the initial application is made. Minimum of 27 years old. Fluent in spoken English and/or French.
Experience	 Competition Experience Competed in a minimum of three different EC Silver or Gold Dressage competitions at Intermediate 1 level achieving a score of at least 62% from three different judges. Copies of each test result, identifying judge(s) must be submitted to EC. Alternative experience: Three separate videos of the applicant riding at Intermediate 2 level, filmed on three different occasions, to obtain a score of at least 60% must be



Criteria	Description
	submitted to EC. Videos to be taken from "C" with no edits. A letter of
	recommendation from a High Performance Coach must be submitted to EC with the
	videos.
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	 2. <u>Judging Experience</u> Must have held a Medium Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge status for a minimum of
	three years.
	As a Medium Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge:
	a. Judged a minimum of 10 days up to Intermediate 1 level at EC Gold
	Dressage/Para-Dressage competitions.
	b. Co-judged a minimum of three Grand Prix level classes on three separate
	occasions with three different EC Senior or FEI Dressage/Para-Dressage
	Judges at EC Gold competitions.
	c. Judged on a panel at one Championship competition (Regional or
	National).
	For each competition, supporting documentation must be submitted to EC. For co-
	judging, test results of the panel judges and applicant must be submitted to EC.
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	1. Auditing/Shadowing Experience
	 Audit (sit in) a minimum of 8 rides at Grand Prix level with a FEI Dressage/Para- Dressage Judge at EC Gold competitions, including a minimum of 4 Grand Prix
	Freestyle rides.
	For each sit-in (audit), a Dressage Judge Auditing Report must be completed and
	submitted to EC.
	Shadow judge a minimum of 8 rides at Grand Prix level with a FEI Dressage/Para-
	Dressage Judge at EC Gold competitions, including a minimum of 4 Grand Prix
	Freestyle rides.
	For each shadow judging, a Dressage Judge Auditing Report must be completed and
	submitted to EC, along with results from both the shadow and senior judge.
Education	2. <u>Course</u>
	• In the year of application, must attend and receive a positive assessment at a
	promotion clinic for EC Dressage/Para-Dressage Judges.
	o Candidates will be evaluated on the following criteria:
	 Professionalism, including appropriate attire, unbiased attitude, timeliness
	 Knowledge of purpose of tests and criteria of movements
	Assigning appropriate scores and comments
	Participation in discussions
	 Understanding Code of Ethics, welfare of the horse/abuse
	Practical judging
	3. <u>Exam</u>



Criteria	Description
	Must pass the EC Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge exam with a minimum score of 85%
References	Reference letters from a minimum of three EC sport licence holders in good standing must be submitted to EC, two of whom must be EC Medium, Senior or FEI Dressage/Para-Dressage Judges.
Status	 Listed as a Senior Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge in the EC Officials Directory. Officiate as a Senior judge at EC sanctioned competitions as listed under EC rules Section E: Dressage and Para-Dressage, Article E 3.0 Competition Requirements, Levels & Officials.
Maintenance	 Current EC Gold Sport Licence holder in good standing. Pay annual Official's fee as set out in the EC Schedule of Fees. Maintenance of EC Safe Sport education, including Fostering Healthy Equestrian Environments and Concussion Awareness courses. Attend an EC Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge Maintenance Clinic every three years. Pass an EC Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge exam with a minimum score of 85% every three years. Act as a Senior Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge at a minimum of three EC sanctioned Dressage/Para-Dressage competitions or other National Federation nationally sanctioned competitions within a three-year period.

FEI Level 1 Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge National Prerequisites

To be considered for endorsement toward FEI Level 1 status, candidates must have completed the following national criteria with supporting documentation.

Note: Candidates who have been approved for endorsement by EC toward FEI Level 1 status must then fulfill additional requirements as set out by the FEI in the Education System for FEI Dressage Officials (FEI.org).

Criteria	Description
Eligibility	 Current EC Gold Sport Licence holder in good standing. Completion of EC Safe Sport education, including Fostering Healthy Equestrian Environments and Concussion Awareness courses. Application submitted to EC by January 31. Completed documentation as required must be submitted by October 1 of the same year in which the initial application is made. Fluent in spoken English. Current EC Senior Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge
Experience	1. Competition Experience



Criteria	Description
	Must have proven experience as an athlete – minimum PSG level.
	 2. Judging Experience Must have held a Senior Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge status for a minimum of three years. As a Senior Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge: a. Judged a minimum of 9 national Grand Prix level classes in the three years prior to applying to EC for endorsement towards FEI Level 1 status. A minimum of three classes must be judged in the 12 months prior to applying. A minimum of 50 horses must be judged in total at the Big Tour level, which can include up to 10 horses in the U25 class. b. Co-judged a minimum of two Grand Prix level classes with a minimum of 5 horses per class, with an FEI Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge. A positive recommendation must be received by the FEI Dressage/Para-Dressage Judge(s). c. Judged on a jury with a minimum of two FEI Dressage/Para-Dressage Judges on a minimum of two separate occasions. For each competition, supporting documentation must be submitted to EC. For cojudging, test results of the panel judges and applicant must be submitted to EC.
Education	 1. Auditing/Shadowing Experience Shadow judge a minimum of two Grand Prix level classes, minimum of 8 horses per class, with a minimum of two FEI Level 3 or 4 Dressage/Para-Dressage Judges. A positive recommendation must be received by the FEI Dressage/Para-Dressage Judges. For each shadow judging, a Dressage Judge Auditing Report must be completed and submitted to EC, along with results from both the shadow and senior judge. 2. Courses In the year of application, must attend and receive a positive assessment at a promotion clinic for EC Dressage/Para-Dressage Judges.
References	A total of five reference letters with positive recommendations must be submitted to EC; two from current or retired Canadian FEI Dressage/Para-Dressage Judges and three from current foreign FEI Dressage/Para-Dressage Judges.
Maintenance	 Current EC Gold Sport Licence holder in good standing. Maintenance of EC Safe Sport education, including Fostering Healthy Equestrian Environments and Concussion Awareness courses. See Education System for FEI Dressage Officials at FEI.org for FEI maintenance requirements.



Failure to Maintain Status Requirements

Consequences of not maintaining status requirements

- 1. Failure to pass maintenance exam:
 - Must retake a maximum of one time (two attempts in total) and pass exam within three months of maintenance clinic.
 - If still not passed after second attempt, status will be put on hold.
- 2.a. Failure to remain active with a valid reason:
 - Extension request form approved for a one-year extension to fulfill requirements.
 - If not active at end of one-year extension without a valid reason, status will be put on hold.
 - Extensions beyond one year, with a valid reason, will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- 2.b. Failure to remain active without valid reason:
 - If extension request form is not submitted or is denied, status will be put on hold.
- 3. Reinstatement of inactive, retired or on-hold status:
 - If less than three years since being active:
 - o Must submit a reinstatement request form,
 - Must attend clinic and pass exam.
 - If more than three years since being active:
 - o Must submit a reinstatement request form,
 - o Must fulfill all application requirements for the status previously held.
- 4. For FEI requirements to maintain FEI status please review the FEI education systems at FEI.org.

"Active" is defined as meeting the minimum officiating requirements, meeting clinic requirements, being an EC Sport Licence holder in good standing and paying annual Official's fee.



