



COLLEEN HOFFMAN **OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR**



Colleen Hoffman named Official of the Year

Colleen Hoffman of Okotoks, AB has been named the 2022 Official of the year. This award was created to recognize a judge, course designer or steward who has been active in the competitive year and is a representative of the principles of athlete development and fair play. Colleen has demonstrated her commitment to the role of officiating in competition by supporting equestrian athletes within a safe, fair and enjoyable environment.

An accredited Equestrian Canada (EC) FEI level three judge, Hoffman is an active member of the EC community judging shows at all levels, from grassroots to elite. Hoffman has a wealth of experience in the equestrian industry, and generously shares that knowledge with the many junior judges she mentors.



Hoffman has been involved in the sport as a stable manager, a teacher, groom, and rider. At one point, a good friend's mother, who was a well-respected breeder, said to her and her friend, "you are getting a little long in the tooth to keep competing you two should get your judges' cards!" Well, she did that but didn't quite listen to the riding part and took to the show ring even this last year for fun!

She finds it hard to pin down her favourite highlight in her tenure but recalls a few special moments that have made impressions. First, was that after grooming the winner of the Presidents Cup at the Washington International, 30 years later she was appointed as Foreign Judge at the same venue. Second was being appointed as President of the North American Young Riders Championship twice and to the jury twice. Third is being President of the Ground Jury and team leader of Spruce Meadows 5* tournaments.

Retired for five years, she has more time to travel for her officiating role. This upcoming June, Hoffman has been appointed as President of the XXIV Central American and Caribbean Games and appointed to the Jury at the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile. She still enjoys officiating at the grass roots level all the way up to national shows and is looking forward to a busy summer of competitions.

Winning the Official of the Year for 2022, took Hoffman by surprise. "I was blown away with surprise and astonishment," she said "I tend to keep my head down and work quietly. I never expected anything like this but am proud of my accomplishment."