

# GUIDELINES TO THE FEI DRESSAGE STEWARDING MANUAL

## GENERAL RULES

### 1. **Be friendly, do not disturb the riders**

IMPARTIALITY : same way of stewarding in all disciplines

NO POLITICS : no influence from external factors (Press, Gossip....)

A NEUTRAL, KEEN, WATCHING EYE

PRESENCE more important than INTERVENTION

DISCRETION in case of INTERVENTION

EXPLANATIONS to the riders instead of NEGATIVE REMARKS

NO POLICE MANNERS

IN CASE OF INTERVENTION : AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (do not wait until the rider has to go into the main arena)

A PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

### 2. **All Depends on the way you intervene**

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE EXACT RULES ABOUT WHAT CAN BE ACCEPTED AND WHAT CANNOT BE ACCEPTED

TO DEAL WITH THE TENSIONS OF COMPETITION AS WELL AS TENSE TRAINERS AND COMPETITORS (AND OWNERS)

THE INTERVENTION HAS TO BE DONE WITH DIPLOMACY, WITH A KIND EYE TOWARDS THE HORSES.

ALL DEPENDS ON:

- \* The behaviour of a rider, on a specific day, in specific weather and footing conditions?
- \* Knowledge of the rules by the rider/trainer?
- \* Do they know they are violating the rules?
- \* Do they violate the rules on purpose?
- \* What will be the reaction when you intervene:
  - Do they agree with the remark you made?
  - Do they want some more explanation?
  - Do they not accept? Do they protest? Are they rude?

### 3. **In case of abuse or maltreat : no excuses**

WHERE THERE IS AN ABUSE OR MALTREAT OF A HORSE: ACT WITH DISCRETION AND TACT

IMMEDIATE STOP OF THE ABUSE/MALTREAT

EXPLANATION TO THE RIDER (REASON OF INTERVENTION)

INFORM PRESIDENT OF THE GROUND JURY ABOUT WHAT YOU SAW AND WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION

WARN THE TREATING VET (DETERMINATION OF CONSEQUENCES)  
(injuries, irregular breathing, excessive sweating, general health problems)

CARRY OUT THE DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GROUND JURY  
WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "ABUSE" AND "CORRECTION"

WE MUST BE ABLE TO GO OUT INTO THE SCHOOLING AREA AND STOP ROUGH RIDING, ROUGH BEHAVIOUR, DISCOURTEOUS

ALWAYS IMMEDIATE REACTION IN CASE OF EXAGGERATED SWEATING, IRREGULAR BREATHING (take into account the weather conditions)

ALWAYS IMMEDIATE REACTION IN CASE OF OVERRIDING, EXTERNAL SIGNS OF EXHAUSTION (if necessary ask the assistance of the treating Vet)

LONG ,DEEP AND ROUND RIDING IS ACCEPTED (hyper flexion of the neck) THERE IS A DANGER WHEN COPIED BY UNSKILLED TRAINERS AND RIDERS!!!!!! THERE IS A FINE LINE BETWEEN TRAINING AND OVERTRAINING!!!!!!

WE MUST BE VIGILANT IN THE STABLES, REPORTING TO THE VETERINARIANS/GROUND JURY THOSE THINGS THAT MAKE US FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE, SUCH AS POULTIC IN A HORSE'S LIP TO NUMB THEM/TAKE DOWN THE SWELLING AND PAIN

NO LONGER ARE TRAINERS ALLOWED TO GET ON HORSES AT COMPETITIONS IN A BACK ARENA SOMEWHERE WITH ILLEGAL TACK, Etc.

NO LONGER SHOULD SOMEONE BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO THE SCHOOLING AREA AFTER A NOT-SO-GOOD TEST AND SCHOOL THE HORSE SO HARD IT DRAWS BLOOD ON THE SIDES.

WE SHOULD ADOPT THE RULE FROM THE RIDERS: THREE TIMES USING THE WHIP AND YOU ARE OUT (THREE CLEAR WHIPMARKS ON THE HORSE)

WHAT ARE INJURIES

- Blood on the spur(s)/flank(s)
- Blood at the bit/mouth
- Swelling at the flank(s) (spurs)
- Burn behind the ears (from sweating/scouring)
- Swelling at the flanks/hind quarters (use of the whip)
- Burn at the girth (from sweating/scouring)
- Wounds at the legs/feet/hoofs
- Blood coming out of the nose

#### **4. Team spirit**

- COOPERATE WITH RIDERS/TRAINERS
- COOPERATE WITH OTHER OFFICIALS
- COOPERATE WITH ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

EACH MEMBER, WITHIN HIS/HER OWM RESPONSABILITIES, HAS TO TRY TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE OTHERS WITH ONLY ONE IDEA IN MIND:

TO PARTICIPATE IN A NICE SHOW, WHERE EVERYBODY WANTS TO HELP EACH OTHER, AND WHERE HORSES AND SPORTSMANSHIP ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHATEVER OTHER PERSONAL PROFIT.

WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT WE ALSO REPRESENT THE RIGHTS OF THE RIDERS TO A FAIR COMPETITION FOR ALL.

#### **5. The riders should understand that Stewards are there to help/assist them**

GENERAL INFORMATION

STARTING ORDER (CALL UP)

PADDOCK SCHEDULE

STABLE SECURITY

HELP IN SOLVING PERSONAL PROBLEMS

HELP WITH CONTACTS (names, telephone numbers, addresses ...)

INTERMEDIARY TO HELP AND SOLVE PROBLEMS BETWEEN RIDERS-ORGANISERS-GROUND JURY

HELP WITH INFORMATION CONCERNING THE RULES (FEI Dressage Regulations, FEI General Regulations, FEI Dressage Stewarding Manual...)

#### **6. A Steward has an educational role**

MAKING THE RIDERS APPLY THE RULES MINDING THE SPIRIT BEHIND THOSE RULES

STRICT BUT HUMAN

IMPARTIALITY

GIVE THEM THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

NEVER DISCUSS WHEN FEELINGS START RUNNING HIGH

KEEP IN MIND THAT RIDERS/TRAINERS ARE UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE AND THAT THEY DON'T NEED MUCH TO OVERREACT

YOUR BEHAVIOUR WILL BE CRUCIAL HERE!!! (CONTROL YOURSELF)

AVOID A QUARREL THAT WILL END UP IN HAVING A BLAZING ROW

IF YOU HAVE TO MAKE A REMARK:

- BE POLITE
- BE DISCRETE
- NOT IN PUBLIC

## **7. External factors in stewarding**

THIRD PARTY (family, fans, friends) : PARTIALITY  
PRESS AND TELEVISION : SENSATION  
OTHER RIDERS/TRAINERS : JEALOUSY  
CONTRADICTION IN COMMUNICATION : BE CLEAR AND UNANIMOUS  
ORGANISOR : conflict regulations – rules  
MCP CONTROL : APPLY THE RULES  
EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS : In close consultation with  
the President of the Ground Jury and the Organiser, we can make  
propositions : very early warming up,  
Change of training areas, longer training sessions in the main arena...  
Epidemics: Guidelines from the Health Department through the treating  
Vet.

## **8. Conclusions**

We must not be afraid; we are doing the right thing for the horses, for  
the sport. If we don't start acting like a unified body of people now,  
Stewarding will be dead, as well as the sport.

We must take care now so that we do not end up like in other horse  
disciplines.