

## **ANNEX XII BRIEFING OF FENCE JUDGES**

1. The correct briefing and care of Fence Judges are vitally important elements to the successful and correct conduct of every Cross-country Test, to the satisfaction of riders and officials alike.
2. No two events are ever the same in the recruitment and organization of Fence Judges, but certain essential points are always covered. Some events have a handbook for Fence Judges in which most items are handled; if you have access to such a handbook, it should be distributed to Fence Judges as soon as they are appointed so that they can familiarize themselves with the subject.
3. Wherever possible, there should in fact be two briefings. The first a week or two before the event, which goes through all the time-consuming parts of the briefing and gives the opportunity for judges to familiarize themselves with their fence. The second takes place on the morning of the event when the Fence Judges come together to receive their equipment for the day, papers, Walkie-talkie, etc.
4. Appropriate clothing for the day, arrangements for food, drink and shelter would all have been discussed and explained beforehand. It is of great help if the Fence Judge can have the convenience of his car nearby him during the day.
5. In terms of technical briefing, the following approach has been found to work quite well as far as content is concerned.

**Your JOB** OBSERVE / NOTE / REPORT (O/N/R)

**You are not alone** An important member of a team which includes Controller/ Area Steward / TD and even the GJ all trying to achieve the same end.

- Primarily O/N/R what each horse did at your fence, but also other incidents which have relevance on the competition – over-use of whip, fence or ground needs repair, crowd getting in the way, unauthorized assistance etc.
- In the event of an accident, remain calm, advise Controller what has happened, and reply calmly to his questions - is the course blocked? etc. He will rely on getting accurate and calm reports from you until the specialist help he sends arrives.
- You may be required to stop a horse and then restart it – there is a simple procedure for this. Always measure the time any horse is held at your fence.

**Your TOOLS** Eyes / note sheets / WT  
Whistle, Red flag, stop-watch, etc  
Remind them what each is for.

**Your job starts** when you get to your fence, and the controller checks your radio connection.

**Your job finishes** when released by the TD, normally 30 minutes after the final results have been published. If there is an objection, you may need to wait until the matter is resolved.

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**Explanations to be given:**

- How to fill in fence forms and what to do with them
- Fall report form
- Use of Walkie-Talkie procedure, words and discipline
- Use of whistle
- When to stop a rider
- Stop / restart procedure

**On arrival at your fence:**

- Find a position where you (and assistants) can see what happens on all possible routes without disturbing riders.
- Check that you can see a horse arriving in time to warn the spectators – listening to the WT helps!
- Check that you understand the arrangements made for spectators around your fence – can you readily keep them safely out of the competitor's way?
- Check that you understand the options and alternatives (if any) and how to judge them. If in doubt ask the controller for guidance – he will probably send someone to help. Check that all flags and numbers are in position.
- Do any WT checks that you have been briefed to do.

**During the competition**

- O/N/R everything that happens.
- If a rider has a refusal or circle etc, please count them out loud for his benefit "one refusal" "two refusals" etc. This could save many discussions later.
- In any doubt, make a sketch of the lines followed by the horse and report to the Controller – he will give you advice and might ask the TD to come and verify/clarify.
- If a rider has a fall and wants to continue immediately, you may feel that he is not fit to do so. You are authorized to prevent him restarting until the Doctor has checked him, but you must measure the time he is held, and record it.
- If a horse falls, he must retire.

**Judging**

What is a refusal, circle, run-out, fall of rider, fall of horse  
FEI diagrams etc  
Did the horse pass between the flags (his head)?  
Runout - disobedience or intentional by rider  
Definition of presentation of the horse.

It is strongly recommended that the less mature fence judges not be over-burdened with explanations of faults which could not occur at their fences (black flag alternatives, special dispensations by the Ground Jury, etc.). Such matters are best dealt with individually and perhaps at the fence concerned by a suitable expert official or the TD.

Closing remarks should, amongst other things that may be considered appropriate, always emphasize that the fence judges are part of a team and we, the other officials, are there to help them.

**HAVE A NICE DAY**