

## **Steward's Corner**

*Lesley Sullivan – FEI Level 2 Steward*

### **Breaking the Rules - Judges Responsibility**

The following from EA Dressage Judges Committee (EADJC) on 11/4/18 has been sent to all dressage judges:

It has been brought to the attention of EADJC that there are some riders who are flaunting the rules and judges who are being too lenient in dealing with these issues. It is all very well as judges to be rider friendly, but it is the same riders that are doing the same thing at different venues with different judges that are getting away with flaunting the rules and using the excuse that they didn't know the rules.

Particular instances are:

- Taking advantage of a break to ride around the surround of the competition arena;
- Outside assistance around the surround of the competition arena – having a lead pony lead a horse around the arena;
- Riders entering the competition area and riding around at the bottom of the arena, within the arena surround, the judge thinking they are next to go and haven't reported only to find they then leave the area, put on their coat and then present to the judge;
- Actually riding in the competition arena after the event has started and before they are due to ride in that particular arena

When questioned comments by riders that they are not aware of the rules should not be accepted as an excuse. Riders should know the rules under which they compete – ignorance of the rules is no excuse

Regardless of whether it is a big event or a small event the rules are the rules and must be complied with. It is up to the judges to ensure that this happens as they are the ones in charge of the arena surround and the competition arena.

Riders who follow the rules are being disadvantaged by riders who flaunt the rules and this has to stop.

It would be appreciated if you could ensure that your judges are aware of the rules governing the warm-up areas, arena surrounds, the use of the competitions arenas and outside assistance be strictly adhered to and remove the benefit of doubt for those involved.

As it is the competitors responsibility to be aware of the rules governing Dressage and in fairness to all riders competing and to ensure a level playing field adherence to rules 3.11 and 3.12 need to be applied without discretion.

Claims from riders that they were 'unaware' of the rules will no longer be taken as an excuse. Ignorance of the rules is no excuse. It is riders responsibility to know the rules under which they compete.

Secretary EADJC

### **Footwear**

The EA Dressage Equipment Committee has recently approved a discrete zip up the exposed side (outside) of the rider's boot/chap/gaiter - see photo below. This decision is effective immediately. Stewards please remember that we are there to advise riders on appropriate gear and equipment according to the Dressage Rules, but it is the Judge that makes the decision as to when -2 points is applied for 'incorrect attire', or if a rider is to be eliminated.



### **Spider Noseband Bridle – NOT APPROVED**

The three-point noseband is "not permitted" in dressage competitions (see photo below).



Regards  
Lesley