



EQUESTRIAN
AUSTRALIA

Dressage

G Level – E Level

How to Become a Judge



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

Published by: Equestrian Australia (EA)

**Please read this booklet in conjunction with Section 12 of the
current Dressage Rule Book**

Dressage Judge Information Guide (Levels G-E)
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Equestrian Australia

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DRESSAGE JUDGE PATHWAYS

(EA and FEI Dressage and Eventing and Additional Opportunities)



HOW DO I BECOME A DRESSAGE JUDGE?

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the steps involved in becoming a Dressage Judge.

The rules that govern how to become a Dressage Judge are incorporated into the Equestrian Australia (EA) current ***Dressage Competition Rules and Procedures*** (current rules). Note: Rules are usually updated on 1 January of each year. The rulebook may be obtained by the following methods:

Electronic (***free of charge***):

- downloaded from the EA website at www.equestrian.org.au

Printed (***from EA National Office or State Branch***):

- Call the National office on (02) 8762 7777 and request via phone
- Call your State Branch (contacts on last page) and request via phone

The steps to becoming a G Level (Probationary) National Dressage Judge are:

You must be:

- at least 17 years of age
- a current EA member of at least Supporter category
- complete the application form on page 3.
- attend an EA approved G, F or G/F level seminar.
- complete the current G level open rule book test (ORBT) with a pass mark of at least 90%
- undertake an assessed sit-in of at least 2 hours duration with an approved Judge Educator (JE) or Mentor or an A or B level judge (this can be completed over more than one sit-in)
- sit-in assessment form to be completed by the JE, Mentor or A or B level judge.
- shadow judge one entire Preliminary and one entire Novice competition; or two entire Novice competitions with at least 10 horses in each competition with an approved JE or Mentor – can be any type of event as long as a current Mentor is judging i.e. could be Eventing or Closed Club event – Note: JEs are Mentors as well
 - shadow judging assessment form to be completed by the JE/Mentor on each occasion and forwarded to the State Dressage Authority (SDA)

Note: The required Seminar and ORBT **must** be completed and passed before undertaking the Shadow Judging. The sit-in can be undertaken at any time prior to being appointed at G level.

Seminars are usually arranged by the relevant State Dressage Judges Committee (JSC). Approved seminars are publicised within the relevant State and also in the National Dressage Education Calendar which can be found here - <https://www.equestrian.org.au/officials/calendar> - scroll down to find it. This is updated on the 1st of each month.

Once you have completed all of the above requirements and you have been approved by the State JSC, your name will be placed on the Judges list as a G (Preliminary) level judge and you will be eligible to judge Official Preliminary as the 2nd or 3rd judge with another judge of at least F (Novice) level, Participation Preliminary (on your own) and Participation Novice (recommended with another F level judge or higher).

In order to remain accredited on the National judges list you must meet compulsory judging activity and professional development requirements every 3 years – refer to rule 12.8. Further information will be advised via e-mail during the 3 year period.

G – LEVEL EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

Name:	Date of Birth:	
Address:		
Suburb:	State:	Post Code:
Tel:	Mobile:	
Email:		

Do you have a hard copy of the current EA Dressage Competition Rules & Procedures including all amendments?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Dressage Experience:	As a Rider: As a Coach: As a Writer/Penciller:
Dressage Seminars attended - When, where, presenter	
Dressage Workshops attended When, where, presenter	
Riding Clinics attended – When, where, coach/instructor	
Any other relevant Information:	

Candidate Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Send to: Your State Dressage Authority (SDA)
(contact your State EA Branch for further info)

On receipt of this application, your SDA will provide you with more information and once you have confirmed that you wish to continue, will provide you with a link to complete it on-line or send out via e-mail or post the open rule book test (ORBT) for you to complete.

EA DRESSAGE JUDGE PRE-REQUISITE REQUIRED FOR APPOINTMENT AS G LEVEL

Name				EA Number	
Assessment Slip	Date/Location		Print Name JE/Mentor/SDA		Signature
Attend a G, F or G/F Level Seminar	Date:				
	Location:				
Complete the G level Open Rule Book Test with at least a 90%	Date:				
	Percentage:				
Assessment Slip	Date/Location		Print Name JE/Mentor/SDA		Signature
Assessment slips go directly to the State Dressage Authority for verification with this summary sheet. Results are forwarded by the SDA to the National Office.					
Sit in for at least 2 hours on Official Preliminary or Novice with an approved JE/Mentor or A or B level judge <i>(may be completed over more than one sit-in)</i>	1.				
	2.				
Sit in assessment form/s completed/attached <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Only positive Sit-In assessments can be submitted</i>				
Shadow Judge one entire Preliminary and one entire Novice competition or two entire Novice competitions with at least ten horses in each competition (a total minimum of 20 horses to be judged overall) <i>(may need to judge more comps to get the total No of horses)</i> Supervising judge must be an appointed Mentor or a Judge Educator	Competition e.g. 1.3 or 2.2	Date:	No of Horses		
	1.				
	2.				
	3.				
<i>Only positive Shadow Judging assessments can be submitted. Assessments with 'needs more training' will not be accepted and candidates will be required to undertake a further Shadow Judging assignment</i>					
Assessment Completed	Competent <input type="checkbox"/>				
	Not Yet Competent <input type="checkbox"/>				
	Date:				

Name:	Date of Birth:
Address:	
Suburb:	State: Post Code:
Mobile:	Email:

SDA – Please return a copy of this form and all relating documents to the EA Education Department

EA National Office
PO Box 673, SYDNEY MARKETS, NSW 2129 OR Amy.Mcgregor@equestrian.org.au

NOTE: Applications that do not include a completed table will not be accepted

Application form (to go with G paperwork)

Your EA membership must be current and this Course Checklist received by the State Dressage Committee before your EA Official registration can be processed.

Your Declaration

EA and its affiliated organisations have a duty of care to their members those associated with the sport of equestrian and to the individuals and organisations to whom the EA Policies apply, including the EA Child Safeguarding. As part of this duty of care and as a requirement of the EA Child Safeguarding Policy, EA must enquire into the background of EA Members applying for registration as an EA Official. All EA Members wishing to be registered by the EA as an EA Official as defined under EA's applicable rules and policies are required to complete the following declaration.

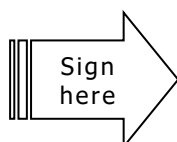
I Sincerely declare:

1. I have met all the requirements in relation to state specific legislation regarding police checks, working with children checks attached evidence as required.
2. I do not have any criminal charge pending before the courts, nor any criminal convictions or findings of guilt for offences involving drugs, violence, sexual activity, acts of indecency, child abuse or child pornography.
3. I have not had any disciplinary proceedings brought against me by an employer, sporting organisation or similar body involving child abuse, sexual misconduct or harassment, acts of violence, intimidation or other forms of harassment.
4. I have never been sanctioned for an anti-doping rule violation within in any sport.
5. I have never participated in, facilitated or encouraged any practice prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency Code or any other anti-doping policy applicable to me, including the EA Anti-Doping Policy.
6. To my knowledge there is no other matter that the EA may consider to constitute a risk to its members, employees, volunteers, athletes, or reputation by accepting my EA Officials registration.
7. I will notify the CEO of the organisation(s) engaging me immediately upon becoming aware that any of the matters set out in clauses [1 to 6] above has changed for whatever reason.
8. I acknowledge that I have read and agree to abide by the EA Code of Conduct for Officials. I acknowledge I may be subject to disciplinary action if I breach the code. (Code of Conduct is available to view via www.equestrian.org.au)
9. I acknowledge that by signing this declaration I am providing true and accurate information. If it is subsequently proven that the information which I have provided is untrue, false, incomplete, or misleading, then I acknowledge and accept that I may be subject to sanction under EA's applicable rules and policies.

WWCC/Blue Card Number:

Expiry Date:

Please attach copy of WWCC/Blue Card



SIGNED : _____

DATE : _____

Candidate – Please return these forms to your State Dressage Authority for verification.

State Contact – Please return a copy of these forms to the EA Pathway Manager – Officials, for Judge to be accredited and database updated.

Pathway Manager - Officials

EA National Office

PO Box 673, SYDNEY MARKETS, NSW 2129 OR Amy.McGregor@equestrian.org.au

NOTE: Applications that are incomplete will not be accepted and will be returned to the state.

Requirements to Upgrade to F-Level

(Minimum age – 18 years)

All prerequisite forms are available on the EA web site
<http://www.equestrian.org.au/officials/dressage>

In order to progress to the next level, you need to undertake the following (refer to Rule 12.11 & 12.24):

- **Required Judging** - candidates are required to judge 2 Official EA competitions, at their current level. (G level judges upgrading to F can also include Participant and Restricted competitions). The minimum number of horses to be judged overall is 24 horses. This judging must be completed **BEFORE** sitting the Practical exam.
- **Shadow Judging** – Refer to rule 12.17.
 - Minimum of two entire Novice competitions with at least 10 horses in each competition (a total of 24 horses to be judged overall). Note: In order to judge the required minimum number of horses if may be necessary to judge more competitions – Refer to rule 12.17.3 b) and l) in relation to shadow judging at Eventing Dressage
 - Supervising judge/s to be an appointed JE or Mentor
 - Shadow judging assessment form to be completed on each occasion.
- **Sit-Ins** – Refer to rule 12.17.
 - Complete two assessed sit-ins with an approved JE or Mentor
 - Sit-In assessment form to be completed on each occasion.
- **Other Requirements**
 - Attend a seminar that includes G or G/F
 - Complete and pass the Novice theory exam (closed rule book) with a pass mark of at least 80%
 - Pass the Novice practical exam which is conducted on the highest test at Novice e.g., 2.3 – at least 15 competitors to be judged.

Upon satisfactory completion of all of the above, you will be accredited at F-level and will be eligible to judge Official competitions up to and including Novice level with another accredited judge of at least Novice level. However, you will be eligible to judge Official Preliminary with an accredited judge of G level also.

In order to remain accredited on the National judges list you must meet compulsory judging activity and professional development requirements every 3 years – refer to rule 12.8. Further information will be advised via e-mail during the 3-year period.

Once again, EA thank you for enquiring about becoming a Dressage judge. We urge you to take the first step and become a G-Level (Preliminary judge), take the levels one step at a time and enjoy the knowledge that you will gain, and the colleagues that you will meet.

Requirements to Upgrade to E-Level

All prerequisite forms are available on the EA web site
<http://www.equestrian.org.au/officials/dressage>

In order to progress to the next level, you need to undertake the following:

- **Minimum age** – 20 years
- **Required Judging** – candidates are required to judge 5 Official EA competitions, at their current level. The minimum number of horses to be judged overall is 24 horses. This judging must be completed **BEFORE** sitting the Practical exam.
- **Shadow Judging** – Refer to rule 12.17.
 - Minimum of three entire Elementary competitions with at least one competition of 10 horses (a total of 24 horses to be judged overall) Note: In order to judge the required minimum number of horses it may be necessary to judge more competitions - Refer to rule 12.17.3 b) and l) in relation to shadow judging at Eventing Dressage
 - Supervising judge/s to be an appointed Judge Educator or Mentor
 - Shadow judging assessment form to be completed on each occasion.
- **Sit-Ins** – Refer to rule 12.17.
 - Complete two assessed sit-ins with an approved Judge Educator or Mentor
 - Sit-In assessment form to be completed on each occasion.
- **Other Requirements**
 - Attend a seminar that includes E-level.
 - Complete and pass the Elementary theory exam (closed rule book) with a pass mark of at least 80%
 - Pass the Elementary practical exam – at least 15 competitors to be judged.

Upon satisfactory completion of all of the above, you will be accredited at E-level and may judge Official competitions up to and including Elementary level.

Each judge will receive a letter and certificate from Equestrian Australia verifying their accreditation.

In order to remain accredited on the National judges list you must meet compulsory judging activity and professional development requirements every 3 years – refer to rule 12.8. Further information on this can be found on the EA website and will be advised via e-mail during the 3-year period.

The FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse



1. The Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) expects all those involved in international equestrian sport to adhere to the FEI's Code of Conduct and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount and must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.
2. At all stages during the preparation and training of competition horses, welfare must take precedence over all other demands. This includes good horse management, training methods, farriery and tack, and transportation.
3. Horses and competitors must be fit, competent and in good health before they are allowed to compete. This encompasses medication use, surgical procedures that threaten welfare or safety, pregnancy in mares and the misuse of aids.
4. Events must not prejudice horse welfare. This involves paying careful attention to the competition areas, ground surfaces, weather conditions, stabling, site safety and fitness of the horse for onward travel after the event.
5. Every effort must be made to ensure that horses receive proper attention after they have competed and that they are treated humanely when their competition careers are over. This covers proper veterinary care, competition injuries, euthanasia and retirement.

The FEI urges all involved with the sport to attain the highest levels of education in their areas of expertise.

A full version of the FEI Code of Conduct is contained in the Dressage Rule book – refer to rule 1.2 or can be found at: <http://www.fei.org/about-us/standards>

EA CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OFFICIALS

In addition to the EA General Code of Conduct, any person appointed by EA (or its affiliates) as an official must meet the following requirements regarding their conduct and behaviour in any way relating to the sport of equestrian (including without limitation during or in respect of any activity held or sanctioned by EA, or as part of any role as an official appointed by EA or its affiliates):

- act impartially.
- place the safety and welfare of the athletes/participants above all else
- be aware of and abide by the principles of the FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse.
- be fair, equitable, considerate and honest in all dealings.
- accept responsibility for all actions taken.
- be professional in all actions. Language, presentation, manner and punctuality should reflect high standards.
- do not accept or participate in any form of bribery or corruption.
- avoid any situation which may lead to a conflict of interest.
- be courteous, respectful and open to discussion and interaction.
- maintain or improve their current performance level and seek continual improvement.
- seek to preserve and protect the standing and reputation of EA and its affiliates.

Note: All EA's Code of Conduct can be found at - <http://www.equestrian.org.au/policies>

As in all equestrian sports, judges must:

- make their decisions having regard for the welfare of the horse above the interests of any others involved
- have an open and friendly attitude towards all competitors while being careful not to show familiarity towards those competing
- be aware that they are responsible for setting and maintaining the image and standards of dressage both in the competition arena and away from it and that, as an ambassador for dressage, they should conduct themselves with dignity, honesty and good manners, especially in difficult situations
- treat requests from competitors to explain their decisions as an opportunity to assist the competitor to improve their performance
- honour a commitment to judge and if unforeseen circumstances prevent this, endeavour to help the organisers to find a replacement
- maintain an objective and fair mind towards all competitors which includes:
 - not taking into account anything known about riders, horses or past performances
 - guarding against conflicts of interest and avoiding judging in situations in which they have a close personal or professional relationship with a competitor or owner
- ensure to the best of their ability that the same conditions apply to all competitors
- know and understand the scale of marks and ensure that their comments and marks are related
- maintain the same standard for all competitors within a competition and at all events
- be in possession of a current Dressage Rule Book together with any amendments
- know the rules and be prepared to co-ordinate their personal opinion with the principles of the FEI and the EA
- aim to have a thorough knowledge of the correct training of the dressage horse and understand the requirements of the test they are to judge

WHAT MAKES A GOOD JUDGE?

As a judge you have to be:

- highly organised, yet flexible.
- able to focus, make decisions quickly
- be confident of the training you have received and knowledge you have acquired as a judge
- to recognise and acknowledge mistakes you may make whilst judging
- be able to diffuse a volatile situation

As a judge you must possess diplomacy, tact and common sense.

- You are part of a team and if you are the Chief Judge (positioned at C), you have to lead that team for that competition
- You must be approachable by riders and coaches
- You must also act professionally in relation to your judging

As a judge, you most probably have a greater impact on the sport than riding coaches!

As a judge you must be able to perform the three S's:

See	Say	Score
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DEMANDS REQUIRED OF A DRESSAGE JUDGE

As a judge you must train yourself to have the following qualities:

- absolute objectivity and impartiality, free of personal bias/opinion, but be humble and sympathetic
- the ability to see; be able to distinguish and to compare performances consistently from the first to the last horse in a competition, finding the correct rankings in giving the marks

Today, when competitions last much longer than in the past, it is important for the judges to be:

- mentally alert to be able to concentrate for long periods of time.
- physically fit; and
- be able to be consistent and fair from the beginning to the end of the competition

The judge must have a thorough knowledge of dressage theory as well as practical dressage training. The Training Scale underpins all that we do when judging.

Judges must be able to recognise **BASIC QUALITIES** and, therefore, **MAIN FAULTS** that originate from an incorrect training program. They should be able to differentiate between faults due to momentary unfitness or a careless mistake. They should, be able to distinguish the difference between significant and insignificant faults.

It is very helpful if a dressage judge has trained horses themselves and taken part as a competitor. This increases a judge's empathy and understanding and may help to guide a rider so that future problems can be avoided.

OBJECT OF DRESSAGE

(Refer to Rule 2.1)

The object of dressage is the harmonious development of the physique and ability of the horse. As a result, it makes the horse calm; supple; loose and flexible, but also confident; attentive and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding with the rider.

These qualities are revealed by:

- (a) the freedom and regularity of the paces
- (b) the harmony, lightness and ease of the movements
- (c) the lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hindquarters, originating in a lively impulsion
- (d) the acceptance of the bridle, with submissiveness throughout, and without any tension or resistance

The horse thus gives the impression of doing of their own accord what is required of them. Confidently and attentively, they submit generously to the control of the rider, remaining absolutely straight in any movement on a straight line and bending accordingly when moving on curved lines.

The walk is regular; free and unconstrained. The trot is free, supple, regular, sustained and active. The canter is united, light and cadenced. The hindquarters are never inactive or sluggish, and they respond to the slightest indication of the rider, giving more life and spirit to the whole body.

In all the work, even at the halt, the horse must be 'on the bit'. A horse is said to be on the bit when the neck is more or less raised and arched ACCORDING TO THE STAGE OF TRAINING AND THE EXTENSIONS OR COLLECTION OF THE PACE, and they accept the bridle with a light and soft contact and submissiveness contact. The head should remain in a steady position, slightly in front of the vertical, with a supple poll at the highest point of the neck, and no resistance should be offered to the rider.

Cadence is shown in trot and canter and is the result of the proper harmony that a horse shows when it moves with well-marked regularity, impulsion and balance. Cadence must be maintained in all the different trot and canter exercises and in all the variations of these paces.

The regularity of the paces is fundamental to dressage.

In these rules, it is stated how the various exercises must be executed and what is important in each movement. Therefore, each judge **MUST** have a copy of the rules and carefully study them.

CONTACT AND REFERENCE INFORMATION

FEI Dressage Handbook – Guidelines for Judging

- This is your Bible!!! Learn to love it; it is all there – every mark for every movement from 10 to 0. This is available from the EA National Office.

DVD – ‘Through the Eye of the Judge with Stephen Clarke’

- These are excellent judge education videos for all levels from Novice to Grand Prix. The videos are available from <https://throughtheeyeofthejudge.co.uk/>

General Information

- Equestrian Australia is the National Federation (NF) for National Rules, Policies, Education/Training, Promotion of the Sport, International Competitions. High Performance Management – funding etc. See website for info
- Sport Australia (Govt) authorises and funds Australian Sport
- EA Branches – Registrations, Affiliated Clubs, Schools program

Reference points

- EA National www.equestrian.org.au
- Official Judges list on EA website > Searches>Officials>Dressage plus the level you want to check, finally the State
- SDA – State Dressage Authority e.g. Dressage Queensland, Dressage NSW etc
- FEI - www.fei.org
- Code of Conduct - Section 1 of the Rule Book – anything detrimental to the Sport should be reported within 14 days
- Rules pertaining to Judges – Section 12 of the current rule book

Role of EA & Officials

- Information about EA and the Role of EA Officials, and
- Code of Conduct for Officials

It can all be found on the EA website

Rule Book, Judges Handbook, Dressage Tests + diagrams

We all use these tools all the time.

- Rule Book, updates on Rules annually 1 January
- EA Tests – usually updated every 4 years - New tests due 1/1/23

CONTACT INFORMATION



Equestrian Australia

P.O Box 673, Sydney Markets

NSW, 2140

Pathway Manager Tel: 02 8762 7706

State	Contact Details	Role	Contact and Email
 EQUESTRIAN QUEENSLAND	Equestrian QLD Postal Address: PO Box 1358, Coorparoo DC QLD 4151 Tel: 07 3891 6611	State Dressage Authority Chair (SDA)	Anita Barton ascampton@hotmail.com
		Judges Sub Committee (JSC)	Irene Bakels-Noreen ibakelsnoreen@bigpond.com
 EQUESTRIAN NEW SOUTH WALES	Equestrian NSW Postal Address: PO Box 7077 Wetherill Park BC NSW 2164 Tel: 02 9620 2660	State Dressage Authority Chair (SDA)	Mandy Jones mandyjones1925@gmail.com
		Judges Sub Committee (JSC)	Sue Cunningham suziecunningham99@gmail.com
 EQUESTRIAN TASMANIA	Equestrian TAS Postal Address: PO Box 277 Brighton TAS 7030 TEL: 03 6268 5261	State Dressage Authority Chair (SDA)	Judy Atkinson clearviewgardens2@bigpond.com
		Judges Sub Committee (JSC)	Judy Atkinson clearviewgardens2@bigpond.com
 EQUESTRIAN VICTORIA	Equestrian VIC Postal Address: PO Box 616 Werribee VIC 3030 Tel: 03 9013 0707	State Dressage Authority Chair (SDA)	Lizzy Schirmer LizzySchirmer@equestrianvictoria.com.au
		Judges Sub Committee (JSC)	Lee Howells lee.howells18@gmail.com
 EQUESTRIAN WESTERN AUSTRALIA	Equestrian WA Postal Address: 303 Cathedral Avenue Brigadoon Western Australia 6069 Tel: 08 9296 1200	State Dressage Authority Chair (SDA)	Suzanne Simons suzanne.simons@hotmail.com
		Judges Sub Committee (JSC)	Nadine Herbert nadineherbert@icloud.com
 EQUESTRIAN SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Equestrian SA Postal Address: Unit 10, 2 Cameron Road Mount Barker SA 5251 Tel: (08) 8391 0488	State Dressage Authority Chair (SDA)	Veronica Hannan dressage@equestriansa.com.au
		Judges Sub Committee (JSC)	Liz Duncan e.duncan@bigpond.net.au
 EQUESTRIAN NORTHERN TERRITORY	Equestrian NT Postal Address: PO Box 1244 Palmerston NT 0831 Tel: 0417 848 545	State Dressage Authority Chair (SDA)	Danila Lochrin dressage@ent.org.au
		Judges Sub Committee (JSC)	Danila Lochrin dressage@ent.org.au