



A Step-by-Step Guide

Becoming a Dressage Judge

All members seeking to be a judge candidate or to upgrade must apply to do so in writing/e-mail through their respective State Dressage Judges Committee.

The National Officiating Accreditation Scheme (NOAS) is based on:

- Workbooks created from Equestrian Australia's ASC-approved NOAS Dressage Judge's syllabus
- Educational and assessment activities which include:
 - Shadow judging
 - Mentoring
 - Written theory paper
 - Practical judging exam
 - Sport-specific and generic officiating information.

How to become a Dressage Judge:

Anyone interested in becoming an accredited judge should meet the following pre-requisites:

- Be at least 17 years of age or older
- Be a current financial member of Equestrian Australia (EA)
- Have a copy of all relevant Dressage Tests e.g. Preparatory, Preliminary, Novice.
- Complete the application form the application form forms part of the H level exam paper. This is not available on the website
- Although not compulsory requirements, the following questions will be asked:
 - experience as a competition rider including highest level ridden
 - details of coaches used by applicant
 - experience as an instructor
 - number of times assisted an accredited judge as a writer (an essential item)
 - EA approved Judges seminars/workshops/symposium attended with details of dates
 - and presenter(s)
 - Any other relevant information
- Attend and participate in an EA approved judges seminar that incorporates F level
- Complete an Open Rule Book Test with a pass of at least 80%

Once candidates have completed the above and are included in the judges list arrangements are made for the National Office to forward the new H level judge the F-E level work book to enable judges to start working towards the next level – F. Candidates must remain an H level judge for at least 12 months before they can upgrade to F level.

What events can a H level judge judge:

- Not qualified to judge any Official competitions
- Can judge Associate Preliminary on their own
- Can judge Associate Novice but with another suitably accredited judge of at least F level
To upgrade to F level H level judges must complete the following:
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Attend a Judges seminar that includes F level if they haven't attended such a seminar in the past 2 years
- Shadow Judge, with a Judge Educator, Mentor or specially appointed D level judge for shadow judging purposes, 3 entire Novice competitions with at least 10 horses in each (maximum number of horses to be judged = 30) – shadow judging forms to be completed each time.
- Pass the Novice theory exam with at least 80% (this is a closed book exam)
- Pass the practical exam by judging a Novice competition with at least 15 horses with a Judge Educator as the examiner

It should be noted that all pre requisites must be completed before the candidate can sit the practical exam.

What events can an F level judge judge:

- Can judge Official Preliminary on their own
- Can judge Official Novice but with another suitably accredited judge of at least F level
- Can judge Associate Preliminary, Novice and Elementary on their own

What is required to maintain your qualifications: Every second year Dressage judges are required to re-accredit with the EA National Office using the reaccreditation forms. Once a judge has reaccredited with the EA National Office, they will appear on the National Judges list and can be found on the Dressage Page on the Equestrian Victorian or EA websites. All judges need to stay financial members of EA.