



at the heart of horse sport

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To all FEI Dressage and Para-Equestrian Dressage Judges

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**POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

In a world with constant changes, we face new possibilities every day, **particularly with the rapid development of the internet, both for commercial use and to express opinions.**

While the internet offers many new opportunities to develop our sport, it also provides us with some challenges that can affect us on a personal level. There are occasions when our actions can be misinterpreted and it is all too easy to find ourselves in a position where we are in danger of getting into a situation that involves a conflict of interest, or at least a perceived conflict of interest. May we draw your attention to two actual cases recently:

- Internet sites invite riders to send in videos of rides which will then be judged by actual judges. This will be a conflict of interest if the video is from a show and the test has already been judged by one of your colleagues.
- Internet sites started petitions pro and, mostly, against hyperflexion. A judge has to stay neutral, and a signature on one of the petitions may be perceived to make the judge subjective.

The regulations set in the **Codex for FEI Dressage judges**, article 2, deal specifically with conflicts of interest. It reads:

2. A judge must avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest. A judge must have a neutral, independent and fair position towards riders, owners, trainers, organizers and other officials and integrate well into a team. Financial and/or personal interest must never influence or be perceived to influence his/her way of judging.

We would request all judges to be very conscious of not getting into situations which could be perceived to be a conflict of interest as set out in the Codex. It is imperative for the reputation of all judges that they do not leave themselves open to criticism for not being objective.

Best regards

Trond Asmyr  
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