

# INTRODUCTION TO JUDGING

## SHOWJUMPING IRELAND - INTRODUCTION TO JUDGING. (SJAJ Judges' Panel)

Welcome to the SJAJ Judges' Panel. The SJAJ Judges' Panel is made up of officials from the four SJI Regions: Connaught, Leinster, Munster and Ulster. There are 5 possible categories of Judge in each Region: Probationary Judge; Deputy Judge; Judge; National Judge and Senior National Judge; and 3 possible categories of International Judge: Candidate International Judge; International Judge; and Official International Judge.

The SJAJ National Judges' Committee has a representative from each Region, appointed each year from the Regional Committee, and approved by the Executive Committee. The Regional representatives are the first point of contact for Judging Officials within their Region, and are very willing to assist new Judges coming onto the Official Panel. The current representatives may be found on the SJI website, [www.sji.ie](http://www.sji.ie) - under "Committees" – Judges.

All new Officials to the list commence with Probationary/Deputy Judge status, and progress through the upgrading system to – Judge – National Judge, and Senior National Judge. All Probationary/Deputy Judges are required to have at least a member of the "Judges" panel with them in the Judges box – failure to comply with this may have Insurance implications for both the Official and the Show Organisers.

### **TRAINING OF JUDGES** (Page 151 – SJAJ National Rules & Regulations, 2008). **RATIONALE:**

A progressive training and education of SJAJ Judges will ensure that Judges will be able to understand the underlying principles of the skill and techniques required of Judges and equip them with a sound knowledge of the Rules and Regulations governing the sport. It will enable them to interpret the standard of

courses set; the questions asked by the Course Designer and ensure that they are appropriate for the expected level of the training of the horse and rider involved.

### **AIMS:**

To establish a progressive training scheme for Judges of Show Jumping competitions, run under the auspices of the SJI, and provide them with a sound knowledge of the Rules & Regulations of the sport of Show Jumping, technical information on show jumping courses and the necessary skills of good judging.

### **PRINCIPLE OBJECTIVES**

To establish the basic principles in Judging of Show Jumping competitions.

To identify ways and means by which the Judge can play a significant role in ensuring a fair result.

To be able to understand the techniques of the jumping horse, to analyse the actual performance of the horse over the different types of obstacle and thus make a reasonable interpretation of the course set in competition, to ensure a fair test for the expected level of training of horse and rider involved.

To be able to recognise factors which may influence the result of a competition.

To show an understanding of the importance of safety in all aspects of show jumping.

To be familiar with the role of the Judge and their responsibilities within the running of a successful event

### **STRATEGIES**

Progressive education of Judges will be based on - ongoing practical experience, seminars, lectures, demonstrations and videos. These will be supported by specific opportunities to work along side more experienced Judges at selected shows.

SJI Panels of Judges indicating the level of achievement and experience of Judges will be maintained under the following categories: Deputy Judge; Judge; National Judge and Senior National Judge; Status.

An examination structure will verify the level of achievement as follows:

To ensure Judges are up to date with current rules they will be required to attend National or Regional Seminars once within a period of two years.

Failure to do so without a valid reason may mean reverting to a lower panel.

The criteria for upgrading on SJI Judges' Panel may be found at Page 153, of the SJAI National Rules and Regulations (2008).

**Membership** - To be a member of the Judges' Panel, SJI membership must be current. Memberships are due on 1st January each year, and names will be removed from the Judges' Panel if memberships are not renewed by 1st March. Membership may be applied for on line, at [www.sji.ie](http://www.sji.ie), or by application form obtainable from the SJAI office.

**Rule Book** - The Official SJAI Rules and Regulations are available in hard copy form from the SJAI office, and can be ordered when applying for membership, or at anytime after that. The rule book is also available on line at [www.sji.ie](http://www.sji.ie).

**Bulletin** - The SJI bulletin is usually issued on 10 occasions throughout the year, and is the official notification of the calendar, events, schedules and pertinent information. This is currently free to Judges, and should be requested when applying for membership. It is important that Judges have to hand, at an event, a copy of the bulletin containing the relevant schedule.

**On the Day:** As a Deputy Judge - your tasks will be allocated by the Senior Judge and throughout the first year of training will probably consist of one or more of the following (depending on the numbers in the class, and / or numbers in the Judges'

box), marking, completing tickets, back-up watch, or calling. During the second year the Deputy Judge will be expected to move on to learning the operation of the automatic timing equipment etc.

**Marking Sheets:** The official marking sheets are currently in book form, with a duplicate yellow copy, which remains static in the book. The top copy of the marking sheet should be removed from the book, and put in the plastic pocket together with the tickets. All the boxes at the top of the marking sheet should be completed - in particular, the start and finish time of each class. We have tried to standardise the completion of the main body of the marking sheet as follows - identify obstacles jumped clear by a tick, obstacles knocked down as "4" faults, refusals - 1st refusal as 4R, and 2nd refusal as 8R. Eliminations should be identified as - Eliminated because of a fall - EF: Eliminated because of 3 refusals - ER. Eliminated because of wrong course, or other misdemeanours (Art. 240) - EO. Retired - as R.

**Stationery:** It is advisable to carry a jotter or some sheets of ruled paper, in case notes etc., need to be made.

**Pens:** It is advisable to use a fine tipped black biro pen for marking and for tickets, as soluble / felt tipped pens don't always come through to the copy, and/or smudge if wet. A Highlighter can be used to indicate clear rounds, or places. Tippex is not recommended, but if absolutely necessary - the change must be initialled by the Senior Judge.

**Tickets:** Tickets - either Registered tickets / Temporary tickets / Supplementary tickets or Sportsmans Sheets - should be completed with Faults & time for each round - Place & Points. If possible, prior to the start of the competition, or on receipt of tickets - check that the back of the ticket has been signed by

the competitor. Check that the Show name, date, and class information are correct. Tickets should be kept in place order - with Temporary Tickets at the back.

**Result Sheets** - Official Result Sheets are to be completed at the end of each competition. The number and name of the class, the Article number, the Prize Fund, Number of Tickets (both Registered (including Supplementary) and temporary), should be recorded, and then the prize winners, including points and prize money entered. The Result sheets should be signed off by the Judges, and if the sheet has blank lines at the bottom, the sheet should be "Z" off after the last place. Indicate clearly the end of one set of results, and the start of the next set.

**Stop Watch:** If possible, it is always a good idea to have a stop watch with you, and even if not required to use this in an official capacity - try (with the permission of the President of the Ground Jury) using it as a back-up watch.

**Judges Log Book:** It is important that all Judges have their log book completed to show that they are fulfilling the criteria for

upgrading, and the log book is signed off by the President of the Ground Jury on the day, including names of all Judges present.

**Probationary Judges:** In 2010 the Judges' Committee will be introducing of a new category to the lower end of the Judges Panels - that of Probationary Judge, where a reduced membership would be offered for a year, to encourage enthusiastic supporters to participate as an assistant in the Judges box, and get a feel for further participation. This would be done through the Regional Representatives, who would allocate a more Senior Judge - of at least Judge status - to mentor the new recruit, and involve him/her in various Shows throughout the season, in the hope that the following year, that member would feel confident to sign up as a Deputy Judge.

In conclusion, thank you for considering becoming a member of the Judges' Panel. Authorised Shows / competitions could not take place without a Ground Jury in place, and it is therefore vitally important that we continue to build on our knowledgeable base of Officials, to carry out these tasks.

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