

# OFFICIALS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF CHEFS D'EQUIPE

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# “ A different sport ”

## ▶ Our sport has changed

- ▶ The time when this was a sport with an amateur perspective has long gone
- ▶ Our sport has a professional industry behind it.
- ▶ Professionalism has taken over.
  - ▶ Most of the people involved at the High Level Sport are professionals:
    - ▶ Riders
    - ▶ Trainers
    - ▶ Chefs d´Equipe
    - ▶ Vets
- ▶ Your actions are in social media with in seconds.
- ▶ All stakeholders involved EXPECT this professionalism to carry over to the show officials.

# “It is a lot more than judging the competitions”

- ▶ President of the Ground Jury has final authority
  - ▶ Be prepared for the show. You may find a lot of difficult situations will arise before the first class.
  - ▶ Be a leader, not a “sheriff”
  - ▶ Lead by knowledge and common sense, not by fear
  - ▶ You MUST have knowledge on various areas:
    - ▶ Footing
    - ▶ Obstacle construction (especially water jump)
    - ▶ Feeling for course design
    - ▶ Time measuring
    - ▶ Horse related issues
      - ▶ Stables
      - ▶ Veterinary fundamentals

# “It is a lot more than judging the competitions”

- ▶ Foreign Judge
  - ▶ Always remember, you are the FEI at the show.
    - ▶ Report with fairness
      - ▶ We expect the FJ to report what happens in reality
      - ▶ Do not be OC “friendly”
      - ▶ Do not hold back in your report
    - ▶ We are going to ask you the difficult questions. We know that you are the FEI. Prepare for this.
  - ▶ Do not try to dilute the responsibility
  - ▶ **WE EXPECT YOU TO TAKE THE LEADERSHIP**

# Communicate

- ▶ TALK TO PEOPLE
- ▶ Be available at all times during the competitions
  - ▶ Make sure that the correct communication devices are available to talk with you at all times during competitions, specially on GP and NC days
- ▶ Do not be afraid of asking any questions to anybody
- ▶ Do not get run over by anybody: It is sure that we will try sometimes.
- ▶ Do not send away anybody without an explanation
- ▶ We understand that the judges do not have to know every Rule. HOWEVER we want a correct answer based on Rules.
- ▶ 90% OF THE PROBLEMS CAN BE PREVENTED BY CORRECT COMMUNICATION!

# Standards

- ▶ Set the standards and do not waver
- ▶ Have clear ideas of how you want to run your show
- ▶ Treat everybody equally: if not we will find out who is the best one to take advantage.
- ▶ Back up your people, especially your stewards. If you fail to back them up they will be there but they will see nothing.
- ▶ Remember: THERE ARE NO SECRETS DURING A SHOW.

# STICK TO THE RULES!!!

- ▶ Do not try to defuse problems by adapting the Rules to a situation: YOU ARE CREATING BIGGER PROBLEMS FOR THE FUTURE
- ▶ The only way to get good of very difficult situations is to stick to the Rules.
- ▶ We all have PERSONAL views and opinions. Do not let your personal opinion get in the way of what the Rules are there for.
- ▶ Be proactive, follow up. If you strongly believe something is wrong with a Rule, there are procedures to change a Rule.
- ▶ Always remember a Rule is Rule until it is changed, do not look the other way even in very difficult situations.
- ▶ WE NEED A UNIFIED CRITERIA FOR JUDGING. The field cannot change from week to week

# FINALLY:

- ▶ ALL THE PEOPLE Involved WITH OUR SPORT ARE RESPONSIBLE TO MAKE THIS SPORT BIG AND SUCCESSFUL.
- ▶ IT IS YOUR JOB IN THE SPORT TO KEEP IT WITH IN THE RULES, WITH TRANSPARENCY AND EQUAL TREATMENT FOR EVERYBODY.
- ▶ IF WE FAIL THE SPORT WILL GO DOWN A PATH WHERE WE ALL LOOSE, A LOT.