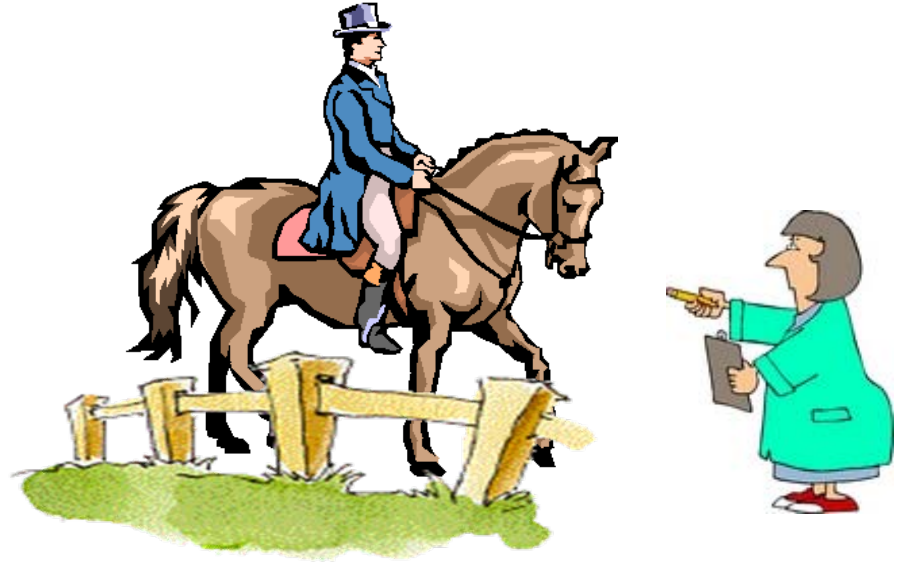




RING STEWARD



Based on 31 Dec 2008 USEF Rules



USEF RULES FOR RING STEWARDS



(pertain to equipment checks – see separate file for details)

- **DR121.8.** Ring stewards appointed by competition management must check saddlery and inspect bits and spurs on both sides of the horse for at least one-third of the horses in each class. Inspection of saddlery and bits must be done at the direction of the technical delegate. Inspection of saddlery and bits must be done immediately as the horse leaves the arena. (See DR126.11) The checking of the bridle must be done with the greatest caution, as some horses are very touchy and sensitive about their mouths. Bit inspectors must use a new disposable protective glove for each horse. The responsibility for the correct attire and equipment, however, still rests with the competitor. When communicable disease is a concern, any deviations to established saddlery inspection protocol must be approved by the USEF Dressage Department prior to the competition.
- **DR126-11.** Management must appoint ring stewards to check saddlery and inspect bits and spurs, on both sides of the horse, in each class at the direction of the technical delegate and in accordance with DR121.8. Bit inspectors must use a new disposable protective glove for each horse. Gloves must be provided by competition management. When communicable disease is a concern, any deviations to established saddlery inspection protocol must be approved by the USEF Dressage Department prior to the competition. Schooling and warmup areas must be monitored by stewards starting at least 30 minutes before the first scheduled ride. When a competition operates two or more rings or warmup areas, the competition must have a sufficient number of stewards to adequately monitor all schooling and warmup areas, as well as competition rings. In USEF/USDF Championship classes, a steward must be appointed to check the saddlery and bits of each horse immediately after it has completed its test and has left the arena, and any discrepancy to the saddlery rules will entail immediate elimination. (See DR121.8).



RING STEWARD FUNCTIONS



- The Ring Steward makes sure the correct rider enters the competition arena at the correct time. They also may watch over the warm-up area and make sure the riders know the order of competition.
- Ring Stewards are given an updated show schedule (showing all ride times) and receive changes from the Show Office during the show.
- The Ring Steward makes NO remarks about any horse or rider in the competition, including but not limited to, any background information about any horse or rider, their trainer, etc.
- Ring stewards should dress for weather conditions and provide their own insect repellent, sunscreen, sunglasses, etc.
- ***Attributes and Skills Needed:***
 - Ability to read bridle tags from a distance
 - Tactful speaking skills
 - Supportive and courteous tone



RING STEWARD PROCEDURES



- At any given time, there should be only one rider in the dressage ring, one waiting to go in (“on deck”), and one waiting to be “on deck” (“in the hole”).
- It's NOT your responsibility to search for the next rider.
- At some shows you will have a walkie/talkie and will need to tell the Announcer who's going into the show ring next. Communication over the walkie/talkie should be kept to a minimum. Usually the Announcer simply wants to know who is entering the competition ring. (Ex. “Ring 2, entry 34 has entered.”)
- As the riders approach the ring, check them off your schedule (so you know they are there).
- You may politely remind competitors to drop whips before entering USEF Championship classes or point out that they forgot to remove their horse's boots.
- Due to liability exposure you should not adjust any rider's tack.
- If the ring is running ahead of schedule, the “on deck” rider may go in early but cannot be required to go in early.



RING STEWARD PROCEDURES



- After the rider in the show ring has finished their final salute, the next rider may warm-up around the perimeter of the ring.
- If there is a break between rides, do not allow the next horse to warm-up around the perimeter of the ring. To do so would constitute an unfair advantage to that rider. Some shows allow riders in the show rings during the lunch break.
- Some shows will have a Ring Steward at the warm-up arena and another one at the ring. A Ring Steward for a warm-up arena makes sure there are not more riders than can safely warm-up in the ring.
- At some shows the Ring Steward is also the equipment checker. See the session on Equipment Checks for information on this task.



THE END

