

EQUITATION CLASSES

Removing the mystery!

One of the highlights of the Syncroflex Festival of Future Stars is the Dressage Equitation classes. These tests were designed by the FEI to encourage and foster quality riding skills with a focus on correct position and effectiveness.



How are these classes different to standard tests?

Overall, the focus is on the riding skills of each combination; including the use of the aids, the accuracy and precision of how the movements are ridden, the riding skills, and the overall harmony and presentation of the combination. All these things combine to provide a foundation for a successful dressage rider's future.

How many judges are there?

There can be two or three judges on these tests, and each judge focusses on a different role. The judge at C judges the *technical* only aspect of the test as in a standard test, movement for movement, focussing on how the movements are ridden and executed. The second judge/s sits on the long side (at B or E) assessing the *quality* of the riding skills.

What are the judges looking for?

The judge at C is looking at the overall flow of the test, the preciseness, and correctly ridden movements (i.e., riding the corners, correctly shaped circles, movements executed at the correct markers etc).

The judge on the long side gives 4 marks only, essentially the collective marks. These four marks assess the riding skills, including how effective the riders **aids** are (i.e., are they subtle?, do they influence the horse/pony in a positive way?); the riders' **position and seat** (i.e., correctness, is the seat developing independence?, how correct is the contact?, preparation for movements?); the **precision**, fluency and tempo, and the overall general **harmony and impression**.

How are they scored?

The two scores are added together and divided by 2 to give an overall percentage.