

# Dressage Judges

## Guidelines for Judging Riding Club Competitions

### Introduction

The information contained in this document is designed to give you a greater understanding as to what is required at each level within the Association of Irish Riding Clubs. This will ensure that all dressage competitions are judged fairly and in accordance with the rules of the Association.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact National Office for clarification.

### Grades

<b>RC Preliminary 1</b>	
Criteria	What is expected of Rider/Horse
They may not compete in Dressage Ireland competitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ride their horse in a steady rhythm in all three gaits (walk, trot and canter) showing relaxation.</li> <li>• Ride their horse on the correct bend.</li> <li>• Ride on the correct trot diagonal and canter lead.</li> </ul>
<b>RC Preliminary 2</b>	
Dressage: They may compete in Dressage Ireland competitions or unregistered dressage competitions, up to and including Preliminary standard. Should they obtain points in Dressage Ireland competitions, they will be required to upgrade to Intermediate. Should they obtain 60% or higher in an unregistered dressage competition, they will be required to upgrade to Intermediate.	As per previous grade and in addition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show relaxation, suppleness and moments of 'contact'.</li> </ul>
<b>RC Preliminary 3</b>	
They may compete and gain points at Preliminary level only in Dressage Ireland competitions or unregistered dressage competitions.	As per previous grades and in addition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate an established 'contact'.</li> <li>• Ride in good balance with an independent seat and not hinder the horses natural way of going.</li> </ul>
<b>RC Novice</b>	
They may compete and gain points up to and including Novice level in Dressage Ireland competitions or unregistered dressage competitions.	As per previous grades and in addition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show the beginnings of Impulsion.</li> <li>• Ride in balance with good use of weight aids.</li> </ul>

### RC Elementary

They may compete and gain points up to and including Elementary level in Dressage Ireland competitions or unregistered dressage competitions.

As per previous grades and in addition:

- Demonstrate impulsion and straightness.
- Ride with effective weight aids.

### RC Medium

They may compete at any level in Dressage Ireland, or unregistered dressage competitions.

As per previous grades and in addition:

- Demonstrate collection.
- Ride with weight aids that positively influence and enhance the horse's natural way of going.