

Judges Marking Scheme

Insert new Regulation L.17.e:

When assessing a routine the judges should take into account the following score structure;

Scores	reason for score
0 – 1.9	Not yet ready to compete at this level on today's performance.
2.0 – 3.9	Not yet competent at this level.
4.0 – 5.5	Working at level (with scope for further improvement). <i>Points will be awarded above this level.</i>
5.6 – 6.9	Correct level for class (routines are good and competent).
7.0 – 8.9	Highly competent (routine sufficiently competent for next level).
9.0 – 10	Outstanding (excellence; meets and exceeds the criteria).

To be included in the Judges' training seminars and in the Guide for Heelwork to Music Judges.

To be included in the Judges' training seminars:

Judges notes

Judges must value the fact that they're making an impression on each team. A good judge is upbeat and appreciative of the efforts of every routine, no matter what the skill level.

If the less advanced teams are discouraged by a judge who looks disinterested, then they may lose interest in HTM.

That's not to say that judges can't be honest. Truly successful judges learn to encourage while offering constructive criticism.

Judges should avoid evaluating a performance by the number of moves/tricks attempted; instead, they must assess how the steps are executed. A judge should look for good technique, appropriate to the class.

Another misconception of would-be judges is the notion that, if they score every routine highly, then the competitors will think they're excellent judges. Most competitors know when the judge is being honest with the awards. The majority of competitors want a straightforward evaluation of their routines and are willing to learn from the experience.

An experienced judge can quickly assess these factors collectively:

Timing - if a team is not moving in time with the music.

Togetherness - the partnership of dog and handler working together in synchronisation with each other.

Musicality and Expression - the basic characterisation of the routine to the music being played and the choreographic adherence to the musical phrasing and accents.

Presentation - does the team sell their routine to the audience? Do they move, with enthusiasm, exuding confidence in their performance? Or do they show strain or introversion?

Judges marking scheme

Note -When judging a routine try to think about marking routines using the criteria below.

This is about judging what you see, not what you previously know about the dog/handler. Therefore you are judging what you see on the day which may mean that a dog that has previously been a winner may be deemed not yet ready for the class (as viewed on the day).

Top marks

Carefully considered, eloquent and controlled use of space.

Projection of the routine idea is demonstrated in an informed, transparent and wholly appropriate manner.

The performance is presented in a sophisticated and highly polished manner.

Projection of the theme/style is demonstrated in an informed and appropriate manner.

The performance is presented with flair, demonstrating an understanding of the specific genre and style relating to the chosen music.

Accurate and articulate use of the dog's/handler's bodily skill in relation to the chosen theme/style.

Accurate and eloquent control of space.

Middle marks

Projection of the routine idea is demonstrated in an adequate manner, though there may be some inconsistency throughout the performance.

The performance demonstrates an understanding of the specific genre and style.

The use of dog's/handler's body language sometimes lacks efficiency and clarity.

The use of space has been considered, but the routine sometimes lacks control and planning.

The use of focus is inconsistent throughout the performance.

Lower marks

A lack of efficiency in the use of body language, showing very little evidence of articulation.

The handler lacks control and planning in her/his use of space.

The use of focus is limited throughout the performance.

Projection of the routine idea is extremely limited.

The performance will demonstrate a very basic understanding of the genre and style.