



Education System for FEI Dressage Judges

Update: 01 January 2015

In effect as of 01 July 2010

1. Preliminary Remarks

1.1 Terminology and Abbreviations

- **5* Judges Seminars**
- **Class**
Equivalent term to competition
- **Competition**
Equivalent term to class
- **Course Director (CD)**
CDs are responsible to deliver FEI Qualification Courses and Refresher Seminars.
The group of CDs is also responsible for updating the existing FEI education material.
- **Dressage Committee (DC)**
- **Event**
A Dressage only event.
- **Exchange Programme**
To enable National Federations to enhance the level of their officials (but not for status maintenance purposes), the FEI has a development programme called: "Exchange Programme for FEI Officials". Its purpose is to assist National Federations and FEI Officials in getting access to events and being an official member of the respective team of officials. Please refer to the FEI website for details:
<http://www.fei.org/fei/your-role/officials/dressage/exchange-programme>
- **Foreign Judge (FJ)**
Member of Ground Jury
- **Freestyle (FS)**
- **Grand Prix (GP)**
- **Grand Prix Special (GPS)**
- **Grand Prix Free Style (GPFS)**
- **FEI Headquarters (HQ)**
- **International judges are divided into four categories:**
2* Judges (new)
3* Judges (former International Candidate Judges).
4* Judges (former International Judges).
5* Judges (former Official International Judges).
- **Intermediate level I or II (Int. I or Int. II)**
- **Judges Supervisory Panel (JSP)**
- **Mentor Judge (MJ)**
- **Qualification Course (QC)**

A course with exam, based on the established FEI Syllabus, in order to obtain the FEI qualification as 2*, 3* or 4* judge.

On special request to the FEI the participation in a QC without taking the exam counts as participation in a RS.

- **Prix St. George (PSG)**
- **Refresher Seminar (RS)**
A seminar without exam, based on the established FEI Syllabus, for the purpose of educating and updating actual FEI judges. RS will also be open to national judges in addition to the invited FEI Judges, provided the maximum number of available spaces is not exceeded. The applications of international judges have priority.
- **Shadow Judging (SJ)**
Shadow-Judging (SJ) is a procedure required for (re-)qualification courses. An judge who judges a competition at a CDI separately from the officiating judges' panel without his results being counted for the ranking of the class. One, preferably two, FEI approved MJs will assess the outcome and discuss the results. (See Guidelines for Shadow Judging).
- **Show**
A multidiscipline event.
- **Sit-In**
A candidate sits at a CDI together with an FEI approved officiating MJ to improve his judging. (See Guidelines for Sit-In).

1.2 Education Strategy

Good education is the basis for good judging. The aim of the FEI Education System is to provide world-wide standards for education and certification of Judges. The FEI will provide QCs and RSs in order to provide opportunities for promotion and status maintenance. It is vital to have an ongoing exchange of information between NFs, Judges and the FEI about the situation in each region, so that the annual education calendar can proactively address upcoming developments.

1.3 Nomination Process

A judge who passed the examinations during a qualification course can act as Judge on that particular level after the official promotion dates (1st January and 1st July). Corresponding certificates will be awarded during the closing ceremonies of the qualification course.

1.4 Judges Review

The Judges Supervisory Panel evaluates all FEI listed judges at least biannually. A report will be submitted to HQ.

1.5 Information Resources on Quality of Judging

The following resources will be used for an evaluation of the quality of judging:

1. The Judges Supervisory Panel
2. The Foreign Judges Report(s)
3. Consistency Statistics
4. Informal Resources

These resources will be compiled and analysed within HQ also consulting the Dressage Committee.

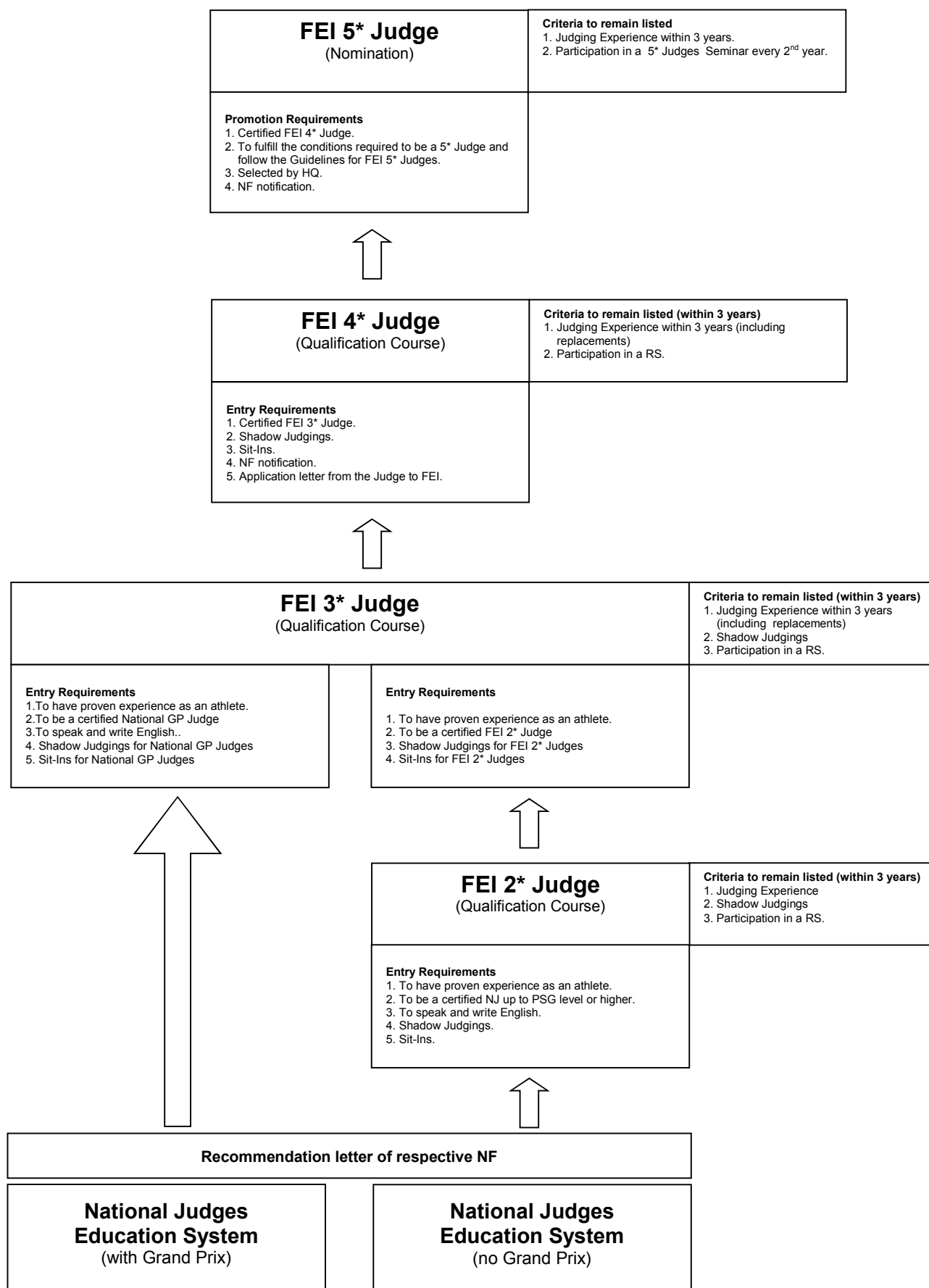
1.6 Codex

To be signed by all FEI Judges.

1.7 National Education

Will be continued as separate project.

2. Education System for FEI Dressage Judges (Diagram)



3. Description of the Education System for FEI Dressage Judges

2* Judge

2* Judges Qualification Course Entry Requirements

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|---|--|
| 1. Recommendation letter of respective NF | Letter to be provided before application to either first SJ or first Sit-In. |
| 2. National Dressage Level | Home country of the judge has no GP classes. |
| 3. To have proven experience as an athlete | <p>Up to at least PSG Level. Proofs are provided either through result lists or confirmed by the NF.</p> <p>Exceptions possible which have to be considered by the FEI (DC, HQ, JSP). In these cases compensation by:
2 more Sit-Ins and 2 more SJ with an evaluation by FEI approved MJs graded "good" or better.</p> |
| 4. To be a certified National judge up to PSG level or higher | <p>To have judged a minimum of 9 national competitions (PSG level or higher) in the last three years prior to the application (proven by official results or NF written confirmation).</p> <p>Minimum 3 in the last 12 months before the application.</p> |
| 5. To speak and write English | Written confirmation by the NF and assessment of MJs during Sit-Ins and SJ. |
| 6. Recommendation of respective NF | By letter |
| 7. Shadow Judging | <p>1 SJ (PSG/ Int. 1, minimum 8 horses) with 1 positive recommendation of the MJ (out of a maximum of two attempts). One of the two MJs per SJ preferably to be a 5* judge.</p> <p>SJ and Sit-Ins may be done at the same event but the SJ must be done before the Sit-In.</p> |
| 8. Sit-Ins | 2 Sit-Ins (PSG/ Int. 1, minimum 8 horses each SI) with positive recommendations of different MJs at, at least 2 different CDIs. |
| 9. Alternative procedure | In special circumstances NFs may apply to FEI for a special support for an alternative |

mentoring procedure well in advance to a course.

10. Age

Promotion to 2* Judge is only possible until the age of fifty two (52). The age limit is seventy (70) years. Judges will be retired from the FEI Dressage Judges' list at the beginning of the year they celebrate their 71st birthday.

2* Judges Qualification Course Course Organisation

Number of Course Directors	2
Minimum number of participants	8
Maximum number of participants for exams	12
Debriefing	Average 10 minutes per participant.
Course Material	- FEI Dressage Rules (incl. Freestyle Guidelines and Guidelines for Young Horses) - FEI Code of Conduct - FEI General Regulations

2* Judges Qualification Course Course Examination

Practical Examination	Judging of a PSG-level competition with minimum 10 horses.
Written Examination	60-minute closed-book examination in English. Questions on - Basic paces, - Scale of Training, - Movements up to Int. I, - Principles in judging Dressage, - Dressage Rules, - Freestyle competitions. Description of photos of movements.
Oral Examination	Questions based on - Practical judging in examination (Unit 16): Rankings, spread, marks and remarks - Riding principles - Dressage Rules - Judging of freestyle competitions. Exam duration approx. 20 min.
Final Evaluation	All three parts of the Examination have to be passed in order to pass the course.

2* Judges Criteria to remain listed (Proof of activity within 3 years)

1. Minimum of 12 classes (PSG / Int I level) out of which minimum of 3 classes have to be at a minimum of 2 CDI shows.
2. Participation in a RS.
3. Course with examination only when needed.

3* Judge

3* Dressage Judges Qualification Course Entry requirements for FEI 2* Judges

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|--|---|
| 1. Letter of recommendation from NF | Letter to be provided before application to either first SJ or first Sit-In. |
| 2. To have proven experience as an athlete | <p>Up to at least PSG Level. Proofs are provided either through result lists or confirmed by the NF.</p> <p>Exceptions possible which have to be considered by the FEI (DC, HQ, JSP). In these cases compensation by:
2 more Sit-Ins and 2 more SJ with an evaluation by FEI approved MJs graded "good" or better.</p> |
| 3. To be a certified FEI 2* Judge | For at least 2 years and to have judged a minimum of 6 national shows or CDI*/** with at least 12 classes PSG and higher; the national classes can be judged up to GP level, the CDI*/** up to Int.I level. |
| 4. To speak and write English | Written confirmation by the NF and assessment by FEI approved MJs during Sit-Ins and SJ. |
| 5. Shadow Judging | <p>3 SJ (GP, minimum 8 horses) with 3 positive recommendations (out of a maximum of six attempts) of different FEI approved MJs. One of the MJs per SJ preferably to be a 5* judge.</p> <p>SJ and Sit-Ins must be conducted at a minimum of 3 CDIs. Two of them should be a CDI3* or above.</p> <p>SJ and Sit-Ins may be done at the same CDI but the SJ must be done before the Sit-In.</p> |
| 6. Sit-Ins | 9 Sit-Ins at min. 3 CDIs (Int. II, minimum 3 GP/GPS, minimum 3 GPFS, minimum 8 horses each SI) with at least 6 out of 9 positive recommendations of 4 different FEI approved MJs. |
| 7. Age | Promotion to 3* Judge is only possible until the age of fifty seven (57). The age limit is seventy (70) years. Judges will be retired from the FEI Dressage Judges' list at the beginning of the year they celebrate their 71 st birthday. |

3* Judge

3* Dressage Judges Qualification Course Entry requirements for National Grand Prix Judges

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| 1. Letter of recommendation from NF | Letter to be provided before application to either first SJ or first Sit-In. |
| 2. To have proven experience as an athlete | Up to at least PSG Level, preferably GP. Proofs are provided either through results lists or confirmed by the NF. Exceptions possible which have to be considered by the FEI (DC, HQ, JSP). In these cases compensation by: 2 more Sit-Ins and 2 more SJ with an evaluation by the FEI approved MJs graded "good" or better. |
| 3. To be a certified National GP judge | For at least 2 years and to have judged a minimum of 9 national GP Level competitions in the last three years prior to the application (proven by official results or NF written confirmation). Minimum 3 competitions in the last 12 months before application and exam. |
| 4. To speak and write English | Written confirmation by the NF and assessment by FEI approved MJs during Sit-Ins and SJ. |
| 5. Shadow Judging | 2 SJ (GP, minimum 8 horses) with 2 positive recommendations (out of a maximum of four attempts) of different FEI approved MJs. One of the MJs per SJ preferably to be a 5* judge. SJ and Sit-Ins must be conducted at a minimum of 2 CDIs. One of them should be a CDI3* or above. SJ and Sit-Ins may be done at the same event but the SJ must be done before the Sit-Ins. |
| 6. Sit-Ins | 3 Sit-Ins (Int. II, minimum 1 GP/GPS, minimum 1 GPFS, minimum 8 horses each SI) with at least 2 out of 3 positive recommendations of different FEI approved MJs. |
| 7. Age | Promotion to 3* Judge is only possible until the age of fifty seven (57). The age limit is seventy (70) years. Judges will be retired from the FEI Dressage Judges' list at the beginning of the year they celebrate their 71 st birthday. |

3* Dressage Judges Qualification Course Course Organisation

Number of Course Directors	2
Minimum number of participants	8
Maximum number of participants for exams	12
Maximum number of participants as observers or for maintenance of status	8
Debriefing	Average 10 minutes per participant.
Course Material	- FEI Dressage Rules (incl. Freestyle Guidelines and Guidelines for Young Horses) - FEI Code of Conduct - FEI General Regulations

3* Dressage Judges Qualification Course Course Examination

Practical Examination	Judging of GP competition with minimum 10 horses.
Written Examination	Multiple choice and open questions
Oral Examination	Questions on - The practical judging - Knowledge of the principles of riding / judging - FEI Dressage- and Freestyle Rules.
Final Evaluation	All three parts of the Examination have to be passed in order to pass the course.

3* Judge
Criteria to remain listed (Proof of activity within 3 years)

1. Minimum 12 competitions (except Young Horses competitions) at a minimum of 4 CDIs. 6 of the competitions judged must be Int. A/B and/or higher.
2. Maximum 3 competitions Int. A/B or higher and/or maximum 3 competitions on lower level can be replaced by either 1 positive SJ (per competition to be judged; GP level, minimum 8 horses) or the participation in a RS (per competition to be judged).

Additionally, one Int. A/B and/or higher competition can be replaced by 3 competitions judged on PSG/Int I level.

A minimum of 3 CDI 2* and/or above have to be judged. 1 CDI 2* and/or above can be replaced by a positive SJ (GP level, minimum 8 horses).

3. MJs for the SJ, one of them being a 5* judge, are to be approved by HQ.
4. Participation in a RS.
5. Course with examination only when needed (taking into account assessment of DC, HQ, JSP and Consistency Statistics).

4* Judge

4* Dressage Judges Qualification Course Entry requirements

1. NF notification

NF will be notified on the invitation and has the possibility to object. HQ will consider the reasons for objection.
2. Certified FEI 3* Judge

For at least 2 years and have judged a minimum of 8 CDI2* and/or above including 12 GP level competitions.
3. Shadow Judging

2 SJ (GP, minimum 8 horses) with 2 positive recommendations (out of a maximum of four attempts) of **different** FEI approved MJs at 2 different CDI 2* and/or above. One of the MJs per SJ preferably to be a 5* judge.

SJ and Sit-Ins must be conducted at a minimum of 2 CDIs. One of them should be a CDI3* or above.

SJ and Sit-In may be done at the same event but the SJ must be done before the Sit-In.
4. Sit-Ins

2 Sit-Ins (GP/ GPS/ GPF, minimum 8 horses each) with 2 positive recommendations of **different** FEI approved MJs (preferably 5* judges)
5. Application letter from the judge to FEI

The judge has to formally apply to HQ for invitation to a 4* Judges QC, specifying within the application all necessary requirements.
6. Age

Promotion to 4* Judge is only possible until the age of sixty two (62). The age limit is seventy (70) years. Judges will be retired from the FEI Dressage Judges' list at the beginning of the year they celebrate their 71st birthday.

4* Judges Qualification Course Course Organisation

Number of Course Directors	2
Minimum number of participants	8
Maximum number of participants for exams	12
Debriefing	Average 10 minutes per participant.
Course Material	- FEI Dressage Rules (incl. Freestyle Guidelines and Guidelines for Young Horses) - FEI Code of Conduct - FEI General Regulations

4* Judges Qualification Course Course Examination

Practical Examination	Judging of GP competitions with minimum 10 horses.
Written Examination	60-minute closed-book examination in English. Questions to Dressage Rules, Scale of Training, Basic Paces, Movements up to GP, Principles in Judging Dressage and Freestyle. Description of photos of movements.
Oral Examination	Questions on - The outcome of the practical judging (ranking, spread, marks, remarks) - The outcome of the written exam - The principles of riding / judging - FEI Dressage- and Freestyle Rules. Exam duration approx. 20 min.
Final Evaluation	All three parts of the Examination have to be passed in order to pass the course.

4* Judge
Criteria to remain listed (Proof of activity within 3 years)

1. Minimum 12 Int. A/B and/or higher competitions at a minimum of 8 CDI2* and/or above.
2. Maximum of 3 competitions can be replaced by either 1 positive SJ (per competition to be judged, GP level, minimum 8 horses each) or the participation in a RS (per competition to be judged).

Additionally, one Int. A/B and/or higher competition can be replaced by 3 competitions judged on PSG/Int I level.

A minimum of 6 CDI 2* and/or above have to be judged. 1-2 CDI 2* and/or above can be replaced by a positive SJ (GP level, minimum 8 horses) per CDI.

3. MJs for the SJ, one of them being a 5* judge, are to be approved by HQ.
4. Participation in a RS.
5. Course with re-examination only when needed (taking into account assessment of DC, HQ, JSP and Consistency Statistics average of minimum 3 years).

5* Judge Promotion requirements

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Certified FEI 4* Judge | For at least 3 years and have judged a minimum of 15 CDI3* and/or above including 30 GP level competitions. |
| 2. To fulfil the conditions required to be a 5* Judge and follow the Guidelines for FEI 5* Judges | High quality of judging and high ethical standards. Able to give clinics, willing to develop the sport further, willing and be able to act as Foreign Judge, taking over more responsibility. |
| 3. Selected by HQ | HQ proactively selects from the list of 4* Judges based on competence, knowledge, experience and appearance and after hearing and considering the opinion of the DC and JSP. |
| 4. NF notification | NF will be notified on the invitation and has the possibility to object. HQ will consider the reasons for objection. |
| 5. Age | No age restriction for promotion. The age limit is seventy (70) years. Judges will be retired from the FEI Dressage Judges' list at the beginning of the year they celebrate their 71 st birthday. |

5* Judge Criteria to remain listed

1. Within three years minimum 12 GP level competitions at a minimum of 8 CDI3* and/or above.
2. Attendance in 5* Judges Seminars every 2nd year.
3. Available for further development of the education system.
4. Course with re-examination for 5* Judges only when needed (taking into account assessment of DC, HQ, JSP and Consistency Statistics).

4. Failure of Exams

a. If a judge fails an exam within a qualification course for **2*** Judges for the first time, he can:

- do 2 additional Sit-Ins (PSG / Int. 1) with 2 positive recommendations of different FEI approved MJs (preferably 5* judges)
- and
- 1 additional SJ (PSG / Int. 1, minimum 8 horses) with an evaluation graded “good” or better by FEI approved MJ. MJ preferably to be a 5* judge.
- and then
- re-do the exam.

All the above parameters have to be fulfilled within 2 years of the first exam failure. After 2 years, the candidate needs to fulfil the criteria above and participate in a course before redoing the exam.

or

- The judge remains at previous level

If a second failure occurs, the judge will be taken off the FEI list of judges. After 2 years the judge can try again by starting to fulfil the entry requirements for 2* Judges.

b. If a judge fails an exam within a qualification course for **3*** Judges for the first time, he can:

- do 2 additional Sit-Ins (GP/ GPS/ GPF) with 2 positive recommendations of different FEI approved MJs (preferably 5* judges)
- and
- 2 additional SJs with an evaluation graded “good” or better by 2 different FEI approved MJs. One of the MJs preferably to be a 5* judge.
- and then
- re-do the exam.

All the above parameters have to be fulfilled within 2 years of the first exam failure. After 2 years, the candidate needs to fulfil the criteria above and participate in a course before redoing the exam.

or

- The judge remains at previous level

If a second failure occurs, the judge will be taken off the FEI list of judges (if he is on it as a 2* judge). After 2 years the judge can try again by starting to fulfil the entry requirements for 3* Judges.

c. If a judge fails an exam within a qualification course for **4*** Judges for the first time, he can:

- do 3 additional Sit-Ins (GP/ GPS/ GPF) with 2 positive recommendations of different FEI approved MJs (preferably 5* judges)
- and
- 2 additional SJs with an evaluation graded “good” or better by 2 different FEI approved MJs. One of the MJs preferably to be a 5* judge.
- and then
- re-do the exam.

All the above parameters have to be fulfilled within 2 years of the first exam failure. After 2 years, the candidate needs to fulfil the criteria above and participate in a course before redoing the exam.

or

- The judge remains at 3* level

If a second failure occurs, the judge will be taken off the FEI list of judges. After 2 years the judge can try again by starting to fulfil the entry requirements for 3* Judges.

If done at the same event, SJ has to be done before SI. All required SIs/SJs have to be completed with the required results before the judge can retake the exam.

5. Removal from and return to list

A judge can be taken off the FEI list for the following reasons, controlled by HQ:

1. Inactivity or not fulfilling the requirements (considered by HQ on a case-by-case basis). To get back on the list, 1 Course with exam pass and 2 SJs with recommendations by MJs/CDs within 2 years.
2. Poor quality of judging (see Information Resources on Quality of Judging) may result in being taken off the list for the minimum of 1 year.

The results of the respective judge are assessed by JSP and FJ.

HQ and DC decide upon the measures to be taken.

To get back on the list, it is necessary to fulfil again the conditions of the respective level (Sit-ins, SJ) and exam.

3. Proven to have acted seriously or repeatedly against the guidelines/ Codex, proven biased judging may result in being taken off the list for the minimum of 1 year.

HQ and JSP will decide in a case-by-case evaluation on the individual return conditions.

A judge not fulfilling the criteria for his current status, but still fulfilling the criteria for the next lower level, will be demoted to that status. The judge has to fulfil all the criteria for the next level before taking the course and exam for promotion.

6. Maintenance Criteria Period

A new 3 year period starts from the date of a change in status (promotion, demotion or return to the list).

7. Course Directors

The FEI has to keep a sufficient number of course directors. The list shall be reviewed by HQ every 2nd year to secure the quality of the education. Course Directors will be selected, trained and monitored by HQ. A list of CDs is published on the FEI Website.

8. Mentor Judges

The FEI has a list of approved Mentor Judges (MJs) who supervise and assess judges during Sit-Ins and Shadow Judgings. The MJ must be of a different nationality from the candidate. All 5* Judges as well as some 4* judges are MJs. The list of MJs shall be reviewed every 3 years and is published on the FEI website.