The ADC advises that the rule in 8.2 ( d) “only one score from a competition with one judge to be accepted per combination” will not be effective in 2015.

This decision has been made for several reasons. Even though this rule change became effective in February it has not in fact been publicised effectively enough. We have had feedback that competitors have believed themselves to be qualified in good faith, being unaware of the rule change. Competitors in regional areas seem to have been affected most. The ADC certainly does not wish to disadvantage regional nor rural competitors in their goals to compete at the Australian Dressage Championship or their State Championships in 2015.

The rule change was originally made to encourage OCs to provide two judges, as evidence from riders’ surveys and advice received by dressage rider representatives is that this is preferred by riders. The ADC is currently exploring other means to encourage this and will review this rule during 2016.

The difficulty for OCs in rural areas to provide two judges is acknowledged. In NSW Queensland and WA ADC understands that grants are available to help support the financial burden in rural areas.

The ADC strongly recommends that whenever possible all OCs/clubs do provide two judges for all competitions. This should nearly always be possible in urban areas. Use of only one judge as a profit-making measure only is deplored by riders and the ADC alike. Use of a minimum of two judges not only provides a fairer and better competition in line with riders’ wishes, but also helps to provide judging opportunities, particularly for lower level judges, in order for them to retain their accreditation.

Mary Seefried

Chair ADC