

## **Officials' Contracts – Explanatory Notes**

Dear Judges, DC's and Ringmasters,

You are holding in hands one of the new ECAHO Officials' contracts (Judges Contract or Contract for Members of the Disciplinary Committees and Ringmasters) which were approved by the Show Commission of ECAHO on 25.2.2017. This letter provides some explanatory notes for your better understanding of the purpose and content of the Contracts.

First of all, you must know that the articles in the Contracts were mainly taken from the Blue Book and from the Code of Conduct, regulations already applied by ECAHO.

### **Purpose**

Until now, ECAHO neither formally nor systematically registered its Officials. Their data was only available from the application forms for Judges' and DCs' courses and the addresses printed in the Blue Book. However, due to further professionalization and internationalization of ECAHO, but also increased requirements for Officials, the old system met its limits.

It further turned out that the Executive Committee needs to have a solid and defined relationship with its Officials in order to be able to negotiate with insurance companies, for example concerning professional indemnity insurance coverage.

Therefore, the Contracts are important elements of ECAHO's new concept taking effect on January 1, 2018. On the one hand ECAHO will strive to achieve better protection of its Officials. On the other hand ECAHO will give its Officials the opportunity of a daily allowance at ECAHO shows (i.e. International C shows and higher classified shows).

Last but not least, the Contracts should help to avoid and solve future conflicts, thus providing better protection for Officials acting in good faith in accordance with ECAHO's rules and regulations.

### **What will you get?**

- Professional indemnity insurance (in progress)
- Officials' license (ID card –Judges, DCs, Ringmasters)
- Badge with ECAHO logo
- Regular training/updating

### **What is a Professional Indemnity Insurance?**

In simple terms, it is an insurance covering costs connected to allegedly wrongful decisions made by you in good faith in connection with your activities as ECAHO Judge/DC/Ringmaster at ECAHO events.

In addition, ECAHO will insist on evidence from show organizers for insurance coverage for damage at the show-ground. This has to be confirmed already in the affiliation form from now on by each show organizer.

In this context, ECAHO would like to remind you to get your own travel insurance when travelling abroad.

#### **Articles 1 – 4**

The Executive Committee discussed the pros and cons of the limitation of the Officials' age for officiating in shows, and in fact, this was not only the idea of the EC but also brought up by some countries and delegates, and was inspired by other organizations applying such age limits. ECAHO highly appreciates the knowledge of its Officials who are officiating for many decades. We know that some of ECAHO Officials are still very active at 75 or more years of age. Nevertheless, the fact is that the number of shows, travelling and sometimes horses circulating very closely to the Officials may create dangerous situations. After several cases of Judges and DCs collapsing on the show-ground or getting injured during the show, we decided to make this restriction. But for example, Judges who turn 75 and cannot be listed on the ECAHO B or A list will remain listed on the National Judges' lists of their respective countries, thus enabling them to judge Amateur, D, Breeders' shows, all C shows, S shows and National Championships. We would be also very happy to welcome some of the retired Officials to the group of Instructors engaged at courses and workshops.

#### **Article 7**

ECAHO is of the opinion that its Officials must serve as good examples for new Officials, exhibitors and the whole Arabian horse world. Therefore, a clean criminal record is required. Officials, who cannot comply with this requirement, must immediately inform the ECAHO Office.

#### **Article 8**

b) ECAHO is not forbidding you to get a beer or wine. But when you are officiating, you must at any time have a very clear mind. So, if you drink, for example during dinner, drink wisely and reasonably, and always keep in mind that you must serve as good example.

c) You are not allowed to chat or to use your phone in any other way during the classes you are officiating. You should also not use your phone when you are on break during classes or getting ready for the following class. You may also not check posts on Facebook or comment the show and/or horses via any other social media. You certainly have the possibility to call your family or farm, if necessary, or to take a picture. However, it is always important to respect fair and unbiased competitions, and in any case avoid being accused for misuse of your phone.

e) This article is new and connected with the restricted time of validity of the contract – 3 years. ECAHO emphasizes that ongoing education of the Judges is necessary. It is very important to meet from time to time, to share experiences, to learn about new trends in judging, new rules, etc. The workshops will be organized at least once a year on the occasion of a major event in Europe or in the Middle East, which are anyhow attended by many of you. One attended workshop in 3 years is compulsory. All workshops will be announced in advance.

f) The Judges' Manual is the basic general literature for ECAHO courses – such as in the past the Judges' Syllabus. It is available as electronic version or, upon request, as printed version. Just order your copy at the ECAHO Office.

k) Please remember that as long as you are holding the ECAHO Judge's, DC's or Ringmaster's Licence, you are – amongst others – considered as ECAHO Official. No matter if you are officiating at the specific event or not, you should always follow all social or general regulations of the place you are visiting.

l) You should not promote yourself and/or offer your judging services on internet, magazines etc.

n) This article limits the number of shows you may officiate per year, in order to allow newly appointed Officials to be invited as well. Some Officials (mainly Judges) reached more than 18 attended shows in 2016, plus non-ECAHO events. With regard to judging, it is of great importance for breeders get different evaluations from different Judges. But also probationers must get the chance for probations with different A Judges. The total number of shows applies to all shows in ECAHO member countries (no matter if the event is ECAHO affiliated or not).

o) It is evident that ECAHO Officials must avoid any conflict of interests. However, there may be cases where Officials simply do not know about a possible conflict – therefore this article says “due to his knowledge”. But once you realize that a conflict exists or is possible, you must report this immediately.

p - r) These articles are mostly copied from the Blue Book. However, there are also some new explanations/requests. This is a list of the most common examples of conflict of interest. But for sure, it is impossible to describe all possible options. Each case must be considered individually and in accordance with the ECAHO rules and regulations. Therefore, the list of examples of cases of conflict of interest is neither complete nor comprehensive. There may be cases which are not listed but put you in a situation of conflict of interest, and which you must report immediately.

The EC is aware that the many of you are also breeders and need to sell/buy horses and/or breedings. **Please use common sense!** As for example: when selling 20 breedings to one customer, you most probably should not judge his/her horses. However, if you sell 100 breedings of your stallion to several different buyers, there may not be a conflict of interest. Also sponsoring of events organized by ECAHO Official is business relation and therefore could be found as a conflict of interest! Be aware that you must look at each case individually.

t) With regard to the term “sufficient period of time” you must again first use common sense as it is not possible to define a specific period of time in advance, as the cases may differ greatly in practice. Visiting a stud/farm, which might participate at the show you will be officiating in a few days, or accepting gifts from a breeder, are bad ideas: so just don't do it. Please be aware that conducting fair and unbiased competitions is a core purpose of ECAHO, wherefore you must not expose yourself to situations creating doubts and rumours with regard to your loyalties and independence.

If you are not sure whether a certain situation or relation constitutes a conflict of interest, just consult in advance the ECAHO Office or – at a show – the DCs! By doing so, you show that you are taking situations of conflict of interest seriously and you can build a positive reputation.

**Basic instructions:**

You now got 2 printouts of the Contract. Please fill-in and sign both of them, and send them to the ECAHO Office or hand them over to the Executive Secretary until **15<sup>th</sup> November 2017**.

You will receive the badge and ID card by the end of the year. If you are not willing to sign the contract or you fail to return it to the ECAHO Office in time, you will not be listed on the Judges' lists in the Blue Book and on the website and you will be considered to be the National Judge of your country. In such case, ECAHO will not provide professional indemnity insurance covering you.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the ECAHO Office!

With kind regards



Zuzana Slavíková  
Executive Secretary of ECAHO