



August 13, 2019

An open letter to the NSEF Dressage Community,

In 2010, the Nova Scotia Equestrian Federation developed a provincial competition program, known as Scotia Series, as a means to foster the development of our sport across the province in a fun and safe environment. After a slow start and only a handful of disciplines, it has grown into a multi-disciplined series with thirty competitions all over the province, culminating in our second provincial championships this coming October in Truro.

Competition as we traditionally know it, is changing everywhere in our sport. We as a community, are looking how best to serve and grow our sport in all disciplines as it relates to Equestrian Canada's Long Term Equestrian Development stages, especially the Learn to Compete/Train to Compete stage for Scotia Series. As your equestrian federation, we couldn't be more proud of Scotia Series. We have worked diligently to improve its rules and standards over the years. However, with every success, there are challenges.

We have faced such challenges this past year within our Scotia Series Dressage community that we are fearful may impact the growth and development of this important stage for dressage athletes, coaches and officials. Let us all keep in mind that the inherent purpose of NSEF Scotia Series is to provide a meaningful and affordable competition circuit while providing positive, successful development of all athletes and their horses.

As president, I can assure you that we take all matters of concern seriously. All requests for clarifications are dealt with via our staff and/or the NSEF Competitions Committee. We take an ethical and fair approach to all decisions made that may affect you, our members.

Efforts will be made to provide competition managers and athletes an opportunity to provide us with feedback that may be used to further develop our program. Details on this will be forthcoming by our office. I hope you take this engagement opportunity to share your thoughts and provide ideas on how to improve Scotia Series.

In the meantime, I would ask that you be respectful to all those involved in Scotia Series competitions – management, coaches, officials, athletes and their support team. Energy spent on positive and impactful advancement of Dressage in our province is our goal. We hope that it is yours as well. Let's all work together to ensure its success.

Thank you for your time.

Val McDermott, President