

# **EVALUATION OF COURSES**

**Name of Event:** Red Hills International

**F.E.I Divisions offered:** CIC 3 Star CIC 2 Star CIC 1 Star

**Size of arena in feet:** Approx 400' x 300'

**Grass or all weather:** Stone Dust/Sand mix

**Any Gradient:** No.

**Were there any permanent, or semi-permanent, items in the arena, like cross-country jumps, trees, etc.:** No

**Is there any other information about the arena layout that I may need to know of?**

The VIP area was at the top end.

Needed to leave a minimum of 12ft around the edge of arena for Budweiser Clydesdale's Arena is very large and they section off one end to make the approx dimensions.

**What were the weather conditions on the day.** 3 Star was on Saturday. Weather was perfect. 70 degrees, Very sunny & light breeze

2 Star and 1 Star were held Sunday, Weather for 1 Star was cool, cloudy temps in the 60's Weather for two star was perfect in the afternoon. 70 degrees, sunny and a light breeze.

**Do you think this had any effect on the results?** No

**Either mark the distances, in feet, of all the lines up to 10 strides, on the plan, or list them here:**

**Were there any other circumstances that affected the day (i.e. lack of help, insufficient material, etc.)** Build help and jump crew were excellent and were in high numbers.

Material was all new as it was my own new set of show jumps. We had water truck and drags. Probably needed two water trucks but will have next year.

The footing was difficult to keep wet enough. It dried out very quickly and got loose and deep on landing and takes offs. We raked and dragged when we could. Spoke to organizers about coming up with a better watering plan for next year which I think will help tighten the footing.

**Give a brief description of any changes you would make if you had to build the same track again:** All the tracks rode well. Officials seemed very happy. I really like the 3 star track on paper and I felt the track rode well and was a good test for the level.

The 5 stride after the triple combination was set at 74 feet and still short.

We did adjust the time of the 3 star by two seconds after the third horse. It went from 77 seconds to 79 seconds. I think looking back the correct time should have been 80 or 81 seconds and therefore we should have measured a touch wider on a couple of the turns. I also feel the footing is quite dead and the horses don't travel across it as well as on the newer more modern footings.

**Are there any other comments that you would like to offer about your courses:**

Combinations did not come off different leads in the two star. Got a few compliments from riders on the courses and asked to return in 2018