

# WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION™

OF AMERICA

## Western Dressage Rules for All Breeds



## Object and General Principles

The object of Dressage is the harmonious development of the physique and ability of the horse. As a result, it makes the horse calm, supple, loose and flexible but also confident, attentive and keen thus achieving perfect understanding with his rider.

### The Halt

1. At the halt, the horse should stand attentive, engaged, motionless and straight with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs being by pairs abreast with each other. The neck should be raised, the poll high and the head slightly in front of the vertical. While remaining on the bit and maintaining a light and soft contact with the rider's hand, the horse may quietly chomp the bit and should be ready to move off at the slightest indication of the rider.
2. The halt is obtained by the displacement of the horse's weight on the quarters by a properly increased action of the seat and legs of the rider driving the horse toward a more and more restraining but allowing hand causing an almost instantaneous but not abrupt halt at a previously fixed place.

### The Walk

1. The walk is a marching gait in which the footfalls of the horse's feet follow one another in "four time", well marked and maintained in all work at the walk.
2. When the foreleg and the hind leg on the same side move almost on the same beat, the walk tends to become an almost lateral movement. This irregularity, which might become an ambling movement, is a serious deterioration of the gait.
3. It is at the gait of walk that the imperfections of Dressage are most evident. This is also the reason why a horse should not be asked to walk on the bit at the early stages of his training. A too precipitated collection will not only spoil the collected walk but the medium and the extended walk as well.
4. The following walks are recognized: collected walk, medium walk, extended walk and free walk.
  - a. Collected walk. The horse, remaining "on the bit", moves resolutely forward, with his neck raised and arched, and showing clear self carriage. The head approaches the vertical position, the light contact with the mouth being maintained. The hind legs are engaged with good hock action. The gait should remain marching and vigorous, the feet being placed in regular sequence. Each step covers less ground and is higher than at the medium walk, because all the joints flex more markedly. In order not to become hurried or irregular the collected walk is shorter than the medium walk, although showing greater activity.
  - b. Medium walk. This is clear, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate lengthening. The horse, remaining on the bit, walks energetically but calmly with

- even and determined steps, the hind feet touching the ground in front of the footprints of the forefeet. The rider maintains a light, soft and steady contact with the mouth.
- c. Extended Walk. The horse covers as much ground as possible without haste and without losing the regularity of his steps, the hind feet touching the ground clearly in front of the footprints of the forefeet. The rider allows the horse to stretch out his head and neck without, however, losing contact with the mouth.
  - d. Free Walk. The free walk is a pace of relaxation in which the horse is allowed complete freedom to lower and stretch out his head and neck. The degree of ground cover and length of strides, with hind feet stepping clearly in front of the footprints of the front feet, are essential to the quality of the free walk.

## The Jog-Trot

1. The jog-trot is a gait of “two time” on alternate diagonal legs (near left fore and right hind leg and vice versa) separated by a moment of suspension.
2. The jog-trot, always with free, active and regular steps, should be moved into without hesitation.
3. The quality of the jog-trot is judged by the general impression, the regularity and elasticity of the steps—originated from a supple back and well engaged hindquarters—and by the ability of maintaining the same rhythm and natural balance even after a transition from one jog-trot to another.
4. The following jog-trots are recognized: working jog-trot, collected jog-trot, medium, jogtrot and extended jog-trot. Both passage and piaffe are variations of the jog-trot.
  - a. Collected Jog-Trot. The horse remaining on the bit moves forward with his neck raised and arched. The hocks being well engaged maintain an energetic impulsion thus enabling the shoulders to move with greater ease in any direction. The horse’s steps are shorter than in the other jog-trots but he is lighter and more mobile.
  - b. Working Jog-trot. This is a pace between the collected and the medium jog-trot in which a horse not yet trained and ready for collected movements shows himself properly balanced and, remaining on the bit, goes forward with even, elastic steps and good hock action. The expression “good hock action” does not mean that collection is a required quality of working jog-trot. It only underlines the importance of an impulsion originated from the activity of the hindquarters.
  - c. Medium Jog-Trot. This is a pace between the working and the extended jog-trot but more “round” than the latter. The horse goes forward with clear and moderately lengthened steps and with an obvious impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse remaining on the bit to carry his head a little more in front of the vertical than at the collected and the working jog-trot and allows him at the same time to lower his head and neck slightly. The steps should be even and the whole movement balanced and unconstrained.

- d. Extended Jog-Trot. The horse covers as much ground as possible. Maintaining the same cadence he lengthens his steps to the utmost as a result of great impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse remaining on the bit without leaning on it to lengthen his frame and to gain ground. The forefeet should touch the ground on the spot towards which they are pointing. The movement of the fore and hind legs should be similar (parallel) in the forward movement of the extension. The whole movement should be well balanced and the transition to collected jog-trot should be smoothly executed by taking more weight on the hindquarters.
5. All Jog-Trot work is executed sitting.

## The Lope

1. The lope is a gait of “three time”, where at lope to the right, for instance, the footfalls follow one another as follows: left hind, left diagonal (simultaneously left fore and right hind), right fore, followed by a moment of suspension with all four feet in the air before the next stride begins.
2. The lope is always with light, cadenced and regular strides should be moved into without hesitation.
3. The quality of the lope is judged by the general impression, the regularity and lightness of the three time gait originated in the acceptance of the bridle with a supple poll and in the engagement of the hindquarters with an active hock action and by the ability of maintaining the same rhythm and a natural balance even after a transition from one lope to another. The horse should always remain straight on straight lines.
4. The following type lopes are recognized: working lope, collected lope, medium lope and extended lope.
  - a. Collected Lope. The horse remaining on the bit moves forward with his neck raised and arched. The collected lope is marked by the lightness of the forehead and the engagement of the hindquarters: i.e., is characterized by supple, free and mobile shoulders and very active quarters. The horse’s strides are shorter than at the other lopes but he is lighter and more mobile.
  - b. Working Lope. This is a pace between the collected and the medium lope in which a horse, not yet trained and ready for collected movements, shows himself properly balanced and remaining on the bit, goes forward with even, light and cadenced strides and good hock action. The expression “good hock action” does not mean that collection is a required quality of the working lope. It only underlines the importance of an impulsion originated from the activity of the hindquarters.
  - c. Medium Lope. This is a pace between the working and the extended lope. The horse goes forward with free, balanced and moderately extended strides and an obvious impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse remaining on the bit to carry his head a little more in front of the vertical than at the collected and working lope and allows him at the same time to lower his head and neck

- slightly. The strides should be long and as even as possible and the whole movement balanced and unconstrained.
- d. Extended Lope. The horse covers as much ground as possible. Maintaining the same rhythm he lengthens his strides to the utmost without losing any of his calmness and lightness as a result of great impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse remaining on the bit without leaning on it to lower and extend his head and neck; the tip of his nose pointing more or less forward.
  - e. The cadence in the transitions from medium lope as well as from extended lope to collected lope should be maintained.
6. Counter-Lope. This is a movement where the rider, for instance on a circle to the left, deliberately makes his horse lope with the right lope lead (with the right fore leading). The counter-lope is a balancing movement. The horse maintains his natural flexion at the poll to the outside of the circle, and the horse is positioned to the side of the leading leg. His conformation does not permit his spine to be bent to the line of the circle. The rider avoiding any contortion causing contraction and disorder should especially endeavor to limit the deviation of the quarters to the outside of the circle and restrict his demands according to the degree of suppleness of the horse.
  7. Change of Lead through the Jog-Trot. This is a change of lead where the horse is brought back into the Jog-Trot and after a few Jog-Trot strides, is restarted into a lope with the other leg leading.
  8. Simple Change of Lead at Lope. This is a change of lead where the horse is brought back immediately into walk and, after a few clearly defined steps, is restarted immediately into a Lope on the opposite lead, with no steps at the Jog-Trot.
  9. Flying Change of Lead or Change of Lead in the Air. This change of lead is executed in close connection with the suspension which follows each stride of the lope. Flying changes of lead can also be executed in series, for instance at every 4th, 3rd, 2nd or at every stride. The horse even in the series remains light, calm and straight with lively impulsion, maintaining the same rhythm and balance throughout the series concerned. In order not to restrict or restrain the lightness and fluency of the flying changes of lead in series, the degree of collection should be slightly less than otherwise at collected lope.

## **The Rein Back**

1. The rein back is a movement in which the horse moves backwards by raising and setting down the feet in diagonal pairs. The feet should be well raised and the hind feet remain in line, and the direction of travel should remain straight.
2. At the preceding halt as well as during the rein-back the horse, although standing motionless and moving backwards respectively, should remain on the bit maintaining his desire to move forward.
3. Anticipation or precipitation of the movement, resistance to or evasion of the hand, deviation of the quarters from the straight line, spreading or inactive hind legs and dragging forefeet are serious faults.

4. If in a dressage test a jog-trot or lope is required after a rein back the horse should move off immediately into this pace without a halt or an intermediate step.

## **The Transitions**

1. The changes of gait and pace should be clearly shown at the prescribed marker; they should be quickly made yet must be smooth and not abrupt. The cadence of a gait or pace should be maintained up to the moment when the gait or pace is changed or the horse halts. The horse should remain light in hand, calm and maintain a correct position.
2. The same applies to transitions from one movement to another for instance from the passage to the piaffe and vice versa.

## **The Half-Halt**

The half-halt is a hardly visible, almost simultaneous, coordinated action of the seat, the legs and the hand of the rider, with the object of increasing the attention and balance of the horse before the execution of several movements or transitions between gaits or paces. In shifting slightly more weight onto the horse's quarters, the engagement of the hind legs and the balance on the haunches are facilitated for the benefit of the lightness of the forehand and the horse's balance as a whole.

## **For definitions of the following movements, refer to DR109 through DR116 in the USEF Rule Book**

(Changes of Direction, the Figures and the Exercises, Work on Two Tracks and Lateral Movements, The Pirouette, The Half-pirouette, The Quarter-pirouette, The Working Pirouette, The Working Half-pirouette, The Turn on the Haunches, The Passage, The Piaffe, The Collection, The Submission and The Impulsion)

## **The Position and Aids of the Rider**

1. The stirrup should be just short enough to allow heels to be lower than the toes. Body should appear comfortable, relaxed and flexible. Feet should be placed in the stirrups with the weight on the ball of the foot. Consideration, however, should be given to the width of the stirrups, which vary on Western saddles. If stirrups are wide, the foot may have the appearance of being home, when in reality, the weight is being properly carried on the ball of the foot.
  - a. All movement should be obtained without apparent effort of the rider. The rider should be well balanced with loins and hips supple, thighs and legs steady and well stretched downward. The upper part of the body should be easy, free and erect.
  - b. One hand. One arm should be in a straight line with the body and the arm in which the hand is holding the reins is bent at the elbow. Changing of hands is

- prohibited during a test. One finger between the reins is permitted when the ends of the split reins fall on the near side. No finger is allowed between the reins when using romal or when ends of split reins are held in the hand not used for reining. Rider may hold romal reins or end of split reins to keep from swinging and to adjust the position of the reins, provided there are at least 16 inches of reins between the hands. If romal reins are used, hands are to be above the horn and as near to it as possible. Bracing against the horn or coiled riata will be penalized.
- c. Two Hands. Hands should be low and close together without touching each other or the horse, with the thumb as the highest point. The elbows and arms should be close to the body, forming a reasonably straight line from the rider's elbow to the horse's mouth. The rider should follow the movements of the horse smoothly and freely and to apply aids imperceptibly. This is the only position that makes it possible for the rider to school the horse progressively and correctly.
  - d. The Seat. The seat is of great importance; the rider who understands how to contact and relax his loin muscles at the right moment is able to influence his horse correctly
  - e. Voice. The voice used in any way or clicking of tongue once or repeatedly is a serious fault involving the deduction of at least 2 points from those that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement where this occurred.

### **Tests for Western Dressage**

1. The Federation approves and issues tests for use at licensed competitions in the United States. Tests cannot be modified or simplified without the approval of the Federation.
2. Objectives and standards of Federation levels of competition. Refer to DR118.2 In addition, Intro tests A and B are for the beginning levels of competition and are Walk-Jog only.

### **Participation in Western Dressage Classes**

1. Horses may compete in no more than one Licensed Competition on the same day and are not limited to a maximum number of rides. Horses may enter no more than two consecutive levels, Freestyle levels included, at any one competition.
2. Junior Exhibitors are not permitted to show stallions in Junior Exhibitor Performance or Equitation classes.
3. When the entry is permitted to cross enter between Western dressage and other classes at a competition, the requirements for warm up apply to when the exhibitor is actually warming up for their Dressage ride.
4. False tails are not permitted and manes are not required to be braided.

## Appointments

1. Saddlery. The use of any standard snaffle bit may be used on a horse of any age being ridden in Intro, Training and First Level. The rider must use two hands with the snaffle bit. A standard snaffle bit is defined as a center jointed single rounded, unwrapped smooth mouthpiece of 5/16" to 3/4" diameter metal as measured from ring to 1" in from the ring with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The rings may be from 2" to 4" outside diameter of either the loose type, eggbutt, dee or center mounted without cheeks. If a curb strap is used it must be attached below the reins. A standard curb bit may be used on a horse of any age being ridden at any level; rider may use either one or two hands with the curb bit. There is no discrimination against any standard Western bit. A standard Western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8 1/2". The mouthpiece consists of a metal bar 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter as measured one inch in from the shank. The bars may be inlaid but must be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing must protrude below the mouthpiece (bar) such as extensions, prongs or rivets designed to intimidate the horse. Rollers attached to the center of the bit are acceptable, and may extend below the bar. Jointed mouthpieces are acceptable and may consist of two or three pieces and may have one or two joints. A three piece mouthpiece may include a connecting ring of 1 1/4" or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of 3/8," to 3/4" (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2"), which lies flat in the mouth, or a roller or port as described herein. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2" maximum with roller(s) and covers acceptable. Jointed mouthpieces, half breeds and spade bits are standard. Slip or gag bits, rigid donut mouthpieces and flat polo mouthpieces are prohibited. Roping bits with both reins connected to a single ring at center of cross bar must not be used. Reins must be attached to each shank. Any rein design or other device which increases the effective length and thereby the leverage of the shank of a standard western bit is prohibited. Anything that alters the intended use of equipment as provided for in the description of appointments for a given class is considered to be an artificial appliance. Hackamores and cavessons are not permitted in any test in any level. The rider may use one or two hands with a curb bit during a test but may not go from one hand to two during an individual test. Whips, no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm) including lash, are permitted in all classes with the exception of the AMHA Dressage Medal Seat. A standard stock saddle is to be used but silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. A side saddle is considered legal equipment. Tapaderos are prohibited.
2. Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running, balancing reins, nasal strips, tongue tied down, etc.), any kind of boots (including "easy-boots") or bandages (including tail bandages) and any form of blinkers, earmuffs or plugs, nose covers, seat covers, hoods are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden. Fly hoods (ear covers) will only be permitted in order to protect horses from insects. The fly hoods should be discreet and should not cover the horse's eyes, and will only be permitted in extreme cases at the discretion of the judge. Permission must be granted prior to the class and applies to all competitors in the class. A breastplate and/or crupper may be used. A rein is a continuous, uninterrupted strap or line from the bridle bit to the hand. Rein additions or attachments are not permitted as reins may only be attached to bits. Any decoration of the horse with extravagant items, such as ribbons or flowers, etc. in the mane, tail, etc., is strictly forbidden.

3. The above restrictions apply to warm-up and other training areas, however, running martingales (only with snaffle rein of plain snaffle bridle), boots, bandages (without magnets) and ear muffs are permitted. Fly hoods (ear covers) that do not cover the horse's eyes are permitted in warm-up and other training areas. Single direct side reins or double sliding side reins (triangle reins) are permitted only when lungeing (mounted or unmounted). Only one lunge line is permitted only while lungeing. Driving or long lining is prohibited. A single direct side rein is defined as an auxiliary rein affixed to the bit and to the girth, saddle or surcingle on the side of the horse (not between the legs). A lunge line must attach only to the snaffle bit of the bridle, halter or cavesson and go directly to the hand of the longeur. A running martingale consists of a divided strap attached to the girth or breastplate (at the front of the horse's chest); the extension of each strap must be connected from the point of division only to the rein on the same side and must be free to slide. The rings through which the reins slide may not be connected to a neck strap. The following whips are permitted for schooling only: One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash, may be carried by the rider when mounted. One lungeing whip is permitted only when lungeing. There is no restriction on the length of whip permitted for working a horse in hand.
4. Ring stewards appointed by competition management must check saddlery and inspect bits and spurs on both sides of the horse for at least one-third of the horses in each class. Inspection of saddlery and bits must be done at the direction of the Competition Steward/TD. Inspection of saddlery and bits must be done immediately as the horse leaves the arena. The checking of the bridle must be done with the greatest caution, as some horses are very touchy and sensitive about their mouths. Bit inspectors must use a new disposable protective glove for each horse. The responsibility for the correct attire and equipment, however, still rests with the competitor. When communicable disease is a concern, any deviations to established saddlery inspection protocol must be approved by the USEF prior to the competition.
5. Attire. Riders must wear suitable western hat, long-sleeved shirt with any type collar; trousers or pants (a one-piece long-sleeved equitation suit is acceptable, provided it includes a collar). Chaps, shotgun chaps, or chinks, and boots are required. Riders should wear a necktie, kerchief, bolo tie or pin; a vest, jacket, coat and/or sweater may also be worn. Protective headgear is acceptable; not required to be of Western style.
6. The competition Steward/TD will be responsible for the overseeing the checking of saddlery, bits, spurs, etc. A horse must be eliminated from the test just completed if the bit is in violation of the rules and/or the tongue has been tied. A minimum of one third of each class must be inspected.

## **Judge**

A Dressage judge(s) must officiate in the Western dressage classes. The competition should make every effort, in advance, to familiarize the judge with the special nature of Western Dressage.

## Execution and Judging of Tests

1. **Calling Tests.** All Federation Tests may be called during the competition except at any Final or Championship Event at which time all tests must be ridden from memory. If test is announced, it is the responsibility of the competitor to arrange for a person to announce the test. Unless an exception is made by the judge, the announcing of the test must start with the first movement. Lateness and errors in announcing the ride will not relieve the rider from “error penalties”. Announcing the tests is limited to reading the movement as it is written once only. However, the repetition of reading of a movement is acceptable if there is reason to doubt that the rider heard the original call.
2. **Salute.** At the salute, riders must take the reins in one hand. A lady rider shall let one arm drop loosely along her body and then incline her head in a slight bow; a gentleman rider shall remove his hat and let his arm drop loosely along his body or may render the salute as does the lady rider.
3. **Voice.** The use of the voice in any way whatsoever or clicking the tongue once or repeatedly is a serious fault involving the deduction of at least two marks from those that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement where this occurred
4. **Errors.**
  - a. When a competitor makes an “error of the course” (takes the wrong turn, omits a movement, etc.) the Judge warns him by sounding the bell. The Judge shows him, if necessary, the point at which he must take up the test again and the next movement to be executed then leaves him to continue by himself. However, in some cases when, although the competitor makes an “error of the course”, the sounding of the bell would unnecessarily impede the fluency of the performance for instance if the competitor makes a transition from medium trot to collected walk at V instead of at K or cantering up the center line from A makes a pirouette at D instead of at L it is up to the Judge to decide whether to sound the bell or not. However, if the bell is not sounded at an error of course, or error of test in which the movement, or a requirement of the movement, is repeated and the error occurs again, only one error is recorded. If a rider performs in a rising trot when a sitting trot is required, or vice versa, the bell must be sounded and the rider warned that this is an error that accumulates if repeated, leading to elimination at the third occurrence.
  - b. In western dressage tests, every “error of the course” whether the bell is sounded or not, must be penalized, except as noted above:
    - (1) the first time by 2 points;
    - (2) the second time by 4 points;
    - (3) The third time the competitor is eliminated. However, at the discretion of the judge, the rider may continue to finish to test. If the competitor’s continued presence in the ring is about to interfere with the start of the next scheduled ride, then the judge must excuse him/her from the ring.
    - (4) When the competitor makes an “error of the test”, he must be penalized as for an “error of the course”. In principle, a competitor is not allowed to repeat a movement of the test unless the Judge decided on an error of course (rings the bell). If, however, the rider has started the execution of a movement and attempts to do the same movement again, the judge

must consider the first movement shown only and, at the same time penalize for an error of course.

(5) If the Judge has not noted an error the competitor has the benefit of the doubt.

5. Lameness. In the case of marked lameness the judge informs the competitor that he is eliminated. There is no appeal against his decision.

6. Judging a test.

- a. The mark for each movement should first establish the fact of whether the movement is performed insufficiently (4 or below) or sufficiently (5 or above). The judge should state the reason for his judgment, at least when giving marks of 6 and below.
- b. Accuracy (moderate) should be a factor only if the inaccuracy avoids the difficulty of the movement, i.e., a larger circle avoids the difficulty of a 10 meter circle. In a movement which must be carried out at a certain point of the arena it should be done at the moment when the competitor's body is above this point, except in transitions where the horse approaches the letter from a line diagonal or perpendicular to the point where the letter is positioned. In this case, the transition must be done when the horse's nose reaches the track at the letter so that the horse is straight in the transition.
- c. If a problem appears once it may be treated lightly by the judge; if it appears successively he will score it more harshly each time, i.e., nodding, stumbling, shying, etc.
- d. Grinding of the teeth and wringing of the tail are signs of tenseness or resistance on the part of the horse and should be considered in the marks for each movement where they appear, as well as in the Collective Marks. Horses which get their tongues over the bit or perform with an open mouth shall be marked down.
- e. The levels of dressage are offered as a means of evaluating a horse that is changing. The purpose of each test is printed on the cover and the horse shall be considered in light of the degree of training it should have achieved to be shown at that level.
- f. In the case of a fall of horse and/or rider the competitor will not be eliminated. He will be penalized by the effect of the fall on the execution of the movement being performed and also in the Collective Marks.
- g. If the horse leaves the arena with or without the rider (all four feet outside the fence or line marking the arena perimeter) between the time of entry and the time of exit at A, the competitor is eliminated.
- h. A test begins with the entry at A and ends after the final salute, as soon as the horse moves forward; except in Freestyle, where the test begins in the first stride after the salute and ends at the final salute. Except for leaving the arena as described above in 6 (g), and for non-permitted movements shown in a freestyle test, anything before the beginning or after the end of the test has no effect on the marks. The competitor should leave the arena in the way prescribed in the

test; however, in Western Dressage tests, the competitor should leave the arena at “A” at a walk, on long or loose rein.

- i. Horses which enter the arena with their tongues tied down shall be eliminated.
- j. The judge may stop a test and/or allow a competitor to restart a test from the beginning or from any appropriate point in the test if, in his discretion, some unusual circumstance has occurred to interrupt a test. Time-outs are not permitted in Western Dressage.
- k. After the sound of the bell, the competitor should enter the arena at A as soon as possible. Exceeding 45 seconds before entering the arena after the bell has sounded will entail elimination. No competitor can be required to ride prior to his scheduled time except:
  - (1) Rides may be rescheduled up to one hour earlier or later than announced in the official schedule if each competitor is individually notified at least two hours prior to his/her rescheduled ride time. Rides within a class may be rescheduled in a different order.
  - (2) Ride times or classes may not be changed more than one hour from the time announced in the official schedule unless 12 hours notice of such change is given to each exhibitor and judge affected or each exhibitor affected consents in writing to the change. Public address announcements do not meet the notification requirements of this rule.
- l. Any resistance which prevents the continuation of the test longer than 20 seconds is punished by elimination.
- m. All movements and certain transitions from one to another which have to be marked by the judge(s) are numbered on the judge’s sheets. They are marked 0 to 10, 0 being the lowest mark and 10 being the highest.

The scale of marks is as follows:

- 10 ..... Excellent
- 9 ..... Very Good
- 8 ..... Good
- 7 ..... Fairly Good
- 6 ..... Satisfactory
- 5 ..... Marginal
- 4 ..... Insufficient
- 3 ..... Fairly Bad
- 2 ..... Bad
- 1 ..... Very Bad
- 0 ..... Not executed

“Not executed” means that practically nothing of the required movement has been performed.

In Freestyle tests, half marks may be used for the artistic marks.

- 7. Collective marks are awarded (from 0 to 10) after the competitor has finished his performance for:

- a. Gaits.
  - b. Impulsion.
  - c. Submission.
  - d. The rider's position and seat; correctness and effect of the aids. The collective marks as well as certain difficult and/or infrequently repeated movements can be given a co-efficient which is fixed by the Federation Morgan Committee.
8. Unauthorized Assistance is forbidden under penalty of elimination. Any intervention by a third party with the object of facilitating the task of the competitor, including voice, signals, etc., is considered illegal assistance. A member of the Jury may not discuss a ride with a competitor before the bell or after the final salute.
  9. The execution of the tests is not timed, except for the Freestyle Test. The time shown on the Judges' sheet is for information only.

### **Scoring, Classification and Prize-Giving**

1. After each performance and after each judge has given his Collective Marks which must be done with due consideration, the judges' sheets pass into the hands of the scorers. Scores and comments must be written in ink. Any corrected score must be initialed by the judge having made the correction. The marks are multiplied by the corresponding coefficients where applicable and then totaled. Penalty points incurred for errors in the execution of the test are then deducted on each judge's sheet.
2. The total score for the classification is obtained by adding the total points. With more than one judge, the sum total classifies. If there are two or more judges, the points awarded by each judge will be published separately in addition to the total score. Total final results must be published in marks as well as in percentages with numbers to three places after the decimal point. Scores must be posted on a public scoreboard as soon as possible after each ride.
3. Individual Classification. In all competitions the winner is the competitor having the highest total points, the second placed competitor is the one with the next highest total points and so on. In case of equality of points the competitor with the highest marks received under General Impressions shall be declared the winner. When the scores for General Impressions are equal the horses must remain tied. Errors on a test may not be used to break ties. Final results for each class must be posted as soon as possible after the class is completed and all results must include total points and percentages with numbers to three places after the decimal point, eliminated horses, and the placing of each horse that receives an award. If a competitor withdraws (scratches) prior to a class or is excused, eliminated or a "no show" prior to or during the performance of a test, the words "scratched", "excused", "eliminated", or "no show" or abbreviations of each, must appear after the competitor's name in the result sheet.
4. The judge is required to use Collective Mark #4 to consider the difficulty for the use of one hand with a curb bit or the use of a snaffle as compared with the use of two hands with a curb bit. The collective marks are as follows:
  - a. Gaits—multiple of 2 on score given

- b. Impulsion---multiple of 2 on score given
  - c. Submission---multiple of 2 on score given
  - d. The rider's position and seat; correctness and effectiveness of aids--- multiple of 3 on score given
5. Video tape may not be used to dispute a judge's decision.
  6. When the total of the scores for General Impressions is equal, ties in classes which involve prize money shall remain tied for the purpose of dividing prize money.
  7. A judge is free to leave when all scores from his class are totaled and any ties resolved.
  8. If a mathematical error on the score sheet is discovered, it must be brought to the attention of competition management within 1 hour of the official posting of the scores from the last class of that competition day. Competition Management must announce said posting, and must make test sheets available to competitors immediately.
  9. It is recommended that scorers may not be a competitor, or an owner, coach, trainer or family member of a competitor/horse in the class(es) in which they are scoring.

## Elimination

1. Horse and rider combinations shall be eliminated from the competition (for .a, .f and .i, below) or from the current or next class depending on which is closest to the time the incident occurred (for all others), under the following circumstances:
  - a. Misrepresentation of entry or inappropriate entry;
  - b. Dress code violations at the discretion of the Ground Jury;
  - c. Use of illegal equipment);
  - d. Unauthorized assistance;
  - e. Three errors of the course and/or test
  - f. Horse's tongue tied down;
  - g. Late entry into the arena;
  - h. All four feet of the horse leave the arena with or without rider;
  - i. Cruelty;
  - j. Marked lameness;
  - k. Resistance of longer than 20 seconds;
  - l. Concern for the safety of rider, other exhibitors or their entries;
  - m. Evidence of blood on a horse in the competition arena shall be cause for elimination from the class by the judge. Evidence of blood on a horse outside the competition arena shall be cause for elimination by competition management, after consultation with the steward, from either the last class in which the horse competed or next class in which it is scheduled to compete, depending on which is closest to the time the incident occurred. Environmental causes such as insect bites shall normally not be cause for elimination.

- n. Failure to wear competitor number;
  - o. Any situation where a direct rule violation can be cited. Where a violation cannot be cited, a competitor is not eliminated.
2. Only the officiating Judge may eliminate a competitor for a rule violation listed under Appointments, only from the test in question, and (except for late entry into the arena) only after the competitor has entered the arena. The judge has no authority to eliminate under any other circumstances, except during a test, for use of illegal equipment, not wearing a number, cruelty and abuse or leaving the arena without the judges' permission. Authority for rule enforcement outside the competition ring rests solely with Competition Management. Competition Management/Show Committee has the authority to eliminate for use of illegal equipment during a test that is discovered after the competitor has left the arena.

## **Scribes**

A scribe is to be provided for the judge. Scribes should have a knowledge of the tests being ridden. Scribes should not be an owner, coach, trainer or family member of a competitor/horse in the class(es) in which they are scribing. Scribe changes should not be made more than once per day.

## **The Arena**

1. The arena should be on as flat and as level ground as possible. Grass surfaces are not recommended, and if used, must be stated in the prize list. It is recommended that the difference in elevation across the diagonal or along the length of the arena shall in no case exceed 0.50 meters. It is recommended that the difference in elevation along the short side of the arena shall in no case be more than 0.20 meters. The Standard Arena is 60 meters long and 20 meters wide. The Small Arena is 40 meters long and 20 meters wide. The following must be held in a Standard Arena: First Level tests (except Test 1) and above. Arena measurements are for the interior of the enclosure. It is recommended that arenas be separated from the public by a distance of not less than 15 meters. For indoor competitions, the minimum distance should in principle be 3 meters. The enclosure itself should consist of a low fence about 0.3 meters high. The fence should be such to prevent the horse's hooves from becoming entangled and arena stakes, if used, must be covered with a ball or similar object so as to prevent injury. Rope, concrete or unbreakable chain fencing is not allowed. The part of the fence at A can remain open.
2. The letters outside the enclosure should be placed about 0.5 meters from the fence and clearly marked. So that the judge can note the exact point on the track opposite each letter, it is compulsory to place a marker on the fence itself, level with and in addition to the letter concerned. It is permissible to decorate the letters with flowers or greenery to enhance the appearance of the arena.
3. In case of inclement weather or during the winter the use of an indoor arena may be desirable. Under such circumstances, it is best if the indoor hall dimensions allow the following minimum conditions to be met. There should be 2m from the long sides of the arena fence to the indoor hall sideboards and 10m from the short sides of the arena

fence to the indoor hall sideboards. With necessary modifications to meet local conditions, the other requirements for an outdoor arena apply. Where local conditions necessitate, use of a modified arena is acceptable as long as the dimensions of the arena to be used are clearly specified in the prize list. The arena should be shortened no more than five meters.

4. Location of the Judge. The judge is preferably placed a maximum of five meters and minimum of three meters from the end of the arena and must be opposite the letter C. At indoor competitions, Judges should preferably be placed a minimum of 3 meters from the arena. An enclosure (booth, tent, trailer) should be provided for the judge and it must be raised at least 0.5 meters (20 inches), for Freestyle Tests possibly a little higher, above the ground to give the Judge(s) a good view of the ring. The booth/hut must be large enough to accommodate three people.
5. Competition management should make every effort to provide the best possible footing in competition and warm-up areas. Provisions should be made (by having on hand proper equipment and scheduling sufficient breaks in the schedule) to maintain throughout the competition the footing in all riding areas by dragging, watering and, if necessary, raking.
6. Warm-Up. A large, well groomed area must be available for warm up. This area must be large enough for several competitors to prepare their horses at the same time and far enough from the competition arena so as not to disturb the competitors during their tests. A lunging area should also be provided in addition to a warm up area.