### Rule Change Intent

To reorganize the equitation section so it flows better and is clearer. Also to establish clear judging methodology and to eliminate the confusing references to amateur and junior rider qualifications and synchronize the definition of Junior across all Western Dressage classes.

### Proponent Details

**Western Dressage**

### Contact Information

Nicole Zerbee  
nzerbee@usef.org

### Linked Rules

### Committee Actions

**Council - Natl Breed & Discipline**
SUBCHAPTER WD-12 WESTERN DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION

WD142 General Performance Directives for Western Dressage Seat Equitation
1. Rider’s Position: The rider’s position is balanced with the horse; the rider’s shoulders, hips and heels should be vertically aligned at all gaits. When observed from behind, the rider is straight in the back and symmetrically balanced with the shoulders, hips, and feet.
2. Rider’s Correct and Effective use of aids: The rider demonstrates preparedness for performing the movements. The rider is subtle and effective with aids to perform transitions; is effective with bending in the turns and on the circles and moves on straight lines. The rider is capable of keeping the horse moving forward maintaining the tempo of each gait. The transitions are performed effortlessly, willingly and smoothly.
3. Harmony between the Rider and Horse: The horse and rider appear as one. They are confident, focused, and calm. They perform competently at the level.
4. Accuracy of the figures: The rider demonstrates the ability to maintain the geometry of the movements. The movements are correct in their size, shape, and placement in the arena.
5. The diameters of the circles and half circles are correct and round. There is a clear picture of where the circles originate and terminate.
6. Patterns: See Appendix A.
7. Equitation classes may be held either as Western Dressage Medal classes, Western Dressage Seat On the Rail classes, or Western Dressage Horsemanship classes or Western Dressage Seat Medal. The Equitation Division consists of three classes:
   a. Western Dressage Seat Equitation on the Rail,
   b. Western Dressage Seat Horsemanship, and
   c. Western Dressage Seat Medal
8. Riders will be judged on hands, seat, aids, performance of the horse, and harmony between horse and rider. The working jog and the collected jog must be ridden sitting.
9. The working jog and the collected jog are to be ridden sitting.
10. Western Dressage Seat Equitation may be judged by:
    a. A Federation licensed judge with experience in judging breed-restricted classes or Western classes; or
    b. A Federation licensed Western Dressage judge.

WD143 Western Dressage Seat Equitation Objectives
To evaluate rider’s ability to execute, in concert with their horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness, while exhibiting poise and confidence, and maintaining a balanced functional and fundamentally correct body position.

WD144 Western Dressage Seat Equitation on the Rail Class Specifications
1. Western Dressage Seat on the Rail may be offered in the categories listed in this rule:
   a. Open to all riders.
   b. Amateur for Adult Amateur riders as defined in WD102.7.b.
   c. Junior for junior riders as defined in WD102.7.a. A competition may choose to break the Junior rider category down by age.
   d. Maiden, novice and limit riders as defined in GR136.
2. Walk-Jog Western Dressage Seat Equitation on the rail is performed on the rail and is shown at the walk and working jog, both directions. Horses should back easily and stand quietly in the lineup.
   a. This class may not be combined with walk, jog, lope classes.
   b. The jog is to be ridden sitting.
   c. A horse/rider combination is eligible for Walk Jog Western Dressage Seat Equitation on the Rail if they are not competing in Western Dressage above the Intro Level at the same competition.
3. Western Dressage Seat Equitation on the rail is performed on the rail and is shown at the walk, working jog, and working lope, both directions. Horses should back easily and stand quietly in the lineup.
   a. This class may not be combined with walk jog classes.
   b. The jog is to be ridden sitting.
4. The judge must walk the line to verify riders are in compliance with WD rules on attire and equipment.
5. Scoring:
   a. To be judged on (in no particular order):
      1. Rider position
      2. Correct and effective use of aids
      3. Harmony
      4. Accuracy
b. Faults include:
   1. Posting the jog (Riders who post must be placed below riders sitting the jog)
   2. Break of gait
   3. Obviously looking down to check leads
   4. Missing leads
   5. Not performing the specific gait promptly
   6. Loss of stirrup
   7. Horse’s head carried too low or clearly behind the vertical
   8. Loss of rein
   9. Holding the saddle
   10. Blatant disobedience including kicking, bucking or rearing

c. Eliminations include:
   1. Misrepresentation of entry or inappropriate entry
   2. Failure to display correct number
   3. Cruelty including excessive spurring or schooling
   4. Fall of horse or rider
   5. Prohibited equipment
   6. Prohibited use of hands on reins per WD121
   7. Horse’s tongue tied down
   8. Unauthorized assistance
   9. All four hooves leave arena
   10. Evidence of blood on horse
   11. Lameness
   12. Concern for the safety of rider, other participants, or their horses

WD443145 Western Dressage Seat Horsemanship Class Specifications
1. The following class restrictions apply to Western Dressage Seat Horsemanship:
   a. Amateur for Adult Amateur riders as defined in WD102.7.b.
   b. Junior for junior riders as defined in WD102.7.a.
   c. A competition may choose to offer Junior Rider, Adult Amateur or both classes.
   d. Adult Amateur and Junior Rider cannot be combined at the same competition.
      a. Junior Riders who have not reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year. A competition may choose to divide the Junior rider category by age.
      b. Adult Amateur riders as defined in GR1306 and GR1307.
   c. An individual may not compete as a Junior Rider and as an Amateur in Western Dressage Equitation at the same competition
   d. Adult Amateur and Junior Rider cannot be combined at the same competition
   e. A competition may choose to offer Junior Rider, Adult Amateur or both classes.
2. Western Dressage Horsemanship is a pattern only class. Patterns must be selected by the judge from Appendix A and must be posted at least one hour prior to the start of the class
3. Riders must enter the level(s) of test in which they are currently competing at the individual competition (exception Introductory Level).
   a. Introductory Level: this level is performed at the walk and working jog.
      1. Introductory Level Pattern A or B must be selected by the judge.
      2. Exhibitors Riders competing in Western Dressage Horsemanship at the Introductory Level may not compete at any other level of Western Dressage Horsemanship at the same competition.
   b. Basic Level: Basic Pattern A or B must be selected by the judge.
   c. Level 1: Level 1 Pattern A or B must be selected by the judge.
   d. Level 2: Level 2 Pattern A or B must be selected by the judge.
4. Scoring:
   a. Riders to be scored from 0-50. Patterns to be broken into 5 maneuvers each scored from 0-10 on judge’s impression of (in no particular order):
      1. Rider position
      2. Correct and effective use of aids
      3. Harmony
      4. Accuracy
   b. Patterns to be broken into 5 maneuvers each scored from 0-10 on judge’s impression of the same criteria
   c. Faults include:
      1. Posting the collected or working jog (Riders who post must receive a zero “0” maneuver score for
those segments of the score sheet)
2. Failure to complete the course as written
3. Break of gait
4. Obviously looking down to check leads
5. Missing leads
6. Not performing the specific gait promptly
7. Loss of stirrup
8. Horse’s head carried too low or clearly behind the vertical
9. Loss of rein
10. Holding the saddle
11. Blatant disobedience including kicking, bucking or rearing
d. Eliminations include:
   1. Off course (impossible to discern whether the entry is using the correct pattern)
   2. Misrepresentation of entry or inappropriate entry
   3. Failure to display correct number
   4. Cruelty including excessive spurring or schooling
   5. Fall of horse or rider
   6. Prohibited equipment
   7. Prohibited use of hands on reins per WD121
   8. Horse’s tongue tied down
   9. Unauthorized assistance
10. All four hooves leave arena
11. Evidence of blood on horse
12. Lameness
13. Concern for the safety of rider, other participants or their horses

WD144 Western Dressage Seat on the Rail
1. Western Dressage Seat on the Rail may be offered in the categories listed in this rule:
   a. Open to all riders.
   b. Adult Amateur riders as defined in GR1306 and GR1307
   c. Junior riders who have not reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year. A competition may choose to break the Junior rider category down by age.
   d. Maiden, novice and limited riders as defined in GR136.
2. Walk Jog Western Dressage Seat Equitation on the rail is performed on the rail and is shown at the walk and working jog, both directions. Horses should back easily and stand quietly:
   a. This class may not be combined with walk, jog, lope classes.
   b. The jog must be ridden sitting.
   c. A horse/rider combination is eligible for Walk Jog Western Dressage Seat Equitation on the Rail if they are not competing in Western Dressage above the Intro Level at the individual competition.
3. Western Dressage Seat Equitation on the rail is performed on the rail and is shown at the walk, working jog, and working lope, both directions. Horses should back easily and stand quietly in the lineup.
   a. This class may not be combined with walk, jog classes.
   b. The jog must be ridden sitting.
4. The judge must walk the line to verify riders are in compliance with WD rules on attire and equipment

WD145146 Western Dressage Seat Medal
1. The following class restrictions apply to Western Dressage Seat Medal classes:
   a. Amateur for Adult Amateur riders as defined in GR1306 and GR1307 WD102.7.b.
   b. Junior for junior riders as defined in WD102.7.a. are riders who have not reached their 22nd birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year.
   c. A competition may choose to break the Junior rider category down by age.
2. Riders will perform on the rail and then execute a pattern. The rail work is to count 50% and the pattern 50%.
Patterns must be selected by the judge from Appendix A and must be posted one hour prior to the start of the class. Judges are required to work all exhibitors riders on the pattern.
3. Western Dressage Seat Medal has two divisions:
   a. Western Dressage Seat Medal Basic: Basic pattern A or B must be selected by the judge.
   b. Western Dressage Seat Medal Level 1: Level 1 pattern A or B must be selected by the judge.
4. A rider is off course when it is impossible to discern whether the entry is executing the designated pattern. He will be eliminated and not eligible for an award.

5. A rider deemed to be on course who fails to complete the pattern as written is penalized at the judge’s discretion.

6. The judge may choose his own scoring methodology but it must clearly weigh the rail and pattern portions of the class equally. During the class, riders must follow the WD rules on proper use of equipment.

7. The dropping of bits, and inspection of protective leg equipment is mandatory. The C2 Steward or designated person will perform the inspection immediately following the test. The rider must dismount; if necessary, they may have appropriate assistance. Failure to comply will result in elimination.

6. Scoring: The rail work is to count 50% and the pattern 50%.

   a. Riders to be scored from 0-100. Rail work is scored from 0-50 on judge’s impression of (in no particular order):
      1. Rider position
      2. Correct and effective use of aids
      3. Harmony
      4. Accuracy

   b. Patterns to be broken into 5 maneuvers each scored from 0-10 on judge’s impression of the same criteria.

   c. Faults include:
      1. Posting the collected or working jog (Riders who post must receive a zero “0” maneuver score for those segments of the score sheet)
      2. Failure to complete the course as written
      3. Break of gait
      4. Obviously looking down to check leads,
      5. Missing leads,
      6. Not performing the specific gait promptly,
      7. Loss of stirrup,
      8. Horse’s head carried too low or clearly behind the vertical,
      9. Loss of rein,
      10. Holding the saddle,
      11. Blatant disobedience including kicking, bucking or rearing

   d. Eliminations include:
      1. Off course (impossible to discern whether the entry is using the correct pattern)
      2. Misrepresentation of entry or inappropriate entry
      3. Failure to display correct number
      4. Cruelty including excessive spurring or schooling
      5. Fall of horse or rider
      6. Prohibited equipment
      7. Prohibited use of hands on reins per WD121
      8. Horse’s tongue tied down
      9. Unauthorized assistance
      10. All four hooves leave arena
      11. Evidence of blood on horse
      12. Lameness
      13. Concern for the safety of rider, other participants or their horses