

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2022	10/21/2021	

Rule Change Intent

Updating terminology used in Dressage rules to current standards and the terminology used in tests. This change effects several rules that are all addressed in the proposal.

Proponent Details

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Linked Rules

Comments

Committee Actions

Dressage

DR103 The Walk

3. d. Free Walk. The free walk is a ~~pace of relaxation~~ **relaxed variation within the gait** 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 steps**, with hind feet stepping clearly in front of the footprints of the front feet, are essential to the quality of the free walk.

DR104 The Trot

4. The following trots are recognized: Working trot, Lengthening of **stride Steps**, Collected trot, Medium trot and Extended trot.
- Working trot. This is a ~~pace~~ **variation** between the collected and the medium trot, in which a horse's training is not yet developed enough and ready for collected movements. The horse shows proper balance and, remaining "on the bit", goes forward with even, elastic steps and good hock action. The expression "good hock action" underlines the importance of an impulsion originating from the activity of the hindquarters.
 - Lengthening of strides. In some tests, "lengthening of strides" is required. This is a variation between the working and medium trot in which a horse's training is not developed enough for medium trot.
 - Medium trot. This is a ~~pace~~ **variation** of moderate lengthening compared to the extended trot, but "rounder" than the latter. Without hurrying, the horse goes forward with clearly lengthened steps and with impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse to carry the head a little more in front of the vertical than at the collected and the working trot, and to lower the head and neck slightly. The steps should be even, and the whole movement balanced and unconstrained.

DR105 The Canter

3. The quality of the canter is judged by the general impression, i.e. the regularity and lightness of the **steps strides** and the uphill tendency and cadence originating from 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, event after a transition from on canter to another. The horse should always remain straight on straight lines and correctly bent on curved lines.
4. The following canters are recognized: Working canter, lengthening of strides, Collected canter, Medium canter, and Extended canter.
- Working canter. This is a ~~pace~~ **variation** between the collected and the medium canter, in which a horse's training is not yet developed enough and ready for collected movements. The horse shows natural balance while remaining "on the bit", and goes forward with even, light and active strides, and good hock action. The expression "good hock action" underlines the importance of an impulsion originating from the activity of the hindquarters.
 - Medium canter. This is a ~~pace~~ **variation** between the working and the extended canter. Without hurrying, the horse goes forward with clearly lengthened strides and impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse to carry the head a little more in front of the vertical than in the collected and working canter, and at the same time allows the horse, to lower the head and neck slightly. The strides should be balanced and unconstrained.

DR107 The Transitions

- The changes of gait and ~~pace~~ **the variations within gaits** should be clearly shown at the prescribed marker; they should be quickly made yet must be smooth and not abrupt. The rhythm of a gait or ~~pace~~ **the variations within gaits** should be maintained up to the moment when the gait or ~~pace~~ **the variations within gaits** is changed or the horse halts. The horse should remain light in hand, calm,

and maintain a correct position.

DR108 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 ***the variations within gaits***. 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.