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## **CHAPTER WD WESTERN DRESSAGE**

When a subject is not addressed in these rules, it must be addressed by the committee and that committee's interpretation will stand as the rule until the next year when an appropriate rule change will be submitted.

### **SUBCHAPTER WD-1 WESTERN DRESSAGE HORSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **WD101 Goals and Objectives**

The goal of Western Dressage is to develop a partnership between a happy equine athlete working in harmony with his rider. A system of progressive training produces a horse that is physically strong, balanced, supple, and flexible; this equine athlete also demonstrates a calm, confident, attentive attitude and is happy to do his job.

1. A Western Dressage horse achieves this goal by using the principles of classical dressage training while emphasizing the lightness and harmony with the rider which is a hallmark of a Western Dressage horse.
2. The Western Dressage horse demonstrates free flowing, comfortable strides. The gaits are free, regular in cadence and rhythm, consistent in speed and tempo. The horse presents a balanced appearance.
3. The Western Dressage horse's head and neck are carried in a relaxed, natural manner; head and neck carriage are dictated by conformation and serve as a balance arm to facilitate proper movement.
4. The Western Dressage horse engages his hindquarters; uses his back freely; and lifts his forehand. These characteristics of framing and movement are more pronounced as the horse advances in his training and development.
5. The Western Dressage horse carries his body in a straight line when required by the maneuvers of the test; the Western Dressage horse carries himself in a consistent curve whose degree of bend is consistent throughout a movement that calls for a curve. The straightness or bend is consistent throughout the horse's body and is dictated by the requirements of the maneuver being performed.
6. Lightness and harmony are the hallmarks of the Western Dressage horse; he willingly accepts a light contact on the bit without tension or resistance. He gives the appearance of performing the requested gaits and maneuvers of his own accord. The horse and rider appear as one.

#### **WD102 Participation in Western Dressage Competitions**

1. Western Dressage classes are open to riders on horses, mules and/or ponies of any origin. Classes may be restricted to one or more breeds at a licensed breed restricted competition.
2. A Horse/Rider combination may enter no more than two consecutive levels, Freestyle levels included, at any one competition. Suitability, Hack and Equitation are excluded from the maximum limit of rides per day and horses in these classes may compete at any level for which they are otherwise eligible during the same competition. No horse may be ridden more than once in any Western Dressage class (including separate divisions or sections of the same class number). Horses cannot be ridden by more than two riders. Shows may further limit number of rides per horse and level if stated in their prize list. If there is a conflict with breed division rules regarding WD102.2, the breed division rules will govern.
3. For purposes of competition in Western Dressage classes:
  - a. Individuals are eligible as Junior Exhibitors until the end of the competition year in which they reach the age of 18.
  - b. From the beginning of the competition year in which they reach 18, individuals must possess a current Amateur Certification to be eligible to compete as Amateurs at a USEF licensed competition. At non-USEF licensed competitions, organizers should consult the appropriate breed rules for eligibility to compete as an Amateur.
4. To be eligible to participate as a rider, owner, lessee, coach, or trainer at Federation competitions persons must be members of WDAA; or pay a non-member fee of \$25 for each competition. A USEF non-member, who wishes to participate as a rider, handler, owner, lessee, agent, coach or trainer at Regular USEF Competitions, Reining Competitions or Federation Open Western competitions that hold Western Dressage classes, must pay a non-member fee for each competition in which an individual competes. Lessees are considered owners in connection with this

membership requirement. In the event of an entry under multiple ownership, only one owner need be a Member or pay a non-member fee. The competition is responsible for listing either the active member or the owner that paid the non-member fee in the results. The competitions will be responsible for forwarding a list of the names of individuals who pay non-member fees at the competition to WDAA with the post competition report. Payment of non-member fees for the purpose of competing does not entitle the individual to any privileges of the WDAA membership.

- Exception: Local Competitions, competitions restricted to a particular breed, and breed restricted competitions that offer an open Western Dressage section. Additionally, participants in the following classes are exempted from the Requirements of this rule: 1) leadline; 2) exhibitions; 3) games and races; 4) classes for 4-H members; 5) walk trot and academy classes (academy classes are classes limited to horses used regularly in a lesson program); 6) Opportunity classes.
5. Membership: In order to compete in any Western Dressage class at a Federation licensed competition, as an exhibitor, rider, trainer, or his/her agent(s), a person must be an Active member of the Western Dressage Association of America or pay a nonmember fee to the Western Dressage Association of America. Exception: Local competitions, competitions restricted to a particular breed and exceptions listed in GR901.9.
  6. WDAA membership is a requirement for participation at the WDAA World Championship Show.
  7. An exhibitor is not allowed to request a Time-Out in Western Dressage.
  8. If it becomes necessary to interrupt a Western Dressage competition, and/or as to cause suspension of judging, the unfinished portion may be recommenced and rescheduled for the same or following day at the option of the Show Committee with the officials' consent. All scores recorded before the interruption will stand. When classes are re-commenced after a delay on the same day, competitors must be given at least 30 minutes notice of the starting time. Exhibitors whose ride times are changed to a subsequent day as a result of the interrupted competition or inclement weather condition, must be individually notified at least two hours prior to a rescheduled ride time.
  9. Competitions may limit the number of rides and/or the number of levels in which horses may compete if printed in the prize list.
  10. Electronic communication devices used for purposes of coaching exhibitors during a competition are prohibited in all classes in the Western Dressage Division. Exhibitors with a permanent hearing impairment are permitted to use an electronic communication device upon submission of a written certification from a treating medical professional's office certifying the permanent hearing impairment and certifying the requirement of an electronic communication device. The medical certification must be provided to the competition Steward within a reasonable time prior to competing who shall attach a copy to the Steward report.
  11. An exhibitor with a disability (other than hearing) will be provided reasonable accommodation upon submission of a written certification from a treating medical professional's office certifying the disability and identifying the accommodation necessary for the exhibitor to compete safely. The medical certification must be provided to the competition Steward within a reasonable time prior to competing who shall attach a copy to the Steward report.

## **SUBCHAPTER WD-2 GAITS**

The horse's three gaits, walk, jog and lope will be enhanced and amplified through correct training. Development of his strength and balance as a result of correct training will let him carry his rider with ease and confidence while maintaining correct rhythm and a steady tempo at all times.

### **WD 103 The Walk**

1. The walk is a well-marked four time beat marching gait in a regular cadence with equal intervals between each beat. This regularity combined with complete relaxation must be maintained throughout all walk movements.
2. When the foreleg and the hind leg on the same side swing forward almost at the same time, the walk has a lateral rhythm. This irregularity is a serious fault of the gait.

3. The following walks are recognized: Collected walk, Working walk, Free walk and Extended walk. There should always be a clear difference in the attitude and tracking in these variations.
- Collected Walk. The horse, remaining “on the bit”, moves resolutely forward with his neck raised and showing a clear self-carriage. The head approaches the vertical position and a light contact is maintained with the mouth. The hind legs are engaged with good flexion of the joints. The gait should remain marching and vigorous, the feet being placed in regular sequence. The steps cover less ground and are higher than at the Working walk, because all the joints bend more markedly. The step at the Collected walk is shorter than the Working walk, and shows greater activity.
  - Working Walk. Four-beat, active, energetic walk with resolutely forward-reaching steps and confident stretch to the bit. Head and neck should swing naturally as a result of a relaxed back and free shoulders. The nose shall be on or slightly in front of the vertical. The hind feet should touch the ground into or beyond the prints of the forefeet.
  - Free Walk. A relaxed walk with unconstrained, forward reaching steps where hind feet touch the ground clearly in front of the footprints of the forefeet. The horse must be relaxed and be allowed complete freedom to lower his head and neck to stretch forward and down and out. The length of stride, rhythm, the relaxation and swing through his back are of great importance.
  - Extended Walk: The horse demonstrates optimum ground cover, a lengthened frame and reach to the contact without sacrificing regularity, suppleness of the back and an open frame. Without hurrying, the horse exhibits balance, freedom and over track. *BOD 1/20/18 Effective 4/1/18*

## WD 104 The Jog

- The jog is a two-beat gait of alternate diagonal legs (left fore and right hind leg and vice versa) separated by a moment of suspension.
- The jog should show free, active and regular steps.
- Excessive speed or slowness will be penalized.
- The quality of the jog is judged by general impression, i.e. the regularity and elasticity of the steps, the cadence and impulsion in extension at all three paces. This quality originates from a supple back and well-engaged hindquarters, and by the ability to maintain the same rhythm and natural balance in all variations of the jog.
- The following jogs are recognized: Collected jog, Working jog and Lengthening of Strides and Free Jog.
  - Collected Jog. The horse, remaining “on the bit”, moves forward in a two-beat gait with the neck raised and arched and showing clear self-carriage. The head approaches the vertical position and a light contact is maintained with the mouth. The hocks are well-engaged and flexed and must maintain an energetic impulsion, enabling the shoulders to move more freely. Although the horse’s steps are shorter than in the other jogs, elasticity and cadence are not lessened. The Collected jog must be ridden seated.
  - Working Jog. An energetic, regular, two-beat jog; the horse must go forward with even and elastic steps. The back must be relaxed and the shoulders free, while there is an obvious push from the hindquarters. The hind legs step actively up under the horse. The horse must show proper balance and maintain light contact with the bit. The horse’s nose shall be on or slightly in front of the vertical. In the Introductory and Basic tests, the Working jog may be ridden either posting or sitting. In more advanced tests from Level 1 up, the Working jog should be ridden seated.
  - Lengthening of Strides. This is a variation of the Working jog; the horse covers more ground through lengthening its frame while maintaining the same tempo as in the Working jog. Excessive speed will be penalized. Lengthening of stride may be ridden either posting or sitting.
  - Free Jog. This is a pace of moderate lengthening of stride and frame compared to the Working jog. Without hurrying, the horse goes forward in a two-beat gait with a moderate lengthening of stride and frame. The horse

should stretch forward and down over the top line with relaxation maintaining balance, tempo, and regularity of the jog on a loose rein. There should be a smooth willing retake of the reins in transition to the working jog. The free jog may be ridden posting or sitting.

## WD105 The Lope

1. The lope is a gait with three equal, regular beats with time of suspension after the third beat. One stride equals 3 beats, or three footfalls. This gait may be demonstrated on right or left lead. Footfall sequence in right lead is: left hind, right hind and left fore together, right fore, then suspension. Footfall sequence in left lead: right hind, left hind and right fore together, left fore, then suspension.
2. The lope has a typically slower tempo than a canter and must keep the three beat rhythm or the regularity is lost. Excessive speed or slowness must be penalized.
3. The correct lope must be balanced, rhythmic, and with three beats with a clear time of suspension; it must be straight, adjustable and supple, showing willingness to move forward in self-carriage with engaged hindquarters.
4. The quality of the lope is judged by the general impression, i.e. the regularity and lightness of the steps. The uphill tendency of the forehand and the steady cadence, originating from engagement of the hindquarters transmit the energy from back to front and connect into a willing acceptance of the bridle. The horse's mouth is quiet and his poll is soft. The horse should always remain straight on straight lines and correctly bent on curved lines.
5. The following lopes are recognized: Collected lope, Working lope, and Lengthening of Strides and Counter Lope.
  - a. Collected Lope. The horse, remaining "on the bit", moves forward in a three-beat cadence with the neck raised and arched. The hocks are well-engaged and maintain an energetic impulsion, enabling the shoulders to move more freely, demonstrating self-carriage and an uphill tendency. The horse's strides are shorter than in the other lopes, without losing elasticity and cadence.
  - b. Working Lope. While maintaining the three beat cadence, the horse must go forward with even and elastic steps. The back must be relaxed and the shoulders free; there is an obvious push from the hindquarters and the hind legs step actively up under the horse. The horse must maintain light contact with the bit and his nose shall be on or slightly in front of the vertical.
  - c. Lengthening of Strides. This is a variation of the Working lope; the horse covers more ground through lengthening its frame while maintaining the same tempo as in the Working lope. Excessive speed will be penalized.
  - d. Counter-lope. The counter lope is a balancing and straightening movement. The horse appears to be cantering on the incorrect lead to the direction of travel. The horse lopes in a correct sequence to the left on the right lead; the horse lopes to the right in a correct sequence on the left lead.
6. Change of lead through the Jog. This is a change of lead where the horse is brought back into the jog and after 3-5 strides, strikes off into a lope with the other leg leading.
7. Change of lead through the Walk. This is a movement in which, after a direct transition out of the lope into a walk, with 3-5 clearly defined steps at the walk, an immediate transition is made into the other lead. This is considered a Simple Lead Change when done through the walk.
8. Flying change of lead. The flying change of lead will ideally begin with the sequence of the new outside hind leg, the diagonal pair and followed by the new leading front leg. The change of lead of the hind and front leg take place immediately after the moment of suspension without a break of gait. The aids should be precise and unobtrusive. Flying changes of lead can also be executed in series. For example, flying changes can be performed 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. In order to not restrict or restrain the lightness, fluency and groundcover of the flying changes in series, enough impulsion and forwardness must be maintained. The flying lead changes show the reaction, sensitivity and obedience of the horse to the aids.

**WD106 Saddle Gait**

The saddle gait has a noticeable increase in cadence from the working walk. Excessive speed or slowness will be penalized.

1. In lieu of a jog, gaited horses perform gaits of various rhythms and footfalls. The gaited horse will perform a saddle gait in place of the jog.
2. The saddle gait may be either a lateral or diagonal gait, timely and consistently performed. The tempo, rhythm and foot falls of the gait the rider chooses to perform must not change throughout the test. The gait the horse performs, should be able to be ridden in a working, lengthened, free and collected manner as the Western Dressage test specifies.
3. The quality of the saddle gait is judged by general impression, i.e. the regularity and rhythm of the steps, the cadence and impulsion. This quality originates from the horse having a supple back and well engaged hind quarters, and the ability to maintain the same rhythm and natural balance in all variations of the saddle gait.
  - a. Collected Saddle Gait. The horse, remaining “on the bit”, moves forward with the neck raised and arched and showing clear self-carriage. The head approaches the vertical position and a light contact is maintained with the mouth. The hocks are well-engaged and must maintain an energetic gliding impulsion, enabling the shoulders to move more freely. Although the horse’s steps are shorter than in the other saddle gaits, elasticity and cadence are not lessened.
  - b. Working Saddle Gait. With an energetic, regular consistent rhythm; the horse must go forward with consistent and elastic steps. The back must be relaxed and the shoulders free, while there is an obvious push from the hindquarters. The hind legs actively glide under the horse. The horse must show proper balance and maintain light contact with the bit. The horse’s nose must be on or slightly in front of the vertical.
  - c. Lengthening of Stride. This is a variation of the Working saddle gait; the horse covers more ground while maintaining the same tempo, consistent rhythm as in the Working saddle gait. Speeding up is a fault.
  - d. Free Saddle Gait. The Free saddle gait will show moderate lengthening of stride and frame compared to the Working saddle gait. Without hurrying, the horse goes forward with clearly lengthened steps, with impulsion from the hindquarters and uphill balance. The rider allows the horse to carry the head a little more in front of the vertical than at the Collected and the Working saddle gait. The horse’s neck is “out”, down and forward, with the nose slightly in front of the vertical, with a loose rein and the poll at approximately the same height as the wither (the neck is level). The steps should be consistent, the whole movement balanced and unconstrained, while maintaining a consistent rhythm.

**WD107 The Back**

1. Back is a rearward diagonal movement with a two-beat rhythm but without a moment of suspension. Each diagonal pair of legs is raised and returned to the ground alternately, with the forelegs aligned on the same track as the hind legs.
2. During the entire exercise, the horse should remain “on the bit”, maintaining his desire to move forward at the slightest indication of the rider.
3. Serious faults are: Anticipation of the movement, resistance to or evasion of the contact of the bit either by raising the neck or going behind the bit, deviation of the hindquarters from the straight line, spreading or inactive hind legs and dragging forefeet.
4. Steps are counted as each foreleg moves back. After completing the required number of steps backward, the horse should show a square stop or move forward in the required gait immediately. In tests where a back of one horse’s length is required, it should be executed with three or four steps.
5. A back series is a combination of two backs with walk steps in between. It should be executed with fluent transitions and the required number of steps.

## WD108 Faults

Faults of gaits include crookedness, loss of rhythm; tight and tense back with short stiff neck; horse on forehand and/or leaning on the bit; nose consistently behind the vertical; raising of the head to avoid collection; changing tempo; and evasion of contact which can come from improper training, too harsh a bit, or bad hands. In all cases faults will be penalized.

## SUBCHAPTER WD-3 ADDITIONAL MOVEMENTS AND METHODS

### WD109 The Halt

1. At the halt the horse should stand attentive, engaged motionless, straight and square with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs. The neck should be raised with the poll as the highest point 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 mouth 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 to the hindquarters by a properly increased action of the seat and legs of the rider, driving the horse towards a soft hand, causing an almost instantaneous but not abrupt stop at a previously fixed place.
3. The quality of the gaits before and after the stop is an important part of the assessment.

### WD110 Transitions

1. The changes of gait and pace should be clearly shown when the rider’s leg is 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. On a diagonal, the transition is made when the rider’s leg is at the letter at the end of the diagonal.

### WD111 Changes of Direction

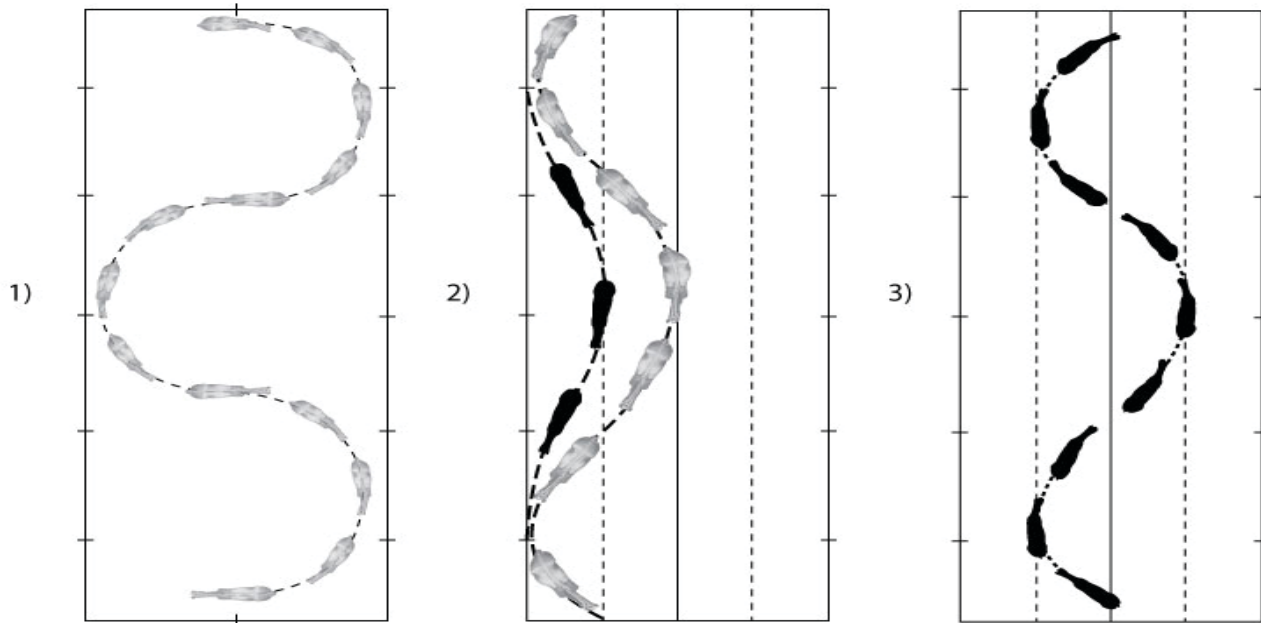
1. At changes of direction, the horse should adjust the bend of his body to the curvature of the line he follows, remaining supple and following the aids of the rider, without any resistance or change of gait, rhythm or speed. Corners should be ridden as one-quarter of a circle appropriate to the level of the test.
2. Changes of directions can be executed in the following ways:
  - a. Right-angled turn including riding through the corner (one quarter of a small circle of approximately 6 meters).
  - b. Short and long diagonal.
  - c. Half small circles and half small circles with change of rein.
  - d. Turn on the forehand and turn on the haunches.
  - e. Serpentine loops.
  - f. Counter-changes of hand (in zig-zag).\* The horse should be straight for a moment before changing direction.

### WD112 Figures and Exercises

1. The figures asked for in Western Dressage tests are: the circles, the serpentines and the figure eights.
  - a. Circle. The circle is a round figure which varies in size according to the requirements of each test. The diameter of a circle is specified in each test.
  - b. Serpentine. There are three variations:
    1. The serpentine with several loops touching the long side of the arena consists of equal half circles **connected by a straight line. When crossing the centerline, the horse should be parallel to the short side.**
    2. **Depending upon the size of the half circles, the straight connection varies in length.** The serpentine with one loop on the long side of the arena is executed with 5-meter or 10-meter distance from the track.



3. The Serpentine around the centerline is executed between the quarter lines.



*BOD1/20/18 Effective 2/1/18*

- c. Figure eight. This figure consists of two circles of equal size as specified in the test, joined at the center of the eight. The rider should make his horse straight an instant before changing direction at the center of the figure.

2. The Exercises.

- a. Stretching Through the Frame. The horse gradually takes the reins, stretching forward and downward with light contact, while maintaining balance, rhythm and tempo and quality of the gait. Important: The horse must point his nose clearly forward. This is a clear release of contact while the horse maintains self- carriage, rhythm, tempo, straightness, and quality of gait.
- b. Release of Rein. This is a clear release of contact while the horse maintains self-carriage, rhythm, tempo, straightness, and quality of gait. The rider lets his hand(s) move forward from the elbow.

**WD113 Work on Two Tracks and the Lateral Movements**

1. The aim of movements on Two Tracks is:

- a. To improve the obedience of the horse to the aids of the rider;
- b. To supple all parts of the horse thereby increasing the freedom of his shoulders and the suppleness of his quarters as well as the elasticity of the bond connecting the mouth, the poll, the neck, the back and the haunches;
- c. To improve the balance, cadence and straightness and bring the gaits into harmony.

2. In all lateral movements - shoulder in, counter shoulder in, haunches in, haunches out, half-pass - the horse is slightly bent and moves with the forehand and the hindquarters on different tracks.

- a. Lateral movements are the beginning of collection
- b. The bend or flexion must never be exaggerated so that it impairs the balance and fluency of the movement concerned.
- c. At the lateral movements the gait should remain free and regular, maintained by a constant impulsion and forwardness, yet it must be supple, cadenced and balanced. The impulsion should not be lost because of the rider's preoccupation mainly in bending the horse and pushing him sideways. The horse should maintain rhythm and not lose impulsion.

- d. **Shoulder-In.** The exercise is performed in collected jog. The horse is ridden with a slight but uniform bend around the inside leg of the rider maintaining cadence at a constant angle of approximately 30 degrees. The horse's inside foreleg passes in front of the outside foreleg; the inside hind leg steps forward under the horse's body weight following the same track of the outside foreleg, while lowering the inside hip. The horse's footfall creates three tracks. The horse is bent away from the direction in which he is moving.
- e. **Haunches-In.** The horse is slightly bent round the inside leg of the rider. The forehand remains on the track and the quarters are moved inwards. The horse is bent in the direction in which he is moving. To start the haunches-in, the hindquarters should leave the track or, after a corner or circle, are not brought back onto the track. At the end of the haunches-in, the hindquarters are brought back on the track as one would finish a circle, without any counter-flexion of the poll/ neck. The horse's footfall creates four tracks.
- f. **Renvers (Haunches-Out).** This is the inverse movement in relation to haunches-in. The hindquarters remain on the track while the forehand is moved inward. To finish the haunches-out, the forehand is aligned with the hindquarters on the track. Otherwise, the same principles and conditions that apply to the haunches-in are applicable to the haunches-out. The horse is slightly bent around the rider's inside leg. The horse is bent in the direction in which he is moving. The forehand is displaced to the inside. Balance and cadence are maintained.
- g. **Half-pass.** This movement is a variation of haunches-in, executed on a diagonal line instead of along the wall. The horse should be slightly bent around the inside leg of the rider and into the direction in which he is moving. The horse should maintain the same cadence and balance throughout the whole movement. In order to give more freedom and mobility to the shoulders, it is of great importance that the impulsion be maintained, especially the engagement of the inside hind leg. The horse's body is nearly parallel to the long side of the arena with the forehand slightly in advance of the hindquarters. The bend in the half-pass should increase with the steepness of the diagonal.
  - In the jog and the lope, the movement is performed in a series of forward/sideways strides. Aims of the half-pass in the jog and the lope: Show a fluent collected movement on a diagonal line with a greater degree of bend than in shoulder-in. Fore and hind legs cross, balance and cadence are maintained.
  - The aims of the half-pass: to both demonstrate and develop the collection and suppleness by moving fluently forwards and sideways without any loss of rhythm, balance or softness and **willing cooperation** to the bend. *BOD 11/13/17 Effective 12/1/17*
- h. **Leg yield.** Leg yielding is not a lateral movement. The horse is almost straight, except for a slight flexion at the poll away from the direction in which he moves, so that the rider is just able to see the corner of the eye and nostril on the inside. The inside legs pass and cross in front of the outside legs. Leg-yielding can be performed on the diagonal in which case the horse should be as close as possible parallel to the long sides of the arena although the forehand should be slightly in advance of the hindquarters. The leg yield can also be ridden along the wall with approximately a 35 degree angle.

## WD114 Turn on the Haunches; Turn on the Forehand

### 1. Turn on the Haunches

- The turn on the haunches is executed out of a working walk prepared by half halts to shorten the steps. During the movement the forefeet and the outside hind foot move around the inside hind foot. The turn on the haunches can be performed on a larger diameter than the pivot. This movement is executed at Level 1 and Level 2. Riders may choose to pivot or turn on the haunches. Switching from one method to the other within the same movement will be penalized. Each step backwards is penalized by a .5 deduction. At Level 3 and above, only the pivot may be performed.
- For younger horses that are still not able to perform a collected walk, the 'turn on the haunches' is an exercise to prepare the horse for collection. The 'turn on the haunches' is executed out of working walk prepared by half-halts to shorten the steps a little and to improve the ability to bend the joints of the hindquarters.

- c. The horse must bend a little in his ribcage around the rider's inside leg. The 'turn on the haunches' can be executed on a larger diameter (approximately one meter) than the pivot in walk, but the demands of the training scale concerning rhythm, contact, activity and bend are the same. The horse will not be penalized for pivot, step, pivot, step on the inside rear hind leg.

## 2. Pivot

In keeping with traditional Western Stock horse movements, the horse is allowed to pivot on the inside hind leg and step around it with the outside hind leg. The horse pushes off with the outside hind leg. The pivot leg is allowed to pickup and reset when it reaches the point of stress. The horse should maintain correct bend and balance and respond to the rider's leg. A pivot should be performed at a walk tempo with forward intention. Each step backwards is penalized by a .5 deduction. Pivoting around the middle axis of the horse should receive a marginal to insufficient score of 5 or lower. It is not a fault to step forward 1-2 steps into the pivot.

3. Turn on the Forehand. It is executed out of a halt or a working walk prepared by half-halts to shorten the steps. The horse's hindquarters make a circle around the horse's front end. The purpose of this exercise is to supple the horse and teach him to yield to the rider's leg. In turn on the forehand right, the horse is slightly flexed at the poll to the right, which is the inside, when the haunches move to the left yielding to the riders right leg. In turn on the forehand left the horse is flexed slightly to the left when the horse yields to the riders left leg moving the haunches right. The horse must maintain the same rhythm, tempo, contact and activity and show willingness to be on the outside rein. Stepping back is a fault.

## **WD115 Pirouette, Half Pirouette, and Quarter Pirouette at the Lope**

1. The lope pirouette is a circle or part of a circle executed on two tracks with the forehand moving around the haunches. The haunches are lowered to afford the lightness required to maintain the proper lope sequence throughout. The horse is slightly bent in the direction of the turn and lightly on the bit. The quality of the pirouette is further demonstrated by the relatively small size of the turn, suppleness, balance, fluidity and maintenance of forward intention.
2. Quarter Pirouette: the quarter pirouette is a preliminary exercise to prepare the horse for half and full pirouettes. While the demands of a smaller figure of a quarter turn consisting of 2-3 strides are less, the same criteria for full pirouettes apply.
3. The strength and balance required for the pirouette is further demonstrated by the ability to perform the half-pirouette, full pirouette and sequences of multiple pirouettes. Impulsion, willingness to carry and engagement behind in the pirouette create a highly collected lope while maintaining a calm, confident demeanor which is the hallmark of the Western Dressage horse. *BOD 1/20/18 Effective 4/1/18*

## **SUBCHAPTER WD-4 COLLECTION, WILLING COOPERATION, IMPULSION, AIDS**

### **WD116 Collection**

1. Collection is achieved by increased weight bearing of the horse's haunches, thereby lowering the croup and lightening the forehand to allow the shoulders more freedom.
2. The aim of the collection of the horse is to add to the ease and carriage of the horse, to increase the strength and athleticism, and to make him more pleasurable to ride.
3. Horses ridden with the face **consistently** behind the vertical plane must be penalized.
4. The position of the head and neck of a horse at the collected gaits is naturally dependent on the stage of training and on his conformation. It should, however, be distinguished by the neck being raised and unrestrained, forming a harmonious curve from the withers to the poll which is the highest point. The head is **on or** slightly in front of the vertical. However, when the rider applies his aids in order to obtain a momentary and passing collecting effect, the head may momentarily become more or less vertical. *BOD 11/13/17 Effective 12/1/17*
5. The lightness of contact, which is the hallmark of Western Dressage, shall be demonstrated in collection.

6. A marked lowering of the horse's pelvis and an increased flexion of the hocks should be demonstrated. This is also called "coiling of the loins".

### WD117 Impulsion

1. Impulsion is the term used to describe the transmission of an eager and energetic, yet controlled, positive forward energy generated from the hindquarters into the athletic movement of the horse. Its ultimate expression can be shown only through the horse's soft, relaxed, swinging back guided by a light, elastic contact with the rider's hand.
2. Speed, of itself, has nothing to do with impulsion; the result is more often a flattening of the gaits. A visible characteristic of impulsion is a more pronounced articulation of the hind leg, in a continuous rather than staccato action. The hock, as the hind foot leaves the ground, should first move forward rather than being pulled upwards and certainly not backwards. A prime ingredient of impulsion is the time the horse spends in the air rather than on the ground. Impulsion is, therefore, seen only in those gaits that have a period of suspension.
3. Impulsion is required for a good collection in the jog and lope. If there is no impulsion, then there is nothing to collect.

### WD118 Willing Cooperation and Harmony

1. **Willing cooperation** of the horse does not mean subordination, but an obedience revealing its presence by a constant attention, willingness and confidence in the whole behavior of the horse as well as by the harmony, lightness and ease he is displaying in the execution of the different movements. **Willing cooperation** is also demonstrated by the way the horse accepts the bit, with light contact and a supple poll. Resistance to or evasion of the contact, by being either "above the bit" or "behind the bit" demonstrate lack of **willing cooperation**.
  - a. Putting out the tongue, keeping it above the bit or drawing it up altogether, as well as grinding the teeth or agitation of the tail, are mostly signs of nervousness, tension or resistance on the part of the horse and must be taken into account by the judges in their marks for every movement concerned, as well as in the collective mark for **harmony**.
  - b. Willingness is the most important consideration **when evaluating obedience**. The horse understands what is being asked of him and is confident in the rider by **responding** to the aids without fear or tension. **BOD 11/13/17 Effective 12/1/17**
  - c. The horse's straightness, uphill tendency and balance enable him to stay in front of the rider's legs and go forward into an accepting, light and self-carrying contact with the bit. This is what really produces the picture of harmony and lightness.
  - d. Harmony between the horse and rider is demonstrated by the horse and rider moving as "one". The rider uses tactful cues; the horse performs without resistance, agitation or wariness. The horse shows attention and confidence in his ease of movements and acceptance of the bit while staying up in the poll and keeping his nose in front of the vertical. The degree of lightness increases as the horse advances in his training.

### WD119 Position and Aids of the Rider

1. All the Western Dressage movements should be obtained with imperceptible aids and without apparent effort of the rider. The rider should be well-balanced, elastic, sitting deep in the center of the saddle, smoothly absorbing the movement of the horse with his core muscles, supple thighs with the legs steady and stretched well down. The heels should be the lowest point with the ankles relatively relaxed. The upper part of the body should be tall and supple demonstrating a vertical alignment of shoulder to hip to heel. The light contact of the rider's hands should be independent from the rider's seat. The hands should be carried steadily in a style appropriate to the style of rein and bit being used with a straight line from the supple elbow through the hand to the horse's mouth. The elbows should be close to the body. All of these criteria enable the rider to follow the movements of the horse smoothly and freely.
2. The rider may use one or two hands with a curb bit but may not go from one handed to two handed during an

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individual test. The rider may use one or two hands with a curb bit and split reins, but with a Romel, the rider is to only use one hand.

3. Not only the aids of the rider's hands and the legs, but also of the seat are of great importance in Western Dressage. The rider who understands how to properly engage the core muscles at the right moment is able to influence the horse correctly.
4. **Accuracy: precise placement of the figures and transitions**, the effectiveness of the rider's aids determines the accurate fulfillment of the test. There should always be the impression of a harmonious cooperation between horse and rider. *BOD 11/13/17 Effective 12/1/17*
5. Quiet use of the voice and clicking of the tongue is permitted.

## **SUBCHAPTER WD-5 APPOINTMENTS**

### **WD120 General**

1. At Federation licensed competitions, the C2 Steward or the person who is under the direction of the Steward and appointed by the competition management will be responsible for overseeing the checking of the horse, tack, and attire. A horse must be eliminated from the test just completed if the horse or any tack and/or attire are in violation of the rules and/or the tongue has been tied. C2 Stewards or Equipment Inspectors are only required to inspect bits and other appointments on a minimum of one-third of the horses in a class. (See WD123)

### **WD121 Tack**

#### 1. Bridles:

- a. Any Western type headstall must be used.
- b. A Western cavesson (braided or plain), or pencil bosal with space for two fingers placed between the cavesson and the jowl of the horse is allowed. No metal, studs of any kind, or other harsh substances can be used in conjunction with or part of a Western cavesson.
- c. A Hackamore (Bosal) is permitted on a horse of any age at any level. A hackamore includes a bosal rounded in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible non-metallic core, attached to a suitable headstall. No other material of any kind is to be used in conjunction with the bosal, i.e. steel, metal or chains. Bosals may be wrapped with smooth electrical tape to prevent rubbing.
- d. A bitless bridle is permitted on a horse of any age at any level. It must be of Western style made of leather or leather like materials.
- e. The Western Two Rein bridle is permitted. This is a bridle and bit, snaffle or curb ridden over a full or pencil bosal with a romal; hence a bit rein and a mecate rein is held in each hand, or the mecate rein can be tied to the saddle horn.

#### 2. Snaffle Bit:

- a. A snaffle bit may be used on a horse of any age being ridden at any level.
- b. A snaffle offers no leverage or curb action.
- c. A Western Dee bit.
- d. A standard snaffle is a conventional O-Ring, Egg Butt, Full Cheek (keepers optional) or D-Ring, all with rings having an outside diameter no smaller than 2 inches (50.8 mm), nor larger than 4 inches (101.6 mm). The inside of the circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments that would provide leverage.
  1. Bars: Bars of the mouthpiece must be round, oval or egg shaped, smooth and unwrapped, except with latex; and no less than 5/16 inch (7.9 mm) to 3/4 inch (19.05 mm) in diameter measured one inch (25 mm) from the cheek and may be inlaid, if smooth.
  2. Three-Piece Mouthpiece: If a mouthpiece is three pieces, a connecting ring must be no larger than 1 1/4 inches (31.75 mm) in diameter, or a connecting piece must be no longer than 2 inches (50.8 mm) and 3/8 inch

(9.5 mm) to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch (19.05 mm), measured top-to-bottom.

- e. Any solid mouthpiece or barrel mouthpiece may be used.
  - f. If a bit hobble is used on a ring snaffle it must be attached below the reins.
  - g. No flat, sharp, slow twist, twisted or pointed edges on mouthpieces are allowed.
3. Curb Bit: There is no discrimination against any standard Western bit.
- a. A standard Western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (215.9 mm). The mouthpiece will consist of a metal bar  $\frac{5}{16}$ " (7.9 mm) to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (19.05 mm) in diameter as measured one inch in from the shank. The bars may be inlaid but must be smooth or latex wrapped. (The bars may be encased in smooth  $\frac{5}{16}$ " (7.9 mm) to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (19.05 mm) in diameter tubular barrels that rotate around the bars). Nothing may protrude above or 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  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (31.75 mm) or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch (9.5mm – 19.05 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lies flat in the mouth, or a roller or port as described herein. The port must be no higher than 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches (88.9 mm) maximum with roller(s) and covers acceptable. Jointed mouthpieces, half-breeds and spade bits are standard. Wire on the braces (above the bars and attaching to the spade) of a traditional spade bit is acceptable.
  - b. Reins must be attached to each shank.
  - c. Curb chains or straps are required with curb bits.
    - 1. Must be flat and must be at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (12.7 mm) in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse.
    - 2. May have leather or nylon adjustable straps connecting the buckle to the chain.
    - 3. No wire, rawhide, metal or other substance can be used in conjunction with or as part of the flat leather chin strap or curb chain.
    - 4. Round, rolled, braided or rawhide curb straps are prohibited. *BOD 11/13/17 Effective 12/1/17 BOD 8/27/18 Effective 9/1/18*
  - d. A slobber guard on a curb bit is permitted.
  - e. Rein chains with a spade bit are allowed.
4. Reins:
- a. When the rider uses a snaffle bit, the following reins may be used: loop/connected reins, split reins, buckled reins, mecate reins, or Romal reins without a popper; two hands must be used with any of these combinations. Horsehair, rope reins and mecate reins are allowed for bosals and snaffles. The mecate can be tied to the saddle horn or held by the rider.
  - b. When the rider uses a curb, the following reins may be used: Romal reins, Split reins, loop/connected reins, buckled reins or Romal reins without a popper.. When using a curb with Romal reins, only one hand is allowed; when using other rein choices, one or two hands are allowed.
  - c. Hand position on reins:
    - 1. In the case of Romal reins, the Romal is held in one hand with no fingers between the individual reins. The end of the Romal may be held in the hand not used for reining to keep the Romal from swinging and to adjust the position of the rein. The reins must be held so that there is at least 16" of rein between the hands.
    - 2. In the case of when split reins are held in one or two hands, the rider may not switch back and forth during a test. When the split reins are held in one hand, there are two ways that the rider may use them. The rider may put one finger between the split reins; the ends of the reins fall on the side of the reining hand. The rider may hold both reins in one hand without a finger between the reins; the hand must be around the reins. The ends of the Split reins may be held in the hand not used for reining to keep them from swinging

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and to adjust the position of the reins. No finger is allowed between the reins. The reins must be held so that there is at least 16" of rein between the hands.

3. In the case of looped/connected reins, buckled reins, or Romal reins without a popper, the reins are held in one or two hands; the rider must not switch back and forth during a test. (Exception: Freestyle).
- d. At the end of the Free Walk or Free Jog, riders using split reins held in one hand may use the free or offhand to pull the reins back to the desired length. Riders using Romal reins may use the hand using the Romal to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand.
- e. A breastplate and/or crupper may be used.
- f. Whips: One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm) including lash, is permitted in all Classes/Tests.

### 5. Saddle:

A standard stock saddle is customary. A working saddle, Australian, and Western side saddle are also acceptable. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit.

- a. A horn is optional but western style fenders are required.
- b. Tapaderos are permitted except in Western Dressage Equitation.
- c. Padding or pads on the seat of the saddle are permitted.
- d. Thigh or knee rolls are allowed only on Australian Western style saddles.

### 6. Protective "polo" style leg wraps are permitted.

7. Fly hoods (ear covers) should be discreet in color and design and should not cover the horse's eyes. After completion of the test, the exhibitor or his representative is responsible for removing the fly hood to present to the designated equipment steward for inspection to ensure that nothing prohibited has been added. See WD121.3.

## WD122 Illegal Equipment

### 1. Prohibited Bits:

All curb bits must be free of mechanical devices. Nothing such as extensions, rivets or prongs, may protrude below the mouthpiece (bars). Illegal bits may include but are not limited to:

- a. Slip or gag bits, half cheeks, bits with hooks and slots, donut or flat polo mouthpieces and kimberwicks.
- b. Roping bits with reins attached to a single ring at the center of a cross bar.
- c. Any rein design or other devices which increase the effective length and thereby the leverage of the shank of a standard western bit.
- d. Round, rolled, braided or rawhide curb straps are prohibited.

2. Anything that alters the intended use of equipment as provided for in the description of appointments for a given class/test.

3. Use of 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" splint boots, hock boots, bell boots, etc.), tail bandages, any form of blinkers, earmuffs or plugs, and nose covers are cause for elimination. Protective "polo" style leg wraps are permitted, with color matching natural color of the horse as much as possible.

4 Rein additions or attachments which create additional leverage are not allowed.

5. Any decoration of the horse with extravagant items, such as ribbons or flowers, etc. in the mane, tail, etc. Exception: freestyle.

6. Flash, figure eight or dropped nose bands.

7. Mechanical Hackamores.

## WD123 Attire

### 1. Required apparel:

- a. Suitable western hat. Protective headgear may be worn without penalty. (See GR801).
- b. Long-sleeved shirt with any type of collar: short sleeves may be worn at the discretion of the judge.
- c. Trousers, pants, a one-piece long sleeved equitation suit provided it includes a collar.
- d. Boots
- e. 2. Optional apparel:
  - a. Necktie, kerchief, bolo tie or pin;
  - b. A vest, jacket, coat and/or sweater
  - c. Spurs of Western style, with or without blunt tines, or English dressage style
  - d. Chaps, shotgun chaps, or split riding skirt.
  - e. Protective headgear is acceptable; not required to be of Western style.

## **SUBCHAPTER WD-6 OFFICIALS**

### **WD124 Judges and Stewards**

1. Western Dressage classes offered at Federation licensed competitions must be judged by a Federation licensed Dressage judge or licensed Western Dressage judge in good standing. Any judge officiating Western Dressage classes at a Federation licensed competition must be a current member in good standing with the Western Dressage Association of America. (Exception: for Western Dressage Suitability, Western Dressage Hack and Western Dressage Seat Equitation, judged as a group on the rail with the option of individual work rather than as an individual performance only, a judge must be a Federation licensed judge in the appropriate breed or breeds.)
2. For additional restrictions see GR1006 - GR1008.
3. C2 Stewards. A USEF licensed competition that offers Western Dressage tests/classes may use either a USEF licensed Category 2 Steward or an inspector designated by show management and under the direction of the C2 Steward. Tack and bits on both sides of the horse of a minimum of one-third (1/3) of the horses in each class/test must be inspected.
  - a. Once the exhibitor leaves the arena, the exhibitor must remain mounted until they reach the C2 Steward or equipment inspector. At that time, the exhibitor will dismount for the equipment inspection. Competitors will be asked to drop the bridle of the horse, removing the bit to below the mouth of the horse. A metal detector and/or magnet may be used to detect the presence of the metal in nosebands. Random pulling of leg wraps will also occur at this time. See also WD119.
  - b. Any evidence of blood on the horse's mouth or sides or the addition of substances or devices behind wraps or boots will result in elimination of the entry for that class/test.
  - c. The checking of the bridle must be done with the greatest caution, as some horses are very touchy and sensitive about their mouths.
  - d. New disposable gloves must be available for and used by bit inspectors if a mouth piece must be handled by the inspector.
  - e. The responsibility for the correct attire and equipment rests with the competitor.

## **SUBCHAPTER WD-7 COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS**

### **WD125 Warm Up Ring and Training Area**

1. The restrictions regarding Illegal Equipment (see WD120) apply to warm-up and other training areas; however, training martingales (only with snaffle rein or plain snaffle bridle), boots, bandages (without magnets) and earmuffs are permitted. A training martingale consists of a divided strap attached to the girth that does not provide downward pull; the extension of each strap must be connected from the point of division only to the rein on the same side and



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must be free to slide. The rings through which the reins slide must be connected to a neck strap.

2. Fly hoods (ear covers) that do not cover the horse's eyes are permitted in warm-up and other training areas.
3. Single direct side reins or double sliding reins (triangle reins) are permitted only when longeing (mounted or unmounted). 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).
4. Only one longe line is permitted while longeing. A longe line must attach only to the halter, cavesson or snaffle bit of a bridle and go directly to the hand of the longeur.
5. The following whips are permitted for schooling only:
  - a. One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash, may be carried by the rider when mounted.
  - b. One longeing whip is permitted only when longeing. There is no restriction on the length of whip permitted for working a horse in hand.

**WD126 Execution and Judging of Tests**

1. Calling Tests. Western Dressage Tests may be called during the competition. If a 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. All Freestyle Rides must be ridden from memory.
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 a lady rider.
3. Voice. The quiet use of the voice or clicking the tongue once or repeatedly is permitted.
4. Touch. Petting the horse is allowed during the test as a gentle reward.
5. Corners of the Dressage Arena: A rider should ride their horse as deeply as possible into the corners of the Dressage Arena while maintaining impulsion, balance, bend and rhythm.
6. 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.
  - b. Every "error of the course" whether the bell is sounded or not, must be penalized, 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 the 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. For Freestyle tests, four (4) points will be deducted for forbidden movements and above the level movements. They are not cumulative and will not result in elimination.
    5. When the competitor makes an "error of the test" (at the salute does not take the reins in one hand, etc.) he must be penalized as for an "error of the course".
    6. If the judge has not noted an error the competitor has the benefit of the doubt.
    7. The penalty points are deducted on each judge's sheet from the total earned by the competitor.
7. Other Errors.
  - a. Entering the arena before the sound of the bell.
  - b. If the rider performs the collected jog rising when a sitting jog is required, 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.

8. Lameness. In the case of marked lameness the judge informs the competitor that he is eliminated. There is no appeal against his decision.
9. Judging a Test.
  - a. The mark for each movement should first establish the fact of whether the movement is marginal (5 or below) or higher. The judge should state the reason for his judgment, at least when giving marks of 6 and below.
  - b. 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.
  - c. Grinding of the teeth and excessive 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 demonstrating relaxed and free carriage of the tail shall be rewarded. Horses that get their tongues over the bit or perform with an open mouth shall be marked down.
  - d. The levels of Western Dressage are offered as a means of evaluating a horse that is changing and developing. The purpose of each test is printed on the cover. The horse shall be considered in light of the degree of training he should have achieved to be shown at that level.
  - e. In the case of a fall of horse and/or rider the competitor will be eliminated.
  - f. 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 beginning and end of the test, the competitor is eliminated.
  - g. 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. The competitor should leave the arena at "A" at a walk, on long or loose rein.
  - h. Horses, that enter the arena with their tongues tied down, shall be eliminated.
  - i. 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 the Western Dressage division.
  - j. 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 without his written consent.
  - k. Any continuing resistance, which prevents the continuation of the test for longer than 20 seconds, is cause for elimination. However, resistance that may endanger the rider, horse, judge or the public will result in elimination for safety reasons earlier than within twenty (20) seconds.
  - l. All movements and certain transitions from one to another, which have to be marked by the judge, are numbered on the judge's sheets. They are marked 0 to 10, 0 being the lowest mark and 10 being the highest. Half marks from 0.5-9.5 may also be used both for movements and collective marks, at the discretion of the judge, and all scores given must be recorded with a decimal (i.e., as 6.0 instead of 6)

10. The scale of marks is as follows:

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

\* "Not executed" means practically none of the movement has been performed

11. Collective marks are awarded (from 0 to 10, including half marks) after the competitor has finished his

performance for:

- a. Gaits: **freedom and regularity; elasticity of steps.**
  - b. Impulsion: **engagement - transmission of an eager and energetic, yet controlled positive forward energy generated from the hindquarters into the athletic movement of the horse; suppleness of the back.**
  - c. **Rider's position, seat and hands: well-balanced elastic seat demonstrating vertical, centered alignment, with light independent contact from hand(s).**
  - d. **Rider's correct and effective use of aids: evidenced by the horse's responsiveness, steady elastic connection cultivating athletic expression. Accuracy - precise placement of the figures and transitions, the effectiveness of the rider's aids determines the accurate fulfillment of the required movements of the tests.**
  - e. **Harmony: The horse accepts the aids and influence of the rider with attention, relaxation, and confidence, and demonstrates a willing partnership between horse and rider resulting in a free flowing performance.***BOD 11/13/17 Effective 12/1/17 BOD 11/13/17 Effective 12/1/17*
12. 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 illegal assistance. Except in the case of an error, any outside assistance provided by or NOT authorized by the Judge will result in elimination. A Judge may not discuss a ride with a competitor before the bell.
13. The execution of the tests is not timed, except for the Freestyle Test. The time shown on the Judge's sheet is for scheduling purposes only.
14. Time-Out: An exhibitor is not allowed to have a time-out in Western Dressage. .

## **WD127 Scoring, Classification and Prize-Giving**

1. After each performance and after the judge has given his Collective Marks which must be done with due consideration, the judge's sheets pass into the hands of the scorers. Having two scorers is recommended. Scores and comments must be written in ink. It is recommended that adding machine tape is initialed and attached to the test. Any corrected score must be initialed by the judge having made the correction. The marks are multiplied by the corresponding co-efficient 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. 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 or within one hour. The public scoreboard may be in either paper or electronic format. The name of the judge must be posted, as well as the time of the posting.
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.
4. 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. The published final results may be in paper or electronic format and must remain posted through-out the entire competition.
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/her class/tests are totaled.
8. If a mathematical **or judging error, such as speaking aloud during tests or posting when posting is allowed**, 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. *BOD 1/20/18 Effective 2/1/18*
9. After the awards for a class have been presented, the judge's score sheet should be given to the competitor. The score sheet must be handed directly to the competitor or his representative. Privacy must be maintained.
10. It is recommended that scorers and scribes 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 or scribing.

### **WD128 Elimination**

1. Horse and rider combinations shall be eliminated from the competition for "a, f and i" below; horse and rider combination shall be eliminated 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. Bucking while riding a test.
  - c. Use of illegal equipment.
  - d. Unauthorized assistance.
  - e. Three errors of the course 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 including excessive spurring.
  - j. Resistance of longer than 20 seconds.
  - k. Concern for the safety of rider, other exhibitors or their entries
  - l. Evidence of blood on a horse in the competition arena shall be cause for elimination from the class by the judge at "C". 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 he 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.
  - m. Failure of the competitor to wear their number.
  - n. Fall of a horse and/or rider.
  - o. **Switching from one hand to two hands or vice versa during a test (with exception of Freestyle tests where changing is acceptable).** *BOD 11/13/17 Effective 12/1/17*
  - p. Any situation where a direct rule violation can be cited. Where a violation cannot be cited, a competitor is not eliminated.

### **WD129 Requirements for Competition Management**

1. All classes must be listed in the prize list.
2. When permitted by the rules or special criteria, classes may be divided into separate divisions or sections based on qualifications, age or other eligibility of horses or riders.
3. Divisions or sections of a class are considered to be a separate "class" only if listed as such in the prize list. Divisions or sections of a class may be held in different rings and judged by different judges. When divisions or

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sections are held under different conditions (i.e., different ring or judges), separate awards must be given.

4. When entries warrant, competitions are encouraged to split classes into separate divisions, and to provide separate awards for Open riders, Amateurs and Junior/ Young Riders. Horses may be ridden only once in any class, including separate divisions or sections of the same class and not by multiple riders.

5. Competition Schedule.

- a. A tentative class schedule must be included in the prize list.
- b. Organizers must prepare a time schedule including all rides. If possible, competitors should be notified of their riding times prior to arrival at the competition.
- c. The time schedule must be posted in a conspicuous place by noon the day before the competition. Ride times may not be changed after noon the day before the start of the entire competition without the written consent of the competitor affected. Competitions may reserve the right to fill a competitor's subsequent ride times if that competitor fails to notify the competition secretary of his/her intention to scratch (i.e. is a "no show").
- d. Western Dressage classes must be run in their entirety and rides may only be scheduled out of sequence to allow a reasonable interval between two or more horses entered by the same rider in the same class. Also, when preparing a time schedule consideration must be given to riders entered in more than one class or riding more than one horse.
- e. At least 50 minutes must be scheduled between start times for a rider's tests on different horses unless they have agreed, in writing, to a shorter interval between tests. Time intervals should be allowed between rides for judge's breaks and awards presentations.
- f. If a competitor cannot show due to the management's change of scheduling on the day a competitor must ride, their entry fees must be refunded.
- g. Suspension of Judging: If it becomes necessary to interrupt a Western Dressage competition for any reason, the unfinished portion may be recommenced and rescheduled for the same or following day at the option of the Show Committee with the official's consent. All scores recorded before the interruption will stand. When classes are re-commenced after a delay on the same day, competitors must be given at least 30 minutes notice of the starting time. Exhibitors whose ride times are changed to or on a subsequent day as a result of an interrupted competition or inclement weather conditions, must be individually notified at least two hours prior to a rescheduled ride time.

6. Schooling and Longeing.

- a. One or more schooling areas must be provided far enough away from the arena(s) so as not to disturb the competitors during their tests. Schooling areas must be of sufficient size for several competitors to prepare their horses at the same time.
- b. Competitors will not be allowed in or around the arena while a class is in progress or inside the arena at other times except under the following conditions:
  1. Management must post and announce, in advance, designated times that competitors may school inside the arena(s);
  2. Competitors should be permitted by management or the Judge to enter the arena prior to their ride if arena conditions do not permit riding around the perimeter of the arena prior to entry. Such permission must be announced prior to the start of the class.
- c. Competitions are permitted to charge warm-up or schooling fees prior to a competition for horses entered in the competition.

7. Judges.

- a. Judges must be given at least a 45-minute lunch break and at least a 10 minute break every 2 hours.
- b. Judges are not to be housed in private homes unless the judge has agreed to it prior to the competition.
- c. Judge's comments, while judging, may not be audio-recorded without prior written permission of the judge, the

specific competitor(s) and management.

8. Scribes.

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

9. Specifications.

- a. The arena should be on as flat and as level ground as possible.
- b. The Standard Arena is 60 meters long and 20 meters wide. The Small Arena is 40 meters long and 20 meters wide. Arena measurements are for the interior of the enclosure. The Small Arena is recommended for Western Dressage classes for the Introductory and Basic Levels.
- c. The Large Arena is required for Level 1 and above.
- d. The enclosure itself must consist of a low fence about 0.3 meters high and must be completely enclosed, except for the entrance at "A". The width of the entrance must be at least two meters.
- e. 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.

10. Location of Judges. The Judge should be placed at the letter "C", an elevated platform or place that ensures safe and good viewing. Additional judges are similarly placed at "E" and/or "B".

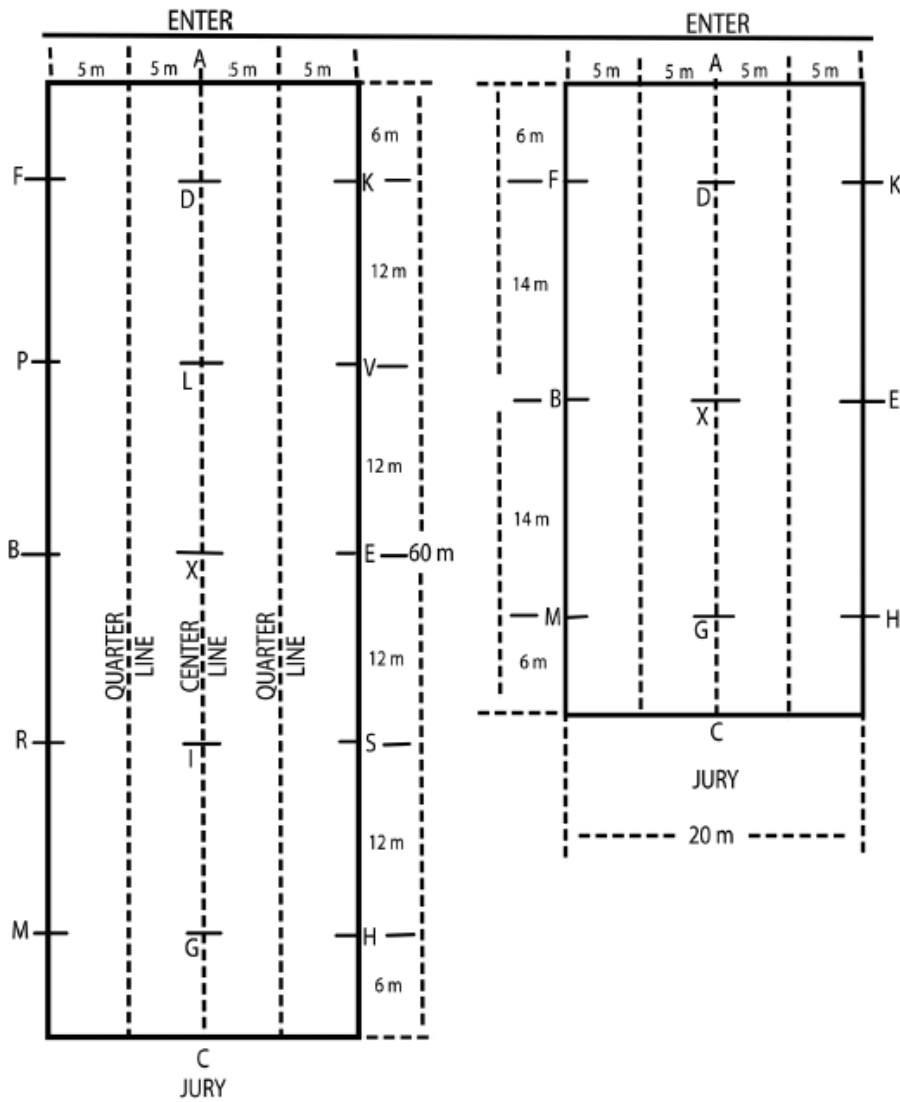
11. Footing Maintenance. Competition management must make every effort to provide the best possible footing in competition and schooling areas. The footing in all areas must be as uniform as possible.

12. Schooling/Warm-up Area Supervisor.

- a. The management must appoint a designated person to check saddlery, inspect bits and protective leg wraps in each class under the direction of the C2 Steward.
- b. Schooling and warm-up areas must be monitored by the designated ring stewards starting at least 30 minutes before the first scheduled ride.
- c. The designated ring stewards must use new disposable gloves should it be necessary to physically touch the bits.

13. Miscellaneous.

A separate number must be issued for each horse/rider combination. This number must be worn when the horse is in the designated schooling area and during the competition.



## SUBCHAPTER WD-8 TESTS

### WD130 General

The WDAA approves and issues tests for use at Federation licensed and WDAA recognized competitions in the United States. Tests cannot be modified without approval of the WDAA with the exception that **gaited horses must be ridden at the saddle gait instead of the jog in Western Dressage classes.** *BOD 11/13/17 Effective 12/1/17*

Tests are located on the USEF website at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org). Competitions are permitted to hold gaited classes but they are to be held as separate classes. The gaits required in lieu of the jog are defined in Subchapter WD-2.

1. Introductory Level. Tests provide an introduction to the discipline of Western Dressage; the horse performs only at the gaits of walk and jog. The rider may sit or post the jog. The rider should demonstrate correct basic position, use of basic aids, and understanding of the figures. The horse should show relaxation and harmony between horse and rider is important. The horse accepts the aids and influence of the rider. The jog should be a natural gait within the horse's scope and should demonstrate a swinging back.
2. Basic. Tests confirm that the horse is supple and moves freely forward in a clear and steady rhythm, accepting light contact with the bit. The horse demonstrates a greater understanding of the aids and calm acceptance of the bridle; greater emphasis is placed on relaxation, **willing cooperation**, harmony, rideability and pure gaits. The horse is beginning to develop more impulsion and balance. *BOD 11/13/17 Effective 12/1/17*
3. Level 1. Tests confirm that the horse is building on the elements from lower levels and is developing more engagement to show sufficient impulsion as the lengthened jog and lope are performed. The horse demonstrates a more

consistent light contact with the bit. These tests introduce some collection and lateral and longitudinal balance, suppleness, and emphasize harmony and rideability.

4. Level 2. To confirm that the horse, having achieved the impulsion required in Level 1, now accepts more weight on the hindquarters (collection); moves with an uphill tendency; especially in the lengthened paces; and is reliably and lightly on the bit. A greater degree of straightness, bending, suppleness, balance and self carriage is required than at Level 1.
5. Level 3. To confirm that the horse has achieved the impulsion required in Level 2, now accepts more weight on the hindquarters (collection); moves with a greater degree of an uphill tendency as required in the collected gaits especially in the collected lope. The horse must maintain a light contact on the bit showing balance, self-carriage and energy that result from improved engagement and weight-carrying by the hind quarters as performed in the halts. The movements should be performed with greater bending, suppleness, balance and self-carriage than in Level 2.
6. Level 4. To confirm that the horse has achieved the impulsion, engagement, uphill balance and self-carriage required in Level 3. Level 4 movements should be performed with greater engagement, straightness, suppleness and balance. The marked lightness of the forehand results from a distinct lowering of the haunches and throughness required to perform the partial lope pirouette. A solid foundation is evidenced throughout by a correct, willing, harmonious performance softly on the aids. *BOD 1/20/18 Effective 4/1/18*

## **SUBCHAPTER WD-9 FREESTYLE**

### **WD131 Western Musical Freestyle**

1. A Western Dressage Freestyle is a performance utilizing the gaits and movements of the discipline ridden to music. Each test includes the required movements, gaits and paces of the standard Western Dressage Tests for that level. The competitor is absolutely free in the form and manner of the presentation she or he chooses within a fixed time provided. The performance should clearly show the unity between rider and horse as well as harmony in all the movements and transitions. The horse and rider should appear as one; lightness of contact is the hallmark of Western Dressage Freestyle.
  - a. The competitor must declare to the management (and consequently the judge) at what level she or he will be riding.
  - b. The competitor must provide two (2) recordings of the music to which the Freestyle will be performed. Management must provide time for a sound check.
  - c. The Freestyle ride must not exceed the time limit listed on the test. Time begins when the horse moves forward out of the initial halt and ends with the final halt and salute. Both halts are mandatory.
  - d. The judge will provide two (2) sets of scores; one for the technical correctness of the movements performed and one for the artistic merit.
    1. The artistic score is comprised of several elements:
      - a. Harmony between horse and rider.
      - b. Choreography: use of arena, design and creativity. Not “test-like”.
      - c. Degree of difficulty: points are only awarded when the attempts are performed well.
      - d. Music: suitability to the horse. Edits in music are smooth/flowing.
      - e. Interpretation: music must express gaits and paces.
    2. Technical correctness:
      - a. Judged on the execution of required technical movements in the test i.e. figures, gaits/paces and transitions.
      - b. Certain movements (leg yield, half-pass etc.) must be performed in both directions.
2. Penalties:
  - a. The rider must enter the arena or signal the sound engineer within 45 seconds of the entry bell, or a deduction of



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ten (10) points will be taken off the total for artistic merit. The rider must enter the arena within 20 seconds of the start of the music, or may be eliminated, at the discretion of the judge.

- b. Time Limit Deductions: One (1) point is deducted from the total for artistic merit for exceeding the time limit. There is no minimum time, or specified deduction.
- c. Four (4) points will be deducted for forbidden movements and above the level movements. They are not cumulative and will not result in elimination.

## **SUBCHAPTER WD-10 DRESSAGE SUITABILITY**

### **WD132 General**

1. To be eligible for a Western Dressage Suitability class, a horse must not have shown in a Western Dressage competition/Test at First Level or above and/or shown in a Western Dressage Hack class.
2. Refer to WD101 for Goals and Objectives, WD110 for Transitions, WD115-117 for Collection, Impulsion and Submission and WD118 for Position and Aids of Rider.

### **WD133 Appointments**

Refer to Subchapter WD-5

### **WD134 Qualifying Gaits, refer to WD103-105.**

### **WD135 Western Dressage Suitability Objectives.**

To confirm that the horse's muscles are supple and loose, and that it moves freely forward in a clear and steady rhythm with a look of forward impulsion with purity of gaits, and accepting light contact with the bit. The horse should show lightness of the forehand and engagement of the hindquarters. Resistance and tension of the horse is to be penalized. The horse's potential as a Western Dressage mount is to be considered.

### **WD136 Class Specifications.**

1. Horses to enter at a working jog, in a counter clockwise direction. Horse must perform all gaits both ways of the ring. Gaits shall be the working walk, working jog, and working lope. Free walk on a loose rein with horse stretching forward and down to be performed in at least one direction. Transitions into and out of the lope will be called for through the working jog. Horses will be asked to reverse direction at the working jog or working walk at the judge's discretion. Jog work may be ridden sitting or posting. In the lineup, horses must stand quietly and may be asked to back individually or as a group.
2. To be judged: 70% on performance of gaits and transition, with attention to impulsion and submission, and using the objectives above as reference; and, 30% on the rider's position, seat, and effective use of aids.
3. Classes may be divided for Open, Amateur, Junior Exhibitor, Stallions, Geldings and Mares. If classes are divided, a Championship class is recommended. A separate Junior Exhibitor Championship class may be offered.
4. At a breed restricted or multi-breed competition, a judge licensed in that breed(s) is eligible to officiate this class.

## **SUBCHAPTER WD-11 DRESSAGE HACK**

### **WD137 General**

1. The Western Dressage Hack class is open to any horse, pony, or mule; however, once a horse has been entered and shown in a Western Dressage Hack class, that horse may not subsequently be shown in a Western Dressage Suitability class.
2. Refer to WD101 for Goals and Objectives, WD110 for Transitions, WD115-117 for Collection, Impulsion and Submission and WD118 for Position and Aids of the Rider.

**WD138 Appointments**

Refer to Subchapter WD-5

**WD139 Qualifying Gaits**

Refer to WD103-105.

**WD140 Dressage Hack Objectives**

In addition to the objectives as defined in WD134 Dressage Suitability Objectives, horses should begin to show more pushing power and show progression towards a degree of balance and throughness. The horse should be light on the bit. A greater degree of straightness, bending, suppleness and throughness is required. There should be a clear distinction between the gaits (working and lengthening). The horse's ability as a Western Dressage mount is to be highly considered.

**WD141 Class Specifications**

1. Horses to enter at the working jog, sitting or rising, in a counter clockwise direction. Horses must perform a working walk, working jog, working lope, and a lengthening of strides at the jog and lope both ways of the arena. Free walk on a long rein with the horse stretching forward and down to be performed in at least one direction. A back of four (4) steps may be asked for as a group on the rail or individually in the line up. Transitions into and out of the lope will be asked for through the working jog. Horses will be asked to reverse directions at the working jog. Jog work to be ridden sitting or rising.
2. To be judged 70% on performance of gaits and transitions, with attention to impulsion, submission, and using the objectives as referenced above (WD139); 30% on the rider's position, seat and effective use of aids.
3. Classes may be divided for Open, Amateur, Junior Exhibitor, Stallions, Gelding and Mares. If classes are divided, a Championship class is recommended. A separate Junior Exhibitor Championship class may be offered.
4. At breed restricted or multi-breed competition, a judge licensed in that breed(s) is eligible to officiate this class.

**SUBCHAPTER WD- 12 WESTERN DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION****WD142 General Performance Directives for Western Dressage 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.
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. 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 Horsemanship**

1. The following class restrictions apply to Western Dressage Seat Horsemanship:

- a. Youth Riders who have not reached their 22nd birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year. A competition may choose to divide the Youth rider category by age.
- b. Adult Amateur riders as defined in GR1306 and GR1307.
- c. An individual may not compete as a Youth Rider and as an Amateur in Western Dressage Equitation at the same competition.
- d. Adult Amateur and Youth Rider cannot be combined at the same competition.
- e. A competition may choose to offer Youth 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 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.

### **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. Youth riders who have not reached their 22nd birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year. A competition may choose to break the Youth rider category down by age.
- d. Maiden, novice and limit riders as defined in GR135.

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.

- 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.

**WD145 Western Dressage Seat Medal**

1. The following class restrictions apply to Western Dressage Seat Medal classes:
  - a. Adult Amateur riders as defined in GR1306 and GR1307.
  - b. Youth riders are riders who have not reached their 22nd birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year. A competition may choose to break the Youth 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 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 equipments 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.

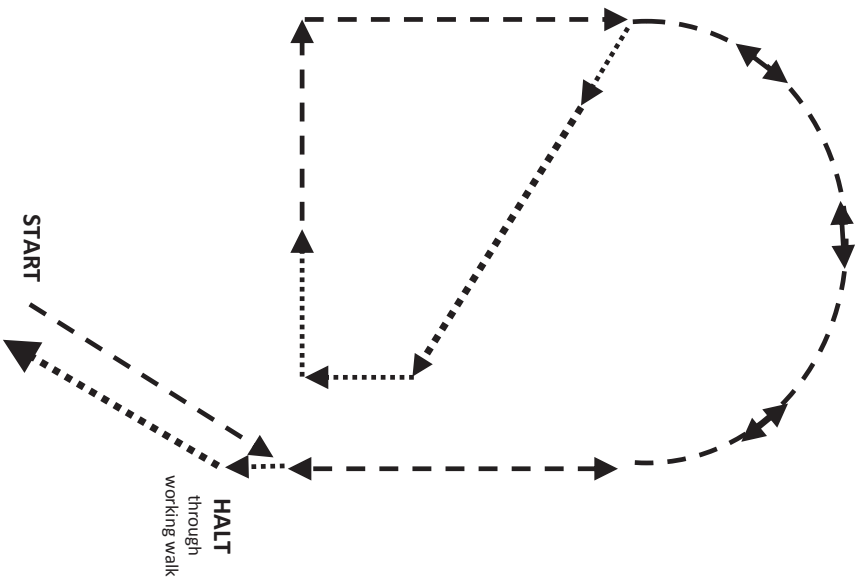
**APPENDIX A EQUITATION PATTERNS**

Western Dressage Seat On the Rail Equitation Patterns can be downloaded from the WDAA Website at: [www.westerndressageassociation.org/](http://www.westerndressageassociation.org/)

**WESTERN DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION  
INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST A**

KEY	WESTERN DRESSAGE GAITS
.....	Working Walk
.....	Free Walk
-----	Working Jog
-----	Working Lope

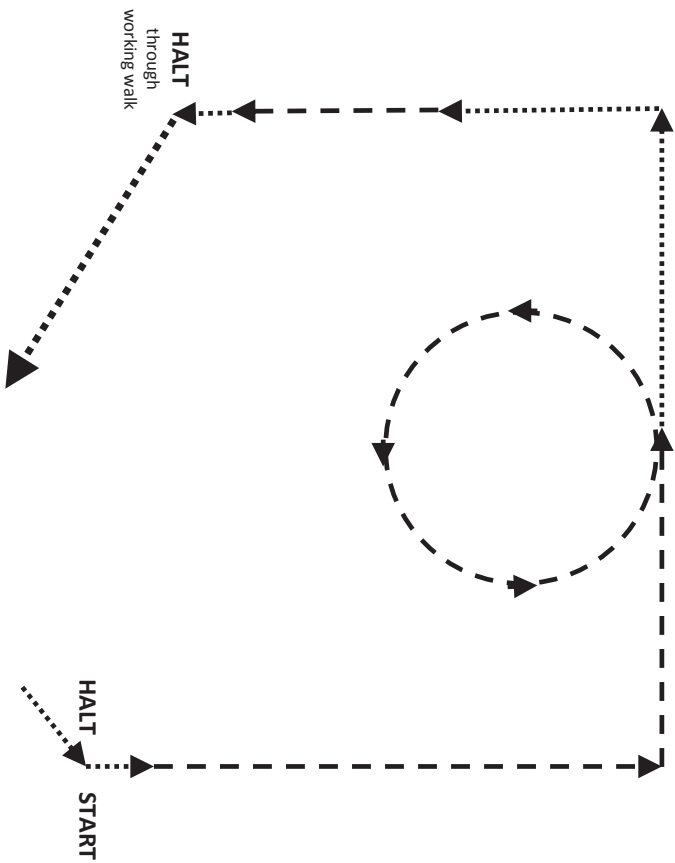
1. From the gate or line up, perform a working jog up the right side of arena.
2. Half circle left 20 meters at the working jog.
3. Develop working walk left and begin change of rein.
4. Develop free walk on the diagonal.
5. Track right. Transition to working walk.
6. Halfway across develop working jog.
7. Track right up the left side of arena.
8. Half circle right 20 meters working jog.
9. Proceed working jog down line toward the gate.
10. Halt through the working walk. Leave arena or return to the line up at a free walk on a loose rein.



## WESTERN DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST B

KEY	WESTERN DRESSAGE GAITS
.....▶	Working Walk
.....▶	Free Walk
- - - - -▶	Working Jog
————▶	Working Lope

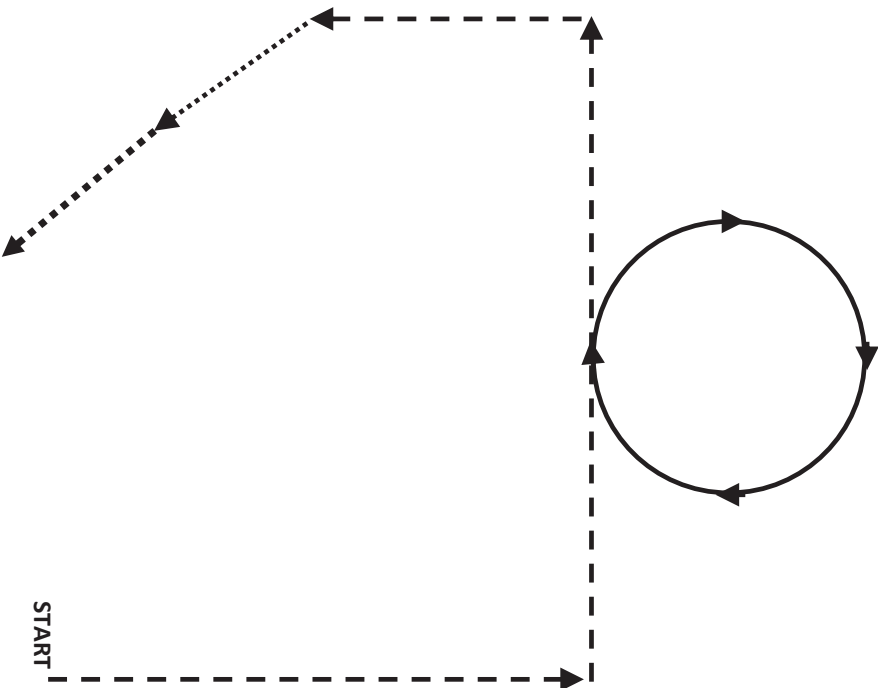
1. From the gate or line up working walk to the starting point. Halt.
2. Proceed working jog through the walk.
3. Track left at the working jog.
4. Circle left 20 meters working jog.
5. Transition to working walk.
6. Track left at the working walk.
7. At the midpoint proceed at the working jog.
8. Halt through the working walk.
9. Leave arena or return to line up at a free walk on a loose rein.



**WESTERN DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION  
BASIC LEVEL TEST A**

KEY	WESTERN DRESSAGE GAITS
.....▶	Working Walk
■.....▶	Free Walk
- - - - -▶	Working Jog
————▶	Working Lope

1. Working jog up the rail to your right.
2. Just past the arena center track left. Continue at working jog.
3. Circle right 20 meters working lope.
4. Transition to working jog. Track left at the rail.
5. At midpoint on the rail, develop working walk on the diagonal.
6. Half way to the gate transition to free walk.
7. Exit arena or return to line up at a free walk.

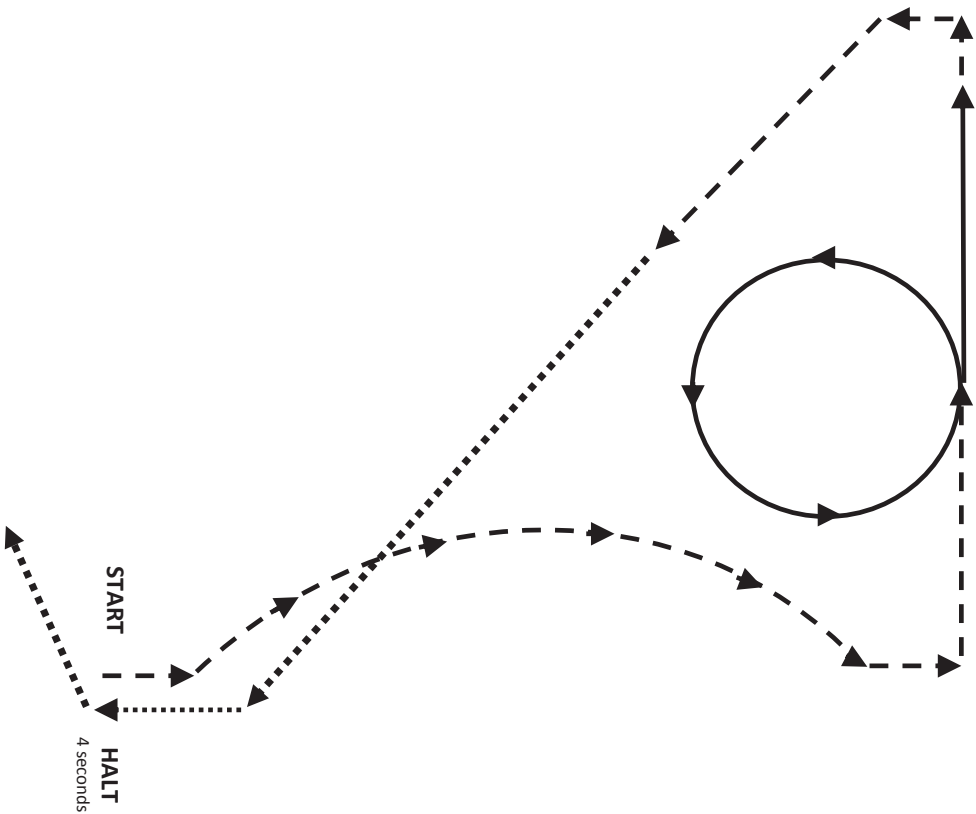


## WESTERN DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION

### BASIC LEVEL TEST B

KEY	WESTERN DRESSAGE GAITS
.....→	Working Walk
.....→	Free Walk
- - - - -→	Working Jog
————→	Working Lope

1. On rail to your right in working jog. Execute one 10 meter loop covering approximately one half of the length of the rail at the working jog. At the completion proceed straight ahead for several strides.
2. Track left. Continue working jog to center point of arena.
3. Transition to the working lope and perform 20 meter circle to the left. At completion of the circle proceed straight ahead.
4. Before the rail transition to the working jog. Track left.
5. Proceed at the working jog across a diagonal line.
6. Develop free walk and continue towards the rail.
7. Transition to working walk and proceed down the rail.
8. Halt 4 seconds. Leave the arena or return to line up at a free walk.

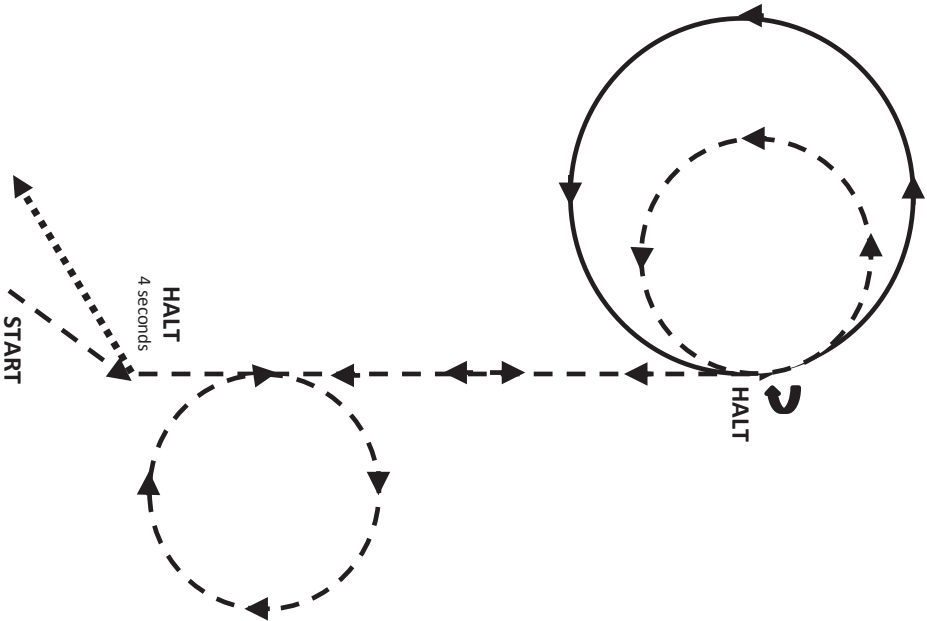




**WESTERN DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION  
FIRST LEVEL TEST A**

KEY	WESTERN DRESSAGE GAITS
.....▶	Working Walk
■.....▶	Free Walk
- - - - -▶	Working Jog
————▶	Working Lope
↻	Turn on the Forehand

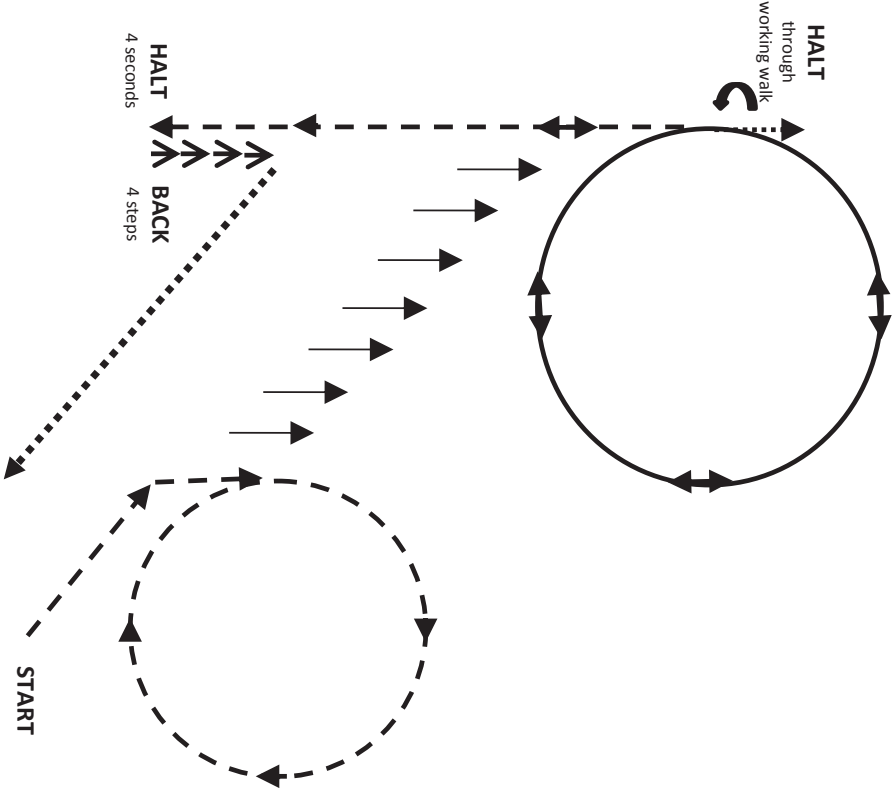
1. From the gate or line up working jog on the quarter line.
2. Circle right 10 meters at the working jog.
3. Proceed straight ahead.
4. Transition to the working lope and perform a 20 meter circle left.
5. Transition to a working jog and perform a 10 meter circle left. Halt.
6. 180 degrees turn on the forehand right.
7. Proceed down the line at the working jog.
8. Halt 4 seconds. Exit the arena or return to line up at a free walk.



WESTERN DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION  
FIRST LEVEL TEST B

KEY	WESTERN DRESSAGE GAITS
.....→	Working Walk
.....→	Free Walk
---→	Working Jog
——→	Working Lope
↻	Turn on the Forehand
↑ ↑ ↑	Leg Yield
← ←	Back

1. From the gate or line up begin on a diagonal line at working jog. Then proceed straight for several strides.
2. Circle right 10 meters at the working jog.
3. Leg Yield left at a working jog just past arena center. Then proceed straight for several strides.
4. Circle right 20 meters at working lope.
5. Halt through the working walk. Perform a 180 degree turn on the forehand.
6. Circle left 20 meters at the working lope. Transition to working jog and proceed straight ahead.
7. Near end of arena, halt 4 seconds. Back 4 steps. Exit arena or return to the line up at the free walk.



## WESTERN DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION

### SECOND LEVEL TEST A

#### KEY and INSTRUCTIONS

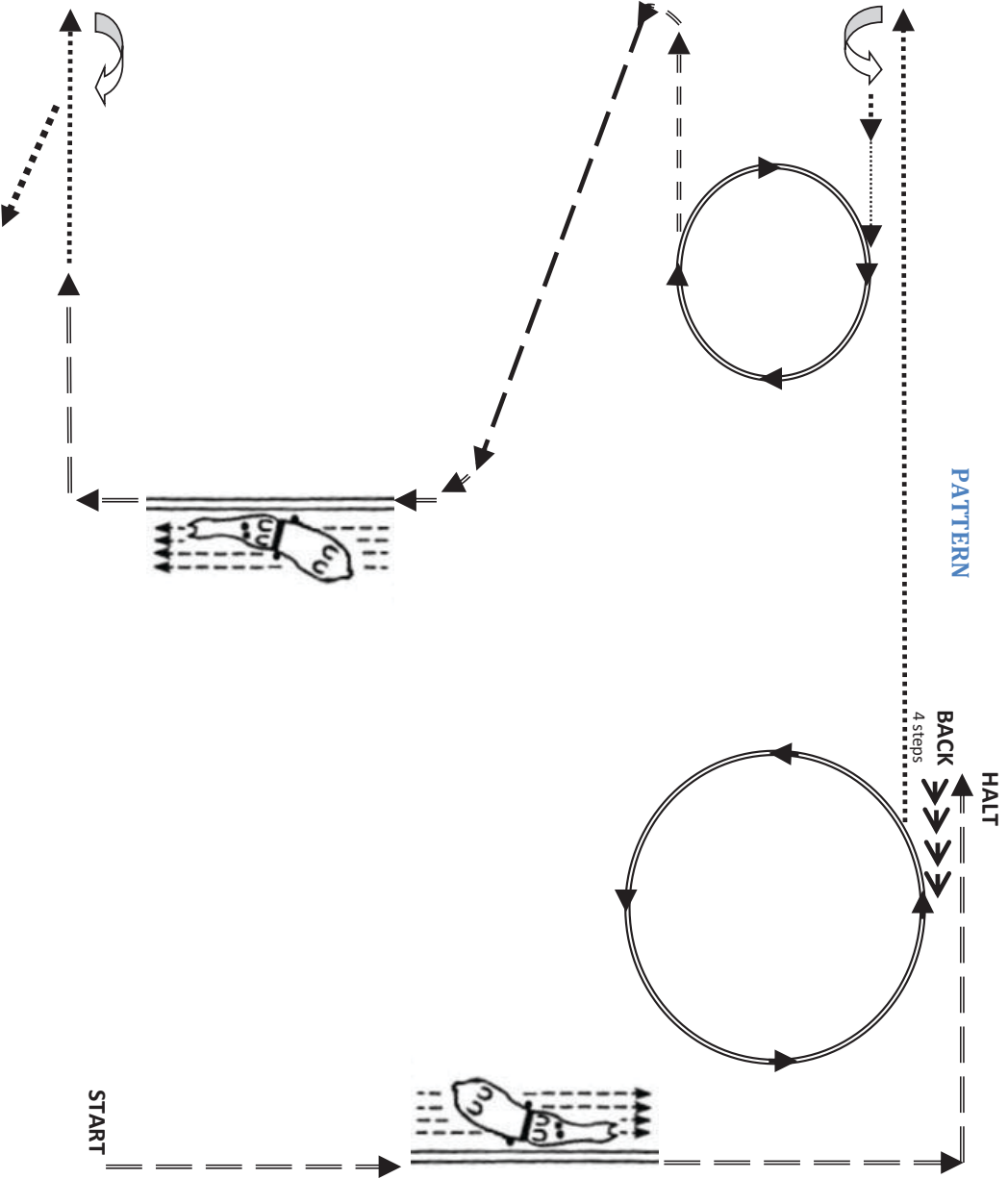
KEY	WESTERN DRESSAGE GAITS
	Collected Walk
	Working Walk
	Free Walk
	Collected Jog
	Working Jog
	Lengthen Stride at the Jog
	Collected Lope
	Turn on the Haunches Left
	Turn on the Haunches Right
	Haunches In (Travers)
	Back

From the gate or line up begin at a collected jog. On the rail to your right, perform haunches in (travers) left one third of the straight away.

1. Straighten and proceed at collected jog for several strides. Track left. Continue at collected jog for one third of arena.
2. Halt. Back 4 steps. Perform a 15 meter circle to the left at collected lope. At completion of the circle transition to the working walk and proceed straight ahead.
3. At the rail perform 180 degree turn on the haunches left. Proceed at the working walk.
4. Collect the walk for a few strides. Transition to the collected lope and perform 1 and 1/2 10 meter circles to the right.
5. Transition to the collected jog. Track left across a diagonal line and lengthen stride at the jog. Return to the collected jog and turn right toward gate.
6. Perform haunches in (travers) right at the collected jog. Straighten for a few strides and track right at the collected jog toward the rail.
7. At the mid-point, transition to the working walk. At the rail, perform 180 degree turn on the haunches right. Exit arena or return to the line up at free walk.

# WESTERN DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION

## SECOND LEVEL TEST A












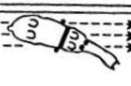


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## WESTERN DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION

### SECOND LEVEL TEST B

#### KEY and INSTRUCTIONS

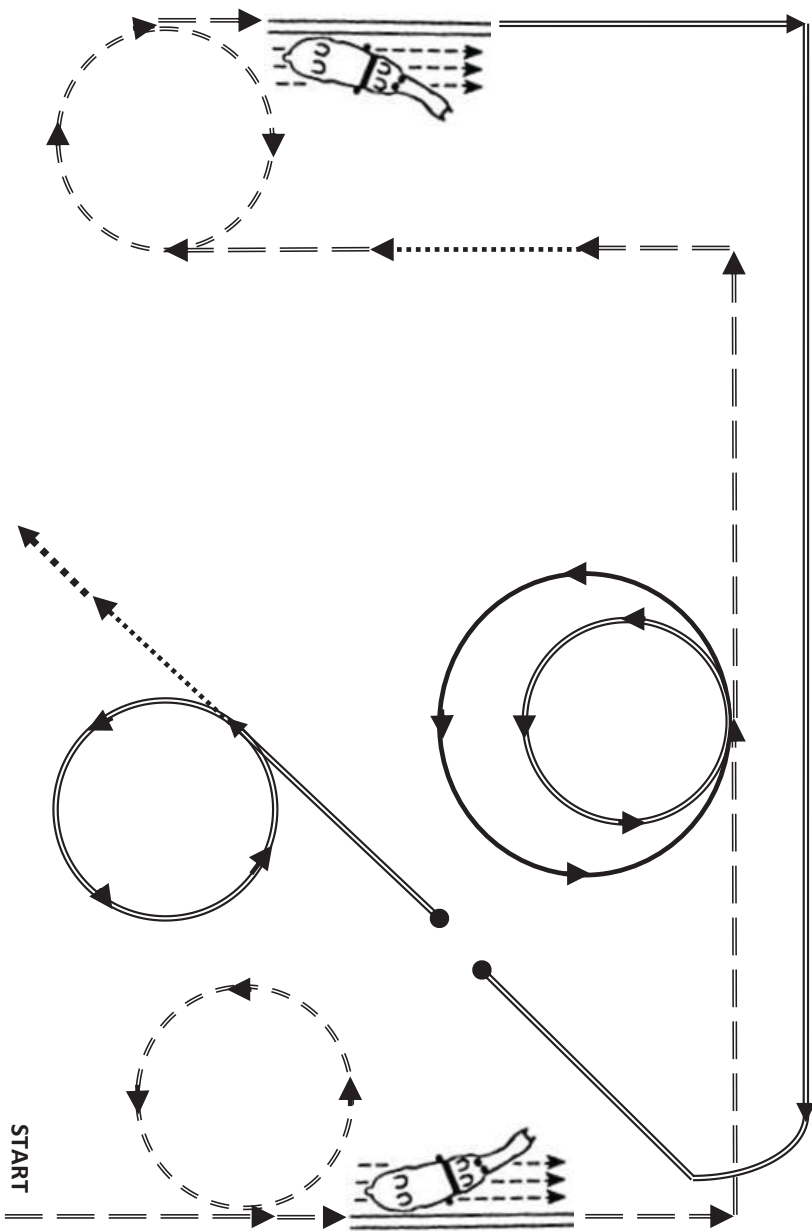
KEY	WESTERN DRESSAGE GAITS
	Collected Walk
	Working Walk
	Free Walk
	Collected Jog
	Working Jog
	Lengthen Stride at the Jog
	Working Lope
	Collected Lope
	Simple Change of Lead
	Turn on the Haunches Left
	Turn on the Haunches Right
	Shoulder In

1. From the gate or line up begin at a collected jog. Circle left 10 meters.
2. Shoulder-in left at the collected jog. Straighten horse and track left.
3. Circle left 20 meters at the working lope. Circle left 10 meters at the collected lope.
4. At completion of circles transition to collected jog. Proceed straight ahead for several strides.
5. Track left. Continue the collected jog for one third of line. Transition to working walk for one third of line.
6. Transition to the collected jog. Perform 1 and 1/2 circles right 10 meters at the collected jog. Proceed straight ahead.
7. Shoulder-in right at the collected jog. Straighten horse and transition to collected lope right lead. Track right.
8. Change rein across the diagonal. At the mid-point perform a simple change of lead.
9. Circle left 10 meters collected lope. Transition to working walk. Exit arena or return to the line up at a free walk.

# WESTERN DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION

## SECOND LEVEL TEST B

### PATTERN



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