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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 its 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 its 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 its hindquarters; uses its back freely; and lifts its forehand. These characteristics of framing and movement are more pronounced as the horse advances in its training and development.
5. The Western Dressage horse carries its body in a straight line when required by the maneuvers of the test; the Western Dressage horse carries itself 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; it willingly accepts a light contact on the bit without tension or resistance. The Western Dressage horse gives the appearance of performing the requested gaits and maneuvers of its 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.
3. Horse/rider combinations may ride the same test twice at the same competition, given they are separate class numbers.
4. No horse may be ridden more than once in any Western Dressage class including separate sections of the same class number.
    a. Horses may be ridden in junior, amateur, and open sections at the same competition.
5. 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.
6. If there is a conflict with breed division rules regarding WD102.2-4, the breed division rules will govern.
7. For purposes of competition in Western Dressage classes:
    a. Junior exhibitor definition: See GR128
    b. Amateur exhibitor definition: 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 Federation Licensed Competition. Adult Amateur riders as defined in GR1306 and GR1307. At non-

Federation Licensed Competitions, organizers should consult the appropriate breed or show rules for eligibility to compete as an Amateur.

c. An individual may not compete as a Junior Rider and as an Amateur in Western Dressage at the same competition.

8. WDAA Membership.
   a. To be eligible to participate and/or compete as an exhibitor, owner, lessee, agent, coach, or trainer in any Western Dressage class or at any Federation Western Dressage Licensed Competition persons must be active members of WDAA or pay a non-member fee equal to the price of an annual membership for each competition. Exception: WDAA membership or non-member fee is not required at a Lite Licensed competition. 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.
   b. WDAA membership is a requirement for participation at the WDAA World Championship Show.
9. Federation Membership. A Federation non-member, who wishes to participate as a rider, owner, lessee, or agent at Regular Federation Competitions, Reining Competitions or Federation Open Western competitions that hold Western Dressage classes, must pay a show pass fee. Eligible exhibitors are prohibited from obtaining more than one (1) Show Pass per competition year. Lessees are considered owners in connection with this membership requirement. In the event of an entry under multiple ownership, only one owner needs to be a Member or pay a show pass fee. The competition is responsible for listing either the active member or the owner that paid the show pass fee in the results.
   Participants in the following classes are exempt from the requirements of this rule: leadline; exhibitions; games and races; classes for 4-H members; walk trot; academy classes, and Opportunity classes.
   Payment of show pass fees for the purpose of competing does not entitle the individual to any privileges of the Federation membership.
10. An exhibitor is not allowed to request a Time-Out in Western Dressage.
11. 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.
12. Competitions may limit the number of rides and/or the number of levels in which horses may compete if printed in the prize list.
13. 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.
14. 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 its strength and balance as a result of correct training will let it carry its rider with ease and confidence while maintaining correct rhythm and a steady tempo at all times.

WD103 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.
    a. Collected Walk. The horse, remaining "on the bit", moves resolutely forward with its 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.
    b. 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.
    c. Free Walk. A relaxed walk with unconstrained, forward reaching steps where hind feet touch the ground in or in front of the footprints of the forefeet. The horse must be relaxed and be allowed complete freedom to lower its head and neck to stretch forward and down and out. The length of stride, rhythm, the relaxation and swing through its back are of great importance.
    d. 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.

WD104 The Jog

1. 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.
2. The jog should show free, active and regular steps.
3. Excessive speed or slowness will be penalized.
4. 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.
5. The following jogs are recognized: Collected jog, Working jog, Lengthening of Strides, and Free Jog.
    a. 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.
    b. 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, Basic and Level 1 tests, the Working jog may be ridden either posting or sitting. In more advanced tests from Level 2 up, the Working jog must be ridden seated.

c. 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.

d. Free Jog. This is a pace that confirms a relaxed, supple topline to facilitate freedom and throughness. Without hurrying, the horse jogs forward in a two-beat gait while stretching downward and forward over the back showing a willingness to reach towards a soft elastic connection. Balance, bend, tempo, and regularity should be maintained as the horse shows increased swing through the back. 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 three 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 its 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, 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 its 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 2-3 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.

9. Gaited horses perform the lope.

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 is a four beat gait that is 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. This is a gait that confirms a relaxed, supple topline to facilitate freedom and throughness. Without hurrying, the horse moves forward in a clear Saddle Gait while stretching downward and forward over the back showing a willingness to reach towards a soft elastic connection. Balance, bend, tempo, and regularity should be maintained as the horse shows increased swing through the back. There should be a smooth willing retake of the reins in transition to the working saddle gait.

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 its 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, going behind the bit, or dropping the poll and neck below the withers, deviation of the hindquarters from the straight line, spreading or inactive hind legs and dragging feet.
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.

5. A back series (Swing) is a combination of two backs with walk steps in between. It should be executed with fluent transitions and the required number of steps. Except for the initial halt, a back series should be performed with continuous movement, with the horse stepping fluidly forward into the required forward gait from the last step of the back.

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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

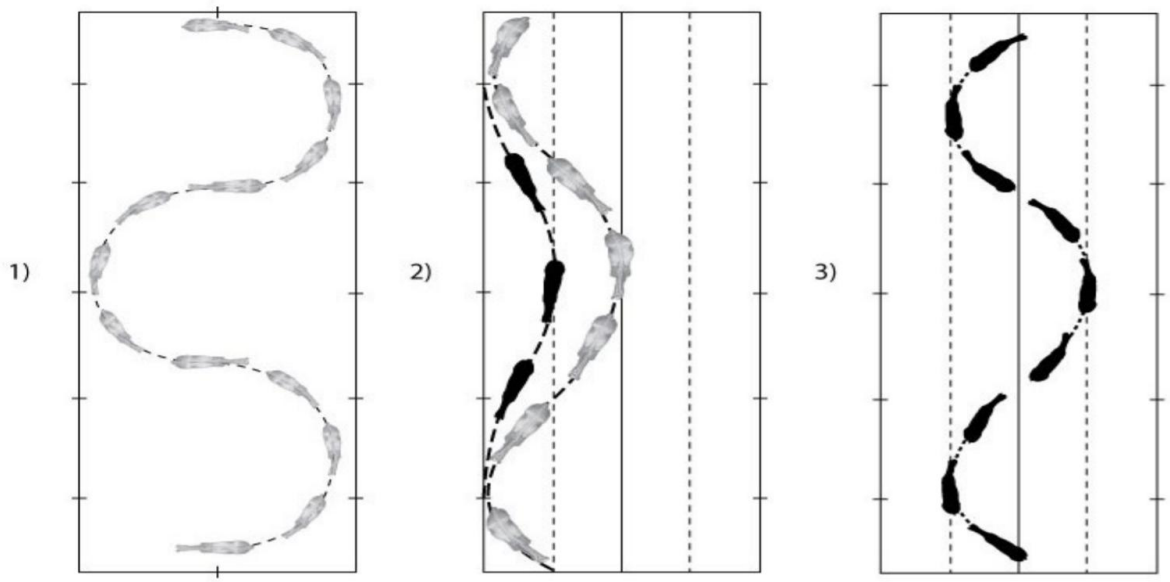
1. The changes of gait and pace should be clearly shown when the rider’s leg is at the prescribed marker; they should be quickly made yet must be smooth and not abrupt. The cadence of a gait or pace should be maintained up to the moment when the gait or pace is changed or the horse halts. The horse should remain light in hand, calm and maintain a correct position.
2. In transitions where the horse approaches the letter from a line on the diagonal or perpendicular to the point where the letter is positioned, the transition must be done when the horse’s nose reaches the track at the letter so that the horse is straight in the transition. This includes the execution of flying changes.

WD111 Changes of Direction

1. At changes of direction, the horse should adjust the bend of its body to the curvature of the line it 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). Short and long diagonal.
   b. Half small circles and half small circles with change of rein.
   c. WD Turn on the forehand and WD Turn on the haunches.
   d. Serpentine loops.
   e. 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 line



   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 their 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 its 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 their 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 its shoulders and the suppleness of its 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.

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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 it 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 it 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 it 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 it 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 it 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.
    1. 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.
    2. 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.
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 it 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.
i. Sidepass. The side pass is a lateral maneuver performed from a halt in which a horse crosses its fore and hind legs to move directly sideways. The horse's body should stay straight and square or flexed slightly in the direction of travel. The horse should remain supple while yielding softly and willingly to subtle aids. When a horse sidepasses, it should be crossing its legs evenly with balance and a consistent walk tempo. In a sidepass to the right, the left front and left hind should cross in front of the respective right front and right hind legs. Loss of balance, counter bending, hesitation, crookedness and outside legs crossing behind inside legs or not crossing are faults.

WD114 WD Turn on the Haunches; Pivot; WD Turn on the Forehand

1. WD Turn on the Haunches
   a. The WD 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 WD 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 WD Turn on the haunches. Switching from one method to the other within the same movement will be penalized. At Level 3 and above, only the pivot may be performed.
   b. For younger horses that are still not able to perform a collected walk, the 'WD Turn on the haunches' is an exercise to prepare the horse for collection. The 'WD 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 its ribcage around the rider's inside leg. The 'WD 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.
2. Pivot
   In keeping with traditional Western Stock horse movements, the horse pivots 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 begin at a walk tempo with forward intention, building speed moderately while maintaining form and fluidity. 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. WD Turn on the Forehand. It is executed out of a halt or a working walk prepared by half-halts to shorten the steps.
   a. The horse's hindquarters make a circle around the horse's front end. To achieve this, the inside hind leg should cross in front of the outside hind leg considering that the inside is the side the horse is flexed towards.
   b. The purpose of this exercise is to supple the horse and teach it to yield to the rider's leg.
   c. WD Turn on the forehand right - the horse is slightly flexed at the poll to the right, when the haunches move to the left yielding to the riders right leg and the right rear hoof crosses in front of the left rear hoof.
   d. WD Turn on the forehand left the horse is slightly flexed at the poll to the left when the haunches move to the right yielding to the rider's left leg and the left rear hoof crosses in front of the right rear hoof.

   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.

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 it 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 its 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 their aids in order to obtain a momentary and passing collecting effect, the head may momentarily become more or less vertical.
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 it 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 it and is confident in the rider by responding to the aids without fear or tension.
    c. The horse's straightness, uphill tendency and balance enable it 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 its ease of movements and acceptance of the bit while staying up in the poll and keeping its nose in front of the vertical. The degree of lightness increases as the horse advances in its 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 their 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 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.
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 WD124)

WD121 Tack

1. Bridles:
   a. Any Western type headstall must be used. This may include leather, leather-like, or nylon headstalls, any of which may be brightly colored.
   b. A cavesson (braided or plain), or pencil bosal with space for two fingers placed between the cavesson and the jowl of the horse is allowed. The inside of the noseband must be smooth and free of any metal, other than the buckle.
   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. The Western Two Rein bridle is permitted. This is a bridle and bit, snaffle or curb ridden over a full or pencil bosal or bosalita. The following are acceptable ways to hold the reins when using a Two Rein bridle:
    1. The two Rein with Snaffle Bit: The two rein with snaffle consists of a snaffle bit and a pencil or full bosal or bosalita. When using a snaffle the rider must ride with two hands whether using a loop rein or split reins. The rider will hold a bosal rein (mecate) and a snaffle rein in each hand.
    2. The two Rein with Curb Bit: The rider has the following choices:
        a. Split Reins: When using a curb bit with Split reins and a pencil bosal or bosalita, the rider can ride with all reins in one hand but can only have one finger between the reins or the rider can ride with a bit rein and a bosal rein in the left hand and a bit rein and bosal rein in the right hand.
        b. Romal Reins: When using a curb bit with Romal Reins and a pencil bosal or bosalita the rider has two options:
            1. A romal must be held with one hand with the romal coming up from the bottom and out of the top of the hand. The bosal rein can then be held in the opposite hand.
            2. A romal and bosal may be ridden in one hand, the reins coming up from the bottom of the hand and out of the top. No fingers can be between the reins.

Note: When using a curb bit as part of the Western two rein bridle, only a pencil bosal or bosalita can be used, not a full bosal.
The end of the mecate called the tail, can be wrapped around the saddle horn or slipped under the rider's belt.

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 smooth, non-abrasive, self-fusing bit wrap; and no less than 5/16 inch (7.9 mm) to ¾ inch (19.05 mm) in diameter measured one inch (25 mm) from the cheek and may be inlaid, if smooth.
            a. Electrical tape, duct tape, medical tape, etc. is not self-fusing, therefore, not allowed.
        2. Three-Piece Mouthpiece: If a mouthpiece is three pieces, a connecting ring must be no larger than 1 ¼ 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 ¾ 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 1/2" (215.9 mm). The mouthpiece will consist of a metal bar 5/16" (7.9 mm) to 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 wrapped with smooth, non-abrasive, self-fusing bit wrap. Electrical tape, duct tape, medical tape, etc. is not self-fusing, therefore, not allowed. (The bars may be encased in smooth 5/16" (7.9 mm) to 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 ¼ inch (31.75 mm) or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of 3/8 to ¾ 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 ½ 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 and must be flexible.

1. Must be flat and must be at least 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse.
2. Curb chain may have leather or nylon adjustable straps connecting the buckle to the chain.
3. No wire, rawhide, metal other substance, or wrapping 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.
5. Leather curb straps may have up to 2 smooth, thin, metal, loop strap keepers.

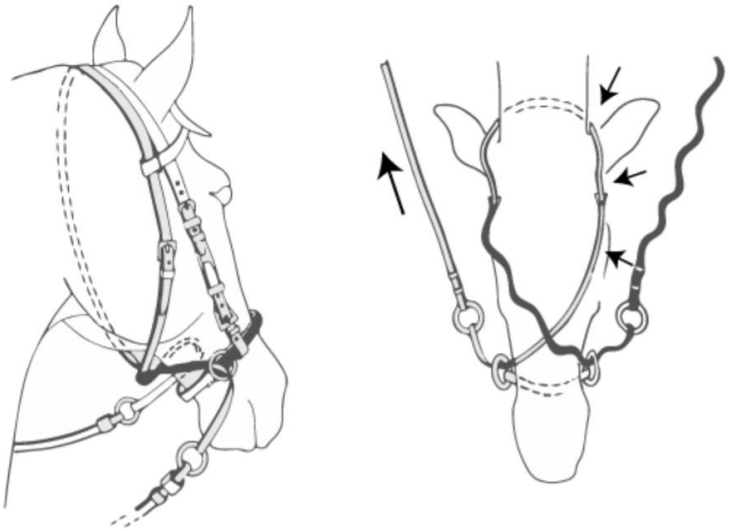
d. A slobber guard on a curb bit is permitted. Rein chains with a spade bit are allowed.

4. Bitless Bridles:

a. A bitless bridle is permitted on a horse of any age at any level.

b. All bitless bridles must be cross-under, of Western style, and made of flat leather or leather like materials.

c. Cross under bitless bridle - a simple and subtle two loop system, one over the poll and one over the nose that embraces the whole of the head, see figure a. and b. No other variations are permissible.



d. Bitless bridles with sidepulls are prohibited.

5. 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 tail can be tied to the saddle horn, held by the rider, or looped in the rider's belt.

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 with a popper, 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 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 holding the popper to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand.

6. Saddle:
   A standard American Western stock saddle with fork/swells, a seat, cantle, skirt, fenders, Western stirrups, and fastened girth or cinch is required. A fender is a solid, wide, continuous piece that extends from the rider's upper thigh to the stirrup on each side of the saddle. A Western side saddle is also acceptable.
   a. Optional and permitted features may include:
      1. Horn
      2. Padding or pads on the seat of saddle
      3. Bucking rolls
      4. Tapaderos, except in Western Dressage Equitation
   b. The following features and style of saddles are not permitted:
      1. Thigh & knee rolls
      2. Saddles: Australian, Baroque, English, McClellan and Spanish
      3. An open loop hand hold attached over the front of the saddle does not meet the requirement for a fork/swell, and is not allowed.
   c. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit.
   d. A breastplate, crupper, and/or breeching may be used.
7. Protective "polo" style leg wraps are permitted, either white or a color closely matching the natural color of the horse as much as possible. Bright colors should be avoided.
8. Bonnets/earmuffs/fly hoods (ear covers) should be discreet in color and design and should not cover the horse's eyes.
9. Whip: One whip/bat/crop no longer than 47.2 inches (120cm) including lash, is permitted in all Classes/Tests.
10. Artificial tails consisting of fabric and hair without additional attachments are permitted. The use of weighted tails is prohibited.

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WD122 Prohibited Equipment

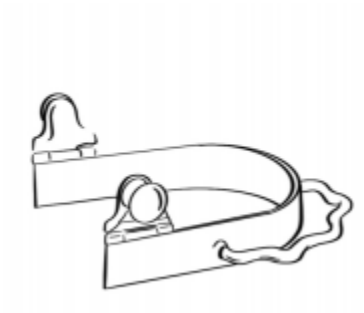
1. Prohibited Bits:
   All curb bits must be free of mechanical devices. Nothing such as extensions, rivets or prongs, may protrude below the mouthpiece (bars). Prohibited bits may include but are not limited to:
   a. Slip or gag bits, half cheeks, snaffle bits with hooks and slots, donut or flat polo 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, and nose covers are cause for elimination.
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: Costumed freestyle.

6. Costumed Freestyle - Any accessories that may frighten other horses and/or threaten the safety of riders in the warm up area may be prohibited in the warm up area, at the discretion of competition management. Horses must wear bridles in all classes.
7. Garrocha poles are prohibited in all classes.
8. Flash, figure eight or dropped nose bands.
9. Mechanical Hackamores.
10. Bitless bridles with sidepulls.
11. Weighted artificial tails.

WD123 Attire

1. Required apparel:
   a. Suitable western hat. Protective headgear may be worn without penalty. (See GR801). Hats and headgear are not required in Costume Freestyle Classes.
   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. Tall English boots, clearly visible on the outside of pants are not permitted. Exception: Current and retired members of the Armed Services and police units may ride in the uniform of their service. All riders who choose to wear Armed Services or police uniforms must wear either the uniform's accompanying hat/head-cover or protective headgear. Members of the Armed Services or police units may wear summer uniforms at the discretion of the judge.
2. Optional apparel:
   a. Necktie, kerchief, bolo tie or pin.
   b. A vest, jacket, coat and/or sweater.
   c. Spurs. Western style, with or without blunt tines, English dressage style, roller ball, and blunt bumper spurs as depicted in Figure A, are permitted. Rowels must be vertical. Spurs with sharp tines are not permitted.
   d. Chaps, shotgun chaps, chinks, armitas, or split riding skirt.
   1.Western half-chaps. Half chaps must have some kind of Western style decorations such as contrasting color scroll, conchos, beading and/or fringe. Plain English half chaps are prohibited.
   e. Protective headgear is not required in any class in the Western Dressage Division unless stated otherwise within these rules. Use of protective headgear cannot be penalized. Protective headgear is acceptable; not required to be of Western style.

Figure A



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SUBCHAPTER WD-6 OFFICIALS

WD124 Judges and Stewards

1. Western Dressage classes offered at Federation licensed competitions must be judged by a Federation 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:
   a. 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, a judge must be a Federation licensed judge in the appropriate breed(s) or a Federation Licensed Western Dressage judge.
   b. Opportunity Classes must be judged by a Federation licensed judge or an individual who has been issued a Guest Card. Conflict of interest rules in GR1040 apply. See GR1004.
2. For additional restrictions see GR1007 - GR1011.
3. C2 Stewards. A Federation Licensed Competition that offers Western Dressage tests/classes may use either a Federation 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 WD120.
   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 mouthpiece 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 Prohibited Equipment (see WD122) apply to warm-up and other training areas; however, training martingales (only with snaffle rein or plain snaffle bridle), boots, and bandages (without magnets) 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 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 in a group setting, two lines are permitted when the horse is being longed alone. 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. Only the following whips are permitted for schooling:

a. One whip/bat/crop no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash, may be carried by the rider when mounted.
b. There is no restriction on the length of whip permitted for working a horse in hand.
c. One longeing whip is permitted only while longeing.

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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. For riders exhibiting gaited horses, the announcer may substitute "saddle gait" or the name of the equivalent gait where the test requires a jog.
   a. 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 them by sounding the bell. The Judge shows them if necessary, the point at which the competitor must take up the test again and the next movement to be executed then leaves them to continue by themselves. If the same error is made when the competitor takes up the test again, only one error is recorded.
   b. Switching from one hand to two hands or vice versa during a test is considered an "error of course". From time to time an unsafe situation may arise that requires a rider to switch from one hand to two hands, or vice versa, at the discretion of the judge, this may be done without penalty so long as there is no unfair advantage given to the rider.
   c. 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 them from the ring.
      4. When the competitor makes an "error of the test" (at the salute does not take the reins in one hand, etc.) they must be penalized as for an "error of the course".
      5. If the judge has not noted an error the competitor has the benefit of the doubt.
      6. 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 they are eliminated. There is no appeal against this 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 their 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, they 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 it 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 their 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 their scheduled time without their 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 their 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.

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 prohibited 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 their 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. In the case of a tie, it is at competition management's discretion whether to break ties and it must be stated in the prize list. If ties are to be broken, the following process must be followed. Exception:AR286
   a. The competitor with the highest scores for Collective Marks shall be declared the winner of the tie;
   b. In the event a tie remains, the competitor with the highest Collective Mark scores by the judge sitting at C shall be declared the winner of the tie;
   c. In the event a tie still remains, the competitor with the highest free walk score shall be declared the winner;
   d. In the event there is a tie on the free walk, the competitor with the highest sum of scores with coefficients greater than one shall be declared the winner;
   e. If a tie remains, the judge(s) must break the tie.
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. A judge is free to leave when all scores from their class/tests are totaled.
7. 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.

8. 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 their representative. Privacy must be maintained.
9. 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. Blatant disobedience (bucking, rearing, striking, etc.) while riding in any class.
   c. Use of prohibited equipment, including rein holds.
   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's mouth or sides in the competition arena shall be cause for elimination from the class by the judge at "C". Evidence of blood on a horse's mouth or sides outside the competition arena shall be cause for elimination by competition management, after consultation with the steward, from either the last class in which the horse competed or next class in which it is scheduled to compete, depending on which is closest to the time the incident occurred. Environmental causes such as insect bites shall normally not be cause for elimination.
   m. Failure of the competitor to wear their number.
   n. Fall of a horse and/or rider.
   o. Any situation where a direct rule violation can be cited. Where a violation cannot be cited, a competitor is not eliminated.

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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 sections based on qualifications, age or other eligibility of horses or riders.
3. Sections of a class are considered to be a separate "class" only if listed as such in the prize list. Sections of a class may be held in different rings and judged by different judges. When 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 sections, and to provide separate awards for Open riders, Amateurs, and Junior. Horses may be ridden only once in any class, including separate 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 their intention to scratch (i.e. is a "no show").

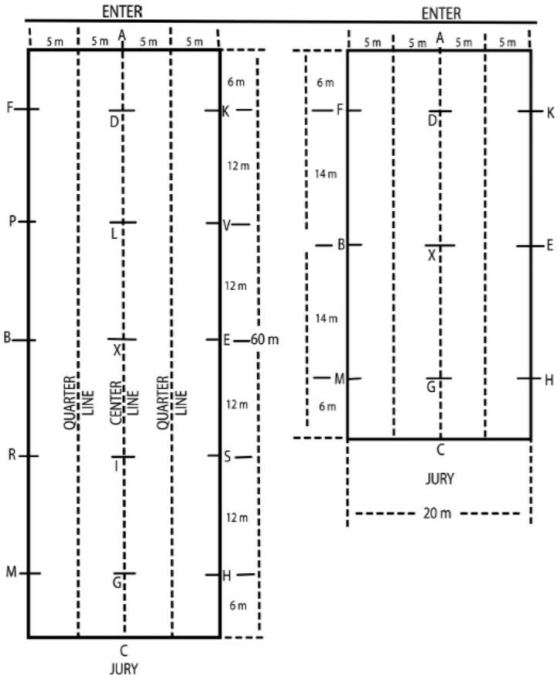
d. Western Dressage classes must be run in their entirety and rides may only be scheduled out of sequence to allow a reasonable interval between two or more horses entered by the same rider in the same class. Also, when preparing a time schedule consideration must be given to riders entered in more than 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.
h. Prior to the start of a class section, exhibitors and their horses may be provided access to the competition arena. Show management may designate time(s) for this access.

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 place 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. A separate number must be issued for each horse/rider combination. Exception: Arabians see AR112.2a. This number must be worn when the horse is in the designated schooling area and during the competition.

    b. The Prize List must state if ties will be broken or not. See WD127.3 for tie breaking system.



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. A link to the tests is located on the Federation website at www.usef.org. Competitions are permitted to hold gaited classes but they are to be held as separate classes. If gaited classes are not being held at a competition, then gaited and non-gaited horses are permitted to compete together in the same class. The gaits required in lieu of the jog are defined in Subchapter WD-2.

Walk/Jog Tests:

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. To be eligible for Intro Level, a horse/rider combination must not have shown in a Western Dressage Test at Level 1 or above in the same competition year.
2. Advanced Walk/Jog. Tests provide a more advanced understanding of the aids. The rider should demonstrate correct position and use of the aids. The horse should demonstrate improved balance and the beginnings of engagement in the jog and show suppleness of the topline, a harmonious performance, and be softly on the aids. The regularity and quality of the gaits are considered in all movements.

Walk/Jog/Lope Tests:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 and rein release. 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 collected lope. The movements should be performed with greater bending, suppleness, balance and self-carriage than in Level 2.
5. 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.
6. Level 5. Tests confirm that the horse has achieved the suppleness, impulsion, thoroughness and clear uphill balance required in Level 4. The marked lightness of the forehand resulting from improved engagement and collection is demonstrated in the half lope pirouette. The flying lead changes reveal the responsiveness and obedience of the horse to the aids. A solid foundation is evidenced throughout by a calm, willing, harmonious performance. The regularity and quality of the gaits are considered in all movements.
7. Level 6. To Confirm that the horse has achieved the suppleness, impulsion, thoroughness and clear uphill balance required in Level 5. The marked lightness of the forehead resulting from improved engagement and collection is demonstrated in the full lope pirouette. Obedience to the aids and adjustability is confirmed through more demanding transitions and movements. A solid foundation is evidenced throughout by a calm, willing, harmonious performance with light use of aids. The regularity and quality of the gaits are considered in all movements.

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SUBCHAPTER WD-9 FREESTYLE

WD131 Western Dressage 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 they choose 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 they will be riding. Horse-rider combinations competing in walk jog events are not eligible to compete at levels that include the lope and horses competing in lope classes are not eligible to compete in Intro Freestyle at the same competition.
   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. In case of rider's music failing before or during a test and in cases where there is no backup system, the riders can, with permission of the judge at "C", leave the arena or start at a later time. There should be minimum interference with the starting times of the other riders and the affected riders should return to complete or restart their test during a scheduled break in the competition or at the end of the competition. The riders may decide whether to restart the test from the beginning or to commence from the point where the music failed. Judging must restart at the point of interruption, not changing marks already given. It is the rider's responsibility to notify the judge if there is an issue with the music once the test starts. This includes the wrong music or music that cuts out or is corrupted in some way. The rider should stop riding the test and let the judge at C know about the issue with the music.
   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. Movements performed after the time limit has elapsed will not be scored.
   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. Technical Execution Marks may be given in half or full points. Artistic Impression Marks may be given in one tenth (.1) points (recommended to decrease frequency of ties). In case of a tie, the higher total for "Artistic Impression" will break the tie.
      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 and cohesiveness. Edits in music are smooth/flowing.
         e. Interpretation: music must express gaits and paces, with use of lyrics and dynamics to enhance performance.
         f. Freestyles are to be ridden in the large (20 X 60 meter) ring unless otherwise specified in the prize list.
      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.
         c. Riders are permitted to switch from one hand to two hands or vice versa during their test.
2. Penalties:
   a. Within 45 seconds of the entry bell the rider must either enter the arena, signal the sound engineer, or be eliminated. 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. All Compulsory Elements for the level must be incorporated into the freestyle program. These are listed on the scoresheet under Technical Execution. Performing a dressage movement (including figures and transitions) only found in a higher-level test than the one being declared is strictly forbidden. Four (4) points will be deducted for forbidden movements and above the level movements. They are not cumulative and will not result in elimination. Any figures, pattern, combinations, or transitions composed of elements permitted in the declared level are permitted.
d. The first and final halt and salute must be near the centerline facing C.

3. Costumed Freestyle:
Costumes are allowed only in specially designated costume classes and only if permitted in the prize list. Costumes should be designed to enhance the theme of the ride and interpretation of the music. All tack rules in WD121 and WD122 apply to Costumed freestyle. Officials may request removal of any accessories they consider unsafe for other horses and/or riders in the warm up ring. Colorful leg wraps, ribbons, flowers etc. may be used as part of the costume. Riders are encouraged to wear a costume or themed attire, but specific style is left up to their discretion. Headgear is optional. Boots or shoes with a discernable heel must be worn.
4. Pairs Freestyle:
Pairs Freestyle is an artistic program created to present two horses and riders performing together. Pairs Freestyle must include movements and figures choreographed to meet the technical requirements of the particular level with music chosen to highlight the pair. It is judged according to the "Technical Execution" (performance as a pair, required elements, impulsion and submission), and the "Artistic Impression" (Harmony, Choreography, Music and Interpretation). It is performed in a standard dressage arena (20 X 60 m) unless otherwise specified in the prize list. A copy of the program is not required to be submitted in advance. Current WDAA scoresheets must be used. Pairs Freestyle may be offered at any level.
a. Competitors must declare the level they are riding at. Horses competing in walk jog events are not eligible to compete at levels that include the lope.
b. Time: There is no minimum time requirement. There is a maximum limit of five minutes for Intro, Basic, and Level 1 and six minutes for Level 2 and higher. Movements performed after the time limit has elapsed will not be scored. One point will be deducted from the total points for "Artistic Impression" for exceeding the time limit. The first rider must enter the arena or signal the sound engineer within 45 seconds of the entry bell or the team may be eliminated. The first rider must enter the arena within 20 seconds of the start of the music or the team may be eliminated at the discretion of the Judge. Pairs must salute the judge at C at the beginning and end of the test. The program is timed and judged from the move off the initial halt and salute. Timing and judging will cease at the final salute.
c. Music: Music is mandatory. Refer to WD131.1(b).
d. Equipment and turn out: Attire and equipment must conform with Federation rules, with the following exceptions: Colorful leg wraps may be used. Costumes are allowed only in designated costume classes and only if permitted in the prize list. Similarity of equipment and turnout will be considered in the scoring. Riding with one hand is permitted. Riders in a Pairs Freestyle are permitted to hold hands for the duration of one movement when safe to do so, during each test.

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SUBCHAPTER WD-10 WESTERN 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 Level 1 or above and/or shown in a Western Dressage Hack class.
2. Refer to WD101 for Goals and Objectives, WD110 for Transitions, WD116-117 for Collection, Impulsion and Submission and WD119 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.
5. Walk-Jog Suitability may be offered with the same specifications, with the exception that the working lope must not be called for.
6. Horses participating in Walk Jog Suitability are prohibited from competing in Walk-jog-lope suitability at the same show.

SUBCHAPTER WD-11 WESTERN 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, WD116-117 for Collection, Impulsion and Submission and WD119 for Position and Aids of the Rider.

WD138 Appointments

Refer to Subchapter WD-5

WD139 Qualifying Gaits

Refer to WD103-105.

WD140 Western Dressage Hack Objectives

In addition to the objectives as defined in WD135 Western 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 may only be asked for 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 judge's discretion. 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 (WD140); 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 Seat Equitation

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

WD143 Western Dressage Seat Equitation Objectives

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

WD144 Western Dressage Seat Equitation on the Rail Class Specifications

1. Western Dressage Seat on the Rail may be offered in the categories listed in this rule:
   a. Open to all riders.
   b. Amateur for Adult Amateur riders as defined in WD102.7.b.
   c. Junior for junior riders as defined in WD102.7.a. A competition may choose to break the Junior rider category down by age.
   d. Maiden, novice and limit riders as defined in GR136.
2. Walk-Jog Western Dressage Seat Equitation on the Rail is performed on the rail and is shown at the walk and working jog, both directions. Horses should back easily and stand quietly in the lineup.
   a. This class may not be combined with walk, jog, lope classes.
   b. The jog is to be ridden sitting.
   c. If a rider competes in Walk-Jog Western Dressage Seat Equitation on the Rail, they are prohibited from competing in any class involving a lope at the same competition.
3. Western Dressage Seat Equitation on the rail is performed on the rail and is shown at the walk, working jog, and working lope, both directions. Horses should back easily and stand quietly in the lineup.
   a. This class may not be combined with walk jog classes.
   b. The jog is to be ridden sitting.
4. The judge must walk the line to verify riders are in compliance with WD rules on attire and equipment.
5. Scoring:
   a. To be judged on (in no particular order):
      1. Rider position
      2. Correct and effective use of aids
      3. Harmony
      4. Accuracy
   b. Faults include:
      1. Posting the jog (Riders who post must be placed below riders sitting the jog)
      2. Break of gait
      3. Obviously looking down to check leads
      4. Missing leads
      5. Not performing the specific gait promptly
      6. Loss of stirrup
      7. Horse's head carried too low or clearly behind the vertical
      8. Loss of rein
      9. Holding the saddle
   c. Eliminations include:
      1. Misrepresentation of entry or inappropriate entry
      2. Failure to display correct number
      3. Cruelty including excessive spurring or schooling
      4. Fall of horse or rider
      5. Prohibited equipment
      6. Prohibited use of hands on reins per WD121
      7. Horse's tongue tied down

8. Unauthorized assistance
9. All four hooves leave arena
10. Evidence of blood on horse
11. Lameness
12. Concern for the safety of rider, other participants, or their horses
13. Blatant disobedience (bucking, rearing, striking, etc.)

WD145 Western Dressage Seat Horsemanship Class Specifications

1. The following class restrictions apply to Western Dressage Seat Horsemanship:
   a. Classes may be offered as Open, Junior Rider, and Adult Amateur
      1A. Competition may choose to offer one, two, or all three class types.
   b. Amateur for Adult Amateur riders as defined in WD102.7.b.
   c. Junior for junior riders as defined in WD102.7.a.
   d. A competition may choose to offer Junior Rider, Adult Amateur or both classes.
   e. Adult Amateur and Junior Rider cannot be combined at the same competition.
2. Western Dressage Horsemanship is a pattern only class. Patterns must be selected by the judge from the WDAA website and must be posted at least one hour prior to the start of the class.
3. Riders may enter Walk-Jog Horsemanship, Intermediate Horsemanship, or Advanced Horsemanship. Patterns for these classes must be chosen from the WDAA website.
4. If a rider competes in Walk-Jog Horsemanship, they are prohibited from competing in any class involving a lope at the same competition.
5. Cross entry between intermediate and advanced level Western Dressage Seat Horsemanship is prohibited at the same competition.

6. Scoring:
   a. Riders to be scored from 0-50. Patterns to be broken into 5 maneuvers each scored from 0-10 on judge's impression of (in no particular order):
      1. Rider position
      2. Correct and effective use of aids
      3. Harmony
      4. Accuracy
   b. Patterns to be broken into 5 maneuvers each scored from 0-10 on judge's impression of the same criteria.
   c. Faults include:
      1. Posting the collected or working jog (Riders who post must receive a zero "0" maneuver score for those segments of the score sheet)
      2. Failure to complete the course as written
      3. Break of gait
      4. Obviously looking down to check leads
      5. Missing leads
      6. Not performing the specific gait promptly
      7. Loss of stirrup
      8. Horse's head carried too low or clearly behind the vertical
      9. Loss of rein
      10. Holding the saddle
   d. Eliminations include:

      1. Off course (impossible to discern whether the entry is using the correct pattern)
      2. Misrepresentation of entry or inappropriate entry
      3. Failure to display correct number
      4. Cruelty including excessive spurring or schooling

5. Fall of horse or rider
6. Prohibited equipment
7. Prohibited use of hands on reins per WD121
8. Horse's tongue tied down
9. Unauthorized assistance
10. All four hooves leave arena
11. Evidence of blood on horse
12. Lameness
13. Concern for the safety of rider, other participants or their horses.
14. Blatant disobedience (bucking, rearing, striking, etc.)

WD146 Western Dressage Seat Combined Equitation

1. The following class restrictions apply to Western Dressage Seat Combined Equitation classes:
   a. Amateur for Adult Amateur riders as defined in WD102.7.b.
   b. Junior for Junior riders as defined in WD102.7.a.
   c. A competition may choose to break the Junior rider category down by age.
2. Riders will perform on the rail and then execute a pattern. Patterns must be selected by the judge from the WDAA website and must be posted one hour prior to the start of the class. Judges are required to work all riders on the pattern.
3. Western Dressage Seat Combined Equitation has three divisions:
   a. Western Dressage Seat Combined Equitation Walk-Jog. Pattern includes maneuvers performed in Intro Level Western Dressage tests and must be selected by the judge from the Walk-Jog patterns listed on the WDAA website.
   b. Western Dressage Seat Combined Equitation Intermediate. Pattern includes maneuvers performed in Basic and Level 1 Western Dressage tests and must be selected by the judge from the Intermediate patterns listed on the WDAA website.
   c. Western Dressage Seat Combined Equitation Advanced. Pattern includes maneuvers performed in Level 2 or higher Western Dressage tests and must be selected by the judge from the Advanced patterns listed on the WDAA website.
   d. If a rider competes in Western Dressage Seat Combined Equitation Walk-Jog, they are prohibited competing in any class involving a lope at the same competition.
   e. Cross entry between intermediate and advanced level Western Dressage Seat Combined Equitation is prohibited at the same competition.
4. During the class, riders must follow the WD rules on proper use of equipment.
5. The dropping of bits, and inspection of protective leg equipment is mandatory. The C2 Steward or designated person will perform the inspection immediately following the test. The rider must dismount; if necessary, they may have appropriate assistance. Failure to comply will result in elimination.
6. Scoring: The rail work is to count 50% and the pattern 50%.
   a. Riders to be scored from 0-100. Rail work is scored from 0-50 on judge's impression of (in no particular order):
      1. Rider position
      2. Correct and effective use of aids
      3. Harmony
      4. Accuracy
   b. Patterns to be broken into 5 maneuvers each scored from 0-10 on judge's impression of the same criteria.
   c. Faults include:
      1. Posting the collected or working jog (Riders who post must receive a zero "0" maneuver score for those segments of the score sheet)
      2. Failure to complete the course as written
      3. Break of gait
      4. Obviously looking down to check leads,
      5. Missing leads,
      6. Not performing the specific gait promptly,

7. Loss of stirrup,
8. Horse's head carried too low or clearly behind the vertical,
9. Loss of rein,
10. Holding the saddle,

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

APPENDIX A EQUITATION PATTERNS

Western Dressage Seat Equitation Patterns can be downloaded from the WDAA Website at: www.westerndressageassociation.org/wda

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