

# GRADE 1

## LEAD REIN

To progress from Grade 1 to Grade 2, riders must be able to:

- 1 mount from mounting block with minimal assistance
- 2 sit confidently while girth and stirrups are adjusted
- 3 independently hold reins correctly
- 4 sit in correct position without unduly influencing the horse's balance in walk
- 5 independently direct the horse to halt
- 6 independently direct the horse to walk on
- 7 independently direct the horse to trot on
- 8 consistently follow basic instructions and concentrate for a full lesson
- 9 understand the importance of keeping safe distances from other horses and riders

# GRADE 2

## BEGINNER

To progress from Grade 2 to Grade 3, riders must be able to:

- ① understand checking girth, untwisting reins and adjusting stirrups
- ② consistently hold reins correctly and at an appropriate length in walk and trot
- ③ run up stirrups and loosen girth at end of session
- ④ independently steer changes of rein in walk:
  - A to C
  - E to B
  - M to K
  - F to Hand vice versa
- ⑤ independently steer 20m circle in walk
- ⑥ comfortably rising trot a full lap of the arena without holding onto the saddle or reliance on reins
- ⑦ walk between ground poles
- ⑧ walk over single ground poles
- ⑨ follow and understand some more complex instructions
- ⑩ ride as part of a ride

# GRADE 3

## DEVELOPING (TROT)

To progress from Grade 3 to Grade 4, riders must be able to:

- ① check girth and prepare stirrups before mounting
- ② mount independently from mounting block
- ③ adjust girth and stirrups with assistance
- ④ untack at end of session with assistance
- ⑤ remove feet from stirrups and re-find them without assistance in halt
- ⑥ consistently adjust rein length as needed in walk and trot
- ⑦ hold both reins in one hand in walk
- ⑧ remain balanced and safe in walk and trot
- ⑨ ride a straight centre line in walk
- ⑩ independently steer changes of rein in trot:
  - A to C
  - E to B
  - M to K
  - F to Hand vice versa
- ⑪ independently steer 20m circle in trot
- ⑫ identify the correct trotting diagonal
- ⑬ walk and trot over multiple ground poles, keeping straight
- ⑭ follow and understand more complex instructions
- ⑮ ride as part of a ride, keeping consistent distances
- ⑯ ride as lead file in a ride

# GRADE 4

## DEVELOPING (CANTER)

To progress from Grade 4 to Grade 5, riders must be able to:

- 1 adjust girth and stirrups independently
- 2 untack at end of session independently
- 3 remove feet from stirrups and re-find them without assistance in walk and trot
- 4 hold both reins in one hand in trot
- 5 remain balanced and safe in all three paces
- 6 consistently ride on the correct trotting diagonal without reminder
- 7 independently steer changes of rein in trot:
  - centre line (keeping straight)
  - short diagonal
  - demivault
- 8 ride a three loop serpentine in trot with appropriate changes of diagonal
- 9 canter a full lap of the arena without holding onto the saddle or reliance on reins
- 10 consistently maintain and adjust rein length as needed in canter
- 11 independently steer 20m circle in canter
- 12 identify the correct canter lead
- 13 walk and trot over cavalettis, keeping straight on both approach and exit
- 14 jumping position in walk and trot
- 15 ride as part of a drill ride, including split rides and interlocking movements
- 16 ride an Intro dressage test

# GRADE 5

## DEVELOPING (POLES/JUMP)



To progress from Grade 5 to Grade 6, riders must be able to:

- ① independently warm up their horse in directed rein open order (everyone going the same direction)
- ② independently steer more complex movements in walk and trot:
  - quarter line (keeping straight)
  - shallow loop
  - 10m circle
- ③ confidently walk and trot without stirrups
- ④ consistently identify the correct canter lead
- ⑤ perform halt-trot and trot-halt indirect transitions
- ⑥ canter a full lap of the school in jumping position/light seat
- ⑦ sitting trot a full lap of the arena
- ⑧ confidently steer in trot around 3 or more small independent jumps\*
- ⑨ consistently canter over a 60cm fence, maintaining rhythm and a straight approach and exit\*
- ⑩ trot through more complex polework patterns
- ⑪ begin to understand the importance of correct bend and how to influence it
- ⑫ ride a Prelim dressage test, with a caller if needed

\*We recommend that all riders work towards these goals before making a decision not to jump. However, if you intend to pursue the flatwork track, at your instructor's discretion these goals may be completed over cavelettis

# GRADE 6

## PROGRESSION (INITIAL)

To progress from Grade 6 to Grade 7, riders must be able to:

- ① understand and explain the 'rules of the school'
- ② independently warm up their horse in open order
- ③ show some lateral movements:
  - leg yield to the track in walk
  - leg yield away from the track in walk
  - leg yield to the track in trot
  - turn on the forehand
- ④ consistently ride corners and circles in correct bend
- ⑤ consistently strike off on the correct canter lead
- ⑥ confidently canter without stirrups
- ⑦ perform walk-canter and canter-walk indirect transitions
- ⑧ figure 8 in canter with simple changes
- ⑨ trot and canter through more complex polework patterns
- ⑩ begin to understand the horse's rhythm and way of going
- ⑪ begin to understand how to encourage a horse to engage their hind quarters

### *JUMPING TRACK ONLY*

- ⑫ confidently and consistently canter around a course of 6 or more independent jumps, including a related distance and a double
- ⑬ consistently canter over a 90cm fence, maintaining rhythm and a straight approach and exit

### *FLATWORK TRACK ONLY*

- ⑫ sitting trot more complex manoeuvres
- ⑬ ride a Prelim dressage test without a caller

# GRADE 7

## PROGRESSION (DEVELOPMENT)

To progress from Grade 7 to Grade 8, riders must be able to:

- ① fully independently tack up, mount and warm up their horse in open order
- ② show lateral movements:
  - leg yield away from the track in trot
  - shoulder in in walk and trot
  - turn about the forehand
  - leg yield on a circle
- ③ influence and adjust tempo and stride length in all three paces
- ④ identify canter lead through feel
- ⑤ rising trot without stirrups

### *JUMPING TRACK ONLY*

- ⑥ maintain rhythm, straightness and position through a series of at least 3 raised poles / bounces
- ⑦ confidently ride through a grid of at least 4 fences up to 1m
- ⑧ consistently adjust stride length between two related distance fences (3/4/5 strides)

### *FLATWORK TRACK ONLY*

- ⑥ consistently school in a frame and correct bend
- ⑦ figure 8 in canter with flying changes
- ⑧ ride a Novice dressage test

## GRADE 8 TRAINING

Grade 8 riders will be experienced enough to work with their instructor to develop a focussed skills-based training programme to progress their riding in line with their personal goals