



JUMPING INTO WESTERN DRESSAGE

THE HORSE



Quarter Horse



Thoroughbred



Lusitano



Friesian



Arabian

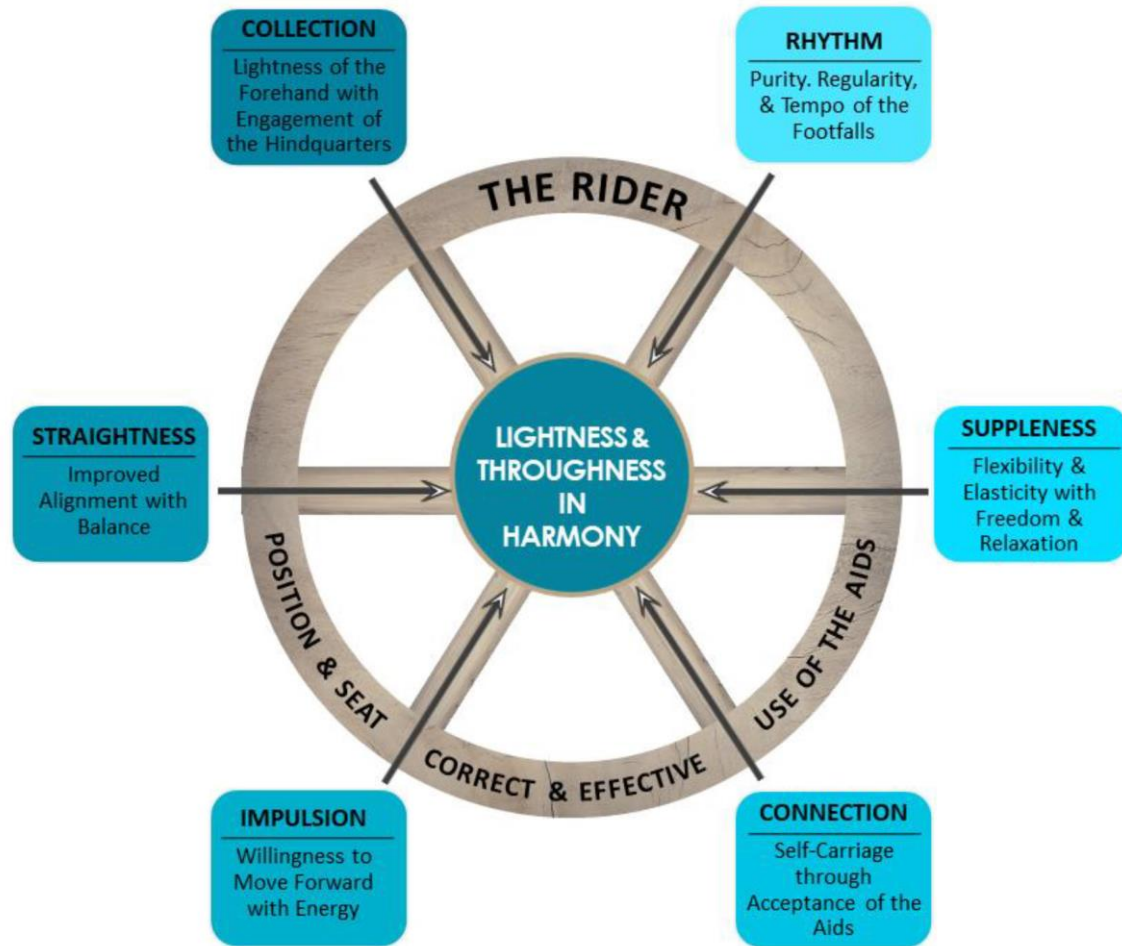


TWH

WD101 Goals and Objectives

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

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



WDAA TRAINING “WHEEL”

RHYTHM

- Definition per WDAA: The recurring characteristic sequence and timing of footfalls and phases of a gait, e.g. four-beat, threebeat, two-beat. For Western Dressage purposes, the only correct rhythms are those of pure walk, jog, lope and the back. Rhythm is sometimes mistakenly used to mean “tempo” (rate of repetition of rhythm).
- Purity of gait
- Regular sequence of footfalls in each gait (walk, jog, lope)
- Within an appropriate correct and consistent tempo
- Walk - four time beat marching gait in a regular cadence with equal intervals between each beat
- Jog - two-beat gait of alternate diagonal legs (left fore and right hind leg and vice versa) separated by a moment of suspension. The jog should show free, active and regular steps
- Lope - The lope is a gait with three equal, regular beats with time of suspension after the third beat. One stride equals 3 beats, or three footfalls. This gait may be demonstrated on right or left lead. Footfall sequence in right lead is: left hind, right hind and left fore together, right fore, then suspension. Footfall sequence in left lead: right hind, left hind and right fore together, left fore, then suspension.

SUPPLENESS

- Definition per WDAA: Range of motion of the joints and the ability to move the joints freely. Pliability, flexibility, the opposite of stiffness. A horse's suppleness is largely determined by conformation and genetics but may be improved or negatively impacted over time through training.
- The flexibility and elasticity of the horse with freedom and relaxation. Suppleness is relevant to the horse's conformation, the way the horse is put together (bones, angle of the joints, etc.) but over time with correct training and conditioning, the muscles, ligaments and tendons can be improved as with any athlete.
- Relaxation allows the muscles to be free from contraction, and is essential for the horse to develop flexibility, strength and ease of movement. Elasticity is exhibited by the horse stretching and contracting his muscles smoothly, demonstrating a stretchiness or springiness. Relaxation also refers to the horse's mind, being free from mental anxiety



CONNECTION

- Definition per WDAA: State at which there is no blockage, break, or slack in the circuit that joins the horse and rider into a single, harmonious, elastic unit. A prerequisite for throughness. The energy generated in the hindquarters by the driving aids must flow through the whole body of the horse and is received in the rider's hands.
- Developing self-carriage through acceptance of the aids. Our wheel includes connection rather than contact because our horses have the option of being trained bitless (bosal, hackamore, bitless bridles), therefore the word contact with reference to a bit is not appropriate for our discipline.
- Self-carriage, being ridden from back to front while accepting the rider's driving aids into a soft, allowing feel of the hands
- When a stretch circle in the jog or a free walk is demonstrated, the horse shows a desire to seek the "feel" of the rider and stretches his neck out and slightly downward. As he moves up the levels and becomes stronger, more engaged, and better balanced, he learns to lighten his front end and develop self-carriage.

IMPULSION

- Definition per WDAA: The transmission of an eager and energetic, yet controlled positive forward energy generated from the hindquarters into the athletic movement of the horse. It is the desire to move forward with relaxation and swing of the back, elasticity of the steps, correct stepping through and under from behind. Impulsion describes the willingness of the horse to allow its forward energy to be used and shaped by the rider. Impulsion has a phase of suspension in the jog and lope, and therefore does not apply to the walk, which has no suspension.
- Willingness to move forward with energy
- The horse uses the power in his hindquarters to carry himself forward with spring, elasticity and suppleness in his back
- Impulsion also includes the “air time” or a period of suspension in the jog and the lope. Since there is no suspension in the walk, we do not refer to Impulsion when discussing the walk or the saddle gaits of gaited horses
- Impulsion is a component of the development of the medium paces and extended paces of the gaits.



STRAIGHTNESS

- Definition per WDAA a) On straight lines, the horse's shoulders should be directly in front of the hind legs. b) On a curved line the horse should be correctly and evenly bent from poll to tail.
- improved alignment with balance
- To help the horse become more “even” in their capabilities
- Utilizing lots of gymnastic exercises that require using both hind legs more evenly, strengthening them for better longitudinal (back to front) and lateral (left and right) balance to improve straightness. This is a very important step in all phases of training, and critical when preparing for collected work

COLLECTION

- Definition per WDAA: 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. The horse's frame and steps become shorter with more uphill balance while maintaining impulsion . At collected jog and lope the support phase of the hind legs is more pronounced than in the other paces of the gait.
- Collection is developed by the horse bending the joints of his hind legs to carry his weight increasingly on his hindquarters while using his thoracic-sling muscles to push himself up and back over his hindquarters, lightening his forehand. The steps in collection tend to be shorter and more powerful, with the rider's aids becoming lighter.

SUBCHAPTER WD-4 COLLECTION, SUBMISSION, IMPULSION, AIDS

WD115 Collection

1. Collection is achieved by increased weight bearing of the horse's haunches, thereby lowering the croup and

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lightening the forehand to allow the shoulders more freedom.

2. The aim of the collection of the horse is to add to the ease and carriage of the horse, to increase the strength and athleticism, and to make him more pleasurable to ride.
3. Horses ridden with the face behind the vertical plane must be penalized.
4. The position of the head and neck of a horse at the collected gaits is naturally dependent on the stage of training and on his conformation. It should, however, be distinguished by the neck being raised and unrestrained, forming a harmonious curve from the withers to the poll which is the highest point. The head is slightly in front of the vertical. However, when the rider applies his aids in order to obtain a momentary and passing collecting effect, the head may momentarily become more or less vertical.
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".

COLLECTION

COLLECTIVE REMARKS



WDAA 2022 WESTERN DRESSAGE LEVEL 1 TEST 3

WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION® OF AMERICA

*COEFFICIENT

COLLECTIVE MARKS	POINTS	*	TOTAL	REMARKS
GAITS: freedom and regularity; elasticity of the steps.		1		
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		1		
RIDER'S POSITION, SEAT AND HANDS: well-balanced elastic seat demonstrating vertical, centered alignment, with light independent contact from hand(s)		1		
RIDER'S CORRECT AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THE 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		1		
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.		2		
SUBTOTAL:	total of points and coefficients above			
ERRORS:	subtract from subtotal			
TOTAL POINTS:	subtotal minus any errors			
REMARKS:				

WD116 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 Position and Aids of the Rider

1. All the Western Dressage movements should be obtained with imperceptible aids and without apparent effort of the

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rider. The rider should be well-balanced, elastic, sitting deep in the center of the saddle, smoothly absorbing the movement of the horse with his core muscles, supple thighs with the legs steady and stretched well down. The heels should be the lowest point with the ankles relatively relaxed. The upper part of the body should be tall and supple demonstrating a vertical alignment of shoulder to hip to heel. The light contact of the rider's hands should be independent from the rider's seat. The hands should be carried steadily in a style appropriate to the style of rein and bit being used with a straight line from the supple elbow through the hand to the horse's mouth. The elbows should be close to the body. All of these criteria enable the rider to follow the movements of the horse smoothly and freely.

2. The rider may use one or two hands with a curb bit but may not go from one handed to two handed during an 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. BOD 1/16/16 Effective 12/1/16*
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. The effectiveness of the rider's aids determines the accurate fulfillment of the required movements of the tests. 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.



HARMONY

- Definition per WDAA: References the relationship between horse and rider, a positive physical and mental/emotional connection between horse and rider. The “picture” presented is that of understanding, trust, confidence in one another resulting in a sense of synchrony, contentment and unity.
- Harmony between the horse and rider is demonstrated by the horse and rider moving as “one”. The rider uses tactful cues; the horse performs without resistance, agitation or wariness. The horse shows attention and confidence in his ease of movements and acceptance of the bit while staying up in the poll and keeping his nose in front of the vertical. The degree of lightness increases as the horse advances in his training.
- 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. They are a pleasure to watch.

WDAA RULES/GUIDELINES

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.

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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 his neck raised and showing a clear self-carriage. The head approaches the vertical position, and a light contact is maintained with the mouth. The hind legs are engaged with good flexion of the joints. The gait should remain marching and vigorous, the feet being placed in regular sequence. The steps cover less ground and are higher than at the Working walk, because all the joints bend more markedly. The step at the Collected walk is shorter than the Working walk and shows greater activity.
 - 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 his head and neck to stretch forward and down and out. The length of stride, rhythm, the relaxation and swing through his back are of great importance.
 - 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. *BOD 6/20/22 Effective 12/1/22*

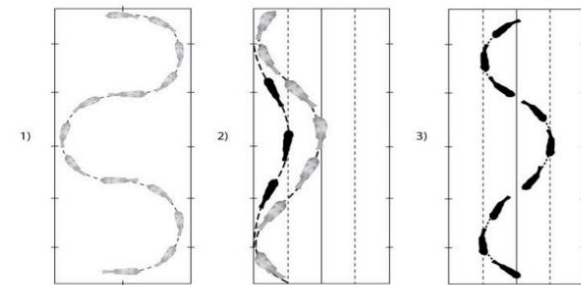













Figure eight. This figure consists of two circles of equal size as specified in the test, joined at the center of the eight. The rider should make his horse straight an instant before changing direction at the center of the figure.



EQUIPMENT









EXAMPLES OF LEGAL AND ILLEGAL CURB STRAPS/CURB CHAINS:

		
LEGAL STYLE If measures at least 3/4" in width	LEGAL ONLY if used with a snaffle bit as a bit hobble below the reins. NOT LEGAL with a curb bit	NOT LEGAL - 'bumps' on the inside - does not lie flat against the horse
		
NOT LEGAL - round bar welded to inside of chain	NOT LEGAL - tacks on inside	NOT LEGAL - If metal bar sewn between layers of leather
		
LEGAL if used with snaffle as bit hobble. NOT LEGAL with curb bit	LEGAL style if measures at least 3/4" in width	LEGAL style if measures at least 3/4" in width
		
NOT LEGAL This curb chain is less than 3/4" in width.	NOT LEGAL This curb strap is braided and is not smooth.	

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EXAMPLES OF LEGAL SNAFFLE MOUTHPIECES:

		
Inlaid two-piece mouthpiece - LEGAL	D-ring - LEGAL if size meets rule requirement. Smooth rollers same circumference of the bar and that don't affect the bend of the mouthpiece- LEGAL	O-ring; three-piece mouthpiece with barrel - LEGAL
		
O-ring bit; barrel mouthpiece - LEGAL	Flat mouthpiece - LEGAL if bar meets measurement requirements	Mullen Mouth - LEGAL
		
LEGAL if reins are attached above bit hobble/curb strap	LEGAL center hinged joint if smooth	LEGAL if connecting ring and bars meet measurement requirement
		
LEGAL snaffle bit with port		

APPOINTMENTS/TACK/BITS

Saddle:

A standard American Western stock saddle with swells, a seat, cantle, skirt, fenders, and Western stirrups is required. A working 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, endurance, Baroque, English, McClellan and Spanish

c. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit.

d. A breastplate and/or crupper may be used

Bridle:

- Any western type headstall must be used, with or without a cavesson as described below. Additionally, a bitless bridle of western style made of leather or leather-like material is also acceptable.

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- A western cavesson (flat, rolled, braided, or plain, with an adjustable noseband), or pencil bosal with or without a get-down rope with space for two fingers placed between the cavesson and the jowl of the horse is allowed. No metal (except for the buckle on the cavesson), studs of any kind, or other substances can be used in conjunction with or as part of a western cavesson.

Illegal bridle equipment

- Flash, figure-eight or dropped nose bands.
- Mechanical hackamores

EQUIPMENT

WDAA Equipment Guide

<https://wdaa.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/WDAA%20Equipment%20and%20Attire%20Guide%202022%202022.pdf>

EQUIPMENT RULES

Bridle

- Any western-type headstall must be used. A cavesson is permitted (can be plain or rolled/braided and must be smooth on inside)
- Flash, figure eight or dropped nose bands and mechanical hackamores are illegal
- A bosal or hackamore is legal (see WDAA rules for details)
- Bitless bridles are allowed (very specific types/rules see WDAA rulebook)

Reins

- Loop/connected reins, split reins, buckled reins, mecate reins, romal reins (w/o a popper) are legal
- A snaffle bit must be ridden with 2 hands
- A curb bit can be ridden with one or 2 hands except if romal reins are used (in this case 1 hand must be used)

WESTERN SADDLE PARTS



SADDLE

- Must have swells, a cantle, a seat, skirt, fenders and western stirrups
- OPTIONAL: horn, padding or pads on seat of saddle, bucking rolls, tapaderos
- Breastplate and/or crupper are legal
- NOT LEGAL: thigh and knee rolls, Australian, baroque, English, mcclellan and Spanish saddles

BITS

Snaffle bit

- Can be ridden any age of horse, a bit that offers no leverage or curb action
- Must be of O-ring, egg-butt, full cheek or d-ring configuration (ex. baucher or half cheek NOT permitted)
- Bars must be SMOOTH (no wire or twisted wire), no flat mouthpieces are allowed, must be round oval or egg-shaped
- Mouthpiece may be 2 or 3 pieces
- A curb strap or chain/bit hobble may be used and must be attached below the reins
- Beware horse tack companies label western bits as snaffle which have leverage and are not a snaffle

A legal bit but it is NOT A SNAFFLE



Reinsman Diamond R Smooth Copper Argentine Snaffle

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Curb bits

Bit	Determination	Reason
 <p><i>Hinged mouthpiece</i></p>	LEGAL	<i>Allowed as long as it does not have a pinch point or sharp edges</i>
 <p><i>Inlaid, latex wrapped</i></p>	LEGAL	<i>Legal as long as mouthpiece is not greater than ¼ inch in diameter</i>
 <p><i>Traditional spade bit</i></p>	LEGAL	<i>Example of wire on braces of a traditional spade bit</i>
 <p><i>Rein chains</i></p>	LEGAL	<i>Example of spade bit</i>

CURB BITS

- Standard western curb bits may be used
- See WDAA rulebook for details regarding maximum shank and port height
- Bars must be smooth or latex wrapped
- Mouthpieces may be single or double jointed, a roller attached to the center of the bit is legal
- Reins must be attached to each shank
- Must be used with a flat curb chain or leather chin strap at least ½ inch in diameter. Cannot be rolled, round, braided or rawhide
- Bits with hooks and slots are not legal. Kimerwicks are not legal
- Gag bits are not legal



EQUIPMENT RULES

- Polo wraps are permitted, color white or matching the horse
- Fly hoods/ear covers are allowed
- Whips less than 120cm including lash are legal
- Martingales, tie downs, side reins, etc are not legal
- Boots (including easyboots, splint boots) are not legal

ATTIRE

Required

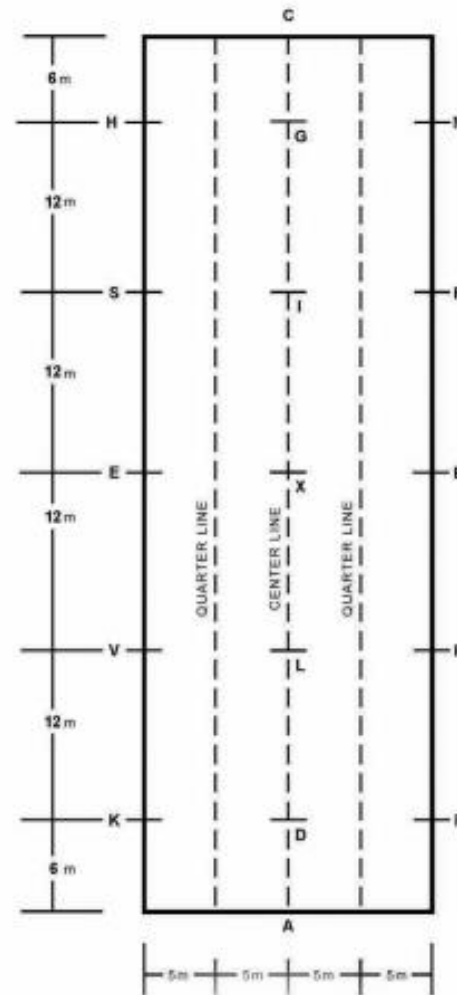
- Western hat or helmet
- Long-sleeved shirt with a collar
- Trousers, pants, equitation suit
- Boots. Tall English boots visible on the outside of pants are not permitted (would be allowed if worn under chaps or something similar)

Optional

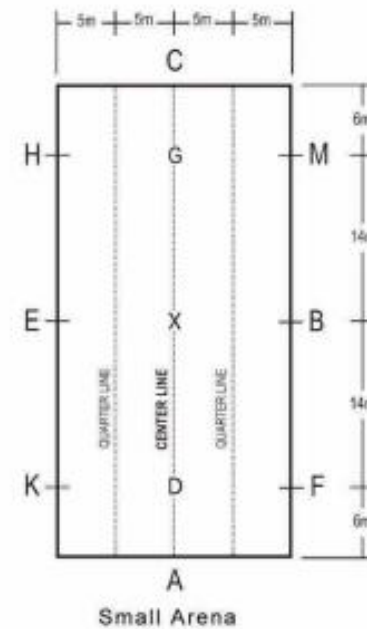
- Necktie, kerchief, pin
- Vest, jacket, sweater
- Spurs (see specific requirements for legal spurs WDAA rulebook)
- Chaps

ARENA

LARGE ARENA
20M X 60M



SMALL ARENA
20M X 40M





WDA A 2022 WESTERN DRESSAGE INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST 1
WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION® OF AMERICA

PURPOSE

Tests provide an introduction to the discipline of Western Dressage; the horse performs only at the walk and jog. The rider should demonstrate correct basic position, use of basic aids, and understanding of the figures. The horse should show relaxation; 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.
All jog work may be ridden sitting or rising.

NEW REQUIREMENTS

20 meter half circle at the working jog;
Halt 4 seconds.

ENTRY NO:

ARENA SIZE:
Small (40m x 20m) or Large (60m x 20m)
AVERAGE RIDE TIME:
4:00 (Small) or 5:00 (Large)

MAXIMUM PTS: 220

*COEFFICIENT



WDA A 2022 WESTERN DRESSAGE BASIC LEVEL TEST 2
WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION® OF AMERICA

PURPOSE

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.

NEW REQUIREMENTS

One loop 10 meters off the track, working jog

ENTRY NO:

ARENA SIZE:
Small (40m x 20m) or Large (60m x 20m)
AVERAGE RIDE TIME:
4:30 (Small) or 5:30 (Large)

MAXIMUM PTS: 250

*COEFFICIENT

All jog work may be ridden sitting or rising.



WDA A 2022 WESTERN DRESSAGE LEVEL 1 TEST 2
WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION® OF AMERICA

PURPOSE

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, lateral and longitudinal balance, suppleness and emphasize harmony and ride-ability.

NEW REQUIREMENTS

Half turn on the forehand;
Leg yield from centerline

ENTRY NO:

ARENA SIZE:
Large (60m x 20m)
AVERAGE RIDE TIME:
5:30 (Large)

MAXIMUM PTS: 270

*COEFFICIENT

ARENA



WDAA 2022 WESTERN DRESSAGE INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST 1

WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION® OF AMERICA

PURPOSE

Tests provide an introduction to the discipline of Western Dressage; the horse performs only at the walk and jog. The rider should demonstrate correct basic position, use of basic aids, and understanding of the figures. The horse should show relaxation; 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.

All jog work may be ridden sitting or rising.

NEW REQUIREMENTS

20 meter half circle at the working jog;

Halt 4 seconds.

ENTRY NO:

ARENA SIZE:

Small (40m x 20m) or Large (60m x 20m)

AVERAGE RIDE TIME:

4:00 (Small) or 5:00 (Large)

MAXIMUM PTS:

220

*COEFFICIENT

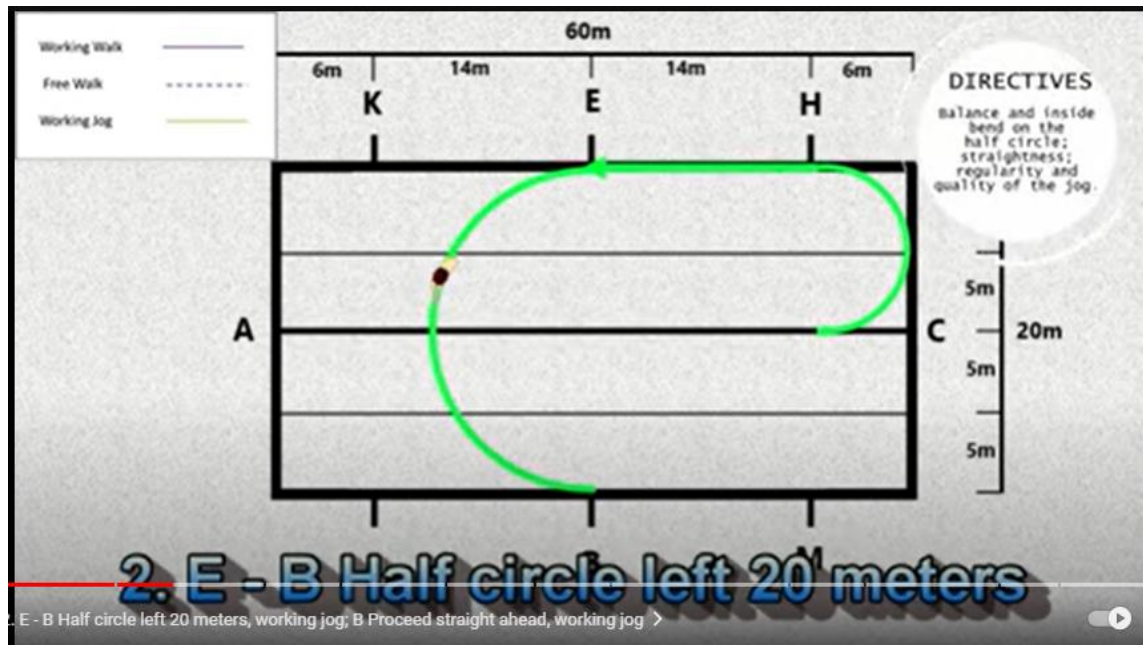
		TEST	DIRECTIVES	POINTS	* COEFFICIENT	TOTAL	REMARKS
1	A	Enter working jog, proceed down center line without halting	Straightness; regularity and quality of the jog; balance and bend in the turn.				
	C	Track left working jog					
2	E - B	Half circle left 20 meters, working jog	Balance and inside bend on the half circle; straightness; regularity and quality of the jog.				
	B	Proceed straight ahead, working jog					
3	Between M & C	Develop working walk	Willing, smooth transition; balance and bend in the corners; regularity and quality of the walk.				
4	H - B	Change rein, free walk	Horse willing to freely stretch the neck forward and down; relaxation; swing through the back; ground cover; straightness; willing, smooth transition; regularity and quality of the walks.				
	B	Working walk		2			

*COEFFICIENT

COLLECTIVE MARKS	POINTS	* COEFFICIENT	TOTAL	REMARKS
GAITS: freedom and regularity		1		
IMPULSION: desire to move forward with suppleness of the back and steady tempo		1		
RIDER'S POSITION, SEAT AND HANDS: well-balanced elastic seat demonstrating vertical, centered alignment, with light independent contact from hand(s)		1		
RIDER'S CORRECT AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THE 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		1		
HARMONY: The horse accepts the aids and influence of the rider with attention, relaxation and confidence; willing partnership between horse and rider resulting in a free-flowing performance		2		
SUBTOTAL:	total of points and coefficients above			
ERRORS:	subtract from subtotal			
TOTAL POINTS:	subtotal minus any errors			
REMARKS:				

TESTS

LEARNING TESTS



**Make sure tests are 2022 version!

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2022 WDAA Intl Level 1 Test 1
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Marie Broberg



CAWDA Snowflake 2022 - Basic Level Test One
873 views · 10 months ago
Nanne's Brandia Dancer



WDAA Western Dressage Intro Test 1 Amateur JamieLynne Weiss and First Impressions
Impression Score: 71.364%
1.1K views · 1 year ago
First Impressions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQZP4zxuiUc>

ACRONYM 101



USEF - United States Equestrian Federation. National governing body for most equestrian sports in the United States, including western dressage.



WDAA - Western Dressage Association of America. The National level western dressage organization in the US. Western



PAWDA - Pennsylvania Western Dressage Association. An affiliate of WDAA, a state/regional organization that works on a local level to promote western dressage and WDAA. Governed by WDAA and USEF

ACRONYM 101



USDF - United States Dressage Federation. The National dressage organization in the United States. USDF is not associated with Western Dressage but offers many free or low cost programs and education on the sport of dressage. USDF licensed shows do not allow Western Dressage

GMO – Group Member Organization. The local/regional affiliates of USDF. Although USDF is not officially affiliated with WDAA many of these organizations offer schooling shows, awards programs for western dressage riders ex. DVCTA, LVDA, FCEA, IEO, WPDA, ESDCTA

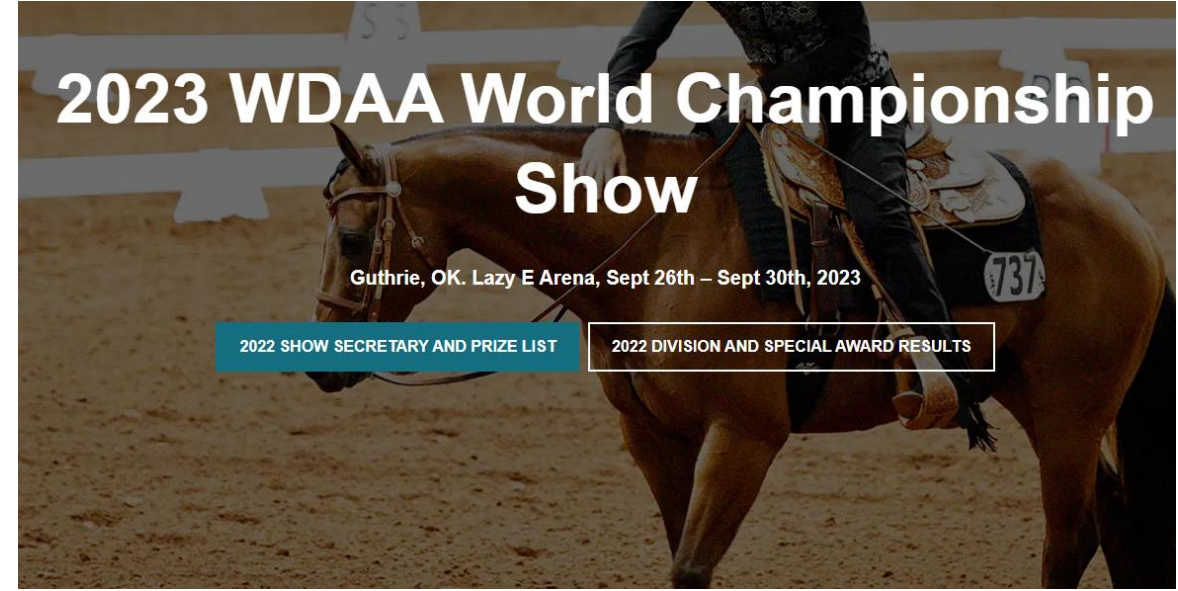
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List of Current Events
Event Calendar View
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WDAA Live Recognized Shows
WDAA Online Recognized Shows
WDAA Live Recognized Shows
WDAA Online Recognized Shows

Events for 2023

Friday, January 13, 2023 - Sunday, January 15, 2023
● Texas - Houston All Arabian Value Show - #23-108 :: > WDAA Live Recognized Shows
Friday, January 13, 2023 - Sunday, February 05, 2023
● Online - CAWDA Snowflake Show - #23-130 :: > WDAA Online Recognized Shows



<https://wdaaworldshow.org/>

RECOGNIZED SHOWS ONLINE SHOWS

<https://www.westerndressageassociation.org/list-of-current-events>



Lendon's Youth Dressage Festival

August 11-13, 2022 ♦ Saugerties, New York

Individual and team competition for riders from ages 4 through 25



© Amy K. Drago

Photo credit: Amy Drago

dressage4kids.org/d4k-festival/

<https://dressage4kids.org/d4k-festival/show-info/prize-list.html>



June 21-22, 2025

at

Rose Mount Farm

Spotsylvania Courthouse, VA

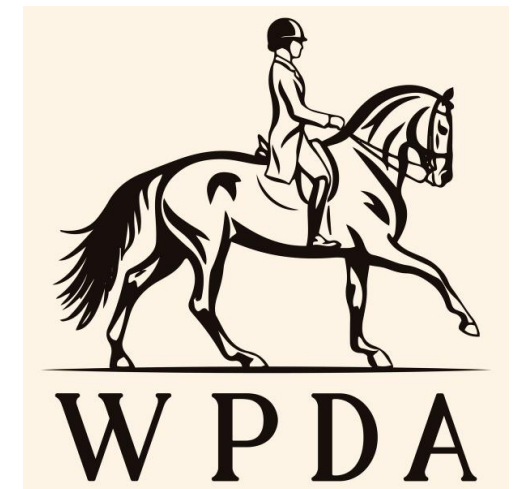
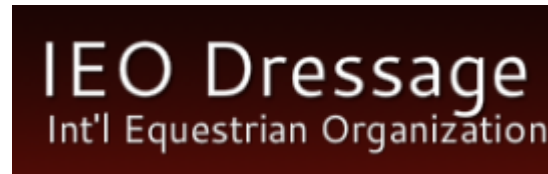
https://www.youthdressagefoundation.org/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR1yAGIA3Ib2nC9ITkTDQgC7kEMWLSAk9v7G-Izd6bjiTAFWQWQD178XQuo_aem_LInGH6JkbU60ZDQ0CHWiDg

YOUTH SHOWS

SCHOOLING SHOWS



Delaware Valley
Combined Training Association®



<https://www.usdf.org/clubs/list.asp?TypePass=GMO>

<https://eqentries.com/showcalendar>

SHOW AND EARN AWARDS



<https://pawda.org/other-documents>



<https://wdaalifetimepoints.org/>



<https://www.usdf.org/clubs/list.asp?TypePass=GMO>

CONTINUED EDUCATION

- Video a ride program (youth only)
- Judges Seminar
- WDAA Learning Management System
- Clinics/GMO programs



sk.sknop@gmail.com

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Welcome to the FREE Video Ride a Test Program for WDAA Junior Members!

FREE TO WDAA JUNIOR MEMBERS!

This wonderful benefit is available to current WDAA Junior members only. All you need to do is submit a video of a ridden test following the guidelines below. All tests will be judged and commented on by USEF



WDAA
It's about the journey

LMS HOME ABOUT US COURSE LIST WDAA HOME

Courses

SORT BY ▾ FILTER BY ▾

How to Market Your Horse Business in 2022
Denise Alvarez of Stormily Marketing recording this webinar for WDAA members in January 2022.

The Western Dressage Training Wheel
This session will review the spokes of the Western Dressage Training Wheel.

Video Tips for Online Western Dressage Shows
VIDEO TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL ONLINE SHOWING
This video will help you plan and record your ride for online shows. Click the link below to see it on YouTube.

2019 World Judge's Perspectives on Videos and by Level
WESTERN WORLD CHAMP

<https://www.westerndressageassociation.org/western-dressage-judges-education>

PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION (PAWDA)

Awards program

High Point and Medal rider achievement awards for every level of rider

Shows

Virtual and In-person WDAA recognized shows

Education

Through our newsletter, website, Facebook page and online seminars.

PAWDA

■ <https://pawda.org/>

