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# **PONY CLUB ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W. RULES FOR DRESSAGE COMPETITIONS**

## **PART I (a)**

### **COMPETITION RULES**

In the event of conflict between Association rules and the rules of other equestrian bodies hereafter referred to precedence will be in the order set out.

- a. The Pony Club Association of NSW
- b. E.A. Rules (current edition)
- c. F.E.I. Rules (current edition)

If problems arise which are not clearly covered in these rules, the Association executive, Technical Delegate and Advisory Committee will make such decision as they consider will produce a fair result under the circumstances.

#### **1. STANDARD OF ENTRY**

At all State Championships the standard of competition will be high. It is the responsibility of the Zone Chief Instructor to ensure that mounts are fit and meet the required standard and that riders are capable of State Championship competition. The Zone Chief Instructor is the final arbiter of entries being submitted for Zone representation at State Championships.

#### **2. ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

Rider — for membership qualifications and rally attendances. Refer section 4  
Horse — for ownership qualifications. Refer section 4

#### **3. PERFORMANCE CARDS**

Performance cards are available from the Association. These are required to be taken to ALL COMPETITIONS and be endorsed by judges (or if unavailable, the chief steward), when placing's are gained. These cards are to be kept up-to-date and will be required by the Zone Chief Instructor and Association for verification of performance for selection of interstate teams. They must also be available to the Zone Chief Instructor with nominations for State Championships. Open performances may be noted for reference only.

Performance cards or photocopies thereof to be forwarded to Zone Secretary, with nominations for State or Interstate Championships.

#### **4. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

Dressage nominations in each section of a Championship are limited to 70 entrants. Zones with an excess of 5 entrants in each age group will be the first to be considered for limit of entrants. Zone Chief Instructors are required to list entrants on nomination form, in order of priority.

#### **5. STARTING TIME FOR TESTS**

A list advising starting times for tests for each competitor will be posted at 8 a.m. on each day of the Championship.

#### **6. AGE GROUPS**

State Championships are conducted in age groups Under 11 years, 11 to under 13 years, 13 and

under 15 years, 15 and under 17 years Associate 17 and under 26 years

## **7. AWARDS**

- a) To 10th place in each test in each age group
- b) Championship award in each age group
- c) Zone Team — one champion award only. Team to be comprised a maximum of 4 riders and a minimum of 3 riders. All scores to count. All N.S.W. Zone competitors are eligible for inclusion. Teams are selected on performance at the Championship.
- d) Interstate Team — Championship Award.
- e) Interstate teams are to be comprised of a maximum of 4 riders and a minimum of 3 riders. All scores to count. All riders are eligible to be team members. Teams are selected on performance at the Championship.
- f) Smartest on Parade (Fitness Check) Perpetual Zone Trophy.

## **8. SCORING**

A point scoring system is used based on 10 points for first place down to 1 point for tenth place for each event in each age group. In the event of equal places these points will be awarded in a similar way to the division of money under normal competition conditions.

**POSTING OF SCORES** — the final Championship scores will be displayed for a minimum of 15 minutes prior to the award being made for THAT PARTICULAR CHAMPIONSHIP. The time of final posting of each score sheet will appear on the bottom of the score sheet.

If two or more judges officiate, the marks awarded by each judge must appear individually on the display score sheet.

**INDIVIDUAL TESTS** — In the event of a tie, a count back in that particular test will determine the placing's. The count back is from the last allocated mark in the collective marks and so on back through the test.

**AGE CHAMPIONSHIP** — In the event of a tie a count back will be made on the higher ranking test. The count back will commence with the total of this test (or in the case of two judges their combined total divided by two). If the marks remain equal a count back is then taken from the last collective mark awarded and so on back through the test.

### **INTERSTATE AND ZONE TEAMS**

**Competitor Places** — In the event of a tie in points for competitor places in Zone and State teams a count back will be effective on the number of major places awarded to the tied competitors, i.e. 1 first placing coupled with 1 third placing (18 points) will take precedence over 2 second placing's (18 points).

**INTERSTATE AND ZONE TEAMS** — In the event of tied placing's for team champion a count back will be affected on major awards in the team. If a tie still exists a count back of major placing's from the highest ranking test will then take place.

## **9. FITNESS INSPECTION**

A fitness inspection is compulsory on the day prior to the Dressage Championships. The age of the horse will not be taken into consideration. It is the responsibility of the competitor and team manager to ensure that all horses receive a fitness inspection at the appointed time. A rider not complying with this requirement will be excluded from competition at the discretion of the Advisory Committee. Suspect or doubtful horses may be asked to present for a further inspection on the

same day and a veterinarian shall be present to make the final decision as to participation or further participation in the event. Horses are inspected under saddle.

Horses which fail to pass a veterinary inspection shall not be permitted to re-present at a fitness or veterinary inspection at the same Championships.

No horse may leave the ground after the fitness inspection at State Championships until the conclusion of the final parade without the permission of the Advisory Committee.

Saddles are to be removed on request.

A horse verified to be lame by the officiating veterinary surgeon at State Championships shall be scratched from the event by the Advisory Panel.

Competitors must wear full Pony Club uniform or a casual uniform of fawn/beige/oatmeal jodhpurs, polo shirt (with collar and sleeves) in Club, Zone or State colours, together with an approved equestrian helmet and boots at all Fitness Checks at State Championships. Back numbers must be worn. Team managers to attend fitness check with team members. (Refer section 4.)

### **9.1 DRESS AND GEAR CHECK**

All saddlery, gear and uniform must conform to the Association's regulations as set out in Section 7 Gear and Uniform.

Team managers are to be in attendance with team members. See Section 7 point 16.

## **10. STARTING OF TEST**

- I. At Championships a white disc will be used by the judge to indicate that the competitor may approach the judge.
- II. After leaving the judge's car the competitor has forty-five (45) seconds to commence their test.
- III. Any competitor who fails to start within forty-five (45) seconds after the signal to start has been given may be eliminated.

Protocol for all Zone and State Dressage Championships, being:

1. Judge shows paddle outside car
2. Rider approaches driver side of first car acknowledges judge/judges, while moving
3. Rider proceeds to second car and acknowledges judge.
4. Rider continues to area near A and circles.
5. Judge shows paddle outside the car and the rider starts test.

### **10.1 GATE OPENERS**

Gate openers will be used at State Championships. It is the responsibility of the Rider / Team Manager to arrange for a gate opener."

## **11. SALUTE**

Competitors are not permitted to remove their helmet in salute or for award giving. Retention harness must be firmly in place whenever the rider is mounted.

## **12. DISQUALIFICATION**

- a) A competitor having lost his/her helmet and continuing a test without replacing the helmet, will incur elimination from the competition. A lost helmet may be handed to a competitor. Loss of helmet incurs elimination
- b) A competitor who refuses to obey the direction of any officiating steward or official is to be reported to the Technical Delegate on the day and after consideration by the Advisory Committee, may be disqualified from all or some of the events.
- c) The Advisory Committee reserves the right to disqualify a competitor for any breach of rule, or if the horse appears lame, exhausted, or unfit for competition or unacceptable behaviour by the rider. Also refer section 4.
- d) A fall of horse and/or rider during a Dressage competition, between the time of entry and the time of exit at A, will be eliminated.

## **13. TEAM MANAGERS DUTIES**

Back numbers must be collected by team managers before 6.00 pm on the day prior to the competition, to enable scratching's to be published.

Refer section 7.

## **14. PRESENTATION PARADE**

For details of requirements for presentation of awards, refer section 4.

All competitors are to parade unless special dispensation is granted by the Advisory Committee — refer section 4 for details.

## **15. PROTESTS**

Refer section 4.

These rules are established so that competitors and teams of competitors may compete against each other under fair and equal conditions.

The Association Advisory Committee, together with the Executive, Technical Delegate and the organizing committee, reserve the right to alter or delete any part of any program or make any alterations or changes required, if circumstances present. The Advisory Committee for Dressage is the Ground Jury with the power to co-opt if insufficient members of the Advisory Committee are present at the event. (Also refer General Championship Regulations — section 4.)

## **GENERAL DRESSAGE RULES (E.A.) for use at State, Zone and Club Competitions**

As amended for Pony Club.

A Dressage event is composed of one or more competitions between individual mounted competitors performing specified dressage tests.

### **16. TESTS**

Dressage tests are available from the Association. No tests other than those adopted by the Association shall be used for Association Dressage competition. Tests are graduated in difficulty of execution.

*Note: These tests are changed from time to time and it is the responsibility of the competitors, judges and organizers to ensure the correct tests are being used.*

### **17. COMBINED COMPETITIONS**

Any of the available Association tests may be used in conjunction with a course of jumps or a cross country course.

### **18. COMMANDED TESTS**

Any of the tests may under the Sports Connect procedure, with the permission of the organizing committee, be commanded.

*(This rule does not apply under combined training rules or State Championships.)*

Where callers are allowed it is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that only the printed text or extracts there from is read out and that no other form of assistance is given. Failure to observe this rule may entail elimination.

### **19. FREE-STYLE TESTS**

These are subject to the same rules and standards as other tests.

### **20. DECLARATIONS**

Back numbers must be collected by team managers before 6.00 pm on the day prior to the competition, to enable scratchings to be published.

### **21. EXECUTION OF TESTS**

- a) All movements set out must follow in the order laid down in the test. In a movement which must be carried out at a certain point of the arena, it is at the moment when a rider's body is above this point that the movement must be executed.
- b) A test begins with the entry at A and ends after the salute at the end of the test, as soon as the horse moves forward. Any incidents before the beginning or after the end of the test have no effect on the marks. The competitor should leave the arena in the way that is prescribed in the text of the test.
- c) Any outside intervention by voice, signs etc. is considered as assistance to a rider or to his horse. A rider or horse getting assistance must be eliminated.

## **22. LEAVING THE ARENA**

A horse leaving the arena completely, with all four feet, during a dressage competition, between the time of entry and the time of exit at A, will be eliminated.

## **23. RIDING IN ARENAS**

No horse either ridden or led may enter any arena, other than the practice arena, except when actually competing in a competition, on penalty of elimination.

Rope arenas are no longer permitted at Pony Club.

## **24. ERRORS OF COURSE AND ERRORS OF THE TEST**

- a) When a competitor makes an “error of the course” (takes the wrong turn, omits a movement etc.) the judge warns him by sounding the bell. The judge shows him, if necessary, the point at which he must take up the test again and the next movement to be executed, then leaves him to continue by himself. However, in some cases when, although the competitor makes an “error of the course”, the sounding of the bell would unnecessarily impede the fluency of the performance — for instance if the competitor makes a transition from medium trot to collected walk at V instead of K, or cantering up the centre line from A makes a pirouette at D instead of at L — it is up to the judge to decide whether to sound the bell or not.
- b) Every “error of the course”, whether the bell is sounded or not, must be penalised:
  - The first time by 2 points
  - The second time by 4 points
  - The third time by elimination.
- c) When a competitor makes an “error of the test” (trots rising instead of sitting, at the salute does not take the reins in one hand etc.) he must be penalized as for an “error of the course”. In principle, a competitor is not allowed to repeat a movement of the test unless the judge decides on an error of course (rings the bell).
- d) If, however the rider has started the execution of a movement and tries to do the same movement again, the judge must consider the first movement shown only and at the same time penalise for an error of course.
- e) If the judge has not noted an error, the competitor has the benefit of the doubt.
- f) The penalty points are deducted on each judge’s sheet from the total points obtained by the competitor.

### **IMPORTANT**

In Association competition, errors of course are to be notified by the judge to the competitor at the time the error occurs. Errors of execution that do not involve errors of track and do not interrupt the flow of the test should be marked down on the 1 to 10 scale.

\* This rule will take precedence over any conflict in the previous paragraphs.

## **25. PENALTIES FOR ERRORS OF COURSE**

Under Dressage rules, every error whether rectified or not, every omission and every movement taken in the wrong order must be penalized as under:



The first error by	2 points
The second error by	4 points
The third error by	Elimination
The fourth error by	Elimination
Loss of helmet	Elimination
Failure to immediately replace helmet	Elimination
Resistance which prevents the continuation of the test longer than 20 seconds	Elimination

## 26. TIME AND TIME PENALTIES

Only free style tests are timed.

## 27. DOPING

- a) Riders: Riders are forbidden to take a stimulating or calming product in any shape or form, before or during a competition under a maximum penalty of disqualification.
- b) Horses: It is forbidden to administer any stimulant or depressant to a horse, or to cause one to be administered in any way whatsoever either before the start of a competition or on the previous day under the maximum penalty of disqualification for life of the owner, rider, horse and groom.

If during the event, or after a test which forms part of a combined competition, it is necessary to treat a horse with a drug that is calming, antitetic, fortifying, stimulating etc. the veterinary surgeon appointed by the organizing committee must be informed immediately. He will verify the expediency of the treatment given and then make a report to the technical delegate, who will decide whether the horse is to be allowed to continue or to be eliminated. All stimulating or fortifying treatment, not considered necessary by the accredited veterinary surgeon and administered during, or after a test which continues on the following day(s) involves the compulsory elimination of the horse.

If the treatment has been for colic only, the advisory committee appointed to examine the condition of the horses, decides before the beginning of the next test, whether the horse is in a fit state to continue, or should definitely be eliminated.

## 28. SCORING (Judge/s)

Each judge may allot from 0 — 10 points for each numbered movement. These points are then added together and any penalty points are deducted.

It is essential that all penalty points are deducted from the individual totals before these are added together. The judges' marks for both tests shall be totalled to find the final mark.

Total points for each judge must be clearly shown in results lists and on notice boards.

## SCALE OF MARKS

Under both rules the scale of marks is as follows:

10 excellent	5 sufficient
9 very good	4 insufficient
8 good	3 fairly bad
7 fairly good	2 bad
6 satisfactory	1 very bad

0 not executed

The marks 10 and 0 must be awarded where the performances warrant their use.

By “not executed” is meant that nothing which is required has been performed.

## **29. SADDLERY, EQUIPMENT AND DRESS**

Dress: All saddlery, gear and uniform are to conform to Association regulations. All competitors must wear full Pony Club uniform, i.e. long sleeved shirt (worn with sleeves down and buttoned up), tie, fawn, beige or oatmeal jodhpurs (the wearing of a coat is NOT permitted). If a jumper is worn at State Championships it must be of knitted wool or wool blend, it shall have long sleeves or be a sleeveless pullover, with a V-neck and be of one plain colour.

Please see Section 7 Uniform for full details of approved equestrian helmets.

Riders under 17 years wear short Jodhpur boots with FULL reasonably smooth soles. Associates have the option of wearing short or long boots. Solid leather gaiters of the same colour as the Jodhpur boot may be worn. Rowel Spurs, blunt or smooth, that are free to rotate be allowed for all Pony Club DRESSAGE competitions. These spurs are to have a curved or straight shank directly back from the centre of the spur when on the riders boot. Dummy spurs may be worn.

Gloves are optional.

Saddlery and Equipment: The following are compulsory — English type saddle. Synthetic saddles are permitted. Either a drop nose band, cavesson or a Hanoverian nose band must be used with a snaffle bridle.

a. For all tests below medium standard an ordinary snaffle bit must be worn. In medium tests, an ordinary snaffle or double bridle must be used.

Bits are as per the Pony Club Bit Dictionary which is available on the Associations website.

The lever arm of the curb bit (where applicable) is limited to 10cm (length). The ring of the bit must not exceed 8cm in diameter. Bits of nylon or other synthetic materials are permitted.

b. Martingales, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running or balancing reins etc.) any kind of boots or bandages, tongue depressors and any form of blinkers, including ear muffs, hoods and any others, are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden. BREASTPLATES (without rings) are not defined as “gadgets” and are permissible for dressage.

c. A gear inspection steward must be appointed to check the saddlery of each horse before it enters the arena. The checking of the bridle must be done with the greatest caution, as some horses are very touchy and sensitive about their mouths. It is the responsibility of the gear check steward to be aware of current rulings on saddlery. If any doubt arises, the technical delegate should be consulted before the competitor enters the arena. (Also refer section 7.)

d. Paragraph a. and b. above are valid also for warming up arenas and other training areas where, however, running martingales, boots, bandages and side reins (the latter solely when lungeing) are permitted.

e. WHIPS may be used in tests up to and including elementary standard. (Refer section 7 for restriction on dressage whips at Association fixtures.) A whip may be carried in either hand at the salute. This is not a course error.

f. Saddle covers (such as sheepskin etc.) may not be used in a test.

### **30. DEFINITION OF SNAFFLE BRIDLE refer to the latest version of the Bit Dictionary**

a. An ordinary snaffle is a plain snaffle with a straight bar or joint in the centre. If there are two joints the middle link must be rounded in cross-section. A bit corrugated or ridged in any way is illegal.

b. The French snaffle is a bit which is permissible as a snaffle bit as defined. (Refer to plate and captions following.)

### **SALUTE**

All riders, including ladies, must take the reins in one hand when saluting. Riders do not remove their helmet. A rider who removes his/her helmet in salute is marked as an "error of course". Salutes otherwise incorrectly executed will be penalized by marking down on the 1 — 10 scale.

A whip may be carried in either hand at the salute. This is not a course error.

### **31. LAMENESS**

In the case of marked lameness, the judge informs the rider that he is eliminated. There is no appeal against this decision.

### **32. DISMOUNTING**

If, after the rider has entered the arena, he/she dismounts without a reason acceptable to the judges, no marks will be given for the movement.

In the case of a fall of horse and/or competitor, the competitor will be eliminated.

The rider must be mounted on entering and leaving the arena.

### **33. RESISTANCE**

a. Any horse failing to enter the arena within 60 seconds of the bell or other type of notification being sounded shall be eliminated.

b. Any resistance which prevents the continuation of the test for a period exceeding 20 seconds during the course of a test shall be penalized by elimination.

### **34. GRINDING OF TEETH AND TAIL SWISHING**

Grinding the teeth and swishing the tail are signs of nervousness, tenseness, or resistance on the part of the horse and must be taken into account by the judges in their marks for the movements concerned as well as in the appropriate collective mark at the end.

### **35. THE POSITION AND AIDS OF THE RIDER**

a. All the movements should be obtained without apparent effort of the rider. He should be well balanced, with his loins and hips supple, thighs and legs steady and well stretched downwards. The upper part of the body easy, free and erect with the hands low and close together without

however, touching neither each other nor the horse and with the thumb as the highest point; the elbows and arms close to the body, enabling the rider to follow the movements of the horse smoothly and freely and to apply the aids imperceptibly. This is the only position making it possible for the rider to school his horse progressively and correctly.

b. Not only the aids of the hand and the legs but also of the seat, are of great importance in dressage. Only the rider who understands how to contract and relax his loin muscles at the right moment is able to influence his horse correctly.

c. Riding with both hands is obligatory at all dressage events, when executing any of the tests. However, when leaving the arena at a walk on a long rein, after having finished his performance, the rider may, at his own discretion, ride with only one hand.

d. The use of the voice in any way whatsoever, or clicking the tongue once or repeatedly, is a serious fault involving the deduction of at least 2 marks from those that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement where this occurred.

### **36. JUDGES**

Judges for State Championships are invited by the Association.

a. Positioning of judges around arena —

At State Championships two judges will be used.

b. The following may not serve as judges:

- I. The owner of a horse taking part in the competition
- II. A competitor taking part in the competition
- III. A close relative of those mentioned in i. and ii. above
- IV. team managers whose competitors are entered in the competition
- V. Instructors of competitors entered in the competition
- VI. A member of the advisory committee of the same competition

c. Judges must be provided with a writer and it is possible to have a course-watcher whose task it is to follow the progress of the test and to inform the judge of any “error of the course” or “error of the test” — to ring the bell by order of the judge.

### **37. ARENAS**

All tests in Pony Club are ridden individually within an arena of 60m x 20m (66yds x 22yds) according to the instructions on the test sheets. Plans of the arena are to be found at the end of this section showing the position of the markers.

Arenas should be set out to the dimensions shown in the diagrams on the following pages.

The arena should be level and separated from the public (including videos and cameras) by a distance all round of at least 10m from other events, if more room is not available. Roping or bunting should be used when necessary to prevent intrusion.

The arenas may be marked in the following ways:

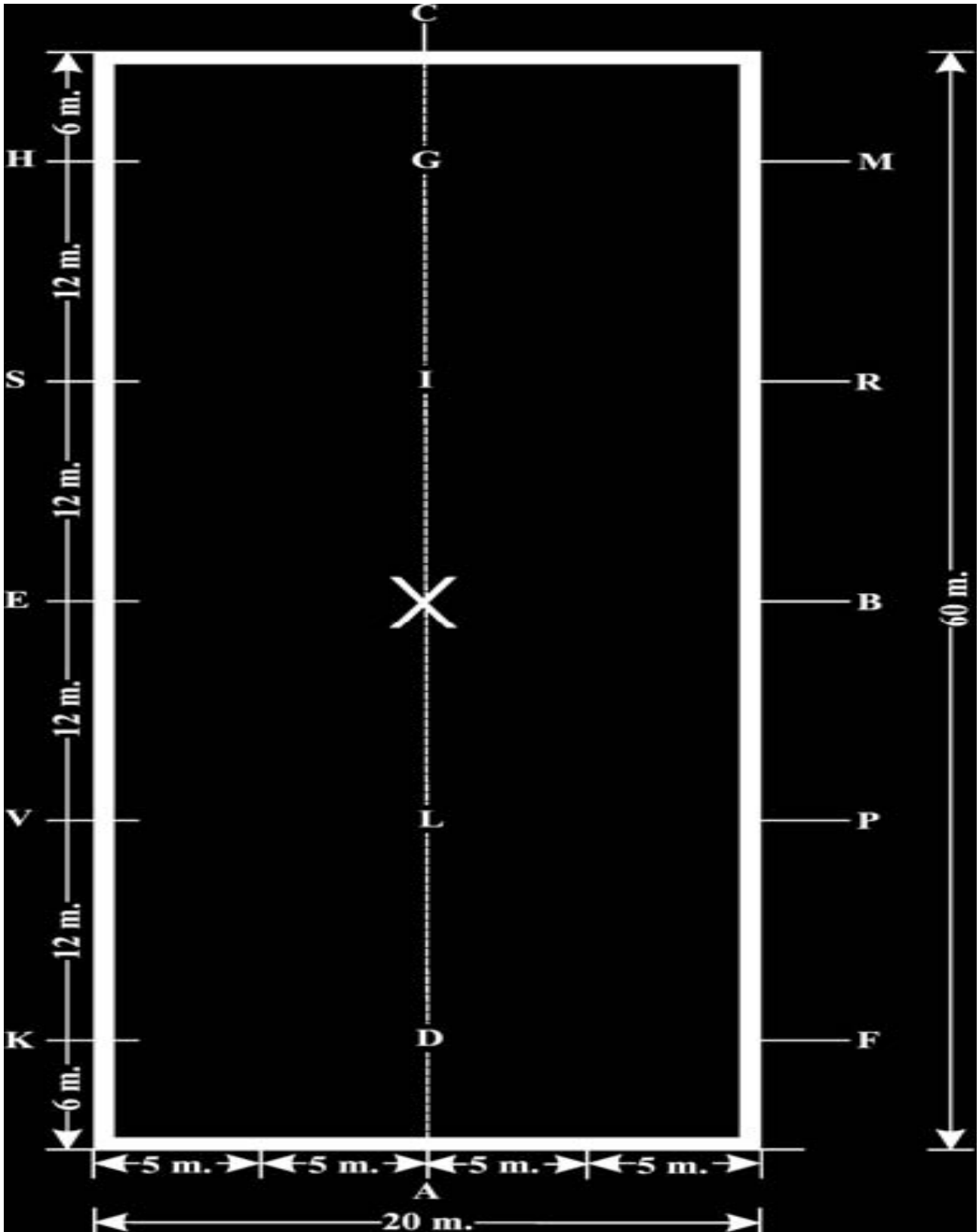
a. By a continuous surround of white boards/ white rails/ white plastic pipe.

b. By a breakable plastic chain, timber or other suitable enclosure, any of which at State Championships must be white

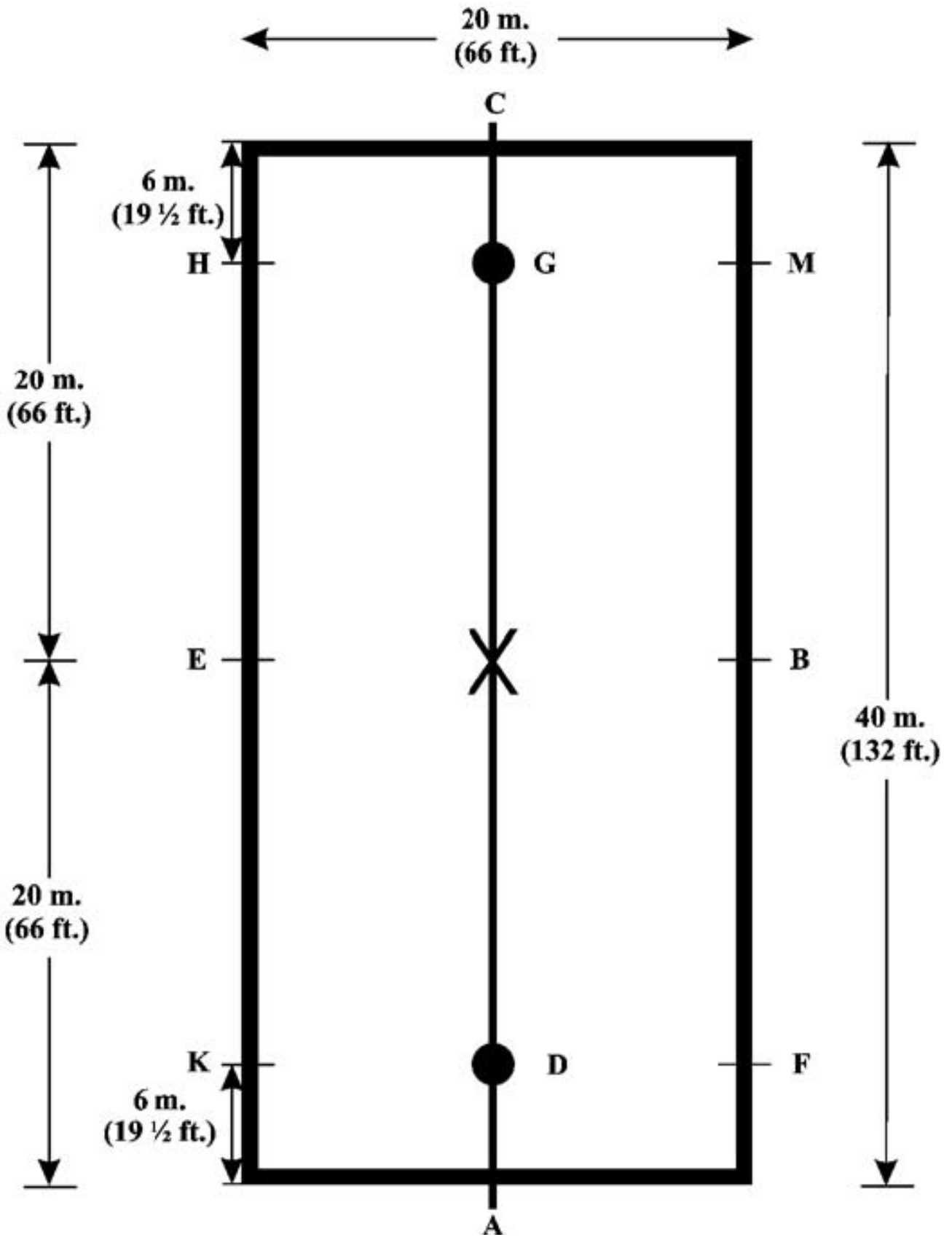
c. Only plastic/polythene or similar material (not metal) is to be used for letters and/or numbers.

Rope arenas are forbidden.

Plan of 60 metres x 20 metres Arena



Plan of 40 metres x 20 metres Arena



## **38. MARKERS**

The letters outside the enclosure should be placed about 0.50m from the fence and clearly marked. It is desirable to place a special marker on the fence itself, level with and in addition to the letter concerned.

The centre line, throughout its length and the three points D, X and G are obligatory and clearly marked, without however, being of a nature to frighten the horses. On that account it is recommended: on a grass arena, to mow the grass on the centre line shorter than at the other parts of the arena; and on a sand arena, to roll or rake the centre line in a suitable way. In such a case the three points D, X and G could be suitably mowed, respectively rolled or raked, about 2m straight across the centre line.

A gap of about one metre each side of the centre line must be left at A to form an entrance and the A marker placed far enough back, 10m if possible, to allow the horses to enter the arena on a straight track.

## **39. INSPECTION OF ARENAS**

It is the responsibility of judges to check that the arena is satisfactory and have it modified at their discretion.

## **40. EXERCISE GROUND**

Sufficient level ground and if possible a practice arena should also be provided.

## **41. JUDGES' SHEETS**

a. Marking sheets, one per horse per judge, will be required and may be purchased from the Association.

Competitors may be given their judging sheets on the completion of the contest but not until the technical delegate has sanctioned their distribution.

b. Competitors taking part in two dressage competitions on the same day, judged by the same judge, shall not have access to their judging sheets before competing in the second contest.

Judges' marking sheets with remarks duly signed by the judge must be treated as confidential until given to the competitor, when they become his or her private property. The organizers of the competition are not obligated to make public any figures other than the classification of the results, though they are at liberty to do so should they wish.

c. Judges should state reasons when giving marks of below 5 or above 7.

## **42. UNMARKED MOVEMENT**

If a mark has not been recorded on one of the judges' sheets and the judge cannot recall the movement, or cannot be found, the mark allotted should be the average of the collective marks at the end.

## **43. OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE**

Any outside intervention by voice, hands etc., is considered outside assistance and will incur elimination. This refers to people outside the arena.

## **RULES FOR COMBINED COMPETITIONS**

### **44. COMPOSITION**

The dressage and jumping tests which make up a combined competition must be taken in that order.

### **45. CLASSIFICATION**

The same horse and rider must complete both tests and elimination from one test involves elimination from the whole competition.

The competition is scored on a penalty basis. The penalties incurred for each test to the nearest whole figure are to be added together and the competitor with the lowest total penalty score is the winner. If the final score gives equality of marks to two or more competitors, the classification is decided by the highest marks for the dressage test. If there is still equality, the fastest time in the jumping test determines the result.

### **46. JUDGES**

There must be one Dressage judge and one Jumping judge.

### **47. CLASSES**

Classes for Combined Training will be run in grades. See the previous section "Maximum Starting Height of 1st Round for Grading and Graded Showjumping Competition" for heights and widths.

### **48. QUALIFICATIONS**

Refer section 4.

## **SECTION 1**

## **DRESSAGE**

### **49. RULES**

The dressage test is judged under rules as previously set out, except where modified below.

### **50. TESTS**

- a) Elementary class
- b) Novice or preliminary class

### **51. PENALTIES**

Penalties will be awarded as per the Dressage phase of the One Day Event Championship please see Section 8 of the Handbook.

### **52. SCORING**

Scoring will be conducted as per scoring for One Day Event Championship please see Section 8 of the Handbook.

### **53. MARKING SHEETS**

The judges' marking sheets may be given to competitors at the end of the competition.



## **SECTION 2            JUMPING**

### **54. RULES**

The jumping test consists of one round of the course judged under rules as for Table A, except where modified below. There is no jump-off.

### **55. COURSE**

The course should be approximately 500m long with the obstacles so placed that the average horse, going smoothly, should meet them in his stride.

Red and white boundary flags mark the start and finish but need not be used to mark the extremities of the obstacles, provided these are clearly defined.

A plan of the course, showing the time allowed, must be posted up not less than one hour before the jumping commences. The course will be available for inspection at least half an hour before the start of the test.

### **56. OBSTACLES**

There will be approximately 8 to 12 numbered obstacles, including at least one double, as solid and as imposing in appearance as available materials allow. Maximum starting height as per appropriate pony club grade.

### **57. SPEED**

The test must be carried out at the following speeds: E Grade — 300 metres per minute, D Grade – 325 metres per minute.

All other grades — 350 metres per minute.

N.B. — the time taken by each competitor must be recorded even if it is within the time allowed, as this may be the deciding factor in the event of a tie.

### **58. PENALTIES**

Penalties will be awarded as per the Showjumping phase of the One Day Event Championship please see Section 8 of the Handbook.

### **59. DRESS AND GEAR CHECK**

Refer section 7

### **60. SADDLERY**

Section 1 Dressage

In dressage tests for combined training either a cavesson, dropped, crossed or flash nose band must be worn. Bit — snaffle made in metal, leather, rubber or plastic material. The carrying of a whip is not permitted.

A breastplate (without rings) may be used.

Martingales, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running or balance reins etc.) any kind of boots or bandages, tongue depressors and any form of blinkers are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden.

Running martingales, boots, bandages, fly shields and side reins are permitted for lunging only.

Refer Dressage section and Section 7.

#### Section 2 Jumping

As above but the saddle and bridle may be changed. Whips may be carried; running martingales, bandages and boots are also permissible as per Association rules (section 7).

### **NOTES ON THE INTERPRETATION OF DRESSAGE TEST SHEETS**

(These notes are not rules)

1. A rider in movement along the outer track will continue along it on the same rein without alteration of pace or manner of riding (e.g. sitting or rising), until instructed to do otherwise. If required to leave this track and return to it (e.g. when circling), the rider will continue along the track in the same manner of going as he left it and on the same rein unless instructed to do otherwise.

2. In all tests, all trot work is executed "sitting" unless otherwise indicated in the test concerned.

3. Change of pace at a given marker. The horse should make the first step in the new pace as the rider passes the marker. (It follows that when the transitions are progressive they must begin before reaching the marker.) This note might seem at variance with the way a simple change of leg at the canter is normally performed. However, the movement fully stated is "Simple change of leg through a walk" and this involves at least two changes of pace of which the first is from canter to walk. If the horse first walks at the marker and after two or three walk steps strikes off at the canter on the other leg, the movement will be done as required and the above rule will hold good.

4. Duration of judging. The judging begins when the rider enters at A and finishes when the rider leaves the arena at A.

### **NOTES FOR COMPETITORS**

Competitors will assist stewards in the efficient running of events by:

a. Reporting their presence to the class steward while riding-in, if possible 20 minutes before their starting time and being on hand nearer the time to receive the steward's signal to go to the arena;

b. By riding where directed close to the arena as soon as the previous competitor has made his exit;

c. Beginning their test without delay on receiving the judges' signal to start;

d. On a signal being given for error of course, proceeding immediately to the judges to receive instructions;

e. By ensuring that they are conforming to the rules regarding dress and saddlery.

## NOTES FOR ORGANIZERS OF DRESSAGE COMPETITIONS

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of these notes is to help organizers who lack experience of the work involved by drawing attention to matters requiring consideration and possible action, depending on the type of event being organized.

The notes should be read in conjunction with the “dressage rules”, which lay down the basic requirements for all competitions.

The circumstances in which dressage competitions are held vary considerably. There are events confined to dressage contests and others, such as horse trials, in which a dressage test is only one of the phases of the competition: there are small club fixtures attracting few competitors and lasting a few hours only, as well as important, possibly Championship events occupying two days and using many arenas.

Clearly the necessary secretarial and field work will vary accordingly and organizers must use their judgement as to what is suitable for the event they have in hand.

It is hoped that these notes will be useful as an aide-memoire or reference list to ensure that nothing of importance has been overlooked. The list is intended to cover the possible requirements for important events but for smaller fixtures a shorter working list could be made from it and this course is strongly recommended. In the case of horse trials, the provision of many of the facilities would be arranged by the organizing committee. Nevertheless, the dressage representatives on this committee should press for early decisions on matters affecting the smooth and timely planning of the dressage phase.

The testing time for organizers often comes during the week before the event, when arrangements apparently completed, fall to pieces due to sickness, accidents and the like. The persons chiefly responsible for sections of the work should be available by telephone daily and arrange to be sufficiently free to deal promptly with any difficulties.

### SECRETARIAL

a. Preparatory (roughly in chronological order).

- Program — decide on classes to run.
- Judges — invite (3 months ahead if possible) stating date, place, test, probable time of starting and probable duration, lunch provided; ask if writer should be provided. Confirm in writing the following day details of appointment if made verbally.
- Canteen
- Safety Officer be appointed to conduct a risk analysis and review Biosecurity requirements
- Letter markers.
- Schedules with entry forms.
- Back numbers if required.
- Judges writers and stewards — appoint.
- Ribbons.
- Test sheets (small) — order from Association; one for each judge and one for each penciller (to study).
- Charges — gate (if applicable).
- Mark car park.

- Sponsor — invite, if any.
- Programs — have printed or duplicated — include name of caterer, sponsor, if any; arena number of each class.
- Telephone numbers of veterinary surgeon and doctor available in secretary's tent — or appropriate arrangements.
- Judges and stewards — write to about 21 days before the event confirming appointment, time of starting, enclosing "official" entry ticket. Confirm writers and send a copy of the test.

b. On the day

- Safety Officer to conduct a Safety Briefing
- Tables and chairs — for scorers.
- Scoreboards and marker.
- Judges and writers lunches, coffee.
- Back numbers.
- Competitors starting times — list to post up (if applicable). Programs "dressage rules".
- Loud hailer.
- Notebook, cellotape etc.
- Judges requirements — assembled ready for each judge:
- Hardboard, clip, pencil, score sheets — one per competitor and one spare, competitors time schedule for the class.
- Car for judging in — if judges own not available.  
Add in thankyou gift for judges
- Bell or whistle if required.
- Stewards (chief and ring) requirements for each — hardboard, clip and pencil for ring stewards. For chief steward — time schedules for all classes, list giving names of judges and writers for each class.

c. After the day

Letters of thanks to

- judges and expenses
- perhaps any other special helper

**FIELD WORK**

a. Planning:

i. Decide on suitable positions for:

Arena(s) — if several, these should be at least 10 metres apart — located as free as possible from disturbance from outside sources (e.g. busy road, horses jumping).

Toilets, secretary's facilities, car parks, practice areas etc.

ii. Procure arena markers.

iii. Conduct a risk assessment.

b. Setting out arenas:

See supplementary note for exact method.

- i. Fill in any holes in arenas.
- ii. Arrange to mow arena area — close mow centre lines.
- iii. Rope off if danger of spectators or riders from other classes (e.g. juniors in gymkhanas) likely to invade and provide suitable signage
- iv. Arrange access for judge's cars and competitors to arenas.
- v. Locate and determine limits of riding-in area(s) away from any cars.
- vi. Arrange, if possible, that judges will not be facing the sun.
- vii. Gear check area.

c. Signposting etc.:

- i. Direction signs on neighbouring road.
- ii. Site notices for car park, arena numbers, fresh water, secretary's facilities etc.
- iii. Provide paper in toilets.

d. On the day:

The chief steward should himself or by delegation:

- i. Arrange for gate to grounds to be unlocked or open at least one and a half hours before the competitions begin.
- ii. Brief stewards on their duties.
- iii. Meet judges on arrival, introduce their writers and assign to respective arenas.
- iv. Ensure that score sheets are being collected.
- v. Ensure that classes are running to time.
- vi. Supervise the re-sitting or extension of arenas if necessary.
- vii. Attend to the welfare of sponsor if present.
- viii. Marshal winning competitors to receive awards.
- ix. Ensure, at award giving, public expression of thanks to owner of site, judges, sponsor, helpers etc.

## SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE(S)

### DUTIES OF:

Chief Steward —

Gear Check Steward — checks competitors dress, gear, whip etc.

Ring Stewards — in general you will require one per arena that is in use at any one time. Their duties (on which they will be briefed by the chief steward) are to: see that judges and writers have all necessary equipment, see that competitors exercise within the limits of the riding-in areas.

Advise competitors if class is running late.

Organise marshals to chase up if competitor has not reported by time due.

Try to keep running to time: if necessary ask competitors to present themselves, riding at a walking pace around and just outside the arena, immediately the previous competitor has made the final salute and begin the test promptly on receiving the signal to start.

Advise the judge of any change.

See that any arena boards which have been knocked down are replaced.

*N.B. — unless a board has been displaced across the track the replacement must be done between tests. Ensure that the judge and writer are properly looked after during the coffee and luncheon breaks and are treated as guests of the organizers.*

Runners — are to collect score sheets from writers and take them to the secretary or scorers.

The number required will depend on the number of classes running concurrently. They should collect after every 2 or 3 ridden tests taking care not to disturb judge or writer until sheet has been signed.

Convey information from secretary to ring steward or vice-versa.

Stewards — if required for gate, car park, programme.

Stewards for refreshments

- To judges and writers
- To deal with if caterers not employed.

### SETTING OUT AN ARENA.

Place a peg in the ground at one corner of the arena. Measure one long side of the arena (for a small arena 40m or 44yds) and place a peg at that distance. These are pegs A and C in the diagram.

Extend the line AC by, say 3.5m (10") to D and measure back from C towards A the same distance, to B, putting temporary pegs in at D and B.

Using about a 9.1m (10yds) length of twine (the exact length doesn't matter) tie a small loop at both ends; then find the exact middle and tie another loop there. Place one end loop over the peg at B and the other end loop over the peg at D. Holding the middle loop, tighten the string, first to the right and then, as a check, to the left, to obtain points E and F. Peg these points. If this has

been done correctly, E, C and F will be in a straight line at right angles to AC. Extend this line 20m (22yds) as from C and the third corner of the arena is fixed. Repeat the procedure at A to find the fourth corner.

This is a quick and accurate method; with practice it will be found that further short cuts can be made, e.g. you can measure AD (40.3m (44yds) plus, say 3.5m (10'') at each end) at one go and peg B and C en route.

— Variant (a)

Using the above method for marking out a right angle the setting out can be started from a chosen short side or the centre line for the arena if either is preferred as a base to work from.

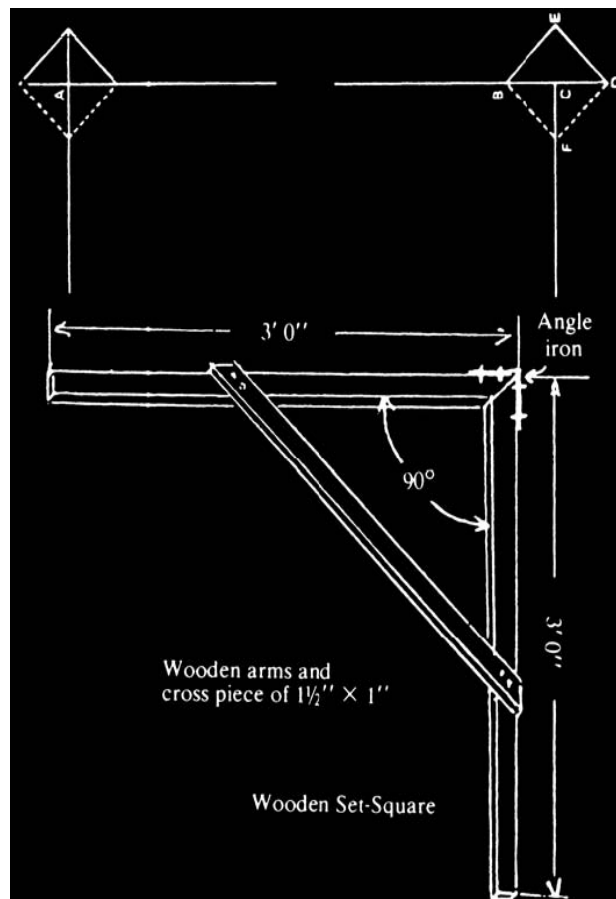
— Variant (b)

Since the main problem in setting out is to establish lines at right angles, a useful tool for one who is frequently engaged in this work is a wooden set-square (easily home-made) as shown on the sketch.

If the apex of the set-square is placed on the ground at a corner peg and one arm is sighted to lie along the base line, the other arm will point in a direction at right angles to it and the next corner peg can be sighted to be in this alignment.

By using a set-square some of the subsidiary measuring is eliminated. Furthermore, the ends and long sides of the arena can be quickly laid out by using one or more line prepared with small loops at each end through which meat skewers or other suitable pegs can be inserted to pin them down as required.

Such prepared lines become stock material and should be checked for length each time they are brought out in case shrinking or stretching has occurred.



1. The object of dressage is the harmonious development of the physique and ability of the horse. As a result it makes the horse calm, supple, loose and flexible, but also confident, attentive and keen, thus achieving F.E.I. DEFINITIONS OF PACES AND MOVEMENTS perfect understanding with his rider.

2. These qualities are revealed by:

2.1 The freedom and regularity of the paces;

2.2 The harmony, lightness and ease of the movements;

2.3 The lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hind quarters, originating in a lively impulsion;

2.4 The acceptance of the bridle, with submissiveness throughout and without any tenseness or resistance.

3. The horse thus gives the impression of doing of his own accord what is required of him. Confident and attentive he submits generously to the control of his rider, remaining absolutely straight in any movement on a straight line and bending accordingly when moving on curved lines.

4. His walk is regular, free and unconstrained. His trot is free, supple, regular, sustained and active. His canter is united, light and cadenced. His quarters are never inactive or sluggish. They respond to the slightest indication of the rider and thereby give life and spirit to all the rest of his body.

5. By virtue of a lively impulsion and the suppleness of his joints, free from the paralysing effects of resistance, the horse obeys willingly and without hesitation and responds to the various aids calmly and with precision, displaying a natural and harmonious balance both physically and mentally.

6. In all his work, even at the halt, the horse must be “on the bit”. A horse is said to be “on the bit” when the neck is more or less raised and arched according to the stage of training and the extension or collection of the pace, and he accepts the bridle with a light and soft contact and submissiveness throughout. The head should remain in a steady position, as a rule slightly in front of the vertical, with a supple poll as the highest point of the neck, and no resistance should be offered to the rider.

7. The horse shows cadence when its movements are well marked, rhythmic and harmonious.

1. At the halt, the horse should stand attentive, motionless and straight, with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs, being by pairs abreast with each other. The neck should be raised, the poll high 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 champ 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 on the quarters by a properly increased action of the seat and legs of the rider, driving the horse towards a more and more restraining but allowing hand, causing an almost instantaneous but not abrupt halt at a previously fixed place.



The walk is a marching pace in which the footfalls of the horse's feet follow one another in "four time", well-marked and maintained in all work at the walk.

When the four beats cease to be distinctly marked, even and regular, the walk is disunited or broken.

It is at the pace of walk that the imperfections of dressage are most evident. This is also the reason why a horse should not be asked to walk "on the bit" at the early stages of his training. A too precipitous collection will not only spoil the collected walk, but the medium and the extended walk as well.

The following walks are recognized: Collected walk, Medium walk, Extended walk and Free walk.

4.1 Collected walk. The horse, remaining "on the bit", moves resolutely forward, with his neck raised and arched. The head approaches the vertical position, the light contact with the mouth being maintained. The hind legs are engaged with good hock action. The pace should remain marching and vigorous, the feet being placed in regular sequence. Each step covers less ground and is higher than at the medium walk, because all the joints bend more markedly. The hind feet touch the ground behind or at the most in the footprints of the forefeet. In order not to become hurried or irregular, the collected walk is shorter than the medium walk, although showing greater activity.

4.2 Medium walk. Is a free regular and unconstrained walk of moderate extension. The horse, remaining "on the bit", walks energetically but calmly, with even and determined steps, the hind feet touching the ground in front of the footprints of the forefeet. The rider maintains a light, soft and steady contact with the mouth.

4.3 Extended walk. The horse covers as much ground as possible, without haste and without losing the regularity of his steps, the hind feet touching the ground clearly in front of the footprints of the forefeet. The rider allows the horse to stretch out his head and neck without, however, losing contact with the mouth.

4.4 Free walk. The free walk is a pace of relaxation in which the horse is allowed complete freedom to lower and stretch out his head and neck.

Article 404

## **THE TROT**

The trot is a pace of "two time" on alternate diagonal legs (near left fore and right hind leg and vice versa) separated by a moment of suspension.

The trot, always with free, active and regular steps, should be moved into without hesitation.

The quality of the trot is judged by the general impression, the regularity and elasticity of the steps — originated from a supple back and well engaged hind quarters — and by the ability of maintaining the same rhythm and natural balance, even after a transition from one trot to another.

The following trots are recognized: Collected trot, Working Trot, Medium trot and Extended trot.

4.1 Collected trot. The horse, remaining "on the bit", moves forward with his neck raised and arched. The hocks, being well engaged, maintain an energetic impulsion, thus enabling the shoulders to move with greater ease in any direction. The horse's steps are shorter than in the other trots, but he is lighter and more mobile.

4.2 Working trot. This is a pace between the collected and the medium trot, in which a horse, not yet trained and ready for collected movements, shows himself properly balanced and, remaining “on the bit”, goes forward with even, elastic steps and good hock action. The expression “good hock action” does not mean that collection is a required quality of working trot. It only underlines the importance of an impulsion originated from the activity of the hind quarters.

4.3 Medium trot. This is a pace between the working and the extended trot, but more “round” than the latter. The horse goes forward with free and moderately extended steps and an obvious impulsion from the hind quarters. The rider allows the horse, remaining “on the bit”, to carry his head a little more in front of the vertical than at the collected and the working trot, and allows him at the same time to lower his head and neck slightly. The steps should be as even as possible, and the whole movement balanced and unconstrained.

4.4 Extended trot. The horse covers as much ground as possible. Maintaining the same cadence, he lengthens his steps to the utmost as a result of great impulsion from the hind quarters. The rider allows the horse, remaining “on the bit”, without leaning on it, to lengthen his frame and to gain ground. The fore feet should touch the ground on the spot towards which they are pointing. The whole movement should be well balanced and the transition to collected trot should be smoothly executed by taking more weight on the hind quarters.

5. All trot-work is executed “sitting”, unless otherwise indicated in the test concerned.

Article 405

## **THE CANTER**

The canter is a pace of “three time”, where at canter to the right, for instance, the footfalls follow one another as follows; left hind, left diagonal (simultaneously left fore and right hind), right fore, followed by a moment of suspension with all four feet in the air before the next stride begins.

The canter, always with light, cadenced and regular strides, should be moved into without hesitation.

The quality of the canter is judged by the general impression, the regularity and lightness of the three time pace — originated in the acceptance of the bridle with a supple poll and in the engagement of the hind quarters with an active hock action — and by the ability of maintaining the same rhythm and a natural balance, even after a transition from one canter to another. The horse should always remain straight on straight lines.

The following canters are recognized: Collected canter, Working canter, Medium canter and Extended canter.

4.1 Collected canter. The horse, remaining, “on the bit”, moves forward with his neck raised and arched. The collected canter is marked by the lightness of the forehead and the engagement of the hindquarters: i.e. is characterized by supple, free and mobile shoulders and very active quarters. The horse’s strides are shorter than at the other canters, but he is lighter and more mobile.

4.2 Working canter. This is a pace between the collected and the medium canter, in which a horse, not yet trained and ready for collected movements, shows himself properly balanced and, remaining “on the bit”, goes forward with even, light and cadenced strides and good hock action. The expression “good hock action” does not mean that collection is a required quality of working canter. It only underlines the importance of an impulsion originated from the activity of the hind quarters.

4.3 Medium canter. This is a pace between the working and the extended canter. The horse goes forward with free, balanced and moderately extended strides and an obvious impulsion from the

hind quarters. The rider allows the horse remaining “on the bit”, to carry his head a little more in front of the vertical than at the collected and working canter, and allows him at the same time to lower his head and neck slightly. The strides should be long and as even as possible and the whole movement balanced and unconstrained.

4.4 Extended canter. The horse covers as much ground as possible. Maintaining the same rhythm, he lengthens his strides to the utmost, without losing any of his calmness and lightness, as a result of great impulsion from the hind quarters. The rider allows the horse, remaining “on the bit” without leaning on it, to lower and extend his head and neck; the tip of his nose pointing more or less forward.

4.5 The cadence in the transitions from medium canter as well from extended canter to collected canter should be maintained.

5. Counter-canter (“false canter”). This is a movement where the rider, for instance on a circle to the left, deliberately makes his horse canter with the right canter lead (with the right fore leading). The counter-canter is a suppling movement. The horse maintains his natural flexion at the poll to the outside of the circle, in other words is bent to the side of the leading leg. His conformation does not permit his spine to be bent to the line of the circle. The rider, avoiding any contortion causing contraction and disorder, should especially endeavour to limit the deviation of the quarters to the outside of the circle, and restrict his demands according to the degree of suppleness of the horse.

6. Simple change of leg at canter. This is a change of leg where the horse is brought back immediately into walk and, after two or at the most three steps, is restarted immediately into canter with the other leg leading.

7. Flying change of leg or change of leg in the air. This change of leg is executed in close connection with the suspension which follows each stride of the canter. Flying changes of leg can also be executed in series, for instance 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 throughout the series concerned. In order not to restrict or restrain the lightness and fluency of the flying changes of leg in series, the degree of collection should be slightly less than otherwise at collected canter.

Article 406

## **THE REIN BACK**

The rein back is an equilateral, retrograde movement in which the feet are raising and set down almost simultaneously by diagonal pairs; each fore foot being raised and set down an instant before the diagonal hind foot, so that, on hard ground, sometimes four separate beats are clearly audible. The feet should be well raised and the hind feet remain well in line.

At the preceding halt as well as during the rein back the horse, although standing motionless and moving backwards respectively, should remain “on the bit”, maintaining his desire to move forward.

Anticipation or precipitation of the movement, resistance to or evasion of the hand, deviation of the quarters from the straight line, spreading or inactive hind legs and dragging forefeet are serious faults.

If in a dressage test a trot or canter is required after a rein back, the horse should move off immediately into this pace, without a halt or an intermediate step.

**THE TRANSITIONS**

The changes of pace and speed should be clearly shown at the prescribed marker; they should be quickly made, yet must be smooth and not abrupt. The cadence of a pace should be maintained up to the movement when the pace is changed or the horse halts. The horse should remain light in hand, calm and maintain a correct position.

The same applies to transitions from one movement to another, for instance from the passage to the piaffe and vice-versa.

**THE HALF-HALT**

The half-halt is hardly visible, almost simultaneous, coordinated action of the seat, the legs and the hand of the rider, with the object of increasing the attention and balance of the horse before the execution of several movements or transitions to lesser and higher paces. In shifting slightly more weight onto the horse's quarters, the engagement of the hind legs and the balance on the haunches are facilitated, for the benefit of the lightness of the forehand and the horse's balance as a whole.

**THE CHANGES OF DIRECTION**

At changes of direction, the horse should adjust the bend of his body to the curvature of the line he follows, remaining supple and following the indications of the rider, without any resistance or change of pace, rhythm or speed.

When changing direction at right angles, for instance when riding corners, the horse should describe one quarter of a circle or approximately 6 metres diameter at collected and working paces, and at medium and extended paces one quarter of a circle approximately 10 metres diameter.

When changing direction in form of counter-change of hand, the rider changes direction by moving obliquely either to the quarter line or the centre line or to the opposite long side of the arena, whence he returns on an oblique line to the line he was following when he started the movement.

At the counter-change of hand the rider should make his horse straight an instant before changing direction.

When, for instance, at counter-change of hand at half-pass to either side of the centre line, the number of metres or strides to either side is prescribed in the test, it must be strictly observed and the movement be executed symmetrically.

**THE FIGURES****1. Volte**

The volte is a circle of 6m diameter. If larger than 6m, one uses the term circle stating the diameter.

**2. Serpentine**

The first loop is started by moving gradually away from the middle of the short side of the arena, and the last loop is finished by moving gradually towards the middle of the opposite short side. Starting and finishing by riding into the corners is incorrect.

**3. Figure of eight**

This figure consists of two exact voltes or circles of equal size as prescribed in the test, joined at the centre of the eight. The rider should make his horse straight an instant before changing direction at the centre of the figure.

#### Article 411 **THE LATERAL MOVEMENTS** (work on two tracks)

1. The aim of the lateral movements is:

- 1.1 To improve the obedience of the horse to the co-operative aids of the rider.
- 1.2 To supple all parts of the horse, thereby increasing the freedom of his shoulders and the suppleness of his quarters, as well as the elasticity of the bond connecting the mouth, the poll, the neck, the back and the haunches;
- 1.3 To improve the cadence and bring the balance and pace into harmony;
- 1.4 To develop and increase the engagement of the quarters and thereby also the collection.

2. At all lateral movements — with the exception of leg-yielding, in which the horse is bent only at the poll — the horse is slightly bent and moves with the forehand and the quarters on two different tracks. (Refer illustration.)

3. As all bending or flexion at the poll and neck has a repercussion on the whole spine, the bend or flexion must never be exaggerated so that it impairs the balance and fluency of the movement concerned; this applies especially to the half-pass, where the bend should be less evident than in the shoulder-in, travers and renvers.

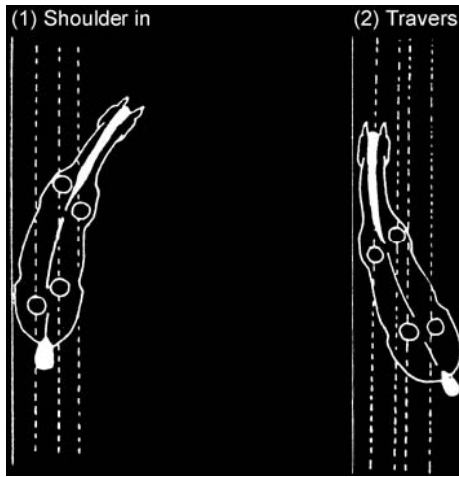
4. At the lateral movements the pace should remain free and regular, maintained by a constant impulsion, yet it must be supple, cadenced and balanced. The impulsion is often lost, because of the rider's preoccupation mainly in bending the horse and pushing him sideways.

5. Lateral movements should only be practiced for a relatively short time, now and then interrupted by some energetic movement straight forward, inter alia in order to maintain or increase the impulsion.

6. At all lateral movements the side to which the horse should be bent is the inside. The opposite side is the outside.

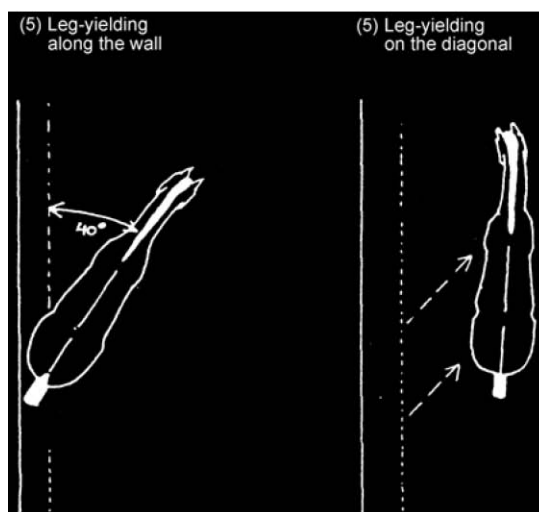
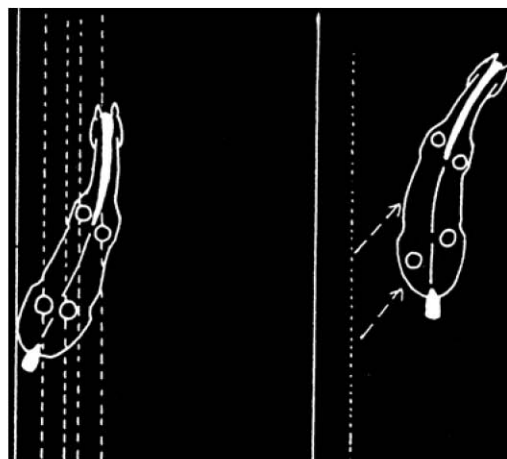
7. The lateral movements comprise: leg-yielding, shoulder-in, Travers (head to the wall), renvers (tail to the wall) and half-pass.

7.1 Leg-yielding. The horse is quite straight, except for a slight bend at the poll, so that the rider is just able to see the eyebrow and nostril on the inside. The inside legs pass and cross in front of the outside legs. The horse is looking away from the direction in which he is moving.



Leg-yielding is the most basic of all lateral movements and should be included in the training of the horse before he is ready for collected work. Later on, together with the more advanced movement shoulder-in, it is the best means of making a horse supple, loose and unconstrained, for the benefit of the freedom, elasticity and regularity of his paces and the harmony, lightness and ease of his movements.

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 quarters. It can also be performed “along the wall”, in which case the horse should be at an angle of about 35 degrees to the direction in which he is moving (refer fig.5).



7.2 Shoulder-in. The horse is slightly bent round the inside leg of the rider. The horse's inside

foreleg passes and crosses in front of the outside leg; the inside hind leg is placed in front of the outside leg. The horse is looking away from the direction in which he is moving.

Shoulder-in, if performed in the right way, with the horse slightly bent round the inside leg of the rider, and at the correct angle, is not only a suppling movement but also a collecting movement, because the horse at every step must move his inside hind leg underneath his body and place it in front of the outside, which he is unable to do without lowering his inside hip. Shoulder-in is performed “along the wall” at an angle of about 30 degrees to the direction in which the horse is moving (refer fig. 1).

7.3 Travers. The horse is slightly bent round the inside leg of the rider. The horse’s outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs. The horse is looking at the direction in which he is moving.

Travers is performed “along the wall”, or preferably, on the centre line, at an angle of about 30 degrees to the direction in which the horse is moving (refer fig. 2).

7.4 Renvers. This is the inverse movement in relation to Travers, with the tail instead of the head to the wall. Otherwise the same principles and conditions are applicable as at the Travers (refer fig. 3).

7.5 Half-pass. This is a variation of Travers, executed “on the diagonal” instead of “along the wall”. The horse slightly bent round the inside leg of the rider, should be as close as possible parallel to the long sides of the arena, although the forehand should be slightly in advance of the quarters. The outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs. The horse is looking in the direction in which he is moving. He should maintain the same cadence and balance throughout the whole movement. In order to give more freedom and mobility to the shoulders, which adds to the ease and grace of the movement, it is of great importance, not only that the horse is correctly bent and thereby prevented from protruding his inside shoulder, but also to maintain the impulsion, especially the engagement of the inside hind leg (refer fig. 4).

“Half-pass” is substituted for the previous expression “on two tracks”.

#### Article 412 **THE PIROUETTE AND THE HALF-PIROUETTE**

1. The pirouette (half-pirouette) is a circle (half-circle) executed on two tracks, with a radius equal to the length of the horse, the forehand moving round the haunches.
2. Pirouettes (half-pirouettes) are usually carried out at collected walk or canter, but can also be executed at piaffer.
3. At the pirouette (half-pirouette) the forefeet and the outside hind foot move round the inside hind foot, which forms the pivot and should return to the same spot, or slightly in front of it, each time it leaves the ground.
4. At whatever pace the pirouette (half-pirouette) is executed, the horse, slightly bent in the direction in which he is turning, should, remaining “on the bit” with a light contact, turn smoothly round, maintaining the exact cadence and sequence of footfalls of that pace. The poll stays the highest point during the entire movement.
5. During the pirouettes (half-pirouettes) the horse should maintain his impulsion, and never in the slightest way move backwards or deviate sideways. If the inside hind foot is not raised and returned to the ground in the same rhythm as the outside hind foot, the pace is no longer regular.

6. In executing the pirouette or the half pirouette in canter, the rider should maintain perfect lightness of the horse, while accentuating the collection. The quarters are well engaged and lowered and show a good flexion of the joints.
7. The quality of the pirouettes (half-pirouettes) is judged according to the suppleness, lightness, cadence and regularity, and to the precision and smoothness of the transitions; pirouettes (half-pirouettes) at canter also according to the balance, the elevation and the number of strides (at pirouettes 6-8, at half-pirouettes 3-4 are desirable).

#### Article 413

#### **THE PASSAGE**

1. This is a measured, very collected, very elevated and very cadenced trot. It is characterized by a pronounced engagement of the quarters, a more accentuated flexion of the knees and hocks, and the graceful elasticity of the movement. Each diagonal pair of feet is raised and returned to the ground alternately, with cadence and a prolonged suspension.
2. In principle, the height of the toe of the raised foreleg should be level with the middle of the cannon bone of the other foreleg. The toe of the raised hind leg should be slightly above the fetlock joint of the other hind leg.
3. The neck should be raised and gracefully arched with the poll as the highest point and the head close to the vertical. The horse should remain light and soft “on the bit” and be able to go smoothly from the passage to the piaffer and vice-versa, without apparent effort and without altering the cadence, the impulsion being always lively and pronounced.
4. Irregular steps with the hind legs, swinging the forehand or the quarters from one side to the other as well as jerky movements of the forelegs or the hind legs or dragging the hind legs are serious faults.

#### Article 414

#### **THE PIAFFE**

1. The piaffe is a highly collected, cadenced, elevated and majestic trot on the spot. The horse’s back is supple and vibrating. The quarters are slightly lowered; the haunches with active hocks are well engaged, giving great freedom, lightness and mobility to the shoulders and forehand. Each diagonal pair of feet is raised and returned to the ground alternately, with an even cadence and a slightly prolonged suspension.
2. In principle, the height of the toe of the raised foreleg should be level with the middle of the cannon bone of the other foreleg. The toe of the raised hind leg should reach just above the fetlock joint of the other hind leg.
3. The neck should be raised and arched, the head vertical. The horse should remain light “on the bit” with a supple poll, maintaining a light and soft contact on a taut rein. The body of the horse should move up and down in a supple, cadenced and harmonious movement.
4. The piaffe, although being executed strictly on the spot and with perfect balance, must always be animated by a lively impulsion, which is displayed in the horse’s constant desire to move forward as soon as the aids calling for the piaffe cease.
5. Moving even slightly backwards, irregular steps with the hind legs, crossing the forelegs or swinging either the forehand or the quarters from one side to the other are serious faults.

A movement with hurried and un-level or irregular steps without cadence or steps without suspension cannot be called a true piaffe.



1. The aim of the collection of the horse is:

1.1 To further develop and improve the balance and equilibrium of the horse, which has been more or less displaced by the additional weight of the rider.

1.2 To develop and increase the horse's ability to lower and engage his quarters for the benefit of the lightness and mobility of his forehand.

1.3 To add to the "ease and carriage" of the horse and to make him more pleasurable to ride.

2. The best means to obtain these aims are the lateral movements, travers, renvers and, last but not least, shoulder-in (article 411.7.2) as well as half-halts (article 408).

3. Collection is, in other words, improved and effected by engaging the hind legs, with the joints bent and supple, forward under the horse's body by a temporary but often repeated action of the seat and legs of the rider, driving the horse forward towards a more or less stationary or restraining hand, allowing just enough impulsion to pass through. Collection is consequently not achieved by shortening of the pace through a resisting action of the hand, but instead by using the seat and legs to engage the hind legs further under the horse's body.

4. However, the hind legs should not be engaged too far forward under the horse, as this would shorten the base of support too much, and thereby impede the movement. In such a case, the line of the back would be lengthened and raised in relation to the supporting base of the legs, the stability would be deranged and the horse would have difficulty in finding a harmonious and correct balance.

5. On the other hand, a horse with a too long base of support, unable or unwilling to engage his hind legs forward under his body, will never achieve an acceptable collection, characterized by "ease and carriage" as well as a lively impulsion, originated in the activity of the quarters.

6. The position of the head and neck of a horse at the collected paces is naturally dependent on the stage of training and, in some degree, on his confirmation. It should, however, be distinguished by the neck being raised unrestrained, forming a harmonious curve from the withers to the poll, being the highest point, with the head slightly in front of the vertical.

However, at the moment the rider applies his aids in order to obtain a momentary and passing collecting effect, the head may become more or less vertical (compare articles 401.6, 402.2 and 408).

1. Submission does not mean a truckling subservience, but an obedience revealing its presence by a constant attention, willingness and confidence in the whole behaviour of the horse as well as by the harmony, lightness and ease he is displaying in the execution of the different movements. The degree of submission is also manifested by the way the horse accepts the bridle; with a light and soft contact and a supple poll, or with resistance to or evasion of the riders hand; being either "above the bit" or "behind the bit" respectively.

2. Putting out the tongue, keeping it above the bit or drawing it up altogether, as well as grinding the teeth and swishing the tail are mostly signs of nervousness, tenseness and resistance on the part of the horse and must be taken into account by the judges in their marks for the movement concerned as well as in the collective mark for "submission".

## Article 417 **THE POSITION AND AIDS OF THE RIDER**

1. All the movements should be obtained without apparent effort of the rider. He should be well balanced, with his loins and hips supple, thighs and legs steady and well stretched downwards. The upper part of the body easy, free and erect, with the hands low and close together without, however, touching either each other or the horse and with the thumb as the highest point; the elbows and arms close to the body, enabling the rider to follow the movements of the horse smoothly and freely and to apply his aids imperceptibly. This is the only position making it possible for the rider to school his horse progressively and correctly.

2. Not only the aids of the hand and the legs but also of the seat are of great importance in dressage. Only the rider who understands how to contract and relax his loin muscles at the right moment is able to influence his horse correctly (compare articles 402.2, 408 and 415.3).

3. Riding with both hands is obligatory at all international dressage events, not only when executing any of the official dressage tests published by the F.E.I. but also when executing any national test that might be inserted in the programme of the same event. However, when leaving the arena at a walk on a long rein, after having finished his performance, the rider may, at his own discretion, ride with only one hand. Riding with reins in one hand is however permitted in the free style tests.

4. The use of the voice in any way whatsoever, or clicking the tongue once or repeatedly, is a serious fault, involving the deduction of a least 2 marks from those that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement where this occurred.