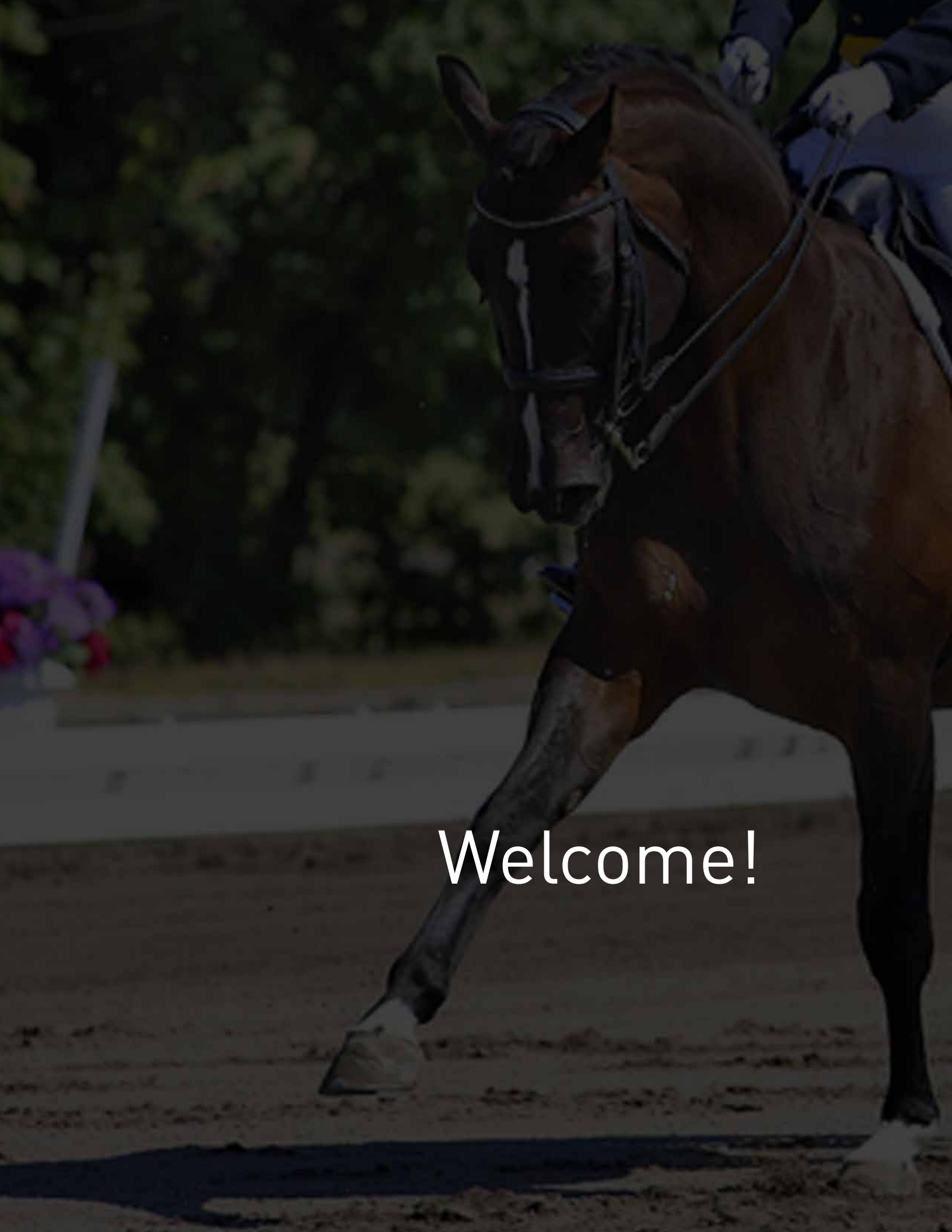




Rider Level Program

Levels 1-10

Candidate Material
English Discipline



Welcome!

Welcome to the Equine Canada Rider Levels!

As riding students you have already embarked on the road to continuing education since you are taking lessons from instructors and/or coaches that are certified by Equine Canada!

Equine Canada certified coaches have already designed and implemented a 1-3 English Rider Certification Program that has been running for many years across Canada. The new English Rider Level program expands the previous program from three levels to ten levels! The Equine Canada English Rider Level program is considered in a transition phase until the manuals for all levels are published.

The new Equine Canada English Rider Level program is exciting because it offers you, the rider, a more progressive program to follow. The levels are more attainable as the progression provides smaller steps. Your Equine Canada certified instructor/coach is dedicated to teaching you the skills you need to become a knowledgeable horseperson. One who has good, sound riding skills and who has had the opportunity to learn stable management skills as well.

The Rider Certification program is a national program with national standards and will reward your continued quest of learning with Certificates of Achievement issued by the respective provincial equestrian federation/council. In addition, this program will prepare those students who aspire to become Equine Canada certified instructors or coaches themselves.

Equestrian knowledge knows no boundaries. We wish you the best as you continue your study of our wonderful friend – the horse.

Jill Barker, Chair
 Equine Canada English Rider Level Pilot Committee
 Halifax, Nova Scotia

Rider Level 1-10

Equine Canada's Comprehensive Program for Rider Development

Objectives

To create a national program that offers levels of achievement for all riders from recreational to competitive.

The English Rider Level 1-10 program encourages riders to ride, learn and enjoy the equestrian sport, and promote a continuous and progressive path of learning towards safe and knowledgeable horsemanship. The program encourages participants to continue learning in the sport by offering a series of attainable levels of achievement that are recognized with certificates. The English Rider Level 1-10 program also assists in the preparation for future Equine Canada (EC) certified instructors and coaches. This program will compliment programs offered by riding schools across Canada and provide guidelines to coaches and instructors.

With the expansion of the EC Rider Program, EC certified instructors/coaches will be able to offer a complete and progressive program of instruction to their students. This program is also an important component to aid in the continued promotion, development and recognition of qualified instructional programs and will compliment the national stable registry system as it is developed.

In addition to providing a national standard recognized from coast to coast, this program offers enough levels to maintain the interest of a rider for an extended period of time. For example, the young student starting riding at age 8 can potentially participate in the program for a number of years. This program also meets the needs of the adult rider.

Candidates for the English Rider 1-10 program must become members of their provincial equestrian federations/councils thereby having access to other benefits.

Note: This program is also tailored for those riders who seek to further their riding skills on the flat but who do not wish to continue over fences. At Rider Level 3 candidates may take the full riding phase or the flat phase only. This option continues through Rider Levels 4-8.

Should a candidate elect not to do the gymnastic/jumping phase at a particular level (and the candidate has indicated this option on the application form prior to the test), then the evaluator is only to mark the flat phase of the riding test. Candidates successfully passing the flat test as well as all other phases of the exam, excluding the gymnastic/jumping phase, will be issued a certificate of achievement which specializes in flat work only.

Candidates intending to pursue their EC instructor or coach levels should carefully consider the following:

Those candidates who wish to attain their Equine Canada **coaching** certification in the future must successfully complete full riding sections at all levels. Those candidates who wish to attain their instructor certification must successfully pass either the full riding OR the flat phase at Rider 6.

History and Schedule of Development

At the Equine Canada English Coaching committee meeting in January 2003, Jill Barker, Nova Scotia Master Course Conductor, was provided with the direction to develop a pilot program within a four-year timeframe.

In 2003, the program was developed and a pilot program was run at the Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers – a full-fledged riding school with adult and junior programs with EC certified instructors and coaches. A draft outline of the program was presented to the Equine Canada English Coaching committee in February 2004 and received approval as a test pilot program for selected riding schools across Canada. The program was met with great enthusiasm by coaches, instructors, students and evaluators and valuable feedback was obtained from the trial run. The program was revamped again.

In February 2005, the Equine Canada National Coaching Committee granted approval for the English Rider 1-10 program as a national program, in transition until manuals for all levels are published.

In the interest of encouraging equestrians to broaden their base of knowledge, a resource guide has been provided to assist equestrian in furthering their knowledge and understanding of the English discipline.

Candidates will find that the systematic progression through the levels will aid them in creating a flow chart to prepare for the next level.

Who May Examine Candidates?

English Rider Level 1-2 Evaluators

- Equine Canada current certified Instructor or higher.
- Maybe evaluated by own certified Instructor or coach.
- Maybe evaluated by a single evaluator.

English Rider Level 3-4 Evaluators

- Equine Canada current certified Coach Level I or higher.
- Maybe evaluated by own certified Coach Level I or above.

English Rider Level 5-6 Evaluators

- Equine Canada current certified Coach Level I or above (not their own coach).

English Rider Level 7-8 Evaluators

- By an evaluator recognized and approved by the Provincial Master Course Conductor minimum certified Coach Level 2.

Retaking an Exam – If a rider is unsuccessful in obtaining the passing mark (70%), he/she must wait two months prior to retaking the exam.

Equivalency to Previous Rider Level Program

For coaches and riders who are currently working through the Rider 1-3 program and who wish to transition into the Rider 1-10 program, the National English Coaching Committee has established the following table of equivalencies:

Old Rider Level 1	New Rider Level 2
Old Rider Level 2	New Rider Level 5
Old Rider Level 3	New Rider Level 8

Note: *As the program evolves, the expectations at each level will be expanded and more detail provided, particularly in, the stable management phase.*

Rider Level Program Resources

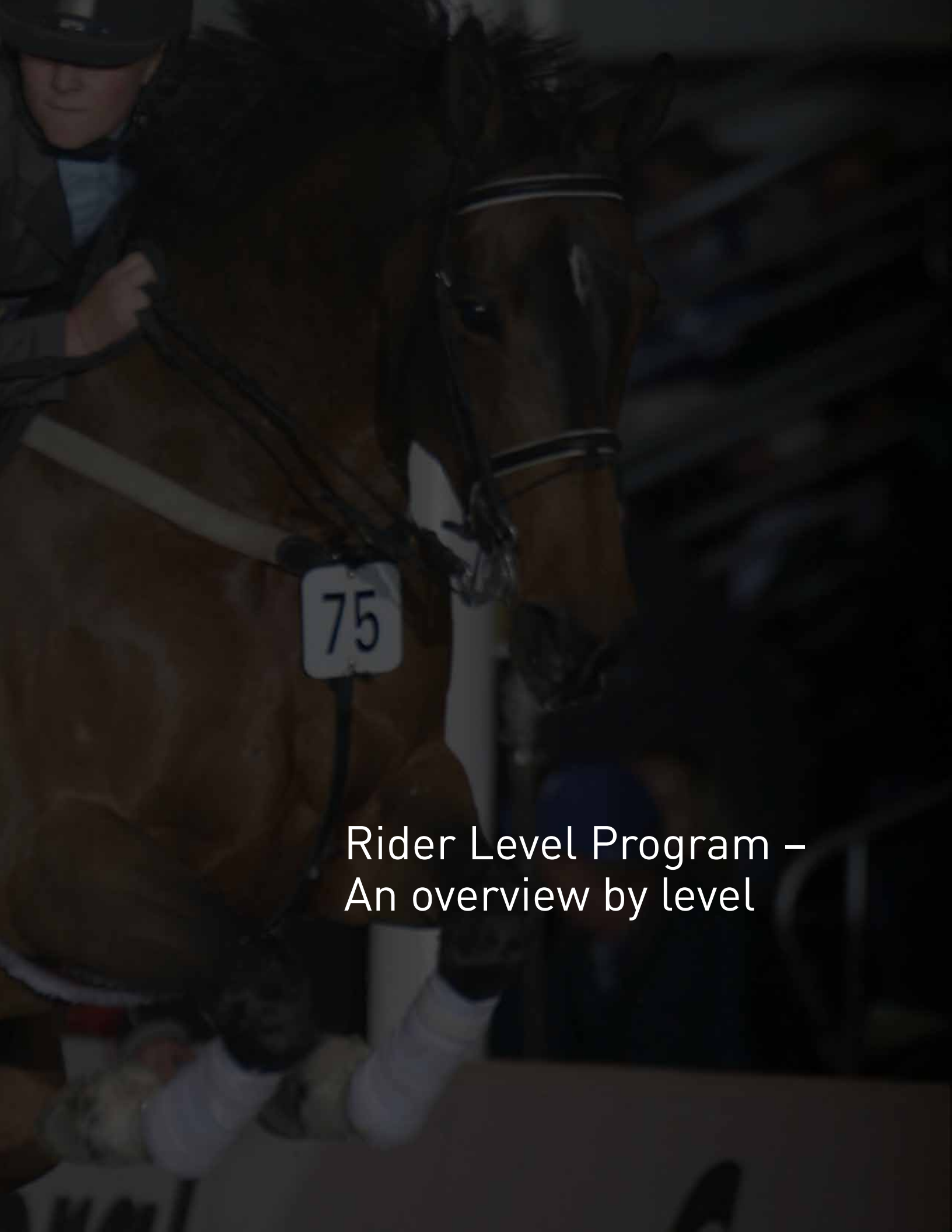
While it is hoped that all students of equestrian sport will be avid readers of various publications about their sport, the equine athletes and the many aspects of enjoying the world of horses, the following list of resources has been provided as a very basic reading guideline for this program.

Required Resource List

- Equine Canada English Rider Handbook Levels 1-2, 3-5 & 6-8 (available through Equine Canada or your Provincial Association)
- Stable Management in Canada (available through Equine Canada or your Provincial Association)

Supplementary Resource List

- BHS Manual of Horsemanship 12th Edition
- USPC Manuals of Horsemanship
- Horsemasters Notebook (revised)
- Saddlery (revised)
- Know Your Horse (revised)
- The Judge Is Back
- Dressage in North America
- Dressage for Young Riders
- Jumping (Anne Kerenski)
- Dressage With Kyra
- Practical Horseman
- Equus
- Instructor's Handbook BHS



Rider Level Program –
An overview by level

Rider

1

Riders at Level 1 are in the beginning stages of their equestrian development. At this stage the riders are well started in the basics of riding and are able to demonstrate a good position, knowledge of “aids” and an appreciation for “safe” habits. Riders can post/rise to the trot but are not yet aware of diagonals. They can change diagonals when asked.

Riders at this level should not be balancing on the horse’s mouth. Hands should be independent at walk. The use of a neck strap in the absence of a standing martingale neck strap is allowed periodically at the trot. Contact is applied to stop, turn and slow down. Reins are then returned to an inactive state.

At this level riders must wear an ASTM approved helmet that is properly fitted, hard soled, heeled, ankle boots or higher and fitted, seamless pants. Half chaps are permissible. A well-fitted shirt with a collar and tucked into the pants or breeches is recommended with a belt that is visible. Gloves are recommended at all levels. Hair must be either tucked into the helmet or kept tidy with a hair net. A single braid is acceptable if hair is very long.

Tack should be used as it is normally for the rider/horse combination. Running and standing martingales are acceptable as are boots etc. so long as they are clean and properly fitted.

The horse need not be braided or clipped, but an effort should be made to make a good presentation. All equipment must be clean and neat.

The test is to be conducted in a ride format. The test organizer will appoint a person, (possibly the regular instructor), to give the directions and control the safety of the group during the testing.

Rider 1 – Stable Management Requirements

The candidates should demonstrate an awareness of the basic parts of the horse and of their equipment, and that they can, with assistance, be involved in the daily care of their horse.

Turnout should be neat and workman like. Paddock boots, work boots, or riding boots and neat sweat pants or slush pants over breeches are acceptable. Loose, baggy jeans or shirts are not acceptable. Hair should be tied back. Ball caps that cover the eyes are discouraged.

Riders will be expected to:

- Rinse the bit to rid it of any dirt that may harden and become uncomfortable for the horse the next time it is used.
- Put the bridle up in a figure of eight arrangement.
- Enter the stall, approach the horse/pony safely and put the halter on.
- Lead the pony or horse out of the stall properly, turn it correctly, take the horse/pony back into the stall and remove the halter. A lead line or chain should be attached correctly.

- Know the color of the horse they are using for the test.
- Know which side is the “near” side and which is the “far” or “off” side.
- Demonstrate how to feed a treat and what types of foods are best to offer as treats. (Rules for feeding treats may differ from one stable to another).
- Attempt to tack up. If an evaluator assists, the student/candidate must direct the process.

Safety, and a willingness to learn about the horse/pony is emphasized at this level.

Rider 1 – Riding Requirements

Riders will be required to:

- Adjust stirrups from the ground; tighten the girth; put reins over the horse’s head.
- Mount in the correct, safe manner (from ground or block).
- Dismount and lead the horse in hand.
- Adjust the girth and stirrups (assistance allowed).
- Pick up reins correctly while mounted.
- Demonstrate the correct position at walk.
- Identify the direction of travel (i.e. left rein, right rein).
- Demonstrate the correct position at trot (rising).
- Drop and retake stirrups at walk.
- Demonstrate change of rising/posting diagonal when asked.
- Demonstrate transitions at walk/trot.
- Ride the centerline at walk.
- Ride across the school at walk E to B or B to E.
- Change rein on long diagonal at trot.
- Halt from walk.
- Identify and maintain a safe distance in a group ride.
- Demonstrate overall authority, safety and confidence.

Riders at Level 2 will demonstrate more polish and knowledge than riders at Level 1 and will be more independent in both riding and stable management skills.

The contact with the horse's mouth demonstrated by the rider is the same as in Level 1. Now however, the neck strap should not be used at trot and the rider should demonstrate a balanced position. A neck strap is permitted at the canter but should only be used periodically.

At this stage the riders must wear an ASTM approved helmet that is properly fitted, hard soled, heeled, ankle boot or higher and fitted, seamless pants. Half chaps are permissible. A well-fitted shirt with a collar tucked into the pants or breeches is recommended with a belt that is visible. Gloves are recommended at all levels. Hair must be either tucked into the helmet or kept tidy with a hair net. A single braid is acceptable if hair is very long.

Tack should be used as it is normally for the rider/horse combination. If a particular piece of equipment (bit, spurs, etc) is felt to be inappropriate by the evaluator then he/she will work with the candidate to educate him/her as to more appropriate options. Running and standing martingales are acceptable as are boots etc. so long as they are clean and properly fitted.

Horse need not be braided or clipped, but an effort should be made to make a good presentation. All equipment must be clean and neat.

The test will be conducted in a ride format. The test organizer may appoint a person, (possibly the regular instructor), to give the directions and control the safety of the group during the testing.

Rider 2 – Stable Management Requirements

- Turnout for the stable management phase should be neat and workman like. Paddock boots, work boots, or riding boots and neat sweat pants or slush pants over breeches are acceptable. Loose, baggy jeans or shirts are not acceptable. Hair should be tied back. Ball caps that cover the eyes are discouraged.

Candidates will be expected to:

- Identify basic face markings.
- List the foods eaten by their horse as a part of their regular diet.
- Demonstrate the difference in the technique of using a body brush versus the dandy brush.
- Know how often the farrier should visit the horse.
- Be able to tie a quick release knot.
- Know the reasons for cleaning tack and the method involved.

Tack up unassisted under the direction of the evaluator.

Rider 2 – Riding Requirements (flat)

Riders will be required to demonstrate:

- Riding without stirrups at the walk.
- How whip/crop should be held with hand centered on handgrip, and whip/crop resting on thigh.
- Tack adjustments – girth and stirrups (unassisted).
- Position at walk with & without stirrups. Hold whip correctly.
- An awareness of posting diagonals and how to change the diagonal.
- Correct position at trot rising and sitting with stirrups.
- Transitions (progressive) at all paces (except canter).
- Knowledge of how to prepare for the canter transition and to achieve the canter. Knowledge of the canter lead is not required at this level.
- Briefly dropping stirrups at sitting trot, then walk to regain stirrups.
- Preparation and accuracy between the letters. Riders are not necessarily proficient at canter at this level.
- Turning across the ring away from ride; rider independence.
- Riding 20m circles of the correct size (i.e. going to tangent points).

Demonstrate jumping position (half seat) at trot.

Rider 2 – Riding Requirements (poles)

Riders will be required to:

- Trot a course of poles to demonstrate the ability to control direction, approach and ability to ride to the end of the lines. Focus should be on direction and use of eyes to plan the turn for the next pole. The candidate is to execute the course in rising trot with correct use of diagonals as much as possible without losing the line.

Other Skills:

- Demonstrate riding ‘ahead’, ‘on’ and ‘behind’ the vertical.
- Identify leads from the ground.
- Recognize square halt by observing another horse.
- Recognize when own mount is in an immobile halt.
- Know ‘inside’ and ‘outside’ for ring position.



Rider

3

Riders at Level 3 will now demonstrate the ability to ride independently. Contact with the horse's mouth should be as steady and sympathetic as possible at all three paces. Riders must understand the hand (rein) and how it affects the horse's mouth to achieve a goal (i.e. slow down). The riders must know how to release the pressure when the goal is achieved.

The movements should be demonstrated with accuracy. Riders are expected to know and to consistently demonstrate knowledge of correct diagonals throughout the riding portion, including in the "jumping" phase.

Although riders are now expected to ride an individual flat test, other horses should be in the vicinity so riders will not have to deal with a panicked, lonely horse.

The flat test is not regarded as a dressage test. The flat tests from this level forward are only to provide the riders with an opportunity to demonstrate the requirements independently.

The test organizer will provide a ring assistant to ensure safety during independent, group warm up i.e. have all candidates on same rein at one time. The organizer will provide a "caller" for the flat test.

Rider 3 – Stable Management Requirements

Turnout for stable management should be neat and workmanlike. Paddock boots, work boots, or riding boots and neat sweat pants or slush pants over breeches are acceptable. Loose, baggy jeans or shirts are not acceptable. Hair should be tied back. Ball caps that cover the eyes are discouraged.

Candidates will be expected to:

- Disassemble and assemble a snaffle bridle and "put it up" in a figure of eight.
- Recognize and describe "thrush" and that it's spread can be controlled by attention to the hooves.
- Put on and remove a blanket, with leg straps and belly surcingles.
- Know that they should loosen the girth, run up the stirrups, take the reins down from the neck, put on a sweat sheet or cooler and walk the horse until it is cool after exercise.
- Discuss the daily care of the mane and tail. They should know what brushes are used and how often the tail should be combed out.
- Demonstrate the safe tying up of a hay net with attention to the height and the type of quick release knot used.

Rider 3 – Riding Requirements (Flat)

Riders will be required to demonstrate:

- Knowledge about their own equipment with proper name, including boots. Knowledge about how the equipment functions is not required. Martingales (not German) are allowed.
 - The correct use of a whip/crop by putting both reins in one hand, and smoothly tapping the horse with the whip/crop directly behind the rider's leg.
 - A “show ring reverse”. The horse must come to the inside of the ring on the diagonal, and half circle in the new direction back to the rail.
 - An understanding of the size and shape of a 20m circle, starting and ending in the same place.
 - The ability to ask for the transition at the letter. The rider should “prepare” the horse for the transition by asking for it slightly before the letter as the transition may take a few steps to complete.
- Correct position at walk, trot and canter.
 - Rising and sitting trot without stirrups.
 - Identifying own horse's canter lead.
 - Change rein on the short diagonal with accuracy and control.
 - Dropping and regaining stirrups at the trot.
 - Consistent knowledge of diagonals and how to change the diagonal as required.

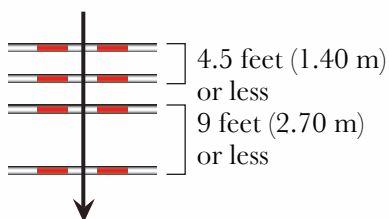
Rider 3 – Riding Requirements (Jumping)

Riders will be required to:

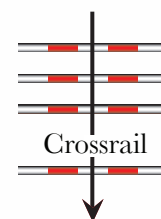
- Trot poles and jump an X maintaining the jumping position on the approach, over the fence and upon landing over the cross rail.
- Demonstrate medium mane release.
- Demonstrate control of trot and straightness of approach and departure. Horse should land at canter and be brought back to trot before reaching the end of the ring. Riders should return to a “full seat”, 3 point position for the transition.
- Trot a course of cross rails and regain trot before a turn; focus on path of the course and the ability to bring the horse back to trot before the turn to prepare for the next trot approach.
- Maintain a balanced forward seat position. If rising trot is done through turns, rider is to be on the correct rising/posting diagonal.
- Demonstrate confidence, safety and control.

Rider 3 – Gymnastic

Step 1 Poles



Step 2 3 poles to X

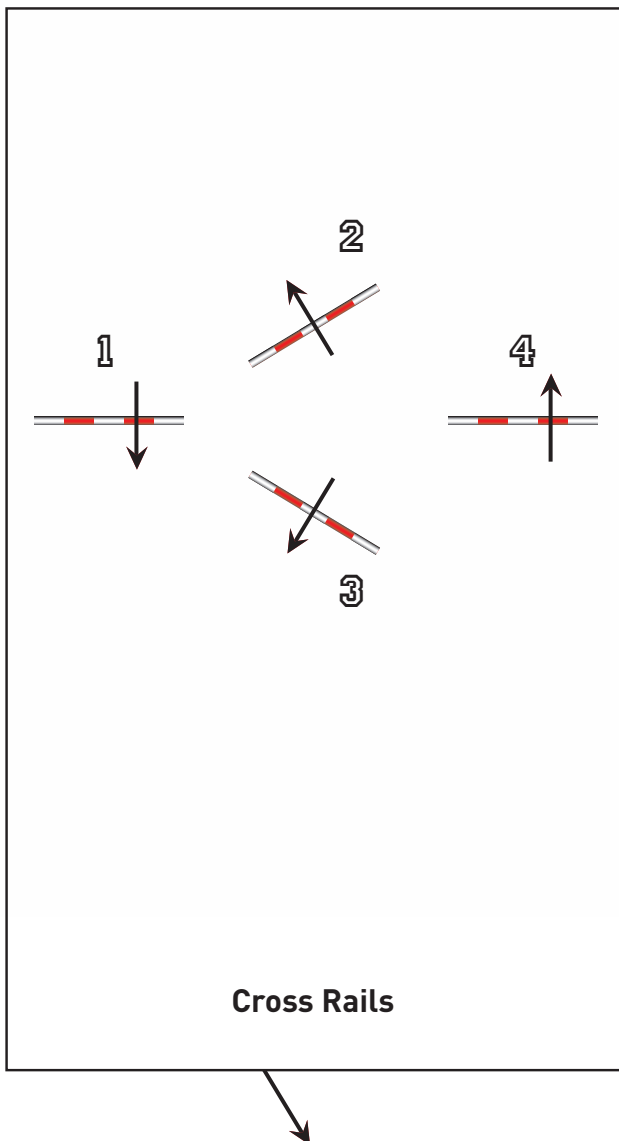


NB: The distances between the poles will depend on the stride of the horse/pony.

Rider 3 – Course

Suggested Courses for Rider 3 Tests

(Ensure standards are used on all obstacles, Evaluators to walk and approve before testing).



Requirements for Rider 3 – Flat Test

Number	Markers	Movement	Work Space
1	A	Enter at walk	
2	X	Halt, Immobility 4 sec. Continue at walk	
3	C	Track Right	
4	M	Trot Rising	
5	A	20m Circle Rising trot	
6	Between A&K	Canter Right lead	
7	B	Sitting trot	
8	A	Walk	
9	K-B	Change rein	
10	M	Rising Trot	
11	C	20m Circle Rising trot	
12	Between C&H	Canter	
13	B	Sitting trot	
14	C	Trot rising	
15	HXF	Change rein	
16	Between F&A	Walk	
17	A	Turn down Center line	
18	X	Halt	
19		Leave arena on Long rein	

Rider

4

Riders at Level 4 are starting to co-ordinate the use of independent aids (i.e. leg being used to support hand contact). The riders should sit naturally and quietly in the saddle. They can now establish a soft sensation with the horse's mouth and can feel when the horse is responding softly to the bit (i.e. relaxing jaw, mouthing bit – the “wet mouth”). Riders can demonstrate bend. Riders are able to recognize an incorrect lead within a few steps and correct it without delay.

The riders will do an independent warm up with more than one rider in the arena at a time. Knowledge of arena rules is therefore required.

Riders are expected to ride jumps at a height of 2 feet (.6m).

Attire at this level should be as per lower levels except that riders are now encouraged to wear either breeches with tall boots, well fitted half chaps, or jodhpurs with short boots complete with garter straps and pant clips.

Rider 4 – Stable Management Requirements

Turnout for the stable management phase should be neat and workmanlike. Paddock boots, work boots, or riding boots and neat sweat pants or slush pants over breeches are acceptable. Loose, baggy jeans or shirts are not acceptable. Hair should be tied back. Ball caps that cover the eyes are discouraged.

Candidates will be expected to:

- Identify at least 6 different snaffle bits.
- Turn the horse out with the ears clipped as well as whiskers, bridle path and feathers on legs. Mane should be pulled to 4-5 inches (10-13cm) and “laid over”. All as applicable to the breed of the horse.
- Demonstrate how to correctly measure a horse.
- Demonstrate how to lay the mane correctly and discuss maintenance of the mane.
- Identify four different leg markings on the horses available.

Rider 4 – Riding Requirements (Flat)

Riders will be required to demonstrate:

- The ability to sit quietly and use aids independently.
- Correct position at walk, trot and canter.
- Use of independent aids at all paces.
- Confidently dropping and regaining stirrups at the canter.
- Knowledge of size and bend on 15m circles at trot.
- Maintaining the canter and reaching the tangents on a 20m circle.
- An understanding of the correct preparation and application of clear, accurate aids when asking the horse to make a transition from trot to canter.
- Canter into the diagonal line, demonstrating a transition to trot for 3-5 steps and a transition back to canter onto the new lead while still on the diagonal line.
- Accuracy and smoothness in the flat ride.

Other skills

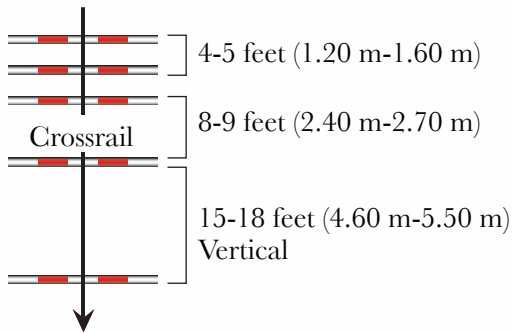
- Horse handling as for a breeding, line class. – Stand-lead the horse away from the “judge”- turn correctly-trot back towards the “judge” and stand the horse for inspection.

Rider 4 – Riding Requirements (Jumping)

Riders will be required to:

- Trot to a cross rail, 15-18’(4.5-5.5m), to a 2’(61cm) vertical. Trot approach to cross rail, then one canter stride to vertical. Maintain jumping position to the cross rail and upon landing.
- Demonstrate a short, medium and a long mane release.
- Demonstrate control on the approach and landing.
- Trot into the cross rail, canter to the second fence, count strides correctly.
- Canter a single fence.
- Ride straight and maintain a steady rhythm.
- Demonstrate confidence, safety and control.

Rider 4 – Gymnastic

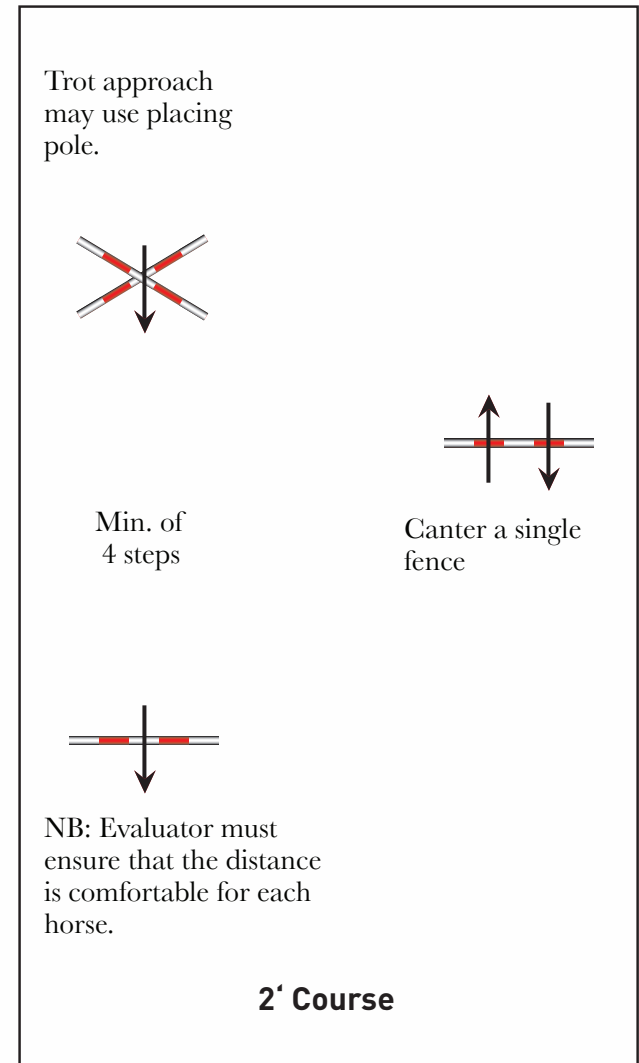


NB: The distances between the poles will depend on the size of the horse/pony. Distance will be adjusted to fit the horse's stride and the gymnastic will be set progressively.

Rider 4 – Course

Suggested Courses for Rider 4 Tests

(Ensure standards are used on all obstacles, Evaluators to walk and approve before testing).



Requirements for Rider 4 – Flat Test

Number	Markers	Movement	Work Space
1	A	Enter at rising trot	
2	X	Halt through walk. Continue at trot through walk	
3	C	Track left	
4	E	15 m circle at sitting trot	
5	A	Canter	
6	B	20 m circle at canter	
7	Between M&C	Trot rising	
8	HXF	Change rein	
9	E	15 m circle at sitting trot	
10	C	Canter	
11	B	20 m circle at canter	
12	KXM	Change rein with simple change of lead through the trot at X	
13	H	Trot sitting	
14	K	Trot rising	
15	A	Turn down center line	
16	X	Halt through walk. Leave the arena on a relaxed rein.	



Rider**5**

Riders at Level 5 have a solid awareness of a horse moving forward willingly, maintaining rhythm and relaxation. Riders should be able to recognize “tracking up” or lack thereof, by observing other horses. This level introduces non-progressive transitions walk to canter/halt to trot. The rider should know the five different rein aids and their influence on the horse.

Attire at this level should be as per lower levels except that riders will now be expected to wear either breeches with tall boots, very well fitted half chaps, or jodhpurs with short boots complete with garter straps and pant clips.

The horse should be presented for the test well groomed with mane neatly laid over and trimmed to an acceptable length as applicable to the breed. Tack should be clean and well oiled. The rider should be aware of the fitting of tack to the horse, aware of how well the tack fits the rider, and how the tack may affect the balance and position of the rider.

Riders at this level will be jumping fences at a height of 2'3" (.7m).

Rider 5 – Stable Management Requirements

Turnout for stable management should be neat and workmanlike. Paddock boots, work boots, or riding boots and neat sweat pants or slush pants over breeches are acceptable. Loose, baggy jeans or shirts are not acceptable. Hair should be tied back. Ball caps that cover the eyes are discouraged.

Candidates will be expected to:

- Demonstrate how to take the temperature, pulse and respiration of a horse and know the normal values. Using a stethoscope is acceptable.
- Know how the body uses water.
- Candidates should know the signs exhibited by a horse when its teeth need floating.
- Name some skin conditions and possible treatment.
- Understand pressure points that are acted upon by bits.

Rider 5 – Riding requirements (Flat)

Riders will be required to demonstrate:

- The action of the rein and the effect that the rein should have.
- Dropping and regaining stirrups at canter.
- Bend and rhythm in circles 15m (trot) - 20m (canter).
- Half – turn on the forehand.
- The correct shape in serpentines, i.e. circles connected by 2 or 3 steps of straightness.
- Accurate lead changes through trot.
- Accurate and smooth transitions.
- Non-progressive transitions (walk to canter/halt to trot).

Lunging – This is an introduction to lunging only. The candidates must demonstrate the safe handling of the lunge line and whip, and show a change of direction. Horse should be equipped with saddle and bridle, protective boots and/or bandages. A halter used over the bridle is acceptable. Candidates can share a lunge horse if needed. Use of body language, control and confidence will be evaluated.

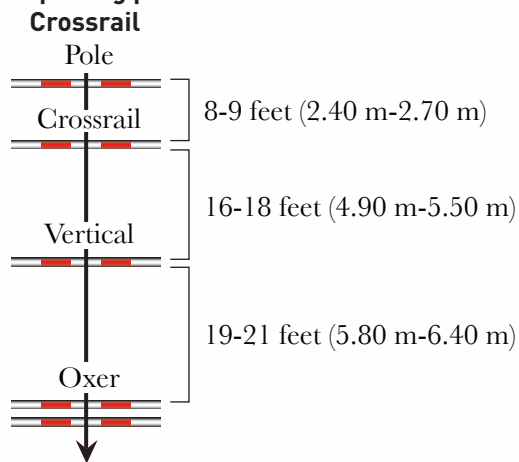
Rider 5 – Riding requirements (Jumping)

Riders will be required to:

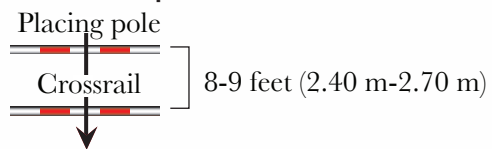
- Trot, with stirrups, into a cross rail, 18' (5.5m) to vertical then 21' (6.4m) to 2' (61 cm) - 2'3" (70cm) oxer, demonstrating a short, medium and long crest release while maintaining position.
- Trot a single X-Rail without stirrups maintaining position and demonstrating confidence and control.
- Know that their pace on approach will affect the inside distance in the line and be able to tell the evaluator if they were long or tight (deep) to the second fence in the line.
- Demonstrate control, presentation and confidence.

Rider 5 – Gymnastic

Trot placing pole



Trotting an X without stirrups

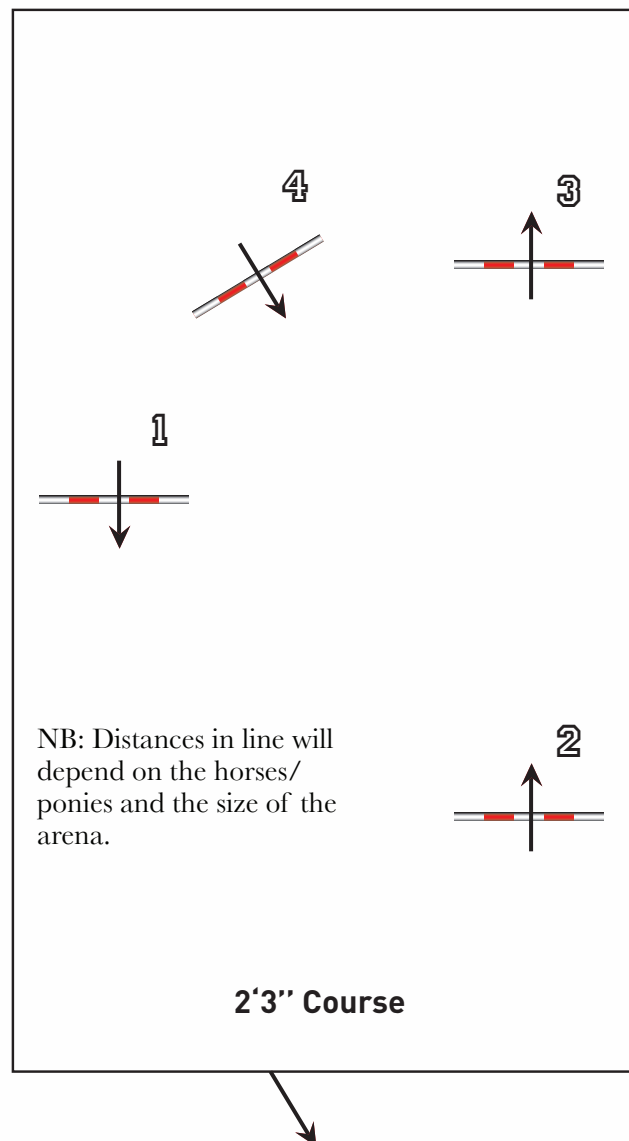


NB: The distances between the poles will depend on the size of the horse/pony.

Rider 5 – Course

Suggested Courses for Rider 5 Tests

(Evaluators to walk and approve before testing).



Requirements for Rider 5 – Flat Test

Note to Evaluators: Please refer to previous pages for full requirement definitions

Number	Markers	Movement	Work Space
1	A	Enter Sitting trot	
2	X	Halt from trot. Continue at rising trot from halt	
3	C	Track right	
4	B	15m circle sitting trot	
5	A-C	3 loop serpentine wall to wall posting trot	
6	C	Canter right lead	
7	B	20m circle	
8	F	Posting trot	
9	KXM	Change rein posting trot	
10	E	15m circle sitting trot	
11	A	Canter	
12	B	20m circle	
13	M	Trot rising	
14	H	Walk	
15	E	Halt. 1/2 turn on the forehand, continue at walk	
16	H	Canter right lead	
17	MXK	Change rein simple change through trot	
18	A	Trot sitting	
19	F	Walk	
20	B	Halt. 1/2 turn on forehand, continue at walk	
21	F	Trot sitting	
22	A	Turn down center line	
23	X	Halt. Leave the arena on a long rein.	



Rider

6

Riders at Level 6 will demonstrate the ability to ride forward from leg to hand. They will be able to ride the horses forward with energy (impulsion) while maintaining rhythm, regularity and evenness of pace. The contact demonstrated must not impede the horses' desire to move forward. The rider is beginning to create a "round" outline, particularly at trot. Overuse of the hand will be penalized.

Riders should be able to maintain canter approaches on the jumping course, recognize the lead and execute changes of lead through trot in the recovery zone. Riders can hold a contact to the fence, release over the fence and regain contact after landing.

Horse turnout for Rider Level 6 must be as for a competition. Horse is to be braided (by the candidate) and must also be trimmed (i.e. ears, muzzle, fetlocks and bridle path) as applicable to the breed. In the case of a horse that is dangerous to clip, the candidate must realize that although they will not fail because it is not done, it will affect their turn out marks.

Rider turnout for Rider 6 is a well-fitted shirt with collar and sleeves. The shirt should be tucked neatly into breeches. Riders should wear a visible belt. Breeches and tall boots or jodhpurs with jodhpur boots and knee straps may be worn. Well-fitted half chaps are acceptable. Conservative traditional attire is expected however a hunt coat and riding shirt are not required.

Rider Level 6 will jump fences of 2'6" (80cm).

Disobedience of a horse i.e. refusal or run out, is not penalized, so long as the error and cause are identified by the rider and the rider is able to correct the disobedience. A fall of a rider and/or horse may or may not be penalized. If the fall is due to disobedience of the horse, a slip or a horse tripping, then it is not penalized. If the fall is due to rider error, either in judgment or lack of balance and/or position, then the evaluator may penalize the appropriate category.

Rider 6 – Stable Management requirements

Turnout for stable management should be neat and workmanlike. Paddock boots, work boots, or riding boots and neat sweat pants or slush pants over breeches are acceptable. Loose, baggy jeans or shirts are not acceptable. Hair should be tied back. Ball caps that cover the eyes are discouraged.

Candidates will be expected to demonstrate:

- The proper fit of equipment i.e. running martingales.
- The procedure for pulling a mane.
- Stall care and horse handling.
- Knowledge of bits, their effect and uses.
- The fitting of boots.

Rider 6 – Riding Requirements (Flat)

- The candidate's horse must be braided for this and all successive levels, as applicable to the breed. Braids should be neat and uniform.

Riders will be required to demonstrate:

- Consistent bend, and pace (15m and 20m circles at canter). Care should be taken to avoid a marked increase in the speed of the horse after riding the circle and returning to the straight line.
- Correct position with and without stirrups at all paces.
- Simple changes through walk.
- Correct shape and definite changes of bend in the serpentine. The horse should be working forward and the rider should be able to recognize if some impulsion has been lost and be able to discuss this with the evaluator if required.
- Smoothness and accuracy in the execution of the transitions.
- 1/4 turns on the haunches and ensure that they know there should be a "pivot" involved. They should know the application of aids and recognize the more common errors of executing the movement.
- An understanding of the difference between bend and flexion.

Rider 6 – Riding Requirements (Jumping)

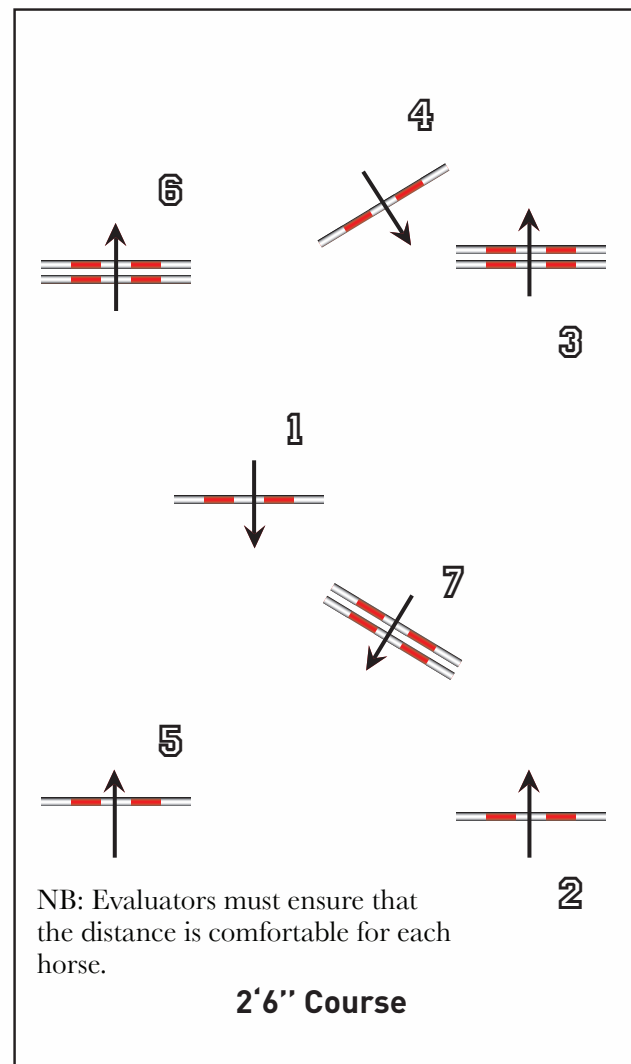
Riders will be required to:

- Build and set the stride of a gymnastic line.
- Trot to a cross rail, 18' (5.5m) to a 2'3" (70cm) - 2'6" (80cm) oxer and 21' (6.4m) to a 2'3" (70cm) - 2'6" (80cm) vertical. Distances may be adjusted to suit the length of the stride of the horses in the test. It is not mandatory that candidates bring animals with full 12' (3.6m) strides to the exam.
- Demonstrate correct position, control of the approach and recovery.
- Trot a cross rail, 18' (5.5m) to a 2' (60cm) - 2'3" (70cm) vertical without stirrups. Demonstrating stability of position and effectiveness. A mane release may be used.
- Jump a course of 2'6" (80cm) jumps. The course should be ridden at canter including canter approach to the first fence. Rider should be able to recognize leads soon enough to be able to change the lead through trot in the recovery phase and not have it run over into the approach phase for the next fence.
- Hold a contact to the fence, release over the fence and regain contact after landing.
- Be aware of the importance of the shape of the turn and the balance of the horse in the turns.

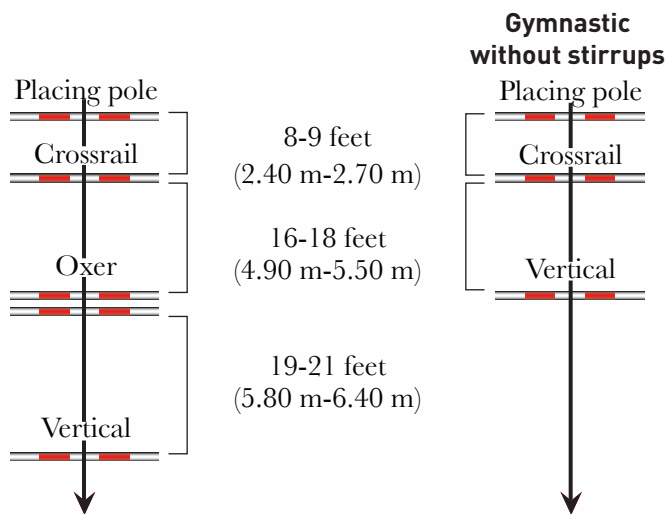
Rider 6 – Riding Requirements (Flat)

Suggested Courses for Rider 6 Tests

(Evaluators to walk and approve before testing).



Rider 6 – Gymnastic



NB: Distances may be adjusted to suit the length of the stride of the horses in the test.

Requirements for Rider 6 – Flat Test

Number	Markers	Movement	Work Space
1	A	Enter sitting trot	
2	X	Halt. Continue at rising trot	
3	C	Track left	
4	A-C	3 loop serpentine rising trot - sitting middle loop	
5	C	Canter left lead	
6	E	15m circle left	
7	FXH	Change rein simple change through walk	
8	B	15m circle right	
9	F	Walk	
10	A	Halt, cross stirrups and continue at the walk	
11	K	Trot rising	
12	E	15m right circle sitting	
13	H	Trot rising	
14	MXK	Change rein	
15	F	Trot sitting	
16	B	15m circle sitting left	
17	M	Trot rising	
18	H-B	Change rein	
19	F	Sitting trot	
20	A	Turn down center line	
21	X	Halt. Leave arena on long rein	





Rider

7

Riders at Level 7 will ride on consistent contact supported by the leg while maintaining rhythm, suppleness contact and impulsion. Riders at Level 7 are now aware of lateral and longitudinal suppleness and appropriate suppling exercises. They will be executing simple lateral movements at walk. The riders will be able to identify the loss of true bend and true straightness by observing other horses. They can lengthen and shorten stride at trot and will demonstrate working trot and a true three beat working canter throughout the test.

Over fences the Rider Level 7 is effective and able to ride a course.

Rider 7 – Stable Management Requirements

Turnout for stable management should be neat and workmanlike. Paddock boots, work boots, or riding boots and neat sweat pants or slush pants over breeches are acceptable. Loose, baggy jeans or shirts are not acceptable. Hair should be tied back. Ball caps that cover the eyes are discouraged.

Candidates will be required to:

- Apply 2 stable bandages one on the front leg and one on the hind. Two types of stable bandage are acceptable. Both types should start just below the knee. One type wraps to support under the fetlock with an inverted V centered on the bottom of the front of the fetlock. A “stovepipe” wrap ending at the fetlock may also be used. Masking tape should be used over the Velcro and the tension of the tape should not be greater than the tension of the bandage. Candidates must be able to discuss the fit of the materials and the materials should be clean and in good repair. The bandage must end at the top of the leg and the Velcro should be on the outside of the leg.
- Discuss symptoms, causes, location and possible treatments for various unsoundnesses.
- Know different types of wounds and treatment.
- Identify different bits and why one bit may be chosen over another.
- Describe the sequence that the farrier would follow in reshoeing a horse that is currently wearing shoes.
- Be familiar with the use of special shoes or how shoes are modified to help a horse with certain soundness or locomotion problems.

Rider 7 – Stable Management Requirements

Lunging- Candidates will lunge a horse with side reins. Lunging from a cavesson, Barnham method, or lunging from a well-fitted halter are acceptable. Lunge horses should wear protective boots or bandages on all four legs. Horses should be lunged for a few minutes without the side reins attached to assess their mental state before attaching the side reins. Candidates will not be required to lunge a rider.

Rider 7 – Riding Requirements (Flat)

Warm-up: Evaluator may question the rider to determine the rider's comprehension of his/her warm-up and flat test performance.

Riders will be required to demonstrate:

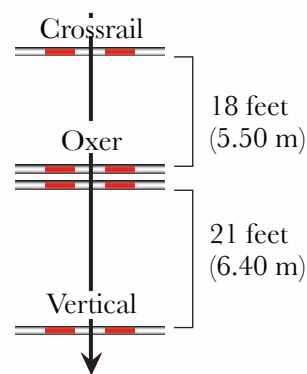
- Correct position at all paces with and without stirrups demonstrating solid position. Upper body is on the vertical at all paces except rising trot. Lower leg falls under the base of support and position should be maintained without difficulty. Position without stirrups should be solid and balanced with no gripping of knees or falling behind or ahead of the motion.
- Circles in canter should be accurate. Candidates should be aware of straightness and able to execute the movements with a steady pace.
- A three loop serpentine cantering the first loop, trotting the second, and cantering the third. Transitions should be accurate and immediate with the focus being on the stability of the trot on the second loop.
- Lengthening and shortening the stride at trot. The rider must show a definite transition from working trot to a lengthened/shortened stride.
- A half turn on the haunches where the horse should not step backward or forward. Stepping back is considered a more serious fault than stepping forward.
- Leg-yield.

Rider 7 – Riding Requirements (Jumping)

Riders will be required to:

- Build and set the stride of the gymnastic and the course.
- Trot to a cross rail, 18'(5.5m) to a 2'6 (80cm) - 2'9(88cm) oxer, 21'(6.4m) to a 2'6 (80cm) - 2'9(88cm) vertical. Riders will be authoritative on the approach and able to demonstrate a stable, secure position through the line. Riders will approach straight, with the correct pace, and demonstrate good control in the recovery phase. The distances may be altered to suit ponies and horses with small strides.
- Demonstrate a release through gymnastic as described by evaluator. The rider should be able to demonstrate the progression from the crest release toward the automatic or follow-through (out of hand) release.
- Jump a course of 2'9(88cm). The course will be fairly basic but will be of a medal type and will have 1) a related distance, 2) 2 changes of rein 3) at least one individual fence 4) a transition. Fences will be of competition type with fillers.
- Demonstrate consistent rhythm, impulsion, confidence, safety and control.
- Critique their course with the evaluator. Riders may use simple change of leads but it is important that they can explain why they are using simple changes.

Rider 7 – Gymnastic

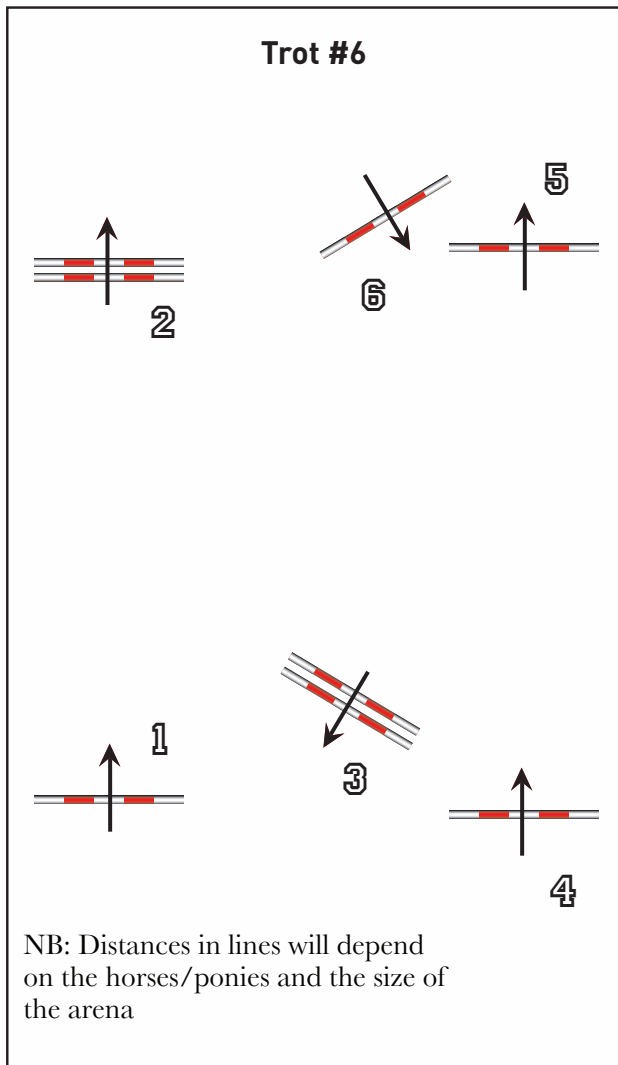


NB: The distances may be altered to suit ponies and horses with small strides.

Rider 7 – Course

Suggested Courses for Rider 7 Tests

(Evaluators to walk and approve before testing).



2'9" Course
Trot Fence #6

Requirements for Rider 7 – Flat Test

Number	Markers	Movement	Work Space
1	A	Enter Working trot sitting	
2	X	Halt, Continue at working trot rising	
3	C	Track left	
4	E	15m Circle Working trot sitting	
5	E	Rising trot	
6	FXH	Lengthen trot	
7	H	Working trot	
8	B	15m circle right Working trot sitting	
9	K-H	Demonstrate shorten trot sitting	
10	C	Halt and cross stirrups proceed to M at walk	
11	M	1/2 turn on haunches proceed to H	
12	H	1/2 turn on haunches proceed to M	
13	M-B	Canter right lead	
14	A-C	Three loop serpentine Canter 1st, Trot 2nd, Canter 3rd	
15	MXK	Change rein simple change through walk at X	
16	F-B	Working trot sitting	
17	B	Turn left	
18	X	Turn right	
19	G	Halt. Leave arena on a long rein.	

Riders at Level 8 are competent riders with sound equitation skills. The riders are able to recognize “true” quality of movement and are beginning to ride the horses with impulsion and engagement. They can achieve consistent bend and straightness as required. The riders can achieve bend by using the inside leg correctly and controlling the outside shoulder. The horses should be consistently “round” at all paces. Some differences in the horses’ outline may be evident due to prior “discipline specific” training of the horse. The “roundness” however, must be created because the rider is riding correctly from leg to hand.

The riders should be able to identify basic training problems/challenges and offer options for their correction.

Over fences, riders at Level 8 will jump a medal type courses of 2’9(88cm) – 3’(91cm), with confidence and authority. Riders at Level 8 should be able to influence the horse in a positive fashion and improve its way of going.

Rider 8 – Stable Management Requirements

Turnout for stable management should be neat and workmanlike. Paddock boots, work boots, or riding boots and neat sweat pants or slush pants over breeches are acceptable. Loose, baggy jeans or shirts are not acceptable. Hair should be tied back. Ball caps that cover the eyes are discouraged.

Candidates will be expected to:

- Have knowledge of capillary refill time and the test generally used to estimate dehydration.
- Put on two shipping bandages. Bandages should have even tension, covering from just below the knee down the leg and covering the bulbs of the heels. Knowledge of the proper length of cotton and bandage as well as the bulk of the cotton is needed. The tension should be neither too tight nor too loose. All bandaging materials should be clean and in good repair. The Velcro should end on the outside of the leg near the top of the bandage. If tape is used, the tension must not be greater than the tension of the bandage.
- Know about teeth and the aging pattern.
- Know the symptoms, cause and first aid treatment of various illnesses and conditions.
- Discuss conformation traits and how they may relate to performance and soundness.
- Identify a variety of nosebands and their effect.
- Locate the sites of unsoundnesses and discuss possible causes and treatments of each.

Rider 8 – Riding Requirements (Flat)

Turn out at this level should be appropriate to the weather, however it should be immaculate. The horse should be turned out as for competition, braided and clipped or trimmed according to the time of year and as per breed requirements.

Warm-up - The evaluator may ask questions about the rider's warm-up program to determine if rider has a plan and how he/she feels about the effectiveness of the plan.

Riders will be required to demonstrate:

- Position with and without stirrups at all paces.
 - 10m circles at canter.
 - Serpentine at canter with simple changes through walk.
 - Lengthening and shortening of stride at the canter. The lengthened stride should show a definite difference in the length of the canter stride, ideally without an increase in speed. The shortened stride should demonstrate a less ground covering canter but with more actively engaged hindquarters.
 - Breaking to the trot will be penalized.
 - Leg-yield indicating that the rider is able to coordinate the aids effectively to move the horse sideways while still maintaining the forward intent, rhythm, contact and suppleness. A horse that falls over the outside shoulder or who does not maintain a parallel position in relation to the “line” on which it is moving will be penalized. The horse should be straight with the exception of a slight flexion away from the direction in which it is moving.
- The half halt as a preparation to balance the horse before a change of direction, speed or pace. The rider should understand how to close both legs, deepen the seat thus encouraging the horse to move forward into a non-allowing hand. The rider must relax and release the contact when the horse responds by shifting its weight to the hindquarters.
 - An understanding, through discussion, of engagement, impulsion and shoulder-in.

Rider 8 – Riding requirements (Jumping)

Riders will be required to:

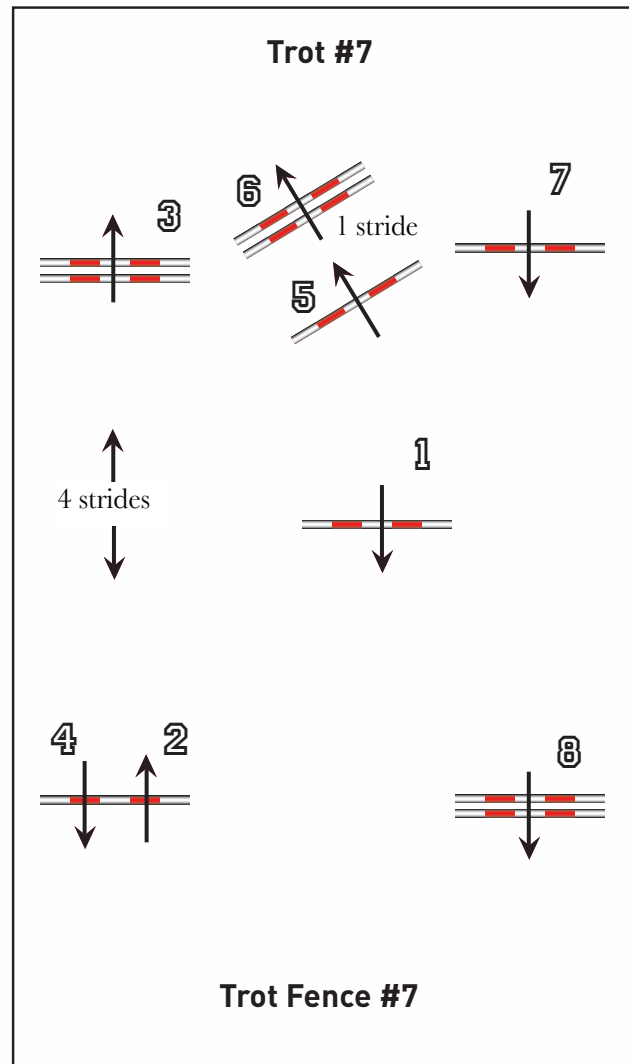
- Set up a course and gymnastic. Riders must have knowledge of distances and factors affecting distance to be able to set up a course or gymnastic safely. The course should be of a medal type and include:
 - a) A combination;
 - b) A line of no less than 4 strides;
 - c) 2 changes of rein;
 - d) A roll back turn (fence 3 to 4);
 - e) A downward transition.
- Critique the form of another rider’s horse through the gymnastic. The rider should be able to discuss the horse’s style and technique.
- Maintain position through a gymnastic with and without stirrups.
- Add a stride in a line.
- Demonstrate a “feel” for distance to a fence.

Rider 8 – Course

Suggested Courses for Rider 8 Tests

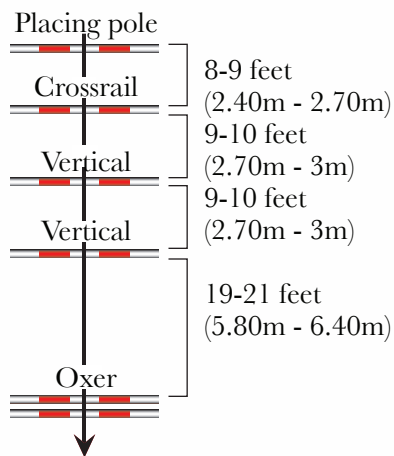
(Evaluators to walk and approve before testing).

NB: If the distance between fence #7 and #8 is set for 4 strides the rider must add a fifth stride after trotting fence #7



2'9" - 3' Course
Trot #7 - To add a
stride in the line

Rider 8 – Gymnastic



**1. Gymnastic
without stirrups
height 2'6"**

**2. Raise fences for
demonstration
with stirrups
height 2'9"**

NB: The course should be set with distances that are suitable to the arena size and horse's stride

Requirements for Rider 8 – Flat Test

Number	Markers	Movement	Work Space
1	A	Enter sitting trot	
2	G	Halt continue at sitting trot	
3	C	Track right	
4	B	Turn right	
5	X	Circle right 10m	
6	X	Circle left 10m	
7	E	Turn left	
8	K	Canter left	
9	F-M	Lengthen stride at canter	
10	HXF	Change rein simple change through trot	
11	KH	Shorten stride at canter	
12	C-A	3 Loop serpentine Simple changes through walk	
13	K	Trot sitting continue to E	
14	E-B	1/2 20m circle continue to A	
15	After A	Turn down quarter line leg yield to wall between E&H	
16	M-E	Change rein	
17	After A	Turn down quarter line leg yield to wall between B&M	
18	E	1/2 10m circle to X	
19	X	Continue to G	
20	G	Halt. Leave arena on a long rein	





Rider 9-10

Rider Level 9 & 10 will be developed for inclusion. At the present time it is anticipated that Rider 9 will equal the Stable Management and Riding requirements presently in place for EC Coach Level 1 and Rider 10 similarly the EC Coach Level 2.



Equine Canada Rider Level Application Form

(This form must be given to the Evaluator before the test begins.)

All applicants must submit a completed and signed application to the testing coordinator. All stables conducting tests will ensure they provide safe facilities, have an emergency action plan in place, have valid liability insurance and agree to accept full responsibility for this testing.

The candidate's coach and candidate by signing this form confirm that they have reviewed the skills required at this level and are satisfied that the candidate is mentally and physically able to complete all phases. They also confirm that the candidate has done and feels proficient at performing all skills and movements to the level being challenged which includes if applicable, riding without stirrups both on the flat, in gymnastics and over fences on the horse named below which will be the horse used for the test.

The candidate is responsible for his or her own equipment and safety thereof.

Applicant Name: _____ Rider Level: _____ Prov #: _____
 Address: _____ City/Prov: _____
 Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____
 Email: _____ Name of Horse: _____
 Applicant Signature: _____
 Parent/Guardian (Print): _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____
 (If under 18 years of age) (If under 18 years of age)

Recommendation of Candidate's Instructor/Coach:

We have read and understood the requirements for testing at Rider Level _____ and recommend that the applicant be tested at this level. In addition understand that Equine Canada certificates will be provided from our provincial equestrian federation/council office.

In the case of challenges, the candidate will write all previous written levels.

Instructor/Coach Signature: _____ EC #: _____
 (Instructor/Coach must be a current certified EC Coach in good standing)

If a coach/instructor feels a student can successfully meet the standards of a higher level, then the following section must be completed. The candidate's coach should carefully consider the level of competency of the rider and be confident that the candidate has sufficient background knowledge to meet the requirements of previous levels.

Rider Level to Challenge: _____
 Applicant Name: _____ Applicant Signature: _____
 Parent/Guardian (Print): _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____
 (If under 18 years of age) (If under 18 years of age)
 Instructor/Coach Signature: _____ EC #: _____



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