



UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION™

L Education Program

Session C- Outline/Auditor Handout

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OVERVIEW OF COLLECTIVE MARKS

**The Collective Marks are the frame around the picture of the test.
They should reflect the body of the test.**

The role of the judge is...

The basic principles must always prevail and these are to fulfill the requirements of the Pyramid of Training.

This session we will cover:

1. Components of each Collective Mark
2. How to arrive at a score and how to make a helpful comment
3. Formulating “Further Remarks” that will summarize the important aspects of the test in a way that will be helpful to the rider
4. The biomechanics of the rider to help arrive at scores and comments for the Rider Scores in the Collective Marks

The Collective Marks should be a reflection of the entire test and a summary of the performance of horse and rider.

With the collective marks, the judge gives a message to the rider:

Collective Marks:

With experience, one develops a personal methodology for dealing with components:

Making Comments for Collective Marks:

COLLECTIVE MARKS – GAITS

Components from Test Sheet:

Dressage Rulebook – Definitions of gaits with rhythms

Additional Gait Information - A Session

You need to have a standard treatment for arriving at the gaits score.

A good methodology is to add the score for each gait and divide by three

What to consider in the gait score:

Included in the evaluation of the gaits is activity of hindquarters, freedom in the shoulders, lightness of the movement, clarity of the suspension in trot and canter, and the elasticity of the movement.

What should not be considered in the gaits score:

Suitable Vocabulary:

Methodology for Gaits

A pure gait must receive at least a score of 5. (Define pure? Four beat free walk with NO overstep.)
Quality determines how much higher than 5 the score should be.

8, 9 or 10 - Good, Very Good and Excellent:

7 - Fairly Good:

6 - Satisfactory:

5 – Marginal:

4– Insufficient:

3 or below – Fairly Bad to Very Bad:

COLLECTIVE MARKS – IMPULSION

Components from Test Sheet:

Desire to move forward, elasticity of the steps, suppleness of the back, engagement of the hindquarters.

2019 Glossary of Judging Terms Definition of Impulsion: *(Engagement and the Desire to Go Forward)*

*Used to describe the transmission of an eager and energetic, yet controlled, propulsive thrust generated from the hindquarters into the athletic movement of the horse. (See **Pyramid of Training** for complete explanation).*

What to consider in each component:

Desire to move forward:

Elasticity of the steps:

Possible comments:

Suppleness of the Back:

2019 Glossary of Judging Terms- Swinging Back- *The springy motion that occurs when the thrust off the hind legs is transmitted through a stretched top line by trunk muscles that contract and “release” rhythmically rather than remaining either rigid or slack.*

Possible Comments:

Engagement of the Hindquarters:

Possible Comments:

Arriving at the Impulsion score:

Some Methodology for Scoring Impulsion Collective Marks

8 – 10 – Good to Excellent:

7 – Fairly Good:

6 – Satisfactory:

5 – Marginal:

4 – Insufficient:

3 or below:

COLLECTIVE MARKS – SUBMISSION (Willing Cooperation)

Components:

The fulfillment of the main requirements/movements of a specific dressage test is a primary criteria of submission.

2019 Glossary of Judging Terms Definition of Submission: *Horse's willing cooperation and harmony with the rider, demonstrating an attentive and confident attitude. Willingness to perform the required exercise as well as operate with correct basics (see Basics, and Pyramid of Training section).*

Submission is demonstrated by:

HARMONY;2019 Glossary Definition of Harmony: *Used in reference to the relationship between the horse and rider, the partners' positive physical as well as mental/emotional connection, showing rapport, trust, and confidence in one another and resulting in a sense of synchrony, contentment and unity.*

ATTENTION AND CONFIDENCE; 2019 Glossary Definition of Confidence: *The boldness and self-assurance with which the horse performs, and the trust in his partnership with the rider.*

What to look for:

Possible comments:

ACCEPTANCE OF BIT AND AIDS; 2019 Glossary Definition: *Used in reference to the horse's willingness to allow the maintenance of a steady contact, the application of the aids, and/or the placement of the rider's weight. Absence of evasion or resistance.*

2019 Glossary of Judging Terms Definitions:

Resistance: *Active or rigid opposition to the connection or to the aids of the rider (e.g. against or above the bit). Not the same as disobedience or evasion. The horse can be resistant, yet still obedient (perform the exercise). Can be momentary or pervasive, willful or unintentional.*

Evasion: *Avoidance of the difficulty, correctness, or purpose of the movement, or of the influence of the rider, often without active resistance or disobedience (e.g. tilting the head, open mouth, broken neckline, etc.) Bit evasions are means of avoiding correct contact with the bit.*

Considerations:

Tension or resistance on the part of the horse must be taken into account by the judges in the collective marks for submission. There may also be an influence on the score for Impulsion.

The stretchy circle is an indication of the correctness of the basics.

Additional Factors in Submission:

BENDING:

Possible Comments:

STRAIGHTNESS:

2019 Glossary Definition of Straightness (*IMPROVED ALIGNMENT AND EQUAL LATERAL SUPPLENESS ON BOTH REINS*): *A horse is said to be straight when the footfalls of the forehand and the hindquarters are appropriately aligned on straight and curved lines and when his longitudinal axis is in line with the straight or curved track on which he is ridden. (See Pyramid of Training for complete explanation).*

LIGHTNESS OF THE FOREHAND:

Engaged hindquarters, supporting more weight with hind legs, center of mass brought closer to hind legs with sufficient upward thrust of forelegs, withers and shoulders raised, using thoracic sling muscles.

Visual indicators of lightness of forehand

EASE OF THE MOVEMENTS:

Visual Indicators of Ease of Movements:

Precision is very important and needs to be rewarded as it adds to the degree of difficulty of the test.

Possible comments:

In Second Level, the Collection:

Possible comments:

Inter-related components of Impulsion/Submission:

Unavoidably, the contents for impulsion and submission overlap and therefore, it is not always clear what is addressed by these terms. Scores for Impulsion and Submission also are related to the scores for the individual movements.

Examples:

The methodology for scoring submission must address several main issues:

Possible Comments in Submission:

Suggested Methodology for Submission (Willing Cooperation)

8, 9, 10 – Good to Excellent:

7 – Fairly Good:

6 – Satisfactory:

5 – Marginal:

4 – Insufficient:

3 and below – Fairly Bad to Very Bad

COLLECTIVE MARKS – RIDER SCORES

Be an advocate for the horse. By promoting correct riding, we will improve the welfare of the horse in our sport of dressage.

A judge needs to have a consistent methodology for arriving at a rider score.

COLLECTIVE MARKS – RIDER SCORE 1

Components: Seat and Position

POSTURE AND ALIGNMENT:

Alignment when posting:

CONFORMATION OF RIDER

Posture – Shape of body (not alignment to vertical)

Possible Comments:

STABILITY:

As a result of having a stable core, the rider sits securely in the saddle. The rider does not rock from side to side, as is sometimes seen in the walk and extended trot. Try to look to the most basic reason and address this in your comments, not just the symptom.

Possible Vocabulary:

WEIGHT PLACEMENT:

Possible Vocabulary:

ELASTICITY:

Possible Vocabulary:

FOLLOWING THE MECHANICS OF GAITS:

Possible Comments:

Suggested Methodology: Rider's Seat and Position

10 – Excellent

9 – Very Good

8 – Good

7 – Fairly Good

6 – Satisfactory

5 – Marginal

4 – Insufficient

3 – and below Fairly Bad, Bad

COLLECTIVE MARKS – RIDER – SCORE 2

RIDER'S CORRECT AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THE AIDS

CLARITY/SUBTLETY:

Possible Comments:

RIDER'S EFFECT ON PERFORMANCE

Possible Comments:

INDEPENDENCE

Contact with reins needs to be independent of the seat:

Possible Vocabulary:

ACCURACY OF THE EXERCISES:

Possible Comments:

Suggested Methodology: Effect of the Aids

10 – Excellent

9 – Very Good

8 – Good

7 – Fairly Good

6 – Satisfactory

5 – Marginal

4 – Insufficient

3 – and below Fairly Bad, Bad

Considerations for Evaluating the Rider Scores:

Considerations that do not influence Rider scores:

- Errors (already penalized)
- Rider too big or too small for horse
- Poor turnout (address in comments, not score)

Comments for Riders' Scores:

Score Poor Riding Appropriately:

FURTHER REMARKS - SUMMARIES:

ALWAYS TRY TO BEGIN WITH A POSITIVE THOUGHT:

About the horse:

About the performance:

About the Rider:

General:

Some positive comments are not appropriate such as "Good Luck"

Then the judge needs to make a concise, constructive comment about what the rider needs to do to improve the performance/training. This comment should address the "Basics" or Pyramid of Training.

FURTHER REMARKS EXERCISE:

Can you describe this test from the Further Remarks? What do these comments say about the test?

MUSICAL FREESTYLE

JUDGING THE ARTISTIC SIDE

Harmony between Horse and Rider

- **Scoring Harmony:**

Judging Choreography

- **Scoring Choreography:**

Judging Degree of Difficulty

Degree of Difficulty can be a risk

- **Scoring Degree of Difficulty**

Judging Music

Judging Interpretation

Phrasing and Dynamics

Scoring for Interpretation

Judging Tips

Further Comment Ideas:

Special Skills Needed for Judging Musical Freestyles