



**Memorandum of Understanding  
for  
Judging the Flat Work Phase of Working Equitation in New Zealand**

Thank you for agreeing to judge the Flat Work section of this Working Equitation competition.

At WENZ we are passionate about protecting the ideals of Working Equitation and as such, request this form be read and signed by Dressage judges who have not been through WENZ judge education training.

It is important to keep the integrity of the sport that you, as a judge, recognise, appreciate, and understand the differences between what is required and desired in a good working equitation mount compared to a horse competing in dressage.

Our tests are designed to progressively train horses for use on farm and working stock, with respect and relevance to the Ease of Handling phase for each level. As such our tests have a different look and feel to Dressage tests.

**Way Of Going**

Horses of all breed types, shapes and sizes are welcome in this sport, and as such the judge should be judging the horse on its aptitude for work in the field. Consideration should be given for horses of all breed types, working as best they can, given their natural conformation and paces.

Think "trainable, comfortable and safe to ride over all terrains with manoeuvrability and a keenness to work with their rider".

In the Working Equitation Flat Work phase, suppleness, impulsion, the ability to collect and the availability of the horse to be ready for any task at hand, as may be required on farm, are highly rewarded.

Paces are not rewarded alone. Scores are not elevated for exaggerated over tracking ahead of a flexible, energetic, balanced performance. Straightness, balance, and rhythm are marked accordingly, as is accuracy as the test requires.

The walk should be active and have a "readiness" about it – a huge overtrack is not necessary nor rewarded. The trot may be a little shorter and/or quicker but should look well balanced and agile. The canter should be balanced, comfortable and smooth – a large "jump" in the canter is not necessary nor rewarded above other qualities.

Horses are marked down for showing inconsistency and/or discomfort in the contact (i.e. behind the vertical, tilting, showing teeth, tongue out, mouth open, grinding teeth, etc).

Riders should ride in a conscientious and kind manner and be rewarded for their partnership.

**Performance of Test:**

- a) Permission to enter the arena will be given by the Judge ringing the bell or horn.
- b) The rider has 60 seconds to enter the arena.
- c) The order of performance of the exercises and location within the arena is mandatory as indicated on the dressage test
- e) Callers are allowed at all levels. For Novice and above a penalty of -5 points will be deducted from the score. f) The use of the voice or clicking the tongue is not penalised unless it is distracting from the performance of the horse and rider. (e.g. use of a loud voice or excessive clicking will be penalised with a lower mark for that movement).

## Arena

a) The arena is always 20m x 40m. The edges of the area may be marked out with discontinuous uprights, poles, hay bales, or similar. It is preferable that the arena is not fully enclosed, and the entrance is open. b) The arena will have the same placement of letters as markers in a standard dressage arena.

## Disqualifications

- a) Overstepping any of the sides of the arena with four legs in the case of full arenas.
- b) If not a full arena (i.e. discontinuous uprights) the competitor may not be disqualified provided that the exit and re-entry are performed rapidly and within very close proximity to the line demarcating the arena.
- c) Refusal to move forward for a period of more than 15 seconds.
- d) Failure to comply with the sequence of movements or to correct a course error as advised by the judge. d) Three course errors

## Marks and Scoring

The scale of marks for Flat Work at Introductory level is as follows:

Mark	Descriptor	Phase Criteria
0	Failure to Perform	
1	Very Bad	Serious and/or multiple problems with basics of the movement and/or the judging criteria.
2	Bad	
3	Poor	
4	Insufficient	At least one major problem in the movement or poor quality of execution.
5	Reasonable	No major problems but not a quality execution of the movement and/or the judging criteria.
6	Satisfactory	Correctly performs the movement and fulfils the requirement of the movement and judging criteria with quality of execution.
7	Reasonably Good	
8	Good	Correctly performs the movement and fulfils the requirement of the movement and judging criteria with quality of execution
9	Very Good	
10	Excellent	

The scale of marks for Flat Work at Preparatory level and above is as follows:

Mark		Description
0	Not Performed	Failed to perform movement
1	Very Bad	Major Conflict Behaviour at any point of movement eg bucking / rearing / bolting
2	Bad	Opposing Response at any point of movement eg shying / stopping / kicking out
3	Fairly bad	High levels of tension in the horse E.g. breaking gait, flight posture, tail swishing.
4	Insufficient	The movement will be free from high levels of tension & stress, but may have poor geometry.
5	Sufficient	The movement will be recognisable (good geometry) with a fairly relaxed horse.
6	Satisfactory	As above (5) but gaits must be pure and the temp correct and maintained without repeated aids.
7	Fairly Good	As above (6) but the alignment (straightness and bend) of the horse must be correct and must be maintained without repeated aids.
8	Good	As above (7) but rider posture must be correct and the horse must be in an uphill balance with the horse in self carriage
9	Very Good	As above (8) but correct posture and frame of horse
10	Excellent	As above (9) but with that certain X - Factor of poise, precision and grace

Collective marks at all levels are given for:-

- **Paces** - Rhythm, clarity, freedom and regularity.
- **Impulsion** - Desire to move forward, availability and readiness for any task at hand.
- **Willing cooperation** - Harmony, confidence, bend, straightness, acceptance of contact, lightness of forehand, ease of movement.
- **Rider** -  
*Position:* Alignment, posture, stability, weight placement, and following mechanics of the gaits.  
*Effectiveness of the aids:* Clarity, subtlety, independence, and accuracy.

**I have read and acknowledged the differences noted between Dressage and the Working Equitation Flat Work Phase.**

**Name:**..... **Signature:**.....

**Date:**.....

WENZ would like to thank you for agreeing to our judging requirements and hope you enjoy a variety of progressively trained horses and sympathetic riders during your judging.