



2016 North American Western Dressage Objective Scoring System

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	FEI Standard	Training Scale	Qualification	Examples of potential reasons for scores
0	Not executed		Conflict behavior: movement not executed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bucking, rearing, bolting, movement not executed
1	Very Bad		Opposing response: movement not executed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horse runs backwards instead of forwards. Horse shies, leaps, stops, paws, kicks out
2	Bad		Correct direction but no sign of required movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invisible response
3	Fairly Bad		Some signs of required movement but inaccurate, imprecise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unclear response or not on marker
4	Insufficient		Basic attempt of the required movement at the wrong place or showing a disregard for correct biomechanics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delayed, no, or incorrect reaction to aid Continuously behind the vertical or above the bit, counter-bent or over-bent Open mouth, tail wringing or swishing Bit continuously at 90 degree angle, continuous application of spurs or whip Incorrect beat, lateral walk, 4 beat lope (IMPURE GAITS) Continuously on the forehand, HQ trailing, hollow back Poor placement of circles and transitions Extreme crookedness and lack of balance Footfalls are incorrect for entire movement
5	Sufficient		Basic attempt of the required movement at the correct place in the test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rider applies prolonged aids to elicit correct response. Over 30% of movement on the forehand, HQ trailing, hollow back Obvious tension Tempo is inconsistent Counter bent at times, overall lack of balance. Nose is in front of the vertical, but poll is not the highest point Footfalls are incorrect for part of movement
6	Satisfactory	Obedience	Movement arises at the correct place with light aids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horse may show MOMENTS on the forehand, HQ trailing, hollow back Loss of energy and smoothness in transitions. Lack of bend on circles Tempo is consistent but may be quick Poll at the highest point, but neck may be short or head tilted Horse shows balanced movement for at least 70% of required element
7	Fairly Good	Relaxation Rhythm Connection	Continuation of response with no extra aids, no sign of rein pressure beyond contact, rider's legs are still, self-carriage in speed and tempo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horse is relaxed, with a bright expression, back is relaxed and swinging Tempo is consistent and even Bend is balanced from nose to tail Strides are energetic and horse shows a desire to move forward Neck is long with the poll at the highest point for working gait, good stretch for free gait Infrequent loss of balance
8	Good	Suppleness, Straightness	Horse is "on the aids" with hindquarters engaged and a relaxed, swinging back. Hind legs on track with front legs, Bend on curved lines, self-carriage of straightness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Momentary loss of balance that occurs infrequently Hind legs are well-flexed and stepping underneath the horse Nose is on or slightly in front of the vertical, neck is long, poll is at the highest point Back is visibly round and tail is swinging from side to side with gaits
9	Very Good	Impulsion, Collection at this level	Horse maintains movement with correct use of back, correct neck, correct head placement and poll height	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hind legs consistently following in the tracks of front legs Horse is in total balance throughout movement, correct footfalls.
10	Excellent		Perfection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aids are imperceptible