



Pre-Intro (Leadline) Dressage and Western Dressage

2016 Guidelines from North American Western Dressage

The purpose of the Pre-Intro Leadline tests are to introduce the young riders to dressage using the training scale. The emphasis each test is on the education of the rider and the effort that he/she puts forth. Riders who are actively engaged in attempting to guide the horse will earn higher scores.

1. **Age Requirements:** This class is for youth ages 3-10 as of Jan 1 of the current competition season.
2. Riders in this class may not show in non-leadline mounted classes, but the horse may be ridden in other classes by other exhibitors.
3. **Tack and Apparel:** Western or English tack and attire may be used.

An ASTM approved riding helmet must be worn by riders under the age of 18 at all times while mounted anywhere on the grounds.

4. **Rider Assistance:** Rider must be accompanied by an assistant that is 16 years of age or older and may be accompanied by a side walker that is 16 years of age or older. The job of the assistant is not to lead the horse, but to guide the horse when necessary to ensure the young riders safety and to coach the young rider on correct use of tack and application of the aids.

The assistant is to hold a lead rope (leadline) that is at least 6 feet long at all times while the rider is mounted. The leadline may be attached to the noseband of the bridle or a halter or cavesson that is properly fitted and worn over or underneath the bridle.



Under no circumstances may the leadline be attached directly to the bit. Attaching the leadline to the bit will result in immediate disqualification.

5. Coaching is allowed by assistant only.

6. Reins may be attached to the bit, bitless bridle, side rings of the halter, bosal, or sidepull. The reins may or may not be attached to the bit depending on rider level of experience, but the rider is to make an effort to retain control of the reins at all times.
7. If stirrups are able to be adjusted to the proper length, Rider must make an effort to keep feet in the stirrups at all times. If stirrups are not able to be adjusted, we recommend that buddy stirrups are used and properly secured.
8. **Jogging:** While jogging, the rider may hold onto the horn, if available.
9. **Disqualification:** At the judge's discretion, riders may be disqualified for obvious horse lameness or illness, unsafe tack or equipment, unsportsmanlike behavior, or any other reason that the judge deems necessary.

Rules for Judging

Horse and Rider will be judged on:

1) Completion of the maneuver.

- a. The judge will evaluate all the maneuvers performed and score each one completed using the "Elements of the Training Scale (see below). An exhibitor will receive a total score even if all maneuvers are not completed.

2) Effort and Position of the Rider

- a. Rider effort is a key component of every score and the assistant is only there to support the rider if a safety issue should arise. Judges will reward horses and riders that are working in harmony and are demonstrating care and attention for training scale values, softness, and fluidity of motion.
- b. Rider will be judged on basic position in the saddle, use of aids, seat, leg, & hands

3) Elements of the Training Scale exemplified with the maneuver.

- a. Rhythm, Relaxation, Connection, Impulsion, and Straightness are under evaluation at all times.
- b. *Rhythm* is evaluated as the movement of the horse maintaining the cadence of the footfalls in a steady and even tempo. A harmonious partnership between handler and horse will result in footfalls that are matched in tempo.
- c. *Relaxation* is evaluated by both calmness of rider and horse.
- d. *Connection* is evaluated by responsiveness to the aids, both visible and imperceptible. Excessive head, tail swishing, or stiffness will be judged as a lack of connection and scores may be lower. Fluid motion and timing of handler aids with movement of the horse may result in a higher score.
- e. *Impulsion* does not mean faster. In this case, it is the horse's willingness to move with lack of resistance in the direction that that handler chooses. The evaluation also includes maintenance of the movement until completion of that maneuver.
- f. *Straightness* is evaluated for all maneuvers. If the horse is travelling on a straight line, his body should be straight from nose to tail. If he is travelling on a circle, the arc of his body should match that of the circle.

Liability Release

BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROGRAM, GUEST ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THERE ARE INHERENT RISKS IN RIDING AND BEING AROUND HORSES INCLUDING SERIOUS BODILY INJURY AND DEATH AND HEREBY.

GUEST ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THESE INHERENT RISKS ARISE FROM HORSES' UNPREDICTABLE NATURE WHICH INCLUDE SUDDEN, UNEXPECTED, AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS MOVEMENTS INCLUDING KICKING, BITING, BUCKING, AND RUNNING WITH OR WITHOUT WARNING OR PROVOCATION. GUEST ALSO ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THESE INHERENT RISKS ARISE FROM THE FACT THAT HORSES ARE EASILY FRIGHTENED BY SOUND, SUDDEN MOVEMENT, UNFAMILIAR OBJECTS, SMELLS, PERSONS, OTHER ANIMALS, AND NATURAL HAZARDS SUCH AS SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS AND - AS A RESULT - THEY MAY RUN, BITE, BUCK, OR KICK WITH OR WITHOUT WARNING. GUEST FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT RIDING ANY HORSE INVOLVES THE INHERENT RISK OF FALLING-OFF THE HORSE WHICH CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS BODILY INJURY OR DEATH.

GUEST acknowledges that he/she has acquainted herself/himself with rules of safety applicable to any involvement with horses and their environment and GUEST understands that it is not anyone else's obligation to teach him/her such rules. GUEST hereby represents that he/she is capable of using and being in close proximity to horses and their environment. GUEST further represents that he/she is competent and capable to participate in the activities GUEST will be participating in. **HELMET USE IS RECOMMENDED BY NAWD AT ALL TIMES FOR ALL RIDERS AND REQUIRED FOR THOSE UNDER THE AGE OF 18. IF HOST FACILITY OR SHOW MANAGEMENT HAS A MORE STRINGENT HELMET POLICY IN PLACE, PARTICIPANT MUST HONOR FACILITY POLICY.**

GUEST AGREES TO ASSUME ALL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ORGANIZATION'S ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES. GUEST acknowledges the inherent risks associated with Organization's activities and services as identified above, appreciates that these inherent risks include serious bodily injury, death, and property damage, and agrees to voluntarily encounter these risks by participating in Organization's activities and services.

GUEST AGREES TO INDEMNIFY, RELEASE, AND HOLD HARMLESS ORGANIZATION FROM LIABILITY FOR INJURIES OR DAMAGES SUSTAINED BY GUEST WHILE PARTICIPATING IN ORGANIZATION'S ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES INCLUDING THOSE INJURIES OR DAMAGES ARISING FROM ORGANIZATION'S NEGLIGENCE. GUEST hereby releases, waives, and forever discharges Organization of all actions of whatever kind or nature either in law or in equity arising from any bodily injury, death, or property damage, including but not limited to damage to GUEST's horse or other personal property, arising from Organization's recreational activity services identified herein so long as such injury, property damage, or death is not caused by an intentional, willful, or wanton, act or omission of Organization (*i.e.* GUEST releases Organization from liability for damages caused by Organization's negligent acts or omissions only).

This release is given on behalf of GUEST, GUEST's spouse, GUEST's legal representatives, administrators, executors, heirs, and assigns, and in the case of any child or legal guardian of GUEST's, on behalf of them, their legal representatives, administrators, executors, heirs and assigns. This release may not be revoked.