

## Western Riding Scoring

**Scoring will be on a basis of 0-100 with 70 denoting an average performance.**

(1) Scoring guidelines: points will be added or subtracted from the maneuvers on the following basis, ranging from plus 1.5 to minus 1.5: -1.5 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -.5 poor, 0 average, +.5 good, +1 very good, +1.5 excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined independently of penalty points.

**A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur:**

One-half (1/2) point

- tick or light touch of log

One (1) point

- hitting or rolling log
- out of lead more than one stride either side of the center point and between the markers
- splitting the log (log between the two front or two hind feet) at the lope
- hind legs skipping or coming together during lead change
- break of gait at the walk or jog up to two strides
- non-simultaneous lead change (Front to hind or hind to front)

Three (3) points

- not performing the specific gait (jog or lope) or not stopping when called for in the pattern, within 10 feet (3 meters) of the designated area
- simple change of leads
- out of lead at or before the marker prior to the designated change area or out of lead at or after the marker after the designated change area
- additional lead changes anywhere in pattern (except when correcting an extra change or incorrect lead)
- in pattern one and three failure to start the lope within 30 feet (9 meters) after crossing the log at the jog
- break of gait at walk or jog for more than two strides
- break of gait at the lope

Five (5) points

- out of lead beyond the next designated change area (note: failures to change, including cross-cantering. Two consecutive failures to change would result in two five point penalties).
- blatant disobedience including kicking out, biting, bucking and rearing
- holding saddle with either hand
- use of either hand to instill fear or praise

Disqualified - 0 score

- illegal equipment
- willful abuse
- off course
- knocking over markers
- completely missing log
- major refusal - stop and back more than 2 strides or 4 steps with front legs
- major disobedience or schooling
- failure to start lope prior to end cone in pattern #1
- four or more simple lead changes and/or failures to change leads
- failure to start lope within 30 feet of designated area in patterns 2, 3, 4, 5
- overturn of more than 1/4 turn

Faults scored according to severity, which will be cause for disqualification

- Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical excessively and consistently while the horse is in motion, or otherwise showing the appearance of intimidation.

### Credits

- changes of leads, hind and front simultaneously
- change of lead near the center point of the lead change area
- accurate and smooth pattern
- even pace throughout
- easy to guide and control with rein and leg
- manners and disposition
- conformation and fitness

The following characteristics are considered faults and should be judged accordingly in maneuver scores

- opening mouth excessively
- anticipating signals
- stumbling
- head carried too high
- head carried too low (tip of ear below the withers)
- over-flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical
- excessive nosing out

