



**Equestrian Bahamas – Rider Certification Program  
(Levels 1-8)**

**Hunt Seat Equitation**

## **Introduction**

The Equestrian Bahamas Rider Certification Program is an exciting, progressive National program offered to all riders in The Commonwealth of the Bahamas who wish to broaden their equestrian education. As riding students you have already embarked on the road to continuing education since you are taking lessons from instructors and/or coaches that are approved or certified by Equestrian Bahamas!

Your instructor/coach has been approved by Equestrian Bahamas because he or she is dedicated to teaching you the skills you need to become a knowledgeable horseperson: one who has good, sound riding skills and who has had the opportunity to learn stable management skills as well.

Our Rider Certification Program consists of 8 levels, designed around internationally benchmarked standards in three elements: Stable Management, Flatwork, and Over Fences work. Successful attainment of each element is determined through a testing format. Tests are scheduled throughout the year and must be administered by EB-approved personnel, at a registered member facility of EB.

Riders receive Certificates of Achievement for the successful completion of each individual element; once three elements in a Level are completed, Badges of Achievement are awarded for the successful completion of that Level. (Exception: Level 1, which has only 2 elements).

In addition, the Rider Certification Program is designed to prepare those students who aspire to become Equestrian Bahamas certified instructors or coaches.

Riders may not enter the Program at any Level above Level 3. Levels must be attained in sequence (i.e. 'skipping' of Levels is not allowed). Rider may not sit tests for any single element more than one level above their current overall Level of Certification.

Equestrian knowledge knows no boundaries. We wish you the best as you continue your study of our wonderful friend – the horse.

## **Objectives**

***Objective #1: To create a national program that promotes learning and offers levels of achievement for all riders from recreational to competitive.***

The EB Rider Certification program encourages riders to ride, learn and enjoy the equestrian sport, and promotes a continuous and progressive path of learning towards safe and knowledgeable horsemanship. The program encourages participants to continue learning in the sport by offering a series of attainable levels of achievement that are recognized with certificates and other awards.

In addition to providing a national standard as a benchmark, this program offers enough levels to maintain the interest of a rider for an extended period of time. For example, the young student starting riding at age 8 can potentially participate in the program for a number of years. This program also meets the needs of the beginning adult rider.

The Equestrian Bahamas Rider Certification program is also tailored for those riders who seek to further their riding skills on the flat but who do not wish to continue over fences. At Rider Level 3 candidates may take the full riding phase or the flat phase only. This option continues through Rider Levels 4-8.

Should a candidate elect not to do the gymnastic/jumping phase at a particular level (and the candidate has indicated this option on the application form prior to the test), then the evaluator is only to mark the flat phase of the riding test. Candidates successfully passing the flat test as well as all other phases of the exam, excluding the gymnastic/jumping phase, will be issued a certificate of achievement which specializes in flat work only.

***Objective #2: To provide guidelines to coaches and instructors***

The program is intended to complement programs offered by riding schools across The Commonwealth of the Bahamas, enabling EB-approved or certified instructors/coaches to offer a complete and progressive program of instruction to their students.

***Objective #3: To assist in the development of future Equestrian Bahamas (EB) certified instructors and coaches.***

The EB Rider Certification program is an important component to aid in the continued promotion, development and recognition of qualified instructional programs and will complement the national stable registry system as it is developed.

**Prospective Candidates and their Trainers should note:**

Candidates for the EB Rider Certification program must be members of Equestrian Bahamas.

Evaluators of any phase of the program must be an EB-approved or EB-certified instructor.

Those Candidates who wish to attain their Equestrian Bahamas Instructor Level 1 certification must successfully pass either the full riding OR the stable management and flat phases at Rider Level 6.

**Who may examine candidates?**

<b>EB Rider Certificate Level</b>	<b>Evaluator(s)</b>
Level 1-2	EB-approved or EB-certified Instructor Level 1 or higher  Evaluator may be rider's coach
Level 3-4	EB-approved or EB-certified Instructor Level 1 or higher  Evaluator may not be rider's coach
Level 5-6	EB-approved or EB-certified Instructor Level 1 or higher  Evaluator may not be the rider's coach

Level 7-8	EB-certified Instructor Level 2 or higher  Evaluator may not be the rider's coach
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### **Pass Mark**

- The pass mark for a single phase of a Level Certification is 80%.

-A rider is considered to have passed the test for a complete Level if

- A score of at least 80% is achieved on **each** phase of the Level Certification test.

**Retaking an Exam** – If a rider is unsuccessful in obtaining the passing mark (80%), he/she may retake the exam the following month, or whenever it is next offered.

If a rider retakes an exam, his/her scores from the previous sitting are null and void, and may not be applied towards the second test's scores.

### **EB Rider Certification Program Resources**

The official reference resource of the EB Rider Certification Program is the **United States Hunter Jumper Association Horsemanship Study Guide**. The Study Guide is available on the Equestrian Bahamas website for downloading.

All students of equestrian sport should be avid readers of various publications about their sport. We encourage our members to read widely to enrich their knowledge.

## Equestrian Bahamas Rider Certification Program – An Overview of the Levels

# Rider 1



Riders at Level 1 are in the beginning stages of their equestrian development. At this stage the riders are well started in the basics of riding and are able to demonstrate a good position, knowledge of “aids” and an appreciation for “safe” habits. Riders can post/rise to the trot but are not yet aware of diagonals. They can change diagonals when asked.

Riders at this level should not be balancing on the horse’s mouth. Hands should be independent at walk. The use of a neck strap in the absence of a standing martingale neck strap is allowed periodically at the trot. Contact is applied to stop, turn and slow down. Reins are then returned to an inactive state.

At this level riders must wear an ASTM approved helmet that is properly fitted, hard soled, heeled, ankle boots or higher and fitted, seamless pants. Half chaps are permissible. A well-fitted shirt with a collar and tucked into the pants or breeches is recommended with a belt that is visible. Gloves are recommended at all levels. Hair must be either tucked into the helmet or kept tidy with a hair net. A single braid is acceptable if hair is very long.

Tack should be used as it is normally for the rider/horse combination. Running and standing martingales are acceptable as are boots etc. so

long as they are clean and properly fitted.

The horse need not be braided or clipped, but an effort should be made to make a good presentation. All equipment must be clean and neat.

The test is to be conducted in a ride format. The test organizer will appoint a person, (possibly the regular instructor), to give the directions and control the safety of the group during the testing.

## Rider 2



Riders at Level 2 will demonstrate more polish and knowledge than riders at Level 1 and will be more independent in both riding and stable management skills.

The contact with the horse's mouth demonstrated by the rider is the same as in Level 1. Now however, the neck strap should not be used at trot and the rider should demonstrate a balanced position. A neck strap is permitted at the canter but should only be used periodically.

At this stage the riders must wear an ASTM approved helmet that is properly fitted, hard soled, heeled, ankle boot or higher and fitted, seamless pants. Half chaps are permissible. A well-fitted shirt with a collar tucked into the pants or breeches is recommended with a belt that is visible. Gloves are recommended at all levels. Hair must be either tucked into the helmet or kept tidy with a hair net. A single braid is acceptable if hair is very long.

Tack should be used as it is normally for the rider/horse combination. If a particular piece of equipment (bit, spurs, etc) is felt to be inappropriate by the evaluator then he/she will work with the candidate to educate him/her as to more appropriate options. Running and standing martingales are acceptable as are boots etc. so long as they are clean and properly fitted.

Horse need not be braided or clipped, but an effort should be made to make a good presentation. All equipment must be clean and neat.

The test will be conducted in a ride format. The test organizer may appoint a person, (possibly the regular instructor), to give the directions and control the safety of the group during the testing.

## Rider 3



Riders at Level 3 will now demonstrate the ability to ride independently. Contact with the horse's mouth should be as steady and sympathetic as possible at all three paces. Riders must understand the hand (rein) and how it affects the horse's mouth to achieve a goal (i.e. slow down). The riders must know how to release the pressure when the goal is achieved.

The movements should be demonstrated with accuracy. Riders are expected to know and to consistently demonstrate knowledge of correct diagonals throughout the riding portion, including in the "jumping" phase.



Although riders are now expected to ride an individual flat test, other horses should be in the vicinity so riders will not have to deal with a panicked, lonely horse.

The flat test is not regarded as a dressage test. The flat tests from this level forward are only to provide the riders with an opportunity to demonstrate the requirements independently.

The test organizer will provide a ring assistant to ensure safety during independent, group warm up i.e. have all candidates on same rein at one time. The organizer will provide a “caller” for the flat test.

## Rider 4



Riders at Level 4 are starting to co-ordinate the use of independent aids (i.e. leg being used to support hand contact). The riders should sit naturally and quietly in the saddle. They can now establish a soft sensation with the horse’s mouth and can feel when the horse is responding softly to the bit (i.e. relaxing jaw, mouthing bit – the “wet mouth”). Riders can demonstrate bend. Riders are able to recognize an incorrect lead within a few steps and correct it without delay.

The riders will do an independent warm up with more than one rider in the arena at a time. Knowledge of arena rules is therefore required.

Riders are expected to ride jumps at a height of 2 feet (.6m).

Attire at this level should be as per lower levels except that riders are

now encouraged to wear either breeches with tall boots, well fitted half chaps, or jodhpurs with short boots complete with garter straps and pant clips.

# Rider 5



Riders at Level 5 have a solid awareness of a horse moving forward willingly, maintaining rhythm and relaxation. Riders should be able to recognize “tracking up” or lack thereof, by observing other horses. This level introduces non-progressive transitions walk to canter/halt to trot. The rider should know the five different rein aids and their influence on the horse.

Attire at this level should be as per lower levels except that riders will now be expected to wear either breeches with tall boots, very well fitted half chaps, or jodhpurs with short boots complete with garter straps and pant clips.

The horse should be presented for the test well-groomed with mane neatly laid over and trimmed to an acceptable length as applicable to the breed. Tack should be clean and well oiled. The rider should be aware of the fitting of tack to the horse, aware of how well the tack fits the rider, and how the tack may affect the balance and position of the rider.

Riders at this level will be jumping fences at a height of 2’3” (.7m).

**Rider**

# 6



Riders at Level 6 will demonstrate the ability to ride forward from leg to hand. They will be able to ride the horses forward with energy (impulsion) while maintaining rhythm, regularity and evenness of pace. The contact demonstrated must not impede the horses' desire to move forward. The rider is beginning to create a "round" outline, particularly at trot. Overuse of the hand will be penalized.

Riders should be able to maintain canter approaches on the jumping course, recognize the lead and execute changes of lead through trot in the recovery zone. Riders can hold a contact to the fence, release over the fence and regain contact after landing.

Horse turnout for Rider Level 6 must be as for a competition. Horse is to be braided (by the candidate) and must also be trimmed (i.e. ears, muzzle, fetlocks and bridle path) as applicable to the breed. In the case of a horse that is dangerous to clip, the candidate must realize that although they will not fail because it is not done, it will affect their turnout marks.

Rider turnout for Rider 6 is a well--fitted shirt with collar and sleeves. The shirt should be tucked neatly into breeches. Riders should wear a visible belt. Breeches and tall boots or jodhpurs with jodhpur boots and knee straps may be worn. Well--fitted half chaps are acceptable. Conservative traditional attire is expected however a hunt coat and

riding shirt are not required.

Rider Level 6 will jump fences of 2'6"(80cm).

Disobedience of a horse i.e. refusal or run out, is not penalized, so long as the error and cause are identified by the rider and the rider is able to correct the disobedience. A fall of a rider and/or horse may or may not be penalized. If the fall is due to disobedience of the horse, a slip or a horse tripping, then it is not penalized. If the fall is due to rider error, either in judgment or lack of balance and/or position, then the evaluator may penalize the appropriate category.

## Rider 7



Riders at Level 7 will ride on consistent contact supported by the leg while maintaining rhythm, suppleness contact and impulsion. Riders at Level 7 are now aware of lateral and longitudinal suppleness and appropriate suppling exercises. They will be executing simple lateral movements at walk. The riders will be able to identify the loss of true bend and true straightness by observing other horses. They can lengthen and shorten stride at trot and will demonstrate working trot and a true three beat working canter throughout the test.

Over fences the Rider Level 7 is effective and able to ride a course.

# Rider 8



Riders at Level 8 are competent riders with sound equitation skills. The riders are able to recognize “true” quality of movement and are beginning to ride the horses with impulsion and engagement. They can achieve consistent bend and straightness as required. The riders can achieve bend by using the inside leg correctly and controlling the outside shoulder. The horses should be consistently “round” at all paces. Some differences in the horses’ outline may be evident due to prior “discipline specific” training of the horse. The “roundness” however, must be created because the rider is riding correctly from leg to hand.

The riders should be able to identify basic training problems/challenges and offer options for their correction.

Over fences, riders at Level 8 will jump a medal type courses of 2’9(88cm) – 3’(91cm), with confidence and authority. Riders at Level 8 should be able to influence the horse in a positive fashion and improve its way of going.

# Rider Level Objectives -Stable Management

## Rider 1 – Stable Management requirements

The candidates should demonstrate an awareness of the basic parts of the horse and of their equipment, and that they can, with assistance, be involved in the daily care of their horse.

Turnout should be neat and workmanlike. Paddock boots, work boots, or riding boots and neat sweat pants, jodhpurs or breeches are acceptable. Loose, baggy jeans or shirts are not acceptable. Hair should be tied back.

Riders will be expected to:

### *Before the ride*

- Know the color of the horse they are using for the test.
- Know which side is the “near” side and which is the “far” or “off” side.
- Demonstrate how to feed a treat and what types of foods are best to offer as treats. (Rules for feeding treats may differ from one stable to another).
- Enter the stall, approach the horse/pony safely and put the halter on. If an evaluator assists, the student/candidate must direct the process.
- Lead the pony or horse out of the stall properly, turn it correctly, take the horse/pony back into the stall and remove the halter. A lead line or chain should be attached correctly.
- Tack up the horse. If an evaluator assists, the student/candidate must direct the process.
- After the ride, rinse the bit to rid it of any dirt. Put away tack, including hanging bridle in a figure of eight (with assistance if necessary)

*Safety, and a willingness to learn about the horse/pony is emphasized at this level.*

## **Rider 2 – Stable Management Requirements**

– Turnout for the stable management phase should be neat and workmanlike. Paddock boots, work boots, or riding boots and neat sweat pants or jodhpurs or breeches are acceptable. Loose, baggy jeans or shirts are not acceptable. Hair should be tied back.

### **Candidates will be expected to:**

- Identify basic face markings.
- Discuss the steps involved in grooming the horse, including:
  - the daily care of the mane and tail. They should know what brushes are used and how often the tail should be combed out.
- Demonstrate the difference in the technique of using a body brush versus the dandy brush.
- Be able to pick the horse's feet, following all proper safety precautions.
- Be able to tie a quick release knot.
- Know the reasons for cleaning tack and the method involved.
- Tack up unassisted under the direction of the evaluator.
- Apply polo wraps and boots(separate exercises) to both front and hind legs unassisted.
- Put up the bridle in a figure of eight arrangement, unassisted.

## **Rider 3 – Stable Management Requirements**

Turnout for stable management should be neat and workmanlike. Paddock boots, work boots, or riding boots and neat sweat pants, jodhpurs or breeches are acceptable. Loose, baggy jeans or shirts are not acceptable. Hair should be tied back.

### **Candidates will be expected to:**

- Disassemble and assemble a snaffle bridle and “put it up” in a figure of eight.
- List the foods eaten by their horse as a part of their regular diet.
- Know how often the farrier should visit the horse.
- Recognize and describe “thrush”, and demonstrate understanding that its spread can be controlled by attention to the hooves.

- Put on and remove a blanket, with leg straps and belly surcingles.
- Know that they should loosen the girth, run up the stirrups, take the reins down from the neck, put on a sweat sheet or cooler and walk the horse until it is cool after exercise.
- Demonstrate the safe tying up of a hay net with attention to the height and the type of quick release knot used.

#### **Rider 4 – Stable Management Requirements**

Turnout for the stable management phase should be neat and workmanlike. Paddock boots, work boots, or riding boots and neat sweat pants, jodhpurs or breeches are acceptable. Loose, baggy jeans or shirts are not acceptable. Hair should be tied back.

Candidates will be expected to:

- Identify at least 6 different snaffle bits.
- Turn the horse out with the ears clipped as well as whiskers, bridle path and feathers on legs.
- Demonstrate how to correctly measure a horse.
- Identify four different leg markings on the horses available.
- Be able to name 5 breeds of horse
- Identify the parts of the horse

#### **Rider 5 – Stable Management Requirement**

Turnout for stable management should be neat and workmanlike. Paddock boots, work boots, or riding boots and neat sweat pants or slush pants over breeches are acceptable. Loose, baggy jeans or shirts are not acceptable. Hair should be tied back. Ball caps that cover the eyes are discouraged.

Candidates will be expected to:

- Demonstrate how to take the temperature, pulse and respiration of a horse and know the normal values. Using a stethoscope is acceptable.
- Know how the body uses water.
- Candidates should know the signs exhibited by a horse when



its teeth need floating.

- Name some skin conditions and possible treatment.
- Understand pressure points that are acted upon by bits.
- Knowledge of bits, their effect and uses. Be able to explain why one bit would be used over another.

## **Rider 6 – Stable Management Requirement**

Turnout for stable management should be neat and workmanlike. Paddock boots, work boots, or riding boots and neat sweat pants, jodhpurs or breeches are acceptable. Loose, baggy jeans or shirts are not acceptable. Hair should be tied back.

Candidates will be expected to demonstrate:

- The proper fit of equipment i.e. running martingales. Identify a variety of nosebands and their effect.
- The procedure for pulling a mane. Demonstrate how to lay the mane correctly and discuss maintenance of the mane. Mane should be pulled to 4-5 inches (10-13cm) and “laid over”. All as applicable to the breed of the horse.
- Stall care and horse handling: knowledge of safety procedures, vices, etc.
- How to clip a horse. Candidates should be able to identify different types of clips

## **Rider 7 – Stable Management Requirement**

Turnout for stable management should be neat and workmanlike. Paddock boots, work boots, or riding boots and neat sweat pants, jodhpurs or breeches are acceptable. Loose, baggy jeans or shirts are not acceptable. Hair should be tied back.

Candidates will be required to:

- Apply 2 stable bandages one on the front leg and one on the hind. Two types of stable bandage are acceptable. Candidates must be able to discuss the fit of the materials and the materials should be clean and in good repair.

- Discuss symptoms, causes, location and possible treatments for various types of unsoundness.
- Know different types of wounds and treatment.
- Describe the sequence that the farrier would follow in reshoeing a horse that is currently wearing shoes.
- Be familiar with the use of special shoes or how shoes are modified to help a horse with certain soundness or locomotion problems.
- Lunging- Candidates will lunge a horse with side reins. Horse should be lunged at all three gaits, in both directions. Lunging from a cavesson, Barnham method, or lunging from a well--fitted halter are acceptable. Lunge horses should wear protective boots or bandages on all four legs. Horses should be lunged for a few minutes without the side reins attached to assess their mental state before attaching the side reins. Candidates will not be required to lunge a rider.

### **Rider 8 – Stable Management Requirement**

Turnout for stable management should be neat and workmanlike. Paddock boots, work boots, or riding boots and neat sweat pants or jodhpurs or breeches are acceptable. Loose, baggy jeans or shirts are not acceptable. Hair should be tied back.

Candidates will be expected to:

- Have knowledge of capillary refill time and the test generally used to estimate dehydration.
- Put on two shipping bandages.
- Know about teeth and the aging pattern.
- Know the symptoms, cause and first aid treatment of various illnesses and conditions.
- Discuss conformation traits and how they may relate to performance and soundness.
- Locate the sites of unsoundness and discuss possible causes and treatments of each.

# **Rider Level Objectives – Flatwork**

## **Rider 1 – Riding Requirements**

Riders will be required to:

- Adjust stirrups from the ground; tighten the girth; put reins over the horse's head.
- Mount in the correct, safe manner (from ground or block).
- Dismount and lead the horse in hand.
- Adjust the girth and stirrups while mounted. (assistance allowed).
- Pick up reins correctly while mounted.
- Demonstrate the correct position at walk.
- Identify the direction of travel (i.e. left rein, right rein).
- Demonstrate the correct position at trot (rising).
- Drop and retake stirrups at walk.
- Demonstrate change of rising/posting diagonal when asked.
- Demonstrate transitions at walk/trot.
- Ride a straight line, independent of the rail.
- Change rein on long diagonal at trot.
- Halt from walk.
- Identify and maintain a safe distance in a group ride.
- Demonstrate overall authority, safety and confidence.

## **Rider 2 – Riding Requirements (flat)**

**Riders will be required to demonstrate:**

- Riding without stirrups at the walk.
- How whip/crop should be held with hand centered on handgrip, and whip/crop resting on thigh.
- Tack adjustments – girth and stirrups (unassisted).
- Position at walk with & without stirrups. Hold whip correctly.
- An awareness of posting diagonals and how to change the diagonal.
- Correct position at trot rising and sitting with stirrups.
- Transitions (progressive) at all paces (except canter).
- Knowledge of how to prepare for the canter transition and to

- achieve the canter. Knowledge of the canter lead is not required at this level.
- Briefly dropping stirrups at sitting trot, then walk to regain stirrups.
  - Preparation and accuracy between the letters. Riders are not necessarily proficient at canter at this level.
  - Turning across the ring away from ride; rider independence.
  - Riding 20m circles of the correct size (i.e. going to tangent points).
  - Demonstrate jumping position (half seat) at trot.

### **Rider 3 – Riding Requirements (Flat)**

Riders will be required to demonstrate:

- Confidently dropping and regaining stirrups at the posting trot
- Confidently riding without stirrups in posting and sitting trot, and in transitions from walk to trot and vice versa. Riders must be given the option to cross their stirrups.
- Riding a figure eight at the trot, demonstrating a change in diagonals
- A half turn, and half turn in reverse
- Correct position at the canter, with stirrups, both sitting and in half seat
- Halt 4-6 seconds, and back up three steps
- An understanding of what constitutes a 'square halt'

### **Rider 4 – Riding Requirements (flat)**

Riders will be required to demonstrate:.

- The ability to sit quietly and use aids independently.
- Correct position at walk, trot and canter.
- Use of independent aids at all paces.
- Confidently dropping and regaining stirrups at the canter.
- Knowledge of size and bend on 15m circles at trot.
- Maintaining the canter and reaching the tangents on a 20m circle.
- An understanding of the correct preparation and application of clear, accurate aids when asking the horse to make a transition

- from trot to canter.
- Canter into the diagonal line, demonstrating a transition to trot for 3-5 steps and a transition back to canter onto the new lead while still on the diagonal line.
  - Accuracy and smoothness in the flat ride.
  - Horse handling as for a breeding, line class. – Stand- lead the horse away from the “judge”- turn correctly- trot back towards the “judge” and stand the horse for inspection.

### **Rider 5 – Riding Requirements (Flat)**

Riders will be required to demonstrate:

- The action of the rein and the effect that the rein should have.
- Dropping and regaining stirrups at canter.
- Bend and rhythm in circles 15m (trot) - 20m (canter).
- Half – turn on the forehand.
- The correct shape in serpentines, i.e. circles connected by 2 or 3 steps of straightness.
- Accurate lead changes through trot.
- Accurate and smooth transitions.
- Non-progressive transitions (walk to canter/halt to trot). □

### **Rider 6 – Riding Requirements (Flat)**

Riders will be required to demonstrate:

- Consistent bend, and pace (15m and 20m circles at canter). Care should be taken to avoid a marked increase in the speed of the horse after riding the circle and returning to the straight line.
- Correct position with and without stirrups at all paces.
- Simple changes through walk.
- Correct shape and definite changes of bend in the serpentine. The horse should be working forward and the rider should be able to recognize if some impulsion has been lost and be able to discuss this with the evaluator if required.
- Smoothness and accuracy in the execution of the transitions.
- 1/4 turns on the haunches and ensure that they know there should be a “pivot” involved. They should know the application of aids

- and recognize the more common errors of executing the movement.
- An understanding of the difference between bend and flexion.

### **Rider 7– Riding Requirements (Flat)**

Warm-up: Evaluator may question the rider to determine the rider's comprehension of his/her warm--up and flat test performance.

Riders will be required to demonstrate:

- Correct position at all paces with and without stirrups demonstrating solid position. Upper body is on the vertical at all paces except rising trot. Lower leg falls under the base of support and position should be maintained without difficulty. Position without stirrups should be solid and balanced with no gripping of knees or falling behind or ahead of the motion.
- Circles in canter should be accurate. Candidates should be aware of straightness and able to execute the movements with a steady pace.
- A three loop serpentine cantering the first loop, trotting the second, and cantering the third. Transitions should be accurate and immediate with the focus being on the stability of the trot on the second loop.
- Lengthening and shortening the stride at trot. The rider must show a definite transition from working trot to a lengthened/shortened stride.
- A half turn on the haunches where the horse should not step backward or forward. Stepping back is considered a more serious fault than stepping forward.
- Leg-yield.

### **Rider 8– Riding Requirements (Flat)**

Turn out at this level should be appropriate to the weather, however it should be immaculate. The horse should be turned out as for competition, braided and clipped or trimmed according to the time of

year and as per breed requirements.

Warm-up - The evaluator may ask questions about the rider's warm-up program to determine if rider has a plan and how he/she feels about the effectiveness of the plan.

Riders will be required to demonstrate:

- Position with and without stirrups at all paces.
- 10m circles at canter.
- Serpentine at canter with simple changes through walk.
- Lengthening and shortening of stride at the canter. The lengthened stride should show a definite difference in the length of the canter stride, ideally without an increase in speed. The shortened stride should demonstrate a less ground covering canter but with more actively engaged hindquarters.
- Breaking to the trot will be penalized.
- Leg-yield indicating that the rider is able to coordinate the aids effectively to move the horse sideways while still maintaining the forward intent, rhythm, contact and suppleness. A horse that falls over the outside shoulder or who does not maintain a parallel position in relation to the "line" on which it is moving will be penalized. The horse should be straight with the exception of a slight flexion away from the direction in which it is moving.
- The half halt as a preparation to balance the horse before a change of direction, speed or pace. The rider should understand how to close both legs, deepen the seat thus encouraging the horse to move forward into a non-allowing hand. The rider must relax and release the contact when the horse responds by shifting its weight to the hindquarters.
- An understanding, through discussion, of engagement, impulsion and shoulder-in.

# **Rider Level Objectives - Jumping**

## **Rider 2 – Riding Requirements (poles)**

### **Riders will be required to:**

– Trot a course of poles to demonstrate the ability to control direction, approach and ability to ride to the end of the lines. Focus should be on direction and use of eyes to plan the turn for the next pole. The candidate is to execute the course in rising trot with correct use of diagonals as much as possible without losing the line.

- Demonstrate riding ‘ahead’, ‘on’ and ‘behind’ the vertical.
- Identify leads from the ground.
- Recognize square halt by observing another horse.
- Recognize when own mount is in an immobile halt.
- Know ‘inside’ and ‘outside’ for ring position.

## **Rider 3 – Riding Requirements (Jumping)**

### **Riders will be required to:**

- Trot poles and jump an X maintaining the jumping position on the approach, over the fence and upon landing over the cross rail.
- Demonstrate medium mane release.
- Demonstrate control of trot and straightness of approach and departure. Horse should land at canter and be brought back to trot before reaching the end of the ring. Riders should return to a “full seat”, 3 point position for the transition.
- Trot a course of cross rails and regain trot before a turn; focus on path of the course and the ability to bring the horse back to trot before the turn to prepare for the next trot approach.
- Maintain a balanced forward seat position. If rising trot is done through turns, rider is to be on the correct rising/posting diagonal.
- Demonstrate confidence, safety and control.



#### **Rider 4 – Riding Requirements (Jumping)**

Riders will be required to

- Trot to a cross rail, 15-18'(4.5-5.5m), to a 2'(61cm) vertical. Trot approach to cross rail, then one canter stride to vertical. Maintain jumping position to the cross rail and upon landing.
- Demonstrate a short, medium and a long mane release
- Demonstrate control on the approach and landing
- Trot into the cross rail, canter to the second fence, count strides correctly
- Canter a single fence.
- Ride straight and maintain a steady rhythm.
- Demonstrate confidence, safety and control.

#### **Rider 5 – Rider Requirements (Jumping)**

Riders will be required to:

- -Trot, with stirrups, into a cross rail, 18' (5.5m) to vertical then 21'(6.4m) to 2'(61cm) - 2'3"(70cm) oxer, demonstrating a short, medium and long crest release while maintaining position.
- -Trot a single X-Rail without stirrups maintaining position and demonstrating confidence and control.
- -Know that their pace on approach will affect the inside distance in the line and be able to tell the evaluator if they were long or tight (deep) to the second fence in the line.
- -Demonstrate control, presentation and confidence.

#### **Rider 6 – Rider Requirements (Jumping)**

Riders will be required to:

- Build and set the stride of a gymnastic line.
- Trot to a cross rail, 18'(5.5m) to a 2'3 (70cm) - 2'6"(80cm) oxer and 21' (6.4m) to a 2'3"(70cm) - 2'6"(80cm) vertical. Distances may be adjusted to suit the length of the stride of the horses in the test. It is not mandatory that candidates bring animals with full 12'(3.6m) strides to the exam.

- Demonstrate correct position, control of the approach and recovery.
- Trot a cross rail, 18' (5.5m) to a 2'(60cm) - 2'3"(70cm) vertical without stirrups. Demonstrating stability of position and effectiveness. A mane release may be used.
- Jump a course of 2'6 (80cm) jumps. The course should be ridden at canter including canter approach to the first fence. Rider should be able to recognize leads soon enough to be able to change the lead through trot in the recovery phase and not have it run over into the approach phase for the next fence.
- Hold a contact to the fence, release over the fence and regain contact after landing.
- Be aware of the importance of the shape of the turn and the balance of the horse in the turns.

## **Rider 7 – Rider Requirements (Jumping)**

Riders will be required to:

- Build and set the stride of the gymnastic and the course.
- Trot to a cross rail, 18'(5.5m) to a 2'6 (80cm) - 2'9(88cm) oxer, 21'(6.4m) to a 2'6 (80cm) - 2'9(88cm) vertical. Riders will be authoritative on the approach and able to demonstrate a stable, secure position through the line. Riders will approach straight, with the correct pace, and demonstrate good control in the recovery phase. The distances may be altered to suit ponies and horses with small strides.
- Demonstrate a release through gymnastic as described by evaluator. The rider should be able to demonstrate the progression from the crest release toward the automatic or follow-through (out of hand) release.
- Jump a course of 2'9(88cm). The course will be fairly basic but will be of a medal type and will have 1) a related distance, 2) 2 changes of rein 3) at least one individual fence 4) a transition. Fences will be of competition type with fillers.
- Demonstrate consistent rhythm, impulsion, confidence, safety and control.
- Critique their course with the evaluator. Riders may use simple

change of leads but it is important that they can explain why they are using simple changes.

### **Rider 8– Rider Requirements (Jumping)**

Riders will be required to:

- Set up a course and gymnastic. Riders must have knowledge of distances and factors affecting distance to be able to set up a course or gymnastic safely. The course should be of a medal type and include: a) A combination; b) A line of no less than 4 strides; c) 2 changes of rein; d) A roll back turn (fence 3 to 4); e) A downward transition.
- Critique the form of another rider's horse through the gymnastic. The rider should be able to discuss the horse's style and technique.
- Maintain position through a gymnastic with and without stirrups.
- Add a stride in a line.
- Demonstrate a "feel" for distance to a fence.