

NOTES FOR JUDGING AT E OR B

The following is a list of dot points which may assist the judge who is positioned at the side of the arena at E or B. Judges are positioned at up to 5 points around the arena, and each judge is able to see some things better from one position than perhaps another. This document is a guide to what the judge can expect to see from the side position and therefore comment. You are reminded that the Rule Book states that judges of D level and above should be positioned on the long side when two or more judges are being used (Rule 11.4). Judges of E level and below may, if they feel confident, be positioned on the long side.

THE ENTRY

- Regularity of the trot, or canter at higher levels than Elementary
- Footfall
- Rhythm and quality of trot, or canter at higher levels...For Novice tests is it a clear working trot. For Elementary tests is it showing collection. For Medium and Advanced is it showing a greater degree of collection and engagement for the appropriate level and pace
- Activity and impulsion
- Outline of the horses frame
- Acceptance of the bridle

THE HALT

- Transition
- Immobility
- Balance and weight distribution
- Squareness of the halt
- Outline of the horses frame
- Acceptance of the bridle

DEPARTURE FROM THE HALT

- Transition into the departure pace
- Regularity of the departure pace
- Footfall
- Rhythm and quality of the pace...For Novice is it a clear working trot. For Elementary is it showing collection. For Medium and Advanced is it showing a greater degree of collection and engagement.
- Activity and impulsion
- Outline of the horses frame
- Acceptance of the bridle

THE TURN AT C

- You can check the smoothness of the turn and the flexion and bend if it turns towards you
- Regularity of the pace
- Footfall
- You may see if the horses hind quarters swing out on the turn if it turns away from you
- Acceptance of the bridle if the horse is turning towards you
- The position of the horses ears if it turns away from you can indicate if the horses head is straight or tilted

THE CIRCLES OR HALF CIRCLES FOR EXAMPLE AT E, B, I OR D IN TROT OR CANTER DEPENDING ON LEVEL

- Regularity of the pace
- Footfall
- Flexion and bend if the horse is moving towards you
- Quality of the pace. For Novice level is it clear working trot. For Elementary is it showing collection. For Medium and Advanced is it showing a greater degree of collection and engagement appropriate to the level.
- Outline of the horses frame
- If the horse turns away from you, you may see if the quarters swing out
- Activity and impulsion
- Acceptance of the bridle
- Accuracy of the size of the circle or half circle should be clearly visible

THE CHANGE OF REIN ON THE DIAGONAL LENGTHENING THE STRIDE AT THE TROT OR MEDIUM AND EXTENDED TROT FOR HIGHER LEVELS THAN NOVICE

- Regularity
- Footfall and length of stride
- Change if any of the outline of the horses frame
- Balance and smoothness of transitions in and out of lengthening of the stride
- Accuracy of the lengthening – you should be able to see if it starts and ends at markers
- Engagement of the quarters
- Activity and impulsion
- Acceptance of the bridle
- For Medium and Advanced level can you see the difference between the medium and extended trots

WALK

- Transition into walk should be visible and any changes from one walk to another should be visible.
- Is it clearly a medium or free walk for Novice and Elementary levels and is it clearly a medium, collected or extended walk for Medium level. Is it clearly collected and extended walk for Advanced level
- Regularity – important to be four beat
- Footfall
- Outline of horses frame should be visible and any changes regarding stretching the neck should be visible
- Acceptance of the bridle
- The contact of the reins
- Activity of the walk

CANTER ON STRAIGHT LINES

- The straightness may not always be easily seen so look for the footfall and that the hind legs follow the line of the forelegs
- Transitions into canter should be visible if coming towards you however if horse is moving away look for the quarters following the forehand – you may see if the Quarters swing out if the horse moves away in the transition
- Quality of the canter. Is it clearly a working canter for Novice level. Is it clearly collected canter for Elementary level. Is there a greater degree of collection and engagement for the canter if it is Medium or Advanced level
- Outline of the horses frame
- Acceptance of the bridle will be mostly visible if horse is side on or moving toward you
- Activity and impulsion
- Engagement

CANTER ON CIRCLES AND HALF CIRCLES

- If the horses is moving towards you in canter you will be able to see the flexion and bend clearly if moving away you may be able to see if the quarters swing out
- Quality of the canter – is it three beat and clearly working canter for Novice level. Is it clearly collected canter for Elementary level. Is there a greater degree of collection and engagement for Medium and Advanced levels.
- Footfall
- Outline of the horses frame

- Acceptance of the bridle will be mostly visible if horse is coming towards you however look at the ears and see if the head is straight not tilted if it moves away
- Activity and impulsion
- Engagement
- Accuracy of size of circle or half circles should be clearly visible

LENGTHENING STRIDE AT CANTER AT NOVICE TO MEDIUM AND EXTENDED CANTER FOR MEDIUM AND ADVANCED LEVEL

- The canter is usually lengthened down the long sides and is easily visible
- Quality of the canter – is it three beat – is it hurried
- Footfall and length of stride
- You will be able to see if the horse lengthens its frame and outline
- You may not see the straightness so look and see if the quarters are in off the track
- Activity and impulsion
- Engagement
- Quality of transitions
- Acceptance of the bridle

THE HALTS IF ANY AT C OR A

- You may not see the head of the horse clearly so look for the straightness by looking where the feet of the horse are positioned
- Immobility
- Balance and weight distribution – is the halt square
- The acceptance of the bit will be seen if the horse is facing you but you may not see the horses mouth or head clearly so see if the ears are level and the neck of the horse stays steady or appears to move up or down at the halt this may indicate resistance
- Accuracy of the halt to the marker

ALLOWING THE HORSE TO STRETCH THE NECK FOR EXAMPLE MOVEMENT NO 6 IN NOVICE 2.3. THE HORSE IS ON A CIRCLE 20 METRES AT C AND LET THE HORSE STRETCH FORWARD AND DOWNWARDS AND BEFORE C RETAKE THE REINS (RISING)

- Regularity
- Footfall
- Rhythm and quality of trot
- Activity and impulsion
- If the horse is moving towards you will clearly see the stretch of the neck however if it is moving away from you may be able to see if the ears alter their position and appear to be lower indicating the neck is stretching
- Acceptance of the bridle will be seen at most times

REIN BACK

If the halt and rein back is at C or A it is fairly easy to observe the rein back as if you were judging from short side. You should observe the following:

- If there is any anticipation
- If the halt is fully established before the rein back
- The horses outline and acceptance of the bridle
- The horse is moving with diagonal pairs
- If you are at E or B and the halt is at X you will be able to see the straightness clearly
- The horse drops the poll if it is facing you
- The horse is spreading its hind legs if you are behind it
- The horse is dragging its legs and is inactive
- The departure is straight into the departure pace
- Acceptance of the bridle if you are facing the horse should be clear

SHOULDER-IN

If the shoulder-in is on the same long side as you are judging you will see the following:

- Regularity of the trot
- Outside bend and riders outside aids and if the horse looks away from the direction it travels
- Degree of collection
- Degree of engagement and impulsion
- You may be able to observe some footfall and therefore if the hind legs both travel up the long side and if the inside foreleg passes and crosses the outside foreleg
- Outline of the horses frame
- Acceptance of the riders outside rein aid

If the shoulder in is on the opposite long side from where you are judging you will see the following:

- Regularity of the trot
- The inside bend and if the horse is clearing looking away from the direction it travels
- Degree of collection
- Degree of engagement and impulsion
- If the inside foreleg passes and crosses the outside foreleg
- Outline of the horses frame
- You will not be able to see the angle as well as if you were on the short side so don't comment on this
- You should be able to observe from either side if there is any resistance to the shoulder in aids
- If the horse lowers its inside hip

TRAVERS

- From the side you should observe if the horse is slightly bent around the rider's inside leg if it is on the opposite side you will not be able to observe the angle
- The regularity of the trot
- The degree of collection and impulsion
- Look for the footfall to see if the horse is on two tracks
- Outline of the horses frame
- Acceptance of the bridle
- Footfall and angle should be clear if movement is on side at which you are positioned
- Accuracy

HALF PASS

- The regularity of the pace
- The collection and engagement
- The outside bend may be visible to comment on and the riders outside aids
- The inside bend may be visible if it is moving towards you but you may not be able to see if the head is straight or tilting
- You should be able to see if the horse moves towards you if the horse is bent around the riders inside leg and looks clearly in the direction it travels
- You may not be able to see if the forehand leads or if the quarters are leading so try to observe the footfall which may assist you
- Acceptance of the bridle
- Outline of the horses frame
- Accuracy

HALF PIROUETTE AT WALK

If the pirouette is on the side line or across the short length of the arena you should be able to observe the pirouette nearly as easily as from the short side and observe the following:

- The bend around the riders inside leg and if the horse is looking in the direction it travels
- Footfall and regularity – is it keeping the four beat of the walk
- Outline of the horses frame
- Degree of collection and engagement
- If the horse grounds or steps out and the activity of the walk
- The size of the pirouette and how many steps it takes. It should be 3 to 4 strides

- The horse clearly moving around the inside hind leg forming a pivot but still maintaining walk regularity
- Accuracy
- If you are on the outside you will observe the riders outside aids

FLYING CHANGE OF LEG

If the flying change of leg is on the diagonal or side lines it will be clearly visible and you should be able to observe the following:

- If the flying change is a true flying change
- If the flying change is late behind
- If the flying change is forward
- If the flying change is on the riders aids
- If the croup is high in the change
- Accuracy of the flying change
- If the flying change is on the serpentine and moves straight towards you at X you can clearly observe the straightness but may not be able to comment on some of the above points especially if it is moving towards you
- If there is a set number of changes on the diagonal it is easy to count the changes from the side
- You can see the quality of the canter including if it is a regular three beat
- Degree of collection and engagement of the canter
- You can not always see the straightness of the canter but you can observe the footfall and on a sand arena you can often see the track the horse follows which will indicate if the horse is straight

COUNTER CANTER

From both markers you will observe the following:

- Regularity and quality of the canter – it should be three beat
- Balance
- Flexion and outline should be clear from both markers
- Any resistance should be obvious from both markers
- Straightness if it goes across the middle of the arena
- Accuracy

QUARTER PIROQUETTE AT CANTER FOR EXAMPLE TEST 5.3

If you are sitting at E or B you can observe the following:

- The increased collection and engagement of the canter required on the approach
- Regularity and the quality of the canter – it should be three beat
- The lowering of the hind quarters in the quarter pirouette
- The number of steps during the quarter pirouette – should be 2 to 3 steps
- Outline of the horses frame
- Acceptance of the bridle
- Accuracy

- If you are sitting at B you will clearly see the outside aids of the rider and if the hind quarters swing out
- If you are sitting at E you will clearly see the bend and flexion and may observe a light shoulder fore position on the approach. You will also clearly see the inside aids of the rider

HALF PIROUETTE AT CANTER FOR EXAMPLE TEST 5.4

If you are sitting at E or B you can observe the following:

- The increased collection and engagement of the canter required on the approach
- Regularity and the quality of the canter – it should be three beat
- The lowering of the hind quarters in the half pirouette
- The number of steps during the half pirouette – should be 3 to 4 steps
- You should observe if the hind quarters swing out
- Outline of the horses frame
- Acceptance of the bridle
- Accuracy
- You will observe the inside bend and flexion of one pirouette and the outside bend of the other
- You will observe the riders inside aids clearly on one pirouette and the riders outside aids on the other

NOTES TO REMEMBER WHICH MAY ASSIST

- In some tests there is a movement where the rider is required to give the reins for a few strides. Try to sit on the opposite side of the corner where this takes place, if its only one way, otherwise you may not be able to see it and may have to give benefit to the rider with a fair mark.

(Reference NSW Judges Sub Committee. D. Stock, August 2004)