

GUIDELINES FOR GYMNASTIC PHASE FOR UPPER LEVEL RATINGS - C-3, B and A

The following gives the basic guidelines for testing the gymnastic phases during the C-3, B and A ratings. This does not cover all situations for all the ratings. At each individual testing, the Examiners will need to discuss with the candidates what is expected and appropriate for that particular rating.

The basic gymnastic diagram (#1) listed below will be used at all C-3 ratings so as to keep this phase standardized nationally at this level. This will be built under the direct supervision of the Examiners. That is not to say that other versions might not be acceptable but using this one example will help candidates prepare since they will know what to expect. However, this does not mean that bounces and other variations should not be used to prepare candidates for the testing. Preparing candidates to a higher standard can help ensure that they will ride more confidently and competently during the rating.

The optional gymnastic line (#2) can be used for both the B and A ratings. The main difference is that the B candidates will build the gymnastic line after discussion with the Examiners while the A candidates will build theirs' on their own initiative. The A candidates can develop their own variations of this gymnastic line. At least one (1) bounce will be included for both ratings. The Examiners will inspect the gymnastics before any horses jump down the lines.

Recognizing the differences in horses/ponies strides, adjustments for all the ratings can be made to distances between jumps to suit these differences after discussion between candidates and Examiners. At the same time, for the 'B' and especially the 'A' candidates, their ability to lengthen or shorten their mounts strides on the flat and over jumps is considered by the Examiners as to whether they meet the Standard for their ratings.