

Mounted Skills (D-3 Dressage)

RIDING EXPECTATIONS: Candidate should ride in a basic balanced position with control at the medium and free walk, working trot, and working canter. Candidate should maintain a secure base of support while developing balanced rhythm and relaxation (see USDF Training Scale) with their mount.

The D-3 check-list is a valuable tool to evaluate a member's readiness to test. It is recommended that this check-list be used to evaluate a candidate no earlier than 90 days prior to the certification. The evaluator should sign the "Signature" block when a candidate satisfactorily performs the necessary skills while demonstrating both horse management and riding expectations for the standard without instruction/coaching. If the member is not able to demonstrate the standard, the evaluator should provide detailed comments on what improvements the candidate needs to make in order to demonstrate the standard. An evaluator must be able to give an impartial evaluation of the candidate's proficiency at the standard. The "D-1 through C-2 Examiner's Handbook" and the last page of the "Standards of Proficiency" outlines the qualities of an examiner that is appropriate to use.

Signature
&
Date

Riding on the Flat

- Ride on flat using Riding Expectations (see above).
- Demonstrate correct mounting (using mounting block if necessary).
- Adjust stirrups and girth with feet in the stirrups while mounted at the halt.
- Demonstrate mount's warm-up routine for everyday work under examiner supervision.
- Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at medium walk and working trot under direction of examiner.
- Ride mount on flat demonstrating 20-meter circles, diagonals, halt on centerline, showing correct positioning of bend in both directions at walk, at sitting and rising working trot with correct diagonals and at the working canter with correct leads.
- Ride without stirrups at the working trot sitting.
- Demonstrate an increase and decrease of length of stride either alone or with others as appropriate.
- Demonstrate a halt followed by a simple step back.
- Discuss performance with examiner including rider's basic balanced position, and whether or not circles were round and correct size and natural aids were used correctly.
- Shorten and lengthen reins at the halt, walk and trot.

Evaluator's Comments:

Riding Over Ground Poles/Cavaletti

- Discuss differences in position, and stirrup length for riding on the flat, riding over fences and riding in the open.
- Ride over 3-4 trot poles, maintaining a balanced position in posting trot and two point position.
- Ride over 3-4 trot poles followed by an elevated trot pole or raised cavaletti up to 6"
- Canter over a single ground pole.
- Discuss performance, reasons for any disobediences.

Evaluator's Comments:

Mounted Skills (D-3 Dressage) cont.

Riding Test

- Bring diagram of USEF Training Level Test 1 or 2
- Discuss goals for the test
- Perform USEF Training Level Test 1 or 2
- Discuss performance with examiner-relative to the Purpose of the test and the Collective Marks .

Evaluator's Comments:

Riding in the Open

- Ride safely and considerately on public or private property (open field or open space) over varied terrain, in a group, at the walk, trot, and canter.
- Discuss ways to control a mount in the open.
- Discuss performance with Examiners.

Evaluator's Comments: