

Mounted Skills (D-3 Western)

RIDING EXPECTATIONS: Candidate should ride in a basic balanced position with control at the walk, jog, and lope. Candidate should maintain a secure base of support while riding through the obstacles and out in the open.

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
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Date

Riding on the Flat

- Ride on flat using Riding Expectations.
- Demonstrate correct mounting (using mounting block if necessary).
- Perform balancing and supplying exercises for rider at walk and jog under direction of examiner.
- Ride mount demonstrating large circles showing correct positioning in both directions at walk, jog, and at the lope with correct leads.
- Ride without stirrups at the jog.
- Demonstrate emergency dismount at the trot.
- Demonstrate an increase and decrease of speed either alone or with others as appropriate.
- Demonstrate a halt followed by a simple step back. With attention given to seat position during the halt.
- Discuss performance with examiner including rider's basic balanced position, and whether or not circles were round and natural aids were used correctly.

Evaluator's Comments:

Riding Over Obstacles

- Ride over obstacles using Riding Expectations.
- Complete a simple obstacle course of five to seven obstacles, to include poles (walk and jog over), halt, walk, jog, backing, turns, side-passing, a single-hand maneuver (such as a gate or pick-up), and navigation around cones or upright poles.
- Discuss performance, reasons for any disobedience.

Evaluator's Comments:

Riding in the Open

- Ride safely with a group at the walk and jog, over varied terrain, through shallow water and small ditches as occur in natural terrain if available.
- Complete four to five natural trail obstacles, which may include gates, dismounting/mounting, ditches, hills (up and down, showing proper balance and hand position).
- Discuss ways to control a mount in the open.
- Discuss performance with Examiners.

Evaluator's Comments: