

TROT/WALK HORSE SCORING PROPOSAL

Reasons:

- FEI Guideline definitions reference canter, which has different biomechanics than trot and walk.
- Provide references to allow for clear expectations of trot/walk horses.
- Provide clear guidelines for judges and lungers by defining gait qualities specifically for trot and walk. Existing rules/guidelines only provide information for canter.
- Highlight and reward safety for trot/walk horses.
- Remove impulsion and collection for trot/walk horses as those qualities are higher on the training scale and would produce a large moving trot and walk, which is challenging to vault on for lower-level vaulters (trot/walk vaulters).
- The risk of developing laterality in the gait due to a lack of strength and suppleness of the topline if asking for collection at trot and walk is counterproductive to protecting the welfare of the horse and the purity of its gait in our sport.
- Decrease A2 deductions for Trot/Walk to accommodate increased weight of A2.
- Make A2 deductions the same for Individual/PDD/Squad since Trot/Walk goes being shorter in length (max 7 minutes for trot squad comps (includes alternate), max 3 minutes for trot squad FS) and requirements for the horse are lower (all vaulters are boosted, no triples).

Proposal:

TROT/WALK (Proposed – New)		CANTER (Existing)	
A1: Quality of Gait (40%)		A1: Quality of Canter (60%)	
Rhythm	10%	Rhythm	10%
Relaxation/Suppleness	10%	Relaxation/Suppleness	10%
Connection	10%	Connection	10%
Straightness	10%	Impulsion	10%
		Straightness	10%
		Collection	10%
A2: Vault Ability of the Horse (45%)		A2: Vault Ability of the Horse (25%)	
Willingness/Obedience	15%	Willingness/Obedience	17.5%
Balance in Tempo	15%	Balance in Tempo	8.75%
Balance in Circling	15%	Balance in Circling	8.75%
A3: Lunging (15%)		A3: Lunging (15%)	
Lunging	15%	Lunging	15%

Rule Change Proposals (changes/additions in blue):

Article 401

7. **Canter** Horse Score:

a) A1 – Quality of the gait and thoroughness

- Rhythm
- Relaxation
- Connection
- Impulsion
- Straightness
- Collection

b) A2 – Vault Ability of the Horse

- Willingness and obedience
- Balance in tempo
- Balance in circling

c) A3 – Lunging

- Easy and effortless communication between lunger and horse
- Entry, salute and trot round

*For more information regarding the **Canter** Horse score, refer to the FEI Guidelines for Judges (www.fei.org)*

8. **Trot** Horse Score:

a) A1 – Quality of the gait and thoroughness

- Rhythm
- Relaxation
- Connection
- Straightness

b) A2 – Vault Ability of the Horse

- Willingness and obedience
- Balance in tempo
- Balance in circling

c) A3 – Lunging

- Easy and effortless communication between lunger and horse
- Entry, salute and trot round

*For more information regarding the **Trot** Horse score, refer to Appendix *** of the EVUSA Guidelines.*

RHYTHM (10%)

Reference Score	Description	Observation
Up to 10	Rhythm absolutely regular and expressed with energy. Length of strides equal throughout the performance. Always clear 2 beat trot with clear moment of suspension. Hooves are clear of the ground during swing phase.	• True rhythm of gait • Clear moment of suspension • Rhythm expressed with energy • Equal stride lengths • Footfalls always correct • Tempo suitable and regular • Hind legs active • Horse in balance
Up to 8	Rhythm regular, expressed with moderate energy. Length of strides mostly equal throughout performance. 2 beat trot with recognizable moment of suspension. Hooves are clear of the ground during swing phase.	• Mostly true rhythm of gait • Suspension evident • Rhythm expressed with moderate energy • Footfalls mostly correct • Tempo mostly suitable and regular • Hind legs mostly active • Horse appears in balance
Up to 6	Rhythm mostly regular but lacking energy or rushing slightly. Length of strides somewhat variable throughout the performance. 2 beat trot not always clear, moment of suspension no longer evident. Hooves are clear of the ground during swing phase for most of the performance.	• Changes in rhythm of gait • Not always clear 2 beat trot • Lacking energy or rushing slightly • Slight interruption of correct footfalls • Tempo varies • Hind legs lacking activity causing rhythm faults • Horse mostly in balance
Up to 4	Rhythm mostly irregular and/or lacking energy and/or rushing. Length of strides vary throughout the performance. Moment of suspension not evident or very inconsistent. Hooves are not clear of the ground during swing phase for most of the performance. *shuffling	• Rhythm of gait not clear • Rhythm lacking energy or rushing • Interruption of correct footfalls • Tempo varies • Hind legs lacking activity vaulting severe rhythm faults • Horse rarely in balance
Up to 2	Rhythm irregular throughout the performance, length of stride is unclear throughout the performance. Hooves are not clear of the ground during swing phase for the entire performance.	• Rhythm of gait unclear • Correct footfalls not evident • Lack of energy • Hind legs severely lacking activity causing severe rhythm faults • Horse not in true balance

**Introduce concept of swing phase of the limbs for rhythm in trot to define shuffling gait. (i.e. clears the footing when moving forward and not weight bearing)

**Add concept of landing of balanced landing on the hoof (i.e. not too far on toes, give example of kicking sand?) - (8 for mostly, 6 for occasionally?)

**Diagonal pairs should move and land together – add for definition?

Walk – 4 beat gait, remove all mention of suspension, add tracking up?

RELAXATION/SUPPLENESS (10%)

Reference Score	Description	Observation
Up to 10	Completely relaxed and supple horse throughout the performance. Horse works with positive muscle tone. No sign of tension.	• Completely relaxed expression • Freedom from anxiety • Positive muscle tone • Swinging back with true bridge of engagement
Up to 8	Relaxed and supple horse throughout most of the performance. Mostly no tension through the body. Mostly swinging back and relaxed neck.	• Relaxed expression • Elasticity of steps • Freedom from anxiety • Relaxed neck • Swinging back • Tail loose, supple and swinging • Tail carried mostly in a relaxed manner • Mostly rhythmical breathing • Physical and mental relaxation shown throughout most of the performance
Up to 6	Relaxation and suppleness not shown throughout performance. Signs of lack of suppleness. Some tightness in back and neck.	• Expression showing some anxiety and tension • Some tension in neck carriage • Some tightness in back • Some agitated tail carriage
Up to 4	Relaxation and suppleness not shown throughout performance. Many signs of lack of suppleness.	• Expression showing anxiety and tension most of the time. • Clear tension in neck carriage. • Clear tightness in back and/or hollow back • Clear agitated tail carriage
Up to 2	Relaxation and suppleness not shown. Very tense.	• Expression showing anxiety and tension throughout • Severe tension through the neck • Severe tightness in back (completely hollow) • Very agitated tail carriage

CONNECTION (10%)

Reference Score	Description	Observation
Up to 10	Clear BOE. The energy generated in the hindquarters by the driving aids flow through the whole body of the horse and is received in the side reins and on the lunge line for the entire performance.	• Clear connection through BOE (flexed) • Soft mouth • Horse nose line at vertical or slightly in front of vertical • Side reins showing soft connection • Lunge line contact soft and adjustable in contact with lunger
Up to 8	Minor loss of BOE. The energy generated in the hindquarters by the driving aids flow through the whole body of the horse and is received in the side reins and on the lunge line for most of the performance.	• Connection through BOE mostly shown (flexed) • Soft mouth • Horse nose line mostly at vertical, can be slightly in front or behind vertical – only briefly • Side reins mostly showing connection • Lunge line contact soft and adjustable mostly in contact with lunger
Up to 6	The energy is not always generated by the hindquarters through the whole body of the horse. Contact to side reins and lunge line is not always evident (moments of horse evading contact by shortening neck or placing nose above or behind vertical)	• Connection is not always shown through BOE (hollow) • Mouth dry and open, moments of tongue out showing tension, but not over the bit • Horse nose line fluctuates momentarily in front and/or behind vertical • Side reins mostly showing stiffness or no connection • Lunge line contact not always established, loose, or bracing lunge line
Up to 4	The energy is not always generated by the hindquarters through the whole body of the horse. Contact to side reins and lunge line is not evident through most of the performance (Horse clearly evades contact by shortening the neck or placing nose in front of or behind vertical)	• Connection is not shown through BOE (very hollow) • Mouth open and/or bracing on side reins • Tongue out and showing tension for most of performance, or tongue over the bit • Nose line mostly clearly in front of vertical (no connection or bridge) • Nose mostly clearly behind vertical with side reins tight or with no contact • Lunge line: no contact, constantly looped, or braced
Up to 2	The energy is not generated by the hindquarters through the whole body of the horse. Contact to side reins and lunge line is not evident. Horse is not on the bit at any time.	• Connection is not shown through BOE (very hollow) • Mouth open and/or bracing on side reins • Tongue out and showing tension for most of performance • Nose well in front of the nose (no connection or bridge) • Nose well behind vertical with side reins tight or with no contact • Lunge line: no contact, constantly looped, or braced

STRAIGHTNESS (10%)

Reference Score	Description	Observation
Up to 10	The horse has relative straightness on the circle line. The hind legs follow in the footfalls of the front legs. The horse is aligned through its body on the line of travel. Body vertical.	• Straight through body • Hind legs following the footsteps of the front legs • Horse in balance equally on both sides of its body • Equal weight distribution over all legs • Body almost vertical
Up to 8	The horse mostly has “relative” straightness on the circle line. The hind legs follow in the footfalls of the front legs. The horse is mostly aligned through its whole body on the line of travel. Body close to vertical.	• Mostly straight through body • Hind legs following the footsteps of the front legs with minimal deviation • Horse mostly in balance equally on both sides of its body • Mostly equal weight distribution over all legs (slight leaning is acceptable), head not or slightly tilted • Body leaning slightly to inside
Up to 6	The horse’s “relative” straightness on the circle line is not always evident. The hind legs deviate from the footfalls of the front legs for parts of the performance. The horse is not always aligned through its whole body on the line of travel. Body not always vertical, but showing some leaning in.	• Not always straight through body • Hind legs deviate from footsteps of the front legs • Haunches/quarters out or haunches/quarters in • Body moderate leaning in • Head moderately crooked/tilted
Up to 4	The horse’s “relative” straightness on the circle line is not evident. The hind legs deviate from the footfalls of the front legs for most of the performance. The horse is rarely aligned through its whole body on the line of travel. Body clearly leaning in.	• Not straight through body • Hind legs mostly deviate from footsteps of the front legs • Haunches/quarters out or haunches/quarters in for most of the performance • Body clearly leaning in • Head clearly crooked/tilted • Clear changes in line of travel
Up to 2	The horse’s “relative” straightness on the circle line is not evident. The hind legs deviate from the footfalls of the front legs throughout the entire performance. The horse is not aligned through its whole body on the line of travel. Body not vertical.	• Not straight through body • Hind legs deviate from footsteps of the front legs • Haunches/quarters out or haunches/quarters in for the entire performance • Severe leaning in • Head very crooked/tilted • Severe changes of line of travel

A2 – Same as FEI Guidelines

Deductions for A2 Trot/Walk

	Individual/Squad/PDD
The horse is up to 4 strides in any gait other than defined by class.	1 point
The horse is more than 4 strides in any gait other than defined by class.	2 points
Major interruptions: e.g. horse stops, bucks, leaps forward, turns around, moves backward	2-3 points

A3 – Same as FEI Guidelines