

LEVEL ASSESSMENT RULES

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Section 4 Level Assessment Rules

1. WHAT IS LEVEL ASSESSMENT?

1.1. In order to stimulate equestrian sport, it is necessary to have meaningful competition between Competitors of similar abilities, to encompass the range between the less competent and the most competent. Within the HRCAV, this is referred to as Level Assessment.

1.2. Level Assessment is the vehicle by which all members of the HRCAV have access to fair and safe competition. This system provides a means for members of similar ability to compete together in fair and equal competition.

1.3. Level Assessors, their addresses and phone numbers can be found in Level Assessment Appendix 1.

2. COMPETITION LEVEL ASSESSMENT

2.1. Assessment is compulsory for those members wishing to compete in Official Events.

2.2. The minimum period between assessment for a Combination is three months unless a Level Assessor (e.g. assessment at an Event) initiates assessment.

2.3. Members may request to be assessed in any or all the following disciplines, but their Level may not necessarily be the same in each discipline: -

A. DRESSAGE
B. SHOWJUMPING
C. COMBINED TRAINING
D. HORSE TRIALS (EVENTING)
E. SHOWING
F. THREE PHASE EQUITATION

2.4. The following Levels shall be allocated for:

- Advanced (Hardest – Dressage, Showing, Showjumping and Three Phase Equitation only)
- Level 1 (Hardest – all other disciplines)
- Level 2
- Level 3 (Intermediate)
- Level 4
- Level 5 (Least difficult)

2.5. A Level Assessor has the right to refuse to assess any Combination for any reason. Any such refusal should be submitted to the Level Assessment Sub-Committee with reasons for the refusal.

2.6. Both the rider and the horse shall be allocated a Level as a Combination in each assessed discipline. They will be placed into the Level relative to their experience and ability. A member may be allocated a Level on more than one horse, again as a Combination.

2.7. The Competition requirements for level 4 & 5 are designed to encourage less experienced riders.

2.7.1. Level 5 (offered for all disciplines) is intended for inexperienced or less confident riders.

2.7.2. Level 4 (offered for all disciplines) is intended for riders with improving balance, control and confidence, or riders seeking assessment on young or green horses in jumping disciplines.

2.7.3. Competent, experienced riders who have demonstrated ability to compete at a standard higher than that offered by the HRCAV in a particular discipline, may be assessed to compete HC at Level 4 in all disciplines, or "Lower Level" at Level 4 in the jumping disciplines.

2.8. To be eligible for assessment a rider must be at least 8 years of age. Children under the age of 18 years are to be supervised by a parent or guardian at the time of assessment.

3. SPOT ASSESSMENTS

3.1. Spot Assessments may be initiated by a Level Assessor, taking into account safety and fairness when making a decision. If a Level Assessor believes a combination's level to be too high or too low, and is in a position to initiate a review, the following steps must be taken to ensure that the horse and rider are correctly assessed.

a) Check the relevant performance card or on-line record to review the member's assessment to review the combination's assessment and performance history
b) Ensure that you have viewed the combination performing requirements of their new level and
c) Discuss the possibility of a change of level with the rider. At competitions, the rider must not be approached unless they have finished competing.

3.2. Spot Assessments come into effect immediately. The rider is required to compete at their new level at their next event.

3.3. Details of the Spot Assessment are to be recorded on the rider's performance card. Should a rider be unable to produce the performance card, the Level Assessor shall notify the HRCAV. The member shall be provided with written advice by the HRCAV to allow them to update their card.

3.4. Spot Assessments are to be submitted to the HRCAV or entered on the rider's on-line record within 24 hours.

3.5. If the Assessor is unable to complete a Spot Assessment, a Level Assessment Query should be submitted to the HRCAV.

3.6. Combinations which reached their current level through accumulation of performance points may not be Spot Assessed to a lower level, except in jumping disciplines where a combination may be assessed to ride 'HC' or 'Lower Level'.

3.7. If the Rider is reluctant to be relevelled, the Rider may submit an appeal against the assessment.

3.8. In cases where an approach is made by a member seeking reassessment to a lower level, Rule 8 applies. A spot assessment may not be initiated by a member.

4. QUERIES OF ASSESSMENT

4.1. Queries of Assessment may be submitted by the following officials if they believe a combination is competing at the incorrect level, is not safe at their current level or the horse's welfare is compromised:

4.1.1. the presiding judge,
4.1.2. a Technical Delegate or
4.1.3. any Level Assessor unable to perform a Spot Assessment of the combination.

4.2. Level Assessment Query procedure:

a) The Judge or Level Assessor sends a Level Assessment Query form to the HRCAV office
b) The query is sent to the Level Assessment Sub Committee within 3 days of receipt
c) The Sub Committee may decide that speaking with the relevant Judge, Level Assessor and/or Rider is adequate and that the Rider does not need to be viewed. If the Rider needs to be viewed by a Level Assessor, the costs for the Level Assessor are to be borne by the HRCAV.
d) The Level Assessment Sub Committee has the option to suspend a combination's current assessment where they are satisfied that safety, welfare or fairness issues cannot be otherwise addressed. Applications from the rider for reinstatement of a suspended assessment shall be considered by the Level Assessment Sub Committee. Any determinations made under this rule are to be endorsed by the Executive Committee and are not open to appeal. A combination must not compete in the relevant discipline/s while their assessment is suspended.

5. MEMBERS WITH DISABILITIES

5.1. Only members who meet the minimum competency and safety requirements for the appropriate level per discipline may be assessed for competition.
5.2. Compensatory aids or rule concessions which allow the combination to compete on equal terms at the appropriate level are permitted upon approval by the HRCAV. Refer to General Rule 11.
5.3. Exemptions must be approved prior to the member seeking assessment. An HRCAV Exemption Certificate must be produced upon request at the time of level assessment.
5.4. It is recommended that members with disabilities use the services of Level Assessor approved by the HRCAV to assess riders with disabilities. Upon request of a Level Assessor, members are required to make arrangements for a suitably qualified RDAV representative to be present at the level assessment to provide assistance and advice. Contact details are available from the HRCAV office. Associated costs are to be borne by the member

6. LEVEL ASSESSMENT EXPENSES

6.1. The Level Assessor is entitled to reimbursement of expenses. Appropriate reimbursement is $15.00 per combination for a minimum of four combinations, or $60.00, whichever is the greater amount, plus the cost of travel to and from the venue. Travel is calculated at 80 cents per kilometre. The Club should provide lunch if the assessment period falls over the lunch period of the day.

7. LEVEL ASSESSMENT APPEAL PROCEDURE

7.1. Members are required to abide by the decisions of Level Assessors and must provide performance cards for validation within 14 days. Should a member fail to provide their cards for

validation, the Level Assessor shall notify the Level Assessment Sub Committee via the HRCAV office and action will be taken to suspend said member from competition until the matter is resolved.

7.2. If a member is dissatisfied, for any reason, with the Level at which they have been assessed then the member must submit a completed Level Assessment Appeal/Re-Levelling Form to the HRCAV within 14 days of the assessment. The form is contained in Appendix 4 of this section of the Manual.

7.3. The form must be accompanied by a cheque for the appropriate fee made payable to the HRCAV. If the appeal is upheld, the fee will be refunded.

7.4. The HRCAV will notify the Appellant on receipt of the appeal and state in such letter that the new assessment is under appeal, and the member is authorised to compete at their "old" assessment until the dispute is resolved. This letter will be sent to the appealing member within 48 hours of receipt of the appeal.

7.5. The form will be passed to the Level Assessment Sub-Committee for review and investigation.

7.6. If the Level Assessment Sub-Committee feel the Appellant should be viewed by another Level Assessor, then they will advise the member, and the minimum Level Assessment fee will be payable by the member to the viewing Level Assessor. This must be organised by the member within 14 days of notification.

7.7. The decision of the Level Assessment Sub-Committee is final and will be communicated to the appealing member.

8. RE-ASSESSMENT TO A LOWER LEVEL

8.1. Re-assessment to a lower Level of currently assessed Combinations may be permitted in exceptional circumstances. Requests for reassessment must be submitted for consideration to the Level Assessment Sub-Committee, via a Level Assessor, on the form contained in Appendix 4 of this Manual.

8.2. Requests from combinations which progressed to their current level through accumulation of performance points must be supported by a Senior Level Assessor.

8.3. Re-assessment to a lower level may only be applied for once per Combination per discipline.

8.4. The decision of the Level Assessment Sub-Committee is final and will be communicated to the member and Level Assessor concerned.

9. LEVEL ASSESSMENT EXCLUSIONS

9.1. Horses unbroken to saddle cannot be assessed.

9.2. Horses under four years of age cannot be assessed for Showjumping, Combined Training, Horse Trials, Navigation Rides or 3 Phase Equitation. Horse under three years of age cannot be assessed for Dressage or Showing.

10. COMBINED TRAINING AND THREE PHASE EQUITATION (3PE)

10.1. When assessing for Combined Training the following requirements shall be observed:

10.1.1. Assessment for this discipline will reflect the combination's Dressage and Jumping ability.

10.1.2. At initial assessment, a combination's Combined Training level will not be lower than their Horse Trials level. Should a combination subsequently advance to a higher level in Horse Trials, rule 12 shall apply.

10.1.3. The combination must also be assessed for Dressage or have their current Dressage assessment reviewed. This requirement also applies to Horse Trials assessments. The combination's Dressage level is used to determine the modifying mark in the Combined Training and Horse Trials scoring system.

10.2. When assessing for 3PE, the combination must also be assessed for Dressage or have their current Dressage assessment reviewed.

11. RIDERS ASSESSED ON MORE THAN ONE HORSE

Note: The following rules are to be applied at the time of assessment.

11.1. DRESSAGE, SHOWING AND THREE PHASE EQUITATION ASSESSMENTS

a) Any Rider who has been assessed or points up to level 1 or Advanced in a specific discipline should not be assessed lower than Level 3 in that discipline.
b) Any rider who has been assessed or points up to Level 2 in a specific discipline should not be assessed lower than level 4 in that discipline.
c) Any rider who has been assessed or points up to Level 3 in a specific discipline should not be assessed lower than level 4 in that discipline.
d) Any rider who has been assessed or points up to Level 4 in a specific discipline can be assessed Level 5 in that discipline.

11.2. HORSE TRIALS, SHOWJUMPING AND COMBINED TRAININGASSESSMENTS

a) Any Rider who has been assessed or points up to Level 1 or Advanced in a specific jumping discipline should not be assessed lower than Level 4 in that discipline.
b) Any Rider who has been assessed or points up to Level 2 in a specific jumping discipline should not be assessed lower than Level 4 in that discipline.
c) Any Rider who has been assessed or points up to Level 3 in a specific jumping discipline should not be assessed lower than Level 4 in that discipline.
d) Any Rider who has been assessed no higher than Level 4 in a specific jumping discipline can be assessed Level 5 in that discipline.

11.3. Assessments of Riders who have competed in equivalent levels in non HRCAV competition are to comply with the requirements of Rule 11.

11.4. Riders who have competed in non HRCAV competition, in a specific, discipline, at a level higher than that offered by the HRCAV may not be assessed lower than level 3 in that discipline unless the conditions of rules 11.5 or 11.6 are applied.

11.5. A combination may be assessed outside Rules 11.1 to 11.4 where exceptional circumstances exist. The Level Assessor will refer the assessment, with full justification, for approval by the Level Assessment Sub Committee.

11.6. Combinations ineligible for assessment under these rules may be assessed to ride Hors Concours at a lower level. In Jumping disciplines only, the combination may be assessed to compete at a lower level with penalties in line with conditions covered in Event rule 5.6. The combination's performance card must be noted accordingly and assessment details recorded on the Level Assessment form.

12. REVIEW OF ASSESSMENTS

a) A rider who progresses to a higher level in any discipline (including higher levels in non HRCAV competition) is required to ensure that their assessments still comply with Level Assessment rules.
b) Review of assessments by a Level Assessor is required:
    i. When assessments on other horses are in conflict with rule 11
    ii. When a combinations assessment does not align with combinations' level of competition with other organisations
    iii. In Combined Training when a combination advances in Dressage, Showjumping or Horse Trials
c) Reviews of other disciplines or other horses shall be undertaken at the discretion of the Level Assessor.
d) Adjustment of related assessments is at the discretion of a Level Assessor, and the Assessor will determine whether the rider is competent at their new level as part of the review process. For example: a rider who points up to level 1 Horse Trials but is not competent at the level, may be permitted to remain in level 4 on another, less experienced horse.
e) Assessment reviews of combinations which progress to a higher level that is offered by the HRCAV shall be undertaken by the Level Assessment Sub Committee:
    i. Once a combination is deemed to be competent at the level higher that the highest level offered by HRCAV, they shall be required to compete HC or LL in HRCAV competition, and their assessment record shall be amended accordingly.
    ii. A combination which has competed two or or more levels higher in non-HRCAV competition shall be required to compete HC in HRCAV events in that discipline.
    iii. A combination's assessment may be reinstated upon application to the Level Assessment Sub Committee where it can be shown that special circumstances exist.

13. MEDICAL CONDITIONS

13.1. At assessment, members must disclose any medical conditions or limitations that can negatively affect their ability to ride safely and competently.

13.2. Concessions, such as an exemption from Rule 11 or reassessment to a lower level, may be applied to assist members with medical conditions.

13.3. If a Level Assessor reasonably believes that a member's medical condition affects their ability to meet the minimum standards of competency (Rule 19.3), the Assessor must decline to assess and notify the Level Assessment Subcommittee.

13.4. The Level Assessment Sub-Committee will review a member's fitness to compete upon receiving notification under Rules 13.3. A medical certificate may be required to confirm fitness.

14. LEVEL ASSESSORS

14.1. The allocation of Levels shall be carried out by Level Assessors who have undergone the necessary course of training and hold an Official Level Assessors Certificate.

14.2. A Level Assessor may not self-assess.

14.3. Any HRCAV member may train to become an Official Level Assessor. Interested Members should submit an "Expression of Interest" form to the Level Assessment Sub-Committee for consideration. (Refer Appendix 14 in General Rules).

The pre-requisites to become a Level Assessor include:

a) Financial Membership of an affiliated Club.
b) Pass a Working with Children check (WWCC) or be exempt from the requirement to have a WWCC
c) Have access to a HRCAV Manual and set of HRCAV Dressage Tests
d) Demonstrate an appropriate depth of knowledge to the level Assessment Sub-committee to safely and accurately assess all Combinations in all disciplines.
e) Sit an open book exam and achieve a score of at least 90%.
f) Riders who have never been assessed higher than Level 5 may attend Clinics and Accreditation
g) Examinations to attain knowledge, however, are not eligible to become accredited.
h) Candidates providing proof of relevant experience or qualifications may be granted an exemption from rule 13.3 e)

14.4. Newly accredited Level Assessors shall be subject to a probationary period covering their first 20 assessments. During this period, the Level Assessors' performance may be monitored by the Level Assessment Sub Committee. Should there be evidence that the Level Assessor's performance is not of an acceptable standard, the Level Assessment Sub Committee may take action to address issues of concern by providing further training or any other action deemed necessary.

14.5. To retain Level Assessor status, all Level Assessors must:

a) Be a financial member of an affiliated Club
b) Have a current WWCC card (unless exempt)
c) Complete an open book refresher exam every two calendar years
d) Attend a refresher clinic at least every two calendar years and
e) Carry out their duties in a professional manner and in accordance with the rules of the Association. Failure to comply with any of the above requirements will result in suspension or withdrawal of Level Assessor accreditation.

14.6. Senior Level Assessors:

14.6.1. Appointment as a Senior Level Assessor may be offered to accredited HRCAV Level Assessors satisfying the following criteria:

- Minimum 5 years' service as HRCAV Level Assessor
- Acknowledged professionalism in the conduct of their duties as a Level Assessor
- Other significant, relevant experience as a judge, competitor or official.

14.6.2. Selection process

- The nominator shall be a current Senior Level Assessor.
- Nominations must be made in writing to the HRCAV Level Assessment Sub Committee and include supporting information/recommendations.
- Should the Level Assessment Sub Committee support the nomination, it shall be referred to the Executive Committee for endorsement.

14.6.3. Role of the Senior Level Assessor. A Senior Level Assessor:

- is permitted to undertake assessments of Level Assessor candidates and refreshing Level Assessors at their practical judging examination,
- may be invited to contribute to the writing and assessment of new candidate and refreshing Level Assessor exam papers may be invited to conduct Level Assessor Training and Exam days and
- may be invited to contribute to the review of Level Assessment rules and be called upon to provide feedback to the Level Assessment Sub-Committee on issues related to level assessment from time to time.

14.6.4. Senior Level Assessors will be required to undertake an open book exam every second year, and participate in a practical refresher, either as facilitator or participant.

14.6.5. To retain Senior status, the Level Assessor must maintain accreditation and be willing to undertake the duties listed under rule 13.7.3.

14.6.6. Recommendations to withdraw senior status shall be made by the Level Assessment Sub Committee and become effective upon endorsement of the recommendation by the Executive Committee. A Senior Level Assessor may resign from the role by notifying the Level Assessment Sub Committee in writing.

15. ORGANISATION OF LEVEL ASSESSMENT BY A CLUB

15.1. When a Level Assessor is contacted by a Club to assess its Members, the Club needs to advise:

a) The number of Combinations to be assessed.
b) The number of Combinations to be assessed in each phase ie Dressage, Show Jumping, Combined Training and Horse Trials.
c) The average ability of the Members. If known, advise the Assessor of the Levels in which their members are currently competing.
d) Facilities available to assess over Cross-Country jumps and terrain. Showjumping equipment available etc. This assists the Level Assessor to know what type of showjumping course can be built.
e) A contact phone number in case unforeseen circumstances. Clear instructions regarding the address and time when the assessment is to begin (a Melways reference is of assistance).

15.2. Each Member must present to the Level Assessor a valid Membership Card. A valid Performance Card for each discipline for each horse (if being assessed on more than one horse) should also be presented. It is the responsibility of the Rider to ensure the cards are valid.

15.3. If a member does not have a Performance Card on the day, then the Member must send the card to the Level Assessor with a stamped self-addressed envelope for completion and return within 14 days of the assessment.

15.4. The Level Assessment form is contained in Appendix 2 of this section of the Manual. It is the Level Assessor's responsibility to carry blank assessment forms and to lodge the assessment forms, within 7 days, with the HRCAV. Should the Club Secretary require a copy of the assessment form(s), the Level Assessor will either provide a carbon copy or forward a copy if provided with a stamped self-addressed envelope. It is recommended that Level Assessors retain a copy of all Level Assessment forms.

16. ASSESSMENT FOR NAVIGATION RIDES

16.1. Riders wishing to compete in Navigation Rides are required to demonstrate that they satisfy the minimum standard of competency as indicated in Guideline 1 (G1)

16.2. A Level Assessor shall assess each combination for safety and competency. A combination's level is not determined at assessment.

16.3. The combination's Navigation Ride card shall be endorsed by the Level Assessor to indicate that they meet the required standard.

17. ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

The following section contains guidelines designed to assist in the correct assessment of combinations. While these are not rules, they should be viewed in conjunction with the Level Assessment Rules whenever a Level Assessment is being performed or reviewed.

G1. Safety and welfare of the horse and rider is a key consideration. Riders unable to meet a minimum standard of competency should not be assessed to compete. The riders must be able to safely walk, trot, canter, turn and stop their mount. For jumping disciplines, the combination must also be able to safely negotiate a number of fences set at level 5 dimensions. For Horse Trials and Navigation Rides, the combination must also be able to control their horse in an open area.

G2.

a) When assessing an EA/Pony Club Rider on a horse that is not EA/Pony Club graded, if the Rider has ridden at an EA/Pony Club equivalent of the HRCAV Levels, they should be assessed as per Rule 11.
b) When assessing an EA rider on a horse that is not EA graded/registered, if the Rider has ridden at an EA/Pony Club equivalent of the HRCAV Levels, they should be assessed as per Rule 11.

G3. When assessing a CURRENT EA/OPEN COMBINATION, the following minimum guidelines should be observed:

HRCAV Level	EA Dressage	EA Horse Trials	EA Show Jumping	EA Showing	ANWE Working Equitation
Advanced	Medium		1.2m classes	Placed 1st-3rd at Royal/State level or competed at National level in open ridden/hunter or >18 years rider classes	Debutant F
Level 1	Elementary	CCN1* 105cm	1m / 1.1m classes	Competed at Royal or state level in open ridden/hunter or >18 years rider classes	Debutant W
Level 2	Novice	EV 95	90cm classes	Wins at AG shows in open ridden or rider classes	Preliminary
Level 3	Preliminary	EV 80			Preliminary

G4. When assessing for Dressage, Three Phase Equitation or Showing, a Level Assessor may find some combinations perform most movements well at a higher Level but are slightly below standard for perhaps one or two of the movements. This does not mean the Combination should be assessed at the lower Level. e.g. - if a Combination cannot show lengthening of stride but can ably perform most other Level 3 requirements; the Combination should be assessed Level 3.

G5. Use of half points as per the following table is encouraged:

TABLE OF BASE AND HALF POINTS APPLICABLE FOR ALL DISCIPLINES *EXCEPT* SHOWING & NAV RIDES		
Level	**Base Points**	**Half Points**
5	Minus 25	Minus 12.5
4	0	12.5
3	25	35
2	45	60
1	75	112.5 (SJ & Dressage only)
Advanced	150 (SJ, 3PE & Dressage only)	N/A

TABLE OF BASE AND HALF POINTS APPLICABLE FOR SHOWING ONLY		
Level	**Base Points**	**Half Points**
5	0	25
4	50	87.5
3	125	162.5
2	200	237.5
1	275	387.5
Adv	500	N/A

Note: Members are to determine their own level for Navigation Rides as per Navigation Ride rules. Base points for level 5 = 0

18. TABLES OF HEIGHTS, WIDTHS AND SPEEDS

18.1. Table 1 SHOWJUMPING HEIGHTS, WIDTHS AND SPEEDS

DESCRIPTION	**Adv**	**Level 1**	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Level 4**	**Level 5**
Maximum Height cm	110*	105	95	80	65	50
Maximum Width cm	120	110	100	80	65	50
Speed in small arena (less than 2400M2) mpm	300	300	275	275	275	250
Speed in large arena mpm	325	325	300	300	275	250
Distance from start to first fence & last fence to finish m	6-15 (all levels)					

Note * Advanced level: maximum height for jump off of 2nd and subsequent classes: 115cm

These speeds may be lowered to allow for ground and/or weather conditions.

18.2. Table 2 HORSE TRIALS HEIGHTS, WIDTHS AND SPEEDS

LEVEL	MAX HEIGHT CROSS COUNTRY PHASE	MAX WIDTH At highest point CROSS COUNTRY PHASE	SPEED METRES PER MINUTE	MAX HEIGHT SHOW-JUMPING PHASE	MAX WIDTH SHOW-JUMPING PHASE	SPEED METRES PER MINUTE
Level 5	500mm	500mm	300 mpm	500mm	500mm	250 mpm
Level 4	650mm	650mm	350 mpm	650mm	650mm	275 mpm
Level 3	800mm	800mm	400 mpm	800mm	800mm	300 mpm
Level 2	950mm	1000mm	450 mpm	950mm	1000mm	300 mpm
Level 1	1050mm	1200mm	500 mpm	1050mm	1100mm	325 mpm

Spread without height fences may be wider. Refer CT/HT Rules for comprehensive table of dimensions.

18.3. Table 3 COMBINED TRAINING HEIGHTS, WIDTHS AND SPEEDS

DESCRIPTION	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Maximum Height cm	105	95	80	65	50
Maximum Width cm	110	100	80	65	50
Speed in small arena (less than 2400M2) mpm	300	275	275	275	250
Speed in large arena mpm	325	300	300	275	250
Distance from start to first fence & last fence to finish m	6-25 (all levels)				

These speeds may be lowered to allow for ground and/or weather conditions.

19. ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

19.1. EXPLANATION OF LEVEL REQUIREMENTS.

When assessing combinations for competition, the prime considerations are safety and fairness. In each level, there will be combinations which are at the beginning stage, consolidating stage and established stage. Combinations which are considered to be established but not yet ready for the next level should be assessed on half points. The Expectations are a guide to what you would expect to see at that level. The Requirements listed are tasks which the combination will be required to attempt in competition. The overall standard of the combination is assessed using the Expectations and Requirements as a guide to ascertain the level of experience and ability.

19.2. HISTORY

The competition /assessment history of the rider must be considered at the time of assessment. Refer to rule 11 for guidance on assessing riders who have been assessed previously or who have previous competition experience.

19.3. MINIMUM STANDARD OF COMPETENCY

To be eligible for assessment, combinations must meet minimum standards of competency for safety and welfare purposes. Riders must demonstrate that they can walk, trot, canter, turn and halt their mount with a degree of balance and control which would allow them to satisfy the requirements of the level. In jumping disciplines, they must demonstrate sufficient steadiness, balance and control over a series of fences, including fences at the maximum height for the level. To be assessed for horse trials or verified for navigation rides the assessor must be satisfied that the rider has the ability to maintain control in open spaces.

19.4. Notes on Three Phase Equitation (3PE) assessments:

The discipline of Three Phase Equitation consists of 3 separate competitions. The first phase is a dressage test which demonstrates the horse and rider's training on the flat. The dressage tests used are the first two HRCAV tests for the corresponding level. The second phase tests the partnership as they negotiate an obstacle course and is judged similarly to a dressage test. The obstacle course will change in layout and order at each competition, but the obstacles must be taken from the HRCAV 3PE Obstacle Guidelines. The third phase is the speed and accuracy phase. Here the rider should plan the quickest lines around a course of obstacles and attempt to complete them without penalty. The timed phase brings an element of sport that requires strategy and bravery.

The level requirements for Three Phase Equitation are designed to flow from Level 5, with beginner horses and riders attempting simplified courses at walk and trot, to Advanced combinations completing a more difficult obstacle course predominantly in collected canter and showing some flying changes. To negotiate obstacles successfully the rider must have control of the horse forward, sideways and backward. Demonstration of this control is developed progressively up the levels.

Safety is of utmost importance, and the rider must demonstrate to the Level Assessor that they can control the horse while picking up and carrying an item. Horses must also be able to step and halt over poles and step/jump small cross rails.

LEVEL 5

LEVEL 5 – DRESSAGE PREAMBLE:

This Level is for inexperienced combinations with minimal competition experience. It enables them to enjoy competition against combinations of a similar ability and to develop the ability to perform simple movements calmly and obediently. Experienced Riders training green/young horses MUST NOT be assessed at this Level. A Rider is considered too capable for Level 5 if they have ever been assessed Level 3 or above in this discipline.

To be assessed at base Level 5 for Dressage or Showing, riders will be required to demonstrate that they can walk, trot, canter, turn and halt their mount with a degree of balance and control which would allow them to satisfy the requirements of the level.

When *commencing* at this Level, Combinations:	**Level 5 Requirements**
• may have an unsteady position and ineffective, obvious and/or uncoordinated used of the aids. • may be unable to ride a straight line or execute accurate figures. • may be unable to recognise correct diagonal at trot or leading leg at canter • may be unable to perform a square halt either front or back • may be unable to maintain a steady rhythm	• Execute changes of pace – halt, walk, trot and canter • Hold immobility at halt for 3 seconds • Execute canter depart from a corner • Ride circles 20m at trot • Transitions should be within 3 strides of the marker • Transitions into and out of halt through walk

LEVEL 5 - SHOWING PREAMBLE:

The Assessor should take into consideration the quality (e.g. conformation, presence and general condition) of the horse when assessing the Combination.

This Level is for inexperienced Combinations with minimal competition experience. It enables them to enjoy competition against Combinations of a similar ability. Experienced Riders training green/young horses MUST NOT be assessed at this Level. A Rider is considered too capable for Level 5 if they have ever been assessed Level 3 or above in this discipline.

Half point assessments must be applied in the case of borderline assessments.

When *commencing* at this Level, Combinations:	**Level 5 Requirements**
• may have an unsteady seat and show ineffective, obvious and/or uncoordinated use of the aids • may be unable to recognise correct diagonal at trot or leading leg at canter • may be unable to perform a square halt either front or back • may show an unsteady rhythm in the paces • may have limited knowledge of ringcraft • may have only basic knowledge of presentation	• Execute a basic workout • Execute changes of pace when asked– halt, walk, trot and canter • Attempt circles at trot and canter • Be in control of their horse

LEVEL 5 - SHOWJUMPING PREAMBLE:

As a guide, only Level 5 Dressage Riders who are almost ready to move up to Level 4 Dressage would appear to have a steady enough seat, hands and balance to be considered safe to Showjump at this Level. Riders should be encouraged to use a martingale or neck strap, where appropriate.

Some Combinations assessed higher in Dressage might possibly be assessed at this Level, if they have no previous Showjump training or experience.

Level Assessment is for competition purposes and not training; competent Riders wishing to train a green horse at this Level must be prepared to compete hors concours. A Rider who has not been higher than Level 4 in this discipline during their riding career can be assessed on another horse at Level 5 on half points.

Half point assessments must be applied in the case of borderline assessments.

The Rider *Should* Be Able To	**Not Required**
• maintain reasonable balance over fences • jump then bring the horse back to walk or trot • use a neck strap effectively to protect horse's mouth • guide the horse around the course to each consecutive jump • show a basic knowledge of showjumping rules	• Canter over obstacles • Correct approach • Change leads • Steady paces • Two point position • Correct eye contact

LEVEL 5 - CROSS-COUNTRY PREAMBLE:

It is preferable to assess showjumping prior to the cross-country. If the Combination is not deemed safe showjumping and the Level Assessor is unwilling to assess them Level 5 for this discipline, then they cannot be asked to jump in the open. Preferably, observe the Rider in the open at a canter but do not pressure the Rider into a pace faster than at which they are comfortable - this Level of Rider may ride cross-country at trot if they wish. Utilise small logs, sloping terrain and perhaps water puddles to establish the Combination's confidence. Level 5 is expected to go through water, e.g. a stream crossing. It is recommended that a Rider who cannot maintain enough control to stop their horse when asked should not be assessed for cross-country.

Any Rider who has been assessed higher than Level 4 in this discipline during their riding career should not be assessed at Level 5.

Half point assessments must be applied in the case of borderline assessment.

LEVEL 5 – THREE PHASE EQUITATION PREAMBLE:

This level is for inexperienced combinations with minimal competition experience. It enables them to enjoy competition against combinations of a similar ability and to develop the ability to ride the phases calmly and obediently. Tests are simplified to promote systematic training over easy obstacles.

Experienced riders training green/young horses MUST NOT be assessed at this level. A rider is considered too capable for Level 5 if they have ever been assessed Level 3 or above in this or any other discipline.

To be assessed at base Level 5 for Three Phase Equitation, riders will be required to demonstrate that they can walk, trot, and canter, and turn and halt their mount with a degree of balance and control which would allow them to satisfy the requirements of the level.

When commencing at this level, combinations may be unable to maintain a steady rhythm, ride a straight line or execute accurate figures. The priority is safety, and the focus is on the correct navigation of obstacles to ensure a calm and confident test.

Expectations for Level 5	**Examples of requirements for Level 5**
General • Be in control of their horse. • Transitions are progressive. • Show an understanding of 3PE rules. Dressage • Beginning 20m circles at trot. • Canter from corner on a straight line. Obstacles • Show some maneuverability and accuracy. • Complete obstacles in walk or trot. • Walk, trot or canter between obstacles. • Demonstrate a general knowledge of how to negotiate different types of obstacles.	• Execute changes of pace – halt, walk, trot and canter. • Half 20m circle at trot. • Pick up, carry and replace a pole. • Step and halt over pole on the ground. • Trot a small cross rail (45cm). • Open a gate. • Shallow weave through poles 8-10m apart in walk or trot. • Pick up and replace an item in walk or trot.

LEVEL 4

LEVEL 4 – DRESSAGE PREAMBLE:

This Level is the next step up for Level 5 Combinations. The combination's ability has improved to enable them to show a steadier, more accurate test. The rider will have better balance and control but may not be achieving a steady connection. In level 4, the horse should be allowed to work forward in a natural rhythm with minimal interference from the rider. Relaxation and steadiness of rhythm should be developing but loss of balance and/or suppleness may affect the quality of the work. Transitions may be unbalanced and not at the markers. Sitting trot is not required and would be difficult for horse and rider to perform. Horse and/or rider may lack competition experience.

The main aim of this Level is to show a horse willing to move freely forward in a steady rhythm and showing acceptance of the basic aids. The rider should attempt correction of incorrect diagonals and leading legs in canter.

When commencing at this level, combinations

- Should show more balance than Level 5,
- May be unbalanced during transitions, or transitions may be unsteady and not at the marker
- Paces may be unsteady in rhythm

Level 4 Expectations	**Level 4 Requirements**
• The horse should be going forward willingly and calmly • Transitions should be within two strides of the marker • Halt should be square in front but not necessarily behind • Corners should be ridden on a 15m diameter curve • Should be able to ride correct diagonal, or correct when wrong • Should be able to ride a reasonably accurate 20m circle at trot or canter • Should attempt to ride accurately on the track • Transitions into and out of the halt will be through the walk	• Maintain immobility at halt for 4 seconds • Execute canter depart from a corner with correct lead • Ride circles, 20m at trot and canter • Free walk showing clear lengthening of the rein to enable horse to stretch neck • Change of rein on short diagonal in trot • Working trot and working canter

LEVEL 4 - SHOWING PREAMBLE:

The Assessor should take into consideration the quality (e.g. conformation, presence and general condition) of the horse when assessing the combination.

The Rider will show reasonable balance. The horse should show acceptance of the basic aids but may not be ready to work on the bit. The horse should be working forward willingly and calmly in a natural outline. Contact may be unsteady and transitions will be progressive and lack balance. The rider is not required to show sitting trot but should attempt correction of incorrect diagonal and leading legs. Riders who have competed in open showing would generally be considered too experienced for this level.

Half point assessments must be applied in the case of borderline assessments.

Level 4 Expectations	**Level 4 Requirements**
• The horse should be going forward willingly and calmly • Halt should be square in front • Should be able to ride correct diagonal, or correct when wrong • Standard of presentation improving • Have an understanding of Ringcraft	• Execute canter depart on the correct lead • Should be able to ride a reasonably accurate workout • Execute change of pace when asked • Execute transitions into and out of the halt through the walk

LEVEL 4 - SHOWJUMPING PREAMBLE:

The Rider has control at walk, trot and canter, negotiates a course with some fences at maximum height and/or width and is able to control the horses' pace around a course of jumps. This Level of Combination gives an impression of a safe, happy team.

Half point assessments must be applied in the case of borderline assessments.

The Rider *Should* Be Able To	**Not Required**
• show a steady, forward seat over the fences • not interfere with the horse • attempt to place horse at centre of jump • look ahead to next obstacle (eye contact) • maintain balance and control through a combination • show a good understanding of the Rules	• correct leading leg • maintain contact over fences • shorten and lengthen stride

LEVEL 4 - CROSS-COUNTRY

Half point assessments must be applied in the case of borderline assessments.

The Rider *Should* Be Able To	**Level 4 Requirements**
• travel across undulating ground in a controlled and safe manner • demonstrate a general knowledge of how to approach different types of obstacles • maintain canter cross-country, where appropriate to terrain • show confidence	• show a good understanding of the Rules • have a steady seat and hands • show two point position in canter • negotiate an appropriate water obstacle • ensure the correct fitting of cross-country gear

LEVEL 4 THREE PHASE EQUITATION PREAMBLE:

This level is the next step up for Level 5 Combinations or the entry level for more experienced riders. The Level 4 combination will show a steadier, more accurate test. The rider will have better balance and control but may not be achieving a steady connection. In Level 4, the horse should be going forward willingly and calmly in a natural rhythm with minimal interference from the rider. Transitions may be unbalanced and lacking accuracy. Horse and/or rider may lack competition experience. The rider should attempt correction of incorrect diagonals and leading legs in canter.

When commencing at this level, combinations should show more balance than Level 5 and be able to show some canter in a 20x60 arena. The rider has control at walk, trot and canter, and can demonstrate a general knowledge of how to negotiate different types of obstacles. A combination established at this level can negotiate a course while showing canter in between some obstacles. This level of combination should give an impression of a safe, happy team.

Half point assessments must be applied in the case of borderline assessments.

Expectations for Level 4	**Examples of requirements for Level 4**
General • Changes of canter lead through trot. • Demonstrate a fair knowledge of ringcraft. • Show an understanding of 3PE rules. **Dressage** • Execute reasonably accurate 20m circles at trot and canter. • Correct canter leads and trot diagonals. • Halt Square in front **Obstacles** • Demonstrate a general knowledge of how to negotiate different types of obstacles. • Show some backward steps and maneuverability. • Execute progressive transitions. • Walk, trot or canter between obstacles.	• Execute changes of pace – halt, walk, trot and canter. • Execute 20m circles at trot and canter. • Pick up, carry and replace a pole. • Step and halt over a pole. • Trot a small cross rail (45cm). • Side pass one third of a pole in walk. • Open a gate. • Execute some backward steps. • Ride a shallow weave through poles 8-10m apart in walk or trot. • Pick up and replace an item in walk or trot.

LEVEL 3

LEVEL 3 – DRESSAGE PREAMBLE:

At this level, the rider will be establishing an independent seat allowing more effective use of the aids and steadier paces. Combinations should be working towards consolidation of rhythm, suppleness and acceptance of the contact.

Level 3 is generally suited to an experienced rider on a less established horse, or a less experienced rider on an educated horse.

Dressage tests will be ridden in sitting and/or rising trot. Sitting trot should be reasonably steady, with the rider establishing the ability to follow the movement of the horse without interference to rhythm and contact.

With the horse's improving balance, the ability to show lengthened strides in trot is being developed. Transitions will be smoother and closer to the markers. The rider may be able to work the horse from behind into a contact, but there may still be some inconsistency in the quality fo the connection.

When commencing this level, combinations:

- Will be starting to show acceptance of the bridle, but the horse may not be working from behind, and the contact may still be inconsistent
- Should be working in a more consistent outline – however the horse should NOT be overbent or "pulled" into an outline
- The rider should have a good understanding of ringcraft

Level 3 Expectations	**Level Three Requirements**
• Should be going forward willingly and calmly • Should show clear transitions and be closer to the marker (within one stride) • Should attempt to ride corners on a 10m diameter curve • Halt should be square in front • May perform transitions into and out of halt through walk (2 strides max) • Should attempt a reasonably steady sitting trot • Should attempt to show correct bend and flexion on circles and in corners • Should work in a rounder frame	• Maintain immobility at halt for 4 seconds • Ride straight lines • Ride correct circles, 15m at trot and 20m at canter • Ride serpentines of 3 loops at trot • Free walk on a long rein • Working trot and canter • Some lengthened stride in trot • Inside and both rein release in trot • Stretch out and down in trot • Sitting trot

LEVEL 3 – SHOWING PREAMBLE:

The Assessor should take into consideration the quality (e.g. conformation, presence and general condition) of the horse when assessing the Combination.

At this Level, workouts will be ridden in sitting and/or rising trot. Sitting trot should be reasonably steady without showing too much interference to rhythm and contact. The Rider should be reasonably balanced and more in time with the movement of the horse than Level 4, allowing for steadier paces and clearer response to the aids. Transitions should be reasonably smooth.

Acceptance of the bridle will be starting to show but is not yet established. The Rider may be able to work the horse from behind into a contact, but the connection may still be inconsistent. While the horse should be working in a steadier outline, it should NOT be over bent or 'pulled/held' in an outline. Level 3 is the appropriate starting level for experienced show riders on green horses.

Half point assessments must be applied in the case of borderline assessments.

Level 3 Expectations	**Level 3 Requirements**
• Should be going forward willingly and calmly • Should show clear transitions when asked • Halt should be square in front • May perform transitions into and out of halt through walk (2 strides max) • Attempt to show correct bend and flexion • Occasionally show some impulsion • Ride with reasonably steady seat, hands and legs • Reasonably steady sitting trot • Good understanding of ring craft • Reasonably good standard of presentation	• Ride an accurate workout showing even circles of correct shape • Ride serpentines of 3 loops at trot and canter (with a changes of lead through trot) • Show lengthening of stride in trot and canter • Execute hand gallop • Ride without stirrups • Ride correct canter depart

LEVEL 3 – SHOWJUMPING PREAMBLE:

The Rider should show a balanced light seat throughout course giving an overall impression of calmness, control and safety.

Half point assessments must be applied in the case of borderline assessments.

The Rider *Should* Be Able To	
• maintain rhythm in canter • show correct action of hands over obstacles, ie. maintain contact • adjust the length of stride throughout the course, as appropriate • show a correct approach to obstacles • attempt to obtain correct canter leads • show correct striding for combinations	• show correct eye contact • ensure the horse flows around the course in a calm, confident manner • show a Combination that is well balanced around course and over fences • show a good knowledge of the Rules

LEVEL 3 - CROSS-COUNTRY

The Rider *Should* Be Able To	
• demonstrate a controlled, strong canter in hand • demonstrate an independent seat, good two point position between fences • demonstrate confidence and understanding of how to approach different obstacles and terrain • negotiate an appropriate water obstacle • show the correct action of hands over obstacles • know when their horse is becoming tired or stressed	• show correct re-presentation to a fence if a refusal or run out occurs • ensure correct fitting of cross-country gear • show the correct use of the whip, when required • shorten or lengthen stride for combinations eg. bounces, sunken road, etc • show a good knowledge of the Rules

LEVEL 3 – THREE PHASE EQUITATION

At this level, the rider will be establishing an independent seat allowing more effective use of the aids and steadier paces. Sitting trot is shown, and combinations should be working towards consolidation of rhythm, suppleness and acceptance of the contact. Transitions will be smoother and closer to the markers. The combination will ride a calm and flowing dressage test and obstacle course.

Level 3 is generally suited to an experienced rider on a less established horse, or a less experienced rider on an educated horse, as well as combinations moving up through the levels

Expectations for Level 3	**Examples of requirements for Level 3**
General • Halt square in front. • Attempt to show correct bend and flexion. • Changes of canter lead through trot. • Demonstrate a good knowledge of ringcraft. • Show an understanding of 3PE rules. • Transitions from trot to halt and halt to trot may be made through 1-2 steps of walk **Dressage** • Execute reasonably accurate circles at walk, trot and a 20m circle in canter. **Obstacles** • Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of how to approach different types of obstacles. • Complete the course in walk, trot or canter and attempt canter between obstacles. • Show developing ability to attempt the course at speed.	• Execute changes of pace – halt, walk, trot and canter. • Ride 20m circles at trot and canter. • Pick up, carry and replace a pole. • Step over a pole. • Trot or canter a small jump (60cm). • Side pass a pole in walk. • Open and close a gate. • Ride a shallow weave through poles 8-10m apart in trot. • Pick up and replace an item in walk, trot or canter.

LEVEL 2

LEVEL 2 – DRESSAGE PREAMBLE:

The Rider has an independent seat with the correct use of the aids to influence the horse. The horse will be working forward in a regular rhythm with developing impulsion. Acceptance of the contact will be established with the horse working consistently on the bit, showing improved balance, self-carriage and throughness. Transitions will be smooth and flowing, at the markers, clearly showing the changes of pace. Correct bend and flexion would be shown on circles and corners.

When commencing this level, combinations:

- Should be able to show a clear lengthening of pace in trot and canter
- Should show the horse attempting to work from behind into a steady contact, showing a willing acceptance of the bridle
- Should show transitions at the markers
- Should clearly show change of pace, smooth, forward and flowing transitions
- Should show correct bend and flexion at times on circles and corners

Level 2 Expectations	**Level 2 Requirements**
• Development of pushing power • Reliably on the bit with better balance and throughness • All transitions should be smooth and at the marker • The halt should be square front and back, the horse should be immobile and attentive to the Rider • Corners should be ridden on a 10m diameter curve • Execute change of canter lead through trot (3 to 5 strides) • Maintain effective sitting trot • Paces and rhythm should be regular and balanced • Correct flexion and bend to be shown at all times	• Show lengthened strides in trot and canter • Execute transitions in and out of halt direct from trot • Halt, immobile and attentive for 5 seconds • Canter showing correct depart on a straight line • Ride straight and accurately on the centre line • Ride correct circles, 10m at trot and 15m at canter • Ride 3 loop serpentine at trot • Ride leg yield in trot • Stretch forward and downward in trot • Canter loop off long side • Change of lead through trot

LEVEL 2 – SHOWING PREAMBLE:

The Assessor should take into consideration the quality (i.e., conformation, presence and general condition) of the horse when assessing the Combination.

The Rider has an independent seat, correct positional lines and will use correct aids to influence the horse. The horse will be working consistently from behind into a steady contact showing willing acceptance of the bridle. Transitions will be smooth and flowing and clearly show changes of pace. Correct bend and flexion would be shown. Should be able to show a clear, balanced lengthening of pace in trot and canter.

Half point assessments must be applied in the case of borderline assessments

Level 2 Expectations	**Level 2 Requirements**
• All transitions should be smooth • The halt should be square front and back, the horse should be immobile and attentive to the Rider • Show correct bend and flexion • Maintain an effective sitting trot • Paces and rhythm should be regular and balanced • High standard of presentation • High standard of ringcraft • Presenting as confident and capable • Balanced sitting trot	• Ride an accurate workout • Execute change of canter lead through trot • Show lengthened strides in trot and canter • Execute transitions in and out of halt direct from trot • Canter showing correct depart on a straight line • Ride a serpentine at trot or canter (with changes of lead through trot) • Rein back • Hand gallop • Ride without stirrups

LEVEL 2 – SHOWJUMPING PREAMBLE:

Calm, balanced, controlled. Independent seat adjusted across 2/3 point position as required, with correct rein release. Ability to jump showing correct leads, good lines, angling of fences when appropriate and safe.

Half point assessments must be applied in the case of borderline assessments.

The Rider *Should* Be Able To	
• negotiate tight turns, and non-standard combinations • ride good lines, show correct leads to and from obstacles • show correct eye contact	• ride accurate shortened/lengthened strides between related fences • show an excellent knowledge of Rules

LEVEL 2 - CROSS-COUNTRY

Half point assessments must be applied in the case of borderline assessments.

The Rider *Should* Be Able To	
• demonstrate good control of the horse at appropriate cross-country speed • lengthen/shorten stride approaching obstacles as required • demonstrate independent seat and hands • confidently negotiate combinations and testing obstacles • present the horse looking fit and athletic	• know if their horse is becoming tired or stressed • be able to show correct re-presentation to a fence if a refusal or run out occurs • ensure correct fitting of cross-country gear • show the correct use of the whip, when required

LEVEL 2 – THREE PHASE EQUITATION PREAMBLE:

The rider has an independent seat with the correct use of the aids to influence the horse. The paces will be regular and balanced, with some impulsion shown. Acceptance of the contact will be established with the horse working consistently on the bit. Transitions will be smooth, flowing and accurate. Correct bend and flexion will be shown. Tests will be calm, balanced and controlled showing good ringcraft, lines and planning.

Half point assessments must be applied in the case of borderline assessments.

Expectations for Level 2	Examples of requirements for Level 2
General • Square halt. • Correct bend and flexion. • Transitions from halt to trot, and trot to halt should be direct. • Changes of canter lead through trot. • Demonstrate a good knowledge of ringcraft. • Show an understanding of 3PE rules. **Dressage** • Execute reasonably accurate 15m circle in canter. • Showing lengthened strides in trot and canter. • Reasonably steady sitting trot. **Obstacles** • Demonstrate some finesse in the approach to different types of obstacles. • Show good control of the horse forward, sideways and backward. • Canter between obstacles and cantering some obstacles. • Execute direct transitions. • Show improved confidence, balance and control when attempting course at speed. • Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of how to negotiate different types of obstacles.	• Some sitting trot. • 15m circle in canter. • Lengthened strides in trot and canter. • Leg yield in trot. • Pick up, carry and replace a pole. • Trot or canter a small jump (60cm). • Rein back around a corner. • Side pass a pole in walk. • Open and close a gate. • Shallow weave through poles 8-10m apart in trot or canter. • Pick up and replace an item in trot or canter.

LEVEL 1

LEVEL 1 – DRESSAGE PREAMBLE:

The horse is working reliably on the bit, in self-carriage, showing submission with more balance, engagement, suppleness, impulsion and straightness. The horse should be accepting more weight on the hindquarters with an uphill tendency and defined transitions. The rider should have a deep, independent seat with correct use of the aids to influence the horse. Horse and rider should appear in harmony at all times.

When commencing at this level, combinations:

- May not be able to maintain consistent collected paces when required
- Should be able to attempt medium paces without loss of rhythm or balance

Level 1 Expectations	**Level 1 Requirements**
• All transitions should be performed fluently, at the marker, with the horse balanced and engaged • Corners should be ridden on a 8m diameter curve • Reliably on the bit showing self-carriage • Consistently engaged with an uphill tendency • Suppleness and straightness • Confidence and harmony in the work	• Show medium and collected paces at trot and canter • Execute simple changes (with 3 to 5 steps of walk) • Execute canter depart from walk • Execute rein back • Ride counter-canter • Ride circles 10m at trot and canter • Execute shoulder-in and travers • Ride serpentines – 3 & 4 loop at trot, 3 loop at canter • Inside rein release in canter

LEVEL 1 – SHOWING PREAMBLE:

The Assessor should take into consideration the quality (i.e., conformation, presence and general condition) of the horse when assessing the Combination

The horse is on the bit at all times, showing impulsion and submission. The rider should have a deep, independent seat with correct use of the aids to influence the horse. Horse and Rider should appear in harmony at all times. Should be able to show collected and medium trot and canter.

24.2.1 Level 1 Expectations	**24.2.2 Level 1 Requirements**
• All transitions should be performed fluently, with the horse balanced and engaged • Balanced sitting trot • High standard of presentation • High standard of ringcraft • Presenting as confident and capable.	• Perform an accurate smooth workout • Show medium at trot and canter • Execute all transitions fluently when asked • Execute canter depart from walk • Rein back • Ride without stirrups • Ride serpentines – 3 & 4 loop at trot, 3 loop at canter with change of lead through walk • Hand gallop

LEVEL 1 – SHOWJUMPING PREAMBLE:

Appropriate seat between and over the obstacles, i.e.. seat, hands, legs, upper body. This Combination gives the impression of confidence and judgment whilst completing a smooth and safe round.

The Rider *Should* Be Able To	
• have complete control of the horse's paces and striding • negotiate any difficult combinations by shortening and lengthening canter stride. • show the correct approach to the obstacles, good rhythm and tempo	• ride "against the clock", angling obstacles and negotiating tight turns • execute flying changes to change canter leads • demonstrate an extensive knowledge of Rules, combination distances

LEVEL 1 - CROSS-COUNTRY

A confidant, safe and happy team who looks to the challenge, with a thorough knowledge of how to ride any obstacle fairly presented. The horse must be fit and athletic with a bold, neat jumping style whilst travelling fast cross-country

LEVEL 1 – THREE PHASE EQUITATION PREAMBLE:

At this level horse and rider should appear in harmony at all times. The paces will be regular and balanced, with some collection shown and the horse developing self-carriage. Walk and canter are the main working gaits, and transitions will be direct and accurate. Counter canter departs will set the combination up for correct approaches to obstacles. Tests will be calm, balanced and controlled showing good ringcraft, lines and planning.

Expectations at Level 1	Examples of requirements at Level 1
General • Square halts. • Simple changes (with 3 to 5 steps of walk). • Correct bend and flexion. • A good knowledge of ringcraft. • Show an understanding of 3PE rules. **Dressage** • Lateral work in trot and accurate 10m circles in canter. • Steady sitting trot. • Paces clear and rhythmic **Obstacles** • Demonstrate finesse and style in the approach to different types of obstacles. • Demonstrate very good control of the horse forward, sideways and backward. • Negotiate obstacles in trot or canter with simple changes, where rules permit. • Direct transitions including walk to canter. • Ride course at speed showing confidence, balance and control. • Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of how to negotiate different types of obstacles.	• Sitting trot. • 10m circle in canter. • Counter canter. • Leg yield in trot. • Shoulder in and travers in trot. • Medium trot and medium canter. • Pick up, carry and replace a pole. • Canter a small jump (60cm). • Rein back around a corner. • Side pass a pole in walk. • Open and close a gate. • Shallow weave through poles 8-10m apart in trot or canter. • Pick up and replace an item in trot or canter.

ADVANCED

ADVANCED – DRESSAGE PREAMBLE:

Horse and rider in harmony, with the rider able to influence the horse via the correct use of the aids. The horse should now be showing increased engagement, impulsion and balance. The horse is carrying more weight on its hindquarters resulting in more consistent collection, clear transitions within paces and a higher degree of submission and harmony. Lateral work should be established.

Advanced Level Expectations	**Advanced Level Requirements**
• All transitions should be performed fluently, at the marker, with the horse balanced and engaged • Corners should be ridden on a 8m diameter curve • A higher degree of collection is expected	• Show collected, medium and extended paces • Execute simple changes (with 3 to 5 steps of walk) • Execute canter depart from walk • Execute rein back • Ride counter-canter • Execute shoulder-in and travers • Ride serpentines – 3 & 4 loop at trot, 3 loop at canter • Perform half pirouette at walk • Execute flying changes • Execute half pass in trot and canter • Ride circles 8 m at trot • Ride half circles 8m at canter

ADVANCED SHOWJUMPING PREAMBLE:

Appropriate seat between and over the obstacles, ie. seat, hands, legs, upper body. This Combination gives the impression of confidence and judgment whilst completing a smooth and safe round.

Advanced Level Requirements	
• have complete control of the horse's paces and striding • negotiate any difficult combinations by shortening and lengthening canter stride. • show the correct approach to the obstacles, good rhythm and tempo	• ride "against the clock", angling obstacles and negotiating tight turns • execute flying changes to change canter leads • demonstrate an extensive knowledge of Rules, combination distances

ADVANCED LEVEL – SHOWING PREAMBLE

The Assessor should take into consideration the quality (ie, conformation, presence and general condition) of the horse when assessing the Combination as well as the previous competition experience of the horse or rider. Where a combination has placed 1st – 3rd at Royal/State level or competed at National level in open ridden/hunter or >18 years rider classes, the combination should be assessed at Advanced level.

The horse is on the bit at all times, showing impulsion and submission. The rider will have a deep, independent seat with correct use of the aids to influence the horse. Horse and Rider should appear in harmony at all times. Will be able to show collected and medium trot and canter.

Advanced Expectations	**Advanced Requirements**
• All transitions should be performed fluently, with the horse balanced and engaged • Balanced sitting trot • High standard of presentation • High standard of ringcraft • Presenting as confident and capable.	• Perform an accurate smooth workout • Show medium at trot and canter • Execute all transitions fluently when asked • Execute canter depart from walk • Rein back • Ride without stirrups • Ride serpentines – 3 & 4 loop at trot, 3 loop at canter with change of lead through walk • Hand gallop • Flying changes

ADVANCED THREE PHASE EQUITATION PREAMBLE:

At this level horse and rider should appear in harmony at all times. The paces will be regular and balanced, showing collection and self-carriage. Walk and canter are the main working gaits, and the combination should be showing flying changes. Counter canter departs will set the combination up for correct approaches to obstacles. Tests will be calm, balanced and controlled showing good ringcraft, lines and planning.

Expectations at Advanced level	**Examples of requirements at Advanced level**
General • Square halt. • Simple changes (with 3 to 5 steps of walk) and flying changes. • Correct bend and flexion. • Paces clear and rhythmic, showing collection • Demonstrate a good knowledge of ringcraft. • Show an understanding of 3PE rules. **Dressage** • Established sitting trot and lateral work. • Accurate 10m circles in canter. • Reasonably accurate flying changes. **Obstacles** • Demonstrate finesse and style in the approach to different types of obstacles. • Demonstrate control of the horse to a high degree, forward, sideways and backward. • Complete obstacles in trot or canter, working towards completing the course in canter and walk only. • Flying changes are encouraged. • Showing canter/walk transitions. Ride course at speed showing confidence, balance and control. • Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of how to negotiate different types of obstacles.	• 10m canter circles. • Flying changes. • Half pass in trot. • Shoulder in in trot. • Medium trot and medium canter. • Collected trot and collected canter. • Rein back around a corner. • Side pass a pole in walk. • Open and close a gate • Pick up, carry and replace a pole. • Canter a small jump (60cm). • Shallow weave through poles 8-10m apart in trot or canter. • Pick up and replace an item in trot or canter.

Appendices

1. Official Listing of Level Assessors
2. Level Assessment Form
3. “Spot” Level Assessment Form
4. Appeal/Re-Levelling Form
5. Query Of Assessment Form