

## **Riding Test Expectations**

### **D1**

#### **RIDING TEST EXPECTATIONS**

Candidate should ride in an enclosed area without leading line, demonstrating basic balanced position at the halt and walk, and control at the walk and trot.

#### **HORSE MANAGEMENT EXPECTATIONS**

The candidate is a beginning-level horse manager, willing to learn the simple routine necessary for safe handling of quiet, well-trained horses. His or her knowledge will vary widely depending on age, educational level, and experience.

### **D2**

#### **RIDING TEST EXPECTATIONS**

Candidate should ride in an enclosed area without leading line, demonstrating control while maintaining a safe basic balanced position at the walk and trot, and should begin to develop the canter and jumping position. No need to canter over fences.

#### **HORSE MANAGEMENT EXPECTATIONS**

The candidate is should be able to demonstrate simple skills, with assistance if necessary, and should understand the basic reasons for the everyday routines of caring for his or her own pony.

### **D3**

#### **RIDING TEST EXPECTATIONS**

Candidate should ride in a basic balanced position with control at the walk, trot, and canter. Candidate should maintain a secure base of support while developing balance and a steady position over fences.

#### **HORSE MANAGEMENT EXPECTATIONS**

The candidate should be able to demonstrate simple skills without assistance, and to discuss pony care, using common horse terms.

### **C1**

#### **RIDING TEST EXPECTATIONS**

Candidate should ride with confidence and control on the flat and over fences, demonstrating a basic balanced position and use of natural aids and should begin riding mount freely forward in balance and rhythm while developing a light contact.

#### **HORSE MANAGEMENT EXPECTATIONS**

The candidate should show a developing awareness of cause and effect in the care of own pony. He/she should be familiar with local common horse terms. Assistance is recommended in demonstration of bandaging.

## C2

### RIDING TEST EXPECTATIONS

Candidate should ride with confidence and control on the flat and over fences, demonstrating a secure balanced position and progress toward an independent seat and coordinated use of aids; should initiate free forward movement, establishing balance and rhythm while developing a light contact.

### HORSE MANAGEMENT EXPECTATIONS

The candidate should show a solid awareness of cause and effect in the care of own pony. Assistance/supervision is allowed in the demonstration of bandaging, longeing, and loading a pony.

## C3 Dressage

**Riding Test Expectations:** *The candidate should maintain a basic balanced position that is appropriate for Dressage, developed through an independent seat, demonstrating coordinated use of the aids on the flat, over ground poles or cavalletti and in the open. The candidate should initiate and maintain free forward movement with smooth, prompt transitions, a clear and consistent rhythm and a steady, light feel of the mount's mouth. The horse should accept the aids. The candidate should be able to discuss and evaluate the aids used. The candidate should show confidence and control at all gaits. The level of riding is at the USEF First Level.*

## B Dressage

**Riding Test Expectations:** *Candidates should demonstrate a basic balanced position demonstrating independence and a position appropriate for Dressage with effective, tactful use of aids. Candidates should ride each mount forward while establishing and maintaining regularity in the gaits with the mount accepting the aids; be confident in coping with disobedience; be able to explain the application and reason for aids used on both the flat and in the open and to discuss the basic principles of dressage. The horse should be reliably on the bit, show a greater degree of collection appropriate to this level, a greater degree of straightness, suppleness, throughness and self carriage. The level of riding is at the USEF Second Level.*

## A Dressage

**Riding Test Expectations:** *Candidates must demonstrate that they can competently ride and train at USEF Third Level or above, with tact, confidence and security. In addition, Candidates must be able to ride different mounts at various stages of training, displaying a confident, consistent and effective performance on each. Candidates must demonstrate competence and tact on a schooled, green or spoiled mount, discuss and/or demonstrate schooling techniques required for each mount and display a knowledge and implementation of the proper use of artificial and natural aids.*

*Candidates are expected to assess each mount's level of schooling and to ride with tact and empathy for its capabilities. After each performance, the candidate will evaluate and discuss the stage of schooling, strengths and weaknesses of each mount. The candidate must understand and demonstrate the use of body position (core, seat, back) and the effect on the horse when executing movements.*

### **C3 Show Jumping**

**Riding Test Expectations:** *At initial briefing, discuss expectations for this level. The candidate should maintain a basic balanced position appropriate for jumping that is developed through an independent seat, and is demonstrated by the coordinated use of the aids on the flat, over fences, and in the open. The candidate should initiate and maintain free forward movement with smooth transitions and a steady, light feel of the mount's mouth. The candidate should discuss, demonstrate and evaluate the aids used. The candidate should show confidence and control at all gaits on the flat, over fences, and in the open. The level of riding is at the USEF Level II-III*

### **B Show Jumping**

**Riding Test Expectations:** *Candidates should be prepared to discuss and then demonstrate an independent seat and effective tactful use of aids on the flat and over fences. Candidates should ride each mount forward while establishing and maintaining a regular pace with the mount accepting the aids; be confident in coping with any problems; be able to explain the application and reasons for aids and to discuss how it relates to jumping. The level of riding is at the USEF Level III-IV.*

### **A Show Jumping**

**Riding Test Expectations:** *Candidates must be able to ride different mounts at various stages of training, displaying a confident, consistent, and effective performance on the flat and over fences. Candidates are expected to assess each mount's level of schooling and to ride with tact and empathy for its capabilities, demonstrating awareness and knowledge of different exercises for training challenges. After each performance, the candidate will evaluate and discuss the stage of schooling, including strengths, weaknesses and discuss a plan for training of each mount. The level of riding is at the USEF Level V-VI*

### **C3 Traditional**

**Riding Test Expectations:** *The candidate should maintain a basic balanced position with a secure base of support. Rider should demonstrate the development of an independent seat and coordinated use of aids on the flat, over fences, and in the open. The candidate should initiate and maintain free forward movement with smooth transitions and a steady, light feel of the mount's mouth. The candidate should discuss and evaluate the aids used. The candidate should show confidence and control at all gaits on the flat, over fences, and in the open. Be familiar with the Training Pyramid.*

### **B Traditional**

**Riding Test Expectations:** *Candidates should demonstrate an independent seat and effective tactful use of aids on the flat and over fences. Candidates should ride each mount forward while establishing and maintaining a regular pace with the mount accepting the aids; be confident in coping with disobedience; be able to explain the application and reasons for aids and to discuss the basic principles of dressage. Be prepared to discuss the Training Pyramid as related to the B Traditional Standard.*

## ***A Traditional***

### **Riding Test Expectations:**

*The candidate should maintain a basic balanced position appropriate for dressage, jumping and cross-country riding, based upon the development of an independent seat and coordinated use of aids. Candidates must be able to competently ride different mounts (schooling, green or spoiled) at various stages of training displaying confident, consistent and effective performances. They should assess and demonstrate schooling techniques beneficial to each mount, and ride with tact and empathy for its capabilities, utilizing the training pyramid and its importance to each phase of Eventing. After each performance the candidate will evaluate the mount's stage of schooling (strengths and weaknesses) and discuss whether they, the rider/trainer, have been effective in achieving their goals.*