



*Dancing Horse Dressage & CT*

**USDF Group Member Organization #329**

*Photo Courtesy of Dr. Jill Costello Chavers*

# Scribe Training

# Topics

- ▶ Benefits of Scribing
- ▶ The Judge and the Scribe
- ▶ The Scoring Process
- ▶ Errors
- ▶ Finishing the Test
- ▶ Requirements for Different Classes
- ▶ Helpful Tips

# Benefits of Scribing

- ▶ You will learn what the judges are looking for at each level, what they reward, and what they want the competitors to improve.
- ▶ Understanding a judges perspective will help you ride a better test.
- ▶ Understanding the scoring system will help you to decipher your score sheets.

# The Judge and their Scribe

- ▶ Judges depend upon the scribe to act quickly, accurately, legibly, and quietly record the scores and comments made about each ride.
- ▶ It is not appropriate for the scribe to comment on the decisions of the judge.
- ▶ Never volunteer information about the competitor or their horse.
- ▶ Never ask questions about your own riding or a particular horse problem.

# The Day of the Show

- ▶ The scribe should arrive at least one-half hour early and check in with show management.
- ▶ Dress comfortably but appropriately. Remember that you will be center stage with the judge.
- ▶ Once at the judge's box, the scribe should organize the work area and check for all proper materials (show schedule sorted by ride times, labeled score sheets collated by ride times, black and red pens, whistle or bell, a blank score sheet for each test for the judge.
- ▶ As each horse warms up by working around the arena before the ride begins, the scribe must check the horse's number to ensure it is the same number marked on the test sheet and class list or program.

# The Scoring Process

- ▶ The scribe must quickly and legibly record all scores and comments given by the judge.
- ▶ The scribe should clarify whether the judge will give the score or comment first for each maneuver.
- ▶ The scores will range from 0-10 and are made in half points for all tests except musical freestyle test which are scored in .1 increments. All scores must have a decimal written, ie .0, .5, .3 etc.

| Score | Performance Level |
|-------|-------------------|
| 10    | Excellent         |
| 9     | Very good         |
| 8     | Good              |
| 7     | Fairly good       |
| 6     | Satisfactory      |
| 5     | Marginal          |
| 4     | Insufficient      |
| 3     | Fairly bad        |
| 2     | Bad               |
| 1     | Very bad          |
| 0     | Not performed     |

# The Scoring Process

- ▶ Collective marks at the end of each test and further comments may be dictated to the scribe or written by the judge.

| COLLECTIVE MARKS                                                                                                                                           |  |   |                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GAITS (Freedom and regularity)                                                                                                                             |  | 1 |                                                                      |
| IMPULSION (Desire to move forward; elasticity of the steps; suppleness of the back; engagement of the hindquarters)                                        |  | 2 |                                                                      |
| SUBMISSION (Willing cooperation; harmony; attention and confidence; acceptance of bit and aids; straightness; lightness of forehand and ease of movements) |  | 2 |                                                                      |
| RIDER'S POSITION AND SEAT (Alignment; posture; stability; weight placement; following mechanics of the gaits)                                              |  | 1 |                                                                      |
| RIDER'S CORRECT AND EFFECTIVE USE OF AIDS (Clarity; subtlety; independence; accuracy of test)                                                              |  | 1 |                                                                      |
| FURTHER REMARKS:                                                                                                                                           |  |   |                                                                      |
| <b>To be deducted</b><br>Errors of the course and omissions are penalized                                                                                  |  |   | <b>SUBTOTAL:</b>                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                            |  |   | <b>ERRORS:</b> ( - )                                                 |
|                                                                                                                                                            |  |   | <b>TOTAL POINTS:</b><br>(Max Points: 370)                            |
|                                                                                                                                                            |  |   | 1st Time = 2 points<br>2nd Time = 4 points<br>3rd Time = Elimination |



# 2019 USEF FIRST LEVEL TEST 1

### PURPOSE

To confirm that the horse and rider are able to perform the required movements to the required standard. All trot work must be performed in a consistent manner. **READER PLEASE**

Try to keep an eye on where the horse is in the test. At higher levels it is easy to miss a score for a movement or get behind.

|                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>INTRODUCE</b>                                                          | <b>ENTRY NO:</b>                                                                                                                                                              |
| Half circle at trot; 15m in canter; lengthening stride in trot and canter | <p>Conditions:</p> <p>ARENA SIZE: Standard</p> <p>AVERAGE RIDE TIME: 5:30 (from entry at A to final halt)</p> <p>Suggested to add at least 2 min. for scheduling purposes</p> |
| <b>MAXIMUM PTS: 290</b>                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                               |

Write down the number of the horse/rider in the ring.

| TEST | DIRECTIVES                                                                                                                                                                       | POINTS | COEFFICIENT | TOTAL | REMARKS |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------|-------|---------|
| 1.   | A<br>X<br>Enter working trot<br>Halt, salute<br>Proceed working trot                                                                                                             |        |             |       |         |
| 2.   | C<br>E-X<br>Track left<br>Half circle left 10m,<br>returning to track at H                                                                                                       |        |             |       |         |
| 3.   | B-X<br>Half circle right 10m,<br>returning to track at M                                                                                                                         |        |             |       |         |
| 4.   | C<br>Before C<br>C<br>Circle left 20m in rising trot,<br>allowing the horse to stretch<br>forward and downward while<br>maintaining contact<br>Shorten the reins<br>Working trot |        | 2           |       |         |
| 5.   | H-P<br>P<br>Change rein, lengthen stride in<br>trot<br>Working trot                                                                                                              |        |             |       |         |
| 6.   | A<br>Medium walk                                                                                                                                                                 |        |             |       |         |
| 7.   | V-R<br>R<br>Change rein, free walk<br>Medium walk                                                                                                                                |        |             |       |         |

Write the score in this column. 6.0, 6.5etc.

Write comments in this column

Ignore the Coefficient and Total columns, those are for the scorer.



# Errors

- ▶ An error of test occurs when a rider goes off course or does not perform the movement as prescribed.
- ▶ In the movement where the error occurred, the word error is put in the “directive ideas” column. The scribe should circle the word error. The total deduction for errors will be entered by the Judge at the bottom of the page.
- ▶ Use of voice is not an error of test but may be penalized by the Judge. “Use of voice” should be written in the remarks column for the movement in which the penalty occurs.

# Writing Errors

## 2019 USDF INTRODUCTORY LEVEL – TEST C

Each time an error is indicated by the judge, write **ERROR** in large letters in red pen as shown below. Remind the judge of the errors on the test at the end. It's the judges responsibility to total errors in the space after Further Remarks.

**REQUIREMENT**  
 Free walk  
 Medium walk  
 Working trot rising  
 Working canter  
 20 meter circle  
 Halt through wa

ENTER

**NO.**

POINTS

COEFFICIENT

TOTAL

TEST

DIRECTIVE IDEAS

REMARKS

|                                    |                                                                                                                         |                                                                   |     |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--|--|--|
| 1. <b>A</b><br><br><b>X</b>        | Enter working trot rising.<br><br>Halt through medium walk.<br>Salute - Proceed working trot rising.                    | Straightness on centerline and in transitions; clear trot rhythm. | 7.0 |  |  |  |
| 2. <b>C</b>                        | Track right, working trot rising.                                                                                       | Balance and bend in turn.<br><b>ERROR</b>                         | 6.5 |  |  |  |
| 3. <b>B</b>                        | Circle right 20 meters.                                                                                                 | Roundness and size of circle; clear trot rhythm and bend.         | 6.0 |  |  |  |
| 4. <b>A</b><br><br>Before <b>A</b> | Circle right 20 meters developing working canter in first quarter of the circle, right lead.<br><br>Working trot rising | Roundness and size of circle; clear canter rhythm and bend.       | 5.5 |  |  |  |

# Writing Voice Faults

## 2019 USDF INTRODUCTORY LEVEL – TEST C

If a voice fault is needed, write **VOICE** in large letters in red pen as shown below.

### REQUIREMENTS

Free walk  
Medium walk  
Working trot rising  
Working canter  
20 meter circle  
Halt through walk

...t of dressage. To show understanding of riding the horse forward with a steady tempo into an elastic contact with independent, steady hands and a correctly balanced seat. To show proper geometry of figures in the arena with correct bend (corners and circles).

QUARTER

**NO.**

|                                    | TEST                                                                                                                    | DIRECTIVE IDEAS                                                   | POINTS | COEFFICIENT | TOTAL | REMARKS      |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------|-------|--------------|
| 1. <b>A</b><br><br><b>X</b>        | Enter working trot rising.<br><br>Halt through medium walk.<br>Salute - Proceed working trot rising.                    | Straightness on centerline and in transitions; clear trot rhythm. | 7.0    |             |       |              |
| 2. <b>C</b>                        | Track right, working trot rising.                                                                                       | Balance and bend in turn.                                         | 6.0    |             |       | <b>VOICE</b> |
| 3. <b>B</b>                        | Circle right 20 meters.                                                                                                 | Roundness and size of circle; clear trot rhythm and bend.         | 6.5    |             |       |              |
| 4. <b>A</b><br><br>Before <b>A</b> | Circle right 20 meters developing working canter in first quarter of the circle, right lead.<br><br>Working trot rising | Roundness and size of circle; clear canter rhythm and bend.       | 7.5    |             |       |              |

# Finishing the Test

- ▶ After the ride is complete, make sure there is a score in every box.
- ▶ Make sure each test is signed by the judge before it is sent to the scorers.
- ▶ Any change of score on the test must be initialed by the judge.
- ▶ Remind the judge of any errors and confirm that the errors total has been documented.
- ▶ Check off each horse on the program as it completes their test.

# Requirements for Different Classes

- ▶ Musical Freestyle
- ▶ Equitation



# Freestyle Directions

- ▶ The freestyle movements are not done in a particular order, the scoresheets are organized by gait with a bold line separating the gaits (walk, trot, and canter).
- ▶ Left and right for each movement are also in **bold**. This will help you find the correct box quickly when the judge gives a score. Make the marks for the scores small since there may be multiple scores per movement box.

# 2019 USDF Training Level Freestyle

Suggested schedule time: 10 minutes per ride



TIME  
MAXIMUM:  
**5 minutes**  
No minimum time



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Scoresheet effective dates:  
December 1, 2018 - November 30, 2022

Event: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Competitor No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Horse: \_\_\_\_\_

## TECHNICAL EXECUTION

**Note:** Omitted compulsory elements receive a "0". Judges Marks for Technical Execution must be given in **half or full points (no tenths)**. Trot work may be done sitting or rising.

Walk

Trot

| COMPULSORY ELEMENTS & PRELIMINARY MARKS                            | POSSIBLE POINTS | JUDGE'S MARKS | CO-EFFICIENT | FINAL SCORE | REMARKS |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------|
| 1. Medium walk (20m continuous)                                    | 10              |               |              |             |         |
| 2. Free walk (20m continuous)                                      | 10              |               | 2            |             |         |
| 3. 20-meter circle in working trot <b>RIGHT</b>                    | 10              |               |              |             |         |
| 4. 20-meter circle in working trot <b>LEFT</b>                     | 10              |               |              |             |         |
| 5. Serpentine in working trot with loops no smaller than 15 meters | 10              |               | 2            |             |         |
| 6. Stretch forward & downward on a 20-meter trot circle            | 10              |               | 2            |             |         |
| 7. 20-meter circle in working canter <b>RIGHT</b>                  | 10              |               |              |             |         |

# Freestyle Directions

- ▶ Ask the judge how they prefer to handle the artistic impression. They may want to complete this section themselves.
- ▶ Make sure there's a final score in every box as well as the collective and artistic scores.
- Musical freestyle tests are scored using .1 increments.



# Equitation Directions

- ▶ Equitation classes are performed in a group not to exceed 25 riders.
- ▶ You will be asked to stand with your judge. Ask the judge how they would like you to record their comments.
- ▶ Place rider numbers on the scoresheet. It may also be helpful to add an identifying feature.
- ▶ You may be asked to call out the judge's instructions for the class.



**USEF/USDF DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION CLASS SCORE SHEET**  
 (NOT FOR USE IN DRESSAGE SEAT MEDAL SEMI FINALS AND FINALS CLASSES)  
 Effective 12/1/2022 – 11/30/2026

Class:

**Purpose:** To evaluate the dressage rider's correct position, seat and use of aids. See back of score sheet for rules and additional specifications.

**Judge's Directives:** Judges are required to give a final percentage score for all riders competing in each class. At their discretion, judges may use a numerical or other system of their choice, to arrive at a final score. Preliminary scores/marks are NOT required. Verbal comments are encouraged.

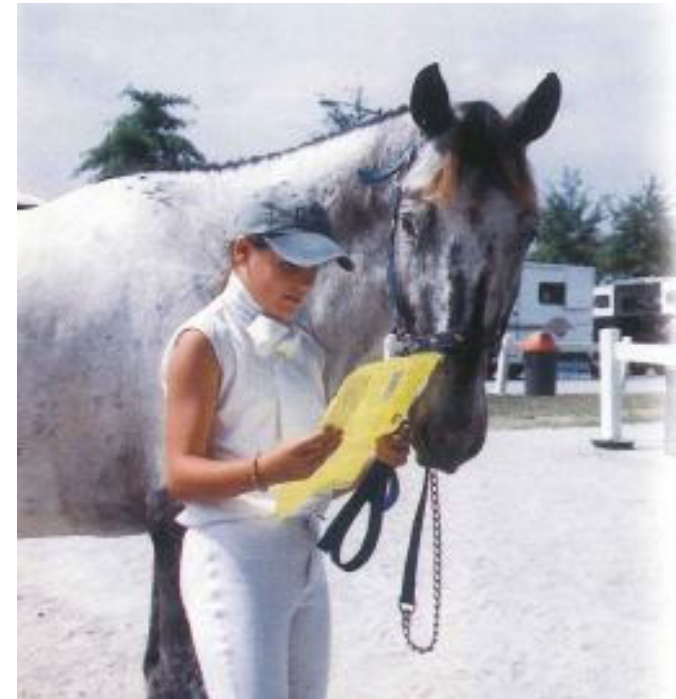
**\*\*\*ONLY the "TOTAL SCORE" and "PLACE" columns are REQUIRED to be marked for EACH rider.\*\*\***

| Rider No. | Walk |       | Trot |       | Canter |       | Additional Tests (Notes) | Total Score (%) | Place |
|-----------|------|-------|------|-------|--------|-------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------|
|           | LEFT | RIGHT | LEFT | RIGHT | LEFT   | RIGHT |                          |                 |       |
|           |      |       |      |       |        |       |                          |                 |       |
|           |      |       |      |       |        |       |                          |                 |       |
|           |      |       |      |       |        |       |                          |                 |       |
|           |      |       |      |       |        |       |                          |                 |       |
|           |      |       |      |       |        |       |                          |                 |       |
|           |      |       |      |       |        |       |                          |                 |       |
|           |      |       |      |       |        |       |                          |                 |       |

Judge's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Judge's Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Judge's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Judge's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# Helpful Tips

- ▶ Familiarize yourself with the approved scribe abbreviations.
- ▶ Write comments clearly and legibly on test - riders can't improve if they can't read the test!
- ▶ Any and all comments made by the judge are confidential.



# Helpful Tips

- ▶ Limit conversations with other people in the booth or runners as to not distract the judge from their job.
- ▶ A scribe may occasionally confirm the movement number with the judge. In the event the judge omits a score or you miss a score, skip the score and ask the judge for the correction at the end of the test.