2026 WDAA Rail Class Guide for Judges

	Judge the Horse		*Judge the Rider*		
	Suitability	**Hack**	**Eq. on the Rail**	**Horsemanship**	**Combined**
Objectives	To evaluate the horse's potential as a Western Dressage mount.	To evaluate the horse's ability as a Western Dressage mount.	To evaluate rider's ability to execute, in concert with their horse a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence and maintaining a balanced functional, & fundamentally correct body position.	To evaluate rider's ability to execute, in concert with their horse a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence and maintaining a balanced functional, & fundamentally correct body position.	To evaluate rider's ability to execute, in concert with their horse a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence and maintaining a balanced functional, and fundamentally correct body position.
Judged on:	70% - gaits and transitions 30% - rider position, seat, and effective use of aids.	70% - gaits and transitions 30% - rider position, seat, and effective use of aids.	-Rider position, -Correct and effective use of aids, -Harmony -Accuracy	Scored from 0-50 using scoresheet. Patterns are broken into 5 maneuvers each scored from 0-10 on judge's impression of: -Rider position -Correct and effective use of aids -Harmony and Accuracy	Scored 0-100 using scoresheets. 50% rail work (Eq. on the Rail) and 50% on pattern work (Horsemanship). Rail work is scored from 0-50. Patterns is scored 0-50. See criteria in columns to the left.
Gaits	WW,WJ, WL, FW one way, may back	WW,WJ,LJ, WL, LL, FW one way, may back	**Walk/Jog Class:** WW, WJ, back **Walk/Jog/Lope Class:** WW,WJ,WL, Back	No rail work, pattern only to be chosen from WDAA website.	**Walk/Jog Class:** WW, WJ, back **Walk/Jog/Lope Class:** WW,WJ,WL, Back Patterns to be chosen from WDAA website.
Posting	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed	Only allowed for FW & LJ	Only allowed for FW & LJ
Of note	-Enter WJ -Lope transitions thru WJ	-Enter WJ -Lope transitions thru WJ -Only back from line-up	-Judge must walk the line-up -Riders who post must be placed below riders sitting the jog	-Riders who post the WJ must receive a zero "0" maneuver score for those segments of the score sheet	-Rail work is first. -Judge must walk the line-up -Riders who post the WJ must receive a zero "0" maneuver score for those segments of the score sheet
Faults	-Resistance -Tension	-Resistance -Tension	-Posting WJ -See Universal Equitation Faults below	-Posting WJ -Failure to complete the course as written -See Universal Equitation Faults below	-Posting WJ -Failure to complete the course as written -See Universal Equitation Faults below
Eliminations	-See Universal Eliminations below	-See Universal Eliminations below	-See Universal Eliminations below	-Off-course (impossible to discern whether the entry is using the correct pattern) -See Universal Eliminations below	-Off-course (impossible to discern whether the entry is using the correct pattern) -See Universal Eliminations below
USEF WD Rule#	132-136	137-141	142, 143, 144	142,143,145	142,143,146

Universal Equitation Faults:
Break of gait
Obviously looking down to check leads,
Missing leads,
Not performing the specific gait promptly,
Loss of stirrup,
Head carried too low or clearly behind the vertical,
loss of rein,
holding the saddle

Universal Eliminations:
Misrepresentation of entry or inappropriate entry
Failure to display correct number,
Cruelty including excessive spurring or schooling,
Fall of horse or exhibitor,
Illegal equipment or use of hands on reins,
Horse's tongue tied down,
Unauthorized assistance,
All four feet leave arena,
Evidence of blood on horse,
Lameness
Concern for the safety
Blatant disobedience including kicking, bucking or rearing

Key
WW - Working Walk
FW - Free Walk
WJ - Working Jog
FJ - Free Jog
LJ - Lengthened Jog
WL - Working Lope
LL - Lengthened Lope

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