



Western Dressage Association of Virginia

Virtual Series Western/Classical

Show Manager/Secretary: Barbara Felton

E-mail: bfrides@msn.com or Text/Call: 757-268-5668

Web page: www.wdava.org or Facebook Page: Western Dressage Association of Virginia

SHOW	DATES	JUDGES
WDAA # 22-217	February 5 th – 28 th	Nell Tekampe (R)
WDAA # 22-218	April 1 st – 30 th	Robyn Nunally (R)
WDAA # 22-219	June 1 st – 30 th	Mary Skittino (R)
WDAA # 22-220	August 1 st – 31 st	Lillian Evaniew-Phelan (R)
WDAA # 22-221	October 1 st – 25 th	Janice Mumford (R)
WDAA # 22-222	November 5 th – 30 th	Cindy Butler (R)
VIRTUAL CHAMPIONSHIP		

*Scores will be posted between the 10th and 15th of the following month.

- Must compete in at least 2 WDA-VA shows to compete in the Championship Show.
- Eligible for year-end awards if you are a 1001WDA-VA member.
- Riders must submit a minimum of 5 tests to qualify for year-end awards with one test being the highest in that level
- Competing in one of these shows makes you eligible for the International and Worlds

Prizes: Ribbons 1st – 6th place

Easy Test Submission: [WDAA Online Entry Form - Virtual Shows \(formsite.com\)](http://formsite.com)

Test Submission:

- All WDAA Tests **MUST** have this information clearly visible on the initial document before starting test:
 - Show Recognition Number
 - Riders Name
 - Horses Name
 - Class Name/Number
- Classical Tests may say or write the same info, if verbal be sure to say the series name and month
- Once tests are submitted, they cannot be altered
- Eligible riders may compete in both Open and Amateur

Show Fees:

- One \$10 Office Fee per Horse/Rider Combination
- \$25 Per Test

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WDAA RECOGNIZED ONLINE SHOW GUIDELINES FOR EXHIBITORS

- **To be recognized by WDAA, online shows must meet the same criteria for recognition as do live shows. Refer to the Show Recognition section at www.westerndressageassociation.org/showrecognition-information/**
- **Online show hosts should provide this information by a link to this web page and in any other show materials to their exhibitors and judge for them to be informed about how these shows are to be conducted and judged.**
- Online shows are available from a number of providers. All shows that meet the specific criteria provided by the show host in addition to those listed below are eligible for WDAA show recognition.
- **WDAA Recognized ONLINE SHOW GUIDELINES FOR EXHIBITORS**
 - Use arenas that are as near as possible to regulation size and be sure letters are set appropriately to be viewed by the judge. Cones with large letters on them and poles on the ground to delineate the corners are acceptable. For arena measurements please visit this link, <https://westerndressageassociation.org/western-dressage-arena/>
 - Videos of tests must be unedited from start to finish, including the equipment, attire, and bit check. They must be one continuous recording with the horse and rider visible at all times.
 - Videos **must** be filmed in LANDSCAPE orientation.
 - After entering the arena, prior to beginning the test, a sign must be held up showing the name of the show, date of the show, horse's name, class # and test. Remove the sign just before beginning the ride. Please make sure that all information is clear and easy to read for the judge. The videographer can hold the sign then move back to behind the camera or hold the sign in front of the camera at arm's length while also holding the camera.
 - Keep the horse in frame, paying close attention to the near corners. You may zoom in slightly on the far corners. Videos must be in focus.
 - Make sure to keep the letters in the frame that are elements of the test being performed.
 - As soon as the test is finished, the camera must slowly circle the horse and rider showing all equipment and attire, including spurs and whip if used. If the videographer is unable or unwilling to enter the arena to do the filming, the rider may turn the horse slowly to allow complete filming of the equipment.

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- Following equipment check, the rider will dismount and show that two fingers can fit between the bosal or cavesson and the horse's cheek, then drop the bit so it can be evaluated. NOTE: Hold the bridle so as not to obscure the curb strap or curb chain. Demonstrate that the curb strap or chain is flexible and is at least ½ inch wide. Make sure the judge can see all parts of the bridle, including the bit and reins clearly.
- The test must be videoed from C, where the judge would normally be seated.
- The test may be called.
- Coaching during the test is not allowed.
- The natural background sound for the test must be audible. Tests with no sound at all will not be accepted.
- Bridle or saddle pad numbers are not allowed.
- Exceptional riders are exempt from the dropping the bit requirement in online shows.
- Ridden tests may be submitted to ONLY ONE online show. A video of a test/ride from another competition that has already been judged must be eliminated. Any video suspected of having been filmed during another competition will not be scored.
- All classes must be designated with a unique class number; no horse may be ridden more than once in any western dressage class with the same class number, including TOC classes.

Noncompliance with the above guidelines will be cause for the test to be eliminated.

These guidelines are to help the judge give you the most accurate evaluation possible and to keep the playing field level for everyone. Always direct questions concerning showing to the online show host listed on the prize list.



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WESTERN DRESSAGE TESTS

Class #	WDAA Tests	Class #	WDAA Gaited Tests
I-1	WDAA INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST 1	IG-1	WDAA INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST 1 - GAITED
I-2	WDAA INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST 2	IG-2	WDAA INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST 2 - GAITED
I-3	WDAA INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST 3	IG-3	WDAA INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST 3 - GAITED
I-4	WDAA INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST 4	IG-4	WDAA INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST 4 - GAITED
B-1	WDAA BASIC LEVEL TEST 1	BG-1	WDAA BASIC LEVEL TEST 1 - GAITED
B-2	WDAA BASIC LEVEL TEST 2	BG-2	WDAA BASIC LEVEL TEST 2 - GAITED
B-3	WDAA BASIC LEVEL TEST 3	BG-3	WDAA BASIC LEVEL TEST 3 - GAITED
B-4	WDAA BASIC LEVEL TEST 4	BG-4	WDAA BASIC LEVEL TEST 4 - GAITED
L1-1	WDAA LEVEL 1 TEST 1	L1-1G	WDAA LEVEL 1 TEST 1- GAITED
L1-2	WDAA LEVEL 1 TEST 2	L1-2G	WDAA LEVEL 1 TEST 2 - GAITED
L1-3	WDAA LEVEL 1 TEST 3	L1-3G	WDAA LEVEL 1 TEST 3 - GAITED
L1-4	WDAA LEVEL 1 TEST 4	L1-4G	WDAA LEVEL 1 TEST 4 - GAITED
L2-1	WDAA LEVEL 2 TEST 1	L2-1G	WDAA LEVEL 2 TEST 1 - GAITED
L2-2	WDAA LEVEL 2 TEST 2	L2-2G	WDAA LEVEL 2 TEST 2 - GAITED
L2-3	WDAA LEVEL 2 TEST 3	L2-3G	WDAA LEVEL 2 TEST 3 - GAITED
L2-4	WDAA LEVEL 2 TEST 4	L2-4G	WDAA LEVEL 2 TEST 4 - GAITED

Continued . . .

Class #	WDAA Tests	Class #	WDAA Gaited Tests
L3-1	WDAA LEVEL 3 TEST 1	L3-1G	WDAA LEVEL 3 TEST 1 - GAITED
L3-2	WDAA LEVEL 3 TEST 2	L3-2G	WDAA LEVEL 3 TEST 2 - GAITED
L3-3	WDAA LEVEL 3 TEST 3	L3-3G	WDAA LEVEL 3 TEST 3 - GAITED
L3-4	WDAA LEVEL 3 TEST 4	L3-4G	WDAA LEVEL 3 TEST 4 - GAITED
L4-1	WDAA LEVEL 4 TEST 1	L4-1G	WDAA LEVEL 4 TEST 1 - GAITED
L4-2	WDAA LEVEL 4 TEST 2	L4-2G	WDAA LEVEL 4 TEST 2 - GAITED
L4-3	WDAA LEVEL 4 TEST 3	L4-3G	WDAA LEVEL 4 TEST 3 - GAITED
L4-4	WDAA LEVEL 4 TEST 4	L4-4G	WDAA LEVEL 4 TEST 4 - GAITED

MFS-INTRO	WDAA FREESTYLE INTRODUCTORY	MFS-2	WDAA FREESTYLE LEVEL 2
MFS-BASIC	WDAA FREESTYLE BASIC	MFS-3	WDAA FREESTYLE LEVEL 3
MFS-1	WDAA FREESTYLE LEVEL 1	MFS -4	WDAA FREESTYLE LEVEL 4

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CLASSICAL TESTS

<u>CLASS#</u>	<u>CLASSICAL TESTS</u>	<u>CLASS#</u>	<u>CLASSICAL TESTS</u>
I-A	INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST A	LEV2-1	SECOND LEVEL TEST 1
I-B	INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST B	LEV2-2	SECOND LEVEL TEST 2
I-C	INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TEST C	LEV2-3	SECOND LEVEL TEST 3
TR-1	TRAINING LEVEL TEST 1	LEV3-1	THIRD LEVEL TEST 1
TR-2	TRAINING LEVEL TEST 2	LEV3-2	THIRD LEVEL TEST 2
TR-3	TRAINING LEVEL TEST 3	LEV3-3	THIRD LEVEL TEST 3
LEV1-1	FIRST LEVEL TEST 1	LEV4-1	FOURTH LEVEL TEST 1
LEV1-2	FIRST LEVEL TEST 2	LEV4-2	FOURTH LEVEL TEST 2
LEV1-3	FIRST LEVEL TEST 3	LEV4-3	FOURTH LEVEL TEST 3
F-I	FREESTYLE INTRODUCTORY LEVEL	F-2	FREESTYLE LEVEL 2
F-T	FREESTYLE TRAINING LEVEL	F-3	FREESTYLE LEVEL 3
F-1	FREESTYLE LEVEL 1	F-4	FREESTYLE LEVEL 4

WORKING EQUITATION

<u>CLASS#</u>	<u>WORKING EQUITATION CLASSICAL TESTS</u>
WE-1	L1-INTRODUCTORY DRESSAGE TEST
WE-2	L2-NOVICE A DRESSAGE TEST
WE-3	L3-NOVICE B DRESSAGE TEST
WE-4	L4-INTERMEDIATE A DRESSAGE TEST
WE-5	L5-INTERMEDIATE B DRESSAGE TEST
WE-6	L6-ADVANCED DRESSAGE TEST
WE-7	L7-MASTERS LEVEL DRESSAGE TEST



**WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA 2022
WESTERN / CLASSICAL VIRTUAL SHOW SERIES**

SHOW #

DUE DATE OF SHOW ENTRY:

RIDER:

HORSES NAME:

CLASS:

WDAA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER:

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GUIDELINES FOR GAITED HORSES

There are a significant number of gaited horse breeds (about 30 in North America), all with gaits specific to their breed. In Western Dressage competition, the gaited horse will perform a saddle gait in place of the jog. The saddle gait selected should be the gait in which the horse is balanced and athletically comfortable performing. The saddle gait is a 4 beat lateral or diagonal gait, timely and evenly performed. The tempo, rhythm and foot falls of the gait they choose to show must not change throughout the test. The true four beat gait the horse performs, should be able to be ridden in a working, lengthened, free and collected manner as the Western Dressage test calls for.

All rules can be found in the USEF Rule Book under Western Dressage.

WD106 Saddle Gait

The saddle gait has a noticeable increase in cadence from the working walk. Excessive speed or slowness will be penalized.

1. In lieu of a jog, gaited horses perform gaits of various rhythms and footfalls. The gaited horse will perform a saddle gait in place of the jog.
2. The saddle gait may be either a lateral or diagonal gait, timely and consistently performed. The tempo, rhythm and foot falls of the gait the rider chooses to perform must not change throughout the test. The gait the horse performs, should be able to be ridden in a working, lengthened, free and collected manner as the Western Dressage test specifies.
3. The quality of the saddle gait is judged by general impression, i.e. the regularity and rhythm of the steps, the cadence and impulsion. This quality originates from the horse having a supple back and well engaged hind quarters, and the ability to maintain the same rhythm and natural balance in all variations of the saddle gait.

a. Collected Saddle Gait.

The horse, remaining “on the bit”, moves forward with the neck raised and arched and showing clear self-carriage. The head approaches the vertical position and a light contact is maintained with the mouth. The hocks are well-engaged and must maintain an energetic gliding impulsion, enabling the shoulders to move more freely. Although the horse’s steps are shorter than in the other saddle gaits, elasticity and cadence are not lessened.



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b. Working Saddle Gait.

With an energetic, regular consistent rhythm; the horse must go forward with consistent and elastic steps. The back must be relaxed and the shoulders free, while there is an obvious push from the hindquarters. The hind legs actively glide under the horse. The horse must show proper balance and maintain light contact with the bit. The horse's nose must be on or slightly in front of the vertical.

c. Lengthening of Stride.

This is a variation of the Working saddle gait; the horse covers more ground while maintaining the same tempo, consistent rhythm as in the Working saddle gait. Speeding up is a fault.

d. Free Saddle Gait.

The Free saddle gait will show moderate lengthening of stride and frame compared to the Working saddle gait. Without hurrying, the horse goes forward with clearly lengthened steps, with impulsion from the hindquarters and uphill balance. The rider allows the horse to carry the head a little more in front of the vertical than at the Collected and the Working saddle gait. The horse's neck is "out", down and forward, with the nose slightly in front of the vertical, with a loose rein and the poll at approximately the same height as the wither (the neck is level). The steps should be consistent, the whole movement balanced and unconstrained, while maintaining a consistent rhythm.



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Western Dressage Judges Guidelines | What to Expect

Western Dressage integrates the historically validated principles of dressage with the best of western stock horse tradition. It is a systematic and progressive system of training for the western horse and rider in traditional stock tack with the purpose of enjoying a safe, pleasurable, versatile, and useful working horse. The hallmarks of the Western Dressage Horse are usefulness, rideability, willingness, safety, pure gaits, lightness, calmness, and steadiness. A Western Dressage Rider should be attentive and tactful. They should use clear, effective, subtle aids coupled with a confident seat and light, responsive hands in communication with their horse.

A Western Dressage Partnership should exhibit impulsion originating from deeply engaged hindquarters transmitted without resistance through a supple top line to a light, soft contact with the rider's hand(s). The horse would move freely forward via a willingness to work off the hindquarters. A Western Dressage Horse that works effortlessly off both ends enables the western horse to be a useful working partner. A Western Dressage Partnership should culminate in a happy, harmonious horse and rider relationship.

Western Dressage Tests provide the opportunity for horse and rider to demonstrate growth through a series of progressive elements by advancing from test to test and level to level as they develop in physical skill, mental maturity, and partnership. Competitions are both rewarding and educational, with judges providing scores and offering feedback for each element, as well as for collective marks demonstrated throughout the test.

THE GOAL of Western Dressage is to develop a partnership: a happy equine athlete working in harmony with his rider. A system of progressive training produces a horse that is physically strong, balanced, supple and flexible. This equine athlete also demonstrates a calm, confident, attentive attitude and is happy with his job.

Rider and horse achieve this goal using the principles of classical dressage training, combined with maneuvers of the stock horse, emphasizing the lightness and harmony with the rider, a hallmark of Western Dressage.

Western Dressage horses demonstrate free-flowing, comfortable strides. The gaits are free, regular in rhythm, and consistent in tempo, and enhance the natural gaits of the horse. As the horse develops, he learns to engage the hindquarters, use the back freely, and therefore becomes light on the forehand.

The head carriage is different with different conformations and styles. A guideline is to look for the nose level with the point of the shoulder when the horse is maintaining uphill balance.



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THE GAITS

Clear four-beat walk, two-beat jog of alternate diagonal pairs with a moment of suspension, and a three-beat lope with a moment of suspension after the third beat are all essential for all correctly moving horses.

Western Dressage is open to all breeds. Emphasis should be placed on the purity of gaits, a connection from pushing of the hindquarters through a supple back into a soft hand. (For gaited horses, they may replace the jog with "intermediate or saddle gait). Big, suspended gaits are not to be favored, since the Western Dressage horse is a WORKING horse, but neither does Western Dressage favor the jog and lope seen in many Western Pleasure classes, where suspension and purity of gaits are not always exhibited. Ideally, Western Dressage is not a Dressage horse in a western saddle. The horse **MUST** move naturally and happily in a manner consistent with its breed. Excessive speed or slowness is to be penalized. Speed is the enemy of impulsion.

THE TESTS

There are 6 levels of Western Dressage Tests for the 2018 competitive year:

Introductory Level — The purpose of these walk/jog Introductory Level tests is to introduce the discipline of Western Dressage. The rider should demonstrate correct basic position, use of basic aids, and understanding of figures. The horse should show relaxation; harmony between horse and rider is important. The horse accepts the aids and influence of the rider. The jog should be a natural gait within the horse's scope and should demonstrate a swinging back. All jog work may be ridden sitting or rising.

Basic Level — The purpose of Basic Level tests is to confirm that the horse is supple and moves freely forward in a clear, steady rhythm, accepting light contact with the bit. The horse demonstrates a greater understanding of the aids and calm acceptance of the bridle. Greater emphasis is placed on relaxation, harmony, rideability and pure gaits. The horse is beginning to develop more impulsion and balance. All jog work may be ridden sitting or rising.

Level 1 — Level 1 tests confirm that the horse is building on the elements from lower levels and is developing more engagement to show sufficient impulsion as the lengthened jog and lope are performed. The horse demonstrates a more consistent light contact with the bit. These tests introduce some collection, lateral and longitudinal balance, and suppleness and emphasize harmony and rideability. All jog work may be ridden sitting or rising.

Level 2 — Level 2 tests confirm that the horse, having achieved the impulsion required in Level 1, now accepts more weight on the hindquarters (collection), moves with an uphill tendency especially at the lengthened paces, and is reliably and lightly on the bit. A greater degree of straightness, bending, suppleness, balance, and self-carriage is required than at Level 1. All jog work must be ridden sitting.



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Level 3 — Level 3 tests confirm that the horse has achieved the impulsion required in Level 2, accepts more weight on the hindquarters (collection), and moves with a greater degree of uphill tendency as required in the collected gaits especially in the collected lope. The movements should be performed with greater straightness, bending, suppleness, balance, and self-carriage than in Level 2. All jog work must be ridden sitting.

Level 4 — Level 4 tests confirm that the horse has achieved the impulsion, engagement, uphill balance, and self-carriage required in Level 3. Level 4 movements should be performed with greater impulsion, engagement, straightness, suppleness, bending, and balance. The marked lightness of the forehand results from a distinct lowering of the haunches and the throughness required in the partial lope pirouette. A solid foundation is evidenced throughout by a correct, willing, harmonious performance softly on the aids. All jog work must be ridden sitting.

TACK (for more detail, please see the USEF rulebook and the USEF Attire and Equipment Guide)



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