



USA WORKING EQUITATION



Objective of the Levels

Level 1:

To introduce the horse and rider to the sport of Working Equitation. Rider should demonstrate a balanced position with independent, steady hands that encourage an elastic contact to the bridle while maintaining a steady, active tempo. Attention to accuracy and geometry is important. Horse should be attentive, show correct bend for the line of travel, and a willingness to work with his rider without resistance. Transitions to and from halt may include walk steps. All trot work may be ridden rising or sitting.

Level 2:

In addition to the requirements of Level 1, to confirm that the horse demonstrates improved suppleness, bending and balance while accepting an elastic contact with the bridle. Consistent, active tempo to be demonstrated throughout while maintaining relaxation and harmony. Transitions to and from halt may include walk steps. All trot work may be ridden rising or sitting.

Level 3:

In addition to the requirements of Level 2, to confirm that the horse is developing more engagement and the ability to perform lateral movements and clear, prompt transitions with balance and a more consistent contact with the bridle. Horse should show adjustability within the gaits. Transition from canter to walk may include trot steps. All trot work may be ridden rising or sitting.

Level 4:

In addition to the requirements of Level 3, to confirm that the horse has achieved a moderate level of engagement (accepts more weight on the hindquarters), moves with an uphill tendency and increased power especially in the medium gaits, and is reliably on the bridle without resistance. Expectation of straightness, bending, balance, suppleness, and self-carriage is higher than that required in Level 3. Canter-walk transitions and simple changes should not include trot steps. All trot work must be ridden sitting.

Level 5:

In addition to the requirements of Level 4, to confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics and increased engagement, elasticity, balance, bending, suppleness, and self-carriage. Transitions between collected and medium gaits should be well defined.

Level 6:

In addition to the requirements of Level 5, to confirm that the horse has developed sufficient engagement, elasticity, and balance to perform advanced movements. The horse must be ridden with one hand. Transitions between collected, medium, and extended gaits should be well defined. The horse demonstrates clear uphill balance and lightness, and greater straightness and energy than at Level 5.