

1. Definition:

WESTERN DRESSAGE
Intro, Suitability In-Hand,
Training Level – Test I to IV, and
First Level – Test I to IV

Scope and Discussion

Dressage – the French word for “training.” - The WESTERN DRESSAGE Division offers a place for the western horse and rider to improve as partners through the discipline of dressage. By using dressage principles and technique the western horses’ performance is enhanced by learning and applying cadence, balance and carriage. The use of dressage will help the western horse to again work from the hind-end allowing for lightness in the front with a more natural head set. Most important is welfare of our Horses: Dressage, itself, will create an avenue for maintaining soundness and enhancing the health of the horse for many years.

Solution

The time is right to open the dressage doors to the Western Division to enhance the health of the horse and promote training through technique for horse and rider. The competitive bar will be raised as well as the personal satisfaction in knowing the best interests of both the horse and rider are being considered. These classes will also offer a place where the Western Rider can compete on a scoring system that allows them to move "up" at their own level. It is not just a competitive format but an educational one as well.

The WESTERN DRESSAGE classes give a mature western horse (5 and over) a place to be re-schooled with the use of a snaffle. It is also a good entry level for individuals who wish to learn to ride and show and riders returning to competition

RECOMMENDED CRITERIA AND RULES

1. The WESTERN DRESSAGE classes will be held as a Western Performance class
2. Whips are not permitted in any class
3. A Caller, if supplied by the competitor, may be used .the exception to this in a Championship class
4. Manes are not required to be braided in WESTERN DRESSAGE.
5. Entries must comply with Western Performance grading requirements and classes in regards to levels, with exception of entries competition in the OPEN Level classes. Then any grade horse can compete. There is no limit to the number of rides per day in the Western Dressage section. Except in championship classes where maximum of here horses may be ridden by the same rider.
6. Traditional western attire as described in Reining and Western Performance rules.
7. See Judges Criteria for Western Dressage for a description of gaits and movements.
8. See Criteria for rules and execution of tests, judging, scoring, and elimination,
9. Pre –Novice through N grades ride tests B1 and B2. : Snaffle or Hackamore only .The use of two hands and a snaffle or hackamore are required per the Dressage Rules.
10. Intermediate and Advanced ride any of the other tests-
11. The use of two hands with snaffle
12. Optional only In Intermediate, The use of shank one hand only.
13. Advanced Shank one handed only
14. No cavasons or Bosal allowed.

It is the goal of WESTERN DRESSAGE to maintain the integrity of the western horse and western traditions through the use of dressage, provide an avenue to train both rider and horse as a pair, and enhance the welfare of the horse.