



2025 Wild Rose Competition Program Rule Book Section 5 – Dressage

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Western Dressage – Please refer to the links below for rules and patterns:

- WSDAC: <http://www.westernstyledressage.ca/>

Preamble



The Alberta Equestrian Federation (AEF) is recognized by the Government of Alberta as the only recognized organization for equestrian sport in Alberta.

Aims, goals, and objectives:

To provide a provincial level of competition that will increase the participation in many areas of horse sport within the province of Alberta.

To create a safe and standardized environment for grass-roots level participants to enter the competitions environment and have a positive competition experience.

To provide a feeder system for the development of athletes and disciplines. This will be accomplished additionally through education and participation opportunities in the Wild Rose Competition Program.

To encourage interest in a grassroots level of officiating within the province of Alberta.

To align with the concepts and levels of the Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) program.

New to 2024

Tiered sanctioning for hunter/jumper shows:

Year end awards offered for competitors attending Wild Rose Hunter/Jumper Provincial Circuit Sanctioned shows.

Year end awards offered for competitors attending Wild Rose Dressage sanctioned shows.

AEF Wild Rose sanctioned competitions are to run in accordance with the AEF Wild Rose rules.

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these rules. It is the duty of the officials and the competition management to make a decision in the spirit of sport, approaching the intention of these rules as near as possible, and protecting the reputation of the sport and the welfare of the horse.

Competition organizers should be familiar with the AEF Wild Rose rules and policies and should have copies available for all individuals present.

Competitions may expand upon the rules, provided notification of changes is printed in the competition prize list. Under no circumstances may any changes contradict the AEF rule requirements pertaining to safety.

All AEF Wild Rose sanctioned competitions are restricted to AEF members in good standing. All competitors must have a current AEF membership, including riders in lead line classes. Out-of-province competitors are eligible to compete, however, they must provide proof of membership with their home Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization (PTSO) or will be required to purchase an AEF membership.

Disrespectful behavior or abuse to horse or others of any kind may result in membership suspension.

Any major change from the format of the Wild Rose Competition Program must receive the approval of the AEF Board of Directors prior to implementation.

If it is found that the Wild Rose rules require further interpretation for the level of competition present, the Equestrian Canada (EC) rules will prevail.

Safety and Risk Management

Statement of Safety

The Alberta Equestrian Federation ("AEF") has a fundamental obligation and responsibility to protect the health, safety, and physical and mental well-being of every individual participant that is involved in AEF affiliated activities, competitions, or clinics. AEF takes situations involving misconduct or maltreatment very seriously. For this reason, AEF is committed to enacting and enforcing strong, clear, and effective policies and processes for preventing and addressing all forms of misconduct or maltreatment. AEF's policies are intended to promote a safe sport environment in a manner that allows for consistent, immediate, appropriate, and meaningful action should any issues arise. They are also intended to be proactive in preventing issues from arising by communicating expected standards of behaviour. For more information on the AEF's obligations and guidelines for safe sport, please reference the Safe Sport Policy. The AEF urges all members to develop a "Safety Awareness" program for each event to benefit participants, spectators and management involved. All equestrian activities, including competition, are vulnerable to accidents. The show committee has a responsibility to provide an event that is run as safely as possible.

Animal Welfare

The inhumane treatment of an equine at any AEF Wild Rose sanctioned competition by any individual (competitor, owner, trainer, etc.) must not be tolerated anywhere on the grounds, under any circumstances.

Cruelty can be defined as intentionally causing pain or unnecessary discomfort to a horse. The standard by which such conduct will be measured is the determination of cruel, excessive, or inhumane treatment by a reasonable person who is informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and procedures.

The AEF recommends every competition have a statement in their prize list regarding the stance on the abuse of horses and the commitment of the event to the humane treatment and welfare of horses. In addition, note the penalties to be imposed (such as elimination or disqualification) for the confirmed abuse of horses at the event.

The following acts are considered cruel, abusive and inhumane (acts are not limited to this list):

- a. Excessive use of a whip on a horse by a person. NOTE: Except in emergency situations, any striking of the horse's head (on the poll and forward of the poll) shall be deemed excessive.
- b. Rapping the legs of a horse with the butt end of the riding crop or other implement.
- c. Use of any substances to induce temporary heat.
- d. Use of a wire or chain in conjunction with any schooling jump.
- e. Use of electric device to create a shock in schooling or showing.
- f. Use of shackles, hock hobbles and similar devices (not to be confused with rubber or elastic exercising devices).
- g. Showing a horse with raw or bleeding sores on body.
- h. Withholding feed and water for prolonged periods.
- i. Cruel treatment of a horse in a stall, runway, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds, by any person.

In any performance event, the judge shall have the authority to request the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment which, in their opinion, would tend to give the horse an unfair advantage or which they believe to be inhumane.

Roles and Useful Definitions

Competition manager/organizer: This individual(s) is/are responsible for the organization of the competition up until the event begins. The competition organizer must be a current AEF member in good standing.

Competition secretary: This individual performs duties as assigned by the event directors, manager or committee chairpersons. Regular duties may consist of (but are not limited to): keeping records of class entries, scratches, additions, placements and payment of fees.

Official: Includes all competition judges, stewards, course designers and technical delegates, who are recognized and licensed by a governing body and hold up-to-date certificates.

Steward: An equestrian competition steward is a licensed official tasked with the responsibility of interpreting and enforcing the rules of the organization that has sanctioned the event.

Learner official/judge: An individual who is in training and/or shadowing an official.

Junior: Individuals are "junior" until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18. Except as modified by discipline/breed sport rules.

Amateur: An individual over the age of 18 who does not get paid for riding or coaching. Certain scholarships, bursaries and sponsorships are allowed.

Professional: Anyone who is paid to ride a horse(s), or who coaches students for a fee.

Course designer: A professional responsible for creating the layout and design of courses used in hunter and jumper horse shows. The course designer's role involves designing courses that test the horse and rider's abilities while adhering to the specific rules and regulations of the discipline. They must consider factors such as the terrain, space available, the skill level of competitors, and safety standards when creating their designs. Additionally, they may need to adjust the course layout based on weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances to ensure fair competition and the welfare of the horses and riders.

1. Dressage

Person responsible: The person(s) responsible (PR) for a horse must be an adult who has, or shares responsibility for the care, training, custody, and performance of the horse and who has official responsibility for that horse under AEF Rules. The PR is liable under the penalty provisions of the applicable AEF Rules for any rule violations. Every entry form for an AEF sanctioned competition must identify the PR and be signed by the PR. The person(s) responsible are ultimately responsible for the condition, fitness, and management of the horse and are alone responsible for any act performed by themselves or by any other person with authorized access to the horse in the stables, elsewhere on the grounds, or while the horse is being ridden, driven, or exercised. For adult entries into AEF sanctioned competitions, the PR shall be either the trainer, the owner of the horse, or the competitor who rides or drives the horse during the AEF sanctioned competition. For Junior entries into AEF sanctioned competitions, the Junior competitor cannot be the PR. For Junior entries, the PR may be either the trainer, the owner of the horse, or a parent/guardian of the Junior competitor.

Wild Rose drug test technician (WRDTT): an official responsible for conducting drug tests on horses participating in Wild Rose sanctioned competitions. This program aims to ensure the integrity of equine competitions by enforcing rules and regulations related to the use of medications and substances in horses. WRDTT follows established protocols and procedures to collect samples from horses, such as blood or urine, for analysis. They ensure that the collection process is conducted in a fair, ethical, and accurate manner, maintaining the chain of custody to preserve the integrity of the samples.

1. Tests

It is recommended that Wild Rose sanctioned competitions use EC dressage tests. Please contact AEF for access to tests. All EC tests are subject to the EC test user fee policy. Organizers may choose to source tests from other organizations but must indicate the tests to be used in their competition prize list.

2. Horses/Ponies

- a. Any horse entered in a Wild Rose sanctioned dressage competition must be a minimum of three years old. Ponies must be a minimum of four years old.
- b. Horses may be schooled and lunged by the rider, owner, or coach/instructor. Lunging may only be done in designated lunging areas:
 - i. Lunging is not permitted in the general schooling area with mounted riders.
 - ii. Lunging with a rider is not permitted on the competition grounds.
- c. Horses and equipment are to be clean and neat out of respect for officials, volunteers, and other competitors.
 - i. Decoration with extravagant items (i.e., flowers or ribbons) is prohibited. Exception: simple red ribbon may be used in the tail for safety reasons.
- d. Measured at the withers, horse height must exceed 148 cm without shoes.
- e. Completely blind horse/ponies are not eligible to enter dressage competitions.
- f. Decisions as to the manageability of stallions are at the discretion of the judge or steward. Unmanageable stallions must be excused from the ring and/or warmup ring.
- g. Judges are required to eliminate from the arena any unruly horse whose actions threaten competitors, officials, or spectators.

3. Rider Apparel

3.1. Safety Headgear

- a. It is mandatory that the protective headgear meets the ASTM/SEI, BSI/BS, EN, AS/NZS or CE VG1 01.040 2014-12 (provided they are

BSI Kitemarked) standard at any AEF sanctioned Wild Rose competition.

- i. NOTE: at a tack check following the test, the steward may ask the rider to dismount so that the helmet may be inspected.

3.2. Boots

- a. Riders must wear dark or colour coordinated riding boots (plain, laced or with zippers) with a heel (tall boots or jodhpur/paddock boots).
- b. Half chaps may be worn with paddock boots if they are of matching colour to the boots, are without decoration of any sort, and are well-fitted.
- c. Juniors are permitted to wear jodhpurs and jodhpur boots.

3.3. Breeches/Jodhpurs

Breeches or jodhpurs must be worn. White, light, or dark coloured breeches or jodhpurs with jodhpur boots may be worn; bright colours or patterns are not permitted. Contrast piping is allowed.

3.4. Shirts/Jackets

- a. Shirts may be long or short sleeved with a collar. Contrasting collars, points, piping, or crystal decorations are allowed. Tie, bow tie, hunting stock, or choker may be of any colour.
- b. Short jackets, cutaway with short tails, or tailored dressage vests may be single colour with subtle pin-striping, check, or tweeds. Striped or multicoloured jackets are not permitted. Tasteful and discreet accents such as a collar of a different hue, modest piping, or crystal decoration are acceptable.
- c. Safety vests, including an inflatable vest that is attached to the saddle, are permitted provided they conform to the rules governing jacket colours.

3.5. Gloves

Gloves must be worn at all times when mounted or lunging, and should be white, light-coloured, or any solid colour.

3.6. Spurs

- a. Spurs are optional at all levels but must be a matched pair of conservative colour.
- b. Spurs must be metal and have smooth arms, although plastic knobbed (i.e., Impuls spurs) are allowed.
 - i. The shank of the spur must be straight or slightly curved down, point backwards, and must be centered on the arms.

- ii. The neck may be curved directly back, but not upwards or in towards the horse. Exception: swan neck spurs are allowed, as are dummy spurs with smooth arms and no shanks.

- c. Protective bands that keep spurs in place are permitted.
- d. Rowels must point directly back from the center of the spur and be vertical. If rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth and free to rotate.
 - i. Spurs with horizontal rowels are prohibited.
 - ii. Metal spurs with rotating knobs or balls are permitted and they can rotate vertically or horizontally.
- e. Any spur found to be sharp by the tack check steward must be removed and may be replaced with an appropriate spur.
- f. Use of illegal spurs anywhere on the competition grounds will result in elimination.
- g. Acceptable spur lengths are as follows:
 - i. For adults the maximum spur length is 5 cm.
 - ii. For juniors the maximum spur length is 3.5 cm.

3.7. Whips

- a. Dressage whips may be carried in all levels.
 - i. Exception: whips may not be carried in championship classes.
- b. Ladies riding sidesaddle may always carry a dressage whip.
- c. The total length of the dressage whip (including lash) may not exceed 120 cm. Whips for ponies in all classes may not exceed 100 cm.
- d. A whip must not be used in a way that disturbs other riders and may not be picked up if dropped during a test.
- e. When saluting, the whip, along with the reins, should be taken into one hand. The free hand should be lowered to the rider's side.
- f. Dressage whips are always permitted in the warmup and schooling areas.
- g. Excessive use of a whip at any time while on the competition grounds is forbidden and constitutes abuse. A whip should never be carried or used in a manner that affects other horses.
- h. Telescoping whips are not permitted.
- i. The use of a lunge whip is prohibited except when lunging in a prescribed lunging-only warmup area.

3.8. Extreme/Inclement Weather Conditions

- a. Protective hat covers and transparent or conservative-coloured overcoats may be worn in wet or cold weather.
- b. Judges may excuse jackets in extreme heat or humidity.

- i. Appropriate notice must be given so that all competitors in any one class ride under the same conditions.
- ii. Competitors have the option of wearing either short or long-sleeved shirts with a collar (no t-shirts, tank tops, etc.) that tuck neatly into the breeches. Sleeveless shirts are not permitted. Shirt collar may be opened.
- iii. A cooling or tailored dressage vest may be worn over a long or short sleeved riding shirt. The vest colour must conform to the rules for jacket colours.
- iv. Stock ties must be removed unless pinned to the rider's shirt.
- v. Regulation safety helmet is still required.

4. Saddlery and Equipment

4.1. Saddles

- a. A plain English type saddle must be used – dressage, hunter, jumper, all purpose, etc. (as opposed to endurance, Australian, military, bareback pad, western or stock saddle).
 - i. NOTE: dressage saddles are required in FEI classes.
- b. Saddle must be a dark coloured English saddle.
- c. Saddle may be made of leather or synthetic material.
 - i. Saddle covers are not allowed.
- d. Girths may be of leather, fabric (natural or synthetic), or string and may be used with a girth cover in a conservative colour.
- e. Stirrups (standard or safety) are compulsory at all levels. The rider's boots may not be fixed to the stirrup, nor may the stirrups be fastened to the girth or each other. The foot must not be fully or partially enclosed. Safety stirrups may have an opening on the outside branch. Kvall stirrups are not allowed.
- f. Saddle pads may be solid white, off white, grey, black, or another conservative colour. It may have piping of a different colour to the pad and may carry barn logo.
- g. Pommel straps are allowed.

4.2. Bridles

- a. Bridles must be of leather and be a conservative brown or black in colour.
 - i. Padding of the brow and nose bands is allowed for comfort and modest decorative features are allowed on the brow band.
- b. Micklem bridles, without clips only, are allowed.
 - i. Reins must be brown or black in colour.

- c. Reins may be laced, plain, rolled or rubber lined on both sides. Reins may have hand stops.
- d. Reins with elastic inserts are not permitted.
- e. Bitless bridles are not allowed.

4.3. Nosebands

- a. Nosebands must be used and may be any of the following type:
 - i. Cavesson
 - ii. Dropped
 - iii. Flash
 - iv. Figure eight (grackle)
 - v. Crescent noseband
 - vi. Comfort noseband.
- b. A bridle throatlatch or jowl strap is required except when a combined noseband or Micklem bridle is used.
- c. Drop nosebands and flash straps must lie in the chin groove.
- d. Nosebands must not cause discomfort or be overtight. It must be possible to place two fingers between the horse's cheek and the noseband.

5. Bits

Bits must not apply mechanical restraint to the tongue. Bits must be such that the diameter of the bit (snaffle or bridoon and/or curb) does not hurt the horse. Only bits described below are permitted:

5.1. Snaffle and bridoons:

- a. Mouthpiece: is to be smooth (no twist or wire) of metal, durable plastic, or synthetic material (not flexible rubber).
 - i. May be covered by rubber or normally accepted material, may not be wrapped.
 - ii. May have a single, double or no joint.
 - iii. May have a rotating mouthpiece.
 - iv. May not have outstanding edges, odd curves or unrounded joints.
 - v. The surface of the center piece must be solid with no moveable parts other than a roller, must not have a port.
 - vi. Minimum bit diameters where the bit connects to the cheek or ring:
 - Ponies: 10 mm for snaffles.
 - Horses: 10 mm for snaffle and bridoons, 12 mm for curbs.
- b. Rings: may be free (loose, German) ring, eggbutt, D-ring.

- i. Snaffle and bridoon rings: the inside dimensions must be between 3.5 cm and 10.16 cm.
- c. Cheeks: may be a full cheek, half cheek (oriented up only), a hanging cheek. Full cheeks can be used with or without “keepers;”
 - i. Is not required to be part of the ring (i.e., fulmer or loose ring with cheeks).
- d. Fit: comfortably – not too tight in width, hanging too low or pulled too high in the mouth.
 - i. Not too thick as to disallow comfortable closure of the mouth, not too thin to cause damage to the corners of the mouth.
 - Particularly bridoons must not be too thick.
 - ii. Mouthpiece must not pinch the lips where joining with the cheeks and rings.
- e. **EXCEPTION:** Dr. Bristol snaffles are not permitted – defined as a snaffle with a flat centre link that does not lie in the same place as the rest of the bit.
- f. Snaffle bridles are required at Introductory, Training, First and Second Levels. Optional at Third Level through Grand Prix.

5.2. Curb:

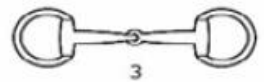
- a. Mouthpiece: is to be smooth (no twist or wire) of metal, durable plastic, or other synthetic material (not flexible rubber).
 - i. May be half-moon, have a port, may not be jointed, may not be wrapped.
 - ii. May have a sliding mouthpiece (Weymouth).
 - iii. Minimum diameter of 10 mm measured adjacent to the cheeks of the mouthpiece.
- b. The upper cheekpieces must not exceed 5 cm or be longer than the curb lever arms measured below the mouthpiece which should not be more than 10 cm when the mouthpiece is in the uppermost position.
- c. Curb chain: may be leather or metal or a combination of the two.
 - i. Curb chain must be adjusted in such a way that the bit may rotate in the mouth without pinching up to 45 degrees.
 - ii. May be left exposed or covered with leather or rubber for comfort.
- d. Lip strap: is permitted and is to remain loose.
- e. Bit guards and/or burrs are not permitted at any time.

The following pages are illustrations for acceptable bits and bridles. Directly below are captions for the illustrations.

Various snaffle bridle bits



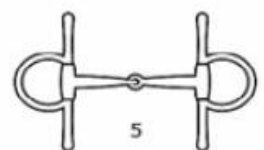
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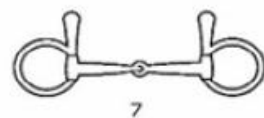
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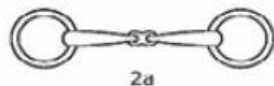
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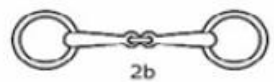
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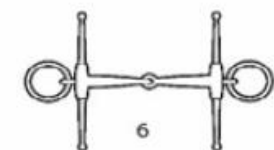
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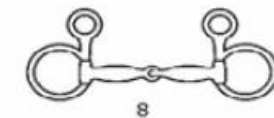
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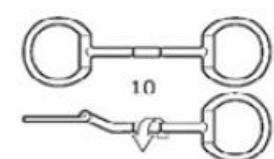
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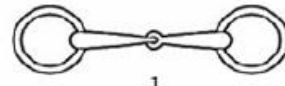


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Various double bridle bits



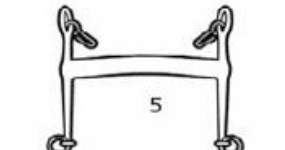
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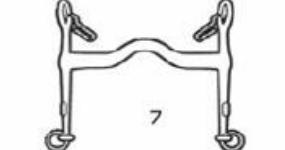
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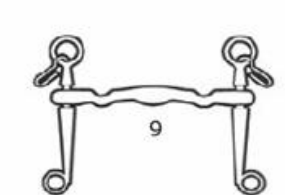
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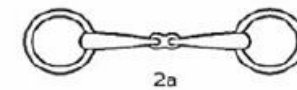
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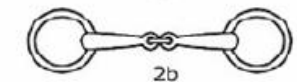
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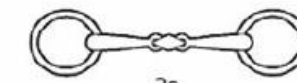
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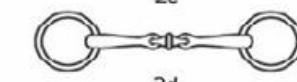
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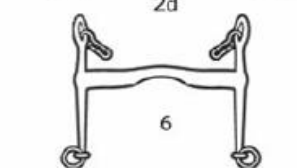
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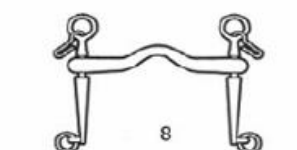
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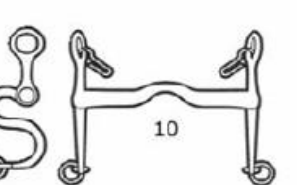
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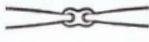

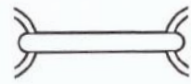

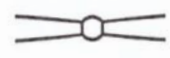


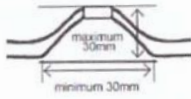
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The following cheekpieces and mouthpieces may be used interchangeably with the allowable bits shown.

Cheek Pieces:

		
Ex. of Loose Ring cheek	Ex. of Eggbutt cheek	Ex. of D-Ring cheek
		
Ex. of upper cheek	Ex. of full cheek	Ex. of hanging cheek
		
Ex. of Fulmer cheek		

Mouthpieces:

		
Ex. of single jointed mouthpiece	Ex. of double jointed mouthpiece	Ex. of double jointed mouthpiece
		
Ex. of unjointed mouthpiece	Ex. of barrel joint	Ex. of ball joint
		
Ex. of double ball joint	Ex. of centrepiece with a roller	Port deviation measurements

Permitted nosebands

1. Dropped noseband



2. Cavesson noseband



3. Flash noseband



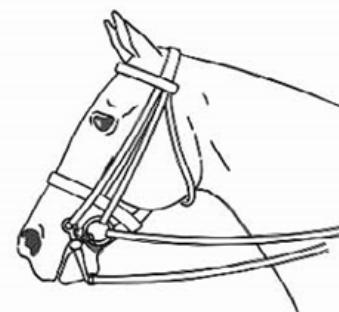
4. Crossed noseband / Mexican noseband



1, 3 and 4 are not permitted when a double bridle is used.

Article 428.1

Example of Double bridle with cavesson noseband, bridoon bit and curb with curb chain



Example of permitted Dressage saddle



6. Various Snaffle Bridle Bits

(Referencing pictures on previous pages)

1. Loose (free, German) ring snaffle with a single joint
2. a. b. c. Double jointed snaffles with rounded edges on middle pieces
3. Eggbutt snaffle
4. D-ring (racing) snaffle
5. Full cheek eggbutt snaffle
6. Fulmer (loose ring with cheeks) snaffle
7. Snaffle with upper cheeks only
8. Hanging cheek (Baucher) snaffle
9. Straight bar snaffle, may have mullen mouth or eggbutt ring
10. Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece
11. Snaffle with rotating middle piece
12. Tongue relief snaffle
13. NS Verbindend.

7. Various Bridoon Bits

(Referencing pictures on previous pages)

1. Loose ring bridoon with single joint
2. a. b. c. Double jointed bridoon with rounded edges on middle pieces
3. d. Bridoon with rotating middle piece
4. Eggbutt bridoon
5. Hanging cheek bridoon.

8. Various Curb Bits

(Referencing pictures on previous pages)

6. Half-moon curb
7. Curb bits with straight cheeks and various ports
8. Curb bit with port and sliding mouthpiece (Weymouth)
9. N.B. rotating lever arm is also permitted
10. Variation of bits 6, 7 and 8 above
11. Curb bit with s-curved cheeks.

9. Various Parts of a Double Bridle

(Referencing pictures on previous pages)

12. Curb chain (metal or leather or a combination);
13. Lip strap
14. Leather cover for curb chain
15. Rubber cover for curb chain.

10. Other Tack and Equipment

- a. The following equipment is forbidden to be used at any time on the show grounds and may result in elimination if used:
 - i. Martingales
 - EXCEPTION: running martingales are allowed in designated warmup and/or schooling areas if attached to the snaffle rein only
 - ii. Gadgets which are designed to improve the performance of the horse (bearing, running or balancing reins)
 - iii. Bit burrs, bit guards, tongue ties, etc.
 - iv. Telescoping whips
 - v. Blinkers, ear plugs, hoods
 - EXCEPTION: comfort of the horse is a priority in the stabling area (e.g., ear plugs would be allowed in the stabling/trailer parking area), away from the warmup or competition rings
 - vi. Illegal spurs
 - vii. Belly bands.
- b. Any piece of tack or equipment that holds the horse's ears in a fixed position.
- c. Lunging equipment including line, whip, cavesson, surcingle, single or double direct side reins are permitted only in designated, supervised lunging areas.
- d. Protective boots and/or bandages may be used anywhere on the competition grounds including in the competition ring.
- e. Show stewards are entitled to request the removal of ear nets and nose fly guards as part of the compulsory tack check.
- f. Breastplates, foregirths, girth covers, sternum relief girths, sternum relief pads, ergonomic girths, cruppers, and any tack or clothing which is intended to improve the comfort of the horse or safety of the rider is permitted in the designated schooling areas and competition rings.
- g. The hearing disabled may use two-way communication devices in the competition arena under the supervision of a committee member.
- h. Earphones or earbuds and/or other electronic communication devices are strictly prohibited in the competition arena, and as such, usage is penalized by elimination. One earphone/earbud is allowed when mounted everywhere except in the competition arena.
- i. Non-restrictive ear nets, which do not cover the eyes and non-restrictive nose fly guards are permitted in the schooling and competition rings.

11. Arena

11.1. Arena Construction

- a. Arena should be situated on level ground and measure 20 m x 60 m for all tests above Training Level.
 - i. Walk/Trot to Training Level: classes may be ridden in a 20 m x 40 m arena.
- b. Arena enclosure should be marked by wooden fencing, or other safe suitable material, about .30 m high (approx. 1'), and should be constructed in such a way so as a horse's hooves cannot get caught.
- c. Arena fence conditions must be the same for every competitor in a class.
- d. At outdoor competitions, where space permits, spectators should be situated 15 m from the arena.
- e. At indoor competitions spectators should be situated 3 m from the arena.
 - i. If possible, the arena should be situated 2 m from the walls.
- f. Judges should be placed a minimum of 3 m and a maximum of 5 m from the arena enclosure.
 - i. The judge is to be situated at "C". If there is more than one judge, the second judge may be placed either at "E", "B", "H," or "M," whichever is convenient for the competition.
 - In the event there is a third judge, one judge should be at "C" and the other two placed at either "M" and "E" or "H" and "B".
- g. Judges and stewards are responsible for checking the correctness of the arena setup.

11.2. Arena Letters and Gate

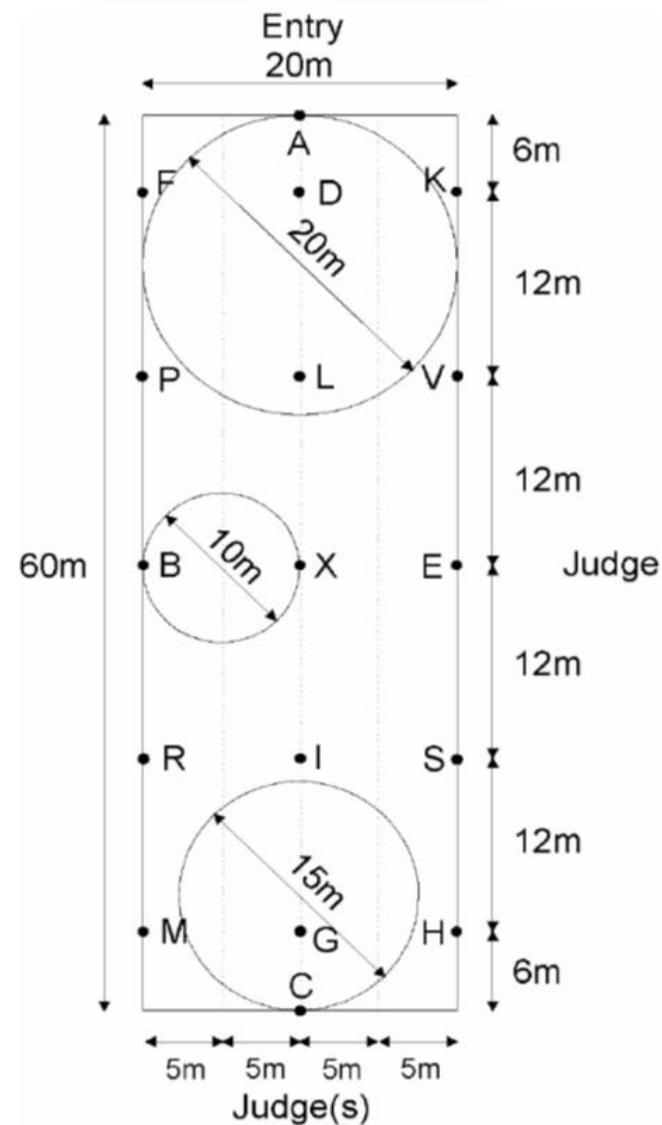
- The letters should be placed 0.5 m from the fence and be clearly marked.
- The letter "A" should be placed 5 to 15 m back to allow the horse to make a straight entry. The gate at "A" should be easy to remove and replace.
- Arena lettering should be in accordance with the example provided within this rulebook.

12. Warmup Arena

- Whenever possible the footing in the warmup arena should match that of the competition arena.
- The warmup arena should be the same size as the competition arena.

- i. Should this not be possible, competitors should be permitted to warmup their horses in the competition arena.
 - ii. A schedule of permitted warmup times should be posted.
- c. Warmup arena must be supervised by a knowledgeable safety officer/steward.

20 x 60 Dressage Arena



13. Execution of Tests

- a. Unauthorized assistance, deemed to be any external influence (use of voice, signals, electronic transmission, etc.) intended to assist the competitor upon entering the competition arena is cause for elimination.
- b. All freestyle tests are to be executed from memory.
- c. A test begins when the horse enters at “A” and ends when it moves off after the final salute. No incidents prior to the start or after the completion of the test shall affect the test score.

14. Readers

- a. Competitors may arrange for a suitably (conservatively) dressed individual to call or read the test.
- b. Competitors are responsible for any error made by the designated reader of the test.
- c. Any command or instruction which is repeated more than twice (i.e., read three times) or which is embellished in any way to assist the competitor, will cause the elimination of the competitor.
- d. Designated readers are to be placed at either “E” or “B” so that they do not disturb nor obstruct the view of the judge(s).
- e. If readers are unable to be placed at “E” or “B”, they must stand at a location designated by the judge at “C”.

15. Salute

- a. The salute is to be performed with the reins in any one hand.
- b. Helmets are not to be removed.
- c. The arm is to be dropped in a relaxed manner along the body and the head inclined towards the judge at “C”.
- d. Failure to salute is an error of test and will incur a penalty of two points.

16. Tack Check

- a. A show may opt to hold mandatory or random tack checks. If the show opts to do random tack checks, at least 30% of competitors from each class must be checked.
- b. If a tack check is required, immediately upon leaving the competition arena, riders must report, still mounted, for a tack check. No equipment or clothing is to be removed before the inspection.

- i. EXCEPTION: a rider feeling ill or faint is permitted to dismount and remove their helmet and jacket.
- c. A rider who is eliminated during the course of their test must still report for a tack check if required.
- d. Riders are welcome to ask for dress/saddlery rule clarification from the steward or appointed competition monitor prior to entering the competition ring.

17. Errors and Penalties

17.1. Inappropriate Voice

Error of voice: a competitor using voice in any manner (including using a loud voice, clucking repeatedly, or tongue or throat sounds):

- a. Incurs a penalty of two points from the movement being performed for each occurrence, with “voice” being indicated in the comment section of the score sheet.
- b. There is no maximum limit to errors of voice, nor is it limited to once per movement.
- c. Error of voice should not be scored as an error of course or test.
- d. Repeated offences are not cause for elimination.

17.2. Error of Course

Error of course: an error in the execution of the test, which prohibits the rider from continuing on with the next movement (e.g., turning the incorrect direction or omitting an entire movement). At such time the judge at “C” shall ring the bell in order to lend the competitor the assistance necessary to return to the correct course.

- a. An error of course which does not require the bell to be rung is one in which interrupting the test will have a negative effect on the flow of the test since the rider is able to continue the test without impediment (e.g., transition takes place at the wrong letter).
 - i. If the bell is not rung and the rider makes the same error again, because the same movement is to be repeated in the course of the test, only one error is recorded.
- b. If a rider performs a rising trot when a sitting trot is called for the judge must ring the bell and warn the rider that this error is accumulative, if repeated, and may lead to elimination after the third occurrence.
- c. A competitor is not permitted to repeat a movement or put in an extra circle, unless the judge decides that an error of course has been made. If the rider has started a movement and tries to do the same movement again, the judge must consider the first movement only, and at the same time, penalize for an error of course.

17.3. Penalization

- a. The first error of course or test is penalized by two points.
- b. The second such error is penalized with four points.
- c. The third such error is cause for elimination, although competitors are permitted to finish their tests and further movements are marked.

17.4. Error of Test

These errors, each of which incurs two penalty points, are not cumulative and therefore do not result in elimination.

- a. Not taking the reins in one hand at the salute.
- b. Early entry before signal.
- c. Entry between 45 and 90 seconds after the signal.

17.5. Unnoticed Error

- a. Should the judge not observe the error then the competitor is given the benefit of the doubt.
- b. Should the judge at "C" not observe the error, the panel may bring it to the attention of the other members and the judge at "C" shall determine whether the error shall be incurred.

17.6. Early Entry

- a. Entry into the ring before the designated signal has been sounded by the judge shall be penalized by two points.
- b. The judge may choose to ask the competitor to exit and re-enter the ring.

17.7. Late Entry

- a. A competitor has 45 seconds in which to enter the arena after the bell has sounded.
- b. Failure to enter the arena within the permitted time shall result in a penalty of two points per judge.
- c. Failure to enter within 120 seconds will result in elimination.
- d. In the event that the horse starts to defecate or urinate, after the judge rings the bell but before the start of the test, the clock will be stopped until the horse is ready to continue, at which point the clock will be restarted.

17.8. Re-Riding a Test

Under unusual circumstances, which may interfere with the test, the judge may stop the test and allow the competitor to restart.

17.9. Falls

- a. A fall by the rider is considered to have taken place when the rider is separated from the horse in such a manner that they must remount the horse in order to regain contact with the saddle.
- b. A fall by the horse is considered to have taken place if both the shoulder and quarters of the horse have touched the ground simultaneously.
- c. A fall of horse and/or rider in the competition ring will result in the immediate elimination from the class. All falls must be reported immediately to the safety officer and the required paperwork must be submitted to the AEF office.
- d. A rider who has a fall inside or outside of the competition ring must be assessed and cleared by the emergency medical services or a medical doctor in order to continue riding on the competition grounds.

17.10. Dismounts

- a. An athlete dismounting after entering the arena will be eliminated.
- b. A competitor who dismounts due to broken equipment and/or loss of a shoe will be excused from the class.

17.11. Leaving Arena During a Test

A horse whose four feet leave the arena during the course of riding the test, between the start and finish of the test, shall be eliminated.

17.12. Resistance

- a. Any resistance that exceeds 20 seconds in length and prevents the continuation of the test shall be cause for elimination.
- b. In the event that the resistance is of a nature that may endanger horse, rider, spectators, or judges, it shall be deemed a safety hazard and is cause for immediate elimination without regard to the length of the resistance except when leaving the arena.

17.13. Lameness

- a. It is the responsibility of the judge to call attention to any case of marked lameness, in which case the judge may ring the bell and eliminate the competitor.
- b. In the event there are multiple judges, the judge at "C" shall make the determination.
- c. Lameness must be indicated on the score sheet as the reason for elimination.

The decision of the judge may not be appealed. Judges are circumspect with regards to making such a critical decision and unless absolutely certain will tend to give low marks rather than eliminate. This difficult decision must be respected.

18. Elimination and Disqualification

18.1. Elimination

An elimination results in a no score or elimination being posted for the class in question due to any of the following – as perceived at the judge's discretion:

Any three errors of course or test.

- a. Illegal equipment.
- b. Failure to report to tack check.
- c. Carrying a whip into the competition ring at competitions that specify in the prize list that whips are not permitted.
- d. Unauthorized assistance.
- e. Exceeding 120 seconds to enter the arena after the bell/whistle or start of music (20 seconds) in a freestyle.
- f. Resistance lasting longer than 20 seconds which prevents the performance of the required movements of the test.
- g. Safety – resistance that may endanger the rider, horse, judge, or spectators is cause for elimination at discretion of the judge (may be less than 20 seconds).
- h. Leaving the arena with all four feet of the horse during the test.
- i. Lameness.
- j. Fall of horse or rider.
- k. Performing movements above the required level of the freestyle could result in elimination – see Article 21.2.g
- l. Excessive use of the whip and/or spur.
- m. Receiving a score of less than 40%.
- n. Inappropriate dress.
- o. Evidence of blood or welt marks on the horse other than environmental (bee stings, insect bites).
- p. Dangerous or unruly behavior of the horse.
- q. Failure to finish the test.

Note: any of the grounds for disqualification shown below may also result in elimination from classes already completed. This determination shall be made by the ground jury and is not open to appeal.

18.2. Disqualification

Disqualification bars the competitor from taking part in any further classes in the competition. The ground jury may require the competitor to leave the competition site. Grounds for disqualification include but are not limited to:

- a. Failure to display a competition number, having incurred a warning for the first offence.
- b. Misrepresentation of entry.
- c. Failure to provide documentation and/or payment.
- d. Abuse/cruelty.
- e. Offensive behavior and/or language towards officials, volunteers, competitors, or spectators.

19. Judging the Test

- a. The responsibility for marking the tests lies with the judges.
- b. Judges may not be influenced by any previously held knowledge or information from any individual other than members of the ground jury.
- c. The mark for each movement should indicate whether the movement was performed sufficiently (5 or above) or insufficiently (4 or below).
- d. Movements should be carried out at the point in which the rider's body arrives at the specified point.
 - i. EXCEPTION: movements which the horse approaches the letter from a diagonal or perpendicular line. In this case, the movement should be initiated when the horse's nose reaches the track to maintain straightness for the transition.
- e. A horse that grinds its teeth but is otherwise happy to work shall not be penalized.
 - i. If the horse does not appear to be happy to work and displays stiffness and tension, then one point must be deducted from each of the movement and submission marks.
- f. Horses that get their tongue over the bit or that perform with an open mouth must be marked down.
- g. A test begins with entry at "A" and concludes with the final salute.
 - i. Anything occurring outside this time period shall have no bearing on the marks.
- h. No competitor shall be required to ride before their posted time.
 - i. Competitors should be aware that to facilitate the efficient running of the competition, they may be asked, with due notice, to alter their start time.
- i. Marking scale: the judging scale of marks is:
 - i. Half marks from 0.5 – 9.5 may be used for movements and collective marks.
 - ii. Half marks may be used for all marks in freestyle tests.
- j. Collective marks are given upon the completion of the test based on overall impression given by the horse and the rider. If competitors are tied at the end of the class, the competitor with the higher collective

marks will be the winner. If the collective marks are tied, then the competitors remain tied.

20. Scoring

After each performance, marks from each judge's score sheet are tabulated, factoring in the coefficient multiple where applicable. Penalty points are then deducted. The show committee should make the tabulated results available to the competitor as soon as possible at the completion of the class.

20.1. Awarding Marks

Marks awarded for each movement are from 1 to 10:

0	Excellent	5	Sufficient
9	Very good	4	Insufficient
8	Good	3	Fairly bad
7	Fairly good	2	Bad
6	Satisfactory	1	Very bad
0 – Not executed (practically nothing of the movement was executed)			

- Each mark has an assigned co-efficient and must be multiplied.
- The marks given for each movement and general impression, or collective marks are added together and penalties for errors/other occurring during the test are deducted:
 - This is the positive score for the test.
 - These points are converted into percentage scores.
- If a rider is eliminated during the test, that rider receives no score and is ineligible for an award.
- To obtain the percentage of the test:

Example: 220 = Possible Marks
 133 = Achieved Marks (Total Points)
 -2 = Penalty for Error
 131 = Total Points (Final Total)

131 divided by 220 (total possible marks) and multiplied by 100 = 59.545%

The final score = 59.545% (must be to three decimal points)

Note: that although errors of voice are unlimited, errors of course and test are limited to two. On the third such error, the rider is eliminated. Judges should NOT continue to mark such a test but often do in order to offer the rider an opportunity to learn. Upon elimination or disqualification, scores should not be posted.

- Scorers must ensure that all movements are marked, the sheets are signed, and any changes are initialed.
 - If any of the above is missing, sheets must be returned to the judge for completion.
- Marked sheets are considered to be the confidential property of the competition until they are handed over to the competitor.
 - At that time, they become the private property of the competitor.
 - The show organizers are obliged to post total points and percentages from the tests.
- In order to maintain a record of marks, scorers must retain all individual marks from each test on a master sheet, to be available for queries.
 - This master sheet may be on paper, or if a computer program is used it may be retained within the program.
 - Tests may be released to riders immediately after the final ride of the class.
 - It is recommended that awards not be presented for an hour after the class in order to allow riders to confirm their scores.
 - Corrections of errors in math may be made at any time, however awards will not be changed after the show is formally over with the exception of Champion and Reserve Champion.
- Should more than one judge be used, the total positive points and percentages from each judge are posted and the average of these is posted as the final score.
- Should there be only one horse in the class, the competitor must compete against the rule book, which declares that in order to achieve a placing a particular score must be achieved as shown below:

First Place	requires a score of 63% or higher
Second Place	requires a score of 60% to 62.9%
Third Place	requires a score of 58% to 59.9%
No Ribbons or prizes shall be awarded below 3 rd position	

No ribbons or prizes will be awarded for scores less than 51% or to placings lower than fourth.

20.2. Ties

- Should a tie occur at a dressage competition, the competitor achieving the highest marks in the general impression/collective marks is declared the winner.

- b. If the tie still exists, they shall remain tied. The next placing shall be omitted (i.e., if tied for third, the next placing shall be for fifth, not fourth place).

21. Freestyles

The freestyle test is a competition of artistic equitation to music. Recorded music is mandatory. It includes all the school paces and the fundamental movements as in the technical test of the same level. The athlete is, however, absolutely free to choose the choreography within the stated time allowed. The test should clearly show the unity between the athlete and horse, as well as harmony in all the movements and transitions.

21.1. Freestyle Movements

- a. Wild Rose freestyles can be performed at any level.
- b. It is the responsibility of the athlete to put their ride together and to incorporate all the required movements in the time allowed.
- c. Compulsory and forbidden technical movements for each level of freestyle can be found on the “freestyle score sheets” available from the EC website or by contacting the AEF.
- d. The test time will start as the athlete moves forward from the halt.

21.2. Freestyle Penalties

- a. Athletes are not required to submit a written copy of their freestyle and since the ride is judged as a whole, no errors can occur.
- b. An athlete must enter the arena within 30 seconds of the music starting.
 - i. Exceeding 30 seconds will incur elimination.
- c. The music must cease at the final salute.
 - i. If the music does not cease, a penalty of 0.5 points is applied to the mark for music.
- d. At the beginning and end of the freestyle test, a halt for the salute is compulsory.
 - i. The initial and final salutes must be made inside the arena and with the horse and rider facing the judge at “C”.
- e. Movements performed before the initial halt and salute are not scored.
- f. Movements performed after the maximum time allowed in a freestyle will not be considered by the judge. Timing starts in the first stride after the salute and ends after the final salute.
 - i. The rider will also be penalized after the multiplication of the coefficient for the artistic impression by the deduction of one point.

- g. An athlete performing higher movements than the level called for (clearly forbidden movements, will be penalized by four points from the total technical execution for each illegal movement, but not for recurrences of the same illegal movement. Judges must be fair by taking into consideration whether the movement was accidental or intentional.

21.3. Music

- a. Recorded music is mandatory.
- b. The athlete must provide the show organizer with two functioning copies of their music at least two hours prior to the start of the class.
 - i. The athlete is responsible for knowing what type of media is required by the show committee (i.e., CD, tape, computer file).
 - ii. Organizers are encouraged to list their sound requirements and acceptable media formats in their prize list.
- c. The athlete is responsible for making sure they do a sound check at a time convenient to the show organizer.
- d. In the case of an athlete's music failing during the freestyle test and in cases where there is no back-up system, the athlete should leave the arena immediately.
 - i. There should be a minimum of interference with the staring times of other athletes and the affected athlete should return to complete or restart their test during a scheduled break.
 - ii. The judge will confer with the athlete and determine when the athlete will return to the arena.
- e. The athlete may decide whether to restart the test from the beginning or from the point where the music failed.
- f. Marks will continue from the point where the music failed.

21.4. Freestyle Scoring

- a. Half and full points are used for technical execution. Half, full and one tenth marks may be used for artistic impression.
- b. Scoring of freestyle tests is out of a total of the maximum possible points at each level, the same as for scoring of all technical tests.
- c. Scorers must apply the relevant coefficients to each movement as marked by the judge in both the technical and the artistic sections separately.
- d. Once the technical and artistic totals are prepared, scorers must then add the total of the technical and artistic scores together. This number is divided by the total possible score to calculate the final percentage to three decimal points.
- e. All scores in both technical and freestyle dressage tests must be calculated to the third decimal point.

- f. In the case of a tie, the higher score for artistic presentation will be determined the winner.

22. Wild Rose Dressage Provincial Circuit

in partnership with Alberta Dressage Association

The AEF will be accepting points collected anywhere in Alberta at Wild Rose Dressage Provincial Circuit competitions towards year-end awards (year-end division Champion and Reserve Champion)

22.1. General Requirements

The award year runs from January 1 through December 31 of the current year.

- i. Horse owner and rider must be AEF member(s) in good standing at the time the scores are earned.
- ii. Horse and rider combinations must be the same.
- iii. Horse and rider combinations may only receive one award per year at the highest level for which they qualify.

22.2. Class and Division Specifications

i. Junior Division

Open to riders aged 17 and under at the start of the award year.

- a. Introductory Level
- b. Training Level
- c. First Level
- d. Second Level
- e. Third Level
- f. Fourth Level

ii. Amateur Division

Open to amateur riders.

- g. Introductory Level
- h. Training Level
- i. First Level
- j. Second Level
- k. Third Level
- l. Fourth Level

iii. Open Division

- a. Introductory Level

- b. Training Level
- c. First Level
- d. Second Level
- e. Third Level
- f. Fourth Level

iv. Highest Dressage Score Award

Combination that has the highest average score submitted.

v. Freestyle Award

Combination that has the highest average scores submitted.
Open to any combination that completes a freestyle dressage test.

vi. Para-Dressage Award

Open to any combination that completes a para dressage test at a Wild Rose sanctioned competition.

vii. Western Dressage Award

Open to any combination that completes a western dressage test at a Wild Rose sanctioned competition.

1.2 Points Calculations

Award standings are calculated based off of the following

- a. Award Categories 2.1, 2.2, & 2.3 will be using the points calculation table (Table 3.1)
 - i. A maximum of six (6) test scores will count toward the ranking.
 - ii. The Wild Rose Dressage Provincial Circuit Ranking List is determined by adding the six (6) highest scores from the current show season.
 - iii. In case of a tie:
 - The rider/horse combination with fewer counting results will be ranked higher.
 - If the number of counting results is the same, the rider/horse combination with the best single result will be ranked higher.
 - iv. If there is only one horse/rider combination in a category and level, the combination must have earned at least 780 points to be eligible for an award.

- b. Award Categories 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, & 2.7 will be the average of the applicable recorded scores
- A maximum of six (6) test scores will count toward the award ranking
 - The average of the six (6) highest scores will be used to determine the ranking
 - If there is only one horse/rider combination in a category, the combination must have earned at least an average score of 65 to be eligible for an award.
- c. Horse and rider combinations will be considered for rewards if they have a current AEF and ADA membership.
- d. Both owners and riders must have AEF membership.
- e. Horse and rider combinations must have recorded a minimum of six (6) scores, from a minimum of three (3) competitions and three (3) different judges, at the same level to be eligible for awards.

TABLE 3.1 POINTS CALCULATION

Ranking Points	Technical Test %	Freestyle %
500	100	
490	99	
480	98	
470	97	
460	96	
450	95	100
440	94	99
430	93	98
420	92	97
410	91	96
400	90	95
390	89	94
380	88	93
370	87	92
360	86	91
350	85	90
340	84	89
330	83	88
320	82	87
310	81	86
300	80	85

290	79	84
280	78	83
270	77	82
260	76	81
250	75	80
240	74	79
230	73	78
220	72	77
210	71	76
200	70	75
190	69	74
180	68	73
170	67	72
160	66	71
150	65	70
140	64	69
130	63	68
120	62	67
110	61	66
100	60	65
90	59	64
80	58	63
70	57	62
60	56	61
50	55	60
40	54	59
30	53	58
20	52	57
10	51	56

Benefits of Alberta Equestrian Federation Membership

Through Acera Insurance Services, Alberta Equestrian Federation Individual Adult or Youth Membership includes the following insurance coverage:

- \$5,000,000 Personal Liability insurance related to the ownership and personal use of horses. Liability insurance for the non-commercial transport of non-owned horse(s) (limits apply); personal liability includes non-commercial care, custody, and control of up

to a maximum of three non-owned horses (limits apply). Coverage will not respond to commercial use of the horse or commercial transportation of non-owned horses.

- \$40,000 Accidental, Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) for permanent injuries arising from equine-related activities.

Members also receive highly discounted rates on optional insurance offered by Acera Insurance Services including weekly accident indemnity insurance, members named perils, additional accidental death and dismemberment (including limited benefits for fracture and dental arising from equine related activities), out of country/province travel, and members' tack coverage. (Personal auto/home, disability, horse mortality, and business and professional insurance – including coaching and official's insurance – is also available directly through Acera Insurance Services).

- Members receive "Alberta Bits" the AEF full-colour magazine.
- Members Priority Program – AEF members receive discounts at a number of AEF business partners. Visit the website for a full list of participating business partners.
- An AEF member may apply to receive funding from the AEF scholarship program to assist with equine related educational pursuits (see AEF website for full details).
- AEF membership is required for certification as a provincial official, to participate in the Ride and Drive or Live Outside the Box rewards programs as well as the "Win Your Entry" draw held at Wild Rose sanctioned competitions.

NCCP certification provides a meticulously structured pathway for the professional development of equestrian instructors and coaches. Whether you're an aspiring coach or a seasoned practitioner, this comprehensive program offers a clear path for ongoing growth and advancement. Through its modular framework, from foundational principles to advanced techniques, coaches can continuously refine their skills and augment their knowledge base.

One notable hallmark of NCCP certification is its emphasis on safety standards. Recognizing the inherent risks associated with equestrian pursuits, the program furnishes coaches with the latest safety protocols and risk mitigation strategies. By prioritizing safety, coaches not only safeguard their students, but also instill a culture of vigilance within the equestrian community.

Moreover, NCCP certification presents benefits that go beyond the individual coach, serving to elevate the overall standard of equestrian instruction in Canada. By adhering to a nationally recognized certification program, coaches contribute substantially to the credibility and professionalism of the sport, attracting a wider group of participants and ensuring a heightened level of instruction. For more information on how to become an NCCP Instructor/Coach, please contact coaching@albertaequestrian.com.

Benefits of NCCP Certification

In the world of equestrian sports, coaching excellence, safety, and proficiency are of utmost importance. The National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) is a robust initiative developed in collaboration with esteemed organizations such as the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP), Coaching Association of Canada (CAC), and Sport Canada. This program is the definitive benchmark for sport coaching, including equestrian sport, setting exacting standards for safety and proficiency both in Canada and internationally.