

Class No. SECTION 5 – WESTERN DRESSAGE

223 – Junior Western Dressage – Basic Level Test 1

224 – Senior Western Dressage – Basic Level Test 1

The following rules are based upon USEF and WDAA rules. Please see the USEF Rulebook (www.usef.org) and the Western Dressage Association of America (<https://westerndressageassociation.org/>) for further explanations of the general principals of Western Dressage competition and the correct gaits and movements.

The 2019 Western Dressage Test will be **Basic Level Test 1**

If either class has less than 8 entries, the classes will be combined and run as one class.

All exhibitors are required to wear boots and a properly fitted ASTM/SEI approved equestrian helmet with a fastened harness the entire time the exhibitor is in the arena. Shirts with a collar and long sleeves are required. Spurs are optional and may be of Western style, with or without blunt tines, or English Dressage style. Other optional attire includes: chaps, gloves, neck tie or similar tie/pin, vest, jacket, coat, or sweater.

Please see pages 22-23 for western tack rules. The following exceptions and/or additions are allowed in Western Dressage:

1. Western cavesson on the bridle (braided or plain) with space for two fingers between the cavesson and horse's jawl. No metal, studs, or rigid material may be part of the cavesson. No flash, figure-8, or dropped nose bands.
2. Bits/bridles that may be used on horses of any age:
 - A. Snaffle bit (as defined in Western Appointments).
 - B. Hackamore (Bosal, as defined in Western Appointments).
 - C. Bitless bridle. Must be Western style made of leather or leather like material.
3. Breastplate and/or crupper.
4. One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120cm) including lash.
5. Reins:
 - A. With snaffle bit: loop/connected reins, split reins, buckled reins, mecate reins, or Romal reins without a popper; two hands must be used with any of these combinations.
 - B. With bosal: Horsehair, rope reins and mecate reins; two hands must be used. The mecate can be tied to the saddle horn or held by the rider.
 - C. With curb: Romal reins or Split reins. When using a curb with Romal reins, only one hand is allowed; when using split reins, one or two hands are allowed.
6. Hand position on reins:
 - A. At the end of the Free Walk or Free Jog, riders using split reins held in one hand may use the free or offhand to pull the reins back to the desired length. Riders using Romal reins may use the hand using the Romal to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand.

In addition to what is described in Appointments for the Western Division, the following are not allowed in Western Dressage:

1. Full cheeks, half cheeks, kimberwicks, roping bits with both reins attached to a single ring, or any type of rein or attachment which increases the effective length of the bit's shank or creates additional leverage.
2. Round, rolled, braided, or rawhide curb straps.
3. Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running, balancing reins, nasal strips, tongue tied down, etc.), any kind of boots (including "easy-boots," splint/hock/bell boots, etc.), tail bandages, any form of blinkers, ear muffs or plugs, and nose covers.

The above restrictions apply to warm-up and other training areas; however, running martingales (only with snaffle rein or plain snaffle bridle), boots, and bandages (without magnets) are permitted.

EXECUTION AND JUDGING OF TESTS:

Western Dressage integrates the historically validated principles of dressage with the best of western stock horse tradition, 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 use clear, effective, subtle aids coupled with a confident seat and light, responsive hands in communication with the horse.

A Western Dressage Partnership should exhibit impulsion originating from deeply engaged hindquarters transmitted without resistance through a supple topline to a light, soft contact with the rider's hand(s). The horse should move freely forward via a willingness to work off the hindquarters which enables the western horse to be a useful working partner.