

SUBCHAPTER WD-9 FREESTYLE WD131 Western Musical Freestyle

1. A Western Dressage Freestyle is a performance utilizing the gaits and movements of the discipline ridden to music. Each test includes the required movements, gaits and paces of the standard Western Dressage Tests for that level. The competitor is absolutely free in the form and manner of the presentation she or he chooses within a fixed time provided. The performance should clearly show the unity between rider and horse as well as harmony in all the movements and transitions. The horse and rider should appear as one; lightness of contact is the hallmark of Western Dressage Freestyle.

- a. The competitor must declare to the management (and consequently the judge) at what level she or he will be riding.
- b. The competitor must provide two (2) recordings of the music to which the Freestyle will be performed. Management must provide time for a sound check.
- c. The Freestyle ride must not exceed the time limit listed on the test. Time begins when the horse moves forward out of the initial halt and ends with the final halt and salute. Both halts are mandatory.
- d. The judge will provide two (2) sets of scores; one for the technical correctness of the movements performed and one for the artistic merit.

1. The artistic score is comprised of several elements:

- a. Harmony between horse and rider.
- b. Choreography: use of arena, design and creativity. Not “test-like”.
- c. Degree of difficulty: points are only awarded when the attempts are performed well.
- d. Music: suitability to the horse. Edits in music are smooth/flowing.
- e. Interpretation: music must express gaits and paces.

2. Technical correctness:

- a. Judged on the execution of required technical movements in the test i.e. figures, gaits/paces and transitions.
- b. Certain movements (leg yield, half-pass etc.) must be performed in both directions.

2. Penalties:

- a. The rider must enter the arena or signal the sound engineer within 45 seconds of the entry bell, or a deduction of ten (10) points will be taken off the total for artistic merit. The rider must

enter the arena within 20 seconds of the start of the music, or may be eliminated, at the discretion of the judge.

b. Time Limit Deductions: One (1) point is deducted from the total for artistic merit for exceeding the time limit. There is no minimum time, or specified deduction.

c. Four (4) points will be deducted for forbidden movements and above the level movements. They are not cumulative and will not result in elimination.