

Directives for Judges - FEI Freestyle Tests

Valid from 01.01.2016 - updated 20.01.2021

Technical Marks:

The mark for the technical execution depends only on the quality of performing the compulsory movements of the test. Scoring is as in standard tests. The judge gives a mark (half marks are allowed) for each single movement shown. If the rider performs a movement several times, the judge has to give several single marks, which then will be averaged by the judge to a final mark for this movement at the end of the performance. The total for the technical execution is found by adding the final marks for each movement (multiplied by their coefficients) divided by the number of movements + coefficients. Deductions in the case of mistakes see below.

Artistic Marks:

The five artistic marks are scored by full, half or decimal marks and multiplied by their coefficients:

1. Rhythm, Energy and Elasticity,
2. Harmony between Rider and Horse,
3. Choreography,
4. Degree of Difficulty,
5. Music and Interpretation of the Music

The total for the artistic performance is found by adding the five final marks, multiplied by their coefficients.

All artistic marks are more or less depending on the quality of the technical execution. It is especially important that the artistic marks for

1. Rhythm, Energy and Elasticity,
2. Harmony between Rider and Horse and
4. Degree of Difficulty

should correlate with the technical score.

That means if a Freestyle shows a high degree of difficulty but the technical execution is incorrect, especially the marks for harmony and degree of difficulty have to be lowered. On the other side, if the quality of the execution is high but the degree of difficulty is low, the degree of difficulty mark cannot be increased significantly.

Also the marks for

3. Choreography and
5. Interpretation of Music

can be negatively influenced in cases of resistance, disobedience and disturbance.

Deductions from the Artistic Mark:

Time: In the case of a Freestyle test being clearly above or below the required time limit there will be a deduction of 0.5% (percentage points) from the total of the artistic score. Slight failure to perform within the given time (approx. 10 sec.) should be treated generously without a deduction of marks, especially if unusual circumstances (such as external distractions or bad conditions of the ground) occur.

Errors: For all kinds of errors etc. see FEI Dressage Rules, Art. 430

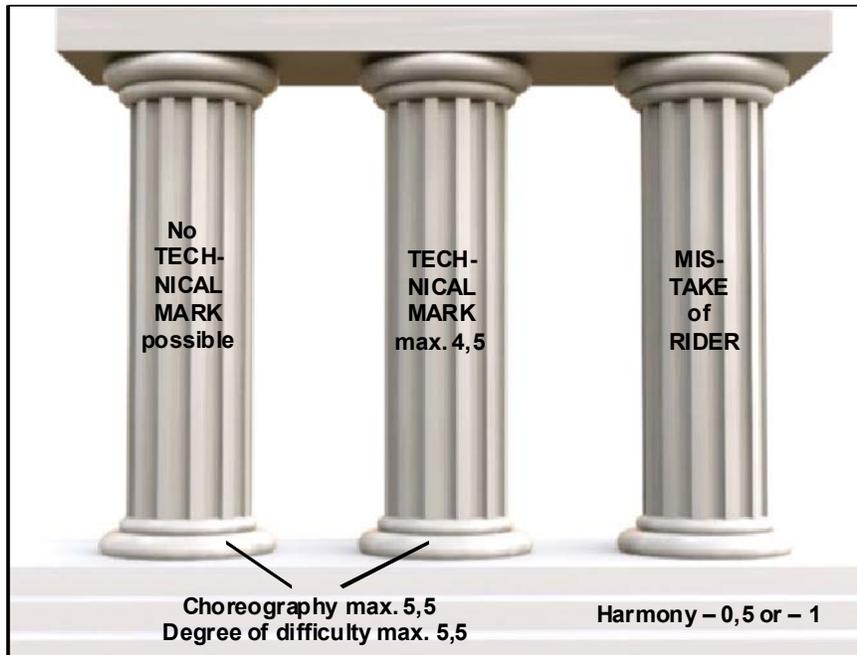
Music: If it does not match the paces, transitions or the final salute, the mark for music has to be reduced.

Further deductions in the case of omissions or a wrong execution see below.

Execution of Movements:

- **Halts:** The first and the last halt and salute have to be shown on the centre line in the direction of C. **Mistakes before the first salute have to be considered.**
- **Walk:** Walk should be shown 20m consecutively on a straight or curved line. **½ walk pirouettes (180°)** may be embedded into the collected walk.
- **Volte:** **The compulsory canter volte in a pony Freestyle can only be counted if shown in true canter.**
- **Lateral Work:**
 - Trot: Counter changes of hand in trot are always allowed.
 - Canter: Only one counter change of hand in canter is allowed for Juniors.
 - Counter changes of hand in canter are allowed starting from YRs Freestyle.
 - Mistakes: A mistake in a flying change at the end of a half pass reduces the mark for the half pass itself.
 - The angles of half passes are at the rider's discretion. However, half passes shown below the steepness of the relevant standard tests, will be regarded as very easy.
 - Travers and renvers are allowed as additional part of the choreography but do not substitute the requested half passes.
- **Extensions:**
 - Extended trot on the circle line or through 2 corners is only regarded as medium trot.
 - An incorrect flying change when returning from extended canter reduces the mark for the extended canter itself.
- **Canter pirouettes:** Canter pirouettes (half, full, max. 2x) must be shown from collected canter and lead to collected canter.
 - Canter pirouettes performed from/into halt, walk or piaffe are **only counted if in addition to a correct pirouette (from and into collected canter) If they are the only ones shown to either side, the technical mark has to be below 5 and the marks for choreography and degree of difficulty cannot be higher than 5.5.**
 - Double pirouettes should be judged as one movement and not given the average mark of the two single pirouettes.
 - **A combination of pirouettes left/right should at least have 3-4 canter strides in between.**
- **Piaffe Pirouettes:** Piaffe pirouettes (only in addition to a requested piaffe with a minimum of 10 steps straight) are scored technically as a piaffe, each time shown. **Piaffe pirouettes can be shown in many ways: from 90° - 360°, or as a fan with changes of direction. More than 360° in one direction is not recommended in a well balanced choreography.**
- **Passage Half Passes:** Passage half passes (only in addition to a requested passage with a minimum of **15m (NEW!)** on one track) are scored technically as a passage, each time shown. **They can be shown as single half passes in one direction or as a "zig-zag". They should be executed at least 5m sideways to make them recognizable.**
- Piaffe pirouettes and half passes in passage can only be counted as a difficulty if well executed (7 or above).

Deductions in the case of omissions or of a wrong execution



I. Omissions or movements of a higher class

(No mark for the technical execution possible)

Omissions:

If a compulsory movement has been left out completely and **deliberately** the judge has to give a zero (0) for this movement.

The scores for both, choreography and degree of difficulty cannot be higher than **max. 5,5**. It is up to the judge to go further down with these two marks if more than one movement has been left out.

Movements of a higher class:

If a competitor **deliberately** shows movements of a higher class not mentioned in the test sheet, no mark for the technical execution of that movement is possible.

The scores for both, choreography and degree of difficulty, cannot be higher than **max. 5,5**. It is up to the judge to go further down with these two marks if more than one movement of a higher class has **deliberately** been shown.

The combination will not be eliminated for showing a movement of a higher class anymore.

Examples for movements of a higher class:

Pony: (Intentionally executed) flying changes, canter half passes, canter pirouettes, piaffe, passage.

Junior: Canter pirouettes, piaffe, passage.

!! (Attention: Flying changes in a sequence of 4 strides or less: <5 for all flying changes)!!

Young Rider: Flying changes in sequences of two tempis and/or one tempis, piaffe, passage.

Intermediate I: Flying changes shown as one tempi changes, piaffe, passage.

Grand Prix: Airs above the ground, cantering backwards

II: Incorrect execution of any kind

(I.e. a movement has been shown but in the wrong way, **which means** a mark for technical execution is possible)

In the event of the following movements being **deliberately** shown (not as a result of a mistake!), the mark for the technical execution of that movement **has to be below 5**. The scores for both, choreography and degree of difficulty, cannot be higher than **max. 5,5**. It is up to the judge to go further down with these two marks if more than one movement has **deliberately** been shown in an incorrect way, in regard to the Freestyle Rules.

1. Exceeding the requirements deliberately:

(regardless of this movement having also been shown correctly - no averaged marks!)

Pony:

- **Clearly** more than half-pirouettes in walk (> 180°)

Junior:

- **Clearly** more than half-pirouettes in walk (> 180°)
- Flying changes in a sequence of 4 strides or less (→ insufficient **final** mark for all flying changes)
- More than one counter change of hand in canter (→ insufficient **final** mark for canter half passes left and right)

Young Rider:

- More than half-pirouettes in canter (> 180°)
- Flying changes in sequences of two and/or one **tempi**: see above I: Movements of higher class: **No technical mark possible; marks for choreography and degree of difficulty max. 5,5.**

Intermediate I:

- **Clearly** more than **full** pirouettes in canter (> 360°)
- Flying changes in sequences of one **tempi**: see above I: Movements of higher class: **No technical mark possible; marks for choreography and degree of difficulty max. 5,5.**

Grand Prix:

- **Clearly** more than double pirouettes in canter (two pirouettes of > 360° each, in one continuous movement)

2. Execution not according to rules

(if shown **deliberately**, without having been shown correctly at least once:

Paces:

- Walk not shown on straight or curved lines but only performed clearly as a lateral movement (e.g. as a shoulder-in, a half pass etc.)
- Extended trot only shown on a circle line **or through two corners**
- Collected canter without showing 8 m volte (Pony Freestyle, movement 13)

Movements:

- Piaffe only shown as a pirouette
- Passage only shown as a half pass

3. Execution below requirements:

(if shown **deliberately**, without having been shown correctly at least once)

NEW: In the event of the following movements being **deliberately** shown (not as a result of a mistake!), the mark for the technical execution of that movement **has to be below 5**. The scores for both, choreography and degree of difficulty, **have to be appropriately diminished**.

- Clearly less than 20m collected or extended walk consecutively or 1 x 15m (NEW!) passage
- Clearly less than 1 x 10 straight steps piaffe
- Half instead of full pirouette
- **Deliberately** not enough changes in a series (not due to mistakes)

Not being able to show the required number of changes due to a mistake or resistance of the horse will not automatically reduce the marks for choreography and degree of difficulty but **must reduce the technical mark and** can reduce the mark for harmony.

III: Mistakes of the Rider

(Deduction in the Mark for Harmony = the Rider's Mark)

In the event of the following being shown, the Harmony Mark should be reduced by **0,5**. The judge has to deduct **1,0** point in cases when the rider tries to influence the public with his hands more frequently:

- Influencing the public with the hand

The movements concerned should be technically judged as usual unless the rider influences the horse with his hand. This should lead in addition to an insufficient technical score for the respective movement(s).