

FEI Para-Equestrian Dressage Guidelines for the Marking of Fundamental Mistakes in Para-Equestrian Dressage Movements

(acc. to the FEI Dressage Handbook and following proposals of the 5* PED Judges' Seminar 08/2017)

Important Note:

When judging it is first important to appreciate the quality of the work shown and have a positive attitude to reward good riding and training.

WALK: description acc. to Handbook p. 24 ff.:

Problems with the rhythm:	Technical mark	Coll. mark f.
Walk: Virtually unrecognizable: Extremely uneven/very clear pacing or disobedient, extremely tense, jogging, passaging If walk is unrecognizable in both (all) tempi: <input type="checkbox"/> collected mark for paces below 5	1, 2, or 3 (depending on severity)	Below 6 in case of clear and continuous disobedience in all walk sequences
Walk: Virtually pacing/mainly uneven or several jog	Below 5	
Walk: Not always clear regularity of 4-beat/somewhat uneven or hurried steps,	Below 6	
Ambling for a few steps after a transition	Not automatically 5, depending on entity of movement	
Artificially raising the front legs	Below 7, however, differentiate between "mild" and extreme form	

Generally important in walk:

Well-marked 4-time beat, full relaxation and suppleness throughout the body, activity, consistency of tempo. Maintenance of a light and steady contact.

Collected walk:

Steps shortened and heightened, engagement of hindlegs, good hock action. Neck raised and arched, poll highest point. Steady contact. Change of outline (!) when coming from extended walk.

Resistance against the bit in the transitions e.g. from extended to collected walk reduces the mark, mostly for the collected walk. Depending on where and why (shortening the reins to collect the horse) it happens.

No influence on collective mark for paces, possibly under submission.

Slight overtrack in collected walk. Acceptable when the horse shows true collection, especially after a huge extended walk. However, it is not acceptable for a 7 or higher if the rider cannot collect his horse and just lets him go.

Medium walk:

Moderate lengthening of steps with overtrack, neck stretching slightly forward/downward, nose line slightly more in front of the vertical than in collected walk.

Extended walk:

Freedom of the shoulders (!) and clear overtrack (groundcover). Stretching of the neck **to the bit** without losing contact.

Not accepting the bit/remaining clearly overbent in the neck deduction of 1 – 1.5 p. for the walk depending on severity. No influence on collective mark for paces, possibly under submission.

Take care to observe that the rider shows the walk exactly to the letter prescribed (not anticipating the transition into the next movement) - otherwise a deduction should be made in either the walk and/or in the transition (in both if more than 5m before/ after) HB p. 101

TROT: description acc. to Handbook p. 43 ff.:

Problems with the rhythm in the trotwork:	Technical mark	Coll. mark f.
Very uneven THROUGHOUT	Elimination	
If this horse is not eliminated by the C-judge <input type="checkbox"/> collected mark for paces below 5	Below 5, or lower, depending on	
Not always regular, several uneven steps. Tension evident. Break of rhythm in transitions or	Max. 5	Appropri. deduction, depending on reason: Either in
Short stumble, momentary loss of regularity, one leg higher for only a few steps	Below 7	
Problems due to a lack of balance:		
Clearly irregular steps in half pass, shoulder-in etc. caused by a lack of balance, or a short disobedience, e.g. breaking into canter for some	Below 5	Appropriate deduction
A few irregular steps in half pass, shoulder-in etc. caused by a lack of balance	Deduction of 1-1.5 p., however,	
Extended trot: Very tight in neck/back, no overtrack, however, clear rhythm	Below 7	

Important in addition to the description in the Handbook: The transitions from/to the trot extensions

- Watch **both** transitions, into and out of the medium/extended trot including the precision of both corners.
- Do not give the mark immediately at the end of the diagonal! The short side is still part of the movement. In the case of a separate transition mark, the short side - new in all tests since 01.01.2017 - is also part of this mark!!
- React when the rider rushes through the transition without even trying to collect (!) If there is no separate mark for the transition, reduce the mark within extension collection by 0.5 - 1 point.
And maybe also reduce the mark for the rider.
- Think also of "rewarding" a rider with a higher mark for the transition when he very precisely bends his horse in the corners/ executes the transitions correctly.

CANTER: description acc. to Handbook p. 68 ff.:

Problem:	Technical mark	Coll. mark f.
Proceeding in canter, showing resistance or some disunited canter strides	Below 5	Appropriate deduction
Proceeding in canter through several trot steps	Below 6, depending on quality of canter	
Proceeding in canter, ONE disunited canter stride, immediately corrected	Max. 6, depending on quality of	

The mark must be reduced when the canter comes from a jogging or pacing walk (unclear transition) Think of rewarding a well performed proceed into canter: precise, uphill, high quality of canter

Unintentional break of pace (losing canter)	Deduction of 2 p., However, max. 6	
Unintentional flying change between 2 movements		
Shortly changing behind Check in all cases above in which movement this error belongs, a change of the previous		

Counter Canter (HB p. 94) has to be performed in Collected Canter and can be shown on a straight line (1st track) only. Apply the same Guidelines as for CANTER.

Problems in MEDIUM/EXTENDED CANTER and TRANSITION

Judges are often not in agreement when problems in the medium/extended canter occur because it happens very fast and one must decide very quickly.

Problem 1: Horse changes in the extension, is corrected, then transition		
1 mark for extension transition (if performed as one exercise):	Below 5	Coll. mark f. submission:
2 separate marks: one for extension, one for transition	Mark for extension: Below 5 Mark for transition: depending on the quality If the transition cannot be executed from extended canter, the mark for transition has to be below 7	Appropriate deduction

Problem 2: The horse changes at the end of the extension into disunited canter or falls into trot, no transition		
1 mark for extension, transition (if performed as one)	Below 4	Coll. mark f. submission:
2 separate marks: one for extension, one for transition and	Mark for extension: depending on the quality Mark for transition (not correctly shown): Below 3	Below 7; exceptions depending on general quality of
	Zero only when no canter strides are shown throughout the entire movement	

Important in addition to the description in the HB:

The transition after a weak extension has to be marked below 7 (not coming from a real extension).

HALT, technical execution acc. to Handbook p. 18 ff.:

Problem:	Technical mark	Coll. mark f.
No immobility, resistance in halt or through	Below 5	Appropriate deduction
Losing canter for some steps/breaking into canter for some strides instead of trotting out of the halt	Below 5	
Resting one leg during halt	Below 6	

Stepping clearly back	Below 5, depending on quality of paces	
Stepping slightly back (to keep balance after transition)	Max. 6, depending on quality of paces and	

- Watch also the self-carriage, the steadiness of the contact and the poll remaining the highest point (!), not coming too low or above the bit and deduct accordingly 0.5 or 1 point.

½ WALK PIROUETTE / TURN on HAUNCHES, technical execution acc. to Handbook p. 160 ff.:

Problem:	Technical mark	Coll. mark f.
Stuck behind for some steps	Below 5	Appropriate deduction. Below 7 if it happens in both pirouettes
Stuck behind for 1 step	Below 6	
Clearly not in 4-beat THROUGHOUT	Below 5	
Lost 4-beat in 2 nd part	Below 6	
Clear outside flexion	Below 6	

- Watch also the activity, correct bend and flexion, uphill tendency (!), forward tendency, size and that the horse does not escape with the hind legs to either the inside or the outside.
- Make sure that the rider executes the turn-on-the-haunches out of clear medium walk and finishes in clear medium walk, the walk pirouette out of clear collected walk and finishes in clear collected walk. A turn-on-the-haunches or a walk pirouette without some clear walk steps before/after the turn-on-the-haunches or pirouette has to lead to a mark below 6.

SIMPLE CHANGE of LEG, technical execution acc. to Handbook p. 95 ff.:

Problem:	Technical mark	Coll. mark f.
Horse changes in counter canter (and then e.g. changes from left to left = NO Change)	Below 5 or even lower, depends on severity of problem	Appropriate deduction. Below 7 if the mistakes happen more than 1x
Horse takes the incorrect lead (= NO change)	Below 5 or even lower, depends on severity of problem	
Both transitions with trot steps into and out of the	Below 5	
One transition out of/into canter shows some trot	Below 6	
Quality of walk affected	Max. 6	
Only 1 step of walk	Max. 5	
Too many steps of walk (= changing degree of	Deduction of 2 p.,	
Only trot steps	Max. 4	

CHANGE LEAD THROUGH TROT (Grade IV)

Apply the same criteria as for the Simple Change considering the correct number of trot steps and the quality of the trot.

VOLTE, CIRCLE, SERPENTINE, technical execution acc. to Handbook p. 108 ff.:
Important in addition to the description in the HB:

1. Volte (8 or 10 m):

The accuracy: correct size in required place, shape. Deduct 0.5 - 1 point for imprecise riding.

2. Half Volte (10 m):

The accuracy of 10 m half volte (the radius is only 5 m!), the straightness on the centre line and the correct change of bend and flexion. Deduct 0.5 - 1 point for imprecise riding.

3. Circle (20 m):

The accuracy of the circle line and the 10 m radius in ½ circles (often too flat). Deduct 0.5 - 1 point for imprecise riding.

4. Serpentine:

Touching the long sides: starting/ending at the middle of the short side, half circles connected by a straight line.

Along the centre line or the long side: starting/ending at the correct markers, correct size (5m, 10m)

The accuracy: equality and positioning of the loops, correct change of bend and flexion. Deduct 0.5 - 1 point for imprecise riding.

REIN-BACK, technical execution acc. to Handbook p. 115 ff.:

Problem:	Technical mark	Coll. mark f.
Clear resistance, out of control	Below 4	Appropriate deduction
Multiple mistakes: Very hurried, no clear immobility, steps clearly not diagonal and	Below 5	
No immobility at all at halt	Below 5	
Unclear transitions, breaking into canter instead of	Below 5	
Halt short, not established	Deduction up to 2 p., depending on quality of rein-back;	
Stepping forward after halt		
Rein back clearly not diagonal THROUGHOUT	Below 5	
Rein back not fully diagonal	Max. 6, depending on severity of	
Horse dropping poll, nose line behind vertical (!) or slightly above the bit (!)	Deduction up to 2 p., however,	

LATERAL MOVEMENTS, technical execution acc. to Handbook p. 121 ff.:

Leg-yielding, Shoulder-in, Travers, Renvers, Half pass

Problem:	Technical mark	Coll. mark f.
Breaking the pace (some walk or canter during movement), not immediately corrected	Below 5	Appropriate deduction
Clearly uneven throughout the whole movement	Below 5	
Some loss of rhythm, a few irregular steps caused by a lack of balance	Deduction of 1-1.5 p., however,	

When irregularities occur within the lateral exercises, the collective mark for submission will be diminished. The collective mark for paces, however, will not be affected providing the horse remains regular on circles and straight lines and corners.

Important in addition to the description in the HB:

1. Shoulder-in:

The rider should straighten his horse before the corner. However, not before a volte or a diagonal line.

2. Too much angle resulting in the hindlegs crossing is a significant fault. (Max. 5) **Half-pass** (trot and canter):

Watch that the half pass begins and ends at the markers prescribed (!) and deduct 1 - 1.5 points for inaccurate start/finish which often makes the execution of the movement itself or of the following movement easier: Too early an arrival (more than 5 m) changes the degree of difficulty of the movement (!) as it

- is a wrong execution (too steep, avoiding to ride forward - sideways)
- gives more time to prepare the next movement

LET THE HORSE STRETCH ON A LONG(ER) REIN, technical execution acc. to Handbook p. 223:

In Para-Equestrian Dressage this movement is only performed in Medium Walk in Grades I, II and III. The athletes may show this on a long^{er} rein according to their impairment.

If there is no visible intent to lengthen and stretch the frame in a forward-downwards direction the score must be below 5. There are two marks, one for the stretching and one for the transitions. The mark for the stretching reflects also the relaxation and the quality of the Medium Walk. For the transition mark take care to observe whether the rider retakes the reins smoothly and without any resistance from the horse.

GENERALLY IMPORTANT:

It must be noted that the rider is only allowed to have one attempt at any of the movements, i.e. circling away in a case of resistance in order to make a 2nd attempt is not allowed and will be penalized by giving an error of course. **Only the score for the 1st attempt will count.**

Transitions out of a 2nd attempt movement cannot be considered. Even if the 1st transition has been shown correctly, the overall mark for the transitions has to be very low.