

## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JUDGING A YOUNG HORSE TEST Versus JUDGING A NORMAL DRESSAGE TEST

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Dressage judges are assessing whether the horse has been trained in the right way, but the emphasis, weighting and application by the judges is different in Young Horse tests.

<b>YOUNG HORSE TEST</b>	<b>NORMAL DRESSAGE TEST</b>
<i>PHILOSOPHY</i>	<i>PHILOSOPHY</i>
<p>The purpose is to find young horses with elastic gaits, trained in the correct way according to their age which can lead to a higher dressage level.</p> <p>Tests relate specifically to the age and training level of young horses.</p> <p>First and foremost it is about the horse, the rider is not given special emphasis.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">How do we do this?.....</p>	<p>The purpose is to assess the results of correct training of a horse at each sequential level on the path to Grand Prix, against a set of determined criteria</p> <p>Tests relate to the training scale but are not age specific.</p> <p>Judging horse and rider as a combination, with a separate mark for the rider.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">How do we do this?.....</p>
<i>PACES</i>	<i>PACES</i>
<p>The "technical" judging of YH classes differs from normal dressage in the following ways:-</p> <p>Each has a pattern to follow, but in YH classes, there is no need to assign a mark for each exercise movement by movement.</p> <p>The tests are designed to demonstrate the paces, the training level and submission as required for each age group.</p> <p>The quality of each pace is assessed during the test to come to an overall mark for that pace and whether the horse has potential for higher level collection and extension.</p> <p>Because it is more important in the young horse tests to see the basics, rather than have tests of extensions and collection, there are, especially in the 4 and 5 year old tests, longer sections of basic paces.</p> <p>In YH classes, instead of 4 collective marks which "sum up" at the end, there are 2 areas of special emphasis and weighting:-</p> <p>Submissiveness and General Impression</p>	<p>Tests are made up of movements, each of which are scored out of 10.</p> <p>They are designed to Evaluate the correct technical execution of the exercise, movement by movement – degree of collection, freedom and regularity of the paces, impulsion and submission.</p> <p>The overall mark for paces is reflected in each exercise and also assessed at the end of the test in the collectives.</p> <p>Tests of extensions carry more weight in normal dressage tests. They are marked as individual movements, some times with additional marks for the transitions, and also reflected in the collectives.</p> <p>Collective marks "sum up" and reflect the test. Paces, Impulsion, Submission, Riders position and seat.</p>

<b>SUBMISSIVENESS</b>	<b>SUBMISSION</b>
<p>This is the area where judging of young horse tests differs most.</p> <p>Minor mistakes are forgiven <i>e.g. canter wrong lead, but immediately corrected; short break of pace, transitions not exactly on the markers, simple change with 2 or 6 walk steps instead of 3.5.</i></p> <p>Precision, whilst appreciated for top marks, is not so critical.</p> <p>Fundamental mistakes, disobedience or lack of correct training, will lead to lower marks <i>eg irregularity, tension, poor acceptance of the bit, stiffness of the back, obvious crookedness, insufficient engagement of the hind leg.</i></p> <p>Tension at the beginning of the test can be forgiven.</p>	<p>At each level the submission is reflected in the mark for each exercise plus submission in collective marks Evaluating the horse as he is in the test on the day.</p> <p>Minor mistakes affect the mark for EACH movement where they occur, i.e. the precision and correctness of the execution of the exercise are important.</p> <p>Lack of precision will lead to lower marks.</p> <p>Fundamental mistakes and disobediences will lead to lower marks.</p> <p>The effect of tension is taken into account when giving a mark for a movement and at the end of the test in the collective mark for Submission.</p>

<b>GENERAL IMPRESSION</b>	<b>GENERAL IMPRESSION</b>
<p>This is a SPECIAL MARK for Young Horse judging.</p> <p>This is the "area" where there is a clear difference in judging YH tests as apposed to normal dressage tests.</p> <p>Issues to do with submission, suppleness are generally not included in marks for paces unless they affect the quality, e.g. jogging through the walk through tension and impossible to give mark above 5.</p> <p>We are looking here at the standard of training throughout the test ,including the quality of the paces, suppleness, and the potential and suitability as a good future dressage horse .i.e. temperament; type; conformation (permitting the development as a dressage horse); quality of the horse; presence; expression; balance.</p> <p>Does the correct work come easily?</p> <p>Is this horse trained in the correct way according to the FEI scale of training <i>i.e. Is it a good horse, well trained with a long term future as a sport horse?</i></p>	

<i>SEAT AND AIDS OF RIDER</i>	<i>SEAT AND AIDS OF RIDER</i>
<p>Is reflected in the way that the horse performs the test, and the way the level of correct training is demonstrated.</p> <p>Minor mistakes from a rider can be forgiven if the general training is correct and on the right way.</p>	<p>Plays an important role in every movement, because accuracy - the way each exercise is prepared, executed and finished - is an integral part of each mark.</p> <p>In the collectives there is also a separate mark for the rider's position, correctness and effect of the aids.</p>