Equitation Science Judging System Guidelines

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|   | **FEI Standard**  | **Training Scale**  | **Qualification**  | **REASON FOR SCORE/ERROR OBSERVED**  |
| 0  | Not executed  |   | Conflict behavior: movement not executed  |  Bucking, rearing, bolting, movement not executed  |
| 1  | Very Bad  |   | Opposing response: movement not executed  |  Horse runs backwards instead of forwards. Horse shies, leaps, stops, paws, kicks out  |
| 2  | Bad  |   | Correct direction but no sign of required movement  |  Invisible response  |
| 3  | Fairly Bad  |   | Some signs of required movement but inaccurate, imprecise  |  Unclear response or not on marker  |
| 4  | Insufficient  |   | Basic attempt of the required movement at the wrong place or showing a disregard for correct biomechanics  | * Delayed, no, or incorrect reaction to aid
* Continuously behind the vertical or above the bit, counter-bent or over-bent
* Open mouth, tail wringing or swishing
* Bit continuously at 90 degree angle, continuous application of spurs or whip
* Incorrect beat, lateral walk, 4 beat lope
* Continuously on the forehand, HQ trailing, hollow back
* Poor placement of circles and transitions
* Extreme crookedness and lack of balance
* Footfalls are incorrect for entire movement
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| 5  | Sufficient  |   | Basic attempt of the required movement at the correct place in the test  | * Rider applies prolonged aids to elicit correct response.
* Over 30% of movement on the forehand, HQ trailing, hollow back
* Obvious tension
* Tempo is inconsistent
* Counter bent at times, overall lack of balance.
* Nose is in front of the vertical, but poll is not the highest point
* Footfalls are incorrect for part of movement
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| 6  | Satisfactory  | Obedience   | Movement arises at the correct place with light aids  | * Horse may show moments on the forehand, HQ trailing, hollow back  Loss of energy and smoothness in transitions.
* Excessive muscle tonus
* Lack of bend on circles
* Tempo is consistent but may be quick
* Poll at the highest point, but neck may be short or head tilted
* Horse shows balanced movement for at least 50% of required element
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| 7  | Fairly Good  | Relaxation Rhythm Connection  | Continuation of response with no extra aids, no sign of rein pressure beyond contact, rider’s legs are still, self-carriage in speed and tempo  | * Horse is relaxed, with a bright expression
* Back is visibly round and tail is swinging from side to side with gaits
* Tempo is consistent and even
* Strides are energetic and horse shows a desire to move forward
* Neck is long with the poll at the highest point
* Occasional loss of balance
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| 8  | Good  | Suppleness, Straightness  | Horse is “on the aids” with hindquarters engaged and a relaxed, swinging back. Hind legs on track with front legs, Bend on curved lines, self-carriage of straightness  | * Momentary loss of balance that occurs infrequently
* Hind legs are well-flexed and stepping underneath the horse
* Nose is on or slightly in front of the vertical, neck is long, poll is at the highest point
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| 9  | Very Good  | Impulsion, Engagement, Throughness or Collection at this level  | Horse maintains movement with correct use of back, correct neck, correct head placement and poll height  | * Bend is balanced from nose to tail with hind legs following in the tracks of front legs
* Horse shows the required amount for this level of Impulsion, Engagement, Throughness or Collection
* Horse is in total balance throughout movement, correct footfalls & biomechanics.
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| 10  | Excellent  |   | Perfection  |  Aids are imperceptible  |

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