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 |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| 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. |
| 10 | Excellent |  | Perfection |  Aids are imperceptible |

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