



RIDING FOR DISABLED ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

State Championships 2015

Recommended Dressage Protocols for Leaders and Side-Walkers

Our dressage tests are judged on:

- the accuracy of the movements performed,
- the regularity of the horses paces
- rider initiative for direction and control of pace.

Judges are looking to see that rider is using their best endeavours to apply their aids; ie. asking the horse to step forward from the halt, for the horse to turn or to halt

Hence it is very important that leaders allow riders every opportunity to initiate the movement or direct the horse during the test. This encourages riders to strive for personal improvement and allows them to feel a true sense of achievement

- Horse and rider should, whenever possible, be allowed to travel on the outside track of the arena ie. centre of the rider/ horse is positioned 1 metre from the side of the arena
- If side walkers are used then horse and rider will need to travel on the inside track of the arena which is 1 meter in from the outside track (2 metres from the side of the arena)

The leader will therefore need to lead on the offside of the horse when horse is travelling on the right rein (eg has turned right at C)

- This will require the leader to change sides whenever the test stipulates a change of rein (direction).
- This is best done while the horse is either halted or if needed at the walk as in change of rein across the diagonal – leader should then change sides either at the beginning or end of the diagonal

It is important for the leader:

- to learn the arena layout
- be familiar with the test their riders are to ride
- have some understanding of the movements required

A basic diagram of Arena figures is attached to assist with clarification of movements