

BASIC LEVEL DEFINITIONS

See USEF Rulebook Chapter WD - WESTERN DRESSAGE

JOG – The jog is a **two-beat gait** of alternate diagonal legs (left fore and right hind leg and vice versa) separated by a moment of suspension.

FREE JOG – This is a pace of moderate lengthening of stride and frame compared to the Working jog. Without hurrying, the horse goes forward in a two-beat gait with a moderate lengthening of stride and frame. The horse should stretch forward and down over the top line with relaxation maintaining balance, tempo, and regularity of the jog on a loose rein. There should be a smooth willing retake of the reins in transition to the working jog. The Free jog may be ridden posting or sitting.

Diagram: - - - - -

LOPE – The lope is a gait with three equal, regular beats with time of suspension after the third beat. One stride equals 3 beats, or three footfalls. This gait may be demonstrated on the right or left lead. Footfall sequence in right lead is: left hind, right hind and left fore together, right fore, then suspension. Footfall sequence in left lead: right hind, left hind and right fore together, left fore, then suspension.

WORKING LOPE – While maintaining the three beat cadence, the horse must go forward with even and elastic steps. The back must be relaxed and the shoulders free; there is an obvious push from the hindquarters and the hind legs step actively up under the horse. The horse must maintain light contact with the bit and his nose shall be on or slightly in front of the vertical.

Diagram: —————

SERPENTINE

The serpentine with one loop on the long side of the arena is executed with a 10-meter distance from the track.

The Serpentine around the centerline is executed between the quarter lines. The loops must show bend in both directions and change their bend as they cross the quarter line (or mid-way, depending on its prescribed size). See diagrams.

