

# LEVEL 1 DEFINITIONS

## See USEF Rulebook Chapter WD - WESTERN DRESSAGE

**BACKING** - The back is a rearward diagonal movement with a two-beat rhythm but without a moment of suspension. Each diagonal pair of legs is raised and returned to the ground alternatively, with the forelegs aligned on the same track as the hind legs. The steps are counted as each foreleg moves back. During the entire exercise, the horse should remain "on the bit", maintaining his desire to move forward at the slightest indication of the rider. After completing the required number of steps backward, the horse should show a square stop or move forward in the required gait immediately.

Diagram 

**LENGTHENING JOG** - This is a variation of the Working jog; the horse covers more ground through lengthening its frame while maintaining the same tempo as in the Working jog. Excessive speed will be penalized. Lengthening of stride may be ridden either posting or sitting.

Diagram: 


**LEGTHENING LOPE** - This is a variation of the Working lope; the horse covers more ground through lengthening its frame while maintaining the same tempo as in the Working lope. Excessive speed will be penalized.

Diagram: 

**HALF TURN ON HAUNCHES** - The turn on the haunches is executed out of the working walk prepared by half-halts to shorten the steps. During the movement the forefeet and the outside hind foot move around the inside hind foot. The turn on the haunches can be performed on a larger diameter (approximately one meter) than the pivot. This movement is executed at Level 1 and Level 2. Riders may chose to pivot or turn on the haunches. The horse will not be penalized for pivot, step, pivot, step on the inside rear hind leg.

Diagram: 

**HALF TURN ON THE FOREHAND** - is executed out of a halt or working walk prepared by half-halts to shorten the steps. The horse's hindquarters make a circle around the horse's front end. In turn on the forehand hand, the horse is slightly flexed at the poll to the right, which is inside, when the haunches move to the left yielding to the rider's right leg. The horse must maintain the same rhythm, tempo, contact and activity and show willingness to be on the outside rein. Stepping back is a fault.

Diagram 

**LEG YIELD** - Leg yield is not a lateral movement. The horse is almost straight, except for a slight flexion at the poll away from the direction in which he moves, so that the rider is just able to see the corner of the eye and nostril on the inside. The inside legs pass and cross in front of the outside legs. Leg-yielding can be performed on the diagonal in which case the horse should be as close as possible parallel to the long sides of the arena although the forehand should be slightly in advance of the quarters. The leg yield can also be ridden along the wall with approximately a 35 degree angle.

Diagram 

**SERPENTINE** - The serpentine with several loops touching the long side of the arena consists of half circles connected by a straight line. Depending on the size of the half circles, the straight connection varies in length.

Diagram 

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