

Rider Class: judged on rider position, correct use of aids & correct workout

Rider Position

Straight line through ear, shoulder, hip, heel
Leg stretched down with lower leg held still against horse, not loose or swinging
Heel pressed down, not raised up, heel slightly lower than toe
Feet parallel with the horse's sides, toes not turned out
Hips level with equal weight of seat in the saddle
Shoulders square, not rounded
Back straight and stretched tall, not rounded or hollow. Rider not leaning forward, particularly be aware of this when changing gait
Hands carried slightly above the horse's wither, with thumbs on top. Arms not stiff and straight, but with bend at elbows. Straight line from elbow, through hands to bit. Hands follow the horse's movement at walk and canter, steady at trot. Elbows carried neatly at sides. Seat is independent of the reins. Rider is balanced. Rider is not stiff and tense.
Eyes up, looking forward, not down at horse

Correct Use of Aids

Rider applies aids correctly and effectively.
Correct aids for riding straight lines, curves and circles, moving forward and halt
Correct aids to change direction and gait
Rider on correct diagonal at rising trot, and horse on correct lead at canter. If incorrect, judge wants to see attempts to correct instantly.

Correct Workout

During individual workout, rider keeps horse at an even rhythm in each gait.
The horse is straight when moving on straight lines, and bends correctly when moving on a circle or curve.
Transitions are smooth and at the correct place.
Size of circles – rider to use entire area, circles should be properly round and the same size.
Centre line between circles is straight for a few strides, and the same centre line is used throughout workout. (Rider can use the judge as one marker and distant object, eg post, for other marker to get centre line correct each time)

Notes to Riders:

Do exactly what the judge asks for.
If unsure, ask judge again before starting workout.
Instantly correct any mistakes, e.g. if horse breaks from canter back to trot, immediately balance and ask again for canter.
Salute your judge before you start and at the end of your workout.
Stand respectfully, with horse on contact, quietly watching others take their turn. Riders can lose points for talking in line and not paying attention. Wait for previous rider to return to place before leaving the line of horses for your turn. Wait for presentation of ribbons to be completed before moving away. If you win a ribbon, congratulate other place getters and thank your judge.