

## **Annex VI Directives for Assessing the Degree of Difficulty in a Freestyle Test**

### **1. Initial Comments**

The assessment of the degree of difficulty in a Freestyle test cannot be made separately from the other technical and artistic scores. There is a close connection between the degree of difficulty and the technical execution as they greatly determine the first two artistic scores. Lack of quality in the execution of the movement is considered a deficit in the performance ability of rider and/or horse. These must be taken into consideration as deductions in the degree of difficulty scoring.

#### 2. The Basic Level in the Degree of Difficulty for the Small Tour

The basic level in the degree of difficulty is defined by the standardised FEI Freestyle test of that particular level.

#### 3. The Higher Scoring Elements for the Degree of Difficulty for the Small Tour

The following examples are considered as "higher scoring" and heighten the degree of difficulty and the score when executed in a technically correct manner:

- A greater number of tempi changes than the compulsory minimum;
- Movements executed on curved and/or angled lines;
- A steep angle in the half pass combined with changes of direction in the zigzag on equally mirrored lines;
- Shoulder-in on the centre or quarter-line;
- Extended canter followed by half-pirouette (Young Riders Freestyle) or pirouette (Intermediate I Freestyle);
- Extended canter transition to walk.
- Direct transitions from four tempi changes into three tempi changes and back to four tempi changes (Young Riders Freestyle) or from three tempi changes into two tempi changes and back to three tempi changes (Intermediate I Freestyle).
- Execution of difficult exercises and transitions with the reins in one hand, but restricted to a maximum of four exercises.

#### 4. The Basic Level in the Degree of Difficulty for the Grand Prix

The basic level in the degree of difficulty is defined by the standardised FEI Freestyle test of that particular level.

#### 5. The Higher Scoring Elements for the Degree of Difficulty for the Grand Prix Freestyle

The following examples are considered as "higher scoring" and heighten the degree of difficulty and the score when executed in a technically correct manner:

- A greater number of tempi changes than the compulsory minimum;
- Double pirouettes (triple pirouettes are not allowed; see Guidelines for Judges, Annex VII).
- Movements executed on curved and/or angled lines;
- A steep angle in the half pass combined with several changes of direction in the zigzag on equally mirrored lines is considered very difficult;
- Piaffe and passage derived from the walk or halt are rated more difficult than piaffe and passage derived from a movement of impulsion;
- Execution of difficult exercises and transitions with the reins in one hand, but restricted to a maximum of four exercises;
- Combinations mixed with difficult transitions between movements, (e.g., canter-passage-canter, extended canter directly connected with pirouettes, extended canter followed by piaffe and at clearly defined points, direct transitions from two tempi changes into changes every stride and back to two tempi changes).

#### 6. Clarifications

All exercises should be clearly defined with set points marking the beginning and end. Half passes are to be clearly marked as well as executed on clear lines. There should be equality in the Freestyle by the use of both reins. Excessive use of personal horse/rider strength movements should be avoided as it negates from the choreographic balance of the Freestyle. Difficult movements (e.g. piaffe and passage) should have a greater emphasis placed on their execution in the Freestyle. A clear placing of the movement allows for better judgement and thus a better scoring capability from the judge's standpoint.

The Freestyle presentation should be clearly and logically constructed displaying a true harmonious balance between the horse and rider. Harmony, fluidity, and equality are the Freestyle's important foundation. The elements with a high degree of collection should repeatedly interact with exercises containing forward impulsion clearly presenting the basic gaits.

All elements that raise the degree of difficulty shall be positively rated when fully complemented and supported by the music.

Additional Piaffe pirouettes, passage half passes and canter pirouettes combined with half passes are not considered as a higher degree of difficulty, although they are to be rated positively in the choreography.

Classical Dressage in the presentation of a Freestyle test, as stated in the rules of the FEI, is the highest priority.

## 7. Guidelines for Scoring

With special attention to the initial comments and the clarifications under point 6 and the Guidelines for Judges (Annex VII), the recommended directives for points awarded for degree of difficulty are as follows:

When only the minimum requirements for the basis level are fulfilled, approximately 6.0.

When there is a rise in the degree of difficulty according to the level of standard tests Young Rider Individual Test, Intermediate I, Grand Prix/Grand Prix Special, minimum of 7.0.

When there is a rise in the degree of difficulty beyond the standard tests in accordance with the above-mentioned examples, minimum of 8.0.

8. Failing music. Problems with a rider's music failing during a Freestyle Test (see Article 429.12).

## **Annex VII Guidelines for Judges - FEI Freestyle Tests**

### **Junior Freestyle**

In the event of the following movements being deliberately shown the competitor will receive 0 for the whole movement and the scores for choreography as well as the degree of difficulty cannot be higher than 5.

1. More than half pirouettes in walk (i.e. more than 180 degrees) Final mark for pirouettes 0 (regardless of any other correctly executed pirouettes).

2. Flying changes shown in sequence (of every 4 strides or less) Final mark for all flying changes 0 (regardless of any other single flying changes shown).

3. One counter change of hand in canter is allowed. However if more than one change of direction is performed, the final mark for canter half-passes, both left and right is 0 (regardless of any other correctly shown individual half-passes)

NB Counter changes of hand in trot are allowed, the angles of which are left to the riders discretion.

4. If the walk is not shown on one track (on straight or curved lines only), but is only performed clearly as a lateral movement, it is considered as 0.

5. Travers and renvers are allowed as part of the choreography.

However, if any movements which are not mentioned in Junior level tests under compulsory movements, are deliberately shown, the competitor will be eliminated. E.g. Canter Pirouettes, Piaffe, Passage.

### **Young Rider Freestyle**

In the event of the following movements being deliberately shown the competitor will receive 0 for the whole movement, and the scores for choreography as well as the degree of difficulty cannot be higher than 5.

1. More than half pirouettes in canter (i.e. more than 180 degrees) Final mark for pirouettes, 0.

NB If the "illegal" pirouette was shown only to the left for example, then only the left pirouettes would score 0, regardless of any other correctly executed left pirouettes, and vice versa if it was shown only to the right.

In order to obtain a high technical score, half canter pirouettes must be shown from a straight line to a straight line, in canter. Half pirouettes may be shown from half pass to half pass. However, if half pirouettes are shown only from half pass to half pass the movement will be scored as technically insufficient.

Half canter pirouettes performed from and into walk, will only be regarded in the harmony and choreography sections.

2. Flying changes shown in sequences of two time and one time. Final mark for all flying changes, 0 (regardless of any other correctly shown four time and three time sequence changes).

Counter changes of hand are allowed. The angles are left to the riders' discretion.

3. If the walk is not shown on one track (on straight or curved lines only), but is only performed clearly as a lateral movement it is considered as 0.

4. Travers and renvers are allowed as part of the choreography.

However, if any movements, which are not mentioned in Young Rider level tests (under compulsory movements), are deliberately shown, the competitor will be eliminated. E.g. Piaffe, Passage.

### **Intermediate I Freestyle**

In the event of the following movements being deliberately shown the competitor will receive 0 for the whole movement, and the scores for choreography as well as the degree of difficulty cannot be higher than 5.

1. More than single pirouettes in canter (i.e. more than 360 degrees) final mark for pirouettes 0.

NB If the "illegal" pirouette was shown only to the left for example, then only the left pirouette would score 0, regardless of any other correctly executed left pirouettes, and vice versa if it was shown only to the right.

In order to obtain a high technical score, canter pirouettes must be shown from a straight line to a straight line, in canter. Pirouettes may be shown from half pass to half pass. However, if pirouettes are shown only from half pass to half pass, the movement will be scored as technically insufficient.

Canter pirouettes performed from and into walk, will only be regarded in the harmony and choreography sections.

2. Flying changes shown in sequence at every stride. Final mark for flying changes 0 (regardless of any other correctly shown three time and two time sequence changes).

3. If the walk is not shown on one track (on straight or curved lines only), but is only performed clearly as a lateral movement it is considered as 0.

4. Travers and renvers are allowed as part of the choreography.

However, if any movements, which are not mentioned in Intermediate level, are deliberately shown the competitor will be eliminated. E.g. Piaffe, Passage.

### **Grand Prix Freestyle**

In the event of the following movement being deliberately shown the competitor will receive 0 for the whole movement and the scores for choreography as well as the difficulty cannot be higher than 5.

1. More than double pirouettes in canter (i.e. two pirouettes of more than 360 degrees each, in one continuous movement). Final mark for pirouettes 0.

NB If the "illegal" pirouette was shown only to the left for example, then only the left pirouette would score 0, regardless of any other correctly executed left pirouettes, and vice versa if it was shown only to the right.

In order to obtain a high technical score, canter pirouettes must be shown from a straight line to a straight line, in canter. Pirouettes may be shown from half pass to half pass.

However, if pirouettes are shown only from half pass to half pass the movement will be scored as technically insufficient. Canter pirouettes performed from and into walk, or from and into piaffe, will only be regarded in the harmony and choreography sections.

2. Piaffe. In order to obtain a high technical score piaffe must be shown on a straight line with a minimum of 10 steps straight. If piaffe is only shown in the form of a pirouette, it will be scored as technically insufficient. If a piaffe pirouette is shown in addition to a piaffe with a minimum of 10 steps straight it will be scored technically as usual.

3. Passage. In order to obtain a high technical score, passage must be shown on one track (a minimum of 20 m). If passage is only shown in the form of a half pass it will be scored as technically insufficient. If passage in half pass is shown in addition to a passage on one track, it will be scored technically as usual.

4. If the walk is not shown on one track (on straight or curved lines only), but is only performed clearly as a lateral movement it is considered as 0.

5. Travers and renvers are allowed as part of the choreography.

However, if any movements, which are not mentioned at Grand Prix level, are deliberately shown the competitor will be eliminated. E.g. Airs above the ground, cantering backwards etc.

### **Technical Marks**

The mark for the technical execution depends only on the quality of performing the compulsory movements of the test. Scoring is as usual as in standard tests. The judge gives a mark (only full marks) for each single movement shown. If the rider performs a movement several times, the judge has to give several single marks, which will then be averaged for the final mark for this movement at the end of the performance.

The total for the technical executions is found by adding the final marks for each movement divided by the number of movements (including coefficients). A movement that has been omitted that means no kind of execution can be seen, must be marked with a 0.

Movements that are only executed below the requirements (e.g. too few series changes, only half pirouette instead of full pirouette) are regarded as insufficiently or badly performed and must be given a mark clearly below a 5.

### **Artistic Marks**

The five artistic marks: Rhythm, Energy and Elasticity, Harmony between Rider and Horse, Choreography, Degree of Difficulty, Music and Interpretation of the Music are scored by half or full marks and multiplied by their coefficients. The mark for the music always has the highest multiplier.

The total for the artistic performance is found by adding the five final marks, multiplied by their coefficient.

All artistic marks are more or less depending on the quality of the technical execution. It is especially important that the artistic marks for Rhythm, Energy and Elasticity, Harmony between Rider and Horse and the Degree of Difficulty should correlate with the technical score. But also the marks for Choreography and the Interpretation of the music can be influenced negatively in cases of resistance, disobedience and disturbance.

Deductions from the Artistic Marks:

In the case of a Freestyle Test being clearly above or below the required time limit there will be a deduction of two points per judge from the total of the artistic score.

Slight failure to perform within the given time (circa 10 seconds) should be treated generously without a deduction of marks, especially if unusual circumstances (such as external distractions or bad conditions of the ground) occur.

If a competitor performs below the requirements according to the test sheet (e.g. too few changes in series, half instead of full pirouette) without having shown the movement demanded correctly at least once, or if he had left out a compulsory movement completely, there will be a significant reduction with a mark not higher than 5 for the degree of difficulty.

**Removal of hat.** If a movement is performed with a hat in one hand, the movement would score zero and the score for choreography and degree of difficulty cannot be higher than five.