

USPC Eventing B and A Level COMPARISON Flow Chart (for Standards Revised 2024)

	B	A
Riding Expectations	<p>The candidate must maintain a basic balanced position with a secure base of support, appropriate to each phase of Eventing. While maintaining an independent seat, the candidate demonstrates effective tactful use of aids on the flat and over fences. The candidate demonstrates elements of the Training Scale to include riding the mount in balance with rhythm, relaxation, and connection/contact while showing development of impulsion and straightness appropriate to the level. In discussions, the candidate must discuss the applications, reasons, and effects of aids used in relation to the Training Scale. The candidate demonstrates confidence in coping with disobediences.</p> <p>All fences not to exceed 3'7".</p> <p>These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</p>	<p>The candidate must maintain a basic balanced position with a secure base of support, appropriate to each phase of Eventing. The candidate must show a confirmed independent seat, while demonstrating effective coordination and timing of the aids on all mounts throughout all phases of the test. In the role of a trainer, the candidate, must competently ride mounts at various stages of training with tact and empathy, displaying confidence and consistent effective training methods. At the conclusion of each ride, the candidate evaluates the mount's stage of schooling, including how the mount's strengths and weaknesses related to the Training Scale. The candidate offers a plan to advance the mount's training.</p> <p>All fences not to exceed 3'9".</p> <p>These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</p>
Riding on the Flat	<p>DRESSAGE-WARM UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate warm-up to include the use of schooling figures and movements appropriate for your mount to prepare for the dressage test. <p>REQUIRED TEST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride the current USEF Preliminary Eventing Dressage Test A (Reference: USEF – EV 133) • Evaluate test performance to include effectiveness of rider's position and use of aids in relation to the quality of movements and accuracy of transitions and figures. Discuss the quality of rhythm, tempo, relaxation/suppleness, and connection/contact, impulsion, and straightness during the test ride. <p>REQUIRED MOVEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates should ride the following required movements, demonstrating accurate, smooth 	<p>DRESSAGE-WARM UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate an organized progressive warm-up to include appropriate use of schooling figures and movements to prepare mount for dressage test. The warm-up should incorporate exercises that develop the mount through the Training Scale to produce elements of collection appropriate to the level. • Discuss and evaluate warm-up with regard to selection of exercises and movements used to progress the mount through the Training Scale. <p>REQUIRED TEST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride the current USEF Intermediate Eventing Dressage Test A (Reference USEF – EV 133) • Evaluate test performance to include effectiveness of rider's position and use of aids in relation to quality of movements and accuracy of transitions and figures. Discuss the

	<p>transitions and effective aids: free and medium walk; working trot and canter; lengthening at trot and canter, 3 loop serpentine, change of rein across diagonal; 10, 15, and meter circles, canter change of lead through walk and/or trot, counter canter, shoulder fore, leg yield, and rein- back (3-4 steps).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the candidate’s discretion, movements not ridden during the test may be demonstrated during the warmup or immediately following the test. • Demonstrate 5 or more required movements in sitting trot while maintaining tempo, free forward movement, relaxation/suppleness, and connection/contact. • Discuss the aids used when riding the required movements, and how they benefit, the mount’s training. • Ride without stirrups at all gaits. <p>SWITCH RIDE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate ability to ride a different mount while maintaining free forward movement, tempo, relaxation/suppleness, and connection/contact at each gait. Candidate must maintain basic balance position and base of support while demonstrating confidence and control. • Evaluate the ride on a different mount as it relates to the riding expectations and Training Scale. Discuss the tempo, relaxation/suppleness, and connection/contact throughout the ride. 	<p>quality of rhythm, tempo, relaxation/suppleness, connection/contact, straightness, and collection throughout the test.</p> <p>REQUIRED MOVEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the candidate’s discretion, demonstrate the required movements prior to or following the riding of the test. Demonstrate the required movements using smooth transitions and effective use of aids: free, medium, and extended walk; medium, working, and collected trot; medium, working, and collected canter; leg yield, shoulder-in, 10 meter trot and canter circles, travers (haunches in), simple change of lead (through the walk), counter canter, and rein back (3-4 steps). • Discuss proper use of aids, benefits of required movements, and how they progress the mount through the Training Scale. • Ride without stirrups at all gaits. <p>TRAINING- SWITCH RIDE (schooled horse)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate ability to ride a different mount while maintaining free forward movement, tempo, relaxation/suppleness, connection/contact, straightness, and collection at each gait. Demonstrate schooling techniques appropriate for progressing the mount’s training. • Discuss characteristics that were not apparent until the candidate’s ride on the mount. Discuss training techniques and useful exercise(s) to create a progressive training plan relative to the Training Scale to benefit mount(s).
<p>Riding over Fences</p>	<p>GYMNASTICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gymnastics grid is on the back page of Standards and Proficiency, stadium course maps are on the USPC website. Candidates should bring a device for measuring height and distances of grid/course. • Discuss the distances of the trotting poles and the gymnastic grid. Discuss ways these exercises benefit the mount. Discuss how these distances relate to your mount and conditions where you’re jumping (e.g., indoor or outdoor arena, footing, etc.). • Demonstrate warm up for jumping. 	<p>GYMNASTICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gymnastics grid is on back of Standards of Proficiency (SOP), stadium course maps are on the USPC website. Candidates should bring a device for measuring height and distances of grid/course. • Set the gymnastic grid provided on the SOP, progressing to 3’9”. Discuss adjustments to this grid (distances) that can be made to benefit a variety of mounts at different levels of training. • Demonstrate warm-up for jumping, including the use of poles. • Ride over gymnastics grid progressing to 3’9”.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride through a simple grid that will progress in height to 3'7" and incorporate trot poles or a placement pole. • Ride without stirrups over the grid on own mount at 3'3". • Evaluate warm-up and grid work. <p>STADIUM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride one of the stadium courses provided on the USPC website, chosen by the examiner. Fences set at 3'7", jump 1 will be set one hole lower. • Discuss course plan (distances, appropriate pace, track ridden) and evaluate course performances: use of aids to ride mount in balance, rhythm, and tempo. <p>SWITCH RIDE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride a different mount, demonstrating the riding test expectations, over a modified course stated at the bottom of each course map. Fences set at 3'3", jump 1 will be set one hole lower. • Evaluate performance and how mount differs from own. Discuss ways in which the ride could be improved and reasons for any disobediences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride without stirrups over the grid, progressing to 3'6". • Evaluate warm-up and grid work. <p>STADIUM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride one of the stadium courses provided on the USPC website, chosen by Examiner. Fences set at 3'9", jump 1 will be set one hole lower. • Discuss course plan (distances, appropriate pace, and track ridden) and evaluate course performance: use of aids to ride mount in balance, rhythm, and tempo. Discuss exercises that could be used to improve mount's performance. <p>TRAINING - SWITCH RIDE (Schooled Horse)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride a different mount demonstrating the riding test expectations over a modified course stated at the bottom of each course map. Fence's set at 3'7", jump 1 will be set one hole lower. • Discuss characteristics that were not apparent until the candidate's ride on the mount. Discuss training techniques and useful exercise(s) to create a progressive training plan relative to the Training Scale that will benefit mount over fences. Discuss effectiveness of trotting poles, gymnastic exercises, shape of fences, and the effect of varying distances on the mount's development. <p>TRAINING - (Lower Level or Green Horse)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The candidate will bring a lower level or green mount to the testing. This mount should be capable of jumping 2'3"-3'. • The candidate is expected to school the mount on the flat, followed by work over fences. The candidate will develop 1 or more jumping exercises to school mount over fences. • Demonstrate ability to ride the mount while maintaining free forward movement, tempo, relaxation/suppleness, while working to develop connection/contact at each gait. Demonstrate schooling techniques (on the flat and over fences) appropriate for progressing the mount's training. • Discuss training techniques and useful exercise(s) to create a progressive training plan relative to the Training Scale that will benefit mount on the flat and over fences.
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<p>Riding in the Open</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate will have the opportunity to walk their cross country course prior to riding the course. • As a group demonstrate a progressive warm-up using 3 cross country fences (training and preliminary height). • Ride over 6-9 cross country obstacles, minimum of 4 fences set at preliminary height (not to exceed 3'7"). Obstacles may include ditches, banks, drops, water, or combinations. Ride course at appropriate pace, 450-520mpm, according to obstacles and terrain. • Evaluate performance, pace, and ways ride could be improved, to include reasons for any disobediences. • Discuss how rider's position affects the mount's balance and pace as it relates to jumping various types of cross country obstacles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate will have the opportunity to walk their cross country course prior to riding the course. • As a group demonstrate a progressive warm-up using 3 cross country fences (training and preliminary height). • Demonstrate an effective galloping position while riding at an appropriate pace, not to exceed 520 mpm, to show the ability to adapt the pace and balance over varied terrain and obstacles not to exceed 3'7". Obstacles may include ditches, banks, drops, water, or combinations. • Ride over 6-9 cross country obstacles, minimum of 4 fences at preliminary height (not to exceed 3'7"). Obstacles may include ditches, banks, drops, water, or combinations. Ride course at appropriate pace, 450-520 mpm, according to obstacles and terrain. • Discuss course plan (e.g., distances, pace, and track ridden for different obstacles) and evaluate course performance and reasons for any disobediences. Discuss the effect of rider's position on mount's balance for different cross country obstacles, and how rider's position changes throughout a cross country course. Discuss training solutions for any disobediences. • Discuss methods used to introduce mounts to various types of obstacles, such as: ditches, banks, drops, water, corners, narrow-faced fences, brush fences, or combinations.
<p>Longeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how to teach a mount to longe, including progression from parallel leading to parallel longeing and ultimately achieving pivot longeing. • Discuss benefits and safety concerns of longeing the mount and the rider. • Discuss and demonstrate proper fit and use of equipment, to include side reins. • Longe familiar mount on a 20-meter circle to develop connection through effective longeing technique and proper use of aids and equipment demonstrating at least 3 of the following techniques or exercises; spiraling, transitions between gaits, parallel longeing, using cavaletti/poles on the longe. Side reins must be used. The candidate should maintain the mount's free forward movement, and influences the mount's rhythm/tempo, 	<p>N/A</p>

	<p>relaxation, and suppleness. Candidates should progress their longeing session to demonstrate pivot longeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate must discuss the chosen exercises, including the effect on the mount and reasoning behind choosing said exercise. Candidate must demonstrate safe technique, clear aids, and awareness of mount's comfort and way of going (using the terms from the Training Scale). 	
Bandaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present one of the following bandages: ice, poultice, sweat. Discuss materials used, purpose, and dangers of chosen bandage. 	N/A
Conditioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present a 6-to-8-week conditioning and feeding program designed to get a totally unfit (out of work 6-12 months), but healthy horse to a basic fitness level for daily riding (described on pages 229-230 in the <i>USPC Manual of Horsemanship C-Level</i>). The plan must include a description of mount (e.g., age breed, body score), current fitness level (unfit & amount of time off), the amount and type of work to be done, at least one day off, and should demonstrate an understanding of the basic conditioning principals and type of work most appropriate for this horse. • Explain how you would build on the basic level of fitness you achieved with the above plan, in order to further condition the horse for a competition or more intense work. The type of work or level of competition must be stated. • Discuss the different types of work (e.g., building flexibility, strength, cross training) that you included in the plan and their intended effect on conditioning. • Discuss how to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan (TPR recovery rates/strength/flexibility) and any nutritional changes that might need to be made as the plan progresses. 	N/A
RETEST PROCEDURES	See General National Testing Information on the Pony Club Website	



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