

RULES AND REGULATIONS I.B.O.P. SUITABILITY TESTING

REGULATIONS DRIVING TEST

General:

The KNHS regulations and dressage and driving test book are integrally part of these regulations. This means that the riding and driving tests are evaluated as it is written in the KNHS riding and driving test book and they are based on the 'Scala der Africhting' as described therein; a six-step development philosophy for the horse through harmonious and systematic training.

Logistics:

Dimensions arena: 25 x 50 meters both indoor and outdoor
Set-up arena: letters AFBMCHEK and minimally rails behind the arena letters and in the corners.

Tack for the Horse:

As written in the KNHS regulations.

Cart:

As written in the KNHS regulations, however with the exception that during the IBOP test a four-wheel cart needs to be used.

Testing:

The testing is performed in one session.

The test is the basis of the evaluation for suitability as a driving horse.

I.B.O.P dressage test in harness

1. A-C Enter working trot
C Track left
2. A Circle left 20 meters
3. F-X-H Change rein with some strides medium trot
4. A 3-loop serpentine width of the arena
5. Between F and A Medium walk
K-B Change rein
6. E Turn to the center line
Between E and B Halt for several seconds. Proceed in medium walk
B Track right
7. Between F-A-K Working trot
8. E-B-E Circle right 20 meters twice around letting the horse stretch forward and downward
Between H and C Shorten the reins
9. K-X-M Change rein showing several strides medium trot
10. K-D-E Turn left and
11. Between D and E medium walk
12. F-D-B Turn right and
13. Between D and B Working trot
14. Between E and K Medium walk
K-A-F Let the horse stretch forward and downward
15. F-X-G Turn to the center line and
Between F and X shorten the reins and
Between X and G halt and salute

Leave the arena in trot at A.

Evaluation

- a. walk (bend in the hock, length, and rhythm and regularity)
- b. trot (length, impulsion, rhythm and regularity)
- c. HSW houding, stelling, wendbaarheid/acceptance of the bit, self-carriage, flexibility: angle of the head and neck, moving with the correct bend or straight line, and suppleness in requested moves).
- d. transitions (changes in gait, tempi changes, ability to change pace)
- e. impulsion (rider induced and/or natural desire to move forward by the horse, degree of manageability by the rider)
- f. suitability as a driving horse (obedience, expression and ears, etc.)

DRIVING TEST I.B.O.P.

2X WALK	2X TROT	2X H.S.W.	2X TRANSITIONS	1X IMPULSION	2X Suitability as a driving horse
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Total: 110 points

EXPLANATION of EVALUATION CRITERIA

Walk:

The walk is a marching gait with a four beat (four tempi). The four legs are alternately and individually lifted up and put down, e.g. starting with the left hind leg: left hind, left front, right hind, right front, left hind, etc. The hind leg propels the front leg as it's being put down. The movement of the walk has to flow through the whole body of the horse. The legs on the same lateral side form a clearly recognizable V-shape for a brief moment.

In the IBOP tests only the medium walk is requested. The horse in medium walk moves lively and natural. It shows an active and calm image. The walk has regularity and is determined. The rider leads the horse in a continuous light bend at the pole.

Characteristics: regularity, suppleness, ground coverage, activity, relaxation.

Trot (riding and driving tests):

The trot is a gait with a two beat (two tempi). The horse moves forward by a succession of simultaneous lifting and lowering of a diagonal pair of legs (left front with right hind and right front with left hind), alternated with a moment of suspension, e.g. left front with right hind, suspension, right front with left hind, suspension, left front with right hind, etc. The trot is always free, active, and regular in the leg placement. In the IBOP riding and driving test the working trot and the medium trot are asked for. The trot in the IBOP show-driving test is described separately next.

The working trot is a gait in between the collected and the medium trot. The horse needs to show itself in good balance. The horse is on the bit and moves forward with even and elastic strides, all the

while with very active hindquarters. With active hindquarters we do not mean that the horse is ridden to or in collection but that it is ridden with sufficient impulsion, so that the hind end propels and carries.

The medium trot is a gait in between the working trot and extended trot. The horse moves forward freely and extends the strides visibly with an even lengthening and a corresponding lengthening in the upper line. This lengthening comes from a clear impulsion with propelling power from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse to lengthen the neck forward and downward and has the horse's head a bit more in front of the vertical than in the working trot. The strides remain regular and the movement is balanced and relaxed. The horse covers with its lengthened strides more ground but the speed with which it puts its feet down does not increase.

Characteristics: regularity, looseness, suppleness, self-carriage, bend in the hock.

Trot (show-driving test):

The trot is a gait with a two beat (two tempi). The horse moves forward by consecutively lifting and lowering a diagonal pair of legs (left front with right hind and right front with left hind), alternated with a moment of suspension. Example: left front with right hind, moment of suspension, right front with left hind, moment of suspension, left front with right hind, etc. The trot is always free, active, and regular in the leg placement. In the IBOP show-driving test the trot distinguishes itself from the trot in the riding and driving tests by much suspension, front legs that are well placed forward, high (knee) action of the front legs and hind legs, and hind legs that powerfully come under. With hind legs that powerfully come under the forehead of the horse becomes lighter, which makes it rise in the front. The trot is paired with a proud demeanor of the horse.

Characteristics: compared to the riding and driving tests more and higher front and hind leg action, a long moment of suspension, and clear uphill movement.

Canter (riding test):

The canter is a gait with a three beat (three tempi), with, e.g. in the left lead canter the following foot fall: right hind, diagonally right front with left hind, left front, moment of suspension, right hind, etc. The canter is always regular with cadenced strides and is shown with lightness, and is started from the canter depart with conviction. The IBOP riding test only asks for the working canter and the medium canter (several strides).

The working canter is a gait in between the collected and the medium canter. In this canter the horse is to show itself in good balance. While it's on the bit the horse moves forward with even, light, and cadenced strides. The hindquarters are active and propels and carries from sufficient impulsion.

The medium canter is a gait in between the working canter and the extended canter. The horse moves freely forward and extends its strides visibly, with a medium extension and corresponding lengthening of the upper line. This extension is created by a clear impulsion from the hindquarters. The canter remains a pure three beat. The rider allows the horse that's on the bit to somewhat lengthen the neck forward and downward, with which the horse can have its head somewhat more in front of the vertical than in the working canter.

Characteristics: regularity, looseness, natural balance, uphill stride, bend in the hock.

HSW: acceptance of the bit, self-carriage, flexibility:

Acceptance of the bit: the degree to which the horse moves in the right frame looking at the head and neck position.

Self- carriage: moving with the correct bend or straight line; position of the head compared to the horse's body.

Flexibility: the ease with which the horse turns, looking at the degree of bend through the body and how the horse maintains suppleness, balance, and coordination in the requested moves.

Impulsion:

This is the rider-induced (leg and seat aids) or the natural desire of the horse to move forward, be it always controlled by the rider. The rider has control over the horse's forwardness and determines to which degree the desire to go forward leads to a change in pace. The energy created in the hindquarters is controlled by the rider and is the basis for the horse's acceptance of the bit and frame.

Characteristics: forward energy comes from the hindquarters and is transformed by the rider in a forward and upward direction and collection.

Transitions:

Transitions are changes in gait to and from the halt, to and from walk, to and from trot, to and from canter, and to and from backing up. In addition transitions are asked for within the same gait, e.g. in the trot to and from collected to working to medium to extended trot (changing pace). In the IBOP tests no backing up is asked for and no collected or extended gaits. As the training level of the horse increases the transitions and changes of pace need to be less progressive, be clearly visible, and executed at the requested location. In the IBOP tests the transitions are progressive and are allowed to have a longer introduction to the horse by the rider. There is a wider margin for the location where the transition or tempi change needs to be shown. The correct riding-technical basis is of the evaluation criterion of a transition. During a transition the horse remains relaxed, retains the rhythm of the gait until the moment of the transition, the horse needs to remain on the bit, with sufficient impulsion and the horse stays straight.

Characteristics: preservation of impulsion in the transition, ridden from the hindquarters, horse remains on the bit.

Use of the hind legs Harness Horse:

The use can be distinguished by action; the degree to which the horse brings the cannon bone of the hind legs up to horizontal, the degree to which the horse propels itself forward with its hind legs (impulsion) and places them forward, and the ground coverage in between take-off and landing with placement of the hind foot well past the print of the front foot. The hock has a strong bend as well as the pastern joint.

The hindquarters are placed far under the body.

Characteristics: impulsion, bend in the hock and pastern, reach far under the body, power.

Use of the front legs Harness Horse:

The use can be distinguished by action; this is the degree to which the horse brings the forearm to at least a horizontal angle through a strong bend in the knee and the degree to which the horse brings its front legs forward.

Characteristics: forearm minimally on the horizontal, finishing off the movement so the front legs do not fall down but reach forward.

Suspension Harness Horse:

The duration of the moment that the horse switches between the two diagonal leg pairs and the horse is not in contact with the ground is the moment of suspension. The moment of suspension is the length in movement and is not produced by the speed of the hind leg being moved but rather by delay and suspension.

Characteristics: a hind leg that is well placed forward (so not a slow hind leg), good clearance from the ground.

Front Harness Horse:

In trot the horse uses its head and neck to come to a proud uprightness. The neck is almost vertically placed from the chest, but with a large degree of bend in the pole so that the head and nose profile are carried on the vertical.

Characteristics: shape of the neck, length of the neck, head and neck set, carriage of the head.

Self-Carriage Harness Horse:

Uprightness in the way a horse carries itself as evaluated in trot, with the horse lowering its hindquarters (sitting in the back) and coming up in the front (rising in the front). The horse loosens up in the top line and retains its straightness. The overall image is clearly uphill.

Characteristics: correct bend in the turns, withers higher than the croup by sitting in the back and rising in the front, relaxation of the top line.

Willingness to Work:

The desire to perform and the unstoppable urge of a horse to optimally show itself in a relatively short period of time. Willingness to work must not be confused with wanting to run or speed but is much more a character trait of the horse.

Characteristics: consistency in correct movement, retaining frame, front and action, continuing to perform during the testing.