

Competitors must take the reins, and whip if carried, in one hand. The free hand should be lowered to the rider's side and the rider should nod the head. Gentlemen may salute in the same manner, or if they wish they may remove and lower their hat with the free hand, before nodding.

36. Reins in one hand during Test.

The reins, and whip if carried, should be held in the outside hand, with the inside arm held down by the riders side.

37. Sitting and Rising.

For all tests at Elementary level and below used at Dressage Ireland competitions trot work may be executed sitting or rising. At Medium level and above all trot work must be executed sitting. In all FEI tests trot work must be executed as instructed on the score sheets.

38. Leaving the Arena.

Riders must leave the arena (after the final salute) at walk on a long rein at an appropriate place.

Under National Rules, a horse is eliminated if, during a Test, it leaves the arena when the surround is 9 inches high or more and continuous. Where the surround is less than 9 inches, and is marked by boards or similar, no marks shall be given for the movement where the horse places all four feet outside the arena. Where a line marks the arena only or intermittent boards, it is left to the discretion of the judge as to the marks deducted. Any horse leaving the arena not under control will be eliminated and, for this purpose, the Test begins when the horse enters at 'A' and finishes when it moves off from the final salute.

39. Dismounting and / or fall of Horse.

If, after the rider has entered the arena, he/she dismounts without a reason acceptable to the Judges, no marks will be given for the movement.

40a)

In the case of a fall of horse and/or rider, the competitor will be eliminated. Riders may compete in any following classes or in the same class on another horse, should the rider declare to be fit to ride.

40. Resistance.

(A) Any horse failing to enter the arena within **45 seconds** of the bell being sounded will have a 2 mark penalty per judge awarded. Prolonged failure to enter for significantly more than 45 seconds may lead to elimination.

(B) Any horse refusing to continue the test for a period of 20 consecutive seconds during the course of a test shall be eliminated

41. Grinding Teeth and Tail Swishing.

Grinding the teeth and swishing the tail may be signs of nervousness, tenseness, or resistance on the part of the horse and may be taken into account by the judges in their marks for the movements concerned, as well as in the appropriate collective mark at the end.

42. Voice.

The use of the voice is prohibited and will be penalised by the loss of two marks from those that would have been awarded for the movement in which this occurred.

43. Errors of course.

When a competitor makes an 'error of course' (takes the wrong turn, omits a movement etc) the Judge at 'C' warns him by sounding the bell. The judge then explains the error to the rider, and if necessary the point at which he must take up the test again and the next movement to be executed, then leaves him to continue by himself.

However, in some cases when, although the competitor makes an 'error of course', the sounding of the bell would unnecessarily impede the fluency of the performance - for instance if the competitor makes a transition from working trot to medium walk at V instead of K, or makes a transition to canter at F instead of A, it is up to the judge at C to decide whether to sound the bell or not. In fairness to the competitor, it is recommended that the bell should be rung when a movement is executed at the wrong marker, if there is the possibility of a similar mistake when the movement is repeated on the other rein.

However, if the bell is not sounded at an error of course and the test requires the same movement to be repeated, and the rider makes the same error again, the rider is only penalised ONCE. If the Judge for any reason does not realise until the competitor has left the arena that one or more movements have been omitted he must: