Comparison of WDAA and USDF/USEF Dressage Tests

WDAA Intro Level - USDF Intro tests A and B

This is the lowest competition level. Requires working walk, free walk, working jog, 20 m circles, and halts. WD Intro Test 4 also requires a 5 m loop off the track in working jog which is not a part of the USDF or USEF tests.

WDAA Basic Level - USEF Training Level

WD Basic Level builds on the skills from Intro Level and adds the working lope and 20 m circle at free jog which is equivalent to the stretchy circle in USEF Training and First Level. WD Basic Test 2 includes a 10 m jog loop from the rail (which used to be in USEF Training Level tests but has been replaced with full serpentines). WD Basic Level Test 4 includes a 10 m jog serpentine ridden around the centerline and also moves the free walk to a 20 m half circle. Neither of these movements are found in the USEF tests.

WDAA Level 1 - USEF First / Second Level

WD Level 1 adds lengthenings at jog and lope, leg yields in jog, 10 and 15 m circles at jog, 15 m circles at lope, change of lead through working jog, and the counter lope loop (all equivalent to USEF First Level movements). In addition, WD Level 1 includes reinback, and turn on the haunches or pivot which are USEF Second Level movements, and turn on the forehand which is not currently in the USEF tests.

WDAA Level 2 - USEF Second Level

WD Level 2 adds collected jog and collected lope, 10 m circles in collected lope, shoulder in and haunches in, and simple changes (lope-walk-lope). These movements are all similar to the movements in USEF Second Level. WD Level 2 does ask for a counter lope loop on the centerline which is not seen in the USEF tests.

WDAA Level 3 - USEF Third Level

WD Level 3 adds half pass in collected jog, 360 degree pivot (turn on haunch no longer accepted), rein release in lope, lope serpentines with and without simple changes, and renvers. These movements are all similar to those required in USEF Third Level, but the directives and descriptions for the WD movements should be reviewed as they differ from the classic dressage instructions. Note that flying changes are not required in WD Level 3.

WDAA Level 4 - USEF Third / Fourth Level

WD Level 4 adds flying changes, half pass in collected lope, collected and extended walk, 540 degree pivots, quarter and half pirouettes in lope, and 8 m circles in collected walk and collected jog. Pirouettes are shown in USEF Fourth Level. All other movements except for the pivots are found in USEF Third Level.