

TEAM ON THE FLAT

PART T1 RULES FOR COMPETITION

1.1 THE COMPETITION

A “Teams on the Flat” competition is held at the PCASA State Championships each year. At their Zone Finals, each Zone chooses a club team to represent them at the State Championships.

The competition comprises of turnout and a workout to test the coordination of horses and riders as a team (drill). Each team consists of four horse and rider combinations.

Organisers must ensure that all judges are aware of the rules and guidelines for “Teams on the Flat”.

1.2 SCORING

Official score sheets must be used on all occasions. These are contained in the “PCASA Dressage Pack - Teams on the Flat”, which is available from the PCASA Office.

1.3 GEAR CHECK

The gear check is not to exceed 6 minutes per team. The purpose of this gear check is to ensure safety and conformance to the rules.

1.4 TURNOUT

The turnout section is not to exceed 15 minutes per team. The score for turnout is added to the final score for movements.

General appearance	5 points per team
Turnout of horses	5 points per combination
Turnout of saddlery	5 points per combination
Turnout of riders	5 points per combination

Judges may award marks to one decimal place (for example, 4.8) for all turnout sections.

The marks for each combination in the team are divided by 4 for an average score. The general appearance marks for the team are then added to this average to give a final turnout score for a maximum of 20 points. Refer to the official score sheet.

1.5 THE TEST

Three judges are required to judge the test. The third judge is situated at the side of the arena and judges the individual riders.

TEST

The scores for each judge are added together and divided by two for an average score.

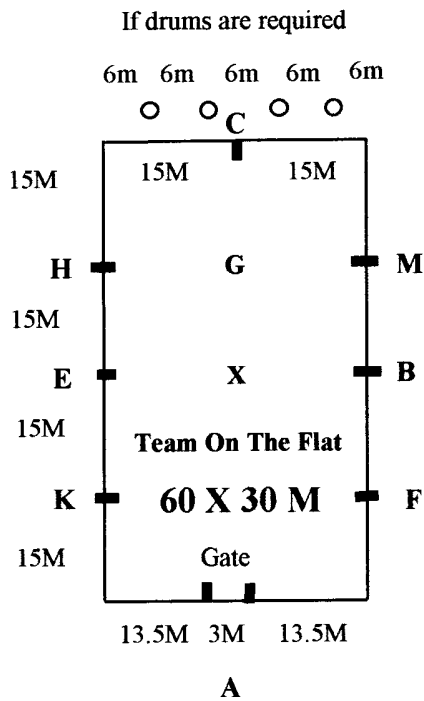
INDIVIDUAL RIDING

This is added to the final score for movements. A maximum of 10 marks per rider is given for individual riding.

1.6 GENERAL

Saluting shall be by taking the reins in the left hand, bowing of the head and lowering of the right hand by all riders.

1.7 ARENA PLAN



PART T2 TURNOUT PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

2.1 GENERAL

It is very important to note that the eventual winners of the competition will represent their Zone at the State Championships and should be of a particularly high standard of cleanliness with healthy horses and saddlery that fits correctly and comfortably, with all gear showing signs of regular care and maintenance.

The presentation for turnout inspection is of a much higher standard than a normal Pony Club rally, but by the same token should not be judged as a Royal Show turnout event. Instructors preparing a team and persons asked to judge the presentation aspect should keep this in mind.

2.2 HORSE

In a team of four it is preferable that all horses match in the way they are presented. If only one is different they should not be penalised. Colour, height and whether horses are clipped should never be taken into consideration and must not affect the score. **The emphasis is on cleanliness and regular care.**

1. The horse should be clean to the skin with the coat showing nourishment and care. Particular attention needs to be paid to the areas often overlooked e.g., under the jaw, the roots of the mane, tail and forelock.
2. The feet should be cleaned out, **oiled (not painted black)** and show signs of regular care, whether shod or unshod.
3. The mane should be plaited on the side to which the mane naturally falls, preferably with an uneven number of plaits and the forelock should match the finish of the mane (a rolled plait or a loop). Bands or thread should match the colour of the mane and be as unobtrusive as possible. Tails may be either plaited or pulled. Hogged manes are not penalised.
4. Baby oil, if used, should only be sparingly applied around the face, on chestnuts and under the tail to highlight the skin.

2.3 SADDLERY

Teams **must** ride in the equipment they present in. **Teams changing equipment will be eliminated.** Particular attention should be paid to the comfort of the horse as well as to safety. For example, stitching, and fit of equipment.

It is preferable that a team of four should all make an attempt to match gear. For example, brow bands, nosebands, bits and saddlecloths etc.

1. All saddlery should be **thoroughly** clean and show signs of **regular** care. Old, but well maintained, saddlery is preferred to new, which may be penalised if it is hard and stiff, showing that it has not had sufficient pre-use care.
2. Saddles should fit the horse comfortably and have good clearance from the wither.

3. All straps should have adjustment available to lengthen or shorten.
4. Stitching **must** be in good condition.
5. Nosebands and throat lashes should be adjusted correctly.
6. Neck straps are optional, but if one rider wears them, all riders should.
7. Saddle cloths must be as registered for that club/zone. All should be clean and well fitting.

The emphasis is on comfortably fitting gear and signs of regular care.

2.4 RIDERS

Whilst the team is being judged, all of its riders should sit to attention with both hands on the reins. Attention should be paid to the judge and their steward(s). If necessary, riders may need to move their horses to give safe access for the judge. There should be no need for talk between team members (except maybe for commands when presenting as a section, etc).

1. Full Pony Club uniform that is well fitting and clean.
2. Jodhpurs should be of uniform colour and long enough to fit over short boots (if worn).
3. It is preferable if one wears long boots that all four should.
4. Boots must be fully soled, show signs of regular care, and be thoroughly clean (including the sole).
5. Hard hats should fit correctly without loose straps.
6. Hair should be tidy or in a hairnet.
7. Gloves are optional, but if one rider wears them, then all riders should.
8. Spurs are optional. There is no penalty for some riders wearing spurs and others not.
9. No jewellery, nail polish or cosmetic make-up.
10. Fingernails should be clean.
11. Badges should be sewn in the correct place.
12. Ties should be knotted correctly and fit well up into the shirt collar.

PART T3 TESTS AND RIDE PLANS

Tests and ride plans for each year come in a Team on the Flat Pack which is also available from the PCASA Office.