



**United States Rules for Working Equitation**



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for  
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**Revision 8.1**

**15 January 2025**



# United States Rules for Working Equitation



## PREFACE

This document, United States Rules for Working Equitation, is the national rulebook for working equitation in the U.S. It is maintained on the USA Working Equitation website: [USAWE.org](http://USAWE.org). In the event of a discrepancy between a printed version and the version residing on the website, the electronic version will take precedence.

This document is revised annually. The revision cycle may be more or less frequent depending on the volume and criticality of the changes. Suggestions for modifications from WE groups, show officials, or individuals involved in the discipline are encouraged. A **Rule Change Proposal** may be submitted up until August 31<sup>st</sup> of any calendar year; this will enable adequate consideration of all proposed modifications prior to the start of the following competition year on January 1. The **Rule Change Proposal** form is on the USAWE website:

[USAWE.org>Competitions>U.S. Rules for Working Equitation](http://USAWE.org/Competitions/U.S.Rules.for.Working.Equitiation)

Questions for the Rules Committee can be sent at any time to: [Rules@usawe.org](mailto:Rules@usawe.org). The Rules Committee will not respond to any questions or discussions on social media.

## REVISION STATUS

Rulebook	Revision 8.1	Appendix D	Revision 8
Appendix A	Revision 8	Appendix E	Revision 8
Appendix B	Revision 8	Appendix F	Revision 8
Appendix C	Revision 8	Appendix G	Revision 8

REVISION SUMMARY

Revision	Date	Change Summary
0	1 Dec 2016	Original Issue
8	1 Jan 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.2 d: Competitors must participate in the first three trials in order to participate in the Cattle trial.</li> <li>• 1.6, 1.14.2, 4.8.3, 5.5, 5.7, 6.6, 6.7, 6.9: L1 riders receive a 5-pt penalty in lieu of DQ for performance-related infractions.</li> <li>• 1.9.1 g: Riders must wear a riding hat or helmet; ball caps are not allowed.</li> <li>• 1.11 Use of Hands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Western riders using a romal rein may hold the excess rein with the free hand up through L5.</li> <li>○ L7 riders using a double bridle must ride only with the curb rein.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 2.3: Regional championships replace zone championships.</li> <li>• 3.3: The President of the Jury must be a U.S. Judge. Recorded “r” judges may judge the Speed trial for all levels.</li> <li>• 4.8.3: L1 riders with a performance penalty: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ May not place above a rider who did not receive one.</li> <li>○ Will place ahead of a rider who withdrew.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 4.8.6: Judges on a panel must continue scoring a test in the case of a suspected DQ.</li> <li>• 4.10: Yellow Card may be issued for inappropriate behavior.</li> <li>• 5.2: Riders may ride within the dressage arena while waiting for the bell if they cannot get completely around the outside perimeter.</li> <li>• 5.4: Included flying change requirement for L5 objective.</li> <li>• 6.3, Table 6-1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Minimum number of obstacles for L1 is 8, for L4/L5 is 12 (also 6.4).</li> <li>○ L4 riders can perform simple changes or flying changes in the Single Slalom, Double Slalom, Figure 8, and Drums.</li> <li>○ Reverse Figure 8 can be a standalone obstacle.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 6.5 Course Walk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dogs are not allowed on course walks (<i>exception</i>: service dogs).</li> <li>○ Any rider who enters the arena outside of the time allotted for the course walk will be disqualified.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 6.6, 7.5: L2 riders may have a person read the obstacle order during a trial.</li> <li>• 7.8: Bonus time for spearing ring in Speed trial reduced to -5 seconds.</li> <li>• 8.5 b: Herd cow crossing the foul line with all four feet is penalized.</li> <li>• 8.6 h: Clarified injury or traces of blood on cattle is a DQ.</li> <li>• App A: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ L6 Advanced dressage test revised.</li> <li>○ L7 Masters dressage test movements 16 and 18 modified.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• App B 7 b: Drum must remain upright in Replace Pole obstacle.</li> </ul>

Revision	Date	Summary of Deletions
8.1	15 Jan 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.8.3: Removed requirement that L1 riders who receive a 5-pt performance penalty in lieu of a DQ may not place above another rider who did not receive one.</li> </ul>

The winner of the Dressage trial for each level is the competitor who receives the highest percentage score in the dressage test performed. The winner of the EOH trial is the competitor who receives the highest percentage score from the obstacle course completed. The winner of the Speed trial is the competitor who completes the course in the lowest adjusted time. The winner of the Cattle trial is the competitor who successfully pens a cow in the lowest adjusted time.

Score sheets are contained in Appendix C.

#### 4.8.2 Determining Points

The total number of points available in a given level/division is based on the number of competitors entered and initially competing in that level/division. The point basis remains the same even if fewer riders compete in subsequent trials within that level/division as a result of scratches or DQs.

Competitors earn points depending on their placement in each trial, e.g.,

- 1<sup>st</sup> place =  $N + 1$
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place =  $N - 1$
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place =  $N - 2$
- 4<sup>th</sup> place =  $N - 3$  etc.

where  $N$  = the number of competitors entered in that level/division.

#### 4.8.3 Determining Final Placement for Individual Competitors

The total number of points accrued by each competitor in each trial determines the final placing for that level.

To be considered for final placement, competitors must enter all trials for the level.

Competitors who have withdrawn or been disqualified in any of the trials or eliminated from the competition are not awarded any points for that trial. Competitors who withdraw or are disqualified from a trial may participate in the other trials and earn competition points in those trials.

A rider who voluntarily withdraws or is disqualified from a trial may not place above a rider who has successfully completed all the trials.

A withdrawal is not equivalent to a disqualification. A rider with a DQ will be placed ahead of a rider who withdrew, regardless of points accrued.