



# Western Intermediate Rider

The Western Intermediate Rider Program consists of a series of eight components that cover all aspects of Western Riding. These components develop the riders skills in a variety of areas as well as prepare the rider for competition at recognized shows. Completion of the Intermediate Rider Program is also a prerequisite for becoming a Western Coach 2. The Program must be taught by a current Certified EC Western Coach 2 and examined by a current Certified EC Western Coach 2 other than the instructional Coach.

The eight components are:

1. General Performance (introduction to various Western events; Equipment; Riding Psychology, Bandaging; Longeing; Recreational Riding; Riding Test.
2. Horsemanship
3. Showmanship
4. Western Pleasure
5. Trail
6. Western Riding
7. Speed Events: Barrel Racing & Pole Bending
8. Reining

The General Component must be completed first followed by any other component in any order.

The passing mark for each of the components is 70%. A certificate for each component is issued upon completion and the appropriate fees being paid, with a final certificate indicating completion of the entire program.

Any number of Intermediate Rider Tests may be taken at one time.

Candidates may use more than one horse during the examinations.

Candidates must be recommended in writing by a Coach 2 to take any Intermediate Rider Exams

Minimum ring sizes for all Intermediate Rider testing is 100' x 50' except for the Intermediate Western Riding test which is 120' x 50'.

Oral and warm-up of every component will contribute to overall score.

## **GENERAL PERFORMANCE COMPONENT**

This component introduces the rider to all the different types of Western Riding:

- Recreational Riding
- Trail Riding

Horse Show Competition:

- Western Pleasure
- Reining
- Speed Events
- Competitive Trail

Cattle Events: - Team Roping - Calf Roping - Working Cow Horse

Understanding the horse and psychology in competitions is also covered.

**Equipment:** saddle fitting for horse and rider; cinches- types and uses; breast collars; bridles and bits; protective boots

**Bandaging:** exercise bandage; first aid bandages (spider & figure 8), hoof bandage

**Lungeing:** location; the young horse; equipment; side reins – purpose and types; lungeing to correct problems

**Recreational Riding:** equipment; the horse; what to take; safety; road riding safety; choosing a trail horse; training

## **WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP COMPONENT**

The horsemanship rider is judged on seat, hands and the ability to control and show the horse. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used by the rider. Areas covered are: Basic Position; Hands; Legs; Seat; Appointments; Class Routine

Riders will work individually and be required to:

- walk, jog, trot, lope or gallop in a straight line, curve or circle, or any combination of these gaits and patterns, such as a figure eight
- stop
- back
- turn on the haunches, including spins and rollback or turn on the forehand
- sidepass
- simple change of lead through the trot, walk or stop, in a straight line, figure eight or any other pattern
- flying change of lead in a straight line, figure eight or any other pattern
- counter canter
- dismount and mount
- ride without stirrups

## **INTERMEDIATE SHOWMANSHIP COMPONENT**

Showmanship skills at for this component concentrate on control/safety, accuracy and presentation of horse and handler. The handler should be capable of presenting a halter horse to be judged on conformation.

The following basic skills will be examined:

1. Turnout of Horse
2. Turnout of Handler
3. Equipment
4. Straight tracking of horses moving forward at Walk and Jog-Trot
5. Straight lines when backing
6. Proper setup
7. Accuracy of turns over haunches
8. Relationship of Handler to Horse and Examiner
9. The ¼ system
10. Transitions
11. Corrections
12. Safety

## **WESTERN PLEASURE COMPONENT**

This component will cover the basic requirements and conformation of the western pleasure horse, as well as rider faults and technique.

Riders will be asked to work both ways of the ring at all three gaits, and at the option of the examiner may be asked to extend the walk, jog or lope, one or both ways of the ring. They will be required to back, stand quietly and to reverse to the inside. They may be asked to reverse at either the walk or the jog.

## **TRAIL COMPONENT**

In this component the rider will guide the horse through and around a series of obstacles that could be encountered during a trail ride. The course will be set up to demonstrate the care and concentration of the horse. A walk, jog and lope will be included in the pattern and the rider must complete it using only one hand on the reins.

Prerequisites for the Horse: backup; turn on the forehand; sidepass; transisitons; turn on the haunches; stop

Prerequisites for the Rider: patience; rapport with the horse; understanding horse psychology

The five mandatory obstacles in the Intermediate Rider Program are: gate; logs; back-through; bridge and sidepass

Optional obstacles: 360 deg. turn; carrying an object

## **WESTERN RIDING COMPONENT**

This component is judged on lead changes, movement, the horse's response to the rider's aids and his attitude while performing a specified pattern. Emphasis will be placed on smooth, even cadence of gaits and the horse's ability to change leads precisely, easily and simultaneously both hind and front at the center point between markers. The horse should have a relaxed head carriage showing response to the rider's hands with moderate flexion at the poll.

The Western Riding pattern includes the walk, jog and a lope over a log, several flying lead changes, two tracking, halt and rein back.

## **SPEED EVENTS COMPONENT**

In the Intermediate Rider Program the speed events covered are Barrel Racing and Pole Bending.

Topics covered are: tack/equipment, choosing the Speed Event prospect, exercises, patterns and rider positions.

Both the barrel racing test and the pole bending test must be done in two hands; the bit is optional.

## **REINING COMPONENT**

This component teaches the Intermediate candidate, what features to look for in the Reining horse in regards to temperament and degree of ability. Other topics covered are: Conformation & Breeding; Reining Maneuvers; Stops; Spins; Rollbacks; Circles; Backups; Hesitate; Lead Changes; and Run Downs.