



# 2023 USEF FIRST LEVEL FREESTYLE

December 1, 2022 - November 30, 2026

Suggested schedule time: 9 minutes per ride

**TIME MAXIMUM:** 5 minutes. No minimum time.

**MAXIMUM PTS:** 360

## TECHNICAL EXECUTION

**Note:** Omitted compulsory elements receive a "O". Judges Marks for Technical Execution must be given in **half or full points (no tenths)**. Trot work may be done sitting or rising.

COMPULSORY ELEMENTS & PRELIMINARY MARKS		POSSIBLE POINTS	COEFFICIENT
1.	Medium walk (20m continuous)	10	
2.*	Free walk (20m continuous)	10	2
3.	10-meter circle in working trot <b>RIGHT</b>	10	
4.	10-meter circle in working trot <b>LEFT</b>	10	
5.*	Leg-yield <b>RIGHT</b> in working trot	10	2
6.*	Leg-yield <b>LEFT</b> in working trot	10	2
7.	Lengthen stride in trot on a straight line	10	
8.	15-meter circle in working canter <b>RIGHT</b>	10	
9.	15-meter circle in working canter <b>LEFT</b>	10	
10.*	Change of lead through trot <b>RIGHT</b>	10	2
11.*	Change of lead through trot <b>LEFT</b>	10	2
12.	Lengthen stride in canter on a straight line	10	
13.	Halt with salute on centerline, first and final	10	

## ARTISTIC IMPRESSION

**Note:** Non-compulsory movements must be rewarded or penalized under Choreography and/or Degree of Difficulty. Judges Marks for Artistic Impression may be given in **tenths**.

1.	<b>Rhythm, energy, and elasticity</b>	10	4
2.	<b>Harmony Between Horse and Rider</b>	10	4
3.	<b>Choreography</b> design cohesiveness, use of arena, balance, creativity	10	4
4.	<b>Degree of Difficulty</b>	10	2
5.	<b>Music</b> suitability, cohesiveness, seamless	10	2
6.	<b>Interpretation</b> music, expresses gaits, use of phrasing and dynamics	10	2

## FIRST LEVEL

**Forbidden:** Any movement or transition found only in tests above the level. Exceptions are listed under Additionally Allowed.

**Additionally Allowed:** Turn on the forehand (no more than 180 degrees), lengthen trot and/or canter on a curved line, canter serpentine, counter-canter. Please note: lengthening in trot and/or canter on a curved line will not meet the compulsory requirement.



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## REMINDERS FOR FREESTYLE JUDGES

**Time: Maximum time limit is 5 minutes.** There is **no minimum time**. No bell is sounded at the end of the time limit. Movements executed after the 5 minutes limit are not scored. One (1) point is deducted from the total for Artistic Impression for exceeding the time limit.

Under penalty of elimination at the **discretion of the Judge at "C"**, an athlete must enter the arena within 30 seconds of the music starting. **Music must cease at the final salute.**

At the beginning and end of a Freestyle Test a halt with a salute is compulsory. Time begins when the horse moves forward after the competitor's halt and ends with the final halt and salute on the centreline facing the judge at C.

**Judging:** All judges of a freestyle test at any level must judge both artistic and technical parts of the test.

In case of athlete's music failing **before or during** a Freestyle Test and in cases where there is no backup system the athlete can, with permission of the judge at "C", leave the arena or **start at a later time**. There should be minimum interference with the starting times of the other athletes and the affected athlete should return to complete or restart his/her test during a scheduled break in the competition or at the end of the competition. The athlete may decide whether to restart the test from the beginning or to commence from the point where the music failed. Judging must restart at the point of interruption. In any case, the marks already given will not be changed.

The judge may stop a test and/or allow a competitor to restart a test from the beginning or from any appropriate point in the test if, in his discretion, some unusual circumstance has occurred to interrupt a test.

**Above the level Movements and Transitions:** Athletes performing higher movements than the level called for (clearly forbidden movements) will be penalized by 4 points in Total Technical Execution for each illegal movement but not for any recurrences of the same illegal movement.

**Errors:** The bell is not rung for errors occurring in USDF Freestyle Tests. Errors occur for failure to salute in the halt or rising at the trot at Second Level and above. Two points will be deducted for each error, however they are not cumulative and will not result in elimination.