

# RISING STARS EQUITATION SCORE SHEET

**PURPOSE:** To promote, reward and evaluate the dressage rider's correct position, seat and use of aids. The performance of the horse is important only as it relates to the rider's seat and aids. The quality of the horse should have no influence -the focus is on the rider. Given this priority, the Rising Stars team has created this innovative score sheet to assess equitation skills.

	ASSESSMENT OF:	COMMENTARY	SCORE
<b>1.</b>	<b>Position</b>		<b>Out of 30</b>
Alignment, posture, stability, & weight placement in the walk, trot and canter. Ears/shoulder/hip/heel vertically aligned; heels level or slightly down, the front and back of the rider's trunk should be of equal length; straight line from elbow to horse's mouth. Contact to be independent from rider's seat, with hands carried steadily close together, the thumbs as highest point and straight line from elbow to horse's mouth. Relaxed and supple position.			
	<b>WALK</b>		<b>/10</b>
	<b>TROT</b>		<b>/10</b>
	<b>CANTER</b>		<b>/10</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Transitions</b>		<b>Out of 20</b>
General transitions between and within the gaits. All halts. Transitions should be well prepared, tactful and smooth and not abrupt. The horse should remain light in hand, calm and maintain a correct position. Calm transitions, willing, straight, attentive halt, immobile (3 sec.)			
	<b>IN WALK/TROT/CANTER</b>		<b>/10 x 2</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Effectiveness</b>		<b>Out of 20</b>
The use, timing and coordination of the rider's aids. Ability to ride forward & maintain contact through all paces and movements. Ability to ride the required movements of the test maintaining tempo and rhythm. Clarity, subtlety, independence, & accuracy of test. The effectiveness of the rider's aids determines the precise fulfilment of the required movements of the tests.			
	<b>IN WALK/TROT/CANTER</b>		<b>/10 x 2</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Overall Harmony and General Impression</b>		<b>Out of 30</b>
Rider's rhythm, balance and harmony with horse in following the mechanics of the gaits. Fluidity and partnership of the rider/horse combination in executing the test. There should always be the impression of a harmonious partnership between horse and rider.			
	<b>IN WALK/TROT/CANTER</b>		<b>/10 x 3</b>
<b>Additional Comments:</b>			
			Subtotal:
			Total Points: (max points 100)
<i>Marks from 0 to 10, decimals allowed (e.g. 7.3 or 8.7)</i>			

