



CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES RIDING CLUBS ASSOCIATION

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What the Quadrille Judge Looks For

Focus your Quadrille team's efforts on these judging priorities to help earn the best score.

Although the basic principles of dressage make for the best possible quadrille performance, judges acknowledge that it is very difficult for four horses and riders to perform "as one," especially at the lower levels where the training is just getting started. It is even more difficult to assemble four horses that are at exactly the same level of training and ability. Therefore, your judge will have three **PRIMARY considerations** when evaluating movements:

- **Spacing** -- both longitudinal (one behind the other) and lateral (side-by-side) -- within the group should stay the same. There is, however, no set, "correct" spacing. Horses may be closer together or further apart depending on the experience of the group and the nature of the movements performed.
- **Synchrony** reflects the team's ability to perform with uniformity and precision as a group, whether changing direction or moving from one figure to another. Depending on the demands of the movement, the judge will look for transitions from one gait to another to be done successively at a certain point, or simultaneously as one.
- **Alignment** -- both longitudinal and lateral -- is so very dependent on synchrony in the execution of movements and figures that the two are scored together in the Collective Marks.

These are the three considerations making up the judge's "base score" for each movement.

"**MODIFIERS**" are lesser considerations that can either enhance or diminish the base score...

- **Impulsion** -- the degree of energy adequate for the level -- can have an overall impact on the performance. If a movement is "sluggish," the judge may deduct one-half point to a point from the base score. If the entire performance is sluggish, it will be reflected in the Collective Marks as well. If impulsion is outstanding -- the horses move equally energetically forward -- it can enhance the base score of each movement and be reflected in the Collective Marks.
- **Submission** -- the degree of acceptance of the riders' aids, adequate for the level -- is not a major concern in a dressage, strictly "on the bit" sense. If the team's submission to the aids as a whole is unacceptable, it could result in the loss of a point per movement and the Collective Mark for Submission will be low. If all horses are very well connected, it will certainly add to the base movement scores and result in a better Submission score in the Collective Marks.
- **Disobedience** that is pervasive with one or more horses, or continues to disrupt a number of movements, will be reflected not only in lowered scores for those movements, but in the Submission score for the Collective Marks. An isolated incidence of shying (a dog runs across the arena, say) with

quick recovery and no effect on ensuing movements, or one horse jiggling all through the walk movement, will cost the team a point for that movement, but will not be reflected in the Collectives.

- **Performance as a Group** considers the group's ability as a team to perform the required movements with a uniform quality and in a harmonious, cooperative manner. For example, the trot can be ridden rising or sitting, but whichever is selected the whole team must be consistent. If, however, some rise and some sit, only the Performance as a Group Collective Mark will be affected. If some members of the group pick up the canter when called for, and others don't that movement's score will be affected negatively, as will the Collective score.

Collective Marks are given for Submission, Impulsion, Spacing, Synchrony and Alignment, and Performance as a Group.

Adapted from *Primer for Judging Quadrille*.

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