

Waukesha County Fair Drill Team Competition

Judging Criteria



- Riders: Any number of riders is allowed (no minimum or maximum number is required).
- Time: Routines should be at least 6 minutes long and no more than 12 minutes. Time will be taken from the first rider into the arena to the last rider out of the arena.
- Music: Teams decide on their music choice (with appropriate lyrics). Points may be scored on how appropriate the music is to the maneuvers performed, as well as if the pace matches the horse's movements.

JUDGING CRITERIA

EXECUTION (350 points)

Spacing, alignment, timing and coordination, briskness

Judges look for: Consistent spacing nose to tail and side to side throughout maneuver, straight lines with horse tracking behind the horse in front of them, riders have shoulders aligned when riding side by side, lines even within the arena, circles round and centered in the arena, good timing (riders not having to race/stop to make position), no missed holes, no collisions or near collisions, smooth transitions, riders paying attention to their position, teammates working well together, overall precision. NOTE: Spacing may vary in different maneuvers depending upon the requirements of each maneuver.

PERFORMANCE AND MANNERS OF HORSES (40 points)

Judges look for: Willing, well-mannered horses (no bucking/kicking/biting), consistent gaits, horses are suitable as drill horses. NOTE: there is no point deduction for horses with their ears pinned.

ORIGINALITY AND UNIQUENESS OF PRESENTATION (75 points)

Originality, variety, and attractiveness of patterns

Judges look for: Unique patterns, interesting transitions, variety of different maneuvers and groupings, symmetry, continuity and flow of patterns.

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY (100 points)

A team that performs a more difficult drill will receive more credit than a team that performs relatively easy maneuvers.

Judges look for: the difficulty of the maneuver itself, but also the speed at which it is ridden, the closeness of the spacing between riders during the maneuvers, and the lack of set-up maneuvers; minimal whistle/verbal cues; use of flags (proper flag protocol for working flags).

HORSEMANSHIP (30 points)

Equitation as adapted for drill team purposes

Judges look for: proper body position, correct hands, proper use of aids, correct leads, riding true to discipline. Two hands may be used regardless of bit.

SPECTACULARITY AND CROWN APPEAL (50 points)

Judges look for: Maneuvers performed at a faster pace without sacrificing precision, music complements the pace and maneuvers of the drill, lively and energetic riders with smiles and a good attitude, performance was pleasing to audience, routine is interesting and flows well, manner in which flags are presented.

GENERAL IMPRESSION (30 points)

Judges look for: Uniforms appealing and matching, horses clean and healthy, tack and uniforms are clean and in good condition, riders have good attitudes and smiles.

PENALTIES

Broken Tack or Dropped Equipment

Any piece of tack or adornment that requires the team to stop to fix it or any item that falls to the ground. Each item/occurrence is a 2-point penalty.

Fall of Horse or Rider

A fall as a result of a collision is a 100-point penalty. A fall not resulting from a collision is a 50-point penalty

Over/Under Allotted Time Constraints

The time from when the first horse enters the arena to when the last horse leaves the arena must be between 6 and 12 minutes. In case of an accident or emergency, the head judge may allow a time-out. Two points will be deducted for each minute or fraction out of the time window.

Off-Course/Regroup

Off-course: a drill master may elect to stop the team and time clock and regroup should the majority of a team be out of position. The team may not start over but can proceed from a point where they were last in the proper position. The time clock will not be reset and a 15-point penalty will be assessed.

Regroup: In the case of a fall of a horse or rider, severe tack breakage, or medical emergency, a drill master may elect to re-group. Should they be unable to continue at the present time due to the injury of a horse or rider, they may request permission to leave the arena and complete their drill at the end of the draw. The time clock will not be reset and a 15-point penalty will be assessed.

FLAGS AND PROPER FLAG PROTOCOL

Carrying flags is considered an added point of spectacle and difficulty. Judging consideration should include how the flags are carried as well as maintaining proper flag protocol.

- Flags may be carried in either hand and are not to touch the ground.
- Shafts must be perpendicular at all times. Never leaning due to speed or turns.
- There is no minimum size requirement, however the flags are not to exceed 4x6 feet.
- Flags should be kept free and not allowed to wind around the pole.
- The bottom of the flag must be at least 6" above the top of the rider's head to avoid limiting the rider's view.
- The bottom of the flag pole must be secured in a flag boot attached to the saddle.

Working flags (country, state, or military)

- The American flag should never be tipped/dipped.
- The forearm should be parallel to the ground, and the elbow should be flexed at a right angle and kept tight to the body. Working flags should be carried in the right hand.
- White gloves are recommended but not required when carrying the American flag.
- Poles carrying a working flag must have a finial (decorative pole topper). The American flag must have a ball or an eagle, other working flags must have a ball or spear (spear not recommended due to safety concerns). Eagle finials should point forward.,
- If American flags are carried by one rider (or some riders but not all), the American flag must always lead when in a single file and must be kept to the right when in rows. No rider may exit the arena before the American flag.
- If other flags are carried with the American flag, the order of the flags is as follows:
 - American, State, Association, Club/Sponsor, non-flag rider
 - American, State, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, POW/MIA, other flags, non-flag rider
- American Flags should be 3-4" higher than accompanying flags with other flags even in height.
- A horse carrying the American flag must never reverse as this is a sign of retreat.
- The flag should be carried by experienced riders and horses only.
- If the flag is dropped it should be rescued and returned to its position immediately.

Per US flag protocol, the American flag should always be stationary during the National Anthem.

Standing at Attention involves not moving, so if you are supposed to keep facing the flag and the flag is moving, the person standing at attention would be required to move and would then no longer be at attention.

A good resource for equestrian flag protocol is:

<https://californiastatehorsemen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/FLAG-PROTOCOL.pdf>