



Performance tests and explanation of evaluation criteria

The original English translation has been edited by the Sport Committee
under the auspices of Jenny Veenstra, former KFPS judge,
to ensure our FHANA members' correct understanding of terminology.

Riding Test / Driving test IBOP (Dressage)

1. A – X - C Enter in working trot
2. C Track left
3. E-B-E Full circle
4. F – X – H Change rein with a few strides in extended trot
5. C Serpentine with three equal loops
6. Between C and M Transition to working walk
7. B Turn right
8. E Track left
9. Between K and A Transition to working trot
10. Between M and C Working canter left lead
11. E-B-E Full circle with a few strides in medium canter
12. Between K and A Transition to working trot
13. F-E Change rein
13.a continue working trot using full ring.
14. E-B-E Full circle, letting horse stretch forward and downward on a long rein
15. Between E and H Shorten the reins, working trot
16. Between C and M Working canter right lead
17. B-E-B Full circle with a few strides in medium canter
18. Between F-A Transition to working trot
19. K-X-M Change rein in extended trot
20. M – E Working trot
21. Between E and K Transition to working walk
22. K-A-F Free walk, letting horse stretch forward and downward on a long rein
23. F Shorten reins, working walk
24. F-X-G Working walk
25. G Halt and salute

The test is ridden/driven in a 25 x 50m ring

IBOP basic show driving test

1. A - C Enter at working trot
2. C Track right
3. K-E Between K and E transition to working walk
4. E Turn right
5. E -X -B Working walk
6. B Turn left
7. B-M Between B and M working trot
8. E Large circle
9. K-A-F Continue working trot
10. F-M Extended trot
11. M-C-H Return to working trot
12. H-X-F Change rein
13. K-H Extended trot
14. H-C-M Return to working trot
15. B Large circle
16. F-A-K Working trot
17. E Large circle, letting the horse stretch its neck
18. Between E and H Pickupreins
19. M-X-K Change rein, and between M and X transition to a working walk
20. A Turn left, down centerline
21. X Halt & salute

The test is driven in a 25 x 50m ring

IBOP show driving test

1. A Enter at a trot
2. C Track right
3. B Turn right and Halt with front wheel at X & salute. Inspection will follow.
4. X - E Working trot and track right. Twice around the ring with extended trot on all long sides and on the diagonal.
5. M - X - K Change rein. Twice around the ring with extended trot on all long sides and on the diagonal.
6. B Turn Left
7. X Halt with front wheel at X & salute.

Leave the ring at a trot through A

The test is driven in a 25 x 50m ring

EVALUATION HEADINGS

Driving and riding test IBOP / riding test ABFP

Walk	Trot	Canter	Carriage & Balance	Agility	Transitions	Impulsion	Total
2x	2x	2x	2x	1x	1x	1x	

ABFP DRIVING TEST

Walk	Trot	Carriage & Balance	Agility	Transitions	Impulsion	Total
2x	2x	2x	2x	1x	2x	

IBOP SHOW DRIVING TEST

Walk	Trot			Carriage & balance	Front	Agility	Impulsion	Total
	Use of forelegs	Use of hind legs	Moment of suspension					
1x	2x	2x	1x	2x	1x	1x	1x	

Horses taking the ABFP test receive a separate score for potential as a show driving horse.

EXPLANATION OF EVALUATION CRITERIA

Walk:

The walk is a marching gait in which the footfalls of the horse's feet follow one another in "four beats". The four legs are lifted alternately and separately as in the example beginning with the left hind leg: left hind, left front, right hind, right front, etc. The hind foot over steps the spot on the ground that the front foot has vacated. The walk movement must flow throughout the horse's body. The front and the hind legs come close together for a brief moment during the walk, and the legs on the same lateral side form a distinct V shape. Ideally, the advancing rear hoof oversteps the spot where the previously placed front hoof touched the ground.

The IBOP tests require only a working walk. The working walk is a regular and unconstrained walk. The horse should walk energetically and calmly with even and determined steps with distinct, marked, four equally spaced beats. The rider/driver should maintain a light and steady contact with the horse's mouth. It is desirable to have the horse's hind hooves touch the ground in front of the prints of the front hooves. Even though the Dutch versions ask only for a working walk, it has been noted that in riding/driving the walk movements at a medium walk, instead of a working walk, will earn more points. At the medium walk, the horse moves forward in a spirited, uninhibited manner displaying an active yet calm appearance. The medium walk is regular and firm. The rider leads the horse in a constant slight moving through.

Characteristics: even cadence/tempo, agility, long strides, activity, relaxed appearance, spring.

Trot (riding, driving, and show driving dressage tests):

The trot is a two beat gait on alternate diagonal legs (left front with right hind and right front with left hind) separated by a moment of suspension. Example: left front with right hind, moment of suspension, right front with left hind, moment of suspension, left front with right hind, etc. At the trot, the placement of the legs is always free, active and regular. The IBOP riding and driving tests require the working and extended trots. The trot required in the show driving test is described separately.

The working trot is a gait between the collected and extended trots. The horse should display good balance, hold its neck arched upwards, and move forward in uniform springy steps with active hindquarters. Active hind quarters does not mean that the horse is ridden towards or in collection, but that it is ridden with enough impulsion that the hind quarters should be powerfully engaged.

At the extended trot, the horse moves forward freely and visibly extends its strides at an equal rate accompanied by a corresponding extension in the upper line. This extension originates from a clear impulsion with driving force from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse to extend its neck so that the nose is pointed forwards rather than straight down as it is in the working trot. The strides remain regular and movement is balanced and relaxed. The horse covers more ground with its extended strides but the speed at which it places its feet on the ground does not increase.

Characteristics: even cadence/tempo, agility, stateliness, spring, balance, carriage, impulsion, moment of suspension, long strides, activity, relaxed appearance, use of forelegs.

Canter (riding and driving IBOP tests and riding ABFP test):

The canter is a "three beat" gait, the legs being placed in a canter on the left lead as follows: right hind, diagonal right front with left hind, left front, moment of suspension, right hind, etc. The canter should be light and cadenced with a regular stride. Departing into a canter should always appear resolute. The IBOP requires only the working and medium canters with just a few strides of medium canter.

The working canter is a gait between the collected and medium canters. In the working canter the horse needs to be in self-carriage. While in a good connection on the vertical, the horse moves forward in even, light, and cadenced strides. The hindquarters are active and create pushing and carrying power through impulsion.

The medium canter is a gait between working canter and extended canter. The horse moves freely forward and clearly shows a lengthening of strides, with a medium extension and similarly elongated topline. This extension is achieved through more impulsion from the hindquarters. The canter stays a clear three beat gait. The rider allows the horse to lengthen the neck and allows the head to go a bit more in front of the vertical compared to working canter, but still in connection.

Characteristics: steady cadence/tempo, rhythm, suppleness, balance, impulsion, frame, agility

Frame and Balance:

Elevation in frame: judged in the trot, where the horse lowers the hindquarters and rises in the forehand. The horse moves freely through the body keeping its straightness. The total image is uphill.

Characteristics: rising in the withers and lowering of the croup in an uphill tendency with a supple topline.

Balance is the perfect equilibrium with which the horse moves in all gaits. The horse should move rhythmically, relaxed and with a steady cadence/tempo in all gaits and in the extensions as well. During the halt the horse moves more weight to the hindquarters and halts relaxed, in connection and straight.

When stretching forward and downward on a long rein, the important elements are maintaining impulsion, a steady cadence/tempo, rhythm, and use of the topline, thus allowing the horse to stretch the neck forward and downward in a relaxed balanced manner while maintaining impulsion and a light connection with the bit.

Agility:

A horse's agility is its ability to turn, stretch and bend its body without resulting in any stiffness or blockages in the spinal column or the joints. Agility is largely made possible by the suppleness and flexibility of the muscles. Agility allows a horse to tighten, extend and move its spinal column sideward without undesirable tension or resistance while completely retaining its rhythm of movement.

The horse moves while retaining its cadence/tempo and balance while its body accurately follows the line of the figures and turnings. In following these lines, the entire length of the horse's body curves in the same direction. The horse must display a willingness to be guided from left to right.

When the horse has its head in the right position when being ridden, its neck and trunk remain in a straight line and the horse will bend its head slightly to the left or right when given the proper aids. The rider sees one eye and the edge of one nostril of the horse.

Transitions:

Transitions and changes of cadence/tempo are the basis of the equestrian art. In the transition, the horse remains relaxed, retains the cadence/tempo of the gait until the moment of transition, moves through properly and faces straight ahead. Transitions and changes of cadence/tempo must be clearly observable.

During a transition from a working gait to a medium or extended gait, the neck of the horse should point somewhat farther forward, thus making it possible to lengthen its strides. This allows the horse to remain relaxed, to retain its rhythm and to clearly extend the length of its strides in both the trot and in the canter. The difference between a working gait and a medium gait (and back again) should be clearly observable.

Impulsion:

In competitive show driving, this is called "willingness." It is the horse's urge to go forward, but always be controlled and limited by the rider. The rider has control over the forward impulse and determines to what extent this urge results in the horse's forward movement, i.e., the cadence/tempo. The energy generated from the hindquarters is controlled by the rider and is the basis the horse obliging the commands of the rider and working through.

Characteristics: forward energy generated from the hindquarters and lets the horse be transformed by the rider into a forward direction with an upward slant to the upper line and an appearance of being a closed solid unit.

Trot (show driving test):

The trot is a two beat gait on alternate diagonal legs (left front with right hind and right front with left hind) separated by a moment of suspension. Example: left front with right hind, moment of suspension, right front with left hind, moment of suspension, left front with right hind, etc. At the trot, the placement of the legs is always free, active and regular.

In the IBOP show driving test, the trot is characterized, in comparison with the trot in the riding and driving tests, by a longer moment of suspension, well-extended forelegs, high stepping forelegs, and powerful hind legs in which the hind feet are placed farther beneath the body. This latter characteristic makes the forehand lighter so that it rises. The trot is accompanied by a proud bearing.

Characteristics: as compared to the riding and driving tests more and higher front and hind leg action, longer moment of suspension, definitely rising from hindquarters to forehand.

Use of hind legs of show driving horse:

This is the extent to which the horse brings its cannon to a horizontal position and the extent to which the horse picks up its hind legs from the ground (power) and places them forward. The hind legs cover a lot of ground between lifting them and placing them on the ground and the rear hoof is placed far in front of the impression left by the front hoof. Both the hock and ankle display considerable flexion. The hind legs are placed far under the body.

Characteristics: power, flexion in hock and ankle, stateliness, strength

Use of forelegs of show driving horse:

This is the extent to which a substantial flexion in the knee brings the forearm of the foreleg to at least to a horizontal position and the degree to which the foreleg is stretched forward.

Characteristics: forearm reaches to at least a horizontal position and, once the forearm has reached its highest position, it should not simply drop but extend as far forward as possible.

Moment of suspension of show driving horse:

This is the length of time at which the horse is changing between the two diagonal pairs of legs and when the horse is not making any contact with the ground. The moment of suspension is the extent of movement resulting from the delay and elasticity of lifting the hind legs and not by the speed of doing so.

Characteristics: powerfully lifted hind legs, feet lifted high off the ground and covering a lot of ground.

Front of show driving horse:

At the trot, the horse uses its head and neck to achieve a proud bearing in which the neck is almost vertical as opposed to the body and tightly arched so that the nasal bone is held perpendicular to the ground.

Characteristics: shape and length of the neck, angle of head and neck, placement of the head.