

The following guidelines, issued by the FEI between 2011 and 2014 have, with the approval of the FEI, been amalgamated into this one document and like subjects grouped for ease of reading.

I would like to thank the FEI for giving approval for me to do this so that the information can be provided to our National Judges in one document.

This document covers Walk



This document will be updated as further guidelines are issued by the FEI

THE WALK

To: All FEI Dressage Judges

From: Ghislain Fouarge, FEI Dressage Judge General – 19/7/12

Re: Walk

Dear Colleagues,

Some time ago guidelines were published concerning the judging of the piaffe and the walk. It would seem, however, that not everyone is following the guidelines.

Walk

The same problem is occurring in the marks awarded for the walk and it seems that very often there are big differences showing in the marks displayed to the spectators. Sometimes walks that do not have a correct rhythm are being given 6 or higher.

A reminder about marks for walks where there are problems:

- If the walk is not a clear 4 beat (in danger) the mark is not more than 5
- Only some jogging steps not more than 4
- Really tense and trotting not more than 3
- Clearly lateral not more than 3

Perhaps it would be very helpful to read through the guidelines again (available here on the FEI website) and concentrate to adhere to those in order to make our judging more uniform.

From the Dressage Judge General Ghislain Fouarge (6/4/11) – Updated 25/7/13

Evaluation of the walk

When the walk is not a clear 4 beat rhythm the mark is not more than 5.

When not regular (sometimes due to tension) not more than 4.

When clearly lateral maximum 3.

When both extended and collected walks shown are irregular, the mark for paces cannot be higher than 6.

When the collected walk is only affected, then it is not a problem as the former, but means that the horse is not yet prepared for that degree of collection .

This is not included in the marks for the paces but rather in the 3rd collective mark .

(what is usually named submission, but which in fact means amongst other COLLECTION)

Please note that a clarification has been made in a new Guideline from the Dressage Judge General Stephen Clarke, dated 25 July 2013 – see below.

From the Dressage Judge General Stephen Clarke – 25/7/13

Following the introduction of 'Half marks' the guidelines in the FEI Handbook for Judges concerning the evaluation of the walk and its relationship to the collective mark for Paces (Page 216) will now be updated as follows. This is also an update of the published "Guidelines for the evaluation of Piaffe / transitions and the walk", dated 06 April 2011)

'If the walk is shown but is clearly lateral throughout, the mark of paces must be considered as only sufficient (five) at best – or lower, depending on the quality of the trot and canter.

If the walk is lateral in one of the sections (usually the collected walk) but is regular in the other section (the extended) the mark for the paces can only be considered as satisfactory (six to six point five) at best – or lower depending on the quality of the trot and canter'.

From the Dressage Judge General Stephen Clarke – 26/7/13

Following the introduction of 'Half marks' the guidelines in the FEI Handbook for Judges concerning the evaluation of the walk and its relationship to the collective mark for Paces (Page 216) will now be updated as follows. This is also an update of the published "Guidelines for the evaluation of Piaffe/transitions and the walk", dated 06 April 2011) – (see above)

"If the walk is shown but is clearly lateral throughout, the mark of paces must be considered as only sufficient (five) at best – or lower, depending on the quality of the trot and canter.

If the walk is lateral in one of the sections (usually the collected walk) but is regular in the other section (the extended) the mark for the paces can only be considered as satisfactory (six to six point five) at best – or lower depending on the quality of the trot and canter".