

# ITALIAN NATIONAL HAFLINGER HORSES BREEDING ASSOCIATION

National Studbook Central Bureau



## ITALIAN HAFLINGER HORSE STUD BOOK TRAINING AND RELIABILITY FIELD TESTS OFFICIAL RULES

Approved by Italian Haflinger Stud Book Technical  
Commission (resolution n.3/2012 – June 20<sup>th</sup> 2012)

## **GOALS AND TECHNICAL ELEMENTS OF THE TEST**

These tests are trials with the goal of officially evaluating and certifying the horse's basic training with the following general objectives:

- To provide horses that have certified basic training and are receptive to subsequent completion of training, both for recreational activities and sports.
- To certify the horses' reliability for amateur riding.
- To enhance the horses' value on the basis of the basic training directly achieved by the owner, on condition sound notions of training are demonstrated by the same.

In order to favour its diffusion the test has been conceived as easy to carry out, with simple structural requirements and easy-to-find materials.

The Test will evaluate:

- THE HORSES' RELIABILITY FOR AMATEUR RIDING;
- THE HORSES' GOOD CHARACTER AND RECEPTIVITY TO TRAINING.

## **EVALUATION COMMISSION**

The Commission will be constituted by an Italian Equestrian Federation Judge.

## **GENERAL RULES**

The test is structured so as to simulate the requirements of an amateur taking a ride. The Judge will not evaluate the horse's attitude or potential for sports riding but rather its reliability and training condition, as well as the measure of trust the horse shows towards its rider. Finally, it is important to evaluate the horse's attentiveness and caution, as well as its capacity to learn.

The Test does not contemplate any distinction in relation to the type of horse-riding, which can be English riding or western riding.

Ill-treatment of horses is not allowed under any condition.

Any coercive or violent behaviour will lead to immediate penalization by the Judge. A first formal warning will eventually be followed by exclusion from the test.

The Test must be carried out within a rectangle measuring at least 20 x 40 metres, on sand, earth or grass. Terrain must be practicable and level, and present no irregularities.

The Test may be repeated any number of times until attainment of a positive result. If carried out successfully, the Test can be repeated one more time.

The Test can be repeated after one month at the earliest.

IT IS MANDATORY THAT ALL TEST SESSIONS, WHETHER SUCCESSFUL OR UNSUCCESSFUL, BE REPORTED ON THE PASSPORT WITH THEIR OUTCOME.

The rider must wear the prescribed attire (English riding garb, western riding garb or ANACHRAI outfit). Cap or helmet must be worn at all times.

Each participant must be covered by a suitable personal and third party insurance. Coverage must be provided by the horse's owner and/or by the presenter.

#### TACK AND HORSES' AGE

Horses must be at least three years old. The maximum age, out of respect for animal health and well-being Laws, is fixed at 18 years.

Spurs are not allowed.

Martingales are not allowed.

Spearns are allowed but their use is forbidden.

The following types of tack are allowed:

English riding:

- English saddle, cavesson, nosebands and plain leather brown band with an English snaffle, kimberwick, Pelham and full bridle.

American riding:

- Western saddle
- Snaffle but with conventional O-ring, egg but or D-ring.
- The ring must be no larger than 100mm. The inside circumference must be free of rein, curb or headstall which would provide leverage. A leather or nylon strap attached below the reins is acceptable.
- References to a bit in western classes means the use of a curb bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece , has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit.
- Shanks must have a maximum length of 215 mm. Shanks may be fixed or loose.
- Concerning mouthpieces, bars must be round, oval or egg-shaped, in smooth and unwrapped metal.
- The port must be no higher than 90 mm. Maximum and may be covered. Broken mouthpieces, halfbreeds and spades are standard.

#### SCORES

- The score for each exercise included in the test ranges from 1 to 10.
- A score ranging from 1 to 10 will be assigned for each exercise expected within the test. Half-points will not be used.
- The final score is the arithmetic mean of the sum of the score of each single exercise.
- The final mean score will be rounded down if lower than 0.5 and rounded up with decimals of 0.6 or higher.

#### FINAL SCORE

- 1/3 SEVERELY UNSATISFACTORY
- 1 NOT CARRIED OUT
- 2 SEVERELY UNSATISFACTORY
- 3 QUITE UNSATISFACTORY
- 4 UNSATISFACTORY

- 5 III^S SATISFACTORY
- 6 II^B AVERAGE
- 7 II^A GOOD
- 8 IIA+ GOOD +
- 9 I^B VERY GOOD
- 10 I^A EXCELLENT

#### FINAL NOTE ON THE SCORE

The Test is not passed if in any one of its parts the score is lower than 5.

## STRUCTURE OF THE TEST AND EXERCISES

### SPECIFICATIONS OF THE TEST

Tests are divided in two typologies of exercises:

- Exercises to be carried out on foot.
- Riding exercises

Judges may ask for the repetition of each exercise for a second time, in order to better evaluate the horse's capacity to learn and when on first attempt the drill has not been carried out satisfactorily.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE TEST

#### PHASE 1

The horse must enter in hand with the rider on foot, be placed at the centre of the rectangle and remain still, the rider by its side, until the Judge signals the beginning of the test. Any sign of restlessness or rebellion will be penalized in the score.

The horse must be tied up to a suitable support or to the trailer present on the field.

The rider lifts up the horse's four legs. Hind legs must be lifted with the animal's rear stretched out. The horse must give its legs easily, with no defensive behavior or refusal. These aspects will be considered in the exercise's score. Each refusal or rebellious behavior deemed by the Judge excessive or dangerous to the rider will be penalized in the score, in proportion to its significance.

The rider saddles the horse and puts the headstall on. The horse must remain calm without showing refusal or rebellious behaviour deemed dangerous to the rider. Such behaviour will be penalized in the score according to its dangerousness and gravity.

The horse is untied and led in hand at the centre of the rectangle. The presenter mounts the horse. The ideal subject must remain still as it is mounted by the presenter. A maximum of four paces is allowed. All further movement will be penalized.

#### PHASE 2

The rider remains still at the centre of the rectangle until the Judge signals otherwise.

At the Judge's sign the rider will lead the horse on the track (left or right hand indifferently) and pace it. At the Judge's call he horse's gait will switch to trot and then to gallop. At the Judge's call rider and horse will transition to trot and pace and viceversa on the track.

At the Judge's call the rider will, in sequence:

- reverse;
- make the horse perform a full round at trot. Judges are to call at least one left-hand round and one right-hand round;
- reach the center of the rectangle at trot and come to a standstill, preceded by a short transition at pace;
- make the horse backtrack by at least four paces;

This phase ended, at the Judge's call the rider will carry out at pace the passage over 4 coloured barriers laid on the ground at a distance of approximately 70 cm. one from the other. The rider then carries out a passage on a plastic sheet properly laid on the ground. Finally he will carry out, always at pace, a passage over a wooden bridge, which can be simulated by a level slab of wooden planks. These passages may also be carried out With the horse traveled by the rider. However this implies a two-point reduction in the exercise's score.

Once the passage over the bridge is completed the horse is led at the centre of the rectangle and brought to a stop. The rider will dismount and lead the horse to the trailer, unsaddle it and get it on the trailer. Finally, at the Judge's call the rider will make the horse get off the trailer and will lead it in hand at the centre of the rectangle.

In this phase the horse's reliability and its trust in the rider will be tested by acoustic or visual surprises. Such "surprises" consist of:

- Prolonged whistle-blow - at least three seconds;
- Blow-out of a balloon;
- Opening of an umbrella.
- These will be carried out at a distance of approximately 5 metres.

The Judge will then allow the horse to exit.

### **TEST EVALUATION GRID**

<u>HORSE PLACED IN HAND</u>	3 YEARS	4 YEARS +
• Horse still and relaxed	10	10
• Few moderate movements	9	7/9
• Pronounced movements	7/8	5/6
• Signs of restlessness	5/6	4
• Defensive behaviour	3/4	2/3
• Marked restlessness or rebellious behaviour	2/1	1

• PICKING OUT A HORSE HOOF		
• Easily picks up the 4 legs and allows the hoof to be held	10	10
• Requires a slight effort to pick up the leg with no refusal	9	7/9
• Requires an effort to pick up a leg	7/8	5/6
• The same for more legs	5	1/4
• Doesn't pick up the legs or is dangerous for the rider.	1	1

### SADDLING TEST

• Carried out unhesitatingly and with confidence	10	10
• Shows moderate hesitation but no rebellion	9/10	7/9
• Turns, with moderate rebellion	7/8	6
• Needs help	5/6	5
• Disobedience or rebellion	2/4	2/4
• Will not be saddled	1	1

### MOUNTING

• Still and trustful	10	10
• Modifies position in order to keep balance.	9/10	7/9
• Starts forward for more than four paces.	7/8	6
• Turns, with no or with moderate difficulties	5/6	5
• Will not be mounted; needs to be held back	1/4	1/4

### TRAIL HORSE TESTS (TO BE CARRIED OUT RIDING OR IN HAND).

(IF THE TESTS ARE CARRIED OUT IN HAND A 2-POINT PENALIZATION WILL BE APPLIED)

• Carried out unhesitatingly and with confidence	10	10
• Shows some hesitation but no rebellion	9/10	7/9
• Prolonged hesitation but no rebellion	7/8	5/6
• Disobedience or rebellion	5 /6	4
• Disobedience and rebellion	2/4	2/3
• Two disobediences and marked rebellion – not carried out	1	1

### GETTING ON AND OFF A TWO-PLACE VAN

• Gets on and off unhesitatingly with a single person	10	10
• Gets on unhesitatingly, hesitates to get off with a single person	10	8/9
• Hesitates in getting on or off (a single person)	7/9	5/6/7
• Gets on and off with a single person but with rebellion	5/6	4
• Needs help	4	3

- |                                |     |   |
|--------------------------------|-----|---|
| • Needs help two or more times | 2/3 | 2 |
| • Will not get on the van      | 1   | 1 |

ACOUSTIC AND VISUAL SURPRISES

- |   |     |       |
|---|-----|-------|
| • Horse calm, minimal surprise reaction       | 10  | 10    |
| • Horse calm with a a more important reaction | 10  | 8/9   |
| • Horse shows moderate reactions              | 7/9 | 5/6/7 |
| • Significant reactions, tries to bolt        | 5/6 | 4     |
| • Tries to bolt and rebels                    | 2/4 | 2/3   |
| • Bolts                                       | 1   | 1     |

FINAL SCORE:

SUM OF EACH SINGLE EXERCISE : \_\_\_\_\_ / 8 = SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_