



WSEDTA Freestyle Program Scoring Criteria

RIDERS: Maximum of 20 riders allowed.

TIME: A maximum of 12 minutes is allowed.

MUSIC: Music of choice. Points may be scored on how appropriate the music was to the maneuvers performed and the pace the horses set to the music used.

EXPLANATION: Primary emphasis shall be placed on the drill, not matching of horses, tack, or uniforms.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

- 1. Execution: Spacing, Alignment, Timing & Coordination, and Briskness: (350 points)**
Was the spacing consistent? Were the lines straight and properly aligned; circles evenly round and centered in the arena? Was the timing good with no rider racing or stopping to make his "position?" Any missed holes, or collisions? Were the connections between maneuvers good? Was the overall attitude of the team alert and their execution precise?
- 2. Performance and Manners of Horses: (40 points)**
Were the horses well mannered? No bucking or kicking? Horses not to be penalized for having their ears back. Did the horses break gait? (i.e. trot when the rest of the team was loping?) Were they suitable as a drill horse?
- 3. Originality, Variety, and Attractiveness of Patterns: (75 points)**
Were original and varied patterns used, or were the same patterns repeated several times? Was there variety in the patterns? (i.e. twos, fours, sixes, circle and line maneuvers mixed, echelons, pinwheels, etc?). Were the patterns presented to the best advantage of the viewing audience?
- 4. Degree of Difficulty: (75 points)**
A team that performs a more difficult drill should get more credit than a team that performs relatively easy maneuvers. Rate degree of difficulty from 1 to 75, with 75 being extremely difficult. Difficulty is determined not only by the difficulty of the maneuver itself, but by the speed at which it is ridden, the closeness of the spacing between riders during the maneuver, and the lack of "set up" maneuvers. Degree of difficulty can also be influenced by carrying flags, and correct flag protocol of the working flag(s) in contrast to posted non working flag(s).
- 5. Spectacularity and Crowd Appeal: (50 points)**
Was the drill presented in a manner pleasing to the audience? Did the drill flow from one maneuver to another without a lot of "set up" moves? Crowd appeal can include the manner in which flags (if any) are presented, suitability of music to the maneuvers, and the tempo of the drill to the music.
- 6. Horsemanship: (30 points)**
Equitation as adapted for drill team purposes (i.e. basic equitation position, hands, and use or misuse of aids).
- 7. Flag Carriage: (50 points)**
Each team must carry at least one (1) American Flag and will be judged on proper observation of American Flag protocol. The manner in which a flag(s) are carried will also be judged.
- 8. General Impression: (30 Points)**
Horses clean and in healthy working condition; tack and uniforms/attire clean, neat, uniform and in good repair.
- 9. Penalties:** Penalties will be deducted in any of the penalty categories in which infractions occur. See score sheet for details.