



# Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards

## English Riding Jumping Level 1 (ERJ-1)

4-H Member: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

<b>HORSE MANAGEMENT</b>	
Approach a horse safely and put on halter.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Lead and turn horse safely in hand.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate proper grooming techniques, including picking out hooves (with assistance if needed).	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>HORSE AND RIDER TURNOUT</b>	
Rider in safe and neat attire with an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Mount to be neatly brushed, feet picked out (with assistance if needed), and showing regular farrier care.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss how to safely approach another horse and rider while mounted.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>TACK</b>	
Tack safe, neat, and properly adjusted, with assistance if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate how to check fit of girth.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

## RIDING

**RIDING EXPECTATIONS:** Throughout the entire testing, candidate demonstrates control while maintaining a safe, basic balanced position at the walk and trot in both directions.

Mount and dismount, with assistance and mounting block if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Hold the reins correctly at the halt, walk, and trot.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Shorten and lengthen the reins correctly at the halt.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Drop and regain stirrups at the halt.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate a simple change of direction at the walk and trot.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Perform gradual transitions from a walk to trot and walk to halt.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Walk over appropriately spaced ground poles in two-point/jumping position.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Complete English Riding Pattern 1 (Appendix A) demonstrating a safe, balanced position and use of natural aids, as well as proper execution. Discuss and evaluate pattern with Examiner and re-do if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____ MS: _____ DNMS: _____
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Overall comments/suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Sections Requiring Retesting:

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**A candidate may be retested as follows:**

- Retest to cover not more than 1 or 2 sections of the test. Retest must take place within 3 months but no sooner than 1 month.
- Not meeting standards of any section on that day will require retaking entire test.
- Retest must be conducted by original Examiner.

ES \_\_\_\_\_ MS \_\_\_\_\_ DNMS \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_



# Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards English Riding Jumping Level 2 (ERJ-2)

4-H Member: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

<b>HORSE MANAGEMENT</b>	
Lead horse in and out of a stall safely.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Tie horse in a safe place with a quick release knot.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Perform walk/trot transitions in hand, with assistance if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>HORSE AND RIDER TURNOUT</b>	
Rider in safe and neat attire with an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Mount to be clean and well brushed, with feet picked out and showing regular farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips and dock wiped off. Mane and tail combed and free of debris.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss general precautions (safety measures) that should be taken when riding in a group.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>TACK</b>	
Tack to be safe and clean, (properly adjusted with assistance, if necessary) with attention to stitching, girth, and stirrups. No obvious dirt, grease, or heavy dust.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate how to check proper length of stirrups when mounted and unmounted.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

**RIDING – Flat**

**RIDING EXPECTATIONS:** Throughout the entire testing, candidate demonstrates control while maintaining a safe, basic balanced position at the walk and trot in both directions.

Mount and dismount independently with mounting block if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
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Shorten and lengthen reins at the halt and walk.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
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Adjust stirrups and girth while mounted at the halt.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
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Perform simple circles and figure 8's at the walk and trot, demonstrating posting on the correct diagonal.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
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Ride without stirrups at the walk and regain stirrups.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
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Safely back three to four steps.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
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Demonstrate a halt from the walk and trot on a straightaway.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
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Complete English Riding Pattern 2 (Appendix B) demonstrating a safe, balanced position and use of natural aids, as well as proper execution. Discuss and evaluate pattern with Examiner and re-do if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
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**RIDING - Jumping**

**RIDING EXPECTATIONS:** Throughout the jumping section, candidate is beginning to develop an appropriate jumping position.

Trot over appropriately spaced ground poles that are eventually to be followed by a simple 2' crossrail while maintaining control and an even rhythm (refer to Appendix K).	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
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Comments:	
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ES: _____
MS: _____
DNMS: _____

Overall comments/suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Sections Requiring Retesting:

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- Not meeting standards of any section on that day will require retaking entire test.
- Retest must be conducted by original Examiner.

**ES** \_\_\_\_\_ **MS** \_\_\_\_\_ **DNMS** \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_



# Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards

## English Riding Jumping Level 3 (ERJ-3)

4-H Member: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

### HORSE MANAGEMENT

Discuss at least two precautions (safety measures) that should be taken when properly securing a hay net/hay bag.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Apply protective boots (simple galloping or brushing boots – one front, one hind on diagonal pairs – and front bell boots), with assistance if needed, and describe their purpose.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate putting a blanket on a horse, recognizing proper fit. (Horse handler may be used)	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

### HORSE AND RIDER TURNOUT

Rider in safe and neat attire with an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Mount to be well brushed (no sweat), clean (no dirt), with feet picked out, and showing regular farrier care. Mane and tail brushed and eyes, nose, lips, and dock wiped off. Appropriate areas of hair trimmed as suitable to discipline.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss and demonstrate (if possible) rules of courtesy that should be followed when riding with others in a ring and on a trail.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

### TACK

Tack to be safe – especially stitching on stirrup leathers/girth – and clean – no grease, sweat, or dust, stress points clean, stirrup pads (if used) clean, and bit clean.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss how to recognize properly fitted tack.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

<b>RIDING- Flat</b>	
<b>RIDING EXPECTATIONS:</b> Throughout the entire testing, candidate demonstrates a safe, basic balanced position with control at the walk, trot, and canter in both directions.	
Demonstrate an increase and decrease of speed at the walk and trot.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Ride without stirrups at the walk and trot (sitting).	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Perform 20 meter circles at the walk, sitting trot, rising trot, and canter with correct lead in both directions.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate a halt from the walk, trot, and canter on a straightaway.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
<b>RIDING – Jumping</b>	
<b>RIDING EXPECTATIONS:</b> Throughout the jumping section, candidate maintains a secure base of support, while developing balance and a steady position over fences.	
Trot over appropriately spaced ground poles that are eventually to be followed by a simple 2' crossrail (refer to Appendix L).	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Ride over a course consisting of 5 to 7 vertical or crossrail jumps (all with ground lines, maximum of 2 crossrails), with the majority set to 2', and appropriate striding – no bending lines, combinations, or related distances. Evaluate ride with examiner and identify how ride could be improved.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____ MS: _____ DNMS: _____
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Overall comments/suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Sections Requiring Retesting:  
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- Not meeting standards of any section on that day will require retaking entire test.
- Retest must be conducted by original Examiner.

ES \_\_\_\_\_ MS \_\_\_\_\_ DNMS \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_



# Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards English Riding Jumping Level 4 (ERJ-4)

4-H Member: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

<b>HORSE MANAGEMENT</b>	
Apply a stable bandage (one front or one hind). Evaluate bandage with Examiner. Be prepared to discuss materials, techniques, and differences between front and hind application. Horse handler may be used.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss reasons for lunging, necessary equipment, and safety procedures for horse and rider.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate appropriate longe line attachment to the horse.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>HORSE AND RIDER TURNOUT</b>	
Rider's attire to be neat in discipline of choice, schooling show attire minimum, and should be safe and neat. Rider must wear an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Mount to be well groomed, reflecting regular care with a healthy coat; no sweat or dirt. Mane and tail brushed with little, if any, dandruff. External areas around sheath/udder clean. Feet picked out and reflecting regular farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, and dock clean.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>TACK</b>	
Tack to be safe, properly adjusted, supple, and reflecting regular care. No grease, sweat, or dust. All stress points clean. No cracked leather. Metal clean and polished and stirrup pads clean.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Describe three artificial aids and their use.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

**RIDING - Flat**

**RIDING EXPECTATIONS:** Throughout the entire testing, candidate rides with confidence and control at the walk, trot, and canter, demonstrating a safe, basic balanced position and use of natural aids. Candidate is beginning to ride mount freely forward with balance and rhythm while developing a light contact with the horse's mouth.

Perform basic suppling exercises for the rider. Discuss benefits to rider.

ES \_\_\_\_\_  
MS \_\_\_\_\_  
DNMS \_\_\_\_\_

Ride at the walk, trot, and canter, showing smooth transitions and performing 20 meter circles and figure 8's with a correct bend at each gait, showing simple changes of lead.

ES \_\_\_\_\_  
MS \_\_\_\_\_  
DNMS \_\_\_\_\_

Demonstrate aids for moving a horse away from the leg at a halt and walk.

ES \_\_\_\_\_  
MS \_\_\_\_\_  
DNMS \_\_\_\_\_

Ride without stirrups at the walk and trot while performing 20 meter circles in both directions and performing changes of direction, demonstrating posting on the correct diagonal.

ES \_\_\_\_\_  
MS \_\_\_\_\_  
DNMS \_\_\_\_\_

**RIDING - Jumping**

**RIDING EXPECTATIONS:** Throughout the jumping section, candidate is riding with confidence and control over fences, demonstrating a safe, basic balanced position and use of natural aids.

Discuss correct distances between trotting and canter poles for both horses and ponies.

ES \_\_\_\_\_  
MS \_\_\_\_\_  
DNMS \_\_\_\_\_

Perform grid exercises by trotting over appropriately spaced ground poles followed by a crossrail and then one stride to a vertical set at a height of 2'3" (refer to Appendix M). Discuss performance with examiner and suggest any distance adjustments.

ES \_\_\_\_\_  
MS \_\_\_\_\_  
DNMS \_\_\_\_\_

Ride over a course consisting of 6 to 8 jumps with verticals and ascending oxers (all with ground lines), with the majority set to 2'3", and appropriate striding – no bending lines, combinations, or related distances. Evaluate ride with examiner and discuss how it could be improved, and the pace and control of it.

ES \_\_\_\_\_  
MS \_\_\_\_\_  
DNMS \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

ES: _____
MS: _____
DNMS: _____

Overall comments/suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

4-Has paid required participation fee (examiner's initials) \_\_\_\_\_

Sections Requiring Retesting:

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- Not meeting standards of any section on that day will require retaking entire test.
- Retest must be conducted by original Examiner.

**ES** \_\_\_\_\_ **MS** \_\_\_\_\_ **DNMS** \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_



# Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards

## English Jumping Riding Level 5 (ERJ-5)

4-H Member: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

### HORSE MANAGEMENT

Demonstrate the ability to prepare a horse for safe travel in a trailer. Items to include a properly fitted break away halter and lead rope, shipping boots or bandages on all four legs, sheet/blanket/fly sheet if the weather requires it, and a head protector (if necessary).	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate the ability to safely load a cooperative horse or pony with assistance if needed.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Apply a shipping bandage (one front or one hind), with assistance if needed. Evaluate bandage with Examiner. Be prepared to discuss materials, techniques, and differences between front and hind application. Horse handler may be used.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss at least 3 exercises and their benefits when lunging a horse.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Longe a horse, to its appropriate level, for the purpose of exercise in an enclosed area, demonstrating safe lunging techniques, with assistance if necessary. Evaluate horse's performance with Examiner.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

### HORSE AND RIDER TURNOUT

Rider's attire to be neat in discipline of choice, schooling show attire minimum, and should be safe and neat. Rider must wear an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Mount to be thoroughly groomed, reflecting regular care with a healthy coat; no sweat or dirt. Mane and tail brushed with no dandruff. Sheath or udder showing regular attention. Feet picked out and reflecting regular farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, and dock clean.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss selected farrier care for presented horse and why it has been chosen.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

<b>TACK</b>	
Tack to be safe, clean and properly adjusted, reflecting regular care/conditioning with metal polished. No grease, sweat, or dust, no cracked leather, and all stress points clean.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Explain purpose of equipment used on own horse (i.e. bit, girth, pads, breast plate, etc.)	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

<b>RIDING - Flat</b>	
<b>RIDING EXPECTATIONS:</b> Throughout the entire testing, candidate rides with confidence and control at the walk, trot, and canter, demonstrating a secure balanced position and progress toward an independent seat and coordinated use of aids. The candidate is beginning to initiate free forward movement, establishing balance and rhythm while developing a light contact with the horse's mouth.	
Ride at the walk, trot, and canter, showing smooth transitions and performing large and small circles (12-15 meters), serpentines, and figure 8's with a correct bend while maintaining an even rhythm with smooth transitions. Evaluate figures with Examiner.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss appropriate horse and rider warm up routines for two different disciplines of candidate's choice.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Ride without stirrups at the walk, trot, and canter, maintaining balance and control.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Develop a hand gallop from a canter and return smoothly to the canter.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate the aids for moving a horse away from the rider's leg at the trot.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Halt squarely and stand for five seconds.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____

**RIDING – Jumping**

**RIDING EXPECTATIONS:** Throughout the jumping section, candidate rides with confidence and control over fences, demonstrating a secure balanced position and progress toward an independent seat and coordinated use of aids.

Perform grid exercises by trotting over appropriately spaced ground poles followed by a crossrail, one stride to a 2’3” vertical, and then one or two stride to a 2’6” vertical (refer to Appendix N). Discuss performance with examiner and suggest any distance changes and two benefits grids do for the horse and rider.

ES \_\_\_\_\_  
MS \_\_\_\_\_  
DNMS \_\_\_\_\_

Using the course set up by the examiner – 6 to 8 jumps with verticals and ascending oxers (all with ground lines), with the majority set to 2’6”, appropriate striding and one two-element combination. Prior to ride, rider must discuss their plan for implementation including pace, strides, and lead changes (simple or flying). Candidates must then ride the course they discussed demonstrating simple and/or flying lead changes as necessary while maintaining rhythm and control throughout the course.

ES \_\_\_\_\_  
MS \_\_\_\_\_  
DNMS \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluate ride to plan with examiner. Discuss how planned course rode and any areas that could be improved. Discuss your position maintained through course.

ES \_\_\_\_\_  
MS \_\_\_\_\_  
DNMS \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

ES: _____ MS: _____ DNMS: _____
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Overall comments/suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

4-Her has paid required participation fee (examiner's initials) \_\_\_\_\_

Sections Requiring Retesting:

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- Retest must be conducted by original Examiner.

ES \_\_\_\_\_ MS \_\_\_\_\_ DNMS \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



# Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards

## English Jumping Riding Level 6 (ERJ-6)

4-H Member: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

### HORSE MANAGEMENT

Demonstrate how to take a horse's temperature, pulse, and respiration. Candidate should then discuss with examiner whether the vitals found are in the normal range.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Apply a stable bandage (one front or one hind), shipping bandage (one front or one hind), and tail wrap, all without assistance. Evaluate bandage with Examiner. Be prepared to discuss materials, techniques, and likes and dislikes of presented bandages. Horse handler may be used.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Longe in an enclosed area to a horse's level of ability, demonstrating free forward relaxed movement, rhythm, correct bend, and smooth transitions. Evaluate requirements with Examiner and decide if they were met,	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss and demonstrate properly fitted equipment as appropriate for lunging. (Side reins optional, if used, must be properly fitted)	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

### HORSE AND RIDER TURNOUT

Rider's attire to be neat in discipline of choice, schooling show attire minimum, and should be safe and neat. Rider must wear an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Mount to be thoroughly groomed, reflecting regular care with a healthy coat; no sweat or dirt. Mane and tail brushed with no dandruff. Sheath or udder showing regular attention. Feet picked out and reflecting regular farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, and dock clean.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

### TACK

Tack to be safe, clean and properly adjusted, reflecting regular care/conditioning with metal polished. No grease, sweat, or dust, no cracked leather, and all stress points clean.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

### RIDING - Flat

**RIDING EXPECTATIONS:** Throughout the entire test, candidate maintains a basic balanced position with a secure base of support. Candidate demonstrates the development of an independent seat and coordinated use of aids at the walk, trot, and canter. Candidate initiates and maintains free forward movement with smooth transitions and a steady, light feel of the mount's mouth. The candidate shows confidence and control at all gaits on the flat.

Demonstrate an appropriate warm-up for flat work, discuss and evaluate performance with examiner.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Ride at the walk, trot, and canter, showing smooth transitions and performing large and small circles (12 to 15 meters), serpentines, and figure 8's with correct bend, while maintaining even rhythm <u>with</u> stirrups.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Ride at the walk, trot, and canter, showing smooth transitions and performing large and small circles (12 to 15 meters), serpentines, and figure 8's with correct bend, while maintaining even rhythm <u>without</u> stirrups.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss and demonstrate the difference between lengthening stride and increasing speed at each gait.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate turns on the forehand and hindquarters in each direction.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____

### RIDING - Jumping

**RIDING EXPECTATIONS:** Candidate maintains a basic balanced position with a secure base of support over fences. Candidate demonstrates the development of an independent seat and coordinated use of aid over fences. Candidate shows confidence and control over fences.

Candidate to set grid (refer to Appendix O for example) appropriate for own mount. Set grid height at a maximum of 2'9" for the last fence.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Perform grid exercises over grid set up by candidate. Discuss performance with examiner and suggest any distance changes.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Drop grid height to 2'6". Ride through set grid without stirrups.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Using the course set up by the examiner – 6 to 8 fences, 1/3 of which should be oxers, with the majority set to 3', and appropriate striding - course should include 1 triple combination. Prior to ride, rider must discuss their plan for implementation including pace, strides, and lead changes (simple or flying). Candidates must then ride the course they discussed, demonstrating lead changes as necessary while maintaining rhythm and control throughout the course. Evaluate ride, what improvements could be incorporated to make ride better.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____

Comments:

ES: _____
MS: _____
DNMS: _____

Overall comments/suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

4-Has paid required participation fee (examiner's initials) \_\_\_\_\_

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Sections Requiring Retesting:

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**ES** \_\_\_\_\_ **MS** \_\_\_\_\_ **DNMS** \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_