

MUSICAL RIDE GUIDELINES

Musical Rides are a valuable means of teaching control and discipline, as well as improving the skill of the riders and training the ponies. They can be attractive displays and last but not least, they are great fun for those taking part. The main attraction lies in the music and the movement of all riders acting together.

Most important points are:

(1) **Movement**

The ride should fill the arena with movement. The pace can be varied (walk, trot or canter) but whatever pace is set, it should, as far as possible, be kept steady.

(2) **Uniformity**

A uniform turnout for riders, uniform size and colour of ponies in sections and uniform distances between the ponies (usually one pony's length in single ride). When ponies are side by side in line - all contribute to the spectacle.

(3) **Simplicity**

The smart performance of simple movements well within the capabilities of those taking part, often produces the most effective ride. Size of arena to be used must be noted on entry form. Order of going will be 20 x 40 followed by 30 x 60.

The size of the arena will depend on the number of riders taking part, and the demands of the ride. For twelve to sixteen riders, an arena from 40 to 60 meters in length and 20 to 30 meters in width would normally be sufficient. However up to 20 riders can take part once they are in multiples of four. The 60 metre standard dressage arena is excellent for many rides. The maximum size arena that can be made available in 2010 will be 60 meters in length and 30 metres wide. If they wish, Rides may reduce this arena size using moveable markers. They will be responsible for bringing, laying out, and removing these markers. Markers are required to show the ponies from where movements are made - letters can also be used - they could be replaced by plants in pots, or small posts for the actual display - but would have to be practiced very well beforehand.

At the Festival, a dressage arena on flat ground will be provided and teams may make alterations with consent of the judge in advance of their entrance.

A **P.A.** system will also be provided, but teams should come well equipped with their own tapes and cassette players and introduction to their ride to be given by their own commentator or by the organizers of the Festival, as desired.

Music - Can be selected from old favourites or popular hits of the day. The main essential is that the tempo should suit the pace of the ponies:

4/4 Time for the Walk
2/4 Time for the Trot
6/8 Time for the Canter

Examples: Walk - Any slow Military March
Trot - Surry with the fringe on Top Ridesky
March, The Full Monty
Canter - Irish Washerwoman
The Birdie Song
The Jungle Book
Riverdance

Riders: Can learn a ride more easily in 2 to 3 days intensive practice than in many rehearsals at intervals. One or two movements should be taught and practiced at a time -than amalgamated with others to make a ride. The first few practices should be on foot, followed by more at the walk and then at the trot. The canter should only be introduced when the riders know the movements well. It may be found helpful to number the riders - the leader to wear an armband during practices.

The best riders should be chosen for leading files and No 1 section and should maintain a steady pace and correct distances.

Length of Ride: **Not to exceed 10 minutes**

This is geared towards the average child on the average pony - to teach them riding skills, confidence and pace, concentration and safety e.g. keeping the right length from each pony.

Safety:

Musical Ride members must wear approved riding hats.

Tack inspection will begin at 12.30 pm prior to dressing up in costume. Safety of tack and riding gear, grooming & care of pony including feet will be of utmost importance.

Judging:

Riding - Paces - Uniformity - SAFETY

Stable Management NB –

Turn out of pony and tack - which must be safe and condition of pony.

Artistic Presentation –

Very expensive costumes are not necessary - it is the riding, turn out and safety that accounts for marks - also suitability of the music to relevant pace.

Further Reading:

Riding to Music - Janet W. MacDonald - published by J.A. Allen.
Mounted Games and Gymkhanas (orange book) in Pony Club Shop.
The new Instructors Handbook in Pony Club Shop...

MARKS

Riding (Confident, happy, safe, having fun)	40
Turn Out (Riders)	20
Presentation of Ponies - (Clean, Plaited, Shoeing Condition)	20
Ride (How well was it put together)	20
Artistic Impression (Did you want to see it again, or never!)	<u>20</u>
Total marks available	120

AS IN ALL JUDGING - COMMON SENSE MUST PREVAIL