This booklet contains information on riding standards as established by the National Riding Committee. The first section discusses rated rider examinations, followed by discussions of forward and western riding-rated rider examinations requirements. The next section examines the appointment of judges and precedes a program for teaching riding. Information on riding centers and instructional clinics is followed by policy concerning advertising and terminology. The booklet also contains an annotated bibliography. Appended are the names of the National Riding Committee members, a list of addresses of the official publication and national equestrian organizations, intercollegiate competition information, a list of national and local judges for the National Riding Committee, and information on coordination of job placement for rated riders including a personal data sheet. (RC)
RIDING STANDARDS

The Policies and Operating Procedures
of the National Riding Committee
1976-1977

Editors
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National Association for Sport and Physical Education
National Association for Girls and Women in Sports
Associations of the
American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation
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Introduction

History of National Riding Committee

Although organized in 1936, it was not until 1947 that the Subcommittee on Riding of the then National Section on Women's Athletics (NSWA) of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (AAHPER) met to organize standards by which riding might be rated. Harriet Howell Rogers, chairperson of the subcommittee, described its efforts and purposes:

The need was apparent to us, not only from our own convictions, but from the numerous articles, letters and editorials in various magazines dealing with the horse, that teaching of riding, both in aim and method, sadly needed standardizing and some guiding hand. After correspondence and meetings, the members of the committee agreed that we should seek, as a basis for our work, the standards of the Olympic Games. We knew of course, that we could not all reach Olympic calibre, but we also knew that many of us could teach and ride better if we followed as far along this road as our ability would permit. To this end, plans for rating what we chose to call "basic riding" were drawn up, tested, criticized and reworded and then sent to the National Section on Women's Athletics, where our report was approved by the Rules and Editorial Committee and the Legislative Board. The latter authorized us to set up centers for rating and for the instruction . . . .

The first center ran for two weeks, consisting of two courses, each a week long, in which instruction in theory and mounted work was given to candidates. At the end of each week, tests were given and those successful were awarded ratings . . . .

For the first year members of the committee acted as judges, assisted by two men who acted in advisory capacity and to whom we owe much, not only for their sympathetic interest and generous donation of their time and services, but because of their thorough knowledge of this type of riding. Without the help of Clayton E. Bailey and Capt. V.S. Littauer, the work of the committee would have been infinitely more difficult. Both attended this first center and played a major role in establishing the program of instruction and the details of conducting the tests.

The first centers were held at Sweet Briar College, Va., June 1948; Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., September 1948; and Townline Barn, Erie, Pa., August 1949.

The Riding Subcommittee that set up the first standards in 1947 included, in addition to Harriet Rogers, Eline von Borries, chairperson-elect, Goucher College, Md.; Mrs. V.S. Hackett, Wac...

In the 1950s NSWA reorganized to become the Division for Girls and Women's Sports (DGWS), and in 1962 the National Riding Committee became jointly sponsored by the Division of Men's Athletics (DMA) and DGWS of the AAHPER. One of the first Western Riding Centers was held at Stevens/Perry-Mansfield Camps, Steamboat Springs, Colo., in 1964. Elizabeth Shannon of Arizona was the organizer of this center.

The AAHPER reorganized in 1974. DMA combined with the Physical Education Division and NASPE (National Association for Sport and Physical Education) was established. DGWS became NAGWS (National Association for Girls and Women in Sport). NASPE and NAGWS are the two main Associations under the parentage of the AAHPER which are involved with the development of sport programs and jointly sponsor the National Riding Committee.

Since its organization, the National Riding Committee has sponsored clinics and rating centers throughout the country in Georgia, Michigan, Massachusetts, Virginia, Oregon, Colorado, Maryland, Missouri, New York, Kansas, California, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Washington.

Today there are National and Local Judges of the Forward Riding Section and of the Western Riding Section who are qualified to rate candidates as number 1, 2 or 3 or award qualifying cards.

What System?

The Forward Riding method for schooling and riding field hunters, show hunters, and jumpers and for cross-country or pleasure riding has been in practice for many generations as the most successful modern riding system. The Western Riding Section is based on NASPE-NAGWS riding principles.

The Riding Committee has consistently promoted horsemanship based on a system that considers position or seat, control, and the schooling of the horse as integral parts. The schooling objectives are to develop the horse's agility and strength under the weight of the rider so that it may perform alertly and calmly with connected free forward movement. The position and control of the rider are coordinated to produce the best possible performance of the horse while utilizing the
least amount of the horse's nervous and physical energy. The bibliogra-
phy in this booklet should help the reader understand this carefully
considered system of riding used by NASPE-NAGWS. The system is
a very practical one that has been highly successful in riding schools
and in competition throughout the country.

A practical and successful riding system needs competent instruc-
tors and good teaching facilities to help meet the large and growing
interest in the sport of riding. This booklet contains a summary of the
characteristics of a good instructional riding program.

We encourage you to visit a clinic or rating center, to study this
booklet, and to prepare for and take a rider rating. Your suggestions
and criticisms are welcome. We look forward to having you join our
efforts to promote better riding.

Why a National Rider Rating?

One important objective of the Riding Committee is to help educate
riding teachers. Today there are many schools of riding offering teach-
ing and riding certificates. It is fair to say that many have become too
conventional, granting certificates representing an enormous range of
practical and theoretical riding abilities. As a result, their credibility is
seriously questioned by many employers and students. Since rating
or certifying a teacher of riding is still difficult to do well on a national
basis, our NASPE-NAGWS ratings are rider ratings and not teacher
ratings. They do require, however, not only a good level of riding but
also a clear, concise understanding of riding theory that must be
expressed in writing and orally. A teacher should be required not only
to achieve the rider rating but also to teach well. The NAGWS-NASPE
National Riding Committee standards will continue on a high level and
be awarded nationally with consistency. It is hoped that an equally
reliable method of rating instructors will also be developed.

Procedures for setting up a new rating center are fairly simple, and
the information herein describes these and other requirements for
centers. Also included (in the Appendix) is a current list of NASPE-
NAGWS National and Local Judges who might provide further infor-
mation. The National Committee members will be pleased to assist
you as well. The chairmen of the Forward Riding Section and the
Western Riding Section can provide a list of qualified instructors
available for private clinics.

The Riding Committee is now entering a new phase of sponsored
teacher workshops to provide ideas and a forum for instructors and
riding establishments. The biannual Riding Highlights newsletters will
keep interested persons informed as to these and other upcoming
events.

Paul D. Cronin
December, 1975
Rated Rider Examinations

Four separate examinations are given for the rated rider. Each examination consists of both practical and theoretical tests. The first is the qualifying ride, followed by the number 3, the number 2, and the number 1 Rated Rider Examinations. Each test is required and must be taken in order.

Theory Test

All candidates are tested on their theoretical knowledge of riding. Recommended readings to prepare for the theory appear in this booklet. The Western Riding Section may also present questions on bits and bitting, nutrition, horse care, and disease as one quarter or less of the written test. Each level consists of a written examination and/or an oral test. Please note specific requirements for each test.

Practical Test

Practical tests demonstrating position and control are given to each candidate who rides before a committee of judges. The first consideration is correct position and effective control demonstrating the proper aids and techniques for each level of testing.

Position

A good working position affords:

1. Unity of horse and rider
2. Security for the rider
3. Non-abuse of the horse
4. Efficient use of the aids (voice, weight, legs and hands)

The qualities of a good position are:

1. Correct design of position
2. Correct distribution of weight
3. Balance in motion
4. Spring
5. Rhythm
6. Physical relaxation
7. Grip

Control

The rider, mounted on a horse sufficiently schooled to execute the required movements, should demonstrate the following:
1. A clear understanding of the five rein aids and three leg aids
2. The ability to work the horse on loose rein and where applicable on contact, demonstrating correct application of the aids and techniques for the level being tested to achieve a good performance of a horse
3. The ability to obtain a performance with the head and neck extended, mouth closed and the horse connected and calm
4. The ability to have the horse move "on the line" and at an even pace
5. The ability to obtain from the horse efficient, smooth and precise movements forward in all gaits and transitions at the desired level.

Schooling

Schooling is the physical and mental education of the horse. The basic aim of schooling is to maintain and restore to the horse under the weight of the rider the natural balance of a free horse. Schooling develops the horse physically and mentally to the point where he performs efficiently and is pleasant to ride for an educated rider. In short, schooling improves the horse's athletic development and teaches the horse signals, obedience and cooperation.

A good performance of a well-schooled horse exhibits:

1. Mentally — calmness, knowledge of signals, cooperation
2. Physically — well-developed balance in motion, strength, endurance, agility, rhythmic gaits and athletic jumping

Certain testing levels require the candidate to demonstrate ability to school.

Judges

Ratings in riding may be awarded by the following judges:

The rating of a number 1 or number 2 may be awarded by two National Judges or one National Judge and one Local Judge.

The rating of a number 3 and qualifying rides may be awarded by two National Judges or two Local Judges or one National Judge and one Local Judge.

No rating may be awarded at a level higher than the lower of the two scores, whether theoretical or practical.

Active Period for Rider Ratings and Qualifying

A rider rating shall be valid for three years. A rider may renew or raise the rating any time within the active three-year period.

A Qualifying Ride shall be valid for two years.
Renewal of Ratings

A rider may renew the rating at any time during the three-year period and no later than three years from receipt of the rating. Each time a rating is renewed it shall be valid for three years from that date. An expired rating will require complete retesting.

The rider may renew the number 3, number 2 or number 1 rating by doing one of the following:

- Participate in a NASPE-NAGWS clinic as a rider or instructor. Arrangements for this participation will be made by permission of the chairman of that clinic.
- Participate in a NASPE-NAGWS rating center and pass the examinations for the rating.

If the clinics and centers established for rating are unable to accommodate all applicants, preference will be given to those who are teaching or who expect to teach.

Fees

A fee will be charged to each person attending a NASPE-NAGWS clinic whether observing or participating. A fee will be charged for each test level given at a NASPE-NAGWS rating center. This fee also applies to renewals.

- Clinic three days or less = $5
- Clinic four days or more = $15
- Each Rating Examination Qualifying Level through number 1 = $15

This booklet, Riding Standards, will be purchased by each rating center and clinic participant, its cost included in the clinic center fee to the participant. The chairperson of each center and clinic will be responsible for the distribution and fee. Individuals may write to the AAHPER for copies.

Age Requirement

Qualifying Rides and Rider Ratings may be awarded to persons age 18 years or older.

Wallet Cards and Certificates

Upon receiving a rating, or completing the qualifying ride, each candidate will receive a wallet card with the rating awarded, the theoretical and practical grades, and the date. In addition, a certificate suitable for framing will be awarded. Candidates passing the qualifying tests will receive only a wallet card.
Recommended Ring Dimensions and Letters

The Program Ride in the Forward Riding Test should be performed in a ring no smaller than 175' × 115' and no larger than 200' × 130'.

The Program Ride in the Western Riding Test should be performed in a ring no smaller than 60' × 150'. The recommended size is 66' × 200'. The arena should not be less than 50' × 150' in area.

Placement of arena letters is illustrated below:

Scoring

Qualifying Ride Examination

Program Ride, 8-9-10. Demonstrating knowledge and ability on a high elementary level to the low intermediate level.

Field Ride, Pass-Fail. To be ridden on a high elementary level

Theory Test: 9-10. Written and/or oral

Number Three and Number Two Rated Rider Examinations

Program Ride, 8-9-10. Demonstrating knowledge and ability on the intermediate level.

Field Ride, Pass-Fail. To be ridden on the intermediate level

Theory Test: 9-10. Written and/or oral

Number One Rated Rider Examination

Program Ride: 8-9-10

Field Test: Pass-Fail

Theory Examination: 9-10

A minimum of 25 percent of this theory examination must be taken orally. This does not include the oral evaluation of any of the mounted phase.

Schooling Test: Pass-Fail
Forward Riding: Rated Rider Examination Requirements

I. Qualifying Ride Examination

The purpose of this test is to certify a rider to take any or all of the three rider ratings. Every rider must hold an active qualifying card before attempting the number 3 ride.

The candidate is to demonstrate correct position and a thorough understanding of the aims and techniques of the elementary and low intermediate levels of riding.

Movements in the program ride may include:
1. Loose rein and some contact work
2. Cantering 3' fences (holding)
3. Three speeds of a trot
4. Half circles (large) and full circles
5. Canter on each lead with a simple change of leads on a half circle
6. Turn on the forehand
7. Backing
8. Trotting fence (holding mane) approximately 2'

Required movements in the field are:
Demonstrate elementary level in hunter exercises in company over uneven terrain at the walk, trot, canter, and hold hard. Jump three 3' fences alone, in field — holding mane.

II. Number 3 Rated Rider Examination

Intermediate Level of Riding on Both Riding Phases of Number 3

- Demonstrating a good intermediate level, the rider must have a good position, a thorough knowledge and understanding of intermediate aims and control technique, and the ability to ride on contact unless otherwise specified.
- There must be a good working performance, exhibiting cooperation between horse and rider with the ride mechanically correct from beginning to end.
- The rider should have a sound, working understanding of modern theories of schooling and riding. The candidate should be prepared to concisely evaluate his performance.

Note. Reader should refer to requirements and policies elsewhere in this booklet that are applicable to Forward Riding.
Required movements for the program ride may include:
1. All movements of Qualifying Level
2. All movements on contact unless otherwise specified
3. Soft and precise transitions
4. Simple interruption of leads on the line (down the center of ring)
5. A gallop
6. Counter canter
7. Backing, moving forward to a trot
8. Zigzag
9. One 2' trotting fence, two 3' cantering fences (may rest on neck or follow)

Required movements for the field are:
- Jump alone a minimum of six 3' to 3'4" fences. Contact does not have to be maintained over all the fences.
- Work in a group at the walk, trot, canter, gallop and hold hard over uneven terrain, employing good principles of group riding. Fences are taken individually.

III. Number 2 Rated Rider Examination

Intermediate Level of Riding on Both Phases of the Number 2

Conditions the same as the number 3 Rated Rider Examination plus the following:
- The program ride should be fluid throughout, demonstrating a good performance of the horse as well as mechanical correctness.
- The rider should be aware of good schooling techniques and should have done some schooling and/or reclaiming of horses. The judges may test the candidate by asking him to analyze his horse's performance and by expecting a strong ride within the horse's capabilities and limitations.

Required movements for the program ride may include:
1. All movements of Qualifying Level and number 3 Rated Rider Program Ride
2. Three speeds of a canter
3. Serpentine
4. A half turn on haunches from a walk
5. One 2½' trotting fence, loose rein allowed; two 3½' to 3½' cantering fences. Contact does not have to be maintained over all the fences but the mane is not allowed.

Required movements for the field are:
1. Specifications the same as the number 3 Rated Rider Field test except for height of jumps from 3½' to 3½'
IV. Number 1 Rated Rider Examination

High Level of Intermediate Riding on Intermediate Level Horse

- Good quality performance of the horse is expected.
- This fluid precise performance of the horse is based on a strong working position of the rider and understanding and application of high intermediate techniques with full cooperation between horse and rider.

- The rider should have the ability to: (a) ride many horses, including horses of varying temperaments and schooling levels, (b) get the best performance possible from each horse at his stage of schooling, and (c) judge the horse’s stage. The judge must test the candidate’s ability to analyze a horse’s capabilities and limitations by requiring him to ride a green or problem horse that he has never ridden. The rider should be able to defend schooling techniques, explain sound methods of schooling and riding, and demonstrate them in practice. The candidate is expected to evaluate the horses orally and be able to apply specific schooling techniques to both mounts.

Movements for a number 1 program ride may include:
1. All movements of previous testing levels
2. One 2½’ trotting fence; two 3½’ cantering fences
3. Backing four steps followed by a canter departure on a specific lead
4. A halt from a canter
5. Leg yielding
6. Two tracking
7. Flying change of lead
8. Turn on the haunches from a halt
9. Turn on the haunches from a gallop

Required movements for the field are:
- Minimum of six 3½’-3¾’ fences on the intermediate level. Contact should be maintained throughout.
- Work alone and in a group at the walk, trot, canter and gallop over uneven terrain employing good principles of group riding and taking fences in company.

Oral Evaluation:
- The rider will evaluate orally the program and field ride after completing each and before the judges have made their comments. Evaluation should include the capabilities and limitations of the horse during each test, the rider’s ability to get the performance from the horse, the level of schooling demonstrated from the horse during the tests, and the ability of the rider to work in cooperation with the horse’s efforts.
“DRL” Champion Junior, Amateur and Walking Divisions. Horse and rider demonstrating correct jumping form and unity. Notice following arm and direct line from bit to elbow. Photo, courtesy Paul D. Cronin.
Schooling Test:

The judge must test the candidate's ability to analyze a horse's capabilities and limitations by requiring the candidate to ride a green or problem horse that he has never ridden. The candidate will ride and evaluate the horse in front of the judges and attempt

Horse and rider dropping off a bank during horse trials. Rider demonstrates elementary level and a correct non-abusive position. Photo, courtesy Keedie Grones.

Tammy Smith up. Champion at many top shows. Rider demonstrates a good lower leg position under instruction of National Judge Pam Cantwell Baker. Horse is "Wee Ken."
to determine the capabilities and limitations of the horse at his present stage of schooling. The candidate should plan movements and fences that will best demonstrate his understanding of the horse's present schooling level.

Hacking quietly in company is an important phase of Forward schooling. Photo, courtesy Sweet Briar College.

Western Riding: Rated Rider Examination Requirements

I. Qualifying Ride Examination

A general aim is to exercise authority over the horse through definite control in primitively executed gaits, transitions, halts, turns and backing. Abruptness is permissible when the elementary rider is unable to obtain desired results by gentle means.

Rider’s design of position and weight distribution will be evaluated. Riding for this test should be done on loose rein. A rein in each hand should be used for better control, and the horse should not show excessive speeds.

Equipment should include saddle that fits rider, prefer snaffle bit or bit with reins at snaffle position, bosal or mechanical hackamore acceptable. No artificial aids should be used. Liberal use of voice commands is encouraged.

II. Number 3 Rated Rider Examination

This ride is done mainly at slow speed with emphasis on the rider’s position. A rein in each hand may be used for better control and voice commands are allowed.

Movements for this test include:

1. Ordinary walk
2. Strong walk
3. Jog trot
4. Changes of direction
5. Extended trot
6. Halt
7. Rollbacks at a walk
8. Circles
9. Lope
10. Halt and back four steps
11. Figure eight
12. Serpentine of three loops
13. Turn on forehand

Note. Reader should refer to requirements and policies in other sections of this booklet that are applicable to both Western and Forward Riding.
III. Number 2 Rated Rider Examination

This ride is executed at medium speed with emphasis on efficient use of aids for smooth transitions, showing a definite cooperation of rider's hands and legs with horse's efforts and reactions. Rein in each hand may be used for better control, but one hand is preferred. No audible voice command should be used.

Movements for this test include:
1. All movements in the number 3 test
2. Halt and back six steps
3. Small circles
4. Serpentine of four loops
5. Simple change of leads
6. Strong lope
7. Rollbacks at a trot

Judges reserve the right to ask the rider to demonstrate ability on a second horse of judge's choice.

IV. Number 1 Rated Rider Examination

This ride requires fast speeds with emphasis on the rider's ability to achieve movements of high quality maintained throughout the performance. Reins must be held in one hand, with no audible voice commands.

Movements for this test include:
1. All movements of number 2 and 3 tests
2. Two speeds at lope
3. Position and back through "L" poles
4. Serpentine of three loops with flying change of leads at center
5. Spin to left and right
6. Posting trot
7. Pivot right and left
8. Rollbacks at a lope
9. Side pass
10. Open and close gate
11. Mount and dismount
The horse is starting the check for a roll back, giving a relaxed appearance for this very strenuous movement. Notice the dust that the left hind foot is stirring up. The mare's head, neck and attitude are correct.

Photo, courtesy Suzanne Norton Jones, *The Art of Western Riding*.

The rider demonstrates an overall correct design of position on the horse at a walk.

Photo, courtesy Chuck Smallwood.
This champion western quarter horse is beginning a well-balanced spin with the rider in a non-abusive position.

Photo, courtesy Suzanne Norton Jones, The Art of Western Riding.

Collection after a balanced stop. Horse is ready to go in any direction at any speed.

Photo, courtesy Suzanne Norton Jones, The Art of Western Riding.
Appointment of Judges

National Judges

To become a National Judge, a candidate must have the following.

- A grade on a number 1 theoretical examination of “excellent” (9-10) and a grade on a number 1 practical test of “excellent” (9-10).
- Demonstrated ability to judge in line with others according to the rules set forth by the NASPE-NAGWS National Riding Committee.
- Service as a Local Judge for a minimum of two years, during which the candidate must judge and instruct in a clinic and rating center of not less than three days’ duration, participate in the entire session at an instructor level, judge the program rides, and correct the examinations at the end of the testing center.
- A written recommendation to the NASPE-NAGWS National Riding Committee by at least two recognized National Judges and approval by the committee chairperson and the Riding Committee. This recommendation is to be based on the evaluation of the candidate’s judging and teaching at a NASPE-NAGWS rating center and also may be based on inspection of the candidate’s establishment and pupils. A special form for recommending judges must be used. The candidate must also complete a form. These may be obtained from the appropriate section chairperson. Each National and Local Judge will be polled concerning the appointment or promotion of new judges prior to final voting of the National Committee.

Local Judges

To become a Local Judge, a candidate must have the following.

- Attendance at a riding clinic and rating center as a nonmounted apprentice instructor and judge. Candidate will help with the planning, organization of the day and evening procedures, daily instruction, lectures, and written and practical examinations. To qualify for the apprentice session, candidates must hold an active number 1 or 2 rating and a theoretical examination score of 90-100.
- Demonstrated ability to instruct and judge in line with others according to the rules set forth by the NASPE-NAGWS National Riding Committee.
A written recommendation to the National Riding Committee by at least one recognized National Judge and one recognized Local Judge and approval by the Committee chairperson and the Riding Committee. This recommendation is based on an evaluation of the candidate's judging and teaching at a NASPE-NAGWS rating center and also may be based on inspection of the candidate's establishment and pupils. A special form for recommending judges must be used. The candidate must also complete a form. Each National and Local Judge will be polled concerning the appointment or promotion of new judges prior to final voting of the National Committee.

Qualifying as a Local Judge for Teachers of Riding includes the following special steps:

A full-time, experienced riding teacher may request permission to qualify for apprenticeship to become a Local Judge without holding a number 1 or number 2 rating if age or physical disability prohibits performing the rides to achieve such rating. The National Riding Committee must pass on each case prior to the applicant's apprenticeship as a judge.

Procedures for this special Local Judge test are the following:

- The applicant must apply to the national chairperson and receive permission from the National Committee.
- The applicant must produce two riders and two horses trained and schooled by applicant. These riders and horses must have been under the exclusive training of the applicant for a period of at least two consecutive years.
- The two riders must be at not less than the number 3 level of riding and pass a written and oral examination at the number 1 level.
- After meeting the above requirements, the candidate may be admitted to the apprenticeship for a Local Judge on equal status with other apprentices.

These procedures replace performance of a number 1 or 2 rating ride for candidates incapable of such performance because of age or physical disability. The candidates must then meet all the other requirements for a Local Judge. A candidate may become only a Local Judge and not a National Judge through these procedures. The judge may advertise as a Local Judge but not as a rated rider.

Provisional Status of Judges

There will be a provisional status for judges who are recommended at centers held before the annual committee meeting and who are approved by the chairperson. The candidate will later be voted on by the committee and, if passed, will be issued a card at that time. These
provisional judges may rate riders under the rules concerning ratings if the second judge involved is a recognized National Judge in good standing.

Renewal and Apprentice Judge

To maintain status as a Local or National Judge, Judges are expected to remain active in NASPE-NAGWS teaching and judging.

Each year the Riding Committee will review and vote upon the list of judges for renewal of appointments. A National or Local Judge shall keep an active judge's rating as long as he or she participates in a NASPE-NAGWS clinic and/or rating center once every three years. The new three-year period starts on the first date of participation in the clinic or rating center.

Persons qualified to work for Local or National Judge status or to renew should contact the chairman of the Forward or Western Section. Instruction and testing centers will be informed of the availability of persons to teach, practice judge, or judge. If the center's staff is full, the center chairman may invite these persons to participate at their own expense so they may accomplish their goals. The instruction center fee is not ordinarily charged persons working on apprenticeship or renewal of judge's status.
A Program for Teaching Riding

The most important place to start a discussion of an instructional program is with the pupil. The pupil should consider what he expects to achieve from his riding instruction. His initial objectives may be short-range. A beginner may want to learn enough to ride pleasure horses or hack out through the countryside. An intermediate rider may want to improve his skill and knowledge to hunt or show or even to further develop his skill and theoretical understanding to school horses or teach riding.

The riding program selected should be suitable for these objectives. In summarizing a good instructional program, we must consider the method of riding taught, the instructors in the program, the horses available for teaching, the stable management and the teaching facilities.

A System

The instruction or method should be founded on knowledge of, and experience in, a particular theory of riding and schooling. A system of riding will help provide the flexibility necessary for successful and interesting instruction on different levels and suitable horses for teaching these levels. It should be applicable to group or private classes and provide the student with an efficient, practical avenue to his objectives for riding, whether they be showing, eventing, hunting, hacking or pleasure riding.

The system or method must relate logically to the movement and agility desired in the horse, the movement and agility must be easily and consistently integrated with the position and control techniques of the rider. Using one method of position, control and movement in the ring and another outside is, to say the least, inconsistent and quite unrealistic for the majority of riders who have limited time to be educated in a complicated method. In a riding program based on a logical and modern method in which horses are trained on levels consistent with their age, experience and stage of schooling, the riding techniques of position and control must relate to these stages of schooling to produce a good performance of the horse. There should also be levels of achievement for the rider corresponding to the horse’s levels, which together are well integrated parts of the whole system. The method should be realistic and efficient for the rider’s age, experience, riding education and time available for riding.
Instructor

The instructor must understand thoroughly the level he or she is teaching and how this level relates to others taught in the program. One course or series of classes should build to the next, and the riding techniques taught at each level must be consistent among all the instructors. An instructor should have competent riding experience at least at the level he is teaching in order to be sensitive and alert to the pupils and horses.

Although the importance of an efficient system of riding cannot be overemphasized, a good instructor must be alert to new ideas to improve both the method and his teaching. An essential asset is an objective outlook to learning. An instructor has many possible avenues for improving his teaching. Reading, studying, and using riding theory, attending clinics as a rider and observer, having a competent guest instructor who will evaluate in a professional manner his teaching and riding program, and written unsigned evaluations and oral evaluations from his pupils are all ways of developing guidelines for improvement. In addition to a thorough knowledge of riding, a riding instructor should have a well-rounded education. Some regular interest and experience in the fun of learning a subject other than riding can be a great asset to a riding teacher’s objectivity and communication with pupils. A good teacher should have a basic gift for teaching others and a healthy sense of humor.

Classes must be organized so they are safe and productive in the shortest period of time and so the pupil fully enjoys learning and improving his riding techniques.

The instructor is an essential part of the total system of riding. Some of the qualities of a good instructor and a well-conducted class might include the following:

The instructor has

1. Firmly established a practical and modern system of riding
2. An interest in students
3. An ability to communicate well with students
4. The ability to demonstrate any movements he asks of his students or, at least, experience with these movements
5. An ability to explain what he expects in movements and the reasons for them
6. A good imagination for thinking of productive exercises that contribute significantly to the total effort
7. An ability to recognize and correct student’s faults with a positive attitude
8. A knowledge of the horses being used and the ability to mount and “fix” them prior to the lesson, or to school them
9. Patience with and an understanding of the pupil’s fears.
curiosity, abilities (mental and physical), attitude, and reasons for riding

10. The ability to conduct safe classes without overwhelming the pupil, to anticipate rider and horse problems in a group class, and to act calmly to prevent accidents

The instruction

1. Is to the point and relates to the aim of the lesson
2. Improves the rider's and horse's performance in a practical and efficient way
3. Challenges students
4. Develops a healthy attitude toward learning and consideration for the horse
5. Builds the confidence of the rider, his control of his horse, and his ability to do what is asked of him
6. Leads to recreational and competitive experiences suitable to various riding levels and consistent with the teaching goals, such as showing, hacking, trail riding, eventing, and hunting

The Horses

A good teaching program should have horses schooled for each level taught. There should be an appropriate number of elementary level horses to meet the needs of the lower level riders. These horses should not only be of good temperament, sound and of a suitable size, but also schooled well enough to respond to elementary control techniques such as voice, weight, tapping leg, check release and opening rein. They should be mentally and physically stabilized to the point that they will be able to maintain the gait and speed asked on loose rein with a minimum of control techniques.

Upper level students will need a variety of horses that respond to elementary control techniques and that may be ridden on contact or on the intermediate control level to produce a more smooth and precise performance. A good summary of the different schooling levels for the teaching program's horses are the NASPE-NAGWS Rated Rider testing levels in this booklet. The Qualifying Test describes what and how a horse should be able to perform on the elementary level; the other tests describe desirable schooling levels of horses for teaching intermediate riding. A pupil cannot learn to ride efficiently at the intermediate level on an elementary horse nor can a beginner learn to ride as quickly or safely on an intermediate horse. Further, the intermediate horse's responsiveness to intermediate control techniques such as weight, squeezing leg, give and take, and direct rein aids will diminish if ridden by beginners with unstable positions and crude aids, which are often abusive.
A green horse in the program could offer good experience to a high intermediate or advanced pupil only if the pupil knows the elementary control and techniques thoroughly and the intermediate control techniques and rides well on at least the high intermediate level. The young horse cannot be schooled to a level higher than his regular rider.

The horses will become more consistent and useful for teaching if the techniques of riding that relate to a complete and practical system are adhered to thoughtfully by the instructors and riders in the program. Otherwise, the results are chaos and frustration for pupils and teachers, and especially for the horses.

Stable Management

Stable management is the proper organization of the facilities, equipment and labor to provide economic, efficient and healthy care for the horses. The facilities should be well-planned for their purpose — to teach riding. Pupils should be able to maneuver safely about the stable in learning to handle, groom and care for the horse. The facilities and management should also provide for simple supervision of students, labor and horses. The horses should be in good flesh, muscled and well-groomed. The tack should be clean and stitching maintained. Horses should be turned out to be free on a regular basis; worked on a varied schedule to include the right amount of flat and jumping; and worked in different settings such as hacking out, in the ring, and in an open field. Each horse should have a day off per week. Good stable management combined with modern schooling and consistent riding techniques should produce horses that work happily, willingly and consistently in the teaching program.

Teaching Facilities

There should be sufficient, safe and accessible teaching facilities available. If the teaching program is directed toward riding hunters there should be facilities for working in a ring, in an open area, over uneven terrain, and cross-country. The footing should be safe and conducive to sound horses. Essential equipment such as cavaletti poles, combinations, and varied jumps and obstacles must be available. Regardless of the type and objectives of riding, the necessary working areas and equipment must be accessible to pupils and safe for use. The footing, arrangements of fencing, and type of equipment should be in good condition and constructed to prevent accidents.

Most people can accept the definition of horsemanship as obtaining the best possible performance from the horse using the least amount
of his nervous and physical energy. This task requires a thoughtful method. We must consider a system that approaches the schooling of the green or elementary level horse, the intermediate level horse, and the advanced level horse in carefully integrated stages with specific riding techniques and theory for each stage. The same system must also have stages of progression for the pupil that relate to the rider's position and control techniques to the horse's movements and function and the stage of schooling.

The NASPE-NAGWS National Riding Committee riding clinics provide an opportunity for riders and especially teachers to receive assistance in developing a riding and schooling system and a teaching method. The opportunity to exchange ideas with other instructors and raise questions is of great value to the teacher. The NASPE-NAGWS National Riding Committee rating centers can be an excellent evaluation of one's progress in learning or developing a modern riding system. Working independently to prepare for the mounted and theory tests and then receiving an evaluation of one's progression can be an invaluable learning experience for both riders and teachers.
Rating Centers

Current Approved Ratings Centers

Each year rating center locations are approved by the National Riding Committee. Rating centers are usually held in educational institutions. Centers in the past have been approved in California, Missouri, Colorado, Texas, Michigan, South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, New York and Massachusetts. For a list of the current rating centers, please write to the appropriate section chairperson.

Listed Rating Centers

To become a listed rating center an application must be made annually to the section chairperson and approved by the National Riding Committee. An application form may be obtained from the section chairperson.

The provisions to have a listed rating center include:

- A National Riding Committee Representative approves the riding testing stations, stabling, and other requirements as stated on the listed rating center application form.
- At least two rating centers are offered annually on approved dates.
- At least one scheduled rating center must be accompanied by a sponsored clinic which must be two or more days in duration.
- One judge of the rating center is selected by the section chairperson.
- The rating center chairperson is present during all the testing and insures all the policies and requirements of the National Riding Committee as stated in this publication are carried out and especially that tests are properly conducted in every detail.
- If the center is not held under the direct auspices of a college, university, school or similar educational institution, there should be an affiliation with one of these. Preference will be given to applicants having an educational institution affiliation.
- The National Riding Council will list in Riding Standards, advertise in riding publications and promote all listed rating centers approved for a given year.

Note. Please read and follow the Guide for Conducting a National Rider Rating Center which may be obtained from your section chairperson.
The National Riding Council reserves the right to reject any application or discontinue any listed rating center at any time. New applicants to become listed rating centers should consider first having a National Riding Council sponsored clinic.

Temporary Rating Centers

During the development of more listed rating centers in certain situations a temporary rating center will be permitted under the following provisions:

- A National Judge submits a temporary center application to the section chairperson.
- Both the section chairperson and the national chairman give permission to hold the temporary center on the date requested. The section chairperson reports back to the applicant after receiving the application and contacting the national chairperson.
- One judge of the testing center is selected by the section chairperson.
- The testing center site is to be held at the National Judge’s own school or where he/she ordinarily teaches.
- The testing center must meet all the requirements for the level(s) being tested without exceptions.
- The center site must meet all the requirements outlined on the temporary rating center application form.
- Temporary rating centers may not be held on a date within a four-week period of a listed center being conducted within a 250-mile radius.
- A temporary rating center may not advertise in publications or mailings as a rating center.
- The rating center chairperson is present during all the testing and insures that all the policies and requirements of the National Riding Council, as stated in this publication, are carried out, especially that tests are properly conducted in every detail.
Instructional Clinics

A sponsored clinic applicant must meet the following conditions.

- Submit an application for a National Riding Council sponsored clinic to the section chairperson at least 90 days prior to the clinic date. Both the section chairperson and the national chairperson must approve the sponsored clinic and date. The section chairperson will contact the national chairperson and promptly notify the applicant. Applications for a National Riding Council sponsored clinic may be obtained from the section chairperson.

- The section chairperson or an appointed representative must inspect the clinic location and facilities prior to final approval.

- All instructors must be rated riders. The section chairman will assist in locating instructors if requested.

- The head instructor must be approved by the section chairperson.

- The clinic schedule and proposed instructional outline for the clinic must be approved by the head instructor and the section chairperson prior to the clinic.

- In addition to the teaching staff, a clinic coordinator is appointed and available throughout the clinic. Under the guidance of the head instructor, he insures the clinic schedule is carried out. Horses and equipment are prepared and put up properly, stations are ready for teaching, food and living accommodations are properly provided, etc.

- Sponsored clinics will be promoted and advertised by the National Riding Council.

- Instructors should receive at least the minimum standard fee as designated by the National Riding Committee and their expenses.

- The clinic coordinator and instructors must complete a clinic evaluation form on the last day of the clinic. The evaluation is sent to the section chairperson.

Any Listed Rating Center is authorized to have a sponsored clinic within its approved years. Any sponsored clinic not in conjunction with a rating center must have advance approval of the section chairperson. A clinic application and an inspection of the site are not required. All other conditions for a sponsored clinic are required.

Note. Please read and follow the Guide for Conducting a NRC Clinic which may be obtained from your section chairperson.
Policy Concerning Advertising and Terminology

Only nationally rated riders with a current number 1 or 2 rating and National or Local Judges may indicate their ratings by the NASPE-NAGWS National Riding Committee in any brochure, advertisement or news release. Only the following wording may be used:

Rated Rider
NASPE-NAGWS National Riding Committee

or

National (or Local) Judge
NASPE-NAGWS National Riding Committee

Inasmuch as most individuals who attend instruction and rating centers are either riding instructors or potential riding instructors, confusion occasionally arises as to what the ratings mean. As our organization is set up, it is the skill in and knowledge of the sport that is rated, not the candidate’s ability as an instructor. Therefore, an individual holding a rating can term himself “an instructor holding a NASPE-NAGWS National Riding Committee Rider Rating” or “Judge’s Rating” but not a “certified instructor” or a “rated instructor.”

It is the responsibility of the chairperson of each rating center to acquaint candidates with the correct terminology and to see that a news release be given to an appropriate periodical as to the names and addresses of those individuals who received rider ratings at that center.
Annotated Bibliography

This bibliography is presented to assist in providing material to prepare for both the theoretical and practical phases of the rated rider examinations and to suggest interesting reading that might be useful to certain riders and instructors. It is not a complete bibliography.

Forward Riding


Littauer, Vladimir S. Common Sense Horsemanship. 2d ed. New York. Arco Publishing Co., 1972. A basic text that covers the theory of forward riding, techniques of elementary, intermediate and advanced position, control and schooling, and how to teach forward riding. The most important work used for the rated rider examinations.

Special Interest


**Western Riding**

**Fundamentals**


**Special Interest**


Levings, N. Patricia. *Training the Quarter Horse Jumper*. New York: A.S. Barnes, 1968. Presents a method of training to the quarter horse owner and rider so that he will be able to school his horse in competition in AQHA jumper and hunter classes.


**General Interest For Both Forward and Western Riding**


Smythe, R.H. *The Horse: Structure and Movement*. West Orange, NJ: Albert Saifer, Publisher (Box 56), 1967. An excellent presentation of the study of the horse's structure and of the horse in motion.

NASPE-NAGWS National Riding Committee
1976-1977

Paul D. Cronin, Chairperson
National Riding Committee 1976
Box 6
Sweet Briar, VA 24595

Mrs. Coleman P. Perrin, Chairperson
of Forward Riding Section
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Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103

Diane Cody, Chairperson of
Western Riding Section
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Graham, Texas 76046

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National Chairperson — Past 1976
8519 Palace Drive
Buckingham Park
Kelseyville, CA 95451

Mrs. David Parker
National Chairperson — Elect 1976
Running Fox Farm
Stuarts Draft, VA 24477

Marion Lee, Chairperson of
Publications and Publicity
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Apartment 506
Arlington, VA 22201

Janet McBrien
Coordinator of Job Placement
Services for Rated Riders
Goucher College
Towson, MD 21204

Members at Large

Chuck Smallwood 1975-1976
2505 12th Street
West Texas State University
Canyon, TX 79015
Jeannette Sanders 1975-1976
1339 Prell Road
Santa Maria, CA 93545

Deborah Booker 1976-1977
William Wood College
Route 8
Columbia, MO 65201

Nancy Rice 1976-1977
1842 Heyward Street
Columbia, SC 29205

Consultants to the National Riding Committee

NASPE Consultant
Ross Merrick

NAGWS Consultant
Kay Hutchcraft

Official Publication and Other National Equestrian Organizations

Official Publication of the National Riding Committee
The Chronicle of the Horse
Berryville, VA 22611

For information regarding the United States Equestrian Olympic Team, contact:
United States Equestrian Team
Gladstone, NJ 07934

For information regarding the rules and regulations of horse show competition in the United States for all breeds, contact:
American Horse Show Association, Inc.
527 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022

For information regarding Combined Training in the United States, contact:
United States Combined Training Association
One Winthrop Square
Boston, MA 02110
Intercollegiate Competition

The National Riding Committee has devised a Four Phase Event Competition for Intercollegiate State and National Championships. The competition is based on horsemanship and the phases are Written Theory, Dressage Sportif, Cross-Country, and Stadium Jumping. For details, please write to the current chairperson.

The Intercollegiate Horse Show Association's (IHSA) Executive Director is the official representative to the National Riding Committee. For information regarding the IHSA, please write:

R. E. Cacchione
Executive Director, IHSA
480 Halstead Avenue
Harrison, NY 10528

National and Local Judges
National Riding Committee, Fall 1975

FORWARD RIDING SECTION

National Judges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name &amp; Address</th>
<th>Expiration Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bailey, Clayton E., 370 Woodland Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24503</td>
<td>Advisor</td>
<td>N # 1</td>
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<td>Baker Pam Cantwell, Route 2, Box 2292, Virginia Beach, VA 23456</td>
<td>5:77</td>
<td>N # 1</td>
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<td>Belser, Mrs. C.H., 811 Albion Road, Columbia, SC 29205</td>
<td>6:78</td>
<td>N # 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cantwell, James A., Route 2, Box 2292, Virginia Beach, VA 23456</td>
<td>7:77</td>
<td>N # 1</td>
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<td>Cox, Mrs. Robert, Rt. 1, Box 26-A, Forest, VA 24551</td>
<td>8:77</td>
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<td>Cronin, Paul D., Box 6, Sweet Briar, VA 24595</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dillon, Jane M., 9710 Clark Crossing Road, Vienna, VA 22180</td>
<td>6:78</td>
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<td>Gray, Lendon, RFD 1, Miles Road, Dixmont, ME 04932</td>
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<td>Harder, Lois, 715 Deacon Road, Fredricksburg, VA 22401</td>
<td>7:77</td>
<td>N # 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haynes, Hanora, Broadacres Farm, Sudbury, MA 01776</td>
<td>1:78</td>
<td>N # 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kollock, Fenwick, 4201 Cathedral Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 22216 6/77 N # 1
Lee, Marion, 2030 N. Oak Street, Apt. 506, Arlington, VA 22201 6/78 N # 1
Littauer, Captain V.S., Syosset, Long Island, NY 11791 Advisor 5/77 N # 1
Little, Faye, 8200 Meadowbrook Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20015 5/77 N # 1
Parker, Mrs. Davis, Box 88, Stuarts Draft, VA 24477 5/78 N # 1
Perrin, Mrs. Coleman, Dover Farm, Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103 1/79 N # 1
Little, Faye, 8200 Meadowbrook Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20015 5/77 N # 1
Rogers, Harriet, Sweet Briar, VA 24595 Advisor 5/78 N # 1
Russell, Kay, North Fork School of Equitation, Purcellville, VA 22132 5/78 N # 1
Sydnor, Mrs. Kil, Rt. 2, Box 195, Forest, VA 24551 5/78 N # 1
Thompson, Jan, 8519 Palace Drive, Buckingham Park, Kelseyville, CA 95451 6/78 N # 1
Waiter, Fran, 3125 Garden Circle, #24, Shingle Springs, CA 95682 5/78 N # 1

Local Judges

Beisel, Caroline, Rt. 1, Olsburg, KS 66520 5/78 L # 2
Gann, Alice, Chatham Hall, Chatham, VA 24531 6/78 L # 2
McBrien, Janet, Goucher College, Towson, MD 21204 5/77 L # 2
Midgett, Mrs. Ralph, Rt. 1, Box 1067, Virginia Beach, VA 23456 1/77 L # 2
Osann, Mrs. Robert, Sweet Briar, VA 24595 1/79 L # 2
Phillips, Cyndie, Rt. 11, Box 521, Spokane, WA 99200 6/77 L # 2
Pope, Mary Lou, Box 1285, Oroville, CA 95965 6/77 L # 2
WESTERN RIDING SECTION

National Judges

Freeman, Elinor, Box 308, Wheeler, TX 79096
Kihstrom, Mary, Box 451, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
Krontz, Sally, Rt. 1, Box 44 A, Stapleton, NE 69163
Martin, Jean, Buffalo Trail Ranch, Dubuque, IA 52001
Shannon, Elizabeth, Box 1035, Clifton, AZ 85533
Wright, Bittsy, Box 584, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

Local Judges

Bailey, Betty, Box 1601, Pampa, TX 79065
Cody, Diane, 1400 Rolling Hills Drive, Graham, TX 76046
Horton, Cathey, Rt. 2, Box 177, Canyon, TX 79015
Phillips, Cyndie, Rt. 11, Box 521, Spokane, WA 99208
Poffenberger, Marilyn, 2935 24th St., Sacramento, CA 95818
Roper, Jessie, Rt. 1, Box 2310, Davis, CA 95616
Sanders, Jeannette, 1339 Prell Road, Santa Maria, CA 93545
Smallwood, Chuck, 2505 12th Street, Canyon, TX 79015

Coordination of Job Placement for Rated Riders

In an effort to offer assistance to rated riders looking for jobs and to help institutions find rated riders for their programs, the National Riding Committee has established a job placement coordination service. The service will be conducted as follows:

1. Any rated rider desiring help is to fill out a resume and provide references for the file. Please cut out and use the form at the end of this booklet. All information will be confidential.
2. Available positions will then be referred to the rated rider.
3. Listings of openings and available rated riders are to be published in appropriate magazines.
4. Riders seeking to be rated will be sent lists of clinics and centers where instruction may be arranged and a list of all rated riders.
5. Follow-up communications will be made after placement in an effort to evaluate and improve our service.
NASPE-NAGWS National Riding Committee
Job Placement Coordination
Personal Data Sheet

CONFIDENTIAL

Name . Date
Address . Phone 
NAGWS Rating Sex Age Ht. Wt. 
Marital Status
Place of Birth

Education:
Amateur Experience:
Professional Experience:
Clinics and Centers Attended, with Dates:
Professional Organization Memberships.
Type of Position Desired:
Other Areas Qualified to Teach:

References: List three (3) with addresses and titles

Are you now available for interview? 
If not, when available?

Please enclose a photograph and transcript if possible.

Mail to: Janet McBrien
Goucher College
Towson, MD 21204
SELECTED RIDING ARTICLES

A collection of the best articles in the DGWS Riding Guides from 1950-70. Includes material on theory, group work in ring and field, teaching progressions, evaluation, and the horse itself. There are items in each article of interest to both teacher and pupil. The articles were selected for their appropriateness to every rider — expert and novice — and for their lasting value. 128 pp. (243-03036) Reduced from $1.50 to $1.00.

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