



LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – CORE SKILLS LEVEL 3 EVALUATION

The horse and rider combination should present as professional, clean, and tidy for evaluation, in similar turnout as you would expect for a clinic. Competition attire is not expected or required for evaluation. Horses should be clean and well-groomed. Rider apparel and all tack and equipment should be clean and well-fitted.

RIDER ATTIRE

- ✓ ASTM/SEI or BSI/BS EN approved helmets with safety harness correctly fastened at all times while mounted
- ✓ Hard soled, heeled boots (ankle height or higher)
- ✓ Fitted jeans
- ✓ Well-fitted, collared shirt tucked into pants with a belt is recommended
- ✓ Gloves are recommended
- ✓ Hair must be kept tidy and out of the way (one or two braids, low ponytail, or low bun are recommended as long as they do not interfere with helmet fit)

Not Permitted:

- ✗ Spurs

TACK AND TURNOUT

- ✓ Tack should be used as normal for the rider/horse combination
- ✓ Coaches must ensure tack is acceptable and legal for the discipline
- ✓ Saddle should be correctly fitted and balanced
- ✓ Protective boots are acceptable but should be clean and fit correctly

Not Permitted:

- ✗ Shanked leverage bits



WRITTEN EXAM

The LearnToRide Western – Level 3 Written Test is available online. Contact your provincial organization for more information on how to register for your test. This open-book test can be completed independently (unsupervised by an evaluator) anytime before your Riding Skills evaluation. It can be completed on any smartphone, tablet, or computer with internet access.

Use the checklist below to help you prepare for your LearnToRide Western – Level 3 Written Test:

	✓
Identification and use of protective boots	
Horse anatomy relating to tack	
Basic types of saddles	
Types and care of saddle pads/blankets	
Identification of snaffle bits	
Equestrian centre of gravity and balance	
Types of rein aids	

SKILL EVALUATION

Your riding skills evaluation is completed in the riding arena under the supervision of a certified LearnTo Evaluator. It includes skills introduced in LearnToRide Foundations Levels 1 and 2, and LearnToRide Western Level 3. All required movements should be demonstrated with accuracy, but correct/consistent bend is not required. You will be expected to demonstrate correct diagonals throughout the riding portion. In Level 3, you will be riding individually, but other horses are permitted to be nearby or in the ring to keep your horse calm if needed.

Use the checklist below to help you prepare for your LearnToRide Western – Level 3 Riding Skills Evaluation:

	✓
Adjust stirrups and cinch safely	
Mount (from the ground or a mounting block)	
Ride a progressive warm-up	
Correct basic position at jog (sitting and rising/posting)	
Know and demonstrate correct rising/posting trot diagonals	
Basic position at lope	
Ride briefly without stirrups at jog (one large circle each direction)	
Ride down the center line	
Ride a small circle at walk	
Ride a small half-circle at jog	
Ride a large circle at jog	



Ride a figure-eight at jog	
Ride a loop on the long side	
Ride a large lope circle	
Evidence of preparing for transitions	
Identify and discuss tack and equipment being used (including boots, if worn)	
Ride the prescribed Western Level 3 Pattern	
Ride a progressive cool-out	
Safely dismount and exit the riding arena	

ON THE RAIL

At Level 3, the On the Rail portion of the riding evaluation must be ridden two-handed in a snaffle bit, hackamore, or sidepull.

The On the Rail portion for Level 3 is called by a certified LearnToRide Western evaluator and must include the following:

	✓
Walk	
Jog	
Lope	
Reverse at Walk	



PATTERN

At Level 3, the pattern portion of the riding evaluation must be ridden two-handed in a snaffle bit, hackamore, or sidepull.

The prescribed pattern below must be ridden during the evaluation for Level 3:

Pattern		
1	Enter walking.	
2	Jog $\frac{3}{4}$ down the line Loop back Jog $\frac{3}{4}$ down opposite line Loop back.	



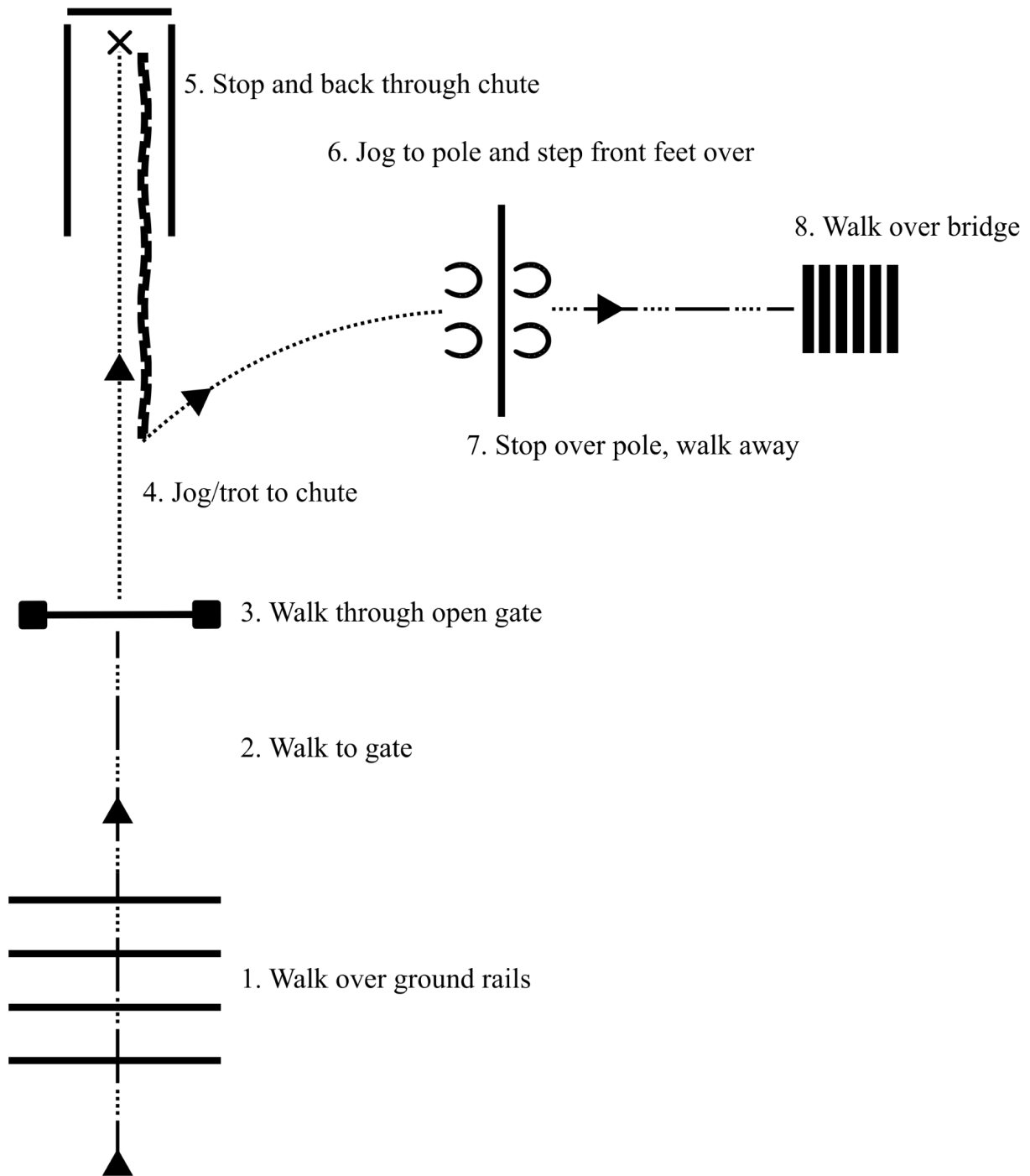
3	Lope right lead to centre of arena, lope large circle right. Jog and track left, lope left lead to centre of arena, lope large circle left.	
4	Posting trot right, change direction across diagonal, stop (through walk) and back up 4 steps on the rail.	
5	Exit walking.	



LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – OBSTACLES LEVEL 3 EVALUATION

The pattern below may be adjusted to suit the size and proportions of the arena available. A rope or solid gate may be used. Rails and standards may be used instead of a log if needed.

Pattern	
1	Walk over ground rails
2	Walk to gate
3	Walk through open gate
4	Jog or trot to back up chute
5	Stop and back through chute
6	Jog to pole and step front feet over, stop, walk away
7	Walk over bridge
	Exit at walk







LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – CORE SKILLS LEVEL 4 EVALUATION

At this level, you will be starting to coordinate your aids (e.g., leg being used to support rein contact). You should be able to establish (but not necessarily maintain) a soft connection with the horse's mouth and feel when the horse is responding softly to the bit (relaxing the jaw, mouthing the bit). You should also be able to demonstrate bend but not necessarily maintain it.

You should have a natural, quiet position in the saddle. At this level, you should be able to recognize an incorrect lead within a few strides and correct it. You should be able to do your own independent warm-up with more than one rider in the arena at a time.

The Equestrian Skills 4 evaluation includes 2 sections to be completed:

- Written Exam
- Riding Evaluation
 - On the Rail
 - Pattern

RIDER ATTIRE

- ✓ ASTM/SEI or BSI/BS EN approved helmets with safety harness correctly fastened at all times while mounted
- ✓ Hard soled, heeled boots (ankle height or higher)
- ✓ Fitted jeans
- ✓ Well-fitted, collared shirt tucked into pants with a belt is recommended
- ✓ Gloves are recommended
- ✓ Hair must be kept tidy and out of the way (one or two braids, low ponytail, or low bun are recommended as long as they do not interfere with helmet fit)

Not Permitted:

- ✗ Spurs

TACK AND TURNOUT

- ✓ Tack should be used as normal for the rider/horse combination
- ✓ Coaches must ensure tack is acceptable and legal for the discipline
- ✓ Saddle should be correctly fitted and balanced
- ✓ Protective boots are acceptable but should be clean and fit correctly
- ✓ A shank bit is permitted at Level 4 for the On the Rail portion of the evaluation



WRITTEN EXAM

The LearnToRide Western – Level 4 Written Exam is available online. Contact your provincial organization for more information on how to register for your test. This open-book test can be completed independently (unsupervised by an evaluator) anytime before your Riding Skills evaluation. It can be completed on any smartphone, tablet, or computer with internet access.

Use the checklist below to help you prepare for your LearnToRide Western – Level 4 Written Exam:

	✓
Training Building Blocks	
Breast collars and martingales	
Basic saddle construction and parts of the saddle	
Equestrian anatomy	
Riding position and your horse	
Unmounted exercises	
Rein aids	
Inside and outside aids	

SKILL EVALUATION

Your riding skills evaluation is completed in the riding arena under the supervision of a certified LearnTo Evaluator. It includes skills introduced in LearnToRide Foundations Levels 1 and 2, and LearnToRide Western Levels 3 and 4.

Use the checklist below to help you prepare for your LearnToRide Western – Level 4 Core Skills Evaluation:

	✓
Mount (from the ground or a block)	
Safely adjust stirrups and cinch	
Demonstrate and explain your progressive warm-up	
Strong basic position at the walk and jog	
Improving basic position at lope	
Ride without stirrups at jog	
Ride down the quarter line	
Ride a small circle at jog	
Ride a large circle at lope	
Ride a half circle	
Ride a figure-eight	
Ride a large loop on the long side at jog	
Ride a three-loop serpentine in sitting jog demonstrating changes of bend	



Non-progressive transitions	
Lope simple change of lead through jog	
Evidence of independent use of the aids	
Ride the prescribed Western Level 4 Pattern	
Demonstrate accuracy and control in the prescribed pattern	
Demonstrate and explain your basic cool-out	
Dismount and exit the arena	

ON THE RAIL

At Level 4, the On the Rail portion of the riding evaluation may be ridden two-handed in a snaffle bit or one-handed in a shank bit. Sidepulls and hackamores are also permitted. The bridle may be changed before the pattern component. If the rider is planning to pursue the Competitor Stream, it is recommended that they do the On the Rail portion of their evaluation one-handed in a shank bit.

The On the Rail portion for Level 4 is called by a certified LearnToRide Western evaluator and must include the following:

	✓
Walk	
Jog	
Lope left lead	
Lope right lead	
Reverse at Walk	

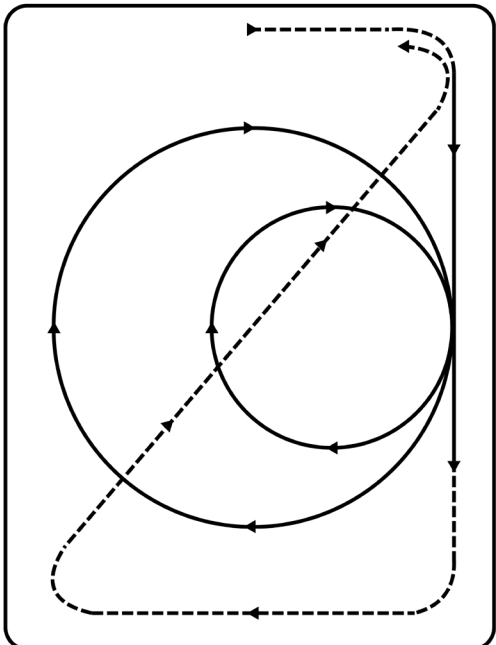
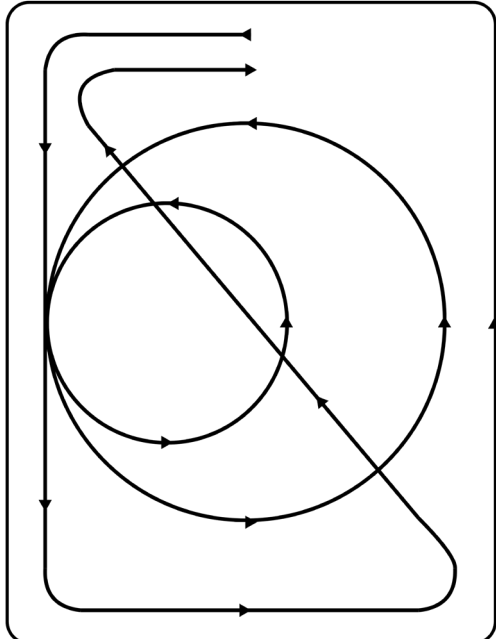


PATTERN

At Level 4, the pattern portion of the riding evaluation must be ridden two-handed in a snaffle bit, sidepull, or hackamore.

The prescribed pattern below must be ridden during the evaluation for Level 4:

Pattern		
1	Enter at jog	
2	Jog $\frac{1}{2}$ line Small circle left Continue down the line Posting trot up centre line (change posting diagonal at $\frac{1}{2}$ of centre line)	

3	Jog right Lope right lead $\frac{1}{2}$ line Lope large fast circle and small slow circle right Continue down line in jog Posting trot diagonal line (change posting diagonal at $\frac{1}{2}$ of diagonal line) Jog left	
4	Lope left lead $\frac{1}{2}$ line Lope large fast circle and small slow circle left Continue line in lope Lope left lead $\frac{1}{2}$ diagonal line Simple lead change through walk or jog Lope right lead $\frac{1}{2}$ diagonal line	



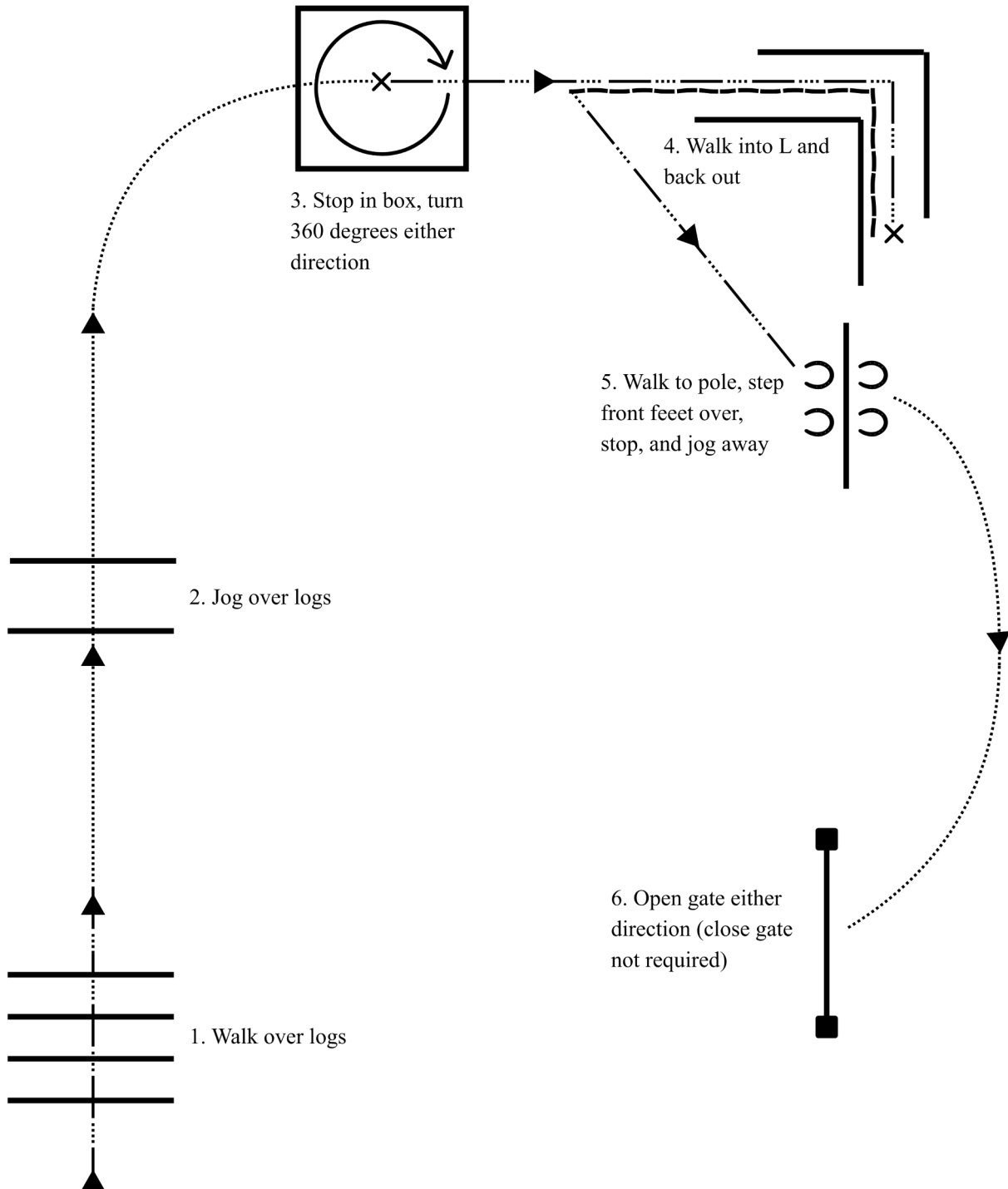
5	Lope right lead $\frac{1}{2}$ diagonal line Simple lead change through walk or jog Lope left lead $\frac{1}{2}$ diagonal line Jog $\frac{1}{2}$ line $\frac{1}{2}$ circle left to centre line Jog $\frac{1}{4}$ centre line Stop (through walk), back up 4 steps on centre line	
6	Exit walking.	



LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – OBSTACLES LEVEL 4 EVALUATION

The pattern below may be adjusted to suit the size and proportions of the arena available. A rope or solid gate may be used.

Pattern	
1	Walk over 4 ground rails
2	Jog over 2 ground rails
3	Stop in box, turn 360° either direction
4	Walk forward into 90° L poles and back up out
5	Walk to pole, step front feet over, stop, jog away
6	Jog to gate and open either direction (close gate not required)
	Exit at walk





LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – SPEED EVENTS LEVEL 4 EVALUATION

To earn the LearnToRide Western – Speed Events Level 4 certificate, you must be evaluated on **two speed events of your choice** according to the standards below. In Levels 4 and 5, changes can be made to the setup to fit the size of the arena since runs are not timed.

At Level 4, the patterns can be done in jog with some lope on straight sections.

Speed Events Evaluation Standards		
Event	Setup	Time
Barrel Race	Barrels 1 and 2 set 90 feet apart, barrel 3 set 105 feet from barrels 1 and 2. Barrels 1 and 2 set 60 feet from the start/finish line.	No maximum
Pole Bending	6 poles (at least 6 feet tall) set 21 feet apart and 21 feet from the start/finish line.	No maximum
Stake Race	2 barrels 80 feet apart set 21 feet from the start/finish line.	No maximum
Flag Race	2 open-ended barrels 120 feet apart set 30 feet from the start/finish line. Flag starts in Barrel 1 to be picked up and carried to Barrel 2.	No maximum



LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – CORE SKILLS LEVEL 5 EVALUATION

Riders at Level 5 have a solid awareness of a horse moving forward willingly and maintaining rhythm and relaxation. Riders should be able to recognize “tracking up” or lack thereof, by observing other horses in the test. This level introduces non-progressive transitions walk to lope/stop to jog. The rider should know the different rein aids and the theory of their influence on the horse. Riders are in the LTED phase of Train to Train.

The candidate should be aware of the fitting of tack to the horse, aware of how well the tack fits the rider, and how the tack may affect the balance and position of the rider.

The Equestrian Skills 5 evaluation includes 2 sections to be completed:

- Written Exam
- Riding Evaluation
 - On the Rail
 - Pattern

RIDER ATTIRE

- ✓ ASTM/SEI or BSI/BS EN approved helmets with safety harness correctly fastened at all times while mounted
- ✓ Hard soled, heeled boots (ankle height or higher)
- ✓ Fitted jeans
- ✓ Well-fitted, collared shirt tucked into pants with a belt is recommended
- ✓ Gloves are recommended
- ✓ Hair must be kept tidy and out of the way (one or two braids, low ponytail, or low bun are recommended as long as they do not interfere with helmet fit)

TACK AND TURNOUT

- ✓ Tack should be used as normal for the rider/horse combination
- ✓ Coaches must ensure tack is acceptable and legal for the discipline
- ✓ Saddle should be correctly fitted and balanced
- ✓ Protective boots are acceptable but should be clean and fit correctly



WRITTEN EXAM

The written exam is completed online in a self-paced open-book format. It includes skills introduced in the LearnToRide Western Level 5-6 manual, as well as all previous manuals in the LearnToRide Western series.

Use the LearnToRide Western Level 5 Written Exam Checklist below to determine if you are ready to take the exam:

	✓
Common position faults and how to correct them	
Selecting and fitting bits	
Equestrian physiology: balance, centre of gravity, posture, suppleness	

SKILL EVALUATION

The LearnToRide Western Level 5 Riding Evaluation is completed in a riding arena under the supervision of a certified LearnToRide Western Evaluator and includes skills introduced in this manual, as well as all previous manuals in the LearnToRide Western series.

Use the LearnToRide Western Level 5 Riding Evaluation Checklist below to determine if you are ready to be evaluated:

	✓
Demonstrate and explain the warm up	
Consolidated position at walk, jog, and lope	
Ride without stirrups at the lope	
Ride an extended jog	
Ride a leg-yield	
Ride a half-circle return	
Ride a small circle in lope	
Non-progressive transitions	
Evidence of independent aids	
Ride the prescribed Western Level 4 Pattern	
Demonstrate accuracy and control in the prescribed pattern	
Demonstrate and explain your basic cool-out	

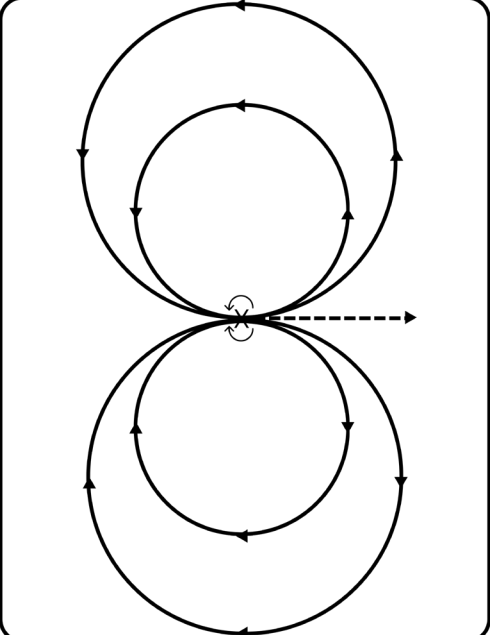
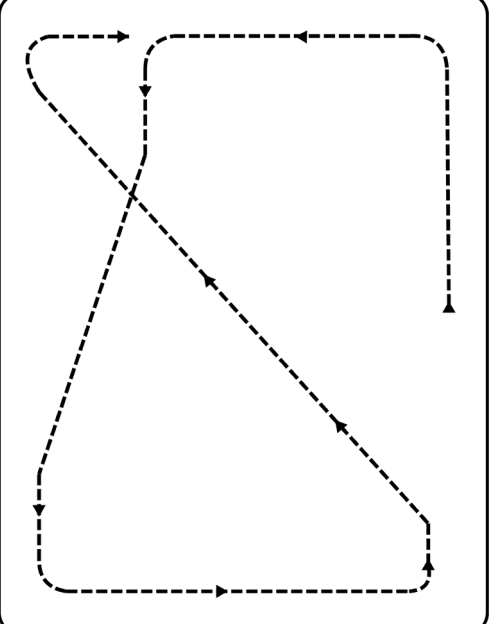


ON THE RAIL

At Level 5, the On the Rail portion of the riding evaluation may be ridden in a snaffle or shank bit. The bridle may be changed before the pattern component.

The On the Rail portion for Level 5 is called by a certified LearnToRide Western evaluator and must include the following:

	✓
Walk	
Extended walk	
Jog	
Extended jog	
Lope left lead	
Lope right lead	
Back up	
Reverse at jog	

3	Lope left lead Lope large fast circle and small slow circle left Simple change through walk or jog at centre of arena Lope right lead Lope large fast circle and small slow circle right Stop in the centre of the arena Half-turn on the haunches right Halt-turn on the haunches left Jog	
4	Jog left Turn down quarter line Leg-yield right to the rail Turn across diagonal Extended posting trot across diagonal Jog before the rail	



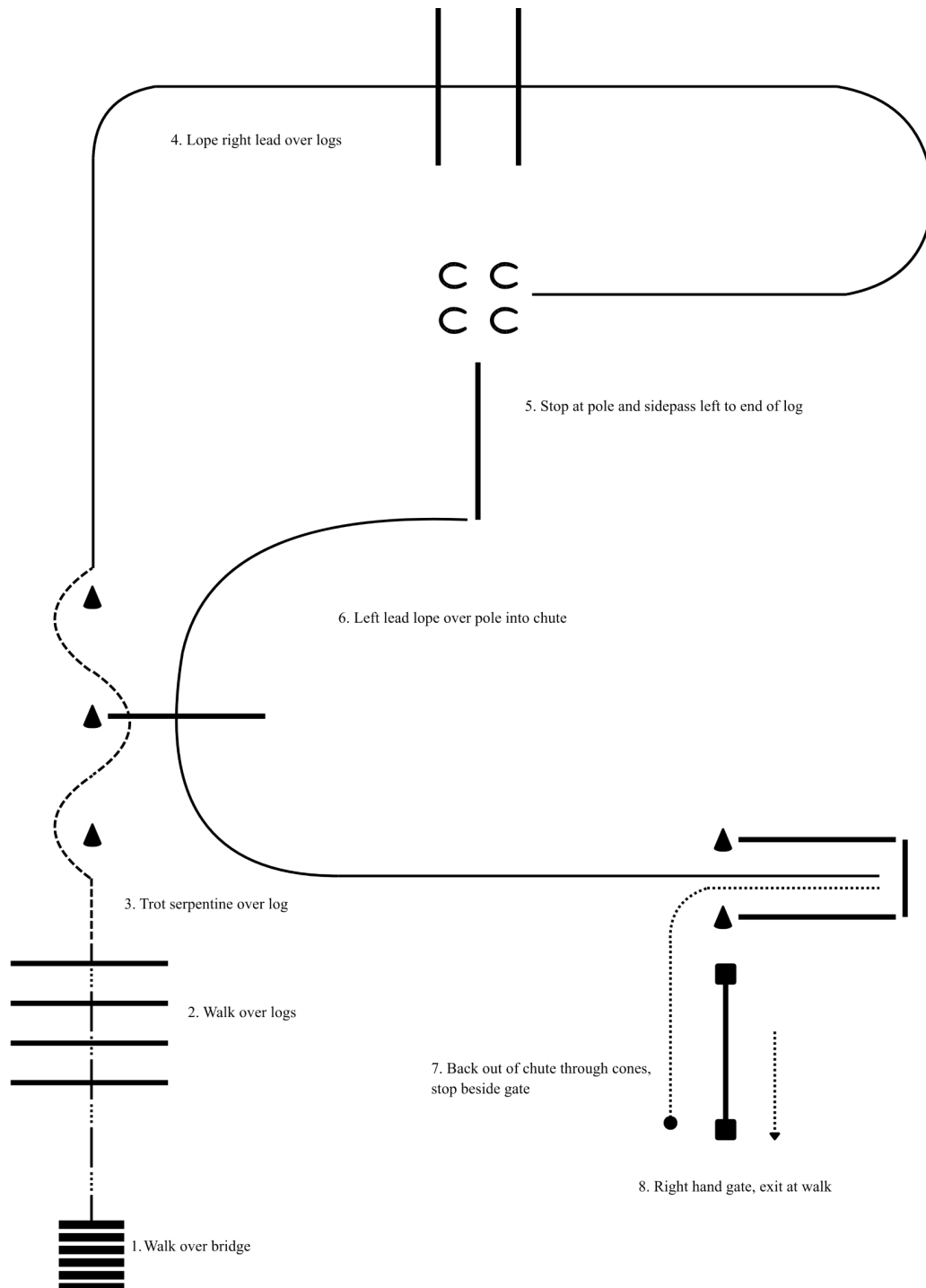
5	Jog right Turn down quarter line Leg-yield left to the rail Turn down centre line Stop in the centre of the arena Back up 4 steps	
6	Exit walking.	



LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – OBSTACLES LEVEL 5 EVALUATION

The pattern below may be adjusted to suit the size and proportions of the arena available. A rope or solid gate may be used. Rails and standards may be used instead of a log if needed.

Pattern	
1	Walk over bridge
2	Walk over logs/rails
3	Trot serpentine between cones over small log/rail
4	Lope right lead over logs/rails
5	Stop at log/rail and sidepass left to end of log/rail
6	Left lead lope over pole into chute
7	Back out of chute through cones, stop beside gate
8	Right hand push gate (rope or solid)
	Exit at walk





LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – SPEED EVENTS LEVEL 5 EVALUATION

To earn the LearnToRide Western – Speed Events Level 5 certificate, you must be evaluated on two speed events of your choice to according to the standards below. In Levels 5 and 6, changes can be made to the setup to fit the size of the arena since runs are not timed.

Speed Events Evaluation Standards		
Event	Setup	Time
Barrel Race	Barrels 1 and 2 set 90 feet apart, barrel 3 set 105 feet from barrels 1 and 2. Barrels 1 and 2 set 60 feet from the start/finish line.	No maximum
Pole Bending	6 poles (at least 6 feet tall) set 21 feet apart and 21 feet from the start/finish line.	No maximum
Stake Race	2 barrels 80 feet apart set 21 feet from the start/finish line.	No maximum
Flag Race	2 open-ended barrels 120 feet apart set 30 feet from the start/finish line. Flag starts in Barrel 1 to be picked up and carried to Barrel 2.	No maximum

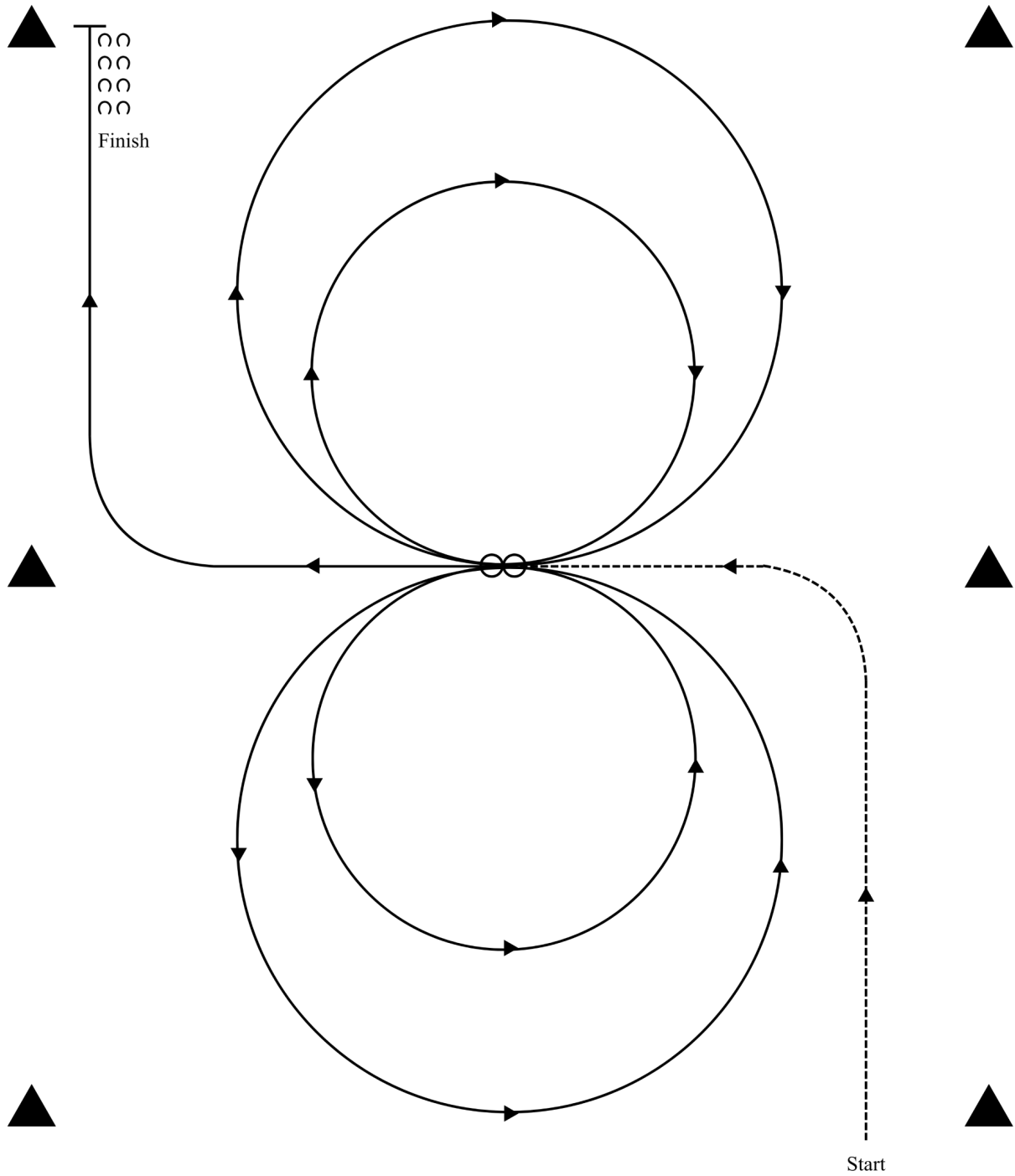
All speed event options may show simple changes through jog. Emphasis is on showing precision in the pattern and riding a controlled, balanced lope.



LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – REINING LEVEL 5 EVALUATION

Level 5 is the first level reining is available for LearnToRide participants. At this introductory stage, the pattern requires simple changes and stops without slides. Spins and rollbacks should be consistent with no speed added. Some controlled, balanced speed can be shown in the large fast circles.

Pattern	
1	Jog up to face evaluator, stop
2	Two full turns left, two full turns right (turn on the haunches)
3	Lope right lead large fast, small slow circles
4	Simple change through jog
5	Lope left lead large fast, small slow circles
6	Simple change through jog
7	Lope right lead up long side and stop, hesitate
8	Back up 2-3 m (6-10 feet), hesitate





LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – CORE SKILLS LEVEL 6 EVALUATION

Riders at Level 6 will demonstrate the ability to ride the horse forward with impulsion while maintaining rhythm, regularity and evenness of pace. Overuse of the hand will be penalized. The candidate should be aware of the fitting of tack to the horse, aware of how well the tack fits the rider, and how the tack may affect the balance and position of the rider.

The Equestrian Skills 6 evaluation includes 2 sections to be completed:

- Written Exam
- Riding Evaluation
 - On the Rail
 - Pattern

RIDER ATTIRE

- ✓ ASTM/SEI or BSI/BS EN approved helmets with safety harness correctly fastened at all times while mounted
- ✓ Hard soled, heeled boots (ankle height or higher)
- ✓ Fitted jeans
- ✓ Well-fitted, collared shirt tucked into pants with a belt is recommended
- ✓ Gloves are recommended
- ✓ Hair must be kept tidy and out of the way (one or two braids, low ponytail, or low bun are recommended as long as they do not interfere with helmet fit)

TACK AND TURNOUT

- ✓ Tack should be used as normal for the rider/horse combination
- ✓ Coaches must ensure tack is acceptable and legal for the discipline
- ✓ Saddle should be correctly fitted and balanced
- ✓ Protective boots are acceptable but should be clean and fit correctly



WRITTEN EXAM

The written exam is completed online in a self-paced open-book format. It includes skills introduced in the LearnToRide Western Level 5-6 manual, as well as all previous manuals in the LearnToRide Western series.

Use the LearnToRide Western Level 6 Written Exam Checklist below to determine if you are ready to take the exam:

	✓
Bit pressure points and actions	
Hackamore/bosal/bitless bridles	
Self-analysis	
Equestrian physiology: balance, centre of gravity, posture, suppleness	

SKILL EVALUATION

The LearnToRide Western Level 6 Riding Evaluation is completed in a riding arena under the supervision of a certified LearnToRide Western Evaluator and includes skills introduced in this manual, as well as all previous manuals in the LearnToRide Western series.

Use the LearnToRide Western Level 6 Riding Evaluation Checklist below to determine if you are ready to be evaluated:

	✓
Independent and purposeful warm up	
Consolidated position at walk, jog, and lope	
Ride without stirrups at lope	
Extended jog	
Extended lope	
Leg yield	
Back up	
Attempt flying change of lead	
Lope simple change of lead through walk	
Turn on the forehand	
Turn on the haunches	
Small circle at jog	
Large fast and small slow lope circles	
Two-track	
Ride a prescribed pattern demonstrating accuracy and control	
Independent and purposeful cool-out	



ON THE RAIL

At Level 6, the On the Rail portion of the riding evaluation may be ridden one-handed in a shank bit. The bridle may be changed before the pattern component if desired.

The On the Rail portion for Level 6 is called by a certified LearnToRide Western evaluator and must include the following:

	✓
Walk	
Extended walk	
Jog	
Extended jog	
Lope left lead	
Lope right lead	
Back up	
Reverse at jog	

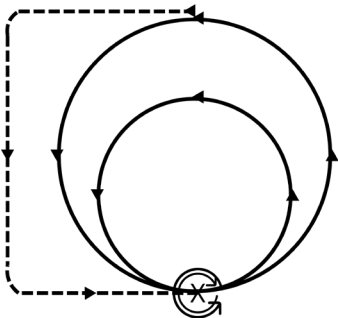
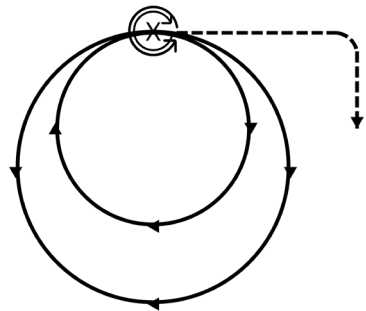


PATTERN

At Level 6, the pattern portion of the riding evaluation may be ridden one-handed in a shank bit or two-handed in a snaffle. The bridle may be changed after the On the Rail component.

The prescribed pattern below must be ridden during the evaluation for Level 6:

Pattern	
1	Enter walking
2	Stop Sidepass right off the rail Sidepass left to the rail Walk Extended walk on diagonal line Jog Extended jog circle

3	Jog Turn left to centre of arena Stop Full turn on the haunches right Full turn on the haunches left Lope left lead (through walk if needed) Lope large fast circle and small slow circle left Simple or flying lead change	
4	Lope right lead Lope large fast circle and small slow circle right Stop Full turn on the forehand right Full turn on the forehand left Jog to the rail and turn right	



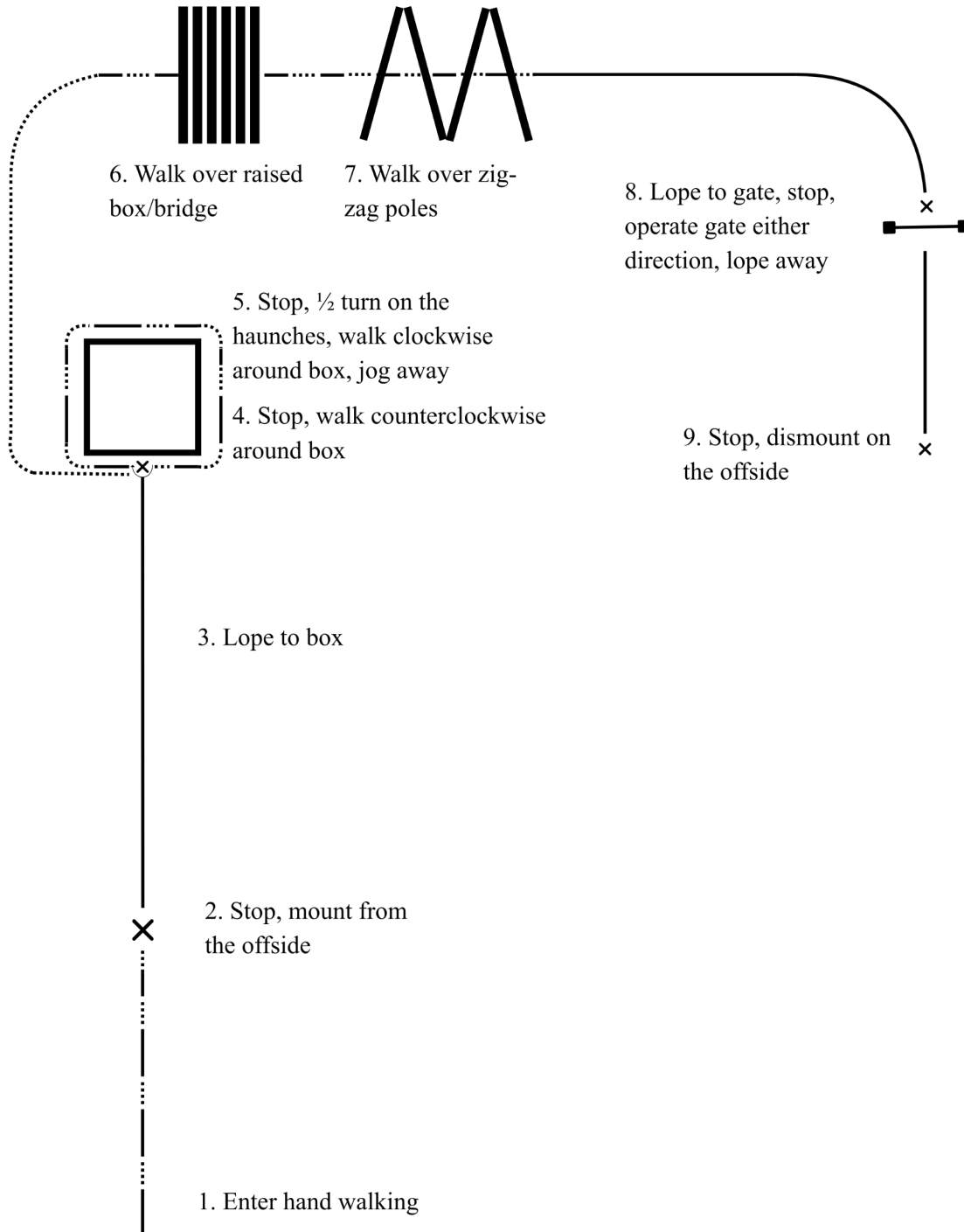
5	Jog two-track right to the centre of the arena Jog two-track left to the rail Turn down centre line Stop at the centre of the arena Back up 4 steps on centre line	
6	Exit walking.	



LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – OBSTACLES LEVEL 6 EVALUATION

The pattern below may be adjusted to suit the size and proportions of the arena available. A rope or solid gate may be used. Rails and standards may be used instead of a log if needed.

Pattern	
1	Enter hand walking
2	Stop, mount from the offside
3	Lope to box
4	Stop, walk counterclockwise around box
5	Stop, ½ turn on the haunches, walk clockwise around box, jog away
6	Walk over raised box/bridge
7	Walk over zig-zag poles
8	Lope to gate, stop, operate gate either direction, lope away
9	Stop, dismount on the offside
	Exit hand-walking





LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – SPEED EVENTS LEVEL 6 EVALUATION

To earn the LearnToRide Western – Speed Events Level 6 certificate, you must be evaluated on **two speed events of your choice** according to the standards below. In Levels 5 and 6, changes can be made to the setup to fit the size of the arena since runs are not timed.

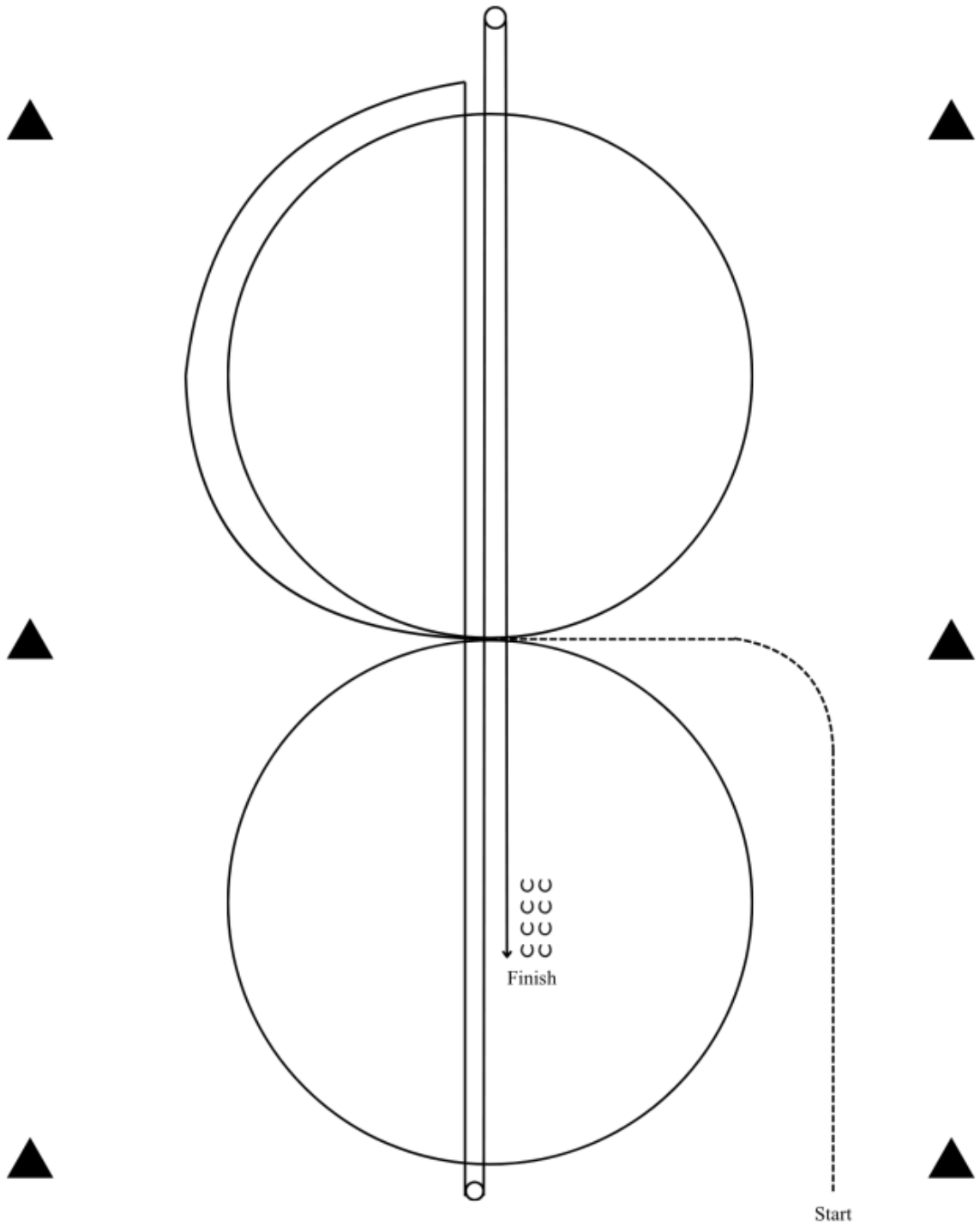
Speed Events Evaluation Standards		
Event	Setup	Time
Barrel Race	Barrels 1 and 2 set 90 feet apart, barrel 3 set 105 feet from barrels 1 and 2. Barrels 1 and 2 set 60 feet from the start/finish line.	No maximum
Pole Bending	6 poles (at least 6 feet tall) set 21 feet apart and 21 feet from the start/finish line.	No maximum
Stake Race	2 barrels 80 feet apart set 21 feet from the start/finish line.	No maximum
Flag Race	2 open-ended barrels 120 feet apart set 30 feet from the start/finish line. Flag starts in Barrel 1 to be picked up and carried to Barrel 2.	No maximum

All speed event options should show effort for flying changes. Emphasis is on showing precision in the pattern and riding a controlled, balanced lope.



LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – REINING LEVEL 6 EVALUATION

Pattern	
1	Jog to centre of arena, stop. Start pattern facing the left side of the arena.
2	Right lead lope one large circle right. Flying change at the centre of the arena.
3	Left lead lope one large circle left. Flying change at the centre of the arena and lope right lead to the top of the arena.
4	Run down centre of the arena past the end marker and stop.
5	Complete 1 ½ spins to the right
6	Run down to the other end of the arena, past the end marker, and stop.
7	Complete 1 ½ spins to the left
8	Run down past the centre marker, stop, back up 3m (10 feet)
9	Hesitate to complete the pattern





LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – CORE SKILLS LEVEL 7 EVALUATION

Riders at Level 7 should be able to demonstrate lateral movements, non-progressive transitions, and transitions within the gaits.

The Equestrian Skills 7 evaluation includes 2 sections to be completed:

- Written Exam
- Riding Evaluation
 - On the Rail
 - Pattern

RIDER ATTIRE

- ✓ ASTM/SEI or BSI/BS EN approved helmets with safety harness correctly fastened at all times while mounted
- ✓ Hard soled, heeled boots (ankle height or higher)
- ✓ Fitted jeans
- ✓ Well-fitted, collared shirt tucked into pants with a belt is recommended
- ✓ Gloves are recommended
- ✓ Hair must be kept tidy and out of the way (one or two braids, low ponytail, or low bun are recommended as long as they do not interfere with helmet fit)

TACK AND TURNOUT

- ✓ Tack should be used as normal for the rider/horse combination
- ✓ Coaches must ensure tack is acceptable and legal for the discipline
- ✓ Saddle should be correctly fitted and balanced
- ✓ Protective boots are acceptable but should be clean and fit correctly



WRITTEN EXAM

The written exam is completed online in a self-paced open-book format. It includes skills introduced in the LearnToRide Western Level 7-8 manual, as well as all previous manuals in the LearnToRide Western series.

Use the LearnToRide Western Level 7 Written Exam Checklist below to determine if you are ready to take the exam:

	✓
Identify and describe lateral movements	
Identify and describe extending or collecting the gaits	
Using the seat	
Trail riding preparation, safety, and etiquette	
Rider balance and position	

SKILL EVALUATION

The LearnToRide Western Level 7 Riding Evaluation is completed in a riding arena under the supervision of a certified LearnToRide Western Evaluator and includes skills introduced in the LearnToRide Western 7-8 manual, as well as all previous manuals in the LearnToRide Western series.

Use the LearnToRide Western Level 7 Riding Evaluation Checklist below to determine if you are ready to be evaluated:

	✓
Independent and purposeful warm up	
Consolidated position at walk, jog, and lope	
Jog – collected and extended	
Lope – collected and extended	
Two-track	
Turn on the forehand	
Back up	
Flying lead changes	
½ small circle and reverse at jog	
Small circle at jog	
Large fast and small slow lope circles	
Ride a prescribed pattern	
Independent and purposeful cool-out	



ON THE RAIL

At Level 7, the On the Rail portion of the riding evaluation may be ridden one-handed in a shank bit. The bridle may be changed before the pattern component if desired.

The On the Rail portion for Level 7 is called by a certified LearnToRide Western evaluator and must include the following:

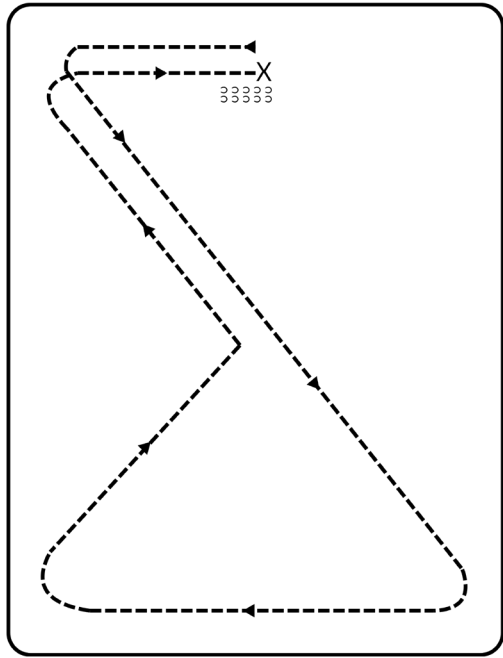
	✓
Walk	
Extended walk	
Jog	
Extended jog	
Extended lope	
Lope left lead	
Lope right lead	
Back up	
Reverse at jog	

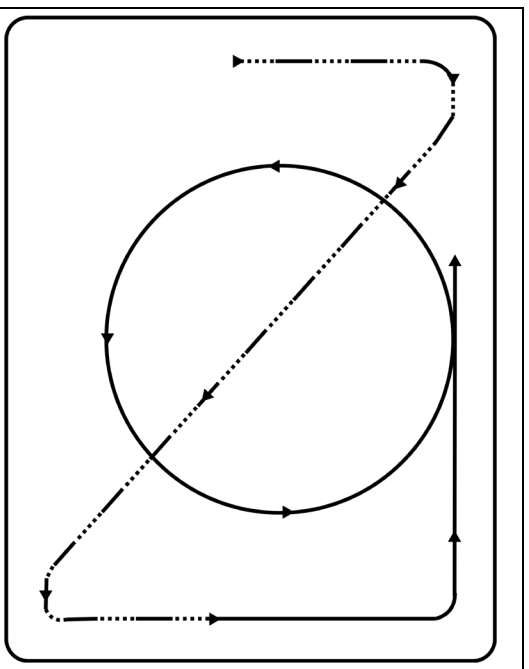
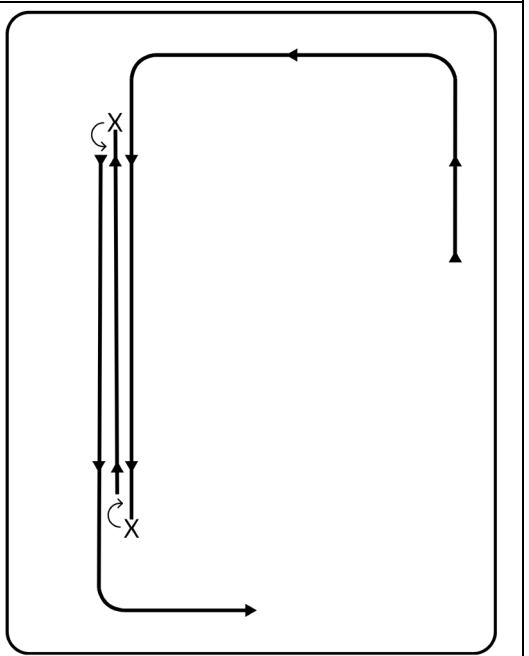


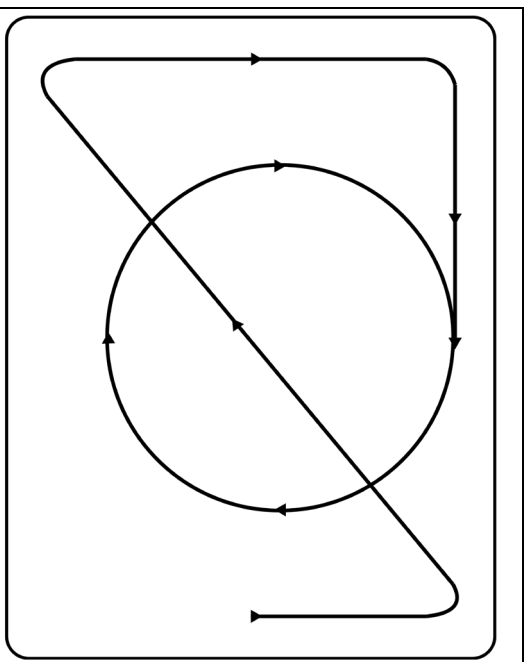
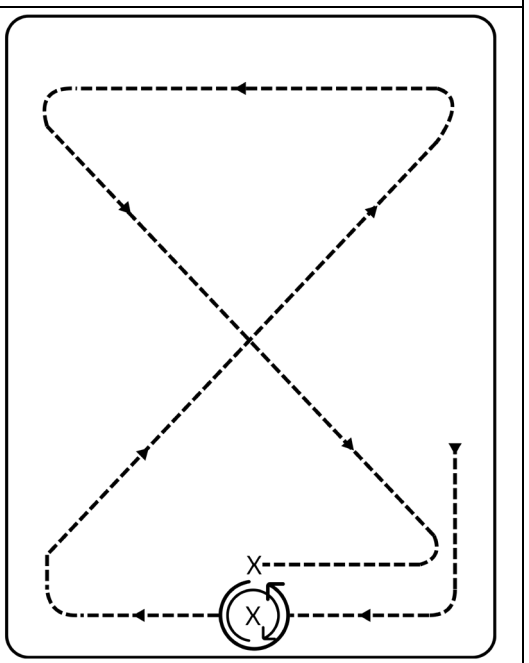
PATTERN

At Level 7, the pattern portion of the riding evaluation may be ridden one-handed in a shank bit or two-handed in a snaffle. The bridle may be changed after the On the Rail component.

The prescribed pattern below must be ridden during the evaluation for Level 7:

Pattern	
1	Enter at jog
2	Jog left Extended posting trot on diagonal line Jog Two-track right to the centre line Two-track left to the rail Stop Back up 5 steps 

3	Walk Extended walk on diagonal line Lope left lead $\frac{1}{2}$ line Lope large fast circle left	
4	Lope left lead $\frac{1}{2}$ line Turn left down quarter line Lope left lead $\frac{3}{4}$ down quarter line Stop, rollback (or turn on the haunches) right Lope right lead $\frac{3}{4}$ down quarter line Stop, rollback (or turn on the haunches) left Lope left lead down quarter line	

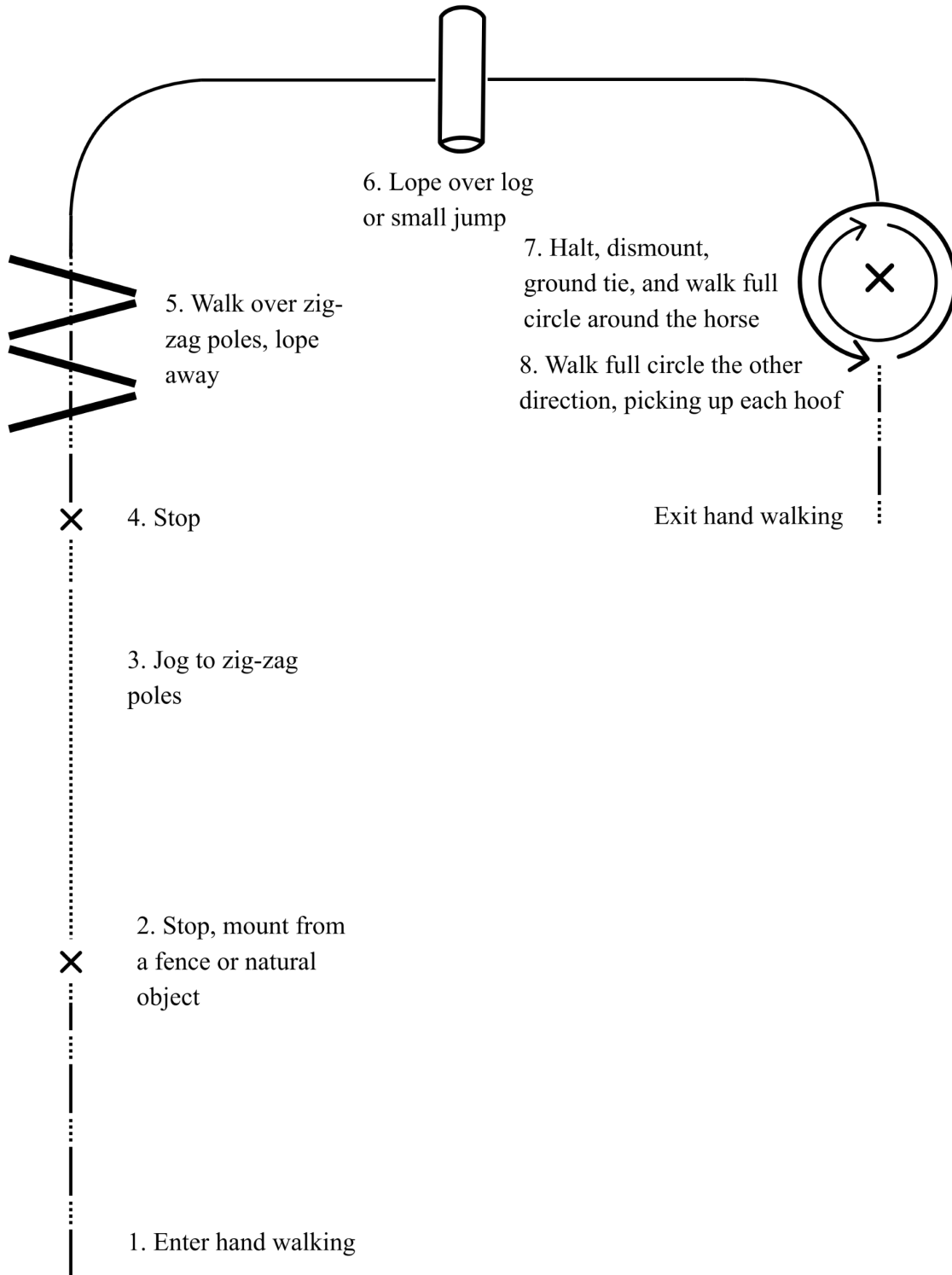
5	Lope left lead ½ diagonal line Flying or simple lead change through walk at centre of arena Lope right lead ½ diagonal line Lope right lead Lope large fast circle right	
6	Jog right Stop off the rail 2 spins (or full turn on the haunches) right 2 spins (or full turn on the haunches) left Jog Extended posting trot diagonal line Jog Extended posting trot diagonal line Stop	
7	Exit walking.	



LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – OBSTACLES LEVEL 7 EVALUATION

The pattern below may be adjusted to suit the size and proportions of the arena available. Rails and standards may be used instead of a log if needed.

Pattern	
1	Enter hand walking
2	Mount from the ground or a natural object (e.g., rock, stump, log)
3	Jog to zig-zag poles
4	Stop
5	Walk over zig-zag poles, lope away
6	Lope over a log or small jump
7	Dismount, ground tie, and walk on foot a full circle around the horse
8	Walk on foot a full circle around the horse the other direction, picking up each of their hooves as you go
	Exit hand walking





LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – SPEED EVENTS LEVEL 7 EVALUATION

To earn the LearnToRide Western – Speed Events Level 7 certificate, you must be evaluated on **two speed events of your choice** according to the standards below:

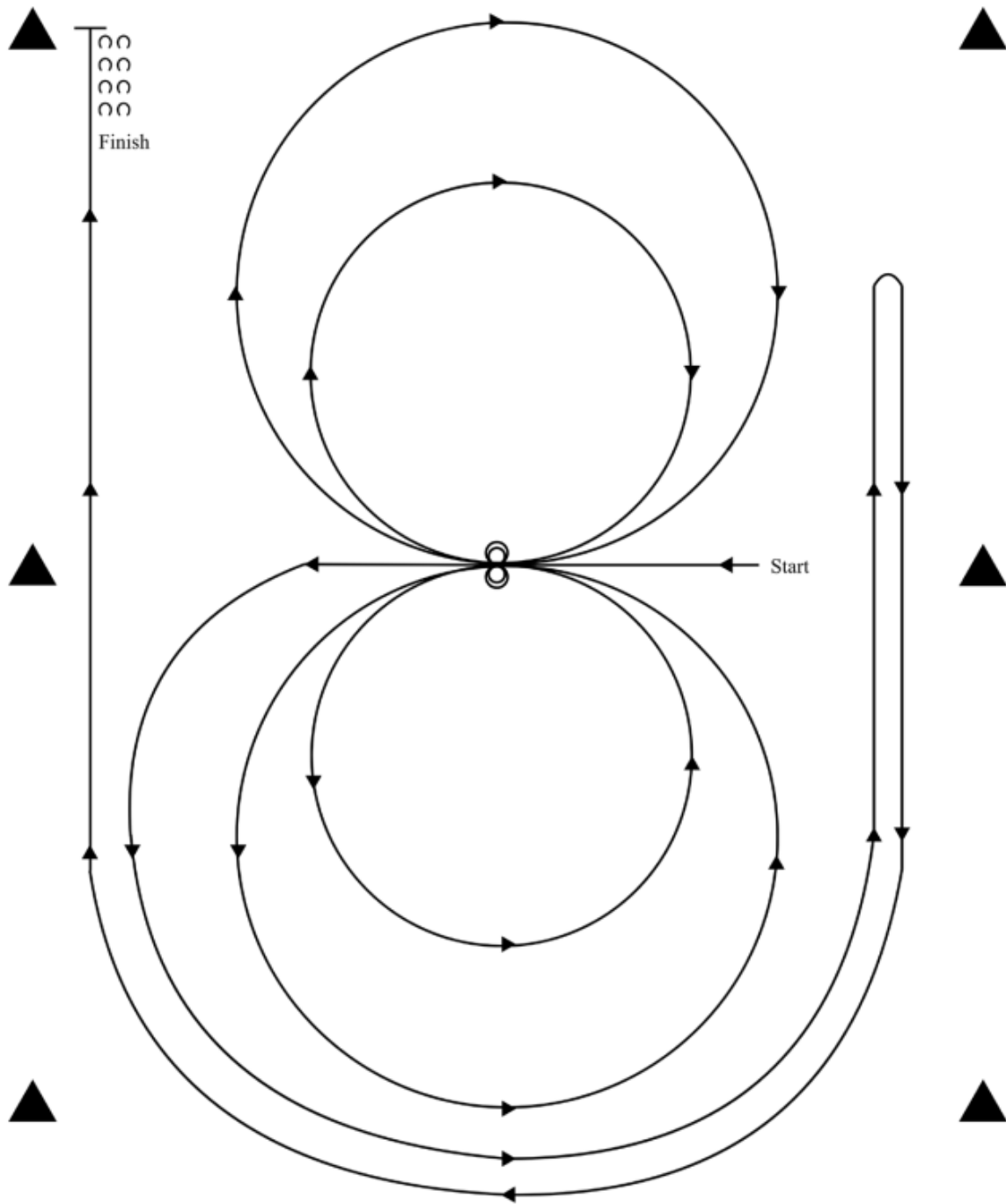
Speed Events Evaluation Standards		
Event	Setup	Time
Barrel Race	Barrels 1 and 2 set 90 feet apart, barrel 3 set 105 feet from barrels 1 and 2. Barrels 1 and 2 set 60 feet from the start/finish line.	≤ 21 seconds
Pole Bending	6 poles (at least 6 feet tall) set 21 feet apart and 21 feet from the start/finish line.	≤ 25 seconds
Stake Race	2 barrels 80 feet apart set 21 feet from the start/finish line.	≤ 21 seconds
Flag Race	2 open-ended barrels 120 feet apart set 30 feet from the start/finish line. Flag starts in Barrel 1 to be picked up and carried to Barrel 2.	≤ 18 seconds

A second attempt is permitted if the time is not achieved in the first run. Patterns must be successfully completed in the allotted timeframe with no time faults.



LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – REINING LEVEL 7 EVALUATION

Pattern	
1	Starting at the centre of the arena facing the left side, lope left lead large fast and small slow circles left. Stop at the centre of the arena. Hesitate.
2	Complete two spins left at the centre of the arena. Hesitate.
3	Lope right lead large fast and small slow circles right. Stop at the centre of the arena. Hesitate.
4	Complete two spins right at the centre of the arena. Hesitate.
5	Lope left lead and track left around the end of the arena. Rundown the right side past the centre marker, stop and rollback right.
6	Continue right around the end of the arena. Rundown the left side past the centre marker, stop and back up 3m (10 feet). Hesitate.





LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – CORE SKILLS LEVEL 8 EVALUATION

Riders at Level 8 are competent with a strong position and equitation skills. They should be able to recognize correct movement and ride the horse with impulsion and engagement. They should be able to produce correct, consistent bend and straightness as required and control the shoulders through all movements. The horse should be in a correct frame at all gaits. The rider should be able to identify common training problems and offer options to correct them.

The LearnToRide Western Level 8 evaluation includes 2 sections to be completed:

- Written Exam
- Riding Evaluation
 - On the Rail
 - Pattern

RIDER ATTIRE

- ✓ ASTM/SEI or BSI/BS EN approved helmets with safety harness correctly fastened at all times while mounted
- ✓ Hard soled, heeled boots (ankle height or higher)
- ✓ Fitted jeans
- ✓ Well-fitted, collared shirt tucked into pants with a belt is recommended
- ✓ Gloves are recommended
- ✓ Hair must be kept tidy and out of the way (one or two braids, low ponytail, or low bun are recommended as long as they do not interfere with helmet fit)

TACK AND TURNOUT

- ✓ Tack should be used as normal for the rider/horse combination
- ✓ Coaches must ensure tack is acceptable and legal for the discipline
- ✓ Saddle should be correctly fitted and balanced
- ✓ Protective boots are acceptable but should be clean and fit correctly



WRITTEN EXAM

The written exam is completed online in a self-paced open-book format. It includes skills introduced in the LearnToRide Western Level 7-8 manual, as well as all previous manuals in the LearnToRide Western series.

Use the LearnToRide Western Level 7 Written Exam Checklist below to determine if you are ready to take the exam:

	✓
Identify and describe lateral movements	
Identify and describe extending or collecting the gaits	
Common rider injuries	
Integrated support team	
Selecting a horse for Western disciplines	

SKILL EVALUATION

The LearnToRide Western Level 8 Riding Evaluation is completed in a riding arena under the supervision of a certified LearnToRide Western Evaluator and includes skills introduced in the LearnToRide Western 7-8 manual, as well as all previous manuals in the LearnToRide Western series.

Use the LearnToRide Western Level 8 Riding Evaluation Checklist below to determine if you are ready to be evaluated:

	✓
Independent and purposeful warm up including self-analysis	
Consolidated position at all paces	
Collected and extended jog	
Collected and extended lope	
Flying lead change	
Back up	
Turn on the haunches	
Turn on the forehand	
Small circle at jog	
Small circle at lope	
Two-track	
Sidepass	
Ride a prescribed pattern, demonstrating accuracy and control	
Independent and purposeful cool-out including self-analysis	



ON THE RAIL

At Level 8, the On the Rail portion of the riding evaluation may be ridden one-handed in a shank bit. The bridle may be changed before the pattern component if desired.

The On the Rail portion for Level 8 is called by a certified LearnToRide Western evaluator and must include the following:

	✓
Walk	
Extended walk	
Jog	
Extended jog	
Extended lope	
Lope left lead	
Lope right lead	
Back up	
Reverse at jog	

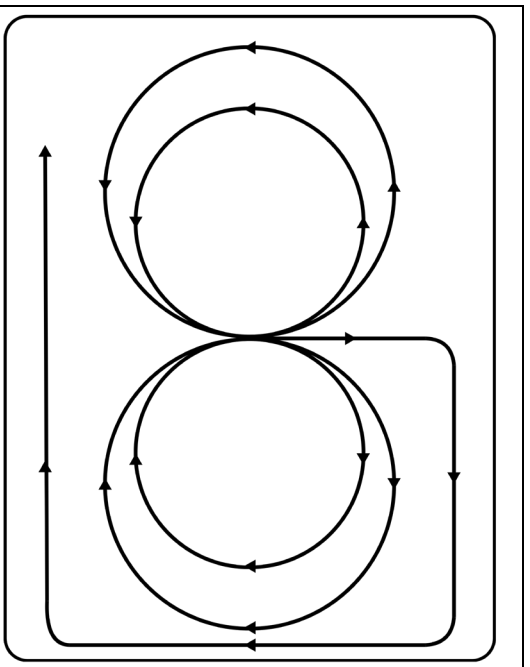
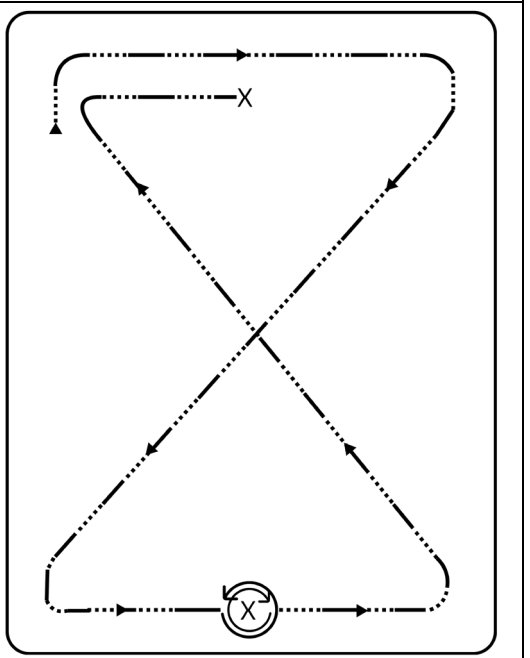


PATTERN

At Level 8, the pattern portion of the riding evaluation may be ridden one-handed in a shank bit or two-handed in a snaffle. The bridle may be changed after the On the Rail component.

The prescribed pattern below must be ridden during the evaluation for Level 8:

Pattern	
1	Enter collected jog
2	Jog small circle left Two track left from rail to centre of arena Jog down centre line Turn right Jog small circle right Two track right from rail to centre of arena Stop 3 spins (or full turn on the haunches) right 3 ¼ spins (or full turn on the haunches) left

3	Lope left lead Lope large fast circle left Lope small slow circle left Flying lead change Lope large fast circle right Lope small slow circle right Continue lope right lead	
4	Walk Extended walk diagonal line Stop off the rail Full turn on the forehand right Full turn on the forehand left Extended walk diagonal line Stop	



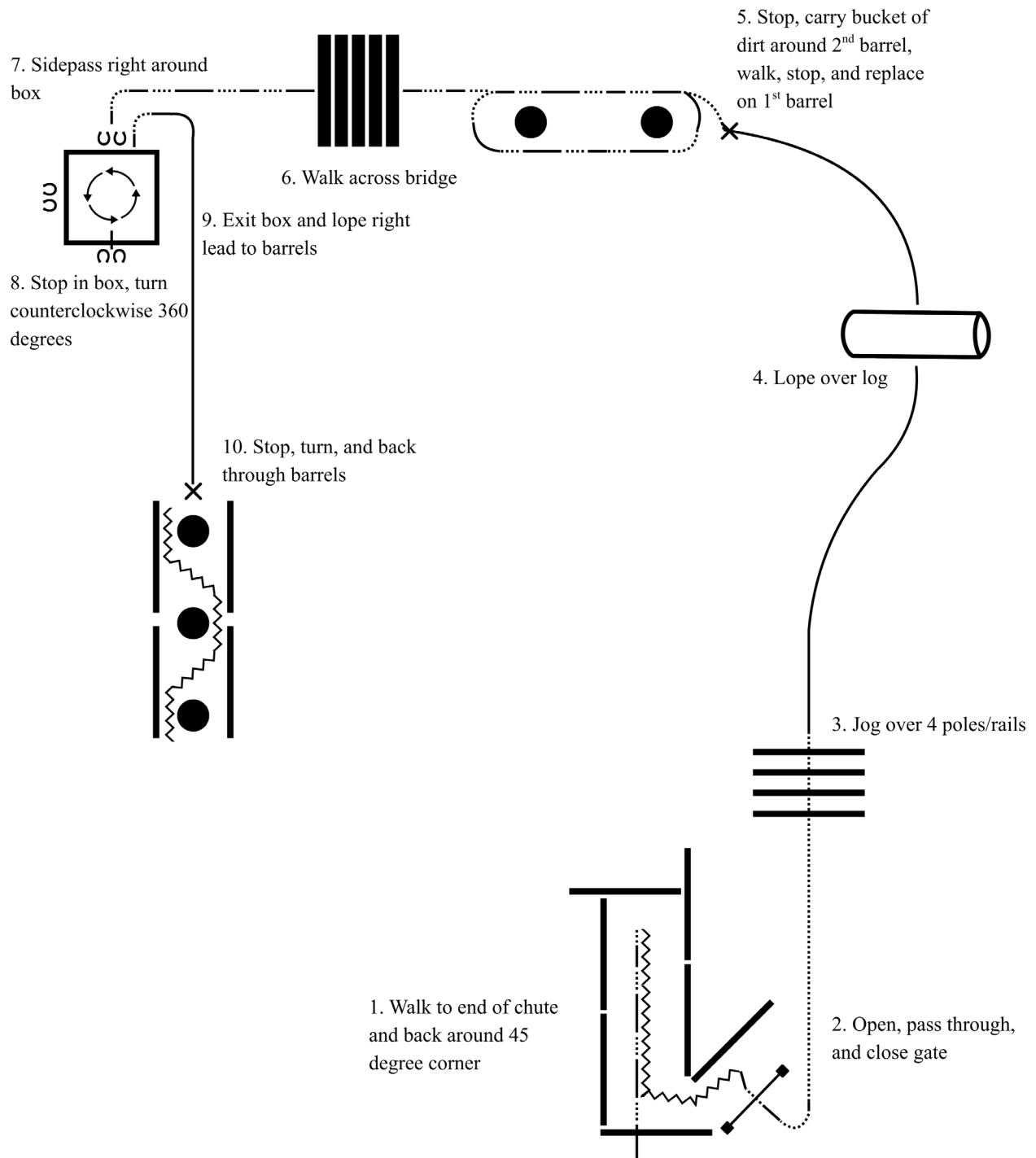
5	Sidepass right 5 steps off the rail Sidepass left 5 steps to the rail Jog Extended posting trot diagonal line Jog Stop Back up 5 steps	
7	Exit walking	



LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – OBSTACLES LEVEL 8 EVALUATION

The pattern below may be adjusted to suit the size and proportions of the arena available. A rope or solid gate may be used. Rails and standards may be used instead of a log if needed.

Pattern	
1	Walk to end of chute, back around 45° corner
2	Open, back through, and close gate (rope or solid)
3	Jog over 4 poles/rails/small logs set 1.2m (4 feet) apart
4	Lope over log
5	Stop, carry bucket of dirt around 2 nd barrel, walk, stop, and replace on 1 st barrel
6	Walk across bridge
7	Sidepass around box
8	Stop in box, turn counterclockwise 360° in box
9	Exit box and lope right lead to barrels
10	Stop, turn, and back through barrels
	Exit arena in jog





LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – SPEED EVENTS LEVEL 8 EVALUATION

To earn the LearnToRide Western – Speed Events Level 8 certificate, you must be evaluated on **two speed events of your choice** according to the standards below:

Speed Events Evaluation Standards		
Event	Setup	Time
Barrel Race	Barrels 1 and 2 set 90 feet apart, barrel 3 set 105 feet from barrels 1 and 2. Barrels 1 and 2 set 60 feet from the start/finish line.	≤ 19 seconds
Pole Bending	6 poles (at least 6 feet tall) set 21 feet apart and 21 feet from the start/finish line.	≤ 21 seconds
Stake Race	2 barrels 80 feet apart set 21 feet from the start/finish line.	≤ 19 seconds
Flag Race	2 open-ended barrels 120 feet apart set 30 feet from the start/finish line. Flag starts in Barrel 1 to be picked up and carried to Barrel 2.	≤ 16 seconds

A second attempt is permitted if the time is not achieved in the first run. Patterns must be successfully completed in the allotted timeframe with no time faults.



LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – REINING LEVEL 8 EVALUATION

Pattern	
1	Run at speed to the far end of the arena past the end marker and do a left rollback with no hesitation
2	Run to the opposite end of the arena past the end marker and do a right rollback – no hesitation
3	Run past the centre marker and do a sliding stop. Back up to center of the arena or at least 10 feet (3m). Hesitate.
4	Complete 4 spins to the right. Hesitate.
5	Complete 4 and ¼ spins to the left so the horse is facing the left fence. Hesitate.
6	Strike off on the left lead and complete three circles left: 1st large fast, 2nd small slow, 3rd large fast.
7	Complete three circles to the right: 1st large fast, 2nd small slow, 3rd large fast. Change leads at the centre of the arena.
8	Begin a large circle left, do not close the circle. Run straight up the right side of the arena past the centre marker and do a sliding stop at least 20 feet (6m) from the fence. Hesitate to demonstrate completion of the pattern.

