

## Equestrian Canada Rider Levels 1-8

### Level 1

Riders at Level 1 should be in the beginning stages of their Equestrian development. At Level 1, riders acquire the basics of riding and demonstrate good position, knowledge of “aids” and emphasize “safe” habits. Riders at this level will be able to ride at the walk and trot.

Riders at Level 2 will develop their skill and knowledge acquired during Level 1. At this level the rider will become more independent in both their riding and in their stable management skills. Level 2 riders will be able to walk, trot and canter as well as trot a course of poles.

### Level 2

### Level 3

Riders at Level 3 will develop stability, control and will now demonstrate the ability to ride independently. Level 3 riders are now expected to ride an individual flat test and complete a cross-rail jumping course.

Riders are starting to co-ordinate the use of the independent aids (i.e., leg being used to support hand contact). Riders must be able to recognize an incorrect lead within a few steps and correct it without delay. Riders at this level must demonstrate knowledge of arena rules as required. Riders are expected to complete a flat test and ride jumps at a height of 2' (0.6m).

### Level 4

### Level 5

Riders have a solid awareness of a horse and an ability to maintain rhythm and relaxation. At Level 5 non-progressive transitions are introduced. Examples of non-progressive transitions include walk to canter and halt to trot. Riders at this level will be jumping fences at a height of 2'3" (0.7m) in addition to a flat test.

Riders at Level 6 will demonstrate the ability to ride forward from leg to hand. They will be able to ride the horse forward with impulsion (energy) while maintaining rhythm, regularity and evenness of pace. Level 6 riders will complete a flat test and jump fences at a height of 2'6" (0.8m).

### Level 6

### Level 7

Riders at Level 7 ride with consistent contact supported by the leg maintaining rhythm, suppleness contact and impulsion. Level 7 riders are now aware of lateral and longitudinal suppleness and appropriate suppling exercises. They can lengthen and shorten stride at trot. Riders at Level 7 will complete a flat test and jump fences at a height of 2'9" (0.88m).

Riders at Level 8 are competent riders with sound equitation skills. The Level 8 rider is able to recognize “true” quality of movement. They are beginning to ride the horse with impulsion and engagement. They can achieve consistent bend and straightness as required. The Level 8 rider is able to identify basic training problems and offer options for their correction. Over fences, the rider will complete a flat test and jump medal type courses of 2'9" (0.88m)-3' (0.91m). The Level 8 rider will be able to influence the horse in a positive fashion.

### Level 8