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Guidelines for Gæðingakeppni judges as set by Landsamband hestamannafélaga

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Gæðinga competition

The goal of the Gæðinga competition is to find the best horse, the horse Icelanders call a “Gæðingur.” That is a quality horse that is a joy to ride and a pleasure to watch. The judges should keep the following in mind when searching for this horse.

Willingness/spirit

The most important factor when judging a “Gæðingakeppni” is the willingness/spirit of the horse, including its character. The willingness and character should bring out the best of the horse’s other qualities, but not interrupt them. Most emphasis is placed on the spirit; it should not be too sensitive and should allow the horse to show everything freely and with pleasure.

Beat and coordination

The beat of the gait is important when judging. Keep in mind however that the beat alone does not create the ideal riding horse. The beat, even though it is clear, may be stiff and not in a fluent rhythm, which means that, it does not give the rider the ultimate pleasure. The horse should also be soft and supple. The judge should always evaluate style, beat and coordination in the movement as to how well it shows in all the gaits during riding.

Example: Lift (Leg action) and energy that creates suppleness drive and flexibility gives higher marks. On the other hand if the judge thinks the horse carries itself too high, the movements are uncoordinated and the horse is stiff and mechanical, than means a lower mark.

Drive and speed

Big reach and energetic drive counts for a lot, especially if it is accompanied with high leg action. The movement of the front legs should be coordinated with the movement of the hind legs and the judges should watch that and deduct or raise their marks depending on what they see. Exaggerated leg action that lessens the drive and speed should lower the mark.

Form under rider and movements

An elegant and proud manner with suspension and flexible, proud, movements is the trademark of a good horse and those should increase the horse’s marks dramatically. In an old regulation on riding horses it says: ”The movements of the riding horse should be light, flexible, high, suspended, clear, in good form and free.”

This description is still valid and everything that takes away from the horse’s flexibility and free flow, such as exaggerated leg action (lift) that is not in coordination with other movements of the horse, should be denounced. The Gæðinga judging should be based on these basic points.

Point scale and concepts that judges should dedicate themselves during judging.

9,5-10,0	Perfect performance	7,0-7,5	Adequate performance
9,0-9,5	Excellent performance	6,5-7,0	Poor performance

8,5-9,0	Very good performance	6,0-6,5	Bad performance
8,0-8,5	Good performance	5,5-6,0	Very bad performance
7,5-8,0	Satisfactory performance	5,0-5,5	Unsatisfactory performance

Willingness/Spirit

The Judging element “Willingness” evaluates the aspects of the horse that have to do with its temperament and character, such as spirit, braveness, energy, obedience and harmony while ridden. The horse should be pleased with the rider, forward going and focused, happy to go wherever the rider asks it to. Judges should watch the performance of the horse and rider as a whole.

- 9,5-10. Perfect performance.**
The horse’s spirit is alert, light, happy and eager, without stiffness or tension. Temperament good, the horse wanting to please the rider. The horse is forward going, happy and supple. Excellent riding.
- 9,0-9,4 Excellent performance.**
The horse’s spirit is alert, light, happy and eager, without stiffness or tension. Temperament good, the horse wanting to please the rider. The horse is forward going, but not quite as happy and supple as described in 9,5-10 above. Excellent riding.
- 8,5-9,0 Very good performance.**
The horse’s spirit is light and eager without any stiffness or tension. Good temperament, the horse wanting to please the rider. The horse is forward going, willing and happy. Good riding.
- 8,0-8,5 Good performance.**
The horse’s spirit is eager, accompanied with supple and forward going movements. Good temperament, some lack of harmony between the rider and the horse, the horse seems fairly satisfied. Good riding.
- 7,5-8,0 Satisfactory performance.**
The spirit is pushy and not supple, poor temperament, tail swishing on and off but the horse is forward going and/or the spirit is mechanical and un-yielding, the horse seems fairly satisfied. Quality of riding is lacking.
- 7,0-7,4 Adequate performance.**
The spirit is not eager, lacks interest and initiative, quality of riding is lacking in between. The horse seems fairly satisfied.
- 6,5-7,0 Poor performance.**
Not much willingness, lack of interest, poor manners, unhappy, stiff and powerless movements, and the horse is not content. Poor riding.
- 6,0-6,5 Bad performance.**
Little willingness, lack of interest, resistance, stiffness and/or tension.
- 5,5-6,0 Very bad performance.**
Lack of willingness, the horse’s mind is outside the track, lazy, resistant, stiff and lacking all energy.
- 5,0-5,5 Unsatisfactory performance.**
Dull spirit, the horse is lazy and not supple. Resistance, the whole performance is chaotic.

Form under Rider

The judging element “Form under Rider” refers to the form of the horse while ridden, as the title indicates, meaning conformation, good head carriage and elegant movements that flow through the horse, the horse’s charisma. Excellent riding and harmony between horse and rider. The judge should evaluate this element for all the gaits and take them all into consideration when deciding on the final mark.

- 9,5-10** **Perfect performance.**
The horse is elegant with a beautifully carried neck, clear beat, harmonious, with high, elegant movements. Elegant head carriage, carrying its tail beautifully with flowing movement in the tail, no tail swishing, and the horse is supple and satisfied. Excellent riding.
- 9,0-9,5** **Excellent performance.**
The horse is elegant with a beautifully carried neck, clear beat, harmonious, with high elegant movements. Elegant head carriage, carrying its tail beautifully with flowing movement in the tail, no tail swishing, and the horse is supple and satisfied. The movements are of a little lesser quality than in 9,5-10 above. Excellent riding.
- 8,5-9,0** **Very good performance.**
The horse’s beat is clear and coordinated, with high beautiful movements. Good head carriage, flowing movement in the tail, no tail swishing, a satisfied horse. Good riding.
- 8,0-8,5** **Good performance.**
The horse looks good. Nice head carriage and good harmony (lag action may be lacking in some gait), clear beat and good movements. The overall performance lacks elegance, there is a little tail swishing, but otherwise the horse is satisfied. Good riding.
- 7,5-8,0** **Satisfactory performance.**
The horse looks pretty good, but lacks beauty, perhaps the neck is short or other parts of its conformation are not in harmony. The horse is content, but may swish its tail every now and then. Good riding.
- 7,0-7,4** **Adequate performance.**
The horse does not look convincing, its conformation is not well proportioned. Some of the gaits are below average in movements and quality, lack of charisma and/or obvious tail swishing, the horse fairly content. Adequate riding.
- 6,5-7,0** **Poor performance.**
The horse is not in good balance. Bad head carriage and poor movements, incorrect beat, the horse is stiff and there is a lack of interplay between horse and rider. Not much charisma and beauty, the horse is not content. Poor riding.
- 6,0-6,5** **Bad performance.**
The horse has little balance. Very bad head carriage, lack of gaits and/or seriously flawed gaits, tail swishing. No charisma or beauty. The horse is unhappy. Poor riding.
- 5,5-6,0** **Very bad performance.**
The horse is constantly resisting. Very bad gaits, very bad performance, tail swishing. No charisma or beauty. The horse is unhappy. Seriously flawed riding.
- 5,0-5,5** **Element not performed.**
The horse does not show what it is supposed to, resistant, unhappy horse, and little or no riding skills shown.

WALK

Seat and aids

- 9,5-10** **Perfect performance.**
The horse and rider become one, where the interplay of horse and rider in a correct seat follows the soft rhythm of the horse. The rider is in control and looks straightforward.
- 9,0-9,5** **Excellent performance.**
The rider is in a correct seat and follows the rhythm of the horse in good balance. The horse could be more concentrated. Refined performance with the rider in control, looking straightforward.
- 8,5-9,0** **Very good performance.**
The rider is in a correct seat and follows the rhythm of the horse. The horse may lose its concentration and willingness for one or two horse lengths. Small flaws in the harmony of horse and rider. The rider is demanding and focused.
- 8,0-8,5** **Good performance.**
The rider is in a correct seat and follows the horse well, is active but lacks determination. Not elegant enough. Smooth performance, but lacking refinement.
- 7,5-8,0** **Satisfactory performance.**
A pretty good seat, but at times incorrect. The rider's cues and aids are not precise all the time and the overall performance lacks focus and determination.
- 7,0-7,5** **Adequate performance.**
The seat is obviously defective and the rein contact loose. The encouragement from the rider is inconsistent, the rider lacking initiative. Lack of coordination between the horse and the rider, not a convincing performance.
- 6,5-7,0** **Poor performance.**
Seat and aids are defective, rough cues. No noticeable initiative on the rider's part. Flawed performance.
- 6,0-6,5** **Bad performance.**
The rider does not manage to show some of the elements during the performance or performs them poorly, the seat is out of order, the horse is out of control, cues are rough, a bad performance in where the riders seat actually interrupts the horse.
- 5,5-6,0** **Very bad performance.**
The rider does not follow the horse's rhythm and is not in control of the horse, the whole performance is out of order, rough cues or cues without a purpose.
- 5,0** **Element not performed.**

Walk

The walk is the slow gait of the horse, the horse should perform a medium tempo walk with rein contact. It is a four beat gait, without suspension. The walk is judged clear if there are four beats per stride and there is even length between each step. The beat should be constant and even, the horse walking with average head carriage, not too high and not too low. The hind step should reach into, or over the front step. The walk should be performed for about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the long side of the track. If the walk is only performed for half of the required length the highest mark possible is 7,5.

- 9,5-10** **Perfect performance.**
The horse walks in a clear beat, with determined and extended movements, average head carriage with rein contact. Clearly determined and charismatic. The horse and rider become one. A content horse. Excellent riding.
- 9,0-9,4** **Excellent performance.**
The horse walks in a clear beat, with determined and extended movements, average head carriage with rein contact. The harmony and charisma lacking a little in comparison with the 9,5-10 above. The horse and rider become one. A content horse. Excellent riding.
- 8,5-9,0** **Very good performance.**
The horse walks in a clear beat, average head carriage with rein contact, extended movements, but lacking elegance. The horse's hind legs reach over the front hoof print. A content horse. Good riding.
- 8,0-8,5** **Good performance.**
The horse walks in a clear beat, average head carriage with rein contact. The movements could be more extended and more elegant. The horse's hind legs reach the front hoof print. A fairly satisfied horse. Fairly good riding.
- 7,5-8,0** **Satisfactory performance.**
The horse walks in a clear beat, average head carriage, not constant rein contact or no rein contact at all. The walk could be more extended and more elegant. The horse is hesitant, but the horse's hind feet reach the front hoof print. A fairly content horse. Satisfactory riding.
- 7,0-7,4** **Adequate performance.**
The beat is not clear or constant. Bad head carriage, the horse's hind hooves do not reach the front hoof print, the horse is hesitant or walks on a loose rein or without any rein contact. A fairly content horse. Adequate riding.
- 6,5-7,0** **Poor performance.**
Beat and head carriage very defective, the beat pacy, short stepping. The horse is hesitant and not forward going, stiff and/or tense. The rein contact is not good. The horse is not content. Poor riding.
- 6,0-6,5** **Bad performance.**
A short tiptoeing walk, or a very pacy beat. The horse is tense, the beat is not clear; it is not clear which gait the horse is showing. Rein contact hardly noticeable or the horse is pulling on the bit. Bad riding.
- 5,5-6,0** **Very bad performance.**
The horse has no clear beat, tense, resistant, lack of communication between the horse and rider. The whole performance is out of control. Very bad riding.
- 5,0-5,5** **Element not performed.**
The horse doesn't show the required element or only very few steps of it.

TROT

Seat and aids

- 9,5-10** **Perfect performance.**
The movements of the horse and rider merge into one with perfect harmony between the horse and the rider. The rider sits correctly, sitting the trot and following the soft and powerful rhythm of the horse. The rider is in control, looking straightforward.
- 9,0-9,5** **Excellent performance.**
The rider is in a correct seat, sitting the trot in clear rhythm and good balance. The horse's concentration might be lacking a little. A powerful and refined performance where the rider is in control, looking straightforward.
- 8,5-9,0** **Very good performance.**
The rider is in a correct seat and follows the rhythm of the horse or posts the trot. The horse may lose its concentration and willingness for one or two horse lengths, small flaws in the harmony of horse and rider. The rider is demanding and focused.
- 8,0-8,5** **Good performance.**
The rider is in a correct seat or posts the trot, follows the horse well, and is active but lacks initiative and style in his/her riding. Smooth performance, lacking refinement.
- 7,5-8,0** **Satisfactory performance.**
A fairly good seat, but at times incorrect, either when sitting or posting the trot, the rider may even switch from sitting to posting every now and then. Rein contact loose from time to time. The connection between horse and rider is not good, the performance lacks determination.
- 7,0-7,5** **Adequate performance.**
The seat is clearly not good. The encouragement from the rider is inconsistent; the rider lacks initiative and self-assurance. The rider is like a "passenger" on the horse. The rein contact is inconsistent and the overall performance lacks stability.
- 6,5-7,0** **Poor performance.**
The seat and rein contact are clearly not good, or the cues and aids are rough or crude. No noticeable initiative on the rider's part. A flawed performance.
- 6,0-6,5** **Bad performance.**
The rider has trouble performing the task at hand or is not able to do so. The seat is bad, the horse is out of control, the cues are rough and the rider's seat interrupts the horse.
- 5,5-6,0** **Very bad performance.**
The rider is not in rhythm with the horse, does not control the horse and the whole performance is out of order. Rough cues or cues without a purpose.
- 5,0** **Element not performed.**

Trot

Trot is a two beat medium tempo gait, with diagonal movements and suspension. The trot is judged as clear if there is a consistent two beat to it. To reach an average mark or more the horse should trot for at least one long side of the oval track. Trot can be performed with varying speeds, from slow trot to fast trot, the horse's head carriage should be average with good rein contact.

- 9,5-10** **Perfect performance.**
The horse trots in a clear beat, is energetic, movements extended, lots of suspension and flexibility, contact on the reins. Good balance, coordination in movements, charisma, head carriage and an elegant overall look. A charming horse that is content. Excellent riding.
- 9,0-9,4** **Excellent performance.**
The horse trots in a clear beat, is energetic, movements extended, lots of suspension and flexibility, contact on the reins. Good balance, coordination in movements, charisma, head carriage and an elegant overall look. A charming horse that is content, but not quite as elegant in comparison with 9,5-10 above. Excellent riding.
- 8,5-9,0** **Very good performance.**
The horse trots in a clear beat, energetic, big strides. Good suspension and flexibility with contact on the reins. Good balance and coordination in movements, but some lack of elegance and/or energy (drive) in the performance. A content horse. Good riding.
- 8,0-8,5** **Good performance.**
The horse trots in a clear beat with brisk steps, in balance and with rein contact. Lacking in elegance, suspension and overall look. The horse is content. Pretty good riding.
- 7,5-8,0** **Satisfactory performance.**
The horse trots in a clear beat. Lack of energy, movements, stride and charisma, not constant rein contact. Hesitant and powerless performance. A fairly content horse. Flaws in the riding.
- 7,0-7,4** **Adequate performance.**
The beat is not clear all the time or there is an obvious four-beat to its trot. Inconsistent rein contact. Not enough determination, an unbalanced performance. A fairly content horse. Flawed riding.
- 6,5-7,0** **Poor performance.**
The horse has beat problems in trot. Does not stay in trot or breaks gait in between, the head carriage and the overall performance is poor. Unstable. Inconsistent rein contact. The horse is not content. Poor riding.
- 6,0-6,5** **Bad performance.**
The horse has a lot of beat problems, does not stay in trot, the steps are short, the performance is flawed. Hardly any rein contact.
- 5,5-6,0** **Very bad performance.**
The horse shuffles between gaits, the steps are short, the horse breaks the gait many times, is resistant, inconsistent and in no touch with the rider. Element hardly shown.
- 5,0-5,5** **Element not performed.**
The horse doesn't show the required element or shows few steps.

GALLOP

Seat and aids

- 9,5-10** **Perfect performance.**
The movements of the horse and rider merge into one, where the interplay of the rider, sitting in a half seat, follows the soft and powerful rhythm of the horse. The rider is in control and looks straightforward.
- 9,0-9,5** **Excellent performance.**
The rider is in a half seat, following the rhythm of the horse in good balance. The horse could be a bit more concentrated. A powerful and refined performance, where the rider is in control and looks straightforward.
- 8,5-9,0** **Very good performance.**
The rider is in a half seat or sits the gallop, following the rhythm of the horse. The horse may lose its concentration and drive for one or two horse lengths. Small flaws in the harmony of horse and rider. The rider is demanding and focused.
- 8,0-8,5** **Good performance.**
The rider is in a half seat or sits the gallop, follows the horse well and is active, but lacks initiative and elegance to his/her riding. Smooth performance, but lacking refinement.
- 7,5-8,0** **Satisfactory performance.**
Seat pretty good, but incorrect at times, either in a half seat or sitting the gallop. Rein contact inconsistent. The contact between horse and rider is not good at times, the performance is unstable.
- 7,0-7,5** **Adequate performance.**
The seat is clearly not good; the rider lacks initiative and is more like a “passenger” on the horse, not very self-assured. The rein contact is inconsistent and the performance is unstable.
- 6,5-7,0** **Poor performance.**
The seat and rein contact are clearly not good, the cues are rough and crude. Little initiative on the rider’s part. A flawed performance.
- 6,0-6,5** **Bad performance.**
The rider has trouble performing the task at hand or is not able to do so. The seat is bad, the horse is out of control, the cues are rough and the rider’s seat interrupts the horse.
- 5,5-6,0** **Very bad performance.**
The rider is unbalanced, does not control the horse and the whole performance is out of order. Rough cues or cues without a purpose.
- 5,0** **Element not performed.**

Gallop

A powerful fast gait with obvious suspension. Comes in many varieties, from supple, slow, three-beat canter, to a powerful fast gait. The canter/gallop is judged clear if the leading foreleg and the leading hind leg appear to be on the same side and the gait is three-beat, followed by a moment of suspension. When riding very fast gallop there may be four beats to the stride. It does not matter which lead the horse takes.

The opposite is the cross canter/gallop, when the leading hind leg appears to be on the opposite side to the leading foreleg. If a horse shows cross canter/gallop it should not get a mark for the gait. The gallop should be shown for at least one long side on a 300 meter oval track to reach an average score or higher.

- 9,5-10** **Perfect performance.**
The horse performs clear beat gallop with fully coordinated movements, good balance, suppleness and energy. Goes into canter smoothly on a short side, canters slowly with good suspension, high movements. The horse should speed up on the long side and slow down again without stiffness or struggle. The horse canters with high movements and good charisma, with rein contact. A content horse. Excellent riding.
- 9,0-9,4** **Excellent performance.**
The horse performs clear beat gallop with fully coordinated movements, good balance, suppleness and energy. Goes into canter smoothly on a short side, canters slowly with good suspension, high movements. The horse should speed up on the long side and slow down again without stiffness or struggle. The horse canters with high movements and good charisma, with rein contact. A content horse but lacks more elegance compared with 9,5-10 above. Excellent riding.
- 8,5-9,0** **Very good performance.**
The horse performs clear beat gallop with fully coordinated movements. Supple and energetic, showing slow canter and speeding up on the long side. Slows down without stiffness or struggle. The horse canters with high movements and good charisma, with rein contact, a content horse. Lacks elegance. Good riding.
- 8,0-8,5** **Good performance.**
The horse performs clear beat gallop with coordinated movements, shows slow canter, gallops with energy, but lacks suppleness and suspension and/or drive. Good charisma, with rein contact. The horse is content, but lacks elegance. Pretty good riding.
- 7,5-8,0** **Satisfactory performance.**
The horse performs clear beat gallop, but lacks power and suspension. Flat, not charismatic. With rein contact, the horse is fairly content, but the riding is unsteady. Satisfactory riding.
- 7,0-7,4** **Adequate performance.**
The beat is not clear. Four-beat, no suspension of the hind part, and/or long outline. Not enough suspension, “heavy” gallop, front movements too high without speed following through. Bad riding. Switches lead on the long side. The horse is fairly content. Adequate overall riding.
- 6,5-7,0** **Poor performance.**
The beat is not clear, “heavy” gallop, little energy, cross canter for a part of the long side. Poor riding. The horse is not content.
- 6,0-6,5** **Bad performance.**
The beat is not clear, cross canter mixes in on the long side, heavy on the bit, fights with the rider. The performance is flawed with struggle and inflexibility. Bad riding.
- 5,5-6,0** **Very bad performance.**
Unclear beat, not enough of the gait is shown to receive a mark, breaks gait, resistant etc.
- 5,0-5,5** **Element not performed.**
The horse does not perform the required element. Shows a few steps. **CROSS CANTER**

TÖLT

Seat and aids

- 9,5-10** **Perfect performance.**
The horse and rider become one, where the interplay of horse and the rider, in a correct seat, follows the soft rhythm of the horse. The rider is in control and looks straightforward.
- 9,0-9,5** **Excellent performance.**
The rider is in a correct seat and follows the rhythm of the horse in good balance. The horse could be more concentrated. Refined performance, the rider is in control and looks straightforward.
- 8,5-9,0** **Very good performance.**
The rider is in a correct seat and follows the rhythm of the horse; the horse loses its concentration and willingness for one or two horse lengths. Small flaws in the interplay of horse and rider. The rider is demanding and focused.
- 8,0-8,5** **Good performance.**
The rider is in a correct seat and follows the horse well, is active but lacks initiative and elegance in his/her riding. Smooth performance, but lacking nobleness.
- 7,5-8,0** **Satisfactory performance.**
Seat pretty good but at times not correct. Rein contact on and off and the connection between horse and rider is not good all the time. The performance is occasionally unstable.
- 7,0-7,5** **Adequate performance.**
The seat is clearly not good and the contact on the reins loose. The encouragement from the rider is inconsistent, the rider lacks initiative. Lack of coordination between the horse and the rider, conviction missing in the performance.
- 6,5-7,0** **Poor performance.**
Seat and rein contact not good and rough cues. Little initiative noticeable on the part of the rider. A flawed performance.
- 6,0-6,5** **Bad performance.**
The rider has trouble performing the task at hand or is not able to do so. The seat is bad, the horse is out of control, the cues are rough and the rider's seat interrupts the horse.
- 5,5-6,0** **Very bad performance.**
The rider is not in rhythm with the horse, does not control the horse and the whole performance is out of order. Rough cues or cues without a purpose.
- 5,0** **Element not performed.**

Tölt

Tölt is a supple and elastic gait with four beats to it. The horse is coordinated in movements. The gait is judged clear if there are four hoof beats to a stride, with equal interval between them. The beat is constant and even. The movements are supple and flexible and move through the body of the horse creating flowing tail movement. The quality of the tölt is the most important factor, not the speed. To get an average score or higher the horse needs to show tölt for at least one long side of the track.

- 9,5-10** **Perfect performance.**
The beat of the tölt is clear; the gait is flexible with high, elegant movements and action, with good coordination between the front and the hind part of the horse. Good rein contact, excellent flexibility and suppleness, a steady flowing tail movement, overall elegance. The horse is content. Excellent riding.
- 9,0-9,4** **Excellent performance.**
The beat of the tölt is clear, the gait is flexible with high, elegant movements and action, with good coordination between the front and the hind part of the horse. Good rein contact, excellent flexibility and suppleness, a steady flowing tail movement, overall elegance. Lacks a little more excellence compared to 9,5-10 above. The horse is content. Excellent riding.
- 8,5-9,0** **Very good performance.**
The beat of the tölt is clear and the horse is flexible with high beautiful movements. Good rein contact and excellent coordination between front and back, steady flowing tail movement. The horse is content. Good riding.
- 8,0-8,5** **Good performance.**
The beat of the tölt is clear, with supple beautiful movements, good rein contact. A steady performance, supple and flowing tail movement, but lacks more elegance. The horse is content. Good riding.
- 7,5-8,0** **Satisfactory performance.**
The horse is showing clear beat tölt, lacks elasticity, lift and suppleness. The performance is powerless and lacks beauty. Suppleness and flowing movement in tail not good. Rein contact not constant. The horse is fairly content. Satisfactory riding.
- 7,0-7,4** **Adequate performance.**
The horse's tölt beat is not clear, the movements are big and high stepping but pacy in between, the beat is unclear on and off, or lacks leg action (lift). The quality of the gait is not good and the performance is hesitant. The movements do not flow through the horse, the rhythm and the tail carriage is not good. The horse is fairly content. Flawed riding.
- 6,5-7,0** **Poor performance.**
The horse's tölt beat is not clear, the horse breaks gait and goes into other gaits, and there is not much charisma or coordination. Poor rein contact. The horse is not content. Poor riding.
- 6,0-6,5** **Bad performance.**
The horse's tölt beat and initiative are lacking. Rolls, breaks gait or is close to trot or pace. Not enthusiastic. Lack of communication between the horse and the rider. The horse is not content. Bad riding.
- 5,5-6,0** **Very bad performance.**
The horse has no beat and the gait is hardly noticeable, mixes gaits. Hesitates, resists etc.
- 5,0-5,5** **Element not performed.**
The horse does not perform the required element or shows only a few steps of it.

Slow Tölt

Slow tölt is a supple and elastic four beat gait. The horse is collected and coordinated in its movements. The gait is judged clear if there are four hoof beats to a stride, with equal interval between them. The beat is constant and even. The movements are supple and flexible and move through the body of the horse creating flowing tail movement. To get an average score or higher the horse needs to show slow tölt clearly for at least one long side. Reference to speed: The horse is supposed to be able to tölt slow in good balance on an 8 meter circle at even speed.

- 9,5-10** **Perfect performance.**
The beat of the tölt is clear; the gait is flexible with high, elegant movements and action, good coordination between the front and the hind part of the horse. The horse is content and accepts rein contact, is flexible and supple creating a flowing tail movement at a slow tölt. The movements are “dancing” and the overall look is elegant. Excellent riding.
- 9,0-9,4** **Excellent performance.**
The beat of the tölt is clear; the gait is flexible with high, elegant movements and action, good coordination between the front and the hind part of the horse. The horse is content and accepts rein contact, is flexible and supple creating a flowing tail movement at a slow tölt. The movements are “dancing” and the overall look is elegant, but a little less impressive than 9,5-10 above. Excellent riding.
- 8,5-9,0** **Very good performance.**
The beat of the tölt is clear; the horse is flexible with high beautiful movements. The horse accepts the rein contact in slow tölt, collected with excellent coordination between front and back, flowing tail movement. The horse is content. Good riding.
- 8,0-8,5** **Good performance.**
The beat of the horse’s tölt is clear, with supple, beautiful movements. The horse accepts the rein contact in slow tölt. Steady performance, supple with flowing tail movement, but lacks more elegance. The horse is content. Pretty good riding.
- 7,5-8,0** **Satisfactory performance.**
The horse’s beat in tölt is clear, but leg action (lift), suppleness and collection is lacking. On the verge of being too fast. The performance is powerless and/or lacks refinement. Not very supple, lack of a flowing tail movement. Rein contact not constant. The horse is fairly content. Satisfactory riding.
- 7,0-7,4** **Adequate performance.**
The horse’s tölt beat is not clear, pacy in between, big strides, high stepping, beat problems in between or lack of leg action. The tempo of the gait is too fast, the horse is not content. The quality of the gait is poor and the performance is hesitant. The movements do not flow through the horse; the rhythm and the tail carriage are not good. Poor riding.
- 6,5-7,0** **Poor performance.**
The tölt beat is not clear, the horse breaks gait and mixes the gait with other gaits, lacks charisma and coordination. Poor rein contact. Too fast, almost medium tempo, the horse is not content. Poor riding.
- 6,0-6,5** **Bad performance.**
The horse’s tölt beat and initiative are lacking. Rolls, breaks gait or is close to trot or pace. Not enthusiastic, the tempo of the gait is much too fast. Lack of communication between the horse and the rider. The horse is not content.
- 5,5-6,0** **Very bad performance.**
The horse has no beat and the gait is hardly noticeable, mixes gaits. Goes too fast (medium tempo or faster), hesitates, resists etc.
- 5,0-5,5** **Element not performed.**

The horse does not perform the required element or shows only a few steps of it.

Fast Tölt

This element, fast tölt, has the same definition as the slow tölt, except it should be ridden faster. The fast tölt has to be ridden at more than medium tempo to get an average score or higher, the quality of the gait is very important. The horse is energetic, forward going and content. To get an average score or higher the horse should show fast tölt for at least one long side of the track.

- 9,5-10** **Perfect performance.**
The beat of the tölt is clear, the movements fully coordinated, flexible and supple with high, energetic movements, beautiful head carriage in fast tölt. Flowing movements create good tail carriage. The horse is content on the bit, good rein contact. Excellent riding.
- 9,0-9,4** **Excellent performance.**
The beat of the tölt is clear, the movements fully coordinated, flexible and supple with high, energetic steps, beautiful head carriage in fast tölt. Flowing movements create good tail carriage. The horse is content on the bit, good rein contact. A little less impressive than 9,5-10 above as far as charisma and power are concerned. Excellent riding.
- 8,5-9,0** **Very good performance.**
The beat of the tölt is clear, the movements fully coordinated, flexible and supple with high, energetic steps, charismatic in fast tölt. Good head carriage. Flowing movements create good tail carriage. The horse is content on the bit, good rein contact. Good riding.
- 8,0-8,5** **Good performance.**
The beat of the horse's tölt is clear, with supple, coordinated movements, charisma and nice leg action in fast tölt. Flowing movements create good tail carriage. Charisma and head carriage are not good enough, the horse's neck stretches out. The horse is content on the bit. Good riding.
- 7,5-8,0** **Satisfactory performance.**
The horse's tölt beat is clear and the movements are supple, but lack flexibility and leg action. Stiff, pushy, disinterested, hesitant during the performance, just over medium tempo speed. Poor riding.
- 7,0-7,4** **Adequate performance.**
The horse's tölt beat is not clear, pacy, big strides, high stepping, gets trotty or lacks leg action. A hesitant performance, the quality of the gait is poor. Barely makes medium tempo speed, the horse fairly content. Poor riding.
- 6,5-7,0** **Poor performance.**
The tölt beat is not clear, the horse breaks gait and mixes the gait with other gaits. Lacks charisma, power and coordination, does not respond well to the riders wishes. The horse is not content. Does not make medium tempo speed. Poor riding.
- 6,0-6,5** **Bad performance.**
The horse's tölt beat and initiative are lacking. Rolls, breaks gait or is close to trot or pace, disinterested. Too little speed or too much speed, resistant.
- 5,5-6,0** **Very bad performance.**
The horse has no beat and the gait is hardly noticeable. Mixes gaits, hesitates, resists etc.
- 5,0-5,5** **Element not performed.**
The horse does not perform the required element or shows only a few steps of it.

Pace

Pace is a powerful two beat fast gait, with energetic strides and suspension. The gait is judged clear if there is obvious suspension, the horse stretches out, lowers its head carriage, pushes powerfully and stretches its legs out. Exception when the lateral legs reach the ground on the same time is not noticeable. To reach an average score of 7,5 or higher the horse needs to show clear pace for at least 100 meters.

- 9,5-10** **Perfect performance.**
 The horse is put in clear pace from a brisk gallop. The horse lowers its head and paces a full sprint without mistakes, fast pace, extended strides, clear beat and high speed. Perfect rein contact, transition to pace effortless and smooth. Powerful and elegant performance, ends the pace sprint well, slowing the horse down smoothly. The horse is content. Excellent riding.
- 9,0-9,4** **Excellent performance.**
 The horse is put in pace from a brisk gallop. The horse lowers its head and paces a full sprint without mistakes, fast pace, extended strides, clear beat and high speed. Perfect rein contact, transition to pace effortless and smooth. Powerful and elegant performance, ends the pace sprint well, slowing the horse down smoothly. The horse is content. Excellent riding. The horse lacks a little elegance in comparison with 9,5-10 above.
- 8,5-9,0** **Very good performance.**
 The horse is put in clear pace from a good gallop speed, the horse lowers its head carriage, paces the whole run energetically and without mistakes, good rein contact. Extended, fast pace, powerful, the horse is content. Good riding.
- 8,0-8,5** **Good performance.**
 The horse is put in clear pace from a good gallop speed but lacks power and extension/speed. Put in pace from tölt or trot and paces well, powerful. Lowers the head carriage, paces the whole sprint energetically and without mistakes. Does not end the sprint well, does not slow down. Pretty good riding. The horse is fairly content.
- 7,5-8,0** **Satisfactory performance.**
 The horse is put in clear pace from any gait. Overall look is good, but lacks energy and elegance, paces the whole sprint, does not end the sprint well, or the rider needs to correct the horse a few times during the sprint. The horse is fairly content. Satisfactory riding.
- 7,0-7,4** **Adequate performance.**
 The horse is put in pace from any gait. Beat failures in the pace, obvious four beat, the rider needs to correct the horse often during the sprint, lack of speed, or powerful strides in parts of the sprint, and rein contact not good. Does not end the sprint well. The horse is fairly content. Adequate riding.
- 6,5-7,0** **Poor performance.**
 The horse is put in pace from any gait, beat failures, instability, paces for 50-60 meters, uncooperative or breaks gait. A seriously flawed performance, a discontent horse. Bad riding.
- 6,0-6,5** **Bad performance.**
 The horse is put in pace from any gait, beat failures or little speed, uninterested or uncooperative, short spells of pace in between. Poor riding.
- 5,5-6,0** **Very bad performance.**
 The horse shuffles, piggy paces, is uncooperative, uninterested, resistant, lacks communication with the rider. Element hardly performed.
- 5,0-5,5** **Element not performed.**
 The horse does not perform the required element or few steps of it.