



**Equine Canada**

**Western Learn To Ride Program**

**Information Handout**



**ONTARIO EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION**  
9120 Leslie Street, Suite 203, Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3J9  
phone 905-709-6545 • fax 905-709-1867 • toll-free 1-877-441-7112  
e-mail [horse@horse.on.ca](mailto:horse@horse.on.ca) • website [www.horse.on.ca](http://www.horse.on.ca)



## **EC WESTERN LEARN TO RIDE PROGRAM**

The Western Learn To Ride Program was developed for those individuals who wish to learn safe horsemanship skills and practices on a national standard under the guidance of a certified Equine Canada (EC) Western Coach. The purpose of this program is to provide new riders with a safe and knowledgeable introduction to Western riding.

The Western Learn To Ride Program was developed following definite objectives set forth in order to organize basic western riding skills and to assure a standardization of these same skills. The following are some of the advantages of using the course outline and Western Rider Preparation Manual:

- The manual permits the rider to follow the objectives of the course.
- The rider may look over previous subject matter as well as prepare for subsequent lessons by reading ahead.
- The rider is assured that even when changing coaches the guidelines of the course will not change.
- The Level 4 rider is a prerequisite in becoming a Western Instructor.

Candidates must hold an Ontario Equestrian Federation (OEF) membership and their examiner must be an active certified EC Western Coach. The candidate must successfully pass a written, practical and riding test for each level. After the candidate has passed the tests, it is up to the examiner to send in the test results with payment for each level to the OEF Office.

1. **OEF MEMBERSHIP** - Rider level candidates **MUST** be current OEF Members. Application Forms can be found on the OEF website [www.horse.on.ca](http://www.horse.on.ca)
2. **MANUALS** - Western Learn To Ride Program Manuals are available from the OEF office. Forms are available on the OEF website at [www.horse.on.ca](http://www.horse.on.ca)
3. **EXAMINERS** - Rider level examiners must be active Equine Canada (EC) certified Coaches.

### Rider Level 1-2 Examiner:

- Must be active certified EC Western Instructor or higher
- Can be students own coach

### Rider Level 3 Examiner:

- Must be active certified EC Western Coach 1 or higher
- Can be students own coach
- An Equine Canada certified Western Instructor can recommend for Rider Level 3.

#### Rider Level 4 Examiner:

- Must be 2 active certified EC Western Coach 1 or higher, or a Course Conductor
  - Chief Examiner cannot be student's own Coach
4. **TEST PAPERS** – Test papers are available from the OEF Office. It is the Examiners responsibility to obtain the test sheets from the OEF prior to a scheduled test date. Test papers will only be sent to active Coaches.
  5. **EXAMINER FEES** - Rider Level Examiners should not charge any more than their regular lesson rates for Rider exams. Out of pocket expenses may be added such as mileage, hotel, etc.
  6. **SUBMITTING RESULTS** - ALL Rider Level exam forms must be submitted to the OEF office by the examiner and must include:
    - Complete candidate information including address, phone number, OEF membership number or membership application with appropriate fee
    - \$21.00 administration fee - per exam - includes certificate and pin

\*\*\* Please note that Rider Exam results are **NOT** returned to the candidate. Examiners should review results with candidates following the exam and prior to forwarding results to the OEF office\*\*\*

A rider that does not meet the standard in any of the phases of the test must retake the unsuccessful portion(s) of the exam to be awarded their certificate.

7. **CERTIFICATES** - Certificates will be mailed directly to the rider candidate. For the replacement of lost certificates, please contact the OEF Office, a \$5 replacement fee will be charged.

#### RIDER 1:

Candidate will be taught:

- To identify colours and markings
- To place and adjust a halter and tie the horse
- To demonstrate proper grooming
- To demonstrate proper horse handling on the ground
- To saddle and bridle correctly and the parts of the saddle and bridle
- To mount and dismount in an acceptable manner
- To maintain an acceptable position of: the body, legs, hands at the 3 gaits; walk, jog, lope.
- To demonstrate the proper aids for the three gaits and recognition of leads
- To demonstrate properly the elementary method of stopping and backing up
- To demonstrate and explain the rein effects of the direct and opening rein

## **RIDER 2:**

Candidate will be taught:

- Rider fitness & gymnastics
- The proper riding position with the use of one hand and two hand positions
- How to post on the correct diagonal and change diagonals
- Maintain a proper riding position of the
  - a) Body
  - b) Legs
  - c) Hands
- Variations of speed at the lope
- Execute transitions of the gaits
- Name and demonstrate the effects of the indirect rein and the neck rein
- Be able to identify the correct lead (within 5-6 strides)
- Stable management including teeth, parasites, unsoundnesses & blemishes, conformation, movement
- How to buy a horse and horse examination for sale
- How to load and transport a horse
- Execute correctly all practical work referred to in Rider 1

## **RIDER 3:**

Candidate will be taught:

- The rein of opposition
- Bandaging (stable, shipping and tail)
- Describe and name three bits and explain their use
- Rider turn out will include overall performance and attitudes; clothing, neatness and conduct
- Name demonstrate the effect of leg aids
- Execute and turn on the forehand
- Execute and turn on the haunches
- Stable management including: preventative and emergency care, common diseases and vaccinations
- Code of Ethics
- Psychology of the rider
- Execute with proficiency all practical work covered in Rider 1 and 2

## **RIDER 4:**

Candidate will be taught:

- Schooling exercises
- Basic collection
- Simple change of leads from both directions
- Proper lunging procedures
- Side pass
- Two track movements
- Stable management including: stable construction, horse fitness, equine nutrition
- Demonstrate all practical work referred to in Rider 1, 2 & 3

## **WESTERN INTERMEDIATE RIDER PROGRAM**

The Western Intermediate Rider Program was developed for those individuals who wish to discover the many disciplines available in western riding at the competitive level, from Western Performance to Reining to Speed Events.

In order to participate in the Intermediate Rider Program, candidates must hold a current OEF membership and a Western Learn To Ride Level IV certificate. Their examiner must be an active Equine Canada certified Western Coach 2 in the discipline being evaluated. It is the responsibility of the examiner to contact the OEF Office and request the tests and to ensure that the candidate holds a current OEF membership. After the candidate has passed the tests, it is up to the examiner to send in the test results with payment for each level to the OEF Office.

The Western Intermediate Rider Manual covers:

- General Component - consisting of a horsemanship riding test, lunging the green or problem horse, bandaging (including first aid) and a written test.
- Western Pleasure
- Western Horsemanship
- Western Trail
- Western Riding
- Showmanship
- Barrel Racing
- Pole Bending
- Reining

Patterns are available in the Western Intermediate Rider Manual.

### **FEES & RESULTS**

**EXAMINER FEES** - Rider Level Examiners should not charge any more than their regular lesson rates for Rider exams. Out of pocket expenses may be added such as mileage, hotel, etc.

**RESULTS** - ALL Rider Level exam forms must be submitted to the OEF office by the examiner and must include:

- OEF membership number or membership application and appropriate fee
- \$10.50 administration fee - per exam

\*\*\* Please note that Rider Exam results are NOT returned to the candidate. Examiners should review results with candidates following the exam and prior to forwarding results to the OEF office\*\*\*

A rider who is unsuccessful in certain module(s) of the rider exam must retake the unsuccessful module(s) of the exam to be awarded their certificate.