



Rules for saddle grading of mares *abroad*

Article 1

Purpose

- 1.1** Dansk Varmblod's purpose with the saddle grading is to combine an evaluation of a mare's exterior as well as its qualities as a riding horse in order to get the best possible impression of its abilities as a broodmare and performance horse. This means that the mare will only have to be shown once. The saddle grading consists partly of a grading and partly of a performance test. The saddle grading also helps to add information about the sire's breeding abilities.

If the mare is already graded, she will only take part in the one-day performance test.

Saddle grading is primarily aimed towards 3-year-old mares, but older mares can take part according to the special rules in Article 3.

- 1.2** The saddle grading is managed by the grading commission of Dansk Varmblod.
- 1.3** The judges are from Dansk Varmblod's judging panel, perhaps assisted by experienced experts/trainers within specific disciplines who have been approved by Dansk Varmblod.
- 1.4** The saddle grading can be entered by mares that can be graded with Dansk Varmblod in accordance with Rules for mare grading.
- 1.5** The saddle grading consists of an exterior evaluation in accordance with Rules for grading of mares and a "performance test". The owner can choose between the dressage performance test, the jumping performance test or both tests. In the dressage performance test the mare need to be ridden. In the jumping performance test the mare need to be ridden and free jumped.

Article 2

Judging

2.1. Exterior valuation

This takes place on "hard ground". The mare is shown without saddle and bandages/boots. The mare is stood up in front of the Dansk Varmblod judges, with the side facing the judges. The mare is then shown walking away and towards the judges and again in trot.

1	Type	6.	Hind legs
2.	Head and neck	7.	Walk
3.	Shoulders/withers	8.	Trot
4.	Top line/quarters	9.	Canter
5.	Front legs	10.	General impression

The scores for walk, trot, and canter are taken from the performance test results.

2.2. Free jumping

Takes place in an indoor or fenced arena over 4 jumps. The details on the jumping sketch can be found on www.varmblod.dk. The heights of the jumps are varied according to the ability of the mare, but with a maximum height of 1.20 meter (4 feet). The mare is shown without saddle and with detachable reins.

Two scores are given for technique and capacity. Time allowed is approximate 5 minutes per mare.

Judges: At the minimum 2, of which at least one is a member of the grading committee.

2.3. Evaluation of movements

Mares are shown together in groups of 2 or 3 depending on the available number of test riders. The mare is ridden in rising trot and is cantered in a light seat. The riders will show their mares in accordance with the judges' instructions for 5-6 minutes. The following movements are shown: Free walk on a long rein, working trot and working canter on both reins and a slight lengthen along the long side. The mares should be ridden in straight lines and in large circles.

Five scores are given for: walk, trot, canter, rideability (ease of riding, willingness, forward going) and capacity.

Judges: At the minimum 2, of which one is a member of the grading committee.

2.4. Weighting of results

The scores for rideability and canter count in both the dressage- and jumping disciplines.

DRESSAGE DISCIPLINE		JUMPING DISCIPLINE	
1. Rideability	25	3. Rideability	20
2. Movements		4. Jumping	
a. Capacity	24	a. Canter	20
b. Walk	17	b. Technique	30
c. Trot	17	c. Capacity	30
d. Canter	17		
Total:	100	Total	100

2.5. Grading and ranking

After all tests, the ranking and grading takes place. First, the mares that have not passed the test are lined up and placed in the relevant studbooks. Secondly, the mares whose sire or dam are thoroughbred or Arabian are lined up and placed in the relevant studbooks, no matter which discipline of their riding test was the best. The third ranking involves mares whose total in the dressage test was better than the one in jumping, and the fourth involves the mares whose total of the jumping test was better than that of their dressage test.

2.6. Calculation of results

When passing the performance test, the mare is given an R to her grading classification. To pass the test the 3-year-old mare is required to score a minimum of 675 in either the dressage or the jumping discipline.

Article 3

4-year-old and older mares need a score of 700 to pass in either dressage or jumping discipline to pass. For 4-year-olds who have been in foal and are nursing their foal in the year of the test and where this has been reported to Landscentret | Heste (The Danish Agricultural Centre – Horse Department), the minimum score for passing is 675.

Article 4

Mares previously graded without a performance test, can do a test at special one-day shows.

Article 5

3-year-old Thoroughbred or Arabian mares need a score of at least 650 in either dressage or jumping discipline to pass, and 4-year-old or older Thoroughbred or Arabian mares need a score of at least 675 to pass.

Article 6

General rules

6.1. Entry An entry is only valid if the organizer has received the entry form and the fee before the last entry date. If the mare is not a Dansk Varmblod by birth, it must be put into the Danish national database of Landscentret | Heste with 4 generations' pedigree, which requires the attachment of the original pedigree and an extra cost for covering that registration. One must be a member in order to enter a mare for grading. Only the owner of a mare can enter a mare for grading at Dansk Varmblod.

6.2. Start The original pedigree papers /equine passport or horse registration papers must be delivered to Dansk Varmblod at the latest on the day of inspection, or else the mare can only be entered in the F1 register.

Each rider cannot ride more than 5 horses per day. Judging of movement and ridden tests take place outside unless conditions prevent this.

6.3. Tack The horse should always wear a normal bridle with a loose ring or egg-butt snaffle or a snaffle with jointed mouthpiece where middle piece is rounded and a dropped noseband. A flash noseband may be used according to the rules of the national equestrian federation. Rubber rings on the bit are not permitted. All types of side reins, balancing reins, martingales, stop girths, front plates, cruppers and similar are not permitted.

6.4 At the loose jumping no types of bandages/boots are allowed on the hind legs. Boots and overreach boots on the front legs are permitted, but at any time in connection with the judging all through the day, the judges are allowed to check, if the boots contain items that from the judges' point of view

may have influenced on the horse's performance in jumping or when judging the movement. This includes the warm-up arena as well. If items like mentioned above are found, the horse in question will be excluded from the evaluation test.

6.5. Bandages and boots must not be worn during the exterior valuation on hard ground. Bell boots and bandages are allowed for the riding test, no splint boots are allowed.

6.6. Whips with a maximum length of 1.10 metres are permitted at the riding test. It is not permitted to add other object e.g. plastic bags to the whip.

6.7 Spurs are not allowed for 3 yr old mares. Spurs are permitted for 4 yr old and older mares only if a whip is not used.

6.8. The rider's dress

The rider should be dressed in normal competition dress with light britches and long dark boots and should be wearing a helmet that meets the security requirements of the national equestrian federation when mounted.

6.9. Riding style

The horse should be ridden light as expected of a youngster. Horses that appear stressed, naughty, too collected or harshly ridden, can be excluded by the judges.

6.10. Un-sporting behaviour or unnecessary disciplining of the horse may result in exclusion. The judges of Dansk Varmblod have the authorization to do so. The judges are aware that the horse's health and wellbeing is in accordance with the Codes of Conduct of the National Riding Federation of Denmark and that of FEI regarding horse welfare.

6.11 No form of doping is permitted and will result in disqualification.

Article 7

Pregnancy

It is recommended that the mares are not tested later than 4 months before foaling and no sooner than 4 months after foaling.