

We don't want someone who doesn't understand what we are trying to portray delegating our requirements for us. The only way to keep our riders and the public as safe as possible considering the danger of this hobby is to be diligent in our requirements and give honest evaluations of our riders and horses skills. A rider certification is only as good as its evaluators. If anyone in the NCWC allows NCWC riders on the field without passing the mounted evaluation simply for the sake of numbers of troops or getting officers on horses his attitude is a danger to us all.

No one is immune to evaluation and certification, even the evaluators themselves must go through certification.

Anyone who rides a horse at our events is considered MOUNTED!

He/she needs to be evaluated before going onto the battlefield.

INSTRUCTIONS TO EVALUATORS

The horse and rider must pass all parts of the certification test through **REACTION TO GUNFIRE FROM OTHERS** in order to participate. If a previously certified rider is mounted on a new horse he must undergo the same evaluation and certification as with his original mount. The evaluator (s) will observe the care and saddling of the horse, inspect the tack for safety/serviceability and observe the control the rider has of the horse around people and during riding and firing. A video record of the test is recommended to alleviate any concerns about unfair grading by any evaluator.

GROOMING AND SADDLING - The evaluator (s) will observe the rider as he grooms and saddles his mount. Saddling should be based on period regulations; however, these regulations are superseded by safety requirements.

When the rider has finished preparing his horse he presents himself and his mount to the evaluator (s) and stands to horse. The evaluator (s) will check the position of the saddle making sure its placement does not hinder the motion of the horse's shoulder nor put the pommel gullet on the withers. He will examine the blanket for wrinkles. He will check the fit of the curb bit and the curb strap or the snaffle if used. He will check the tightness of the cinch and the correct placement of all horse equipment. The evaluator (s) will ask some general horse related questions to the rider and note his responses.

Some examples of questions you can ask..

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the age of your horse?• When was the last time your horse saw the farrier?• Show me your horse's teeth.• Has your horse been sick this year?• What kind of rations has your horse gotten today? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where did you get your horse and how long have you had him?• What kind of disposition does your horse have?• Has your horse been lame this year?• What are the signs of colic? What causes colic?• How does your horse act on the picketline? |
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LEADING THE HORSE- After the initial examination of the rider as above the evaluator (s) will instruct the rider to lead his horse to the riding area observing the willingness of the horse to be led.

MOUNTING - Upon reaching the riding area the evaluator (s) will give the rider a moment to check his tack before commanding him to mount.

RIDING - One evaluator will give commands to the rider. The commands will instruct the rider in which direction and what gait to ride. The evaluator should have the rider go from a walk, to a trot and then to a canter at first, then to any of the gaits regardless of the order. He should also have the rider travel in different directions periodically, and command a halt at least once at each gait. The rider should be instructed to back the horse at least 4 paces. If possible the horse should be ridden around flags and lines of moving men while the test is taken. The horse should be tested on ability to side-pass right and left as well as turn on his own centre. The evaluator (s) should pay particular attention to the control the rider has over the horse in all situations. If a rider can smoothly control his horse with a minimum of obvious effort then this same combination will not have much problem with firing from the saddle or use of the sabre.

REACTION TO GUNFIRE FROM OTHERS - This part will be mandatory for all riders and should be done singularly as well as in a group of horses. The rider, mounted, will position himself 200 yards from a skirmish line of dismounted men. The commander of the dismounted men will order them to fire in volley and from left and right while the rider rides his horse at a walk towards the men. At 100 feet the men will be commanded to cease-fire while the horse continues steadily on through the space between skirmishers. The evaluator (s) will observe how the horse reacts to gunfire and how well the rider maintains control and moves smoothly forward.

REACTION TO GUNFIRE FROM THE SADDLE - This part is mandatory for any rider who intends to fire a weapon from the saddle. An evaluator will command the rider to halt and draw pistol. When ready, the rider will fire one shot to the right and one shot to the left, take up the walk and fire two more shots right and left, take up the trot and do the same. After shooting, the rider brings his mount to a halt and returns his pistol to the holster. If the rider intends to use a carbine or shotgun the command, draw and load carbine is given while at the halt and the rider fires one shot to the left. The evaluator (s) will observe how the horse reacts to the gunfire and how well the rider controls his mount.

REACTION TO THE SABRE - The rider must be practiced in sabre drill on foot before attempting sabre use mounted. The evaluator (s) will command the rider to draw sabre and take him through a sabre drill routine at a halt and then at a walk. Passing this test does not certify a rider for impulsive use of the sabre on the battlefield.
