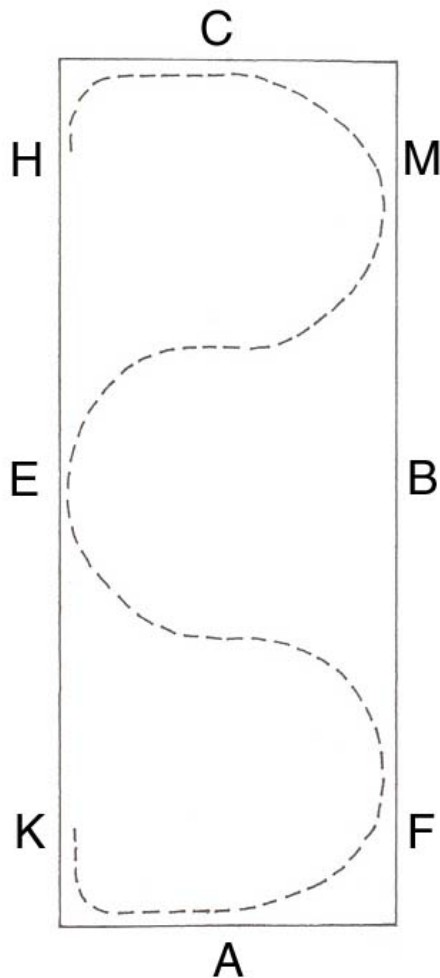


FREESTYLES

Serpentines vs. Loops
Trip Harting "S" Judge

This past summer at the Eastern Championships, 40% of the performances were given at least one "0" for movements not performed by the rider. Unlike the regular USEF Dressage tests where everyone knows what the rider is supposed to be doing, the Freestyle poses a particular problem to the judge who frequently can't really tell what a rider is attempting to do, or if a movement has been done at all. One such movement is the required "Loop" seen in the USPC Training Level Freestyle...⁴ "One Loop in the Trot". Many people confuse what is accepted as a "Loop" for a Serpentine, and vice versa. The difference between the two is quite simple. "The Serpentine consists of half circles connected by a straight line." When riding a Serpentine, the rider must cross the "center" line perpendicularly, and NOT on an angle (anything less than 90 degrees). If a rider "angles" the "center" line (in other words, NOT perpendicular), he is riding a "Loop" or "Loops". The best suggestion IO can offer regarding required movements in the Freestyles is to make the Required Movements *absolutely obvious to everyone*. When riders try to be clever by attempting to combine required movements (Stretching the Frame for 40m while executing a Loop, for example) and expecting to get two separate scores, confusion may result with the judge, and that confusion does not always benefit the rider.

Serpentine



Loop

