

## TRAIL

- (a.) This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing correctness is not sacrificed. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it, and willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles.
- (b.) Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating the obstacles. Horses with artificial appearance over obstacles should be penalized.
- (c.) Horses must not be required to work on the rail. The course must be designed, however, to require each horse to show the three gaits (walk, jog, lope) somewhere between obstacles as a part of its work, and quality of movement and cadence should be considered as part of the maneuver score. While on the line of travel between obstacles. The horse shall be balanced, carrying his head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with the poll level with or slightly above the withers. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance. Gait between obstacles shall be at the discretion of the judge.
- (d.) The course to be used must be posted at least one hour before scheduled starting time of the class.
- (e.) **The following deductions will result:**
  - Second refusal**
  - Letting go of gate or dropping rope gate
  - Use of either hand to instill fear or praise
  - Stepping outside the confines of, falling, or jumping off or out of an obstacle with more than one foot
  - Blatant disobedience (kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking)
  - Failure to complete obstacle
- (f.) Management, when setting courses, should keep in mind that the idea is not to trap a horse, or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind so as to eliminate any accidents. When the distances and spaces are measured between all obstacles, the inside base to inside base measurement of each obstacle considering the normal path of the horse, should be the measuring point. Enough space must be provided for a horse to jog at least 30 feet and lope at least 50 feet for the judge to evaluate these gaits.

- (g) If disrupted, the course shall be reset after each horse has worked. In the case that a combination of obstacles are used, the course cannot be reset until the contestant finishes the entire course regardless of where any disruption occurs.
- (h) At least six obstacles must be used, three of which must be from the mandatory list of obstacles and at least three others selected from the list of optional obstacles.
- (I) Mandatory obstacles:
  - (1) Opening, passing through and closing gate. (Losing control of gate is to be penalized.) Use a gate which will not endanger horse or rider. If the gate has a metal, plastic or wooden support bar under the opening, contestants must work the gate moving forward through it.
  - (2) Ride over at least four logs or poles. These can be in a straight line, curved, zigzag or raised. The space between the logs is to be measured and the path the horse is to take should be the measuring point. Trotovers and lopeovers cannot be elevated in novice classes. All elevated elements must be placed in a cup, notched block, or otherwise secured so they cannot roll. The height should be measured from the ground to the top of the element. Spacing for walkovers, trotovers, and lopeovers should be as follows or increments thereof.
    - (A) The spacing for walkovers shall be 20" to 24" and may be elevated to 12". Elevated walkovers should be at least 22" apart.
    - (B) The spacing for trotovers shall be 3" to 3'6" and may be elevated to 8".
    - (C) The spacing for lopeovers shall be 6' to 7' or increments thereof, and may be elevated to 8".
  - (3) Backing obstacle. Backing obstacles to be spaced a minimum of 28". If elevated, 30" spacing is required. Entrants cannot be asked to back over a stationary object such as a wooden pole or metal bar.
    - (A) Back through and around at least three markers.
    - (B) Back through L, V, U, straight or similar-shaped course. May be elevated no more than 24".
- (J) Optional obstacles, but not limited to:
  - (1) Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slick bottom-boxes will be used.
  - (2) Serpentine obstacles at walk or jog. Spacing to be minimum of 6' for jog.
  - (3) Carry object from one part of arena to another. (Only objects which reasonably might be carried on a trail ride may be used).
  - (4) Ride over wooden bridge. (Suggested minimum width shall be 36" wide and at least 6 feet long). Bridge should be sturdy, safe and negotiated at a walk only.

- (5) Put on and remove slicker.
  - (6) Remove and replace materials from mailbox.
  - (7) Side pass (may be elevated to 12" maximum).
  - (8) An obstacle consisting of four logs or rails, each 5' to 7' long, laid in a square. Each contestant will enter the square by riding over log or rail as designated. When all four feet are inside the square, rider should execute a turn, as indicated, and depart.
  - (9) Any other safe and negotiable obstacle which should reasonably be expected to be encountered on a trail and meets the approval of the judge may be used.
  - (10) A combination of two or more of any obstacle is acceptable.
- (K) Unacceptable obstacles:
- (1) Tires
  - (2) Animals
  - (3) Hides
  - (4) PVC Pipe
  - (5) Dismounting
  - (6) Jumps
  - (7) Rocking or moving bridges
  - (8) Water box with floating or moving parts
  - (9) Flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, etc.
  - (10) Logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits them to roll
  - (11) Ground ties