

YEARLING TRAIL IN HAND Rules & Suggested Scoring

JUDGING CRITERIA:

A. This class is judged on the performance of the horse over and through obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the exhibitor, and attitude.

CLASS ROUTINE:

A. The order of competition shall be determined by drawing lots (or by random computer selection).

i. Horses will work in the order of draw.

ii. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to be prepared to work in that order.

iii. Draws may be changed to accommodate exhibitors with more than one horse entered in that class.

B. The walk and jog must be incorporated into the Trail pattern of suitable duration to determine fairly a horse's way of going.

C. Working of horses shall be on an individual basis.

D. MANDATORY OBSTACLES:

i. Open, pass through, and close a gate.

ii. Over at least four logs. (walk or trot)

iii. Going over a bridge.

iv. Sidepassing over obstacle, (optional either direction)

E. OPTIONAL OBSTACLES not limited to:

i. Back-throughs.

ii. Carrying object from one part of arena to other.

iii. Dragging object from one part of arena to other.

iv. Placing blanket or pad on horse's back.

v. Remove and replace object from mailbox.

vi. Turn in box.

F. PROHIBITED OBSTACLES:

i. Tires.

ii. Animals.

iii. Hide.

iv. PVC pipe.

vi. Rocking or moving bridges.

vii. Water boxes with floating or moving parts.

viii. Flames, dry ice, fire extinguishers, etc.

ix. Logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll.

GENERAL:

A. An exhibitor may exhibit more than one horse provided the other horses are ready.

i. Each horse may have only one exhibitor per class.

B. The obstacles shall be at the discretion of the show management and/or course designer, and shall not exceed six obstacles.

C. A trail course designer should give consideration to a course that will enable the exhibitors to negotiate it within a reasonable time.

i. The course should be designed so that each obstacle can be negotiated in less than 90 seconds.

D. Care should be taken to prevent a direct advantage to either a large horse or a small horse.

E. The Judge has the right to alter, change or eliminate any obstacle in the course that he or she deems to be incorrect or unsafe.

F. The trail course will be posted for the exhibitors to study at least one hour before the class are to be judged.

SUGGESTED SCORING:

- A.** An exhibitor will be penalized a maximum of 15 points on any one obstacle.
- i.** An exhibitor reaching the maximum 15 penalty points on any one obstacle will be asked to proceed to the next obstacle without additional penalty points being assessed.
- a.** For example, after two refusals at an obstacle, an exhibitor will be asked to proceed to the next obstacle and will be assessed a maximum of 15 penalty points as follows: First refusal - five penalty points; Second refusal
- five penalty points; Failure to complete obstacle - five penalty points.
- B.** All horses with clean or minor fault trips over the course will be considered before horses that have been assessed the max. 15 penalty points on any obstacle in the final scoring & placing.
- C.** Scoring will be on the basis of 0-100, with 70 denoting an average score.
- D.** Each obstacle should receive an score and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted.
- E.** Each obstacle should be scored on the following basis, ranging from -1 ½ to + 1 ½.
- 1 ½ extremely poor
 - 1 very poor
 - 1/2 poor
 - 0 correct
 - +1/2 good
 - +1 very good
 - +1 ½ excellent
- F.** Obstacle score is to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

CREDITS:

- A.** Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style, expression and a degree of speed, providing carefulness is not sacrificed.
- B.** Special credit is given to a horse picking its own way through an obstacle that warrants it, and willingly responding to an exhibitor's cues on other obstacles.

FAULTS:

- A.** Horses with an exaggerated or artificial appearance over an obstacle should be penalized.

PENALTIES:

A. ½ Point Penalties:

- i.** Each tick of log, pole, cone or obstacle.

B. One Point Penalties:

- i.** Each bite of or hit of or stepping on a log, pole, cone or any component of the obstacle.
- ii.** Incorrect gait (including break of gait) at a walk or jog for two strides or less.
- iii.** Both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space.
- iv.** Skipping over or failing to step into required space.
- v.** Failure to meet the correct strides on trot-over obstacles.

C. Three Point Penalties:

- i.** Break of gait or incorrect gait at walk or jog for more than two strides.
- ii.** Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel or plant obstacle or severely disturbing an obstacle.
- iii.** Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off or out of an obstacle with 1 foot.

D. Five Point Penalties:

- i.** Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course.
- ii.** 1st refusal, balk or attempt to evade obstacle by shying more than 2 strides away.
- iii.** Use of either hand to instill fear.
- iv.** Stepping outside the confined of, falling or jumping off or out of an obstacle with more than one foot.
- v.** Loss of control or letting go of gate
- vi.** Blatant disobedience (kicking out, biting, rearing, striking).

- vii. 2nd refusal, balk or attempt to evade obstacle by shying more than two strides away.
 - a. After the second refusal, the Judge shall direct the exhibitor to move to the next obstacle.
- viii. Failure to complete obstacle.

E. 0 Score:

- i. Performing the obstacles incorrectly or other than in specified order.
- ii. No attempt to perform an obstacle.
- iii. Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern.
- iv. Failure to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction, including overturns of more than ¼ turn.
- v. Failure to work an obstacle as described by the course.
- vi. Leading outside designated boundary of the arena or course area.
- vii. Fall of horse and/or exhibitor on course.
- viii. Use of prohibited appointments.
- ix. Third refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing anywhere on course.
- x. Failure to ever demonstrate correct gait between obstacles as required.
- xi. Failure to follow the correct line of travel between obstacles.

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT:

- A. A chain on a lead shank allowed as long as it falls free from the halter without touching any part of the horse.

PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT:

- A. Whips, bats, quirts.
- B. Standard sliding, rundown or skid boots on the horse's rear fetlocks, and splint boots on the front legs.
- C. Soft leg wraps.

DISQUALIFICATIONS:

- A. Any exhibitor being assisted by a second person inside the arena.
- B. Handler losing contact with lead line.