

CONDUCT

1. All entered exhibitors will be allowed to walk and inspect the course with the judge and with the course designer, if present, prior to the start of the class. In amateur and junior exhibitor classes, exhibitors may be accompanied by their trainer.

- a. No Time Outs will be allowed.
- b. All horses enter the arena with a score of 70. With each obstacle, the judge will instruct a scribe to assign a score as well as any appropriate penalties if one or more occurs. At the end of the work, obstacle scores will be totaled. Any penalties will then be subtracted to arrive at a final score. All horses are judged from the time they enter the arena until the completion of the last obstacle.
- c. Judge(s) may review official video on No Score, Zero, 10 or 5 point penalties only. Refer to AR197.4. (Video Review is solely the judge(s) decision.)
- d. Refer to WS129 for mandatory obstacle dimensions. The judge may alter the course prior to the course walk. (Exception: WS125.7: If at any time the trail obstacle is found to be unsafe, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted. No horse shall be asked to repeat the course, except in the case of a tie.)

DEFINITIONS

1. **KNOCKDOWN:** When any component, element, or portion of an obstacle is displaced from its original position by horse or rider.
2. **REFUSAL:** Any action taken by the horse to avoid performing an obstacle, part of a combination of obstacles or portion of a trail course. These actions may include, *but are not limited to the following:*
 - a. **Balking:** Any action that results in a horse blatantly and continuously refusing a rider's command
 - b. **Evading or running past** an obstacle.
 - c. Each complete loss of the gate determined by the entry letting go of gate or dropping a rope gate.
 - d. Any **blatant action** by the horse that demonstrates any **unwillingness to approach, negotiate and/or complete** an obstacle. When a judge deems three (3) refusals have occurred at an obstacle, the exhibitor will be instructed to proceed to the next obstacle. (In multiple judge situations the call judge will determine when to instruct the exhibitor to proceed to the next obstacle).

3. OFF COURSE:

- a. Taking an obstacle in the **wrong direction**.
- b. *Deliberately failing to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction.*
- c. Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence *including skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge.*
- d. Not following the correct line of travel (i.e. the drawn pattern and/or Judge's instruction/discretion).
- e. *Pulling gate when designated to push in course directions (or visa versa) or when using a rope gate, walking through gate when designated to back through (or visa versa).*
- f. *Sidepassing the wrong end of a horse in slot.*
- g. *Riding outside designated boundary marker of the course.*

SCORING PROCEDURES (AR209)

1. **The prescribed AHA Score Sheet must be used. Obstacle scores and any penalties will be totaled to arrive at a final score.**
2. Scores to be announced following the conclusion of each work and before the next horse begins the course.
3. Score Sheets must be posted.
4. For method of breaking ties see AR199.3. In the event of a further tie, refer to the order of the judges cards (i.e. #1, #2, #3)
5. Scored from + 3 to - 3 on each obstacle. Half point increments can be used from +3 to -3.

SCORING PENALTIES**NO SCORE**

- a. Illegal equipment. This includes any attachment which alters the movement of or circulation to the tail.
- b. Abuse to the animal inside or outside the competition arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred. This includes lameness and/or fresh blood in the mouth, chin, shoulder, barrel, flank or hip areas.
- c. Disrespect or misconduct by exhibitor.

ZERO SCORE

- a. Off course *including: Pulling gate when designated to push in course directions (or vise versa) or when using a rope gate, walking through the gate when designated to back through (or vice versa)*
Sidepassing the wrong end of horse in slot
Working obstacles out of sequence
Deliberately failing to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction
Riding outside designated boundary marker of the course

b. Two hands on reins (Exception: Snaffles or Hackamore) or *changing hands on reins; except for junior horses shown with hackamore or snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, except that it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle.*

- c. More than one finger between split reins
- d. Fingers between closed reins
- e. Failure to maintain 16 inches of rein between hands when using romal reins *except to work an obstacle*
- f. Fall of horse or rider
- g. Equipment failure or loss of shoe that delays completion of course.
- h. *Dropping a rein that contacts the ground while the horse is in motion*

Note: Neither a "no score" nor a "zero score" penalty may receive an award in that class. A "zero" score may advance in a multiple-go event.
10 POINT PENALTIES

- a. Temporary loss of control, stampeding, running through or jumping over entire obstacle when jump is not called for. *This penalty can be awarded when an entry has completed an obstacle and has sufficiently destroyed the obstacle or where it is impossible to ascertain if the obstacle has been completed in any manner.*
- b. Blatant disobedience (kicking, bucking, rearing, biting, striking, horse leaving designated ground tie area).

5 POINT PENALTIES

- a. Each refusal. Refusals are cumulative. After three (3) refusals at a single obstacle or when deemed necessary by the judge, the judge will ask the contestant to proceed to the next obstacle for a total of 15 penalty points. *When the refusal is the result of a complete loss of the gate the entry may retrieve the gate and continue. If they are unable to retrieve the gate and the judge asks them to move on they will have been deemed to have earned three refusals for a total of three (3) five (5) point penalties*
- b. Placing two or more feet outside of a confining element.
- c. Horse misses/evades an element/component of an obstacle that is part of a series.
- d. *Losing drag or object being carried.*
- e. Placing one foot off side of bridge or *falling off side of bridge*
- f. *Spurring or obvious cueing or touching of horse in front of forward cinch including, but not limited to use of free hand to instill fear or praise*
- g. Performing obstacle at the wrong gait or lead.

2 POINT PENALTIES

- a. Knockdowns or obviously displacing the original configuration of an obstacle.
- b. Placing one foot outside of a confining element.
- c. *Break of gait for more than two strides. When an entry is transitioning down from a lope to a walk, a couple of steps of jog is acceptable and will not result in a penalty however the judge may take that transition into consideration in the maneuver score. The same would be for when a horse momentarily hesitates before undertaking a series of walkovers, working the bridge, or any other maneuver from the walk. A momentary halt is not considered a break of gait, and in fact is desired. If the entry takes two or more steps back it would be considered a refusal and be subject to a five (5) point penalty.*
- d. Holding of saddle with free hand. (Exception: over a jump, elevated jog over(s) or elevated lope over(s).
- e. Approaching obstacle at wrong gait or lead. During transition areas between obstacles, if horse is, for instance, loping where a jog is called for, or jogging where a walk is called for, a two point penalty has occurred.

1 POINT PENALTIES

- a. Double striding or adding strides or adding steps. (Walkovers, jogovers, lopeovers, tires).
- b. *Skipping slot (walkovers, jogovers, lopeovers, or tires)*
- c. *Major hit or stepping on an element of an obstacle, log, pole, cone or obstacle.*
- d. *Each time switching leads where not called for, picking up wrong leads, or cross leading.*

NOTE: If a horse switches leads and must be broken down to correct the lead, then two penalties have been incurred (The first for switching leads (1 point) and the second for breaking of gait (1 or a two point penalty depending on the number of strides)

- e. *Break of gait for less than two strides. When an entry is transitioning down from a lope to a walk, a couple of steps of jog is acceptable and will not result in a penalty however the judge may take that transition into consideration in the maneuver score. The same would be for when a horse momentarily hesitates before undertaking a series of walkovers, working the bridge, or any other maneuver from the walk. A momentary halt is not considered a break of gait, and in fact is desired. If the entry takes two or more steps back it would be considered a refusal and be subject to a five (5) point penalty.*