

# TRAIL CLASS

## Rules

1. The trail rules will follow the current Nebraska 4-H rules and regulations unless stipulated at the time of the show and described in the trail pattern at the time of competition.

2. The class will be judged on the agility between the horse and rider as well as how both navigate through each obstacle displaying balance, natural position, and ease of control.

3. Each obstacle will be scored individually and no competitor shall be disqualified for failing to complete a single obstacle, only for failing to complete the course or if the horse and rider are deemed unsafe.

4. Class will be judged and scored according to the approved NHCA score sheet, which shall be provided to all judges at all approved trail competitions.

5. Point deductions and scoring is described on the top of each scoring sheet for judges convenience. Judges may request an advance copy of the score sheet prior to the show from the NHCA Secretary.

### 6. Scoring

Penalty ½: Each tick of log, pole, cone or obstacle

Penalty 1: Each hit or step on; Break of gate at walk/jog for 2 strides or less; Both feet in space; Skip space; Split pole; Failure to meet the correct gait

Penalty 3: Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides; Out of lead or break of gate at lope; Knock down or severely disturbing an obstacle; Step out of or jump off with one foot; First refusal or evade; Second refusal

Penalty 5: Drop object; Letting go of gate; Use of either hand to instill fear or praise; Step out of or jumping off with more than one foot; Blatant disobedience

Obstacle score 0: Ride outside course boundary; Wrong lead entire obstacle; Failure to complete obstacle; Wrong line of travel; Touching horse to lower head; 3<sup>rd</sup> refusal or evade; Use of 2 hands when riding with a curb bit

Overall score 0: Obstacles out of order; Fall to ground; Failure to complete course

### 7. Required minimum obstacles:

- a) gate (swinging fixed or rope),
- b) ride over logs, minimum of one chosen from the following
  - i. lope over 4 logs (spaced at 6 feet)
  - ii. trot over 3 logs (spaced at 3 feet)
  - iii. walk over logs (spaced at 2 feet)
- c) backing obstacle
- d) walk, trot or lope into box at 6 feet or greater

### 8. Additional obstacles may include (but not limited to):

- a) water boxes
- b) bridge (elevated or not)
- c) mailbox
- d) execute 360 degree pivots (hind quarter or forehand) within designated area
- e) sidepass
- e) other obstacles that may be approved by the trail committee or show management

### 9. Prohibited:

- a) Obstacles affected by weather conditions (i.e. pool noodles, plastic bags, flags/pinwheels, balloons etc.)
- b) Obstacles that would be deemed unsafe for the horse or rider.

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