

Southern Oregon Horse Activities Event Rules

Each SOHA member in good standing will be entitled to a copy of these rules. It is THEIR responsibility to read, understand and abide by the rules contained therein.

ARTICLE 1. CODE OF ETHICS.

Section 1. Any and all abuse to animals and persons will not be tolerated at any function sanctioned by SOHA. In the event that an Official Show Steward is not available, abuse may be defined by: The local statutes, by the Show Management, or by any two Show Officials.

Section 2. Good Sportsmanship is required at all shows. Deliberate interference with another competitor will NOT be tolerated. These actions will result in expulsion from the Show. If the Official Show Steward is not available, the decision will be made by the Show Manager to expel that person immediately. Further action may be taken by the Board of Directors of SOHA. That decision, according to the By-Laws, will be brought to the membership for a final ruling.

Section 3. *USEF Equestrian Charter states-* “That sport is something done for the fun of doing it and that it ceases to be sport when it becomes a business only, something done for what there is in it. That amateurism is something of the heart and spirit-not a matter of exact technical qualifications; That good manners of sport are fundamentally important; That the code must be strictly upheld; That the whole structure of sport is not only preserved from the absurdity of undue importance, but is justified by a kind of romance which animates it, and by the positive virtues of courage, patience, good temper, and unselfishness which are demanded by the code; That the exploitation of sport for profit alone kills the spirit and retains only the husk and semblance of the thing.; That the qualities of frankness, courage, and sincerity which mark the good sportsman in private life shall mark the discussions of his interests at a show”.

ARTICLE 2. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1. The age category of the exhibitor is calculated as of January 1 of the current year.

Section 2. The age category of the equine is calculated as of January 1 of the current year.

Section 3. A “Novice Rider” is defined as anyone who has not won 3 blue ribbons in any open or breed show and not to have won a year-end award or buckle as of January 1 of the current year.

Section 4. A “Junior Equine” is any equine five (5) years of age & under. Equines may be ridden in an appropriate English bit for English classes and a Snaffle or Bosal Hackamore for Western Classes with two hands on the reins.

Section 5. A “Senior Equine” is any equine six (6) years of age and older, must be shown in an acceptable English bit for English classes and acceptable western bit for Western classes and ridden with one hand only in the Western classes..

Section 6. A “Green Equine” is any equine of any age that has not been shown prior to Jan. 1st of the current year in that Division. (i.e.: Western, English, Driving etc.)

Section 7. “Show Hack” is an English class that is a cross between dressage and

english pleasure. It demonstrates a well trained equine. The dress code and equipment may be either acceptable hunt or saddle seat formal wear. Shadbelly coats are NOT mandatory as the class will be held before 6 p.m. The gaits are: 3 speeds of walk, trot, and canter and a hand gallop, each way of the ring. To be judged on manners, performance, quality and conformation per USEF.

Section 8. The "All Around Equine" Award is based on one equine, one exhibitor combination. To have points scored, the equine's exhibitor or owner must all be SOHA members in good standing. All points in all categories combined from all classes except: Walk/Trot, Breed, Novice, Equitation, EZ Gait, Lead Line, Halter, In-Hand Trail & Green Horse. There will be one Champion and one Reserve Champion from each of the Fall shows and Series..

Section 9. Stallions of any age may not be shown, handled or driven by persons under the age of 18.

Section 10. The Board of Directors must approve the judges for the SOHA shows.

Section 11. There will be no changing of rules after the first show of any series.

Section 12. If an equine is excused by a vet certificate, that equine may not be readmitted for the remainder of that show. No refunds without a vet/doctor release. All other situations will be reviewed by the show management, if not resolved the concern will be sent to the Board of Directors for a decision. The concerned parties will be advised in writing of the outcome.

Section 13. Open check policy: An open check allows exhibitors to add classes only. Classes to be added at show office only, not at the in-gate. Add-on classes to be done 3 classes in advance of current class showing in arena.

Section 14. No dogs in the arena.

Section 15. ASTM/SEI approved helmets are required for all exhibitors 17 & under.

Section 16. All protests shall be reported to the show office in writing with a \$50.00 protest fee within thirty minutes of the conclusion of the last class and refer the protest to the Show Management for review and conclusion.

Section 17. Breed classes: Registration papers required. Please provide the following:

1. Photocopy of the equine's registration papers (BOTH SIDES) indication:
 - A. Current owner's name
 - B. Equine's registration number
 - C. Sire and Dam
2. If horse is recently purchased include (the above, plus)
 - A. Bill of sale/Purchase contract completed in full.
 - B. Receipts showing sale transaction.
3. Transfer of ownership form (The above #1 & #2 plus)
 - A. Proper transfer form completed in full.
 - B. Copy of the check/money order showing this transaction.
4. Leased horses include (above #1 plus)
 - A. Proper lease agreement form completed in full.
 - B. Lessor not required to be an SOHA member.

ARTICLE 3. AWARDS RULES (SOHA RULES SHALL APPLY)

Section 1. The scores of all SOHA equines and exhibitors shall be kept on SOHA class sheet records. The official show report sheets shall furnish the basis on which scores

are figured. This tally shall be the final authority in determining winners. The winners of each award shall be that equine and exhibitor which scores the highest number of points in its classification in all SOHA shows from January 1 thru December 31 of each year. The High Point and Reserve High Point equine and exhibitor shall be tallied in each category for each show.

Section 2. Year End awards, High Point awards will be scored as follows:

- 5 points for First Place.
- 4 points for Second Place.
- 3 points for Third Place.
- 2 points for Fourth Place.
- 1 point for Fifth Place.

To have points scored, the Equine's Exhibitor & at least one owner must be a SOHA member in good standing. With the exception of halter classes, where the entry number is assigned to the horse, anyone may handle that halter horse. In halter championship classes, the halter champion receives 5 points, the reserve champion receives 4 points.

Section 3. Points will only be awarded to one category.

Section 4. Age group award points will be counted only from those respective age group classes (13 and under, 14 to 17, 18 to 38, & 39 & over).

SOHA Trail Trial Event Rules:

1. General: This event is neither a race nor a show class. It is a competition over trail obstacles. It is intended to demonstrate the performance and characteristics of a good sensible, well-mannered, free and easy moving trail equine capable of giving a quiet, comfortable, safe and pleasant ride in open and forested country through and over trail obstacles. To be judged on performance with emphasis on manners and suitability of equine and exhibitor. This is a one-day event with the ride not to exceed 12 miles. Required riding time may vary from 2 to 4 hours. Emphasis will be on a safe ride. Equines will be expected to travel at a walk.

2. Eligibility: Equines shall be of any breed or combination of breeds, serviceable sound and in good condition.

3. Appointments and Tack: Entries may ride in any safe appropriate attire. Helmets are required for all exhibitors 17 & under. Appropriate riding boots/shoes required. Tack must be safe, serviceable and in good condition. The basic rule will be "Safe and Simple". An acceptable halter and lead rope (page 12, section 22) will be required to be worn by equine. Halter of any type with reins attached is unacceptable.

4. Recommended items to Carry: Vet wrap, personal first aid kit, knife, rain jacket, compass, hoof pick, scarf, safety pins, whistle, water bottle & snacks. All exhibitors shall carry a medical card which will be issued at time of entry.

5. Judging: A Senior Judge, and a Judge for each obstacle shall be approved by the Trail Trial Committee.

6. Judging points:

Up to 5 points for the equine, Up to 5 points for the exhibitor, A total of 10 points possible for each obstacle. These points will be converted to placings 1st through 5th (reference event rules, Article 3, section 2.)

7. Note: In case of ties, they will be broken by use of the total accrued points. In case of ties at the end of the series, use of the total points per event will be used. If a tie still

exists the senior judge will provide a decision for those riders. That decision will be the tie-breaker.

8. Suggested divisions: Senior Equine (6 years and older), Junior Equine (5 years and younger), Senior Exhibitor (18 years and older) & Junior Exhibitor (17 years and younger). **ANY EXHIBITOR HAS THE OPTION TO NOT ACCESS ANY OBSTACLE.**

9. Only **ONE** Equine and Exhibitor at a time will be permitted through each obstacle. You **MUST WAIT AT THE OBSTACLE SIGN** until the judge instructs you to proceed, then giving your number loud & clear to the judge before entering the obstacle or you will receive **NO SCORE** at that obstacle. Present scorecard to Judge. All Judges decisions are final!!

10. Any assistance from any other individual will reduce your score.

11. Each participant will be judged as an individual and should be responsible for their own gear.

12. Competitors must maintain forward motion along the trail. Pit stops must not be at obstacles and should not interfere with other exhibitors.

13. Slower exhibitors shall yield the right of way to a faster moving equine. The passing exhibitor will call out and request to pass and wait for acknowledgement before passing.

14. NO RUNNING of equines.

15. Equines winded or severely sweating when entering an obstacle will be penalized or disqualified.

16. Lamé equines will be disqualified at the discretion of any judge.

17. Each competitor is responsible for their own score card and must turn it in immediately upon completing the ride for verification. **LOST CARD = NO SCORE !!**

18. Competitors using foul language, or threatening judges or management as well as abuse to animals will be disqualified.

19. No alcoholic beverages allowed on the trail ride.

20. No smoking on the trail ride.

21. Help keep the trails clean. **PACK IT IN & PACK IT OUT.**

22. Leading: Equines to follow willingly, neither crowding or lagging. Coiling the rope around the exhibitor's hand will be severely penalized. The equine must lead with a halter and lead rope, not the reins, with the following exceptions:

a. Equines wearing a halter-bridle do not have to lead with a separate halter. The reins must be clipped to the halter ring and not the bit rings.

b. If a equine is wearing a bosal and mecate or a snaffle and mecate, the exhibitor may tie the mecate into a leading hitch.

c. Reins will be secured to the horn of Western saddles or knotted if no saddle horn is available.

23. Mounting: The exhibitor must check the cinch. Equine will stand quietly and not move off when mounted. Style of mounting is not considered, only a smooth mount that does not unbalance the equine. An exhibitor must have the reins in hand when mounting.

24. Dismounting: Equine will stand quietly and not move off. Style of the dismount not considered, only a smooth dismount that does not unbalance the equine. An exhibitor must have the reins in hand when dismounting. Exhibitor may be asked to mount or dismount from the right or left side.

25. Hoof Checks: Equine will stand quietly. The criteria for this obstacle is a safe leg pick up, not the method of cueing the equine to pick up the leg. Letting go of the lead rope will be penalized, if the exhibitor is holding the equine rather than tying him.

26. Water Crossing: The equine should walk through the water quietly. Equines will not be penalized for stopping to drink.

27. Uphill: Check cinch and breast collar (if used) before beginning ascent. An exhibitor is to be positioned appropriately, maintaining the center of balance. Equine to negotiate a slope in a safe manner. At exhibitor's discretion, equine may stop to blow, as needed. No penalty

for holding the mane to secure the forward position.

28. Downhill: Check cinch before beginning descent. The exhibitor to be positioned appropriately but maintaining the center of balance. Equine to negotiate the slope in a safe manner. At exhibitor's discretion equine may stop to blow, as needed. Exhibitors may use a hand on the saddle to support themselves, but must not do so in such a way as to unbalance the equine.

29. Stepover: Equine to look at an obstacle and proceed over carefully, avoiding striking the obstacle. Size of an animal relative to an obstacle to be considered, small equines not to be penalized for hopping very tall stepovers, if they otherwise negotiate the obstacle calmly and with deliberation.

30. Bridge: The equine should walk across quietly. No penalty for acknowledging the obstacle before starting to cross. Equine should step on and off the bridge quietly.

31. Gate: Competitors may be required to negotiate a gate either mounted or dismounted. The combination will move through the obstacle quietly, deliberately and under the exhibitor's direction.

32. Drag: Check cinch before beginning. The exhibitor may hold rope or dally. Not tying hard and fast. The equine or exhibitor should never become entangled in the rope. Equine to stand quietly and in control.

33. Standing Tied: Some obstacles may require exhibitors to tie up their equines. Equines will be tied with the halter and lead rope or correctly configured halter-bridle, or other approved means, using a knot that is safe and appropriate for the situation and equine. The knot must be secure and the equine must be tied in a location that is safe for the equine,

the exhibitor, and bystanders, other tied equines and their handlers. Equines will stand quietly while tied.

34. Stationary Obstacles: These are such things as slickers, maps, trash, etc. An exhibitor is to maintain control of the equine as he acknowledges the obstacles.

35. Moving Obstacles: These are such things as backpackers, bikes, vehicles, balloons, balls, frisbees, etc. An exhibitor is to maintain control of the equine as he acknowledges the obstacles. Safety of all parties, including those persons providing the obstacle, is the primary concern.

36. Backing on Trail: To back up straight, quietly, with least number of aids.

37. Jumping: Jumping on, into, off of, through, or over any obstacle unless required to do so is a major fault.

38. Stop: At a walk, an animal should stop on command with little aid from the exhibitor. Effort will increase slightly for the jog, and again for the lope. The equine should stand quietly after the stop.

39. Attempts: The equine/exhibitor combinations will be allowed three (3) attempts to negotiate any given obstacle. The equine/exhibitor combination will be dismissed after three (3) attempts and no score given for that obstacle. Equines will not be penalized for acknowledging the obstacle before entering it.

40. Skill: While formal (arena type) skills are not required to compete in trail trials, exhibitor should be able to ask (cue) the equine for the following or equivalent movements to accomplish various obstacles smoothly without stress to the animal or exhibitor. Whoa respond to cues without argument. Walk quietly and slowly. Jog without prancing. Lope but not necessarily on the correct lead. Lateral moves, but not necessarily crossing over with front and back legs. Turn on the forehand and hindquarter. Back straight.

41. Tailing: When tailing the exhibitor should have a single lead rope (preferably 12 feet long) attached to the halter (not bit). Exhibitor should have control of the equine's tail and should direct the equine from behind and, if necessary, slightly to the working side of the equine. Driving a equine by use of reins and/or rope attached to a bit is never allowed on an uphill course. No lead device should be run through any stirrup or other similar equipment.

42. Cinch Check: Exhibitor may test the cinch for excess slack by tugging on it. This may be done either from the ground or in the saddle. If done from the ground, rider will judged on dismount and mount, cinch checks are required before mounting, going up or down hills, or pulling and/or dragging which are all considered stresses on the saddle. Only one cinch check per obstacle shall be required.

43. Awareness: This is a very broad and important category.

Exhibitor awareness: The exhibitor should be paying attention to the directions with the equine positioned at a safe distance from the judge. The exhibitor should evaluate the obstacle for potential cautions before proceeding, and during the obstacle. If the exhibitor is asked to answer a question (i.e., where are we on this map?), perform a specific skill (i.e. tie a specific knot to a hitching rail), or lead their equine, and the exhibitor does not perform the skill correctly, the judge may use this category to deduct points.

Equine's awareness: It is a fault if the equine is too aware by spooking, shying, or spinning or if the equine is unaware and is just "going through the motions". If an equine clips or stumbles because of lack of awareness, that also is a fault.

44. Equine's Response To Cues: When the exhibitor applies aids or cues to the equine, the equine is to react appropriately. The exhibitor should not have to resort to very strong aids to obtain a response from the equine, nor should cues create a reaction whereby the equine over reacts (i.e., side passing or backing too far). The equine should approach an obstacle as cued (i.e., straight on, side pass) and not avoid direct approach. The equine should stand quietly while mounted (slightly shifting of weight is okay). If the equine is tied, the equine should stand quietly and not pull back.

45. Exhibitor's Control: The exhibitor must maintain control of the equine at all times. This will be maintained by having the exhibitor control either with the reins or lead rope at all times. Exhibitor's control of the equine is whether mounted or unmounted. Exhibitor should also control the equine by knowing HOW to ask their equine to execute the obstacle as well as keep the equine under control if the equine shys or spooks. If unmounted, the exhibitor is to lead as set forth in the leading rules. The equine should

be lead quietly either behind or slightly to the side of the exhibitor. While leading the equine the exhibitor should not let the equine crowd or lean on exhibitor.

46. Balance: This applies to both exhibitor and equine. The exhibitor should be well balanced in the saddle. For uphill, the exhibitor should lean slightly forward with legs balanced under exhibitor and not hitting equine's flanks, and deep in the saddle, but not hitting the back of the cantle. For downhill, the exhibitor should lean slightly back. The exhibitor is not to lean excessively forward, back, or sideways. The equine is to be balanced while negotiating stepovers. For downhill obstacle, hindquarters should be under the equine and the equine should not lean on the forehead. While negotiating stepovers, the equine is to be balanced and pick up feet and avoid clipping and stumbling. Slight brush is okay.

47. On Course: The exhibitor is to follow directions as given and stay on course. Excessive response, avoidance, or exhibitor's misunderstanding of the direction will be penalized.