

# OBSTACLE TRAIL CHALLENGE RULES

## BOOT AND BOTTLE CLUB, CODY WY

### 1. Tack

- Riders are expected to provide appropriate tack for their equine to maintain control of their equine in a different setting among several other equines.
- Equine headgear is required.
- Training devices such as martingales (standing, running & German martingales) and tie-downs are not permitted. No form of head training device other than a bridle is permitted.
- Equine protective equipment such as Sport Boots and Hoof Boots are permitted
- Riding one handed or two handed may take place in a snaffle or shank bit. More preference points will be awarded to horses ridden in appropriate bits and rein aids in relation to the chosen tack and age of horse.
- Bridleless Class Specific Rules
  - If you pre-entered for the Bridleless class and decide at the show you and your horse are not ready to ride in this class, you may move to the Open Class only.
  - A halter and lead rope may be left on the horse for emergency use only. The halter/lead rope may not be touched without the permission of the judge. If the judge does not approve the touching of the halter/lead rope it is assumed the touching or use is for the purpose of guiding the horse.

### 2. Dress Code

- Proper equestrian attire must be worn. No shorts.
- Equestrian shoes must be worn and must have a half-inch heel. Tennis shoes are not acceptable
- Riders shall wear a western style hat, certified riding helmet or other appropriate head gear to match the riding attire.
- A rider under the age of 18 is considered a minor. Minors must wear a properly fitted SEI/ASTM approved riding helmet
- Chaps and spurs are optional

### 3. Walking the Course

- Riders will walk the course with the Judges prior to the event. No horses are allowed on the course during the walk through and no practicing is allowed on the course after 1pm the day prior to the event or during the event.
- Obstacles and course rules will be reviewed during the course walk-through
- It is the responsibility of the contestant to fully understand the rules, obstacles and the order of obstacles prior to the beginning of the event.

### 4. Scoring

- Each obstacle is worth 10 points.
- Some Obstacles will have more than one option.
  - 3 Options – Scoring is Easy 0-4 points, Medium 0-7 points, Hard 0-10 points
  - 2 Options – Scoring is Easy 0-5 points, Hard 0-10
  - 1 Option – Scoring is 0-10 points

Bridleless only: If the lead rope is used for guiding the horse, a 3 point penalty will be applied for each obstacle the halter/lead rope is used.

## **5. Tie Breaker**

- If there is a tie at the conclusion of the event that involves the top places, the winner is determined by the highest score in the tie breaker obstacles which will be determined by the judges prior to the event.

## **7. Timing and Entry**

- The course is divided into three (3) sections each with a separate judge.
- For each obstacle the contestant will have 30 seconds to cross the white line and a total of 60 seconds to complete the entire object.
- Youth may choose to enter in the open division or youth division
- All courses are the same.
- A Horse and Rider combination may only win the Open Division 2 times and Bridleless Division 2 times.
- The Horse may only be entered 1 time for the day.

## **8. Safety**

- Should a rider be bucked off, fall off or voluntarily dismounts he/she will be disqualified.
- If equipment failure occurs that inhibits the rider from continuing the course the rider will be disqualified.
- There shall be only one horse, one rider combination on each portion of the course at one time.
- At anytime the judges have the discretion to have the contestant end the run for safety concerns.

## **9. Welfare of the Horse**

- Every horse shall be treated with dignity and respect.
- Any action or treatment that is deemed to be cruel, abusive or inhumane which includes excessive force or harsh training methods to any equine present event is not allowed and will incur a disqualification by a judge
- The judges have the obligation, responsibility and authority to disqualify any horse that is obviously lame. Lameness is determined if:
  - A. The horse is showing consistent lameness at a trot.
  - B. Obvious nodding, hitching and shortened stride.
  - C. Minimal weight bearing while moving or standing still.

## **10. Divisions**

OPEN – Anyone may enter

YOUTH – Any person under 18 years of age on August 22, 2026.

NOVICE HORSE – Horse has not placed higher than 4<sup>th</sup> in any type of trail class competition

NOVICE RIDER - Rider has not placed higher than 4<sup>th</sup> in any type of trail class competition

BRIDLELESS – Rider is not using headgear to control the horse. A neck rope or string is allowed.