



Section 7:

# Mountain Trail



**HORSE COUNCIL**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Horse Council British Columbia

Rule Book 2026

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[www.hcbc.ca](http://www.hcbc.ca)

## Horse Council BC (HCBC)

Recognized by the Government of British Columbia  
as the official organization for Equestrian Sport in BC

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these rules.

It is the duty of the officials and the competition management to make informed decisions in a fair and sporting spirit, approaching as near as possible the intention of these rules, and in doing so protecting the reputation of the sport and the welfare of the horse.

All Competition Organizers hosting HCBC sanctioned competitions, should be familiar with the HCBC rules and policies and should have copies available for the use of exhibitors, parents, volunteers and officials.

The HCBC Rules are reviewed annually and posted on the HCBC website. Submissions for recommended rule changes will be considered until October 1st annually and reviewed for inclusion to the next years' rule book.

### Aims, Goals and Objectives

- To ensure that Competition Organizers have the tools and support they need to operate within the recognized sport framework, follow current safety rules and guidelines and be aware of the risk management that is necessary and of the utmost importance for hosting a well-planned, successful competition.
- To provide HCBC sanctioned competitions the support and governance of the current Horse Council BC Rule Book.
- To develop, grow and retain a deep pool of well-educated and knowledgeable officials.
- To capture the activity that demonstrates the value of Equestrian Sport to the government at all levels.
- To provide, through education, participation in a quality structured, grass roots competition system and a well-planned development pathway, a feeder system that will grow and strengthen the development of the discipline sports and equestrian athletes.

Horse Council BC welcomes and encourages all grassroots and entry-level competition organizers to sanction their shows with HCBC. By doing so, the equestrian sport community in BC can work together to ensure an enjoyable and affordable environment within a fair playing field that supports the growth and success of equestrian sport in BC.

# Horse Welfare Statement

## Statement

HCBC members are responsible for ensuring the well-being, safety, and humane treatment of any equine entrusted to their care. The welfare of the horse shall always take precedence over competition, training goals, or personal objectives. Horses must be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion at all times. The welfare of the horse is paramount. Any inhumane treatment or the abuse of a horse by any person at an approved HCBC show is forbidden.

## Scope

This statement applies to all HCBC members, coaches, officials, volunteers, owners, competitors, and any person responsible for the care or handling of a horse participating in HCBC events.

## Humane Treatment

- Horses must never be subjected to abuse, neglect, or inhumane handling.
- All handling and training practices must align with generally accepted equine care and competition standards. The standard by which conduct, or treatment will be measured is that which a person who is informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and competition practices would determine to be neither cruel, abusive, nor inhumane.

## Responsibility of Care

- Individuals who own, use, or care for horses must exercise skill, compassion, and sound judgment.
- All horses, regardless of financial value or competitive status, must be protected from mistreatment.

## Prohibited Practices

- The use of equipment, devices, medications, or substances that alter performance, appearance, or natural function in an unethical or unsafe way is strictly forbidden.
- Any form of inhumane training technique, coercion, or excessive force is prohibited.

## Event Requirements

- At HCBC-approved events, horses must be managed to ensure their physical and psychological well-being.
- Any suspected inhumane treatment must be reported immediately to event officials or HCBC representatives.
- It is recommended that competition management include a formal statement in the show program or prize list detailing their commitment to humane horse care and the disciplinary actions that will be enforced for confirmed abuse at a recognized event.

## Enforcement

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including removal from events, suspension of membership, or further action as outlined in HCBC disciplinary procedures.

## Bio Security

It is strongly recommended that horses be up to date on vaccinations and in good health to perform.

Vaccinations offer horses protection from some infectious diseases, but do not eliminate disease risk. Vaccination guidelines vary by region. This should be taken into consideration when weighing the risk for exposure. While there are costs associated with vaccines, those costs are generally much lower than the costs associated with an infectious disease.

Show management has the right and duty to demand removal of a horse from the grounds if it is deemed unfit to compete. Competition management may enforce vaccination requirements for their competition or venue.

A request for supporting documentation confirming a horse's compliance with mandatory vaccination requirements is an acceptable condition of entry.

For more information on bio security practice please visit <https://hcbc.ca/welfare/disease-animal-health/>

## Fair and Inclusive Field of Play

HCBC is committed to providing a fair, safe, and inclusive field of play for all participants at Horse Council BC sanctioned competitions and events. Every competitor, official, volunteer, and supporter has the right to engage in an environment that is respectful, equitable, and free from discrimination. All participants must be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of age, gender, identity, ability, background, or experience. The integrity of competition depends on ethical conduct, transparency, and accountability from everyone involved.

- Participants should educate themselves on safe sport principles, ethical conduct, reporting procedures, and prevention of maltreatment.
- Officials and coaches are expected to model safe, positive, and ethical behavior.
- Concerns related to unsafe behavior, misconduct, or maltreatment must be reported promptly to event management or the designated safe sport authority.
- Reports will be taken seriously, handled confidentially, and addressed according to established procedures.

For more information visit: <https://hcbc.ca/sport/competition/safe-sport/>

## Helmet Policy

Horse Council BC (HCBC) strongly recommends that anyone riding or driving a horse should wear ASTM/SEI/BSI/BS EN; EN; AS/NZS; CE VGI approved protective headgear, specifically designed for equestrian activities. ASTM (American Society for Testing Materials); SEI (Safety Equipment Institute, Inc.); BSI/BS EN (British Standards Institution); EN (European Union Standards); AS/NZS (Australian/New Zealand Standards); or CE VG1 01.040 2014-12 (provided they are BSI Kitemarked).

The helmet should be properly fitted with safety harness correctly secured, while mounted, riding or driving. Riders/drivers are encouraged to be fitted for their helmet with their typical riding/driving hairstyle. If your hair changes significantly (length, volume, style), rechecking helmet fit is required. It is advised that long hair be neatly tied in a low ponytail, smoothing hair flat, and avoiding bulky buns or high knots inside the helmet shell.

Youth competitors must wear properly fitted approved ASTM, SEI, BSI/BS EN, EN, AS/NZS/ or CE VG1 protective headgear, with safety harness correctly secured while mounted on the competition or event grounds and in ALL classes and Performance Divisions.

### **Exception:**

The wearing of religious headwear will be accepted for riders/drivers without penalty. The option to wear an approved sports turban helmet for all ages is strongly advised.

Helmets are not required for vaulting.

## Concussion Policy

**Resources:** For concussion education and awareness resources, please visit the Concussion Awareness page on the HCBC website [www.hcbc.ca](http://www.hcbc.ca).

**Definition:** A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury (or TBI), caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head that can change the way the brain normally works. Concussions can also occur from a fall or a blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. All concussions are serious.

**Policy Statement:** Anyone participating in an activity with horses should understand the signs, symptoms and implications of sustaining a concussion.

It is recommended by health care professionals that anyone presenting symptoms or suspected of sustaining a concussion should cease the activity until they have been evaluated and cleared by medical personnel.

Anyone having contact with, or handling horses is responsible to educate themselves on the prevention and proper management of concussion related injuries.

All Coaches and Instructors recognized by Horse Council BC will be required to participate in concussion awareness training once in every three-year period to maintain current certification status.

## Liability

The Horse Council BC (HCBC) Competition Committee, HCBC and co-sponsoring organization, if any, will not be responsible for any accident, injury of horse or person or loss or damage of any article of any kind or nature that may be lost or destroyed or in any way damaged that may occur to, or be caused by, any horse exhibited at a competition.

Each exhibitor, agent or horse owner will be responsible for any injury that may be occasioned to any person, animal or damage to any property while on the competition grounds, by any horse owned, exhibited or in custody or control and shall indemnify and hold harmless HCBC, its officials, staff and Directors individually and collectively, and any co-sponsoring organization, from and against any and all claims, demands, cause of action costs, charges and expenses of every kind or nature whatsoever arising out of, or which may be caused by, or incurred by, reason of the ownership, exhibition, custody or control of any animal exhibited.

HCBC will not be responsible for any financial arrangements between show management, exhibitors, owners, agents, or officials.

All federal, provincial and city laws will be adhered to and shall supersede these rules.

## Safety

It is essential that every sanctioned competition/event have an emergency action plan in place.

Competitions must ensure that a First Aid kit is always readily available.

A competition or event must have qualified medical personnel appointed for the duration of the competition who is trained in first aid and emergency medical treatment.

Qualified medical personnel may be defined as the following:

- Doctor
- Professional emergency personnel, such as EMT or Paramedic
- An adult with recognized and valid First Aid certification who is not competing. This individual may act in some other capacity at the competition providing this does not restrict their availability to all areas on the competition grounds.

It is recommended that the minimum certification required for qualified medical personnel be Standard First Aid Certification.

The facility address, emergency contact name and phone number should be posted at the show office and in other appropriate locations for the benefit of the exhibitors and public at any time.

**Emergency Phone Numbers:** veterinarian, farrier, nearest hospital name and address should be posted at the show office and in other appropriate locations for the benefit of the exhibitors and public at any time.

It is recommended that all shows arrange for a veterinarian and farrier to be available either on-call or on the show grounds for the duration of the show.

In the event where an accident occurs at an HCBC sanctioned competition or event, Accident Report Forms must be filled out and returned to HCBC. Accident Report Forms will be emailed to all organizers as part of the sanctioning package, but can be found on the HCBC website at <https://hcbc.ca/competitions/competition-documents/>

If a competitor suffers a fall in warm-up, on the field of play or anywhere on the competition grounds during hours of the competition, they must be evaluated by the attending medic. Competitors are solely responsible for ensuring on-site medical assistance takes place. If a competitor refuses evaluation, Competition Management may make the decision to disqualify the competitor from the competition.

## Administration

### Sanctioning

Any organization, club, individual or group may apply to Horse Council British Columbia (HCBC) to sanction an entry level competition or event offering any of the disciplines outlined in the HCBC Rule Book. There is no restriction to prize money offered at the competition.

All management, officials and volunteers at HCBC sanctioned events are held to the HCBC Code of Conduct. For more information visit: <https://hcbc.ca/sport/competition/safe-sport/>

The Person Responsible listed on application must be a current HCBC member and is responsible for the conduct of the competition in accordance with the current Horse Council BC Rule Book.

Organizers must apply through the HCBC/Horse Sport Pro online event sanctioning portal.

All required information, prize list, entry forms and a current, endorsed certificate of insurance must be provided.

Competition applications and all required documentation must be submitted through the online system, preferably at least one month prior to the competition or event date(s).

The competition must be approved before publishing, posting online or circulating the prize list.

Instructions for login and links to the online application process are available on the Competition page of the HCBC website. <https://hcbc.ca/competitions/organizers/>

Every competition must obtain a certificate of insurance endorsed by the insurance carrier to cover law suits, claims or judgment for bodily injury or property damage sustained by spectators, participants, or others arising out of the use of the show grounds or operation necessary or incidental to the show.

All approved competitions will be emailed a Competition Package including a HCBC Certificate of Sanction which is to be printed and displayed in the Competition Office, or other clearly visible location.

The Competition Organizer is required to provide a copy of the approved Competition Prize List to the Official(s).

Competitions or Events should not start earlier than the time listed in prize list or advertised in the schedule.

Competitions sanctioned with another discipline or breed association may apply for dual sanctioning with Horse Council BC for specific divisions. Discipline or Breed Association rules may supersede HCBC rules at a dual sanctioned show in some divisions.

Clubs may include local club rules provided the local rules do not compromise the integrity and safety standards of Horse Council BC sanctioned competition. Any local club rules must be stated clearly in the Prize List and be approved by Horse Council BC during the application process.

### Sanctioning Fees

The fee for sanctioning a Horse Council BC Provincial Competition is \$42.00 per competition.

Payment of fees can be processed by credit card through the HCBC Online Sanctioning Portal or by mailing a cheque to the HCBC office.

Sanction fees are not refundable.

An NSF charge of \$75.00 will be applied for any returned fees.

## Prize List

All Prize Lists must contain the following disclaimer:

*It is the responsibility of the show/event committee, or competition organizers and the facility owners and managers to ensure that all BC Health Authority and WorkSafeBC directives are followed and enforced. Horse Council is not a regulatory body, and it is understood and agreed that sanctioning and approval of a HCBC Provincial competition / event relates to the use of the rule book and approved officials only.*

*This Competition is a Horse Council BC provincially sanctioned competition and will be governed in accordance with the Horse Council BC Rule Book. Knowledge of the rules is the responsibility of Competition Management, Officials and Competitors.*

The Horse Council BC Rule Book, can be found at [www.hcbc.ca](http://www.hcbc.ca)

<https://hcbc.ca/resource-category/sport-competition/>

*Neither Horse Council BC, its Board of Directors, organizing committee, staff, volunteers, officials, or employees of the horse show, will be responsible in any way, for damage, injury, or loss to persons, horses or property of exhibitors, spectators, owners, riders, trainers, or grooms. All competitors and owners of horses must be members of Horse Council BC to participate.*

### Prize Lists must include:

- The exact competition name, date, and location of the competition (it is recommended a map and/or directions to the competition grounds be included)
- **Management:** List of competition officials (Show Committee, Manager, Entry Secretary, Judges, Course Designers, Provincial Rules Official)
- **Veterinarian:** Name and telephone number of the veterinarian. If on call, the phone number where he/she can be reached during the competition
- **Farrier:** Name and telephone number of the farrier. If on call, the phone number where he/she can be reached during the competition
- Type of Competition
- Entry deadline.
- Entry Blank: waiver and entry agreement
- **Statement:** Competition will be run in accordance with the current Horse Council BC Rule Book. Every class offered which is covered by the rules and specifications of the current HCBC Rule Book be conducted and judged in accordance as such.
- Any local club rules must be stated clearly in the Prize List and be approved by Horse Council BC during the application process
- **HCBC Prizelist Disclaimer** (This must be included in its entirety and placed in a conspicuous position in the prize list and or entry form
- Horse Welfare Statement, (HCBC or Club) <https://hcbc.ca/resource-category/sport-competition/>

- Bio security/vaccination statement
- Fees Statement regarding entry fees, prizes offered in each class
- Refund policy
- Classes numbers and specifications
- Any Age Categories or horse/pony size where classes will be split.
- **Statement:** Management reserves the right to cancel or combine any class that does not have sufficient entries
- **Statement:** regarding post entries or day of adds (are they allowed)
- **Statement:** regarding Hors Concours entries (not to be judged, whether or not Hors Concours rounds are allowed)
- **Statement:** of type of footing available in warm-up areas and competition arenas (example: jumping will be held on grass)
- Number of placings for ribbons in each class and if there are trophies, prizes and /or prize money.
- **Statement:** Prize Money Payment: as to when and how the prize money will be paid (recommended (maximum of 30 days following the competition.)
- Types of Championships or/and Aggregates and how points will be determined.
- .Any special venue rules eg: minors operating motorized vehicles/scooters/bicycles.
- Motorized vehicle statement: If motorized vehicles are prohibited from show grounds, the motorized vehicle statement must still be published in the prize list.
- Dogs allowed or prohibited
- Other statements such as, competition numbers must be worn on competition grounds

## **Prize and Awards**

If prize money is offered in any classes, the amounts and class entry fee must be specified in the Prizelist. Prize money distribution by total percentage breakdown or dollar amount by placings for each class where prize money is offered must be clearly stated.

Show management must make the full payment of prize monies as specified in the competition Prize List.

If High Point Awards are to be presented at the competition, the method of tabulating points for such awards is at the discretion of show management and must be stated in the Prize List.



The following schedule of ribbons is recommended:

First Place	Red
Second place	Blue
Third Place	White
Fourth Place	Yellow
Fifth Place	Green
Sixth Place	Pink
Seventh Place	Purple
Eighth Place	Brown
Champion	Red, Blue, White
Reserve Champion	Blue, White, Yellow

The following point scale may be used for tabulating High Point Awards:

# in class	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
1	1							
2	2	1						
3	3	2	1					
4	4	3	2	1				
5	5	4	3	2	1			
6	6	5	4	3	2	1		
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
9 - 15	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
16 - 20	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
21 - 25	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
26- 30	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
31 - 35	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
36 - 40	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7





Section 1:

# General Competition Rules

**These are general competition rules only, please see discipline sections for discipline specific rules and exceptions.**

## 1.1 Entries

All exhibitors are required to be current Horse Council BC members when participating in HCBC sanctioned events.

**Exception:** Lead Line competitors must be accompanied by an adult holding current HCBC membership. Lead line participants may not cross enter into any other classes at the competition.

### 1.1.1. Hours concours (H/C) Entries:

Hors Concours entries may be accepted at the discretion of the organizing committee. The competition's policy regarding Hors Concours entries must be clearly stated in the prize list.

Hors Concours entries must pay the same entry fee as regular entries (unless otherwise stated in the prize list) and are subject to the same conditions and rules which apply to regular entries.

Hors Concours entries are not eligible for prizes or awards.

### 1.1.2. Youth Entries

The age limit for a youth competitor is 18 years of age or younger as of January 1st of the current year. A person born on January 1st shall assume the older age as of that date.

Proof of youth's age may be required on entry forms at HCBC sanctioned competitions.

All entry forms for youth exhibitors 18 years of age and under must be signed by parent or legal guardian.

Youth competitors must wear properly fitted approved ASTM, SEI, BSI/BS EN, EN, AS/NZS/ or CE VG1 protective headgear, with safety harness correctly secured at all times while mounted on the competition or event grounds and in ALL classes and Divisions.

**Exception:** Vaulting

The Youth competitor need not own or lease the horse he or she is competing with to enter any class.

A horse or pony may be entered in any youth age division.

Youth competitors may not show a stallion in any class, regardless of the age or size of the stallion.

### 1.1.3. Dogs

Dogs are permitted on the competition grounds **at the discretion of Management** and must be on a leash at all times. The prize list must clearly state one of the following:

- “No dogs allowed on the premises.”  
OR
- “Dogs are allowed on the premises but must remain on a leash and under control at all times. Dogs are not permitted in warm-up areas on the field of play or at ingates.”

This restriction applies to all dogs, including service dogs and emotional support animals (ESAs).

Persons who rely on a service dog due to a disability may request accommodation under applicable laws (e.g., the BC Human Rights Code and the Guide Dog and Service Dog Act). Each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis, considering safety, competition integrity, and venue limitations. Emotional support animals, which are not recognized as service animals under BC law, do not have the same legal access rights.

### 1.1.4. Competition Numbers

Competition numbers must be issued by the Show Secretary to each entered horse and must be visible at all times while the horse is competing.

Competition numbers are available for purchase through the HCBC website <https://store.hcbc.ca/>

### 1.1.5. Officials

HCBC-sanctioned events must be officiated by current, certified Provincial Officials, or by an authorized/approved guest-carded official.

Officials with expired status or recognized by another organization may be used, with a guest card, provided they meet the requirements for that discipline as set out by the body/association responsible for said discipline.

All provincial officials must be current members of Horse Council BC and be listed on the competition or event application. In the event that an official must be substituted, Horse Council BC is to be notified immediately and provided with the name and contact info of the substitute.

Judges are licensed, educated officials. Designation as a judge is considered a privilege and with this comes upholding standards of integrity and ethical decision making. Judges are personally responsible for the decisions made and these are considered final. All judges are responsible for ensuring that horses are treated with kindness, compassion and respect and are not subjected to mistreatment or undue stress. Judges believe in the competitor, and decisions and placings are to be made to assist the competitor in their development. Comments/feedback are meant to be helpful to the competitor. If time permits after the class, the judge may provide feedback.

It is strongly recommended that for the protection of both the official and the competition management, a written contract be completed between both parties.

Officials should arrive on the competition grounds at least ½ before the first class begins.

The Judge's decision is considered as final in all classes.

### **1.1.5 Officials (cont.)**

Judges must be provided with the Prize List and any tests, courses or patterns they will be judging at the competition.

Judges may not be approached without the presence of and prior arrangement with management and or a Provincial Rules Official (PRO).

Judges must be provided before the start of competition (or earlier) with the Prize List and any tests, courses or patterns they will be judging at the competition.

An official shall not discuss the purchase, sale, or lease of a horse with any exhibitor during a show at which that official is officiating.

An official shall not be an exhibitor, rider, driver, trainer, coach, handler, manager, or conditioner of any horse at any show or event at which they are officiating.

A judge may not act as course designer at the same competition in which they are judging.

No horse may be shown under an official that has acted in the capacity as an owner, coach, trainer, agent, or conditioner of the horse, within 30 days prior to the event, 14 days if the official is presiding over a virtual/online event and is not judging entries in person.

The Official must comply with class specifications and rules governing individual classes. (Class specifications should be noted and included on all class judge's cards where possible.)

Officials are prohibited from using tobacco and/or alcohol products, cellular phones, pagers or electronic communication devices in the arena or judges' booth.

**Exception:** Electronic devices may be used in relation to and if relevant to the competition.

All Officials must always dress appropriately and professionally during competitions (no jeans, shorts, tank tops, etc.)

### **1.1.6. Competition Management**

- Competition Management, Show Committee and Officials are bound by the HCBC Code of Conduct
- Competition Management may not be an exhibitor, rider, driver, judge, course designer, trainer, coach, handler or conditioner of any horse at any show or event they are managing.

### **1.1.7. Provincial Rules Officials**

HCBC Provincial Rules Officials (PRO) may attend provincially sanctioned competitions to offer help and guidance with HCBC rules, assist competition management with the development and rule content in prize lists as well as address questions or concerns arising at a competition. Provincial Rules Officials attendance at competitions will aid to encourage a safe and enjoyable competition experience for both horses and competitors.

### **1.1.7 Provincial Rules Officials (cont.)**

All Provincial Championship designated competitions must have a PRO in attendance.

Provincial Rules Officials are appointed by and will be assigned by HCBC to competitions as requested by competition management or by the HCBC office.

Provincial Rules Officials are governed by the HCBC Officials' Code of Conduct and protocol.

### **1.1.8. Officials Protocol / Conflict of Interest**

Provincially certified officials are trained and qualified in the principles of their respective disciplines and are bound by the HCBC Code of Conduct. Certification as a provincial official is a privilege that carries an expectation of integrity, professionalism, and ethical decision-making. Officials are accountable for the decisions they make, and those decisions are considered final. This responsibility is taken seriously.

All provincial officials are responsible for ensuring that horses are treated with kindness, compassion, and respect, and are never subjected to mistreatment or undue stress. Actions should always align with what an informed and experienced horseperson would consider neither cruel, abusive, nor inhumane. When welfare concerns arise, officials are expected to intervene in accordance with the standards and rules of the governing body.

Provincial officials also play an educational role. They are expected to support, encourage, and contribute to the development of competitors. Decisions made during competition should help guide competitors in their equestrian pursuits, and feedback should be constructive, fair, and aimed at promoting growth. While judges must evaluate individual performances objectively, competitors should be appropriately recognized for their achievements within the standards of the discipline.

Comments and feedback are intended to be helpful to the competitor. When time permits, judges may discuss performances with competitors during the awarding of placings. Additional time for discussion is encouraged, subject to show management's discretion and the judge's availability.

### **1.1.9. Guest Cards**

Uncertified officials may be permitted to officiate at provincially sanctioned competitions under the following conditions:

- Individuals must have extensive experience and knowledge of the discipline being judged and of the current HCBC Rule Book.
- Uncertified officials may be requested to provide HCBC with a minimum of two references.
- Guest card application must be completed during the competition approval application process.
- HCBC will approve a maximum of three guest cards for an uncertified official. Once three guest cards have been issued, any additional guest card applications for that individual will be subject to a \$25.00 fee, charged to the competition. The guest-carded official will then be encouraged to participate in the HCBC Officials Program to obtain provincial certification.



### 1.1.10. Support Roles (scribes, ingates, timers, jump crew, etc.)

- Those in competition support roles such as scribes, ingates, timers, jump crew, etc. should arrive and check in with the competition office at least forty-five (45) minutes before the start of the competition. This will allow for enough time to gather any paperwork, tests, bell, whistle etc. or any other equipment needed.
- Cell phones (or any other personal electronic device) must be turned off during competition
- All test sheets must be completed in ink. Pencil is not permitted.
- It is the duty of the scribe to ensure that the test sheets include the competitor's entry number, class, description, and Judge's signature if required.
- Before the test sheet is handed in for calculation, the scribe must ensure the test has been reviewed and signed by the Judge.
- Those in support roles must be appropriately dressed (clean and neat, no cut offs, tank tops, etc.)

### 1.1.11. Elimination / Disqualification

#### **Elimination From a Class**

- After an entry enters the arena, if either the horse or the exhibitor becomes ill or is injured and cannot continue, the entry shall be eliminated from that class.
- Obvious unsoundness shall be cause for elimination in all classes. The judge has sole authority to make this determination, which is final and not subject to appeal or protest.
- All horses must be serviceably sound. Any horse showing unsoundness, broken wind, or impairment of vision shall be refused an award.
- Lack of complying to required appointments for a class will result in elimination of the competitor in that class specifying required appointments.
- The judge shall have the authority to eliminate any entry from a class who at their discretion is not under sufficient control and or considered by the judge to be a safety risk.

#### **Disqualification From the Competition**

- All artificial appliances are prohibited in any class.
- Any incident in contravention of the HCBC Horse Welfare Statement may at the judge's or Provincial Rules Officials' discretion result in disqualification of the competitor from participating in the remainder of the competition.
- The judge, Provincial Rules Official and/or competition management have the authority to disqualify and or remove from the competition any exhibitor, owner, coach or agent, for cruelty or abuse of a horse or exhibitor.

### 1.1.12. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Any unsportsmanlike conduct by an owner, exhibitor, agent, or spectator including but not limited to abuse of one's horse, excessive use of foul language, intoxication anywhere on the grounds of the event, blatant disrespect for any other attendee at the event, or any other detrimental conduct shall jeopardize their right to further exhibit at the competition.

At any time, the judge, provincial rules official and/or competition management, may issue a first warning to any exhibitor, owner, or agent for any unsportsmanlike conduct. Upon failure to comply with this warning, the exhibitor, owner, agent, or spectator shall be disqualified from any further participation at the competition.

Any elimination from a class or disqualification from a sanctioned competition for unsportsmanlike conduct by any person may be reviewed by the HCBC disciplinary committee and or applicable breed or discipline association.

No points or awards may be given to any person or person's horses if they are disqualified from a sanctioned competition or event for any unsportsmanlike conduct.

### 1.1.13. Protests

Protests for any violation of HCBC competition/event rules at any HCBC sanctioned competition/event may be filed by an exhibitor, owner, trainer, spectator and or parent of a youth exhibitor within 12 hours of the incident occurring at the competition or event.

A recommended first step is that an inquiry be made through a member of the competition show management committee or PRO regarding a decision. Should the competitor not be satisfied with the result of the inquiry, an official protest must be lodged to competition management. At no time may the judge be approached directly unless the competition specifically prints an exception to this policy. In the event contact with the judge is permitted, at no time will abusive or confrontational language or gesturing be tolerated, under penalty of elimination and possible further disciplinary action initiated.

No protest will be recognized unless it is accompanied by a deposit of \$100.00 in cash, which shall be forfeited if the protest is not sustained.

Neither HCBC nor any organizing committee of the competition will recognize any protest that is not in writing, not signed, or not accompanied by the protest fee.

An official of the competition /event, a director of HCBC, or Provincial Rules Official may file a claim at any HCBC sanctioned competition/event to either the competition committee or the Board of Directors of HCBC for any violation of HCBC recognized event rules.

Any protest shall be adjudicated by a Protest Committee. The protest committee will consist of a maximum of three people, (a PRO and members of the organizing committee.)



### **1.1.13 Protests (cont.)**

#### **Protest Procedure**

Upon receiving a protest or a dispute, the Protest Committee shall promptly hold a hearing and obtain from any witnesses, all necessary information and evidence.

All persons directly involved and concerned shall be immediately notified and given the opportunity to attend a hearing.

The Protest Committee shall then adjudicate the issue impartially, make effective its decision upon the parties of interest and report its decision to the parties of interest. A report of the decision shall also be given to the HCBC Manager of Competition and Sport

#### **Protest Appeals**

An appeal of a Protest Committee's decision may be made to the HCBC Manager of Competition and Sport.

Appeals must be made in writing within 20 days of the date of the Protest Committee's decision and must be accompanied by an appeal fee of \$300.00 payable to Horse Council BC.

The hearing on the appeal shall be heard within a 30-day period from date of filing.

The Appeal Committee of the Board of Directors of HCBC shall consist of two members of the HCBC Board plus one member from the competition organizing committee.

The competition organizing committee of a competition at which a protest is lodged and upheld, must hold all awards, points and prize money for the protested classes in escrow for a placed horse and all following horses, until after a 20-day appeal deadline has passed.

If no appeal is filed, then such awards, points and/or prize money will be awarded at the end of the appeal deadline.



Section 7:

# Mountain Trail

## Mountain Trail Purpose

Mountain Trail Competitions are designed to replicate the rugged outdoors with the purpose to showcase talented mountain trail horses, riders/handlers and trainers within a competitive environment. The Mountain Trail course consists of several obstacles that would be found on a regular trail ride, with some obstacles that are a step above regular trail riding. These obstacles are designed to push the limits of not only the horse, but the rider/handler as well. The obstacles are continually testing the boundaries of the unknown and the relationship that drives the horse forward into the unknown territory.

A Mountain Trail Horse is any breed or type of horse from any discipline or background. It is open to all equines. The word "Horse" is used for reference but also includes mules, donkeys, ponies and miniature horses.

### 7.1 Definition for Equine/Horse

A competition Mountain Trail horse is one that is being judged on its ability to handle natural and simulated terrain which may be encountered in today's world in an environment such as would be found on a trail ride, hunting trip, working ranch, or any other similar use of our horses. One could expect to encounter normal natural terrain such as steep inclines and declines, rocks, logs, trees, water and more. One could also find man-made objects such as bridges, tarps, tents, backpackers, bikers and other such items in our world today. In addition to these, a competition Mountain Trail horse may encounter "live" obstacles such as other horses, mules, donkeys, llamas, cattle, sheep and more.

While being judged, the competition Mountain Trail horse will be presented with specific tasks to be accomplished as part of the judging criteria. These tasks are designed to showcase the horse and rider/handler's ability to perform manoeuvres that may be encountered on a ride in today's world. These can include opening/closing gates, dragging a log or tree branch, carrying a tarp or backpack, putting on and taking off a slicker and many other such tasks.

The competition Mountain Trail horse may also be asked to exhibit certain manoeuvres to show it is willing to accept the rider/handler's guidance. These may include side-pass, haunch turns, forehand turns, gait changes, backing through obstacles and more.

A competition Mountain Trail horse should travel through and between obstacles exhibiting confidence and purpose. The horse should have an inquisitive, intent look that shows awareness of its surroundings and enjoyment of the job it is performing. It should have its head low enough to maintain the ability to see its path but not lose the awareness of the rest of its surroundings. Once over the obstacle, it should raise its head enough to be noting what is around it while not being distracted to the extent that it loses focus on what is under its feet and in its immediate surroundings. It should be able to accept guidance and instruction from its rider/handler, softly and willingly, with no signs of resistance or loss of focus on the task at hand. The rider/handler should be able to guide his/her horse with both hand and leg aids. The horse should be showing instant and willing response to the smallest signal from the rider/handler between and within obstacles and within any changes. The horse should show curiosity and a willingness to be guided, always having confidence in the placement of its feet. It should not only show the ability to take care of itself but should also have an ability and awareness of taking care of its rider/handler. The horse should maintain its headset and body frame in its natural way of movement, according to its breed and conformation, yet will lower its head, as necessary, to look where it is going and to be drawn into and over obstacles in a quiet and safe manner.

### **7.1. Definition for Equine/Horse (cont.)**

#### **Green Horse**

Any horse, any age. Never to have been shown in Mountain Trail and/or Arena Trail classes at a sanctioned show. May not cross enter in Amateur and/or Open Classes. (Contact the Show Producer for eligibility, if required.)

#### **In-Hand**

There is no age limitation for the horse. May be shown in a halter or bridle.

#### **Novice Horse**

May be ridden by **ANY rider**. Never to have won more than three firsts in the Mountain Trail Novice Horse Division.

#### **Open Horse**

Open to all horses. (No cross entry with Green Horse or Back to Basics classes)

#### **Senior Horse**

Is seven years and over as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

#### **Stallions**

Are not permitted

## **7.2 Age & Technical Categories**

### **Youth**

The minimum age is 10 years as of January 1<sup>st</sup> in that calendar year to a maximum age of 18 years as of January 1<sup>st</sup> that calendar year. Youth can compete in all classes. However, in the Green and Back to Basics classes, should there be four or more youth competitors, they will be awarded separately. Youth will then be awarded points for youth and points for whichever class they were in (i.e., Green or Back to Basics).

### **Senior/Adult**

Is 19 years and older.

### **Amateur Rider**

Is an individual who engages in sport for pleasure only and does not receive payment for training, coaching, lessons, etc., in the horse industry.

### **Green Rider**

Any age (10 and over). 1<sup>st</sup> year of showing in Mountain Trail. Never to have shown in Mountain Trail and/or Arena Trail classes at a sanctioned show. May not cross enter with Amateur and/or Open classes.

## 7.2. Age & Technical Categories (cont.)

### Novice Rider

Never to have won more than three firsts in the Mountain Trail Novice Rider Division. This does not apply to placings in the in-hand and/or youth classes.

### Open Rider

This is defined as open to all riders.

### Hors Concours (H/C)

Hors Concours (H/C) entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Show Producer.

These entries must pay the same entry fees and are subject to the same conditions which apply to regular entries.

H/C are judged and can receive a score but are not eligible for any awards in those classes.

### Para Rider/Handler

Competitors with a physical disability may compete at BC Mountain Trail Competitions. Adaptive (compensating) aids can be used by riders/handlers to compensate for the physical or sensory limitation resulting from their impairment, thereby enabling them to ride/handle a horse.

Para Riders/Handlers are responsible for advising the Show Producer(s) of any limitations they may have, any adaptive aids they are required to use, etc. The Show Producer(s) in turn will make every effort to accommodate the Para Rider/Handler and will also advise the Judge(s) of these riders/handlers' accommodations

## 7.3 Attire

- Horse Council BC highly recommends that all riders wear properly fitted approved BSI or ASTM protective headgear at all times when mounted.
- Adults may compete in a properly fitted BSI or ASTM approved riding helmet or a western style hat.
- Youth competitors are required to wear properly fitted approved BSI or ASTM protective headgear with safety harness securely attached at all times when mounted on the event grounds.
- **English Participants** - suggested dress is either casual or more formal English attire such as shirt/blouse or a polo shirt with a collar, tie/pin (optional), proper riding vest or jacket (optional); boots (tall or paddock boots with half chaps/gators) with a defined heel are required. Gloves and chaps are optional. Spurs are permitted - see below.
- **Western Participants** – must wear a long-sleeved western style shirt/blouse and long pants without holes or tears. A cowboy hat or helmet and boots with a heel must be worn. Gloves, chaps and chinks are optional. Spurs are permitted - see below.
- Heels are **required** on **all footwear** for safety reasons. For safety, be aware of wearing spurs when showing in-hand.

### 7.3. Attire (cont.)

- English or Western attire is permitted but should be consistent with the style of tack presented.
- Spurs are acceptable; however, any aggressive use of spurs will result in the loss of a point(s) or, at the Judge's discretion, disqualification
- Raincoats are permitted

#### Attire - Not Permitted

- Ball Caps
- Hoodies
- Tank tops

## 7.4 Equipment

- The judge may disallow any tack due to safety concerns.
- English, Western, Endurance, Australian, or breed-specific saddles are permitted (**no bareback pads**).
- English, Western, or breed-specific bridles, bosal, hackamore(all), bit-less bridles or halters(all) are acceptable (must be considered safe and acceptable by the Judge(s) and Show Producer(s)).
- Romel reins may be used with a shank bit (ONLY).
- Crops, whips, or lead shanks with chains(in-hand) are permitted. Use of these items may result in loss of points per obstacles as determined by the judge. **NOTE: Chains must be unsnapped when ground tying.**
- Any tack or attire (item) the Head Judge determines to be a risk/ safety/unacceptable factor will be removed or replaced in order to participate.
- Optional - splint boots, bandages, leg protection, etc.
- **Two hands** are allowed with any snaffle bit or snaffle shank bit(in green classes only).
- **One handed** riding is required by a participant with any shank bit with a solid mouth piece (and choice of rein, i.e., Romel). **If a participant needs two hands to support the horse, he/she will be deducted a minimum of one (1) point, but the use of the two hands could result in a better overall score depending on the training level of the horse.**
- A halter and lead or a get down rope are allowed and preferred while you dismount or mount.
- **Bits:** Excessive use of bits will be penalized at the discretion of the judge.

#### Equipment cont

##### NOT PERMITTED/ALLOWED:

- tie downs
- martingales

## 7.5 Course Walk

This is an opportunity to navigate the course on foot prior to competition to become familiar with the course map. Competitors are encouraged to walk-through the course prior to the judge's official course walk-through. Judge's course walk-through is scheduled prior to the beginning of the class. The judge leads the walk-through with the use of course maps. Each competitor should receive a course map prior to the competition. The judge may give directions at different obstacles. Participants should refrain from talking during the judge's walk-through so all competitors can hear the judge's directions. Questions are answered by the judge following each obstacle on the walk-through. Competitors are not allowed to ask questions during the competition.

## 7.6 Obstacles

The varying terrain of the mountains allows the Mountain Trail Course Designers to come up with new, different and creative obstacles every day at a competition. (See Annex 1 for more detailed information on obstacles for competition.)

The horse/rider team will be asked to perform multiple tasks that range from traditional trail obstacles to manoeuvring/negotiating over hills, ditches, ponds, rocks and half logs. In addition, a horse/rider team may be asked to back out of obstacles, side pass over obstacles, complete pivots and move at various gaits. A rider may be asked to dismount, mount, drag or move obstacles, send the horse through obstacles while dismounted, etc.

## 7.7 Definitions

### Obstacles / Maneuvers

- **Leading/In-hand:** Leading/In-hand can be done with either a bridle or a halter and lead. The horse should lead willingly, not crowding or lagging which will result in a lower score.
- **Mounting/Dismounting:** The rider may be asked to mount or dismount from either side. The rider should, while mounting and/or dismounting, maintain control at all times. The horse should stand quietly and securely. A mounting block will be provided.
- **Hoof Check:** The horse should pick up a leg willingly and not move around.
- **Gate:** The rider/handler may be asked to open a gate(s) from any direction, pulling or pushing. The rider/handler should have control of the gate at all times. The horse should follow direction from the rider/handler to stay close to the gate and minimize movement.
- **Stop and Pause:** The rider/handler may be asked to stop and pause at any time in the pattern. The horse should stop quietly and stand without any anxious movement until the rider/handler is ready to move forward.
- **Uphill/Downhill:** The rider/handler should maintain center of balance at all times to help the horse manipulate the obstacle.
- **Water Crossing/Ponds:** The horse should enter water obstacles cautiously, continuing in a forward motion.

### 7.7. Definitions (cont.)

- **Dragging/Pulling:** The rider/handler may hold the rope or dally but must never allow the rope to entangle the horse and/or rider/handler. The horse should stand quietly and not react to the rope or the object being pulled and/or dragged.
- **Bridges:** The horse should approach the obstacle squarely and move over the bridge in a forward motion with cadence. Entering, crossing and exiting the bridge shall be on a straight path.
- **Step Over:** The horse should move over without hitting the obstacle. Smaller horses or ponies will not be penalized for hopping taller step overs.
- **Backing:** Backing shall be completed in a straight motion without weaving side to side. Backward motion shall continue at a consistent pace. The horse **will be penalized** for hitting the obstacle while backing.
- **Side Passing:** The rider/handler may be asked to side pass the horse. The horse shall side pass keeping its body perpendicular to the obstacle without moving forward and/or back. The horse **will be penalized** for hitting the obstacle while side passing.
- **Ground Tie:** To dismount and tie the horse to the ground. Can use a get-down rope, drop a rein (*buckled reins must be untied*) or a halter and lead. **NOTE: If using a lead shank with a chain, the chain must be unsnapped while ground tying.**
- **Forward Motion:** Throughout each pattern, a horse and rider/handler should continue in a forward motion unless the pattern asks for a stop and pause. The horse's pace should stay consistent and not change unless the rider/handler asks for a different gait or movement.
- **Balance:** To smoothly negotiate an obstacle, horse and rider/handler must be balanced, both individually and as a team. The rider/handler shall maintain proper horsemanship at all times.
- **Horsemanship:** The rider/handler's ability to perform and execute the presented challenges of the course with their horse. The rider/handler shall present poise and confidence while maintaining balance and fundamental body position, helping the horse to be properly aligned. Horse and rider/handler should perform each obstacle with subtle cues. The rider/handler shall refrain from instilling fear, jerking on the bit and excessive use of the crop or spurs. **If such acts are performed, a rider/handler may be asked to exit the course which will result in elimination from that class.**
- **Control:** The rider/handler must maintain control of the horse at all times, whether mounted or leading.
- **Rider Awareness:** A rider/handler should be paying attention to the direction of the pattern, setting up the horse to approach each obstacle correctly and squarely. The rider/handler should evaluate each obstacle and proceed carefully with awareness.
- **Overall Awareness:** The horse should respond to the rider/handler without any hesitation or resistance. The horse should have an alert, obedient and willing disposition. Gaits should be consistent and comfortable.
- **Pattern:** It is important that a horse and rider/handler stay on course. Going off course/pattern **will result in a score of zero for that obstacle.**



## 7.8 Category and Class Divisions

- If a competitor starts the year in a class, they may finish the year in that class even if they meet that classes criteria during the year. This does not apply to placings in the in-hand and/or youth classes.
- If competitor enters a class, they were not eligible for, they may keep the prize money but will lose the points and can no longer show in that class
- After two (2) seasons away from competing in Mountain Trail, a horse can re-enter the competitions where the horse left off. (**Note:** *after two 1<sup>st</sup> place awards in that division the horse/rider combination must move up to the next level the following year.*)

## 7.9 Competition Management

- The organizer(s) of Mountain Trail Competitions are referred to as the “Show Producer(s)”.
- Should a Show Producer also be a Judge, it is strongly recommended that they do not judge at their own show.

## 7.10 Judging

- Judges should be on the grounds **45 minutes** before the start of a competition. This will allow enough time for a meeting with the Show Producers.
- The judges are expected to have knowledge of all breeds and are instructed to judge each horse accordingly. Each judge is required to be consistent in their scoring for all horses, without playing favouritism to any specific breed.
- The classes will be judged on the horse’s ability to manoeuvre/negotiate over various obstacles, with attention to manners, response to the rider and the quality of movement. In addition, the rider/handler will be judged on HORSEMANSHIP while performing each obstacle.
- A horse will receive credit for showing attentiveness to the negotiating of the obstacle and/or path, or if the path is not specified, the horse’s ability to negotiate and pick their own path through the course. A horse will be rewarded with higher manoeuvre scores for performing gaits correctly with an alert attitude. While on the line of travel between obstacles, the horse shall be balanced, carrying his head and neck in a relaxed, NATURAL position. (Example: Stock breeds tend to carry the head and neck in a relaxed, natural position with the poll level even with, or slightly above the withers; Gaited breeds tend to carry head and neck high above the poll and withers.) The horse should approach each obstacle in a consistent forward motion. The horse should ACKNOWLEDGE each obstacle while keeping a forward motion and remain calm and confident with a willing attitude.

### 7.10.1. Judging Attire

The judge is to dress professionally

### 7.10.2. Judging – Obstacles

The Rider will be judged on their horse's approach to an obstacle, how accurately and willingly their horse manoeuvres through the obstacle and then how the horse departs from each obstacle.

Each rider/handler shall help the horse align their body as they approach each obstacle. **A rider/handler's horsemanship will be judged throughout the entire course.**

Mountain Trail is scored on a 0-to-10-point scoring system, with the use of half points when necessary. A score that has a .5 such as 5.5 means that the horse/rider combination is closer to a 6.0 than a 5.0, that they are working the obstacle more towards a score of 6.0.

The system is designed to be positive, encouraging and straight forward to the exhibitors.

## 7.11 Scoring Scale and Definitions

- **"0"** - a zero will only be applied when an obstacle is not attempted, refusals (see refusals), or off course (see off course) resulting with a zero for only that obstacle.
- **"1 – 4"** – Major faults
- **"5 – 7"** – Average quality
- **"8 – 9"** – High quality
- **"10"** – Perfect. A perfect score on an obstacle is a 10 (no measurable mistakes). To earn a perfect score, the horse shall approach the obstacle squarely and in a straight manner. They should enter the path with confidence and attention. As they continue through the obstacle, they should move with caution and cadence with little to no guidance from the rider. They should exhibit forward motion while acknowledging and adjusting to each section of the obstacle. They must demonstrate a willing attitude, while carefully completing the obstacle with no measurable mistakes.

### a. Scoring deductions

- **Minor deductions** may result from but are not limited to: hitting or stepping on a log, plant or a component of an obstacle; incorrect or break of gait, step(s) taken while ground tying; approaching an obstacle off centered; loss of forward motion, dragging your line in an in-hand class.
- **Average deductions** may result from, but are not limited to: dropping or letting go of the gate or object; hitting or stepping on a log; rushing; horse taking more than 3 steps at ground tie; tight reins; the use of 2 hands on a shank bit; disobedience; loss of focus; one-two step(s) off, or out of an obstacle.
- **Major deductions** may result from but are not limited to: refusal(s), balk, crow hop, popping up or evading an obstacle, using hand to instill fear; misuse of tack (i.e., use of Romel to instill fear), missed pattern.
- **Blatant** disobedience (including kicking out, bucking, rearing, and striking) results in elimination.

**Note:** These are only examples of point deductions. The judge is instructed to judge each obstacle at their own discretion. It is understood that not all horses are created equal and each score shall reflect this. Example: A miniature horse is not expected to step over a large log without hitting it or possibly jumping the log, just as, a draft horse may hit a component of the obstacles because it is too large to avoid it. Deductions in points shall not be reflected in these situations.



### **7.11. Scoring Scale and Definitions (cont.)**

**Should a horse, while being disobedient damage an obstacle to the extent that it is no longer safe to be used for the remaining competitors, the obstacle will be removed from the course and all competitors in the class, even if they have been scored, will all receive a score of “5” for that particular obstacle. The horse and rider/handler that damaged the obstacle will receive a score of “0”.**

#### **b. Refusals**

A refusal is defined as:

- 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: refusing, evading or completely passing an obstacle with all four feet; complete loss of the required gait (i.e., stopping); and any blatant action by the horse that demonstrates an unwillingness to approach, and/or negotiate an obstacle.
- Movement of the horse in a side to side and/or backwards motion is a refusal.

**NOTE:** after 3 refusals at an obstacle, or 15 seconds of refusing at an obstacle, the judge will instruct the competitor to move to the next obstacle and the competitor will be given a score of zero for that obstacle.

#### **c. Off Course**

A horse and rider/handler team will be considered off course if:

- They miss an obstacle directed by the course map and the judge.
- They negotiate obstacles in the wrong sequence (i.e., obstacles 3 and 4 out of order – rider goes to obstacle 4 first). The Judge would then score both obstacles with an Off Course zero.
- They don't follow the correct line of travel, either in the drawn pattern or at the judges' instruction.

Off Course will result in a score of zero for that obstacle.

**NOTE:** if you present to an obstacle that you know you are not going to negotiate, this is not “off course”. However, you will still receive a zero score.

#### **A horse will not be considered off course if:**

The obstacle is a “3-part obstacle”; i.e.: entrance/middle/finish (example: curtain, walk forward then back up and turn, then leave obstacle after turn). Should the rider/handler and horse have to leave/bypass the entrance but does finish the middle and end of the obstacle the score for this rider/handler and horse should be a score of three (3) or less.

#### **d. Eliminations**

Elimination means the exclusion from any further participation in the class in which the elimination occurs.

The elimination of a horse/rider combination shall occur under the following circumstances:

- Use of illegal equipment.
- Unauthorized assistance (i.e., calling out directions, etc.).

### **7.11. Scoring Scale and Definitions (cont.)**

- Dangerous/unruly behaviour of the horse (rearing, striking, kicking, etc.).
- Unsoundness – Ground Jury’s decision is final with no appeal.
- Any abuse of the horse - Judge’s/Show Producer’s decision is final with no appeal.
- Fall of horse (where hip and shoulder touch the ground and or shows immediate unevenness) and must leave the course.
- Fall of the rider. The rider is considered to have fallen when a hip or shoulder, etc. hits the ground either in warm-up or on the course. The rider must leave that area on foot. It is the rider’s responsibility to ensure the onsite medical assessment has been completed before being cleared to re-enter their next class.
- Should a rider simply trip/stumble landing on their knees (for example) and/or regain their balance after a trip/stumble when leading their horse through an in-hand class, they can continue in the class.

**NOTE:** The Ground Jury consists of the Show Producer(s) and Judge(s).

#### **e. Disqualifications**

Disqualification means the action of removing a competitor and/or entry from any further participation for the duration of a competition.

The disqualification of a horse/rider combination shall occur under the following circumstances:

- The judge(s) has the authority to dismiss any entry from the competition if he or she deems that entry is not under sufficient control.

#### **f. Posting and Checking of Scores**

Once the scores have been posted, initialed and time of posting noted by the scorer on the sheet, competitors must bring their concerns to the Show Producer by the end of the show, who will then discuss it with the scorer.

## **7.12 Exhibitor Conduct**

The following will be considered unacceptable behaviour (but are not limited to the following):

- a. an individual does not leave the “arena/area” without delay after elimination or at the end of a round;
- b. an individual does not follow the directives of the Show Producer(s).
- c. an individual does not follow the directives of competition officials.
- d. an individual exhibits disrespectful or inappropriate behavior towards event officials or any other party connected with the event
- e. an individual repeats an offense after a verbal warning to stop; or
- f. Officials, Show Producers and/or Ground Jury have the final say regarding the above. Individuals may be asked to leave the premisses/competition and forfeit any entry fees, prizes, etc.

## 7.13 Permitted Course Obstacles

Classes:	Classes:	Classes:
1. Green In-Hand 2. Green Horse 3. Green Rider 4. Back to Basics 5. Exploring the Novice	6. In-Hand Mares & Geldings 7. Novice Horse 8. Novice Rider	9. Open In-Hand 10. Open 11. Amateur 12. Show Producer's Class
<b>Obstacles:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backing – straight only</li> <li>• Balance Beam – straight only (as per Annex 3)</li> <li>• Carousel Turn</li> <li>• Cowboy Curtain</li> <li>• Can require a jog/trot</li> <li>• Dry Box</li> <li>• Flag or raising other obstacles <b>BUT NOT</b> over head of horse</li> <li>• Ground Tie</li> <li>• Mounting and/or Dismounting</li> <li>• Non-Moving Bridges</li> <li>• Over bases with slight or ¼ turns only</li> <li>• Pick up Feet</li> <li>• Push Gates</li> <li>• Rocks/Sawbucks</li> <li>• Side Pass</li> <li>• Slickers</li> <li>• Step Over</li> <li>• Tunnels – Forward only</li> <li>• Up and Down Hills</li> <li>• Water (ponds, lakes, streams only)</li> </ul>	<b>Obstacles:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>All green obstacles</u> plus</li> <li>• Balance Beam</li> <li>• Backing – straight, corner, etc.</li> <li>• Ditches</li> <li>• Flag or raising other obstacles over horse</li> <li>• Jog/Trot</li> <li>• Mattress</li> <li>• Over bases with up to a 180 degree turn only</li> <li>• Rolling Bridge</li> <li>• Straight Beams</li> <li>• Suspension Bridge</li> <li>• Tipping Bridge</li> <li>• Tunnel</li> <li>• Water box</li> </ul>	<b>Obstacles:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>All green and novice obstacles</u> plus</li> <li>• Angle Beams</li> <li>• Back in Ditches</li> <li>• Back through gates and tunnels</li> <li>• Can require a lope/canter</li> <li>• Dragging Obstacles</li> <li>• Increased level of difficulty on all obstacles</li> <li>• Squish Box</li> <li>• Turn on Base (can be a 360-degree turn)</li> <li>• Water Box</li> </ul>
Number of Obstacles Recommended on Course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8-12</li> <li>• 8-14 (Explorer Horse only)</li> </ul> <b>Note:</b> You may be asked to start or end <b>any</b> pattern in hand.	Number of Obstacles Recommended on Course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10-14</li> </ul> <b>Note:</b> You may be asked to start or end <b>any</b> pattern in hand.	Number of Obstacles Recommended on Course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10-16</li> </ul> <b>Note:</b> You may be asked to start or end <b>any</b> pattern in hand.

## 7.14 Non-Permitted Course Obstacles

<b>Classes</b> 1. Green In-Hand 2. Green Horse 3. Green Rider 4. Back to Basics 5. Exploring the Novice	<b>Classes:</b> 6. In-Hand Mares & Geldings 7. Novice Horse 8. Novice Rider	<b>Classes:</b> 9. Open In-Hand 10. Open 11. Amateur 12. Show Producer's Class
<b>Obstacles:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backing through gates in-hand</li> <li>• Complete turnaround(s)</li> <li>• Water boxes</li> </ul>	<b>Obstacles:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backing on suspension bridges or moving bridges</li> <li>• Backing on a balance beam less than (as per Annex 3)</li> <li>• Backing through gates in-hand</li> <li>• Squish boxes</li> <li>• No 360 turns in water boxes under 4 feet X 6 feet</li> <li>• No more than two sequential water boxes</li> </ul>	<b>Obstacles:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backing on suspension bridges or moving bridges</li> <li>• Backing on a balance beam less than (as per Annex 4, Bridge and Plank specifications)</li> <li>• Backing through gates in-hand</li> <li>• No 360 turns in water boxes under 4 feet X 6 feet</li> <li>• No more than two sequential water boxes</li> </ul>

## 7.15 Recommendations for Course Obstacles/Design

Courses are divided into judging sections of which there are two or more judges, one for each section. When designing a course, the following should be taken into consideration in order to keep the course and the show running smoothly.

Backing up should be limited to no more than one obstacle on the course for all levels per day.

The more technical obstacle questions (such as; side passing, puzzles, time consuming obstacles, etc.) should be spread evenly throughout the course (don't load one side of the course with all the technical questions as this slows everything down).



## 7.16 Trail Obstacle Dimensions – Guideline Only

Mountain Trail obstacles are seldom evenly spaced heights or widths. Practicing outside the “norm” will begin to teach your horse ownership responsibility of obstacles and will result in less rider micro-management.

<p><b>Walk/Trot/Lope-Canter Overs</b> Single Poles Multiple Poles</p>	<p>Maximum height 16” Maximum height 10” Set 20 to 24 inches apart for walk-over 3 to 3 ½ feet apart for jog/trot 6 to 7 feet apart for lope/canter Spoke style should be set 24 inches apart halfway out from the center</p>
<p><b>Back-Throughs</b> On ground Elevated Barrels Raised back through off the ground</p>	<p>Minimum of 28” wide Minimum of 30” wide Minimum of 32” wide Minimum of 48” wide</p>
<p><b>Sidepass</b> Single pole up to 24”</p>	<p>Space between poles, minimum 24”</p>
<p><b>Serpentines</b> (Jog arounds)</p>	<p>Pylons 6 to 9 feet apart (base to base) minimum Guardrails 3 feet to either side of pylons Pylons 3 feet apart (base to base) minimum Guardrails 6 to 8 feet to either side of pylons If tall standards are used, dimensions can be looser</p>
<p><b>Gate</b></p>	<p>Latch set at between 54 to 60 inches from ground Minimum of 48” wide Rope Gate – optional</p>
<p><b>Bridge or Plank</b> Balance beams</p>	<p>Minimum of 36 inches wide for elevated bridge Minimum of 12 inch for plank placed flat on the ground Minimum of 18 inches wide</p>
<p><b>Ground Tie or Hobble</b></p>	<p>Inside a minimum of 6-foot circle</p>
<p><b>Mailbox</b></p>	<p>Minimum of 48 inches from ground to bottom of the mailbox</p>

**7.16. Trail Obstacle Dimensions – Guideline Only (cont.)**

<p><b>Back through Ditches</b></p> <p>Green Horse</p> <p>Novice Horse</p> <p>Open Novice/Open Horse</p>	<p>4 to 6 inches by 3 foot wide with sloped sides</p> <p>12 to 18 inches by 3 foot wide with square sides</p> <p>18 inches to 4 feet deep by 24 inches to 3 feet wide with square sides</p>
<p><b>Walk through Ditches (straight and L shaped)</b></p> <p>Green Horse</p> <p>Novice/Open Novice/Open Horse</p>	<p>4 to 6 inches deep by 3 feet wide with sloped sides</p> <p>8 inches to 5 feet deep by 3 to 4 feet wide with square sides</p>