

**SECTION SIX  
TIMED/ SPEED EVENTS**

**I. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

- A. Two hands may be used on the reins.
- B. Excessive hazing, striking, or whipping a horse will not be permitted.
- C. A crop, bat and spurs may be used, but if used must be used humanely.
- D. All exhibitors will be suitably attired according to the current trend in western or English show apparel. For western apparel this includes western boots, long pants, and a shirt with a collar must be worn. For English this includes breeches or jodhpurs, hunt coats, stock tie or choker and English boots or Jodhpur boots. A polo- type shirt is acceptable to wear as an alternative to a hunt coat. Headgear, if worn, must be western, approved helmet or hunting cap. Approved safety helmets are mandatory for youth under 18 years of age.
- E. A western or English saddle is required. A western or English bridle may be used. There is no restriction on the type of bit, chin strap, tie down or reins as long as they are judged humane. No quirt will be allowed. The rider may not use straps, or anything to attach the rider to the saddle, stirrups or horse in any way, except breakable rubber bands connecting boots to stirrups.
- F. **The horse will come into the ring at a walk and under control or be disqualified. The horse and rider will begin the course from any point within the arena and be clocked as they pass through the starting line and again at the finish line. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.**
- G. The horse will be clocked by an electric timer, or by two persons other than the judge, using separate stopwatches and the time averaged.
- H. Each pattern will have a minimum of an 80-foot start/finish line marked on either end by a cone or marker.
- I. Should the marker at either side of the start/finish line be hit, knocked over or broken by any part of the horse or rider, the horse will be disqualified. Should the horse fail to pass between the markers, the horse will be disqualified.

**Motion is made to remove under Section6; Time/Speed Events "H" and remove "I" from this section**

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**Please note, it was found that this section was out of alphabetical order (listed B through J), and will be corrected in the 2022 rule book**  
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**Motion is made to add to the end of Section 6;  
Time/Speed Events (F):**

**"For the Walk/Trot and Leadline classes only. This class is to be considered a walk/trot class. Animals that lope/canter/gallop more than three (3) strides will be disqualified from class."**

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b. Leadline Speed Division:

1. **Leadline - Plug** class requires mounts and riders will be led around a shortened version of the Plug Race course. All regular speed rules & procedures apply with exception that there will be a handler leading the horse with the child and the distances are modified. (See specific rules for this pattern in Speed section.) The exhibitor will be timed. Parent/Handler must stay at horses shoulder when crossing the Start/Finish line.
2. **Leadline - Barrels** class requires mounts and riders will be led around a shortened version of the Barrel Race course. All regular speed rules & procedures apply with exception that there will be a handler leading the horse with the child and the distances are modified. (See specific rules for this pattern in Speed section.) The exhibitor will be timed. Parent/Handler must stay at horses shoulder when crossing the Start/Finish line.
3. **Leadline - Versatility** class requires mounts and riders will be led around a shortened version of the chosen Versatility course for that show. All regular speed rules & procedures apply with exception that there will be a handler leading the horse with the child and the distances are modified. (See specific rules for this pattern in Speed section.) The exhibitor will be timed. Parent/Handler must stay at horses shoulder when crossing the Start/Finish line.

**Motion is to add to the end of each class description, the following:**

**Leadline Plug: "This class is to be considered a walk/trot class. Animals that lope/canter/gallop more than three (3) strides will be disqualified from class."**

**Leadline Barrels: "This class is to be considered a walk/trot class. Animals that lope/canter/gallop more than three (3) strides will be disqualified from class."**

**Leadline Versatility: "This class is to be considered a walk/trot class. Animals that lope/canter/gallop more than three (3) strides will be disqualified from class."**

**II. OTHER DIVISIONS-** The following non-age-restricted divisions are available: Green Horse, All Age Ranch, All-Age Ranch Walk-Trot, and Miniature Horse. Class(es) may be offered as a non-point class at the Board of Director's discretion, if interest warrants. Each rider must declare the division in which he/she will participate when applying for or renewing their membership. When an equine exhibitor moves up from restricted division, they may no longer exhibit in the in the previous division, unless otherwise specified. An exhibitor may only receive a year end award for the division into which they have moved. Anyone can school in their own division – turn number over (ex: to use two hands). Approved safety helmets are mandatory for all youth under 18 years of age when mounted. Approved helmets are recommended for all riders.

- A. Green Horse Western/English Division** - Horses, may be any age, but must be in their first two years of showing under saddle. Horses can cross-enter into other divisions as long as rider otherwise meets eligibility. Open to any age riders. Classes are to be Western/English Pleasure W/J-W/T, Western/English Pleasure W/J/L-W/T/C and Western/English Trail W/J-W/T.
- B. All Age Ranch Horse Division** - Horses can cross-enter into other divisions as long as rider otherwise meets eligibility. Open to any age rider. Classes are to be Ranch Rail Pleasure W/T/L, Ranch Riding W/T/L, Ranch Trail W/T/L and Ranch Round Up W/T/L.
- C. All Age Ranch Horse Walk-Trot Division** - Horses can cross-enter into other divisions as long as rider otherwise meets eligibility. Open to any age rider. Classes are to be Ranch Rail Pleasure W/T, Ranch Riding W/T, Ranch Trail W/T and Ranch Round Up W/T.
- D. Miniature Horse Division** -Open to any age handler. Open to any miniature, registered or not, with a maximum m height of 40 inches. Horses can cross-enter into other divisions as long as rider otherwise meets eligibility, and, if ridden, is ridden by a suitable rider. Classes are to be Mini Horse Showmanship, Mini Horse Halter and Mini Horse Trail.

**Motion is to add to the end of Section II; OTHER DIVISIONS, the following:**

**OTHER DIVISIONS-** The following non-age-restricted divisions are available: Green Horse, All Age Ranch, All-Age Ranch Walk-Trot, Miniature Horse, and In-Hand Trail.

**Motion is to add to the end of Section II; OTHER DIVISIONS, the following:**

**E. All Age Open In Hand Trail** -Open to any age handler. Open to any horse, registered or not. Horses can cross-enter into other divisions as long as rider otherwise meets eligibility, and, if ridden, is ridden by a suitable rider.

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**Motion is to add the following (new) division in the Rule Book where acceptable:**

### IN-HAND TRAIL

Open to any age handler. Open to any horse, registered or not. This class is designed to provide handlers the opportunity to show and promote for a performance career without undue mental and physical stress.

A. GENERAL CLASS RULES. Western or English Attire and Tack to be used. Horses are to be exhibited in a halter or bridle. A chain may be used under the jaw or over the nose only with a halter only.

1. In-Hand Trail horses should exhibit calm, willing attitude while negotiating the course; demonstrate trust and confidence in the handler yet be cautious when approaching obstacles.

- Judges should consider the overall appearance of the horse, conditioning and grooming, and the equipment in their overall scores.
- Handler may not touch the horse.
- Horse should display free and natural gaits.
- Credit to be given to horses negotiating obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing carefulness is not sacrificed. Credit to be given to horses showing capability of picking their own way through course when obstacles warrant it

2. Horses shall be penalized for unnecessary delay, displays of aggression or resentment to handler, attempting to run off or pull away from handler or breaks free of handler.

3. COURSE REQUIREMENTS.

- Use care in setting up the course. Care must be exercised to avoid the setting up of any obstacles in a manner that may be hazardous to the horse or handler. Obstacles should be placed in such a manner that they flow from one to the other quickly and efficiently.
- Horses are to be exhibited over the same obstacles used in riding Western Trail classes. They will be shown only at a walk and jog. They will not be required to lope
- The course shall be reset, if disrupted, after the exhibitor finishes the entire obstacle.
- The judge (s) must walk the course and has the right and duty to alter the course in any manner. They may remove or change any obstacle deemed unsafe or non-negotiable. If at any time a trail obstacle is deemed to be unsafe by the judge, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If the obstacle cannot be repaired and horses have 64 completed the course, negotiating such unsafe or unrepairable obstacle, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous goes for that class.

4. SCORING SYSTEM. Scoring will be on the basis of 0 to infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each obstacle will be scored on the followings basis, ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½: -1 ½ extremely poor, -1 very poor, - ½ poor, 0 correct, + ½ good, + 1 very good and + 1 ½ excellent. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points. Penalties should be assessed per occurrence as follows:

- a. Zero ( 0 ) Points ~ disqualification
  - Performing the obstacles other than in specified order, failure to enter, exit or work obstacle in any manner other than how it's is described, failure to follow the correct line of travel between obstacles and working outside designated boundary marker of the arena or course area.

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- No attempts to perform an obstacle.
- Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern.
- Third cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing over entire course.
- Failure to demonstrate correct gait between obstacles as designated.
- Horse gets loose from exhibitor. 65
- Handling of horse from the wrong side.
- Fall or horse or handler.
- Excessive schooling, pulling turning or backing anywhere on course.
- Failure to complete obstacles.

5. OBSTACLE REQUIREMENTS. At least six obstacles must be used, three of which must be from the mandatory list of obstacles and at least three others selected from the list of optional obstacles.

a) MANDATORY IN-HAND TRAIL OBSTACLES.

- Opening, passing through, and closing a gate. Use a gate that will not endanger the horse or exhibitor. b. Exhibit over at least four logs or poles. These can be in
- Straight line, curved, zigzag or raised. The space between the logs is to be measured, and the path the horse is to take should be the measuring point. All elevated elements must be placed in a cup, notched block or otherwise secured so that they cannot roll. The height should be measured from the ground to the top of the element. Spacing for walkovers and trot-overs should be as follows or increments thereof. d. Walkovers shall be 20-24" and may be elevated up to 12". Elevated walkovers should be at least 22". e. Trot-overs shall be 36-42" and may be elevated up to 8".
- Backing an obstacle. Backing obstacles to be spaced a minimum of 28". If elevated, 30" spacing is required. Entrants cannot be asked to back over a stationary object such as a wooden pole or metal bar. g. Back through and around at least three markers.
- Back through an I, V, U, straight or similar shaped course. May be elevated no more than 24".

b) OPTIONAL OBSTACLES, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slick bottom boxes will be used.
- Serpentine obstacles at a walk or jog. Spacing to be a minimum of 6' for jog.
- Carry object from one part of arena to another. Only objects which reasonably might be carried on a trail ride may be used.
- Walk over a wooden bridge. Minimum width of 36" and at least 6' long. Bridge should be sturdy and safe and negotiated at a walk only.
- Put on and remove a slicker.
- Remove and replace materials in a mailbox.
- An obstacle consisting of four logs or rails, 6' to 8' long, laid in a square. Each exhibitor will enter the square by walking over the log/rail designated. When all four feet are inside the square, the exhibitor should execute a turn, as indicated, and depart.
- Any other safe and negotiable obstacle which could reasonably be expected to encounter on a trail ride and meets the approval of the judge, may be used.
- A combination of two or more of any obstacle is acceptable.

c) UNACCEPTABLE OBSTACLES FOR IN-HAND TRAIL.

- Tires
- Animals
- Hides

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- PVC Pipe
- Rocking or moving bridges 66
- Water box with floating or moving parts
- Flames, dry ice, fire extinguishers, etc.
- Logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such items to roll
- Ground ties

**SECTION ONE  
GENERAL RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- I. AGE DIVISIONS-** The following divisions are available: Western Adult Walk-Jog-Lope, English Adult, Western Adult Novice Division, Western Adult Walk-Jog Division, Speed Adult, Western Youth 18 & Under, English Youth 18 & Under, Speed Youth 14-18, Speed Youth 13 & Under, Western Youth 13 & Under Walk-Trot, English Youth 13 & Under Walk-Trot, Speed Youth 13 & Under Walk-Trot, Beginner Walk Trot 11 & Under, Leadline (Performance/Equitation) and Leadline Speed. Beginner Walk Trot 11 & Under Division will be on hiatus for 2021 and classes not offered for points. Class(es) may be offered as a non-point class at the Board of Director's discretion, if interest warrants. **Any Special Needs rider in a certified therapeutic riding program can ride in any division appropriate to their skill level. They will be placed separately from the rest of the class. An exhibitor may ride in only one age-restricted division at a time, except where otherwise specified. The age division is not specific to riding discipline.** Each rider must declare the division in which he/she will participate when applying for or renewing their membership. When an exhibitor moves up a division, they may no longer exhibit in the previous division, unless otherwise specified. An exhibitor may only receive a year end award for the age division into which they have moved. Anyone can school in their own division – turn number over (ex: to use two hands). Approved safety helmets are mandatory for all youth under 18 years of age when mounted. Approved helmets are recommended for all riders.

Motion is to remove these sentence from of SECTION ONE, GENERAL RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS, (I):

Any Special Needs rider in a certified therapeutic riding program can ride in any division appropriate to their skill level. They will be placed separately from the rest of the class. An exhibitor may ride in only one age-restricted division at a time, except where otherwise specified. The age division is not specific to riding discipline

Motion is to add as a new paragraph at the end of SECTION ONE, GENERAL RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS (I):

In line with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), MWHA will make accommodations for equestrians with ADA disabilities. Exhibitors will have the option of riding in the class most suitable to their skill set, regardless of their age. Individual will show, and be judged, concurrently, in their selected class(es), but placed separately. Also, they may in ride in their appropriate age division, with allotments of physical or other accommodation as need, with that group.