# **TRAIL HORSE**

# WESTERN and ENGLISH IN-HAND TRAIL



Prepared By the

Education/Evaluation Commission and Judges & Stewards Commissioner 10805 E. Bethany Drive Aurora, Colorado 80014 (303) 696-4539

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The class conduct and scoring system procedures stated herein shall be used in adjudication of all Trail classes *(English, Western, and In-Hand Trail)* in the Arabian division. Competition Management shall provide scribe(s) at judge(s) request.

A trail horse is one that can maneuver through a course of obstacles with physical skill, expression and a good mental attitude. It should travel through and between obstacles with an inquisitive desire to go forward without compromising its calm, relaxed attitude and way of going. It should approach each obstacle squarely with authority and correct form, with its own style, yet maintaining its willingness to be dictated to completely by the rider/handler with no apparent resistance.

Maximum credit should be given to the trail horse that negotiates its way through an entire course efficiently, in a timely manner, without excessive hesitation, with curiosity, expression, smoothness and style; in a manner that raises the degree of difficulty without sacrificing carefulness, control, and/ or attitude. Ultimately, the trail horse is skillful, eye appealing, confident, and leaves one with the impression of being sure, safe and a pleasure to ride over a course of obstacles.

#### English Trail – An Overview and Comparison.

First of all English trail is not defined as any particular style of riding other than that of English equipment. This should allow for horses showing in Hunter, Show Hack, Dressage or Saddle type to be considered equal. While Hunter is the post predominate form seen in the show ring today, credit should not be awarded solely based on the style of riding.

An English Trail horse should not look like a Western horse in English attire. The horses should be suitable for the seat presented. A Hunter presentation should give the impression of a horse capable of negotiating a Bridle Path Hack course or to be taken on a fox hunt. The more Saddle type or Dressage type should give the impression of a horse that may have been ridden by Royalty on an outing through a park or field. Displaying grace and confidence when approaching an obstacle, but not necessarily changing its frame dramatically.

A willing and soft way of going with no resistance and a horse that is dictated to completely is desirable in an English Trail horse. Horses should be presented with light contact and not "absent of contact" at any time during a course. Extreme or dramatic drape should be penalized.

Note: An example of extreme drape that may not be appropriate for the English Trail horse is at the walk. While the "look and expression" at the bridge or other walk over obstacles is desirable, an English trail horse should not be asked to overly drop it head and neck when already being ridden in a forward seat position. This distracts from the suitability factor of a true English trail horse and is awkward from a balance stand point.

Course design is a big factor in distinguishing an English Trail Class from a Western Trail class. Not only should the distances for the canter vs. the lope and the trot vs. the jog be greater to account for a greater length of stride, but also the distances between obstacles and the "tightness" in which components of an obstacle are set. A course should benefit the good moving, free flowing, and athletic English Trail horse. Course designers should be encouraged to use various distances to allow the "true" English horses rise to the top on a course. A good English trail horse should be able to lengthen and shorten (extend and collect) its stride at any time and do so while maintaining a smooth and even cadence in each gait.

Although either is acceptable, it is deemed more desirable for a rider to post the trot in between obstacles and while performing an obstacle at the trot, unless it is a "tighter" set obstacle requiring quicker turning and maneuverability. The sitting trot if used should still resemble a collected trot and not a jog, with greater suspension and impulsion.

## TRAIL HORSE

#### TRAIL HORSE/IN-HAND - General

1. Trail classes may be offered for Western or English, but the two styles are not to be combined into one class at any time as there are distinct differences. *(Exception: In-Hand Trail may combine the Western and English style competitors)*.

2. A trail horse is one that can maneuver through a course of obstacles with physical skill, expression and a good mental attitude. It should travel through and between obstacles with an inquisitive desire to go forward without compromising its calm, relaxed attitude and way of going. It should approach each obstacle squarely with authority and correct form, with its own style, yet maintaining its willingness to be dictated to completely by the rider/handler with no apparent resistance. Maximum credit should be given to the trail horse that negotiates its way through an entire course efficiently, in a timely manner, without excessive hesitation, with curiosity, expression, smoothness and style; in a manner that raises the degree of difficulty without sacrificing carefulness, control, and/ or attitude. Ultimately, the trail horse is skillful, eye appealing, confident, and leaves one with the impression of being sure, safe and a pleasure to ride over a course of obstacles.

3. All entered exhibitors will be allowed to walk and inspect the course with the judge and with the course designer, if present, prior to the start of the class. In amateur and junior exhibitor classes, exhibitors may be accompanied by their trainer.

4. No time outs will be allowed.

5. The order of go to be drawn. See AR204.

6. There is no rail work. The course must be designed to require each horse to show all three (3) gaits (walk, jog/trot at least thirty (30) feet, lope/canter right and left lead) somewhere between and/or over obstacles as part of its work, and quality of movement and cadence should be considered as part of the obstacle score. Unnecessary delays while approaching or negotiating an obstacle shall be penalized.

7. If at any time the trail obstacle is found to be unsafe, it must be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted. No horse shall be asked to repeat the course, except in the case of a tie.

8. The course must be posted at least twelve (12) hours before the scheduled starting time for the class. Exception: one (1) hour at AHA One Day Shows and twenty-four (24) hours at National Championship Shows.

9. There shall be a minimum of six (6) obstacles and a maximum of ten (10) obstacles on any course. (Exception: National Championship classes have no maximum number of obstacles).

10. The judge may alter the course prior to the course walk. BOD 1/17/15 Effective 12/1/15.

## TRAIL COURSE DESIGNERS

1. It is recommended that a Course Designer be contracted for all competitions and his/her name appears in the prize list. It is recommended that the Course Designer be present and available to the trail arena at all times during the trail classes.

2. It is required that a Course Designer, separate from one of the judges, be contracted at every Regional and National Championship Competition and his/her name appears in the

prize list. At Regional and National Competitions, the Course Designer must be present and available to the trail arena at all times during the trail classes.

3. The Course Designer may judge (except at AHA Regional or AHA National Championship competitions) or be an official.

4. Neither the Course Designer nor a member of his/her family may be a trainer, coach, exhibitor or rider in classes which he/she designs.

5. The Course Designer must supply the judges and office with copies of the trail courses each day, to comply with course posting requirements.

6. The Course Designer must be a USEF/EC Senior Member in good standing.

## TRAIL OBSTACLE MANDATORY DIMENSIONS

All elevated poles must be in a *pole holder e.g. trail blocks, trail risers, standard jump cups or similar type supports.* The judge has the right to alter the course.

1. WALK-OVERS

a. Single Poles: Maximum height 16". In-Hand: Maximum height 12"

b. Multiples: Maximum height 10". In-Hand: Maximum height 8"

c. Minimum width between poles 20" to 24" or multiples thereof, between poles is generally considered good spacing for walkovers, depending upon difficulty desired. No rolling poles.

2. LOPE OVERS WESTERN (*not allowed In-Hand*) For lope overs, a distance of 6'-6'6" is preferred.

3. CANTER OVERS ENGLISH (*not allowed In-Hand*) Canter overs: 6'6" to 8' apart- **7'6**" is preferable for most English horses.

#### 4. JUMPS

- a. Mounted: Maximum height 24"
- b. Amateur and Junior to ride classes jumps, mounted, may not exceed 18")
- c. Lead Over: Maximum height 12"
- d. Minimum width between standards of a jump: 4 feet
- e. Combinations: 12 feet for a one stride; 6 feet for a no stride
- f. Box Jumps and L Jumps: Poles must be at least 12 feet long.

#### 5. CAVALETTI/JOG OVERS WESTERN

a. Jog overs: 3 feet to 3'6" apart or multiples thereof (space is measured between poles)

b. Lope overs: 6 to 7 feet apart or multiples thereof - 6 feet is preferable for most horses.

6. CAVALETTI/TROT OVERS ENGLISH Trot overs: 3'6" to 4' apart (space is measured between poles). 4 feet is preferred for most English horses.

## 7. CAVALETTI/TROT/JOG OVERS IN-HAND

## a. Single or Multiples: In-Hand Maximum height 6"

8. BACK THROUGHS

a. On ground: 28" between Min.

b. Elevated: 30" between Min.

c. Barrels: 32" between Min.

9. SIDE PASSES

a. Single pole: Up to 24" high. In-Hand Trail up to 6"

b. Slots: Never closer than 24" wide (space is measured between poles).

10. SERPENTINES (jog arounds)

a. Pylons 6 feet apart (base to base) minimum. Guardrails, if used, should be 3 feet to either side of the pylons.

b. Pylons 3 feet apart (base to base) minimum. Guardrails, if used, should be 6 to 8 feet to either side of the pylons.

c. If tall standards are used, dimensions can be looser.

11. GATE Approximately 60" high with latch available at that height. (*Exception: In-Hand Trail gate must be operable by all handlers).* 

12. BRIDGE -Suggested (not mandatory) dimension

a. Bridges must be built of sturdy design non slip surface and a bridge should be approximately 3' wide and approximately 6' long. Any bridge deemed to be unsafe by the judge must be altered or removed.

b. minimum of 36" wide

c. minimum of 6' long

d. no higher than 12"

13. ANY OTHER MANEUVERS: Figure horse's wheelbase at five feet front hooves to back hooves.

14. UNACCEPTABLE OBSTACLES a. Live Animals b. Hides c. PVC poles d. Dismounting e. Rocking or moving bridges f. Water box with floating or moving parts g. Flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, etc. h. Logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll i. Tarps are prohibited to be used within an obstacle, defined as where the entry will be expected to walk, jog, lope or back. They can be used for decorative purposes but must be secured. j. Hay bales k. Rolling Poles

15. WALK/TROT-JOG OBSTACLES

Obstacles are to consist of no more than three non-elevated walk over poles and no more than three jog over poles, serpentine(s), *pass through an* open gate, straight back through and a bridge. Prohibited obstacles include water, tarps, drags, pick-up objects, ground tie and closed gates. *BOD 1/17/15 Effective 12/1/15.* 

#### TRAIL DEFINITIONS

<u>Knockdown</u> - When any component, element, or portion of an obstacle is displaced from its original position-by horse or rider/*handler*.

<u>Refusal</u>: 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:

a. Balking: (Any action that results in a horse blatantly and continuously refusing a rider's/*handler's* command).

b. Evading or running past an obstacle to be negotiated.

c. Each complete loss of the gate determined by the entry letting go of gate or dropping a rope gate.

d. Any blatant action by the horse that demonstrates an unwillingness to approach, negotiate and/or complete an obstacle.

At the judge's discretion or when a judge has deemed three (3) refusals have occurred at an obstacle the exhibitor will proceed to the next obstacle. (In multiple judging situations the call judge will determine when to instruct the exhibitor to proceed to the next obstacle).

Any time a judge instructs an exhibitor to proceed to the next obstacle, a five (5) point penalty will apply for being asked to move to another obstacle and as such is not in accordance with course direction. This penalty is in addition to the two (2) five (5) point penalties received for refusals or blatant disobedience for a total of three (3) five (5) point penalties.

#### Off Course:

a. Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.

b. Deliberately failing to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction.

c. Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence including skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge.

d. Not following the correct line of travel (i.e. the drawn pattern and/or Judge's instruction/direction).

e. Pulling gate when designated to push in course directions (or visa versa) or when using a rope gate, walking through gate when designated to back through (or visa versa).

f. Sidepassing the wrong end of a horse in slot.

g. Riding or leading outside designated boundary marker of the course.

#### WESTERN or ENGLISH TRAIL APPOINTMENTS

1. For rules regarding correct Western Trail appointments, refer to Western Pleasure - Appointments.

2. Horses entered in a Western Junior Horse Trail classes must be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore (See AR142)

3. A Trail Junior Horse that has been shown in a Western event in a bridle may compete in a Western Junior Horse Trail class wearing a hackamore (Western only) or snaffle (Western or English).

4. For rules regarding correct English Trail appointments refer to Park Horse, English Pleasure, Country English Pleasure, English Show Hack, Hunter Pleasure, or Working Hunter - Appointments.

5. Horses entered in English Junior Horse Trail classes must be shown in a snaffle bit as appropriate to style of attire. Hackamores are not permitted in English Trail.

Trail horses being shown in closed reins may be hobbled when instructed to ground

#### IN-HAND TRAIL APPOINTMENTS

1. In-Hand Tack

a. Suitable halter (Leather preferred) (with or without silver trim), leather lead (with or without a chain) to be used. If a chain is used with the lead it must not be run through the horse's mouth or over the horse's nose.

2. In-Hand Attire

- a. See AR242.4.
- b. No crop, whip, chaps, chinks or spurs allowed.

#### IN-HAND TRAIL – GENERAL

1. Judges should consider the overall appearance of the horse, conditioning, grooming, and the equipment in the overall score. Also to be considered is the correctness of the horse while being led. For safety reasons, those handlers continuously holding the chain on the lead, tightly coiling the lead shank around the hand, or dragging the lead shank must be penalized.

2. To include a walk and jog of suitable duration to determine the way of going. Management is encouraged to design courses that can be negotiated in ninety (90) seconds.

- 3. In-Hand course designers. See AR219.
- 4. In-Hand mandatory dimensions. See AR220.
- 5. In-Hand Trail definitions. See AR221.
- 6. In-Hand Trail Scoring General. See AR222.
- 7. In-Hand Trail Scoring Penalties. See AR223.
- 8. In-Hand Trail Scoring Procedures. See AR224.

#### SCORING PROCEDURES

1. The class conduct and scoring system procedures stated herein shall be used in adjudication of all Trail classes in the Arabian division. Competition Management shall provide scribe(s) at judge(s) request.

2. When a judge is adjudicating in a multiple judge system, the scores should be transferred to the ring steward or clerk in a manner that the other judges do not hear their score.

3. All individual judges of Trail classes are required to announce the score of each horse immediately following the horse's work and prior to the work of the subsequent horse. If a score is being held for review, this is announced instead of the score.

a. When one judge is used, their score will place the class.

b. When more than one judge is used, scores will be totaled to determine the placing of the class.

c. When five judges are used, one high and one low score will be eliminated and the remaining three scores will be totaled to determine the placing of the class.

4. The prescribed AHA score sheet must be used. Obstacle scores and any penalties will be totaled to arrive at a final score.

5. Score sheets must be posted.

6. For method of breaking ties in Trail classes see AR206. In the event of a further tie, refer to the order of the judges cards (i.e. #1, #2, #3).

7. Judge(s) may review official video (if available) on no score, zero, 10 point, or 5 point penalties only. Refer to AR204 (Video review is solely the judge(s) decision.)

## TRAIL SCORING - General

All horses enter the arena with a score of 70. With each obstacle, the judge will instruct a scribe to assign a score as well as any appropriate penalties if one or more occurs. At the end of the work, obstacle scores will be totaled. Any penalties will then be subtracted to arrive at a final score. All horses are judged from the time they enter the arena until the completion of the last obstacle.

Each obstacle will be scored as follows; half point increments can be used from +3 to -3:

+3 EXCELLENT: The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form with definite style. The horse performs in an efficient manner with curiosity and athleticism, while maintaining the qualities of an ideal trail horse. The horse's performance over the obstacle is VISUALLY IMPRESSIVE.

+2 VERY GOOD: The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form with noticeable style. This horse definitely displays many qualities of the ideal trail horse. The horse's performance over the obstacle is VISUALLY ATTRACTIVE.

+1 GOOD: The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form with some degree of style. This horse may display some qualities of the ideal trail horse, but lacks those qualities to the degree they are exhibited by the Very Good or Excellent performer. The horse's performance over the obstacle is VISUALLY PLEASING.

0 AVERAGE: For the most part, horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form. Minimal style is exhibited. If the horse's performance displays any qualities of the ideal trail horse they are negated by slight errors in form. The horse's performance over the obstacle leaves a visually NEUTRAL IMPRESSION. -1 POOR: The horse fails in some way to approach and/or negotiate obstacle in correct form. There is a noticeable void in some of the qualities of the ideal trail horse. Willingness to guide or control may have been compromised but not safety.

-2 VERY POOR: The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle, but noticeably fails to do so in correct form. There is a definite deficiency in the qualities of the ideal trail horse. Safety may have been compromised. The horse exhibits noticeable resistance.

-3 EXTREMELY POOR: The horse approaches and/or negotiates obstacle in unacceptable form, but avoids elimination. This horse's performance is probably reckless, careless, and/or dangerous. The horse exhibits significant resistance towards the rider's commands.

## SCORING PENALTIES

In addition to the obstacle score, each entry may incur penalties for the following infractions:

#### **NO SCORE**

a. Illegal equipment. This includes any attachment which alters the movement of or circulation to the tail.

b. Abuse to the animal inside or outside the competition arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred. This includes lameness and/or fresh blood in the mouth, chin, shoulder, barrel, flank or hip areas.

c. Disrespect or misconduct by exhibitor.

d. No whips allowed in In-Hand Trail.

# ZERO SCORE – check all of these – some wording and numbering differences – p 338

- a. Off course including:
  - 1. Pulling gate when designated to push in course directions (or vise versa) or when using a rope gate, walking through the gate when designated to back through (or vice versa)
  - 2. Sidepassing the wrong end of horse in slot
  - 3. Working obstacles out of sequence
  - 4. Deliberately failing to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction
  - 5. Riding/leading outside designated boundary marker of the course
- b. Fall of horse or rider
- c.. Equipment failure or loss of shoe that delays completion of course.
- d. Dropping a rein *or the lead* that contacts the ground while the horse is in motion.

e. Two hands on reins (Exception: Snaffles or Hackamore) or changing hands on reins; except for junior horses shown with hackamore or snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, except that it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle.

f. More than one finger between split reins. Exception: Does not apply for English Trail or In-Hand Trail.

g. Fingers between closed reins. Exception: Does not apply for English Trail or In-Hand Trail.

h. Failure to maintain 16 inches of rein between hands when using romal reins except to work an obstacle. Exception: Does not apply for English Trail *or In-Hand Trail.* 

#### *i.* Baiting is not allowed in In-Hand Trail.

**Note:** Neither a "no score" nor a "zero score" penalty may receive an award in that class. A "zero" score may advance in a multiple-go event.

#### **10 POINT PENALTIES**

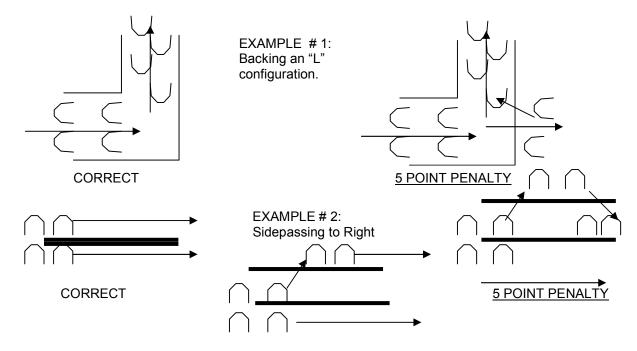
a. Temporary loss of control, stampeding, running through or jumping over entire obstacle when jump is not called for. This penalty can be awarded when an entry has completed an obstacle and has sufficiently destroyed the obstacle or where it is impossible to ascertain if the obstacle has been completed in any manner.

b. Blatant disobedience (kicking, bucking, rearing, biting, striking, horse leaving designated ground tie area).

#### **5 POINT PENALTIES**

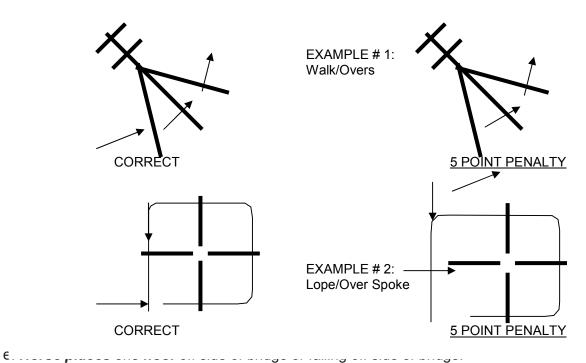
a. Each refusal. Refusals are cumulative. After three (3) refusals at a single obstacle or when deemed necessary by the judge, the judge will ask the contestant to proceed to the next obstacle for a total of 15 penalty points. When the refusal is the result of a complete loss of the gate the entry may retrieve the gate and continue. If they are unable to retrieve the gate and the judge asks them to move on they will have been deemed to have earned three refusals for a total of three (3) five (5) point penalties.

b. Horse places two or more hooves outside of a confining element.



c. Horse misses/evades an element/component of an obstacle that is part of a series.

d. Rider/handler loses drag or object being carried.



f. Horse performs obstacle at the wrong gait or lead.

g. Rider spurring or obvious cueing or touching of horse in front of forward cinch including, but not limited to use of free hand to instill fear or praise

h. Handler touching the horse with either hand in In-hand unless instructed by the judge, course designer or performing a side pass.

## **2 POINT PENALTIES**

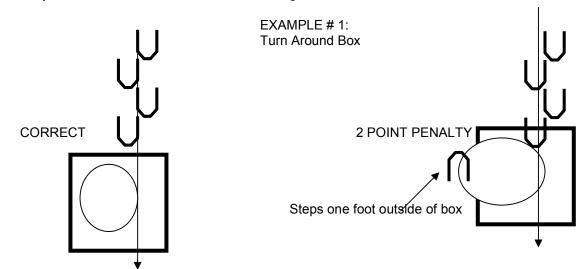
a. Horse/handler knockdowns or obviously displacing the original configuration of an obstacle.

Horse A completes obstacle with no more than Light ticks. NO PENALTY

EXAMPLE: Lope/Overs Horse B noticeably displaces original

configuration of poles. 2 POINT PENALTY

b. Horse places one hoof outside of a confining element.



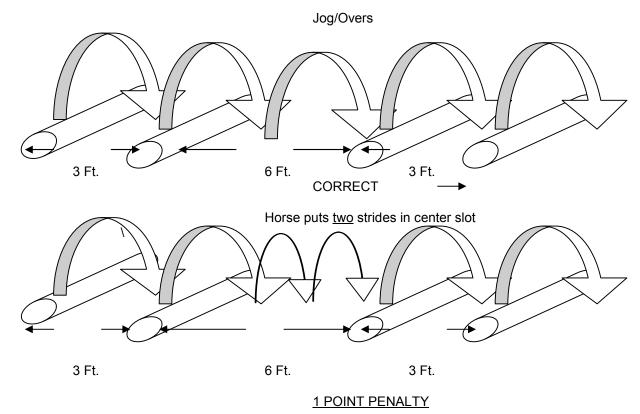
c. *Horse* breaks gait for more than two strides. When an entry is transitioning down from a lope to a walk, a couple of steps of jog is acceptable and will not result in a penalty however the judge may take that transition into consideration in the maneuver score. The same would be for when a horse momentarily hesitates before undertaking a series of walkovers, working the bridge, or any other maneuver from the walk. A momentary halt is not considered a break of gait, and in fact is desired. If the entry takes two or more steps back it would be considered a refusal and be subject to a five (5) point penalty.

d. *Rider holds* saddle with free hand. (Exception: over a jump, elevated jog over(s) or elevated lope over(s).

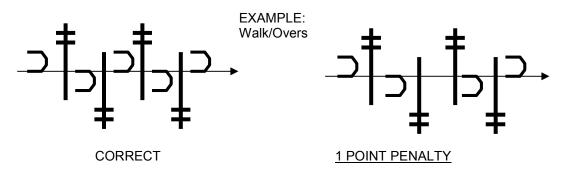
e. *Horse approaches* obstacle at wrong gait or lead. During transition areas between obstacles, if horse is, for instance, loping where a jog is called for, or jogging where a walk is called for, a two point penalty has occurred.

## **1 POINT PENALTIES**

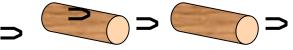
a. *Horse double strides or adds strides or adds steps.* (Walk overs, jog overs, lope overs, tires).



b. *Horse* skips slot (walk overs, jog overs, lope overs, or tires)



c. Major hit or stepping on an element of an obstacle, log, pole, cone or obstacle *by horse/handler.* 



d. Each time *horse switches* leads where not called for, picking up wrong leads, or cross leading. NOTE: If a horse switches leads and must be broken down to correct the lead, then two penalties have been incurred (The first for switching leads (1 point) and the second for breaking of gait (1 or a two point penalty depending on the number of strides) e. *Horse breaks* gait for two strides or less. When an entry is transitioning down from a lope to a walk, a couple of steps of jog is acceptable and will not result in a penalty however the judge may take that transition into consideration in the maneuver score. The same would be for when a horse momentarily hesitates before undertaking a series of walkovers, working the bridge, or any other maneuver from the walk. A momentary halt is not considered a break of gait, and in fact is desired. If the entry takes two or more steps back it would be considered a refusal and be subject to a five (5) point penalty.

#### WESTERN OR ENGLISH TRAIL HORSE CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

- 1. OPEN, AMATEUR, LADIES, GENTLEMEN
- 2. JUNIOR HORSE (See AR134.1.a, AR138.1.a, AR142.2.b and DR121)

3. GREEN: A Green Trail Horse is a horse of any age in its first or second competition year and showing in any trail class at AHA/USEF/EC competition.

## WESTERN OR ENGLISH IN-HAND TRAIL HORSE CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

1. OPEN, AMATEUR, JUNIOR EXHIBITOR

2. Weanlings, Yearlings, 2 Year olds, 2 & Under, 3 & Over

3. Colts, Stallions, Fillies, Mares, Geldings

**WALK-JOG TRAIL CLASS REQUIREMENTS** - Riders may not be more than ten years of age as of December 1 of the current competition year. Horse and rider must follow the appointments as set forth in the Arabian Western Pleasure Sub-Chapter. The rider must never have been judged in a class at a Licensed Competition that required a canter or lope. Exception: Short Stirrup Reining Riders. Obstacles are to consist of no more than three nonelevated poles and no more than three jog over poles, serpentine(s), open gates, straight back through. Prohibited obstacles include water, tarps, drags, pick-up objects and closed gates.

#### **QUALITIES OF AN IDEAL TRAIL HORSE**

#### 1. Form and Style

Form is performing an obstacle in the correct standard method appropriate for that obstacle. Style is the unique manner in which a horse demonstrates its ability to perform a course.

#### 2. Attention and Alertness

Attention is willingly approaching an obstacle without disinterest or indifference. Alertness is the exhibition of being bright and inquisitive up to and through the obstacles.

#### 3. Smoothness

Smoothness is traversing between and through obstacles on a trail course in an even, uninterrupted movement and/or flow.

#### 4. Good Attitude/Disposition

A good attitude/disposition is the expressing a desire by the horse to negotiate obstacles and respond to the rider. Furthermore, it is the manner in which the horse demonstrates its good manners and temperament.

## 5. Authority and Courage

Authority and courage is expressed by approaching a formidable obstacle without hesitation and negotiating said obstacle without incident or reversal of good attitude.

#### 6. Willingness and Control

Absolute willingness is being dictated to completely by the rider without any signs of resistance. The horse must exhibit a high degree of obedience to the rider's cues and/or commands.

#### 7. Clean

The horse/rider is said to be 'clean' by negotiating an obstacle without coming in contact with any part of portion of said obstacle.

#### 8. Degree of Difficulty

The amount of skill necessary to negotiate an obstacle, whether it is in the components of the obstacle or in the selection of approaches and/or angles in which an obstacle is taken.

#### 9. Athleticism

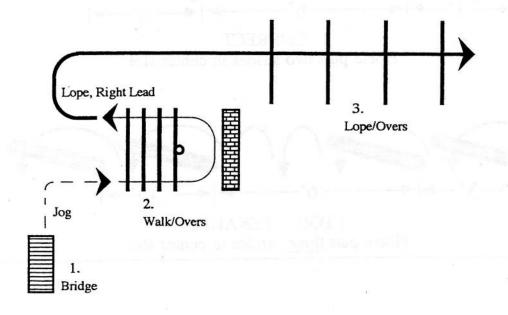
The ability to negotiate an obstacle, or series of obstacles in a fashion that raises the degree of difficulty without compromising style/form, smoothness, attitude/disposition, authority/ courage, willingness/control, or cleanness.

## THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE THE CLASS STARTS

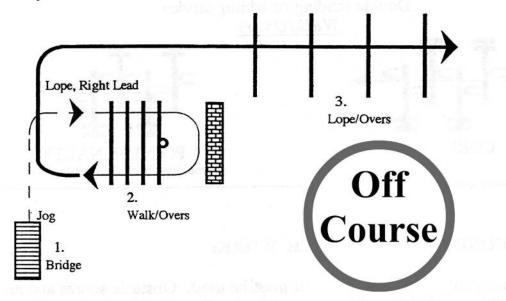
- 1. Obtain a copy of the course(s). The Course Designer must supply the judges and office with copies of the trail courses each day, to comply with course posting requirements.
- 2. Request a scribe well in advance of classes and set up a score sheet.
- 3. Walk the course and make sure you know it and that you will be able to answer any questions from exhibitors when they walk it.
- 4. When you walk the course, inspect the course. Although the judge may or may not be the course designer he/she is ultimately responsible for the course.
- 5. Make sure someone is available to reset obstacles after each work and that they have a copy of the course with dimensions.
- 6. Inform gate person and exhibitors where you expect each entry to be in the arena when it is that entry's turn in the work order.
- 7. Course and work order must be posted one hour prior to class. The Call Judge shall prepare in writing and have a pattern posted at least 24 hours prior to the first section of the Eliminations. Subsequent patterns are to be available immediately following the last working section of each phase.



# EXAMPLE #1: Taking An Obstacle From The Wrong Direction.

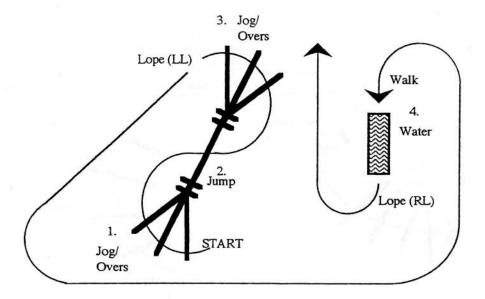


Instead, you did this:

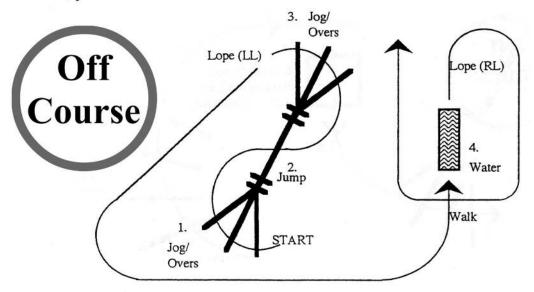




## EXAMPLE #2: Negotiating An Obstacle From The Wrong Side.

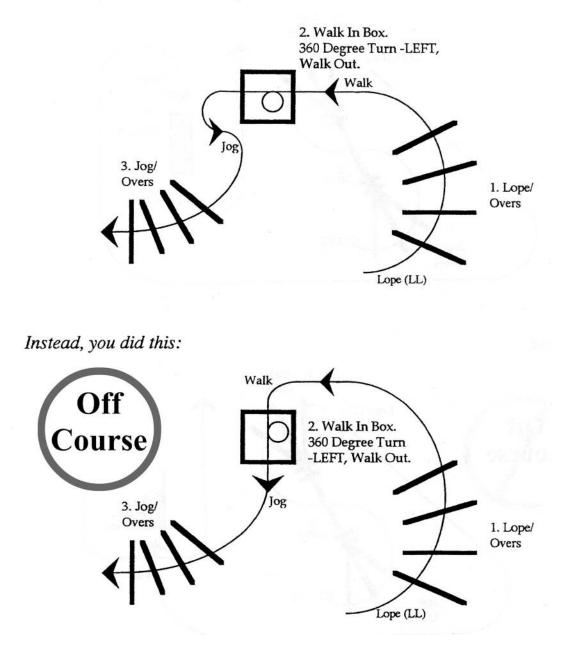


Instead, you did this:



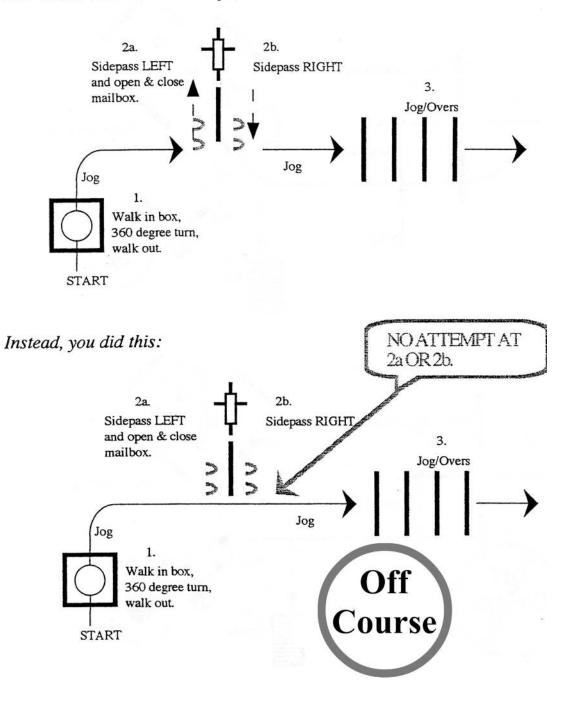


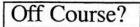
# EXAMPLE #2a: Negotiating An Obstacle From The Wrong Side.



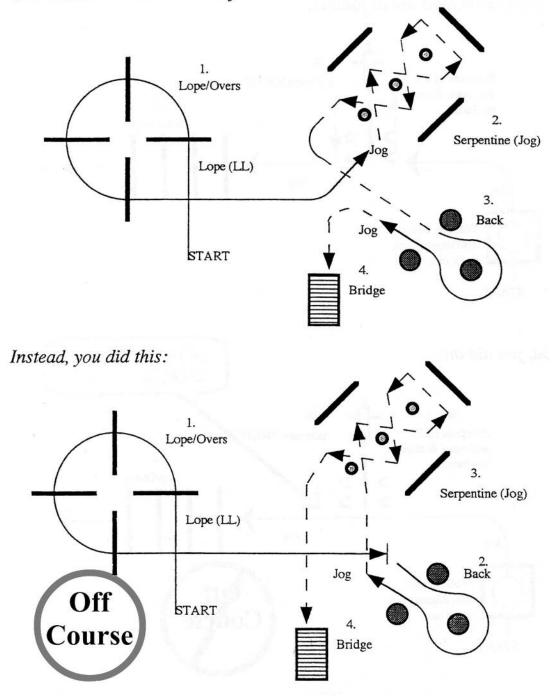


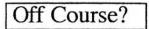
## EXAMPLE #3: Skipping An Obstacle, Unless Directed By Judge.



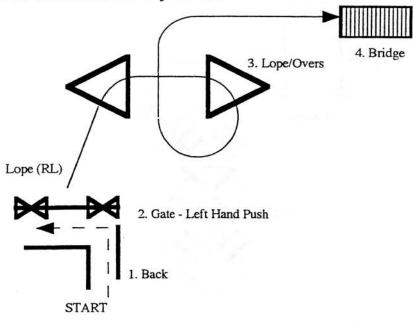


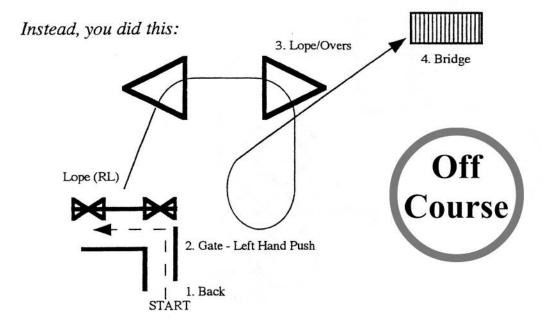
# EXAMPLE #4: Negotiating Obstacles In The Wrong Sequence.





## EXAMPLE #5: Not Following The Correct Line Of Travel.

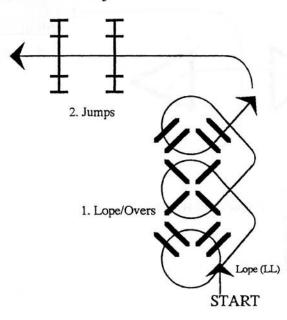




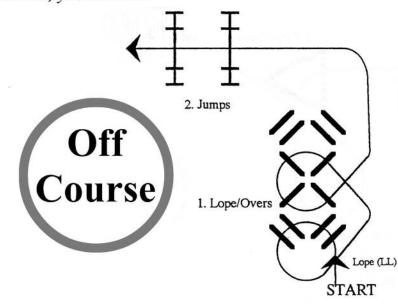


# EXAMPLE #5a: NotFollowing The Correct Line Of Travel.

The course directions are as follows:

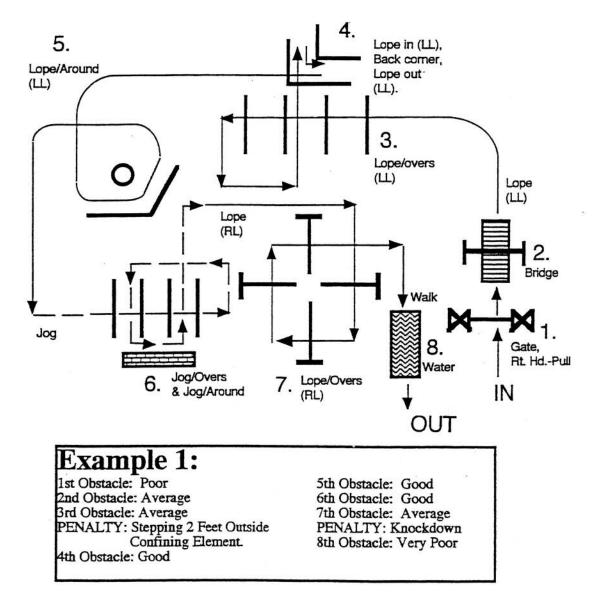


Instead, you did this:



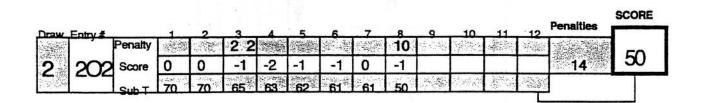
# **SCORING EXAMPLES:**

# COURSE:



Draw	Fotov #		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	q	10	11	12	Penalties	SCORE
i. est		Penalty	1943	id a b	5.4	1.1	- 25	1.19.43	2	1914	<1 Cox	1917 de 1	1. 1995	rode.	1. And the	
1	101	Score	-1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	0	-2					7	63
		Sub T	69	69	64 -	65	66	67	65	63	$\Delta_{\rm SL} = \Delta_{\rm SL}$		63 (P)	a (6).		

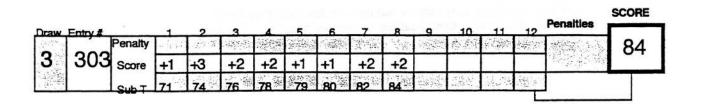
#### Example 2: 1st Obstacle: Average 2nd Obstacle: Average 3rd Obstacle: Poor PENALTY: Picked up wrong lead PENALTY: Broke down to trot to correct lead. (Break of gait) 4th Obstacle: Very Poor



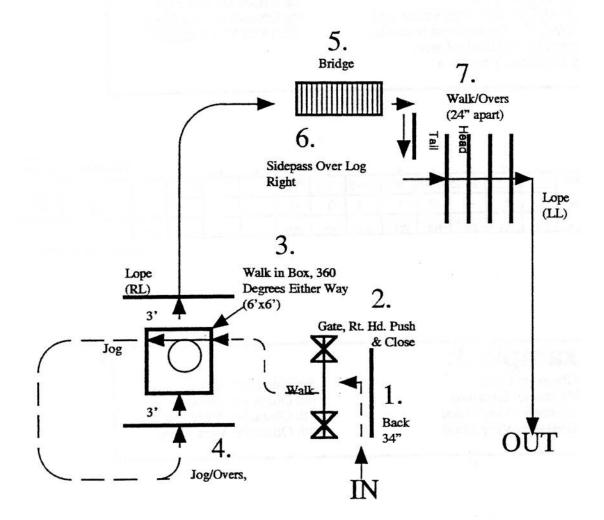
## Example 3: 1st Obstacle: Good 2nd Obstacle: Excellent 3rd Obstacle: Very Good

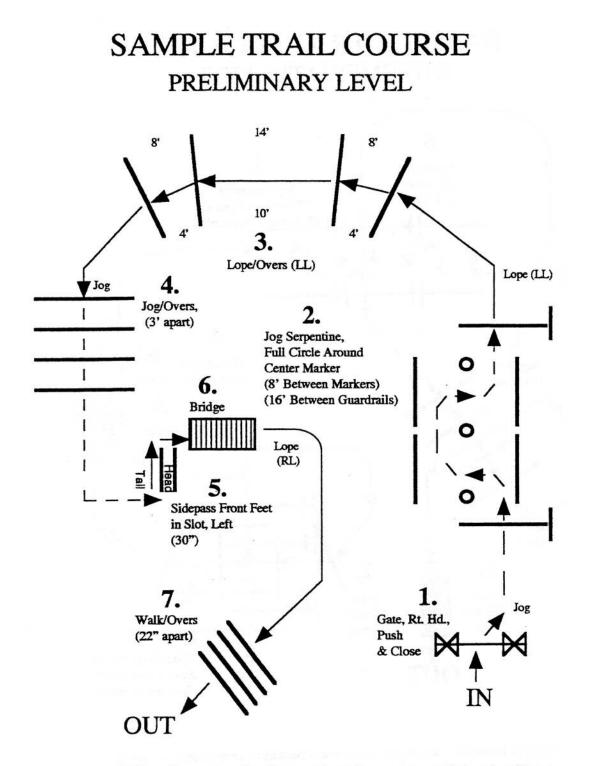
4th Obstacle: Very Good

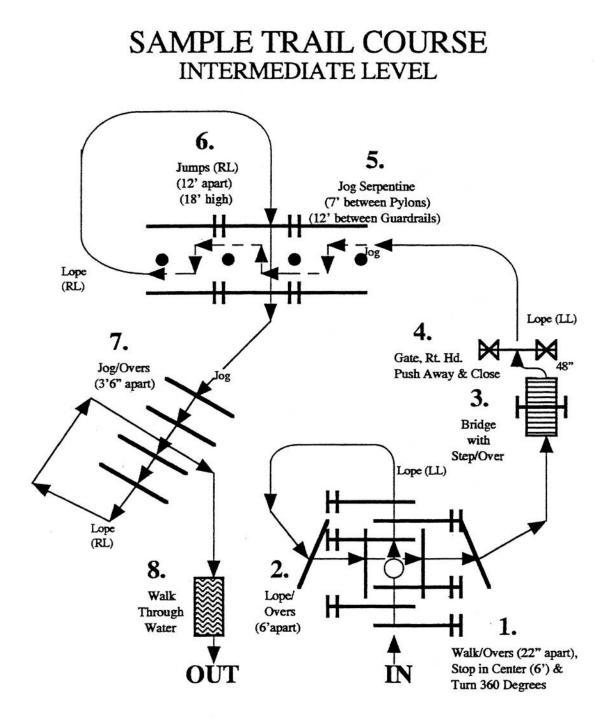
5th Obstacle: Good 6th Obstacle: Good 7th Obstacle: Very Good 8th Obstacle: Very Good



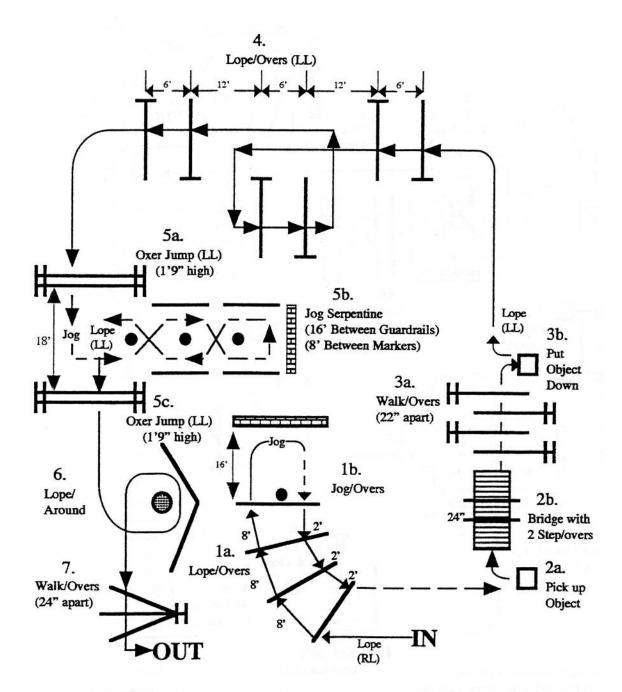
# SAMPLE TRAIL COURSE BASIC LEVEL

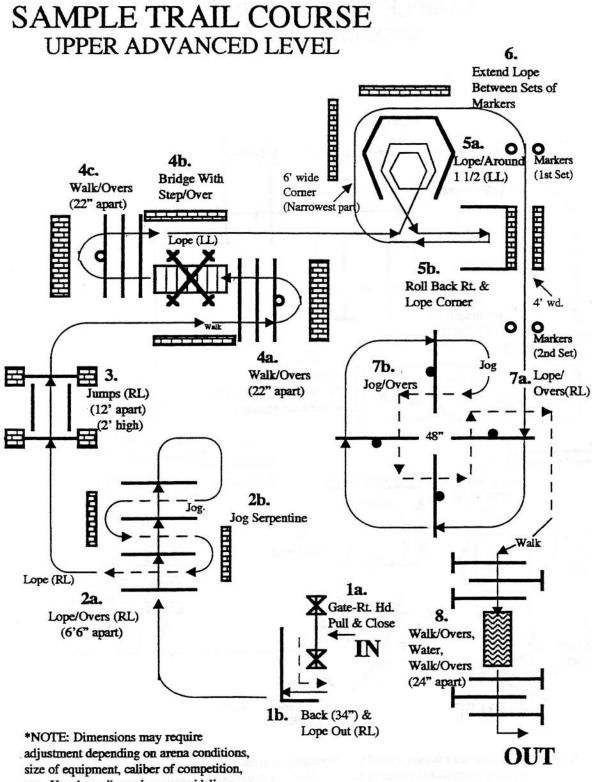






# SAMPLE TRAIL COURSE ADVANCED LEVEL

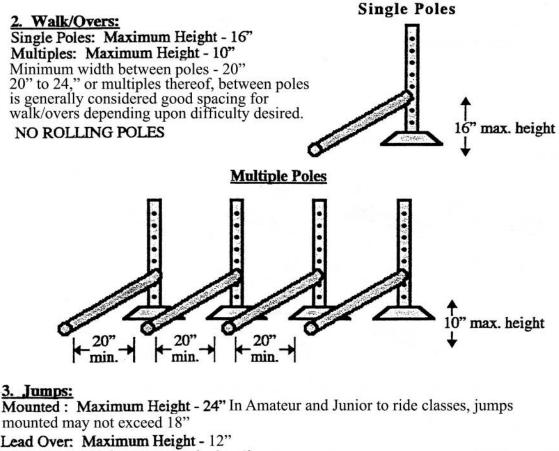


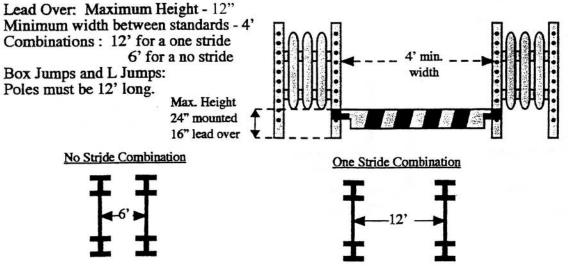


etc. Use these dimensions as guidelines.

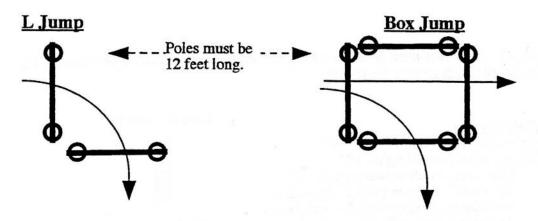
## **USEF MANDATORY TRAIL OBSTACLE DIMENSIONS**

1. All elevated poles must be set in a standard jump cup or similar type bracket. The judge has the right to alter the course.

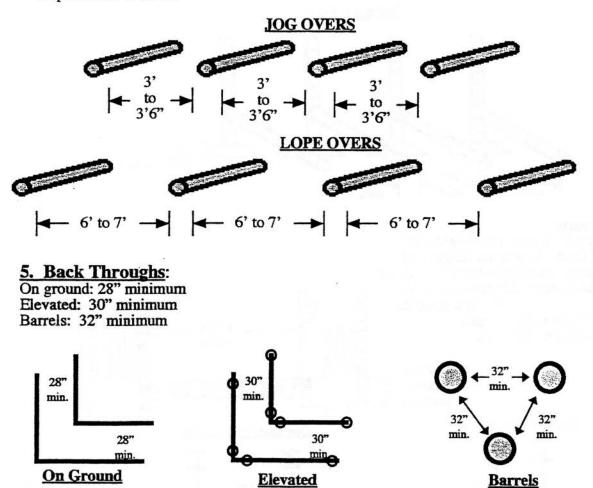




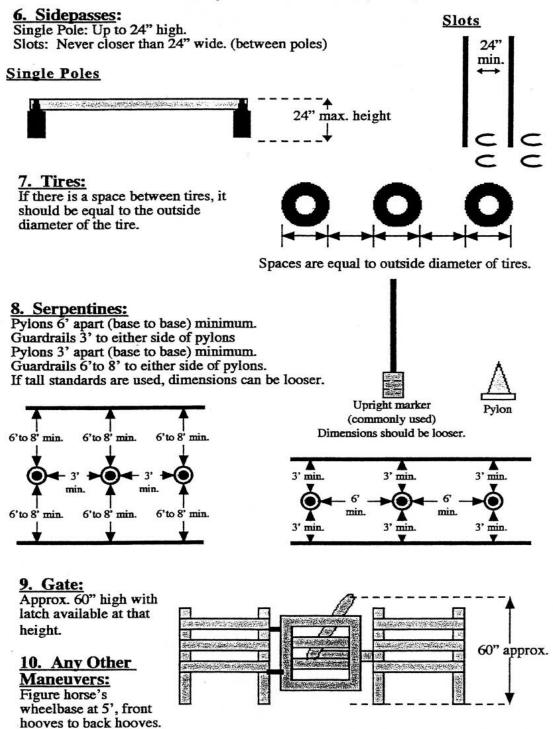
# Mandatory Trail Dimensions (Con't)



**<u>4. Cavaletti:</u>** Jog/overs: 3' to 3'6" apart (between poles) or multiples thereof Lope/overs: 6' to 6'6"



#### **Mandatory Trail Dimensions (Con't)**



Bridges must be built of sturdy design with non-slip surface and a bridge should be approximately 3' wide and approximately 6' long. Any bridge deemed to be unsafe by the judge must be altered or removed.

Tarps are prohibited to be used within an obstacle defined as where the entry will be expected to walk, jog, lope or back. They can be used for decorative purposes but must be secured.

#### **SCORING PROCEDURES (AR226)**

1. The prescribed <u>AHA Score Sheet must be used</u>. Obstacle scores will be totaled and any penalties subtracted to arrive at a final score.

2. Scores to be announced following the conclusion of each work and before the next horse begins the course. If a score is being held for review, this is announced instead of the score.

- 3. Score Sheets must be posted.
- 4. For method of breaking ties see AR206.

5. Scored from + 3 to - 3 on each obstacle. Half point increments can be used from +3 to -3.

- + 3 = Excellent Visually Impressive
- + 2 = Very Good Visually Attractive
- + 1 = Good Visually Pleasing
- 0 = Average Neutral Impression
- 1 = Poor
- 2 = Very Poor
- 3 = Extremely Poor

Half-point increments can be used from +3 to -3

#### CONDUCT

1. All entered exhibitors will be allowed to walk and inspect the course with the judge & course designer, if present, prior to the start of the class. In amateur and junior exhibitor classes, exhibitors may be accompanied by their trainer.

a. No Time Outs will be allowed.

b. All horses enter the arena with a score of 70. With each obstacle, the judge will instruct a scribe to assign a score as. All horses are judged from the time they enter the arena until the completion of the last obstacle.

c. Judge(s) may review official video on No Score, Zero, 10 or 5 point penalties only. Refer to **AR226**.

d. Refer to **AR219** for General Rules and **AR221** for mandatory obstacle dimensions. Refer to **AR221.15** for Walk-Jog Trail obstacles. The judge may alter the course prior to the course walk. (Exception: If at any time the trail obstacle is found to be unsafe, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted. No horse shall be asked to repeat the course, except in the case of a tie.)

#### DEFINITIONS (AR222)

1. **KNOCKDOWN:** When any component, element, or portion of an obstacle is displaced from its original position by horse or rider/*handler*.

2. **REFUSAL:** 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:

a. **Balking**: Any action that results in a horse blatantly and continuously refusing a rider's/*handler's* command

b. **Evading** or **running past** an obstacle to be negotiated. c. Each complete loss of the gate determined by the entry letting go of gate or dropping a rope gate.

d. Any blatant action by the horse that demonstrates an unwillingness to approach, negotiate and/or complete an obstacle.

3. When a judge deems three (3) refusals have occurred at an obstacle, the exhibitor will be instructed to proceed to the next obstacle. (In multiple judge situations the call judge will determine when to instruct the exhibitor to proceed to the next obstacle).

**NOTE**: Any time a judge instructs an exhibitor to proceed to the next obstacle, a five (5) point penalty will apply for being asked to move to another obstacle and as such is not in accordance with course direction. This penalty is in addition to the two (2) five (5) point penalties received for

refusals or blatant disobedience for a total of three (3) five (5) point penalties.

#### 4.OFF COURSE:

a. Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.

b. Deliberately failing to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction.

c. Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence including skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge.

d. Not following the correct line of travel (i.e. the drawn pattern and/or Judge's instruction/discretion).

e. Pulling gate when designated to push in course directions (or vice versa) or when using a rope gate, walking through gate when designated to back through (or vice versa).

f. Sidepassing the wrong end of a horse in slot.

g. Riding or *leading* outside designated boundary marker of the course. SCORING PENALTIES

#### NO SCORE

a. Illegal equipment. This includes any attachment which alters the movement of or circulation to the tail. **Use of** whip in In-Hand Trail.

b. Abuse to the animal inside or outside the competition arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred. This includes lameness and/or fresh blood in the mouth, chin, shoulder, barrel, flank or hip areas.

c. Disrespect or misconduct by exhibitor.

#### ZERO SCORE

a. Off course including:

1. Pulling gate when designated to push in course directions (or vice versa) or when using a rope gate, walking through the gate when designated to back through (or vice versa)

- 2. Sidepassing the wrong end of horse in slot.
- 3. Working obstacles out of sequence

4. Deliberately failing to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction.

5. Riding/*leading horse* outside designated boundary marker of the course

b. Fall of horse or rider

c. Equipment failure or loss of shoe that delays completion of course

d. Dropping a rein *or the Lead* that contacts the ground while the horse is in motion

e. Two hands on reins (Exception: Snaffles or

Hackamore) or changing hands on reins; except for junior horses shown with hackamore or snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins. except that it is

permissible to change hands to work an obstacle. Does not apply for English Trail or In-Hand Trail

f. More than one finger between split reins. Does not apply for English Trail *or In-Hand Trail* 

g. Fingers between closed reins. Does not apply for English Trail or In-Hand Trail

h. Failure to maintain 16 inches of rein between hands when using romal reins except to work an obstacle. Does not apply for English Trail *or In-Hand Trail* 

*i.* Baiting is not allowed in In-Hand Trail

i. Bailing is not allowed in m-mand Trail

**NOTE:** Neither a "no score" nor a "zero score" penalty may receive an award in that class. A "zero" score may advance in a multiple-go event.

#### **10 POINT PENALTIES**

a. Temporary loss of control, stampeding, running through or jumping over entire obstacle when jump is not called for. This penalty can be awarded when an entry has completed an obstacle and has sufficiently destroyed the obstacle or where it is impossible to ascertain if the obstacle has been completed in any manner.

b. Blatant disobedience (kicking, bucking, rearing, biting, striking, horse leaving designated ground tie area).

#### **5 POINT PENALTIES**

a. Each refusal. Refusals are cumulative. After three (3) refusals at a single obstacle or when deemed necessary by the judge, the judge will ask the contestant to proceed to the next obstacle for a total of 15 penalty points. When the refusal is the result of a complete loss of the gate the entry may retrieve the gate and continue. If they are unable to retrieve the gate and the judge asks them to move on they will have been deemed to have earned three refusals for a total of three (3) five (5) point penalties.

b. *Horse places* two or more *hooves* outside of a confining element.

c. Horse misses/evades an element/component of an obstacle that is part of a series.

d. Rider/handler loses drag or object being carried.

e. *Horse places* one *hoof* off side of bridge or falling off side of bridge

f. Horse performs obstacle at the wrong gait or lead.

g. *Rider* spurring or obvious cueing or touching of horse in front of forward cinch including, but not limited to use of free hand to instill fear or praise

h. Handler touching the horse with either hand in In-Hand unless instructed by the judge, course designer or performing a side pass.

#### **2 POINT PENALTIES**

a. *Horse/handler* knockdowns or obviously displacing the original configuration of an obstacle.

b. *Horse places one hoof* outside of a confining element. c. *Horse* breaks of gait for <u>more than two strides</u>. When an entry is transitioning down from a lope to a walk, a couple of steps of jog is acceptable and will not result in a penalty however the judge may take that transition into consideration in the maneuver score. The same would be for when a horse momentarily hesitates before undertaking a series of walkovers, working the bridge, or any other maneuver from the walk. A momentary halt is not considered a break of gait, and in fact is desired. If the entry takes two or more steps back it would be considered a refusal and be subject to a five (5) point penalty.

d. *Rider holds* of saddle with free hand. (Exception: over a jump, elevated jog over(s) or elevated lope over(s).

e. *Horse approaches* obstacle at wrong gait or lead. During transition areas between obstacles, if horse is, for instance, loping where a jog is called for, or jogging where a walk is called for, a two point penalty has occurred.

#### **1 POINT PENALTIES**

a. *Horse double strides or adds strides or adds steps*. (Walkovers, jogovers, lopeovers, tires).

b. *Horse* skips slot (walkovers, jogovers, lopeovers, or tires)

c. Major hit or stepping on an element of an obstacle, log, pole, cone or obstacle **by horse/handler.** 

d. Each time *horse switches* leads where not called for, picking up wrong leads, or cross leading. **NOTE**: If a horse switches leads and must be broken down to correct the lead, then two penalties have been incurred (The first for switching leads (1 point) and the second for breaking of gait (1 or a 2 point penalty depending on the number of strides)

e. *Horse breaks* gait for <u>two strides or less</u>. When an entry is transitioning down from a lope to a walk, a couple of steps of jog is acceptable and will not result in a penalty however the judge may take that transition into consideration in the maneuver score. The same would be for when a horse momentarily hesitates before undertaking a series of walkovers, working the bridge, or any other maneuver from the walk. A momentary halt is not considered a break of gait, and in fact is desired. If the entry takes two or more steps back it would be considered a refusal and be subject to a five (5) point penalty.

#### WESTERN or ENGLISH APPOINTMENTS

1. For rules regarding correct Western Trail appointments, refer to Western Pleasure – Appointments.

2. Horses entered in a Western Junior Horse Trail classes must be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore (See AR142).

3. A Trail Junior Horse that has been shown in a Western event in a bridle may compete in a Western Junior Horse Trail class wearing a hackamore (Western only) or snaffle (Western or English).

4. For rules regarding correct English Trail appointments refer to Park Horse, English Pleasure, Country English Pleasure, English Show Hack, Hunter Pleasure, or Working Hunter – Appointments.

5. Horses entered in English Junior Horse Trail classes must be shown in a snaffle bit as appropriate to style of attire. Hackamores are not permitted in English Trail.

#### AR228 In-Hand Trail Appointments

#### 1. In-Hand Tack

a. Suitable halter (Leather preferred) (with or without silver trim), leather lead (with or without a chain) to be used. If a chain is used with the lead it must not be run through the horse's mouth or over the horse's nose.

2. In-Hand Attire

a. See AR227.

b. No crop, whip, chaps, chinks or spurs allowed. BOD 1/17/15 Effective 12/1/15.

# **Trail Self-Test Practice on Penalties**

~"

Off	course	
	ockdown or displace obstacle	
	uble striding or adding steps/strides	
	ading or skipping an obstacle	
	l off side of bridge	
	iberately failing to enter, exit, or work obs	lacie
	om correct side or direction	
	ak of gait for more than 2 strides	
	king/continuous refusal	
	o hands on reins or changing hands	
	hen using curb bit	
	use of animal	
	o or more feet outside of confining	
-	lement	
	tant action demonstrating unwillingness	
	o approach obstacle	
	sing drag or object carried	
	ling gate when told to push	
	gers between closed reins	
Ste	pping on an element	
Bla	tant disobedience	
Eva	ades or misses component of obst.	
Ski	pping slot	
	following correct line of travel	
	l of horse or rider	
	urring or obvious cueing or touching	
	front of cinch	
Per	forming obstacle at wrong gait/lead	
	proaching obst. at wrong gait/lead	
	nporary loss of control	
	king exhibitor to proceed without	
	ompleting the obstacle	
	mplete loss of the gate	
	e foot outside confining element	
	ding saddle with free hand except	
	ver a jump or elevated jog over	
	e foot off of side of bridge	
Siu	epass wrong end of horse lure to maintain 16" of rein between	
	ands when using romal reins	
	respect or misconduct by exhibitor	
	itching leads or wrong lead	
	tant action showing unwillingness	
	complete or negotiate obstacle.	
	oss leading at lope	
	gotiating obstacles out of sequence	
	upment failure/loss of shoe that delays	
	ompletion of course	
	ee refusals at one obstacle	
	gal equipment	
	re than one finger between	
	plit reins	
Sta	mpede or run through obstacle	
Ead	ch refusal	
Bre	ak of gait for 2 strides or less	
	ing outside designated boundary	
	narkers of course	
	opping rein that contacts ground while	
	orse in motion	
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AHA EEC - updated 12/26/12

01	
Off course	
Knockdown or displace obstacle	
Double striding or adding steps/strides	
Evading or skipping an obstacle Fall off side of bridge	
Deliberately failing to enter, exit, or work obs	
from correct side or direction	lacie
Break of gait for more than 2 strides	
Balking/continuous refusal	
Two hands on reins or changing hands	
when using curb bit	
Abuse of animal	
Two or more feet outside of confining	
element	
Blatant action demonstrating unwillingness	
to approach obstacle	
Losing drag or object carried	
Pulling gate when told to push	
Fingers between closed reins	
Stepping on an element	
Blatant disobedience	
Evades or misses component of obst.	
Skipping slot	
Not following correct line of travel	
Fall of horse or rider	
Spurring or obvious cueing or touching	
in front of cinch	
Performing obstacle at wrong gait/lead	
Approaching obst. at wrong gait/lead	
Temporary loss of control	
Asking exhibitor to proceed without completing the obstacle	
Complete loss of the gate	
One foot outside confining element	
Holding saddle with free hand except	
over a jump or elevated jog over	
One foot off of side of bridge	
Sidepass wrong end of horse	
Failure to maintain 16" of rein between	
hands when using romal reins	
Disrespect or misconduct by exhibitor	
Switching leads or wrong lead	
Blatant action showing unwillingness	
to complete or negotiate obstacle.	
Cross leading at lope	
Negotiating obstacles out of sequence	
Equipment failure/loss of shoe that delays	
completion of course	
Three refusals at one obstacle	
Illegal equipment	
More than one finger between	
split reins	
Stampede or run through obstacle	
Each refusal	
Break of gait for 2 strides or less	
Riding outside designated boundary markers of course	
Dropping rein that contacts ground while	
horse in motion	

#### TRAIL HORSE SCORE SHEET

			1	1	6	4	1	6	1	1	1	10	1	6	/
DRAW	ENTRY #	Penalties											1		Penalties
		Score Subtotal	3 0	2 22			30. 5.5	13				8	33		Score
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DRAW	ENTRY	1010-04-04-02	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Penalties
	#	Penalties													100100-000
		Score						Î.		1		1	1		Score
		Subtotal	2	2		2	10	Ř	1. A	1		8	R.	10 - C	96 96
	8 - B		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
DRAW	ENTRY #	Penalties	0	1				0				3			Penalties
		Score	<u> </u>	2	-	-	*	22	5 3	-	-	-	-	-	Score
		Subtotal	5	53		26	33. 	36	22 - 2	2	1	56	15	22	0
	1. D	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		12	
DRAW	ENTRY #	Penaltes			Ī				Ĩ		Ī		1	12	Penalties
		Score	ž.	÷.	-	Sec.	38	-		-	-	8	-	÷	Score
		Subtotal	5	-63		äk –	ð á	32	2 3	2	-	3	32	2	22
5	a - 1	() ()	135	2	2	85	*	235	<b>6</b> , 0	8		535	235	8	8
DRAW	ENTRY #	Penaltes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Penalties
			-	20		-		-		-	_		-	3	Score
		Score	-		-	-	-	22		-	-	-	-	- N	5 (STORE)
		California	505		392	100	5-00-0	242.55	1.00	144		2.000	19	1.048	
DRAW	ENTRY		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Penalties
	#	Penalties													
		Score	ĉ.	- 11 - I			-	3	2	-		500	8	17	Score
		Subtotal	-	-			-		0	-		1		2	-
	ESCORE	SHEET.doc	FEC	041504											