

COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDE RULES

(Effective 1/1/2019)

REGISTRATION:

1. Upon arrival at the horse camp on Friday, stop at the registration table. You will receive a time card with the time you arrived on it. **You have one hour to prepare your horse and to present it to the horsemanship and veterinary judges. Pulse must be lower than 48 bpm or must return for recheck at 10-minute intervals.**
2. At registration, you will draw a number to determine the order you leave camp on the morning of the ride. You will also be asked to present your Conditioning Record, covering at least a 30 day training period. *(You MUST use the conditioning record provided on the Competitive Trail webpage at horse.osu.edu).* **Your advisor and extension educator must sign off on the conditioning record in order to participate.** You will have 0-10 points subtracted from the Conditioning Record for the ride based on completeness and quality of your Conditioning Record.
3. At registration, you will also receive a copy of the Conditioning Scorecard. If you have any declarations that need to be made, you may do so at this time on the declarations portion of the scorecard. This scorecard will be taken to the veterinary check-in and will be kept by the veterinary judge. *(See project book, page 45, for help if you do not understand declarations).*
4. A short meeting will be held on Friday evening at 7:00 pm to review these rules and share any additional information to the riders.
5. Horses should be tied to trailers or picket lines where they will be inspected by the horsemanship judge during the Friday evening meeting. Horses should be tied with a **quick-release knot**. Please refer to the Trail Riding book (*page 188*) for guidelines on stabling area. **Failure to get to the ride Friday evening will result in a deduction of horsemanship points given for how well the horse is stabled on Friday evening.** Exceptions to this rule may be granted for academic reasons only if you have contacted the Extension Equine Specialist or Associate prior to Wednesday, September 4th by 12 noon. A limited number of exceptions to this rule may be granted due to academic commitments and the distance that some participants must travel.
6. On the morning of the ride, you may lunge your horse; however, you may not ride the horse until you have been told to mount as you prepare to leave camp. You and your horse are being judged by the horsemanship judge when you mount and begin the ride.
7. Wounds may have salves on them. NO leg wraps or protective leg wear is allowed. If the horse loses a shoe, they may continue as long as the animal is sound. NO liniments are allowed until after the last veterinary check has been performed.
8. See enclosed "Helpful Hints" for Horsemanship information sheet.

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THE RIDE:

1. The trail will be clearly marked with flags and tape.

First Loop –

JUNIOR & SENIOR RIDERS: must trot/easy gait or faster as you finish the loop and pass the designated marker.

Second Loop –

SENIOR RIDERS ONLY: At end of the ride (from 1 mile out), no stopping of forward progression. You must trot/easy gait or faster as you finish the loop and pass the designated marker.

***Seniors may be riding a different loop for the second half of the ride.**

2. You may not lead the horse forward on the trail. If you must get off and walk, you must go in a manner to not progress forward on the trail.
3. Water – there may be creeks, ponds or lakes along the trail. For your safety and the safety of your horse, please **do not** use ride in the water other than in designated crossing areas. There will be water available at each of the PR Stops for you to use to cool your horse.
4. Obstacles- only one horse/rider may attempt an obstacle at a time. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score. Riders are limited to a maximum of two (2) minutes to successfully navigate the obstacle. If rider fails to complete the obstacle in the time allowed, the obstacle judge will ask the horse/rider team to move on. Riders are encouraged to attempt an obstacle, as no attempt will equal zero (0) score. Riders have the option of not attempting an obstacle.

Each obstacle is judged on how the horse and rider work together as a team. The team should negotiate each obstacle with calmness and patience, moving safely through the obstacle. Horses should show awareness, be attentive and not spook, shy or spin. Horse should not stumble, tick or clip obstacle(s). Credit will be given to teams negotiating the obstacle with style and appropriate rate of progress, providing safety and correctness is not sacrificed.

5. Help – you may have help, but at PR stops you are on your own. If you need to use a rest room, you may have anyone available hold your horse. At the ½ way stop or finish, you may have someone hold your horse and to refill water buckets. They cannot advise you or help you care for your horse. **There should be NO TALKING between the handler and competitor.** Talking will result in penalties from the horsemanship judge. Place water in containers inside the designated area before you leave in the morning. **There should be no talking between shadow riders and competitors.**
6. PR Stops-

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SENIOR RIDE: There is one unannounced PR stop on each loop, one 30 minute stop at the halfway point and one final PR check (60 min) at base camp.

JUNIOR RIDE: There is one unannounced PR stop on the trail and a final PR check (60 min) at base camp.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR TIME, TO REPORT TO PR TEAMS WHEN NEEDED AND TO TURN IN THE TIME CARD TO THE TIME KEEPER WHEN YOU LEAVE.

Unannounced PR stop – pick up time card from the Time Keeper when you arrive. Go to an available PR team and have your horse's PR checked. Return to a PR team in 10 minute intervals until told to turn card in to the Time Keeper and leave. You can go to any available PR team; however, try not to go to one that has your parent or advisor on it if possible. You do not need to return to the same team for subsequent checks. If PR total is over 150, or if the horse is inverted you will be held for an additional 10 minute intervals until horse is ready to go on. Additional hold times come out of your ride time.

Halfway stop – pick up time card from the Time Keeper when you arrive. Go to an available PR team and have your horse's PR checked. Report at 10 minute intervals to PR teams for checks. At 30 minute check, be tacked up and ready to go. If the horse is okay, turn in time card and leave.

THE HORSE MUST STAY IN THE DESIGNATED AREA AT ALL TIMES DURING THE ½ WAY STOP.

Juniors – halfway will be your final. See #9 for additional information.

Final – Same as the halfway except after 20 minute check, you can take the horse back to your trailer until one hour after you finished the ride. At that time, you will present your horse to the veterinary and horsemanship judges for a final check.

7. Conditioning Penalties:

- Unannounced PR and Halfway stops:
 - Inversion at 10 min check = -30 points, hold for recheck
 - PR > 150 = -0 points, hold for recheck
 - Pulse > 60 BPM at 10 min = - ½ point for each BPM over 60, no hold for recheck
- Final stop:
 - Inversion at 10 min check = -30 points
 - Pulse > 60 at 10 min = - ½ point for each BPM over 60
 - Pulse > 48 at 20 min = - ½ point for each BPM over 48
 - Pulse > 48 at 60 min = - ½ point for each BPM over 48

8. Ride Time:

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****NOTE** RIDE TIMES AND TRAIL ROUTE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UP TO AND ON DAY OF COMPETITION****

A. **SENIORS** – You will leave in 2 minute intervals in numerical order.

Two 10 minute PR stops	approx. 20 minutes
Half-way point	approx. 30 minutes
Ride time	approx. 3 hours 15 minutes
TOTAL TIME	Approx. 4 hours and 5 minutes
Time grace period of TBD minutes	
EARLIEST TIME = approx 3:45	LATEST TIME = approx. 4:25
TIME PENALTY	1 POINT/MINUTE outside the grace time period

B. **JUNIORS** – You will leave at 2 minute intervals in numerical order after SR's.

One 10 minute PR stop	approx. 10 minutes
Ride time	approx. 1 hour and 30 minutes
TOTAL TIME	
Grace time and time penalty are the same as Seniors	
EARLIEST TIME = approx 1:20	LATEST TIME = approx. 2:00

BOTH SENIORS AND JUNIORS – EXCEEDING TOTAL TIME BY MORE THAN 59 MINUTES IS A DISQUALIFICATION

****NOTE** RIDE TIMES AND TRAIL ROUTE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UP TO AND ON DAY OF COMPETITION****

9. You are being watched at all times. Do not cut corners on the trail. All helpers on the ride are officials and can disqualify you if necessary.

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“Helpful Hints” for Competitive Trail Horsemanship

Grooming

- Good body condition
- Feet/shoeing: Feet should be clean and in good condition. Should be properly trimmed. Deductions for loose or missing shoes.
- Grooming: Horses must be clean! Should not have any sweat marks or stains. Mane and tail free of tangles. Muzzle/nostrils and ears should be clean. Special attention to poll, between jaw/under chin, throatlatch area, under mane/tail, girth area, between chest, behind elbows, along belly, udders/sheath, point of hocks and inside lower legs, etc. Horse should be free of any bot eggs.

Tack & Equipment

- Tack must be properly fitted.
- Must be in good repair/leather properly conditioned.
- Tack should be clean.

Stable Area

- Area should be clean and free of any manure.
- Horse should be properly tied...with a “quick release knot” (with the end pulled through so the horse cannot untie itself) and at or above the height of the withers. An additional neck rope is optional.
- Hay and fresh water (full bucket) available where the horse can easily reach it but not where the horse can get its legs tangled in it (not on the ground).
- Organized area with tack stored properly and grain in a secure area.
- Optional blanket for the horses comfort if the weather will be cool at night
- Free choice salt (salt block) where the horse can reach it.
- Optional portable “corral” instead of having the horse tied to the trailer; however, this method does NOT give the competitor any advantage over a competitor who correctly ties the horse to the trailer. There are NO “bonus points” for a “corral” enclosure!

In-Hand Presentation

- Horse should stand quietly and willingly accept examination during veterinarian checks, “PR” checks, during presentation to horsemanship judge, etc.
- Horse should work easily on a loose lead/rein.
- Handler should follow correct guidelines for safety while leading and handling horse.
- Handler may be asked questions regarding the information found in the Trail Riding book (Bulletin 188) and may also be required to perform simple “hands-on” activities (ex. demonstrate how to check the horse for dehydration or check a pulse, etc.).
- Handler should be courteous to all officials, volunteers and peers.

Ride Care

- May remove bridle and have the person holding the horse use a halter/lead rope.
- NO TALKING between the person holding the horse and the ride participant. Talking will result in deductions from the horsemanship judge!

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- It is okay to offer the horse sips of water and allow the horse to nibble a small amount of grass (if the bridle was removed or a grazing bit is in place).
- **There are 2 acceptable ways to “cool down” the horse: Loosen the girth and leave the saddle in place while the horse is walked (10 minutes for every 10 miles ridden)...OR...loosen the girth or remove the saddle and sponge on water and then almost immediately scrape off the now heated water with a sweat scraper. Special attention should be given to the inside of the legs, under the tail/between the buttocks, girth area, between the chest, udders/sheath, etc.**
- Equipment should be properly cared for and put in an area where the horse will not step on it.
- Walk the horse to help it cool down.
- Pick out the hooves to check for any rocks, loose or missing shoes, etc.
- Be sure to do “PR” checks on time.

Equitation & Safety

- Horses should stand quietly for mounting and not “step out” until asked to do so by the rider.
- Rider should check to make sure the girth is tight before mounting. The horsemanship judge will want to see that you have done this immediately before you mount.
- A “fresh” horse that is under complete control of the rider will receive little or no deductions but a horse that “circles” when the rider attempts to mount or displays any unsafe behavior (biting, bucking, kicking, rearing, etc.) or is out of control will receive substantial penalty points.
- Should loosen girth slightly at “PR” checks. Be sure to tighten and check the girth before remounting.
- Should pick out the hooves.
- Should offer the horse sips of water.
- Sponge the horse in the pond to help it cool down.
- Be sure to do “PR” checks on time.

Courtesy & Obstacles

- Riders should have good trail etiquette. Should have a safe distance between horses. There should be NO TALKING between riders except to let other riders know you are going to pass them, etc. Should lean forward off the horses back when going uphill and lean back when going downhill to make it easier for the horse. The “trail judge” will be watching all of the riders!
- Horses that kick should have a red ribbon tied in their tail to alert other riders.
- Riders will have 3 obstacles to negotiate. Rider has the option to bypass an obstacle but no points will be rewarded for that obstacle.