

Western Saddle Club Trail Challenge Rules

This series is run by volunteers and relies on participants and their friends and families to help create a successful event.

We appreciate your help.

1. **PAY IN CASH, PAY OUT IN CASH.**
2. **Pre-Entry is available online. Pre-Entry will be in the first draw/order of go. Sign up online and pay in cash at event.**
3. Helmets are encouraged but not required.
4. This is open to any discipline and breed(s) of horse.
5. Horse can enter a class only ONCE.
6. Riders must pay a non-refundable entry fee.
7. Points are based on horse/rider combination. See class rules to choose which class is best for you.
8. Equines must be serviceably sound and in good condition as determined by the judge.
9. It is expected that each horse shall always be treated humanely with kindness and respect.
10. The judge always has the option of disqualifying an exhibitor for safety reasons, disrespect or misconduct.
11. **Each course will contain seven (7) obstacles.**
12. **No horses are allowed on course prior to the start of the competition with the exception of youth which is allowed to practice on the course one hour prior to event start.**
13. **A walk-through of each class/course will be completed prior to the start of the event. All competitors have the option of walking the course with the judges and asking any questions at this time. (no equines allowed on the course during walk through)**
14. **It is the competitor's responsibility to fully understand the course and rules at the time of entry. Using the pattern during course is prohibited and will result in disqualification.**
15. The judge will ask the rider/handler to move on to next obstacle upon the third refusal or after sixty (60) seconds of not completing an obstacle. The rider **MUST** move to the next obstacle. Riders who do not move on will receive a zero (0) for that obstacle.
16. Obstacles are designed with safety in mind. However, if you feel an obstacle is beyond the abilities of you and/or your horse you may skip that obstacle. You will receive a zero (0) for that obstacle but will still receive a score for the course.
17. Failure to attempt an obstacle will result in a score of zero (0) for the obstacle. Riders/handlers will still receive a score for the course.
18. The course must be completed in the designated order. The course is numbered. If the rider completes the course out of order, the scores from the obstacles not in the correct order will be cut in half. Therefore, you will be given half the score that you receive on those obstacles.
19. If you choose to lead your horse through an obstacle you must remount before moving to the next obstacle.
20. If you happen to fall off your horse and you can regain control without assistance and remount you may do so. If your horse leaves the course your turn is over. You will still receive points for the obstacles completed.
21. **It is permissible to change rein hand to work with an obstacle. No points will be deducted for this.**
22. **Riders can use either one hand or two hands with a snaffle bit, shank bit or hackamore.**
23. No training devices permitted including martingales and tie downs.
24. Boots with a heel are mandatory. Dress should be appropriate for the weather and the event, neat and functional. Dress like you would dress practically for the trail and have fun. No shorts allowed.
25. Tack must be safe, humane and in good working condition. If trail committee determines an item to be unsafe or not humane the exhibitor has five (5) minutes to correct the problem and return to the course.
26. **NO coaching while rider is on the course except in the Youth class. Any coaching observed at an obstacle will result in a 0 for that obstacle for the rider on course.**
27. No spectators or trainers on the course during the competition with the exception of the youth class.
28. Score sheets will not be available to participants until all classes have been judged and winners announced.
29. The use of profanity or abusive language by any contestant will result in disqualification from that event and could result in disqualification from the entire series.
30. Any act of discourtesy or disobedience toward any Western Saddle Club Official/Board, Committee Member or staff, in and out of the arena, will result in disqualification for the duration of the event. It could also result in removal from all WSC events and activities for the remainder of the year.
31. All Western Saddle Club rules must be followed.
32. All dogs must be on a leash at all times.

33. The object is to have fun and improve your horsemanship. Suggestions are always welcome.
34. Please respect the facility and clean up after yourself.
35. Western Saddle Club Trail Challenge committee has the right to add additional rules if necessary. Rule additions will be posted at the registration table.

PAYOUTS, SERIES INFORMATION AND CLASS RULES

1. Payout

- a. 50% payout for all classes. The more riders in the class, the more places we pay out.
- b. Riders will forfeit any payouts not collected within thirty (30) days of the last competition in the series.

2. Series Information

- a. A one-time award fee of \$30 is required to be eligible for year-end awards. Points will not be tracked until fee is paid. Points are not retroactive and only count from the
- b. Awards fee is per horse/rider combination.

3. In-Hand

- a. Any horse may be shown in-hand.
- b. Any age exhibitor may show a horse in-hand.
- c. A horse can be un-tacked or tacked during the in-hand event.
- d. A horse is able to enter the in-hand course as well as a riding course without penalty.
- e. No whips, sticks or other training devices allowed.
- f. Horse must be shown in a halter (rope, nylon, leather, etc.) WITHOUT a chain.
- g. Placings are based per event and not overall for a series.

4. Youth (Riding)

- a. Youth riders age must be 14 years of age or younger as of January 1st of the competition year.
- b. Youth riders may not enter another riding class.
- c. Placings are based per event and not overall for a series.

5. Novice (Qualifications are AND/OR)

- a. Horses who have been under saddle less than two (2) years prior to the start of this series
- b. Horses who have not placed in the Top Three (3), three (3) times or more in a trail competition prior to the series.
- c. Placings are based per event and not overall for a series.

6. Open (Qualifications are AND/OR)

- a. Horses who have been under saddle two (2) or more years at the start of the series
- b. Horses who have placed Top Three (3) in NOVICE CLASSES, three (3) times or more in **ANY** trail competition prior to the series
- c. Horses who have won over \$200 in trail competitions in lifetime earnings.
- d. Placings are based per event and not overall for a series.