Mojave River Valley Horsemen's Association

MRVHA OBSTACLE CHALLENGE

RULES AND REGULATIONS

I. GENERAL RULES

1. Rule Enforcement

MRVHA Management is directly responsible for the evaluation and review of any alleged violation of these rules and regulations. MRVHA Management reserves the right to determine appropriate action for any violation.

2. Rider/Handler Responsibility

Riders and handlers are solely responsible for familiarizing themselves with all rules and regulations applicable to the event.

No refunds will be given for any disqualification.

3. Alcohol and Illegal Substances

Alcohol and illegal substances are not permitted at any time on the premises.

II. RIDERS & HANDLERS

1. Minors

A rider or handler under the age of 18 is considered a minor.

All minors must always wear a properly fitted and approved riding helmet while mounted.

2. Assumption of Risk and Liability Waiver

All riders, handlers, and the parents or legal guardians of minors acknowledge and assume the risks associated with horseback riding and/or working with equines while participating in this event.

All riders and handlers must sign a Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk at check-in acknowledging their assumption of risk before they may participate in the event.

3. Appropriate Attire

Participants must wear appropriate attire at all times. Shirts must provide adequate coverage and may not be overly revealing. Required attire includes a long-sleeve shirt or T-shirt that fully covers the shoulders, long pants or jeans (shorts are not permitted), and sturdy boots or closed-toe shoes. Attire must be suitable for the activity and provide adequate protection and coverage.

4. Course Practice

To ensure fairness to all participants, riders and handlers may not ride, practice on, or otherwise work through the course or any obstacles that have been set up for the event prior to the official start of the event.

5. Division Eligibility

A rider/handler may compete in one division only.

The division entered is determined by the horse-and-rider combination.

6. Interference

A rider or handler may not interfere with another rider or handler's performance at an obstacle.

Participants must allow other competitors sufficient space and opportunity to complete each obstacle without interference. Any intentional interference may result in disqualification.

III. EQUINES

1. Any equine exhibiting obvious lameness will be disqualified from participation without refund, subject to the discretion of the Judge or MRVHA Management.

2. The use of excessive force or harsh training methods on an equine present at the Obstacle Challenge is prohibited and will result in disqualification without a refund from MRVHA.

3. The use of performance-enhancing pharmaceuticals that are not considered over-the-counter or customary for the general day-to-day welfare of an equine is prohibited.

4. Any equine known to have a kicking tendency must be identified with a red ribbon in its tail.

IV. EQUIPMENT

1. Equines must wear a bridle with reins on each side of the equine's neck for all ridden competitions. Equines may not be shown bridleless. Riders are expected to provide appropriate tack for their equine and maintain control at all times.

2. Equines must be ridden with a saddle and may not be ridden bareback at an MRVHA Obstacle Challenge. Bareback pads are not considered a type of saddle and are therefore prohibited. Tree-less saddles are permitted.

3. Training devices, including but not limited to martingales, standing martingales, running martingales, German martingales, tie-downs, draw reins, and similar equipment, are not permitted during competition at an MRVHA Obstacle Challenge.

4. Equine protective leg equipment is permitted, including but not limited to Splint boots, Sport boots, Polo wraps, Bell boots and Hoof boots

V. SCORING

1. Required Obstacles

Each obstacle will begin with a score of zero (0).

There are ten (10) required obstacles on the course. A rider may earn up to three (3) points per obstacle based on their performance.

2. Attempts Per Obstacle

A rider is allowed a maximum of three (3) attempts per obstacle.

The three-attempt limit applies independently to each required and bonus obstacle.

If the rider successfully completes an obstacle within the permitted three (3) attempts, the rider will receive a score of zero (0) to three (3) points based on the quality of the completed performance.

If the rider does not successfully complete the obstacle after three (3) attempts, the rider will receive a zero (0) score for that obstacle and must move on to the next obstacle.

A rider may not receive additional attempts beyond the maximum of three (3) attempts per obstacle.

3. Bonus Obstacles

In addition to the ten (10) required obstacles, there will be three (3) bonus obstacles available on the course.

The three bonus obstacles are optional and are not required to complete the course. Riders may choose to attempt any or all of the bonus obstacles to earn additional points toward their overall score.

The same three-attempt maximum applies to each bonus obstacle.

A rider who chooses not to attempt a bonus obstacle will not be penalized and will simply receive no bonus points for that obstacle.

4. Passing an Obstacle

A rider who chooses to pass on a required obstacle will receive a zero (0) score for that obstacle.

A rider who passes on a bonus obstacle will receive no bonus points and may continue to the next obstacle.

5. Fall

If the equine and/or rider falls during an obstacle, the rider will receive a zero (0) score for that obstacle and must move on.

6. Starting Point

If the rider does not proceed past the designated starting point, the rider will receive a zero (0) score for that obstacle.

7. Final Scores

All scores are final and may not be adjusted unless a data-entry error has occurred.

VI. TIEBREAKERS

In the event of a tie in the overall score, the following tiebreaker procedures will be used in the order listed.

First Tiebreaker — Odd-Numbered Obstacles

The rider with the highest combined score on the odd-numbered obstacles: 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 will be awarded the higher placing.

Second Tiebreaker — Three-Obstacle Course

If the tie remains after the first tiebreaker, the tied riders will complete another course consisting of three obstacles.

The rider with the highest score on the three-obstacle course will be awarded the higher placing.

Third Tiebreaker — Time

If the tie remains after the additional three-obstacle course, the fastest time on the three-obstacle course will determine the higher placing.

VII. DISQUALIFICATION

A rider, handler, or equine may be disqualified for violation of any MRVHA Obstacle Challenge rule or regulation.

Disqualification may be determined by the Judge or MRVHA Management, depending on the nature of the violation.

No refunds will be issued for disqualification.

MRVHA Management and/or the Judge reserve the right to address circumstances not specifically covered by these rules when necessary to ensure the safety, fairness, and integrity of the event.