

WILD ROSE HORSE OBSTACLE CONTESTS

RULES AND INFORMATION

BE SAFE HAVE FUN COMPETE

CONTEST OVERVIEW:

The Wild Rose Horse Obstacle Contests are unique events that encourage you and your horse to develop a partnership based on trust and to measure your horsemanship skills. Your partnership is scored on an obstacle course designed to challenge your skills and encourage good horsemanship.

Events are designed to give you the opportunity to set goals, measure your progress, gain confidence, expose your horse to new things and compete. The Wild Rose Horse Obstacle Contests are focused on safety, fun, confidence building, promoting good horsemanship and challenging you and your horse to new levels.

CONTEST FORMAT:

Riders may choose from three levels of difficulty **each day** of the contest. Your level of difficulty will remain the same at all obstacles for that day of the contest. You will choose a level of difficulty at the time of registration on the website.

Remember each day is an “event” and scores from each day do not carry forward. Measure your personal success and progress event-to-event. No year-end prizes will be awarded.

Ride the day. As participants you are only concerned with the day (not tomorrow’s or year-end events). After each day’s contest, the question you should ask yourself is “how well did I help/encourage my horse today”. Track your personal enjoyment, satisfaction, progress, stress level and skills.

Become a student – study, watch and feel how your horse responds to cues, how he expresses levels of relaxation and comfort with you, the environment and the obstacles.

CONTEST COURSES: 5-7 mile trail obstacle course with 6 obstacles

INSURANCE AND FACILITIES: We recently experienced an “insurance review” and one of the items discussed was “what days riders are on site for the competitions”. The reason for the question was we only take insurance coverage for two days – Saturday and Sunday – the competition days. We told the insurance company that the riders usually arrive the day before an event. They were okay with riders riding in the camp/arena areas but not out on the trails. An arena is usually available for “warm up” at our events.

There is no leaving the camp area to “ride the trails” – before, during or after the events. This is unfair to other riders. Also there is quick sand in some areas at some of the event locations – especially the Hassayampa River. We do not want to lose our insurance coverage.

Additionally, our handshake agreement with the facilities is for use of their facility for two days. Most facilities have other things going on and want to get back to their business as soon as we leave.

No arrivals before noon on the day before a clinic and/or trail competition events. Participants must be gone from the property no later than noon the day after the events.

CONTEST DIVISIONS:

- 1. Novice Division:** For green riders and/or green horses. Open to all riders who have never been paid to ride, train or give lessons.
- 2. Intermediate Division:** For riders and horses with experience (i.e., good trail skills – limited horsemanship/showmanship skills). Open to all riders and horses.
- 3. Advanced Division:** Most difficult. Open to all riders and horses

Changing Division: After a rider has selected their division for the competition at the time of registration, it is difficult to change divisions as all the score sheets are printed before the event. If a rider decides to change a division, it is the rider's responsibility to advise EACH judge at each obstacle as well as the Scorer at the Registration Table.

Moving to higher division: A team (horse and rider combination) must move into the next higher class when 3 wins are accumulated by said team in a division at a Wild Rose event.

EVENT FEE SCHEDULE: See Fee Schedule regarding registration fees for adults, youth and companion riders. See the individual ride write-ups on the Bethany's Gait Ranch for Heroes' website for additional miscellaneous fees associated with each ride location.

EVENT SAFETY: Helmets are required for riders under 18 of age. For adults, helmets are encouraged.

Minimum age for rider's participation is seven (7) years old. Youth (under 18) must have an adult accompany them on the trail.

Competitors and parent/legal guardians of youth assume all responsibility when on the grounds at a participating in the event.

Facility fences are not appropriate places to tie your horse.

It is your responsibility to keep yourself safe as well as those in close proximity. Be aware of your surroundings.

Obstacles are designed with safety in mind. However, if you feel an obstacle is beyond the ability of you and/or your horse, you may skip that obstacle. You will receive a zero for that obstacle but will still receive a score for the course.

HORSE ELGIBILITY: Open to any breed and riding discipline. Horses may enter each contest only once. You are limited to one (1) horse at each contest. You **MAY NOT** have two horses at a contest facility.

RIDER ELGIBILITY: Minimum age for rider is seven (7) years old. Youth under eighteen (18) must have an adult accompany them on the trail.

RIDERS PROTOCOL/RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Be safe.
2. Be timely.
3. You **MUST** attend Riders Meeting prior to each day's contest.
4. To facilitate flow of event, riders are strongly encouraged to study the obstacle sheet while riding to the next obstacle.
5. When approaching obstacle and judge, you must give number, name and obstacle level at which you are competing for that day.
6. Do not interfere with other riders during an obstacle performance; stay back; be quiet.
7. No trail short cuts – disqualification.
8. Do not engage judges as to your scores or performance during or after a contest.
9. If slow group is ahead of you, and you want to pass, request permission and proceed slowly.
10. Generator usage: Be considerate of others when parking near others and running your generator. Please limit use of your generator to minimize disturbing your neighbors and others. They are two types of generators: (1) quiet, and (2) noisy. Be considerate so we don't have to set generator hours.
11. Practice the Golden Rule

TACK AND ATTIRE: Shoes or boots with a ½ inch or more heel are mandatory. Dress should be appropriate for the weather and the event, neat and functional. No shorts or sneakers. **Helmets are required for riders under 18 years of age.** For adults, helmets are encouraged.

Horses must wear a saddle; bareback pads not acceptable.

Tack must be safe, humane and in good working condition. If Wild Rose Management or judges determine an item to be unsafe or not humane, you may correct the problem and return to the course if you do so in a timely manner.

Horses must wear some type of bridle with two reins or a loop rein attached to each side of bridle. Halters with lead ropes are not considered a bridle. Bitless bridles are not allowed.

Horses may be shown with 1 hand or 2 hands in snaffle, bosal, hackamore, or shank bit.

You will be penalized for harshness with hands and rewarded for soft quiet hands.

MANAGEMENT:

Wild Rose Management team and judges are solely responsible for review of all rule infractions.

Wild Rose Management Team and judges reserve authority and right to refuse entry to and/or disqualify riders/horses at events at their discretion. This includes but not limited to safety violations, misconduct, disrespect directed toward any person, animal or property or other violations deemed inappropriate at the event.

Riders must exhibit “control” of their horse at all times and in all situations, whether on or off the course; violations are subject to disqualification.

Wild Rose management and judges have the discretion in a disqualification (DQ) situation to give riders a DQ at a specific obstacle, or DQ from the entire contest for the day.

RULES:

1. It is your responsibility to fully understand the course and rules.
2. You must sign all liability release forms at the time of check-in acknowledging your assumption of risk. Riders under 18 years of age must have parent/guardian signature on release form.
3. Equines must be serviceably sound and in good condition as determined by the judge/Wild Rose Management.
4. It is expected that each horse shall be treated humanely with kindness and respect all times. Horses should have the opportunity to display their great natural ability not hindered by drugs, surgical alterations or inhumane treatment. Wild Rose Management's position is to hold the highest standard of integrity in treatment and care of the horse.
5. Whining, moaning or complaining is discouraged. The object of our contests is to have fun and to better our horsemanship.
6. No horses on the course prior to the contests or before their turn.
7. No stallions allowed on site.
8. Known kickers must wear a red ribbon in their tail.
9. It is permissible to change rein hand to work through the obstacles.
10. Please respect the facility, treat it well and clean up after yourself. Leave no trace.
11. Wild Rose Management has the right to add additional rules as necessary. Rule additions will be posted at the registration table or announced at the Riders' Meeting.

12. Entry fees will be credited to your account for use at a future event if Wild Rose Management is made aware that you will not be attending an event prior to the day of event. Credits on account must be used within the calendar year.
13. Coaching riders after they pass start cones is prohibited. Coach will be penalized.
14. Riders approaching an obstacle shall stay back, be quiet and not interfere with riders engaged at an obstacle.
15. Use of any performance enhancing pharmaceuticals that are not considered “over the counter” is prohibited and potential exists for disqualification in this situation.
- 16.a A fall of a rider from a horse anywhere on the course or in camp is a disqualification.
- 16.b A horse “going down” anywhere on course will be a disqualification. Going down is defined as when any part of the horse above the knee touches the ground (tripping, falling, rolling, etc.) and will be a disqualification.
17. Use of equipment that restricts movement of horse’s head (i.e., martingales and tie downs or draw reins) is not allowed.
18. Riders using harsh training methods or excessive force anywhere on the premises of the event are subject to disqualification.
19. You may not consume alcoholic beverages before or during the ride. You will be disqualified if it appears that you are using drugs or alcohol.
20. If permitted on facility, dogs must be on a leash at all times or contained in vehicle or trailer. If left unattended, they must be kept in your trailer and not disturb other people. Please pick up after your dog at all event locations. **NO DOGS ALLOWED ON THE TRAILS** or in proximity to any horses. This is coyote country – do not tie your dog to your trailer and leave it.

CONTEST OBSTACLES: Most obstacles will come from this list. Wild Rose Management has the right to be creative. Riders may be required to move forward, back, side pass, up, down as required by the obstacle description.

1. **Gate:** opening, passing through and closing the gate
2. **Crossing Obstacle:** poles, logs, bridge, water, ditch, tarp, carpet, box
3. **Dragging Obstacle:** log, tire, tarp, pallet, Boneless Bob, etc.
4. **Remove, carry and replace an item:** slicker, bucket, ball, flag, saddlebag, mailbox
5. **Jumps**
6. **Natural terrain:** brush, sticks, downfall areas, ravines, hill, debris
7. **Mounting:** from fence, block, log, ravine
8. **Circles or straight line:** walk, trot, lope, lead changes, transitions, yield diagonally
9. **Picking up horses' feet**
10. **Maneuvers:** pivots, rollbacks, stops, weaving or pattern, slingshot
11. **Water:** crossing, sprinkler, carry, creek, squirt guns
12. **Stop/halt from different gaits**
13. **Sensitizing opportunities:** moving vehicles, hikers, bikers and others

JUDGING:

Obstacles are not timed. The obstacle judge will allow sufficient time for horse rider team to achieve success at their obstacle. When the judge excuses a rider to move on to the next obstacle, judging is completed. These events are contests and not training situations.

Judge will score rider and horse team on what they achieve at each obstacle. Riders are encouraged to achieve as much as possible at each obstacle.

You will perform the required trail pattern individually. The best trail horse will be willfully guided with no apparent resistance. Any movement made by the horse on its own or deviation from the pattern must be considered a penalty. Credit will be given for horsemanship, smoothness, calmness, finesse, forward motion, control, attitude, quickness and authority in performing the various obstacles. The contests are intended to display the versatile working ability of a horse. A good horseman will never endanger themselves or their horse. A good working relationship between the horse and rider should be rewarded. Riders must abide by the ruling of the judge. All judges' decisions are final.

If a judge can see you, they have authority and responsibility to enforce the rules.

Judges are instructed not to engage with riders or anyone regarding a rider's strengths, weaknesses or scores at an obstacle on day of event. Scores and comments will be posted on the website within a few days.

Judges will score based on what rider and horse accomplish at the obstacle. If you pass on an obstacle, both you and horse receive a "0". We encourage you to accomplish as much as possible at each obstacle.

Judges have complete authority at their obstacle. Riders shall comply with all judges' instructions.

Judges will engage with you to explain the obstacle and answer questions, but once you pass the start cones, they will not respond.

SCORING: Each obstacle will be worth up to a maximum of 20 points – 10 points maximum for the horse and 10 points maximum for the rider.

TIES: Exceptional performance completed by horse and/or rider may earn a plus from the judge. In case of ties, the total number of pluses per horse and rider will break the tie; next tie breaker will be decided by determining the hardest obstacle for that day and breaking tie will be the best score in completing that obstacle. If need be, this process may be continued until we have a “winner”.

SCORING GUIDELINES: See Scoring Guidelines for more information.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC: Everyone needs to participate in creating the safest and best environment as per your understanding of best practices - masking when in the vicinity of other individuals, maintaining a 6-foot perimeter from other individuals when in a group setting, washing your hands and all other common-sense protocols.