



STEWARDSHIP AWARDS OF NORTH AMERICA

SANA - CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & REGULATIONS

March 15, 2016

Exhibitors must wear suitable, safe footwear, and proper helmets for all ridden or discipline classes. All classes require safe tack and equipment. Except where noted, entries will not be judged on grooming, tack or clothing, however, appropriate turnout, gear, and clothing are encouraged **OBSTACLES**

----- **OBSTACLES** -----

CLASS OVERVIEW & RULES

In-Hand Obstacles

Course consists of 6-8 obstacles to be completed while leading your horse or pony at a walk and trot where indicated. Scored only, no time points. Obstacles are worth 10 points each. No water, no jumps. Open to all ages and skill levels of horse, pony, handler, or rider. Time Limit applies.

Ridden or Ground Driven Obstacles

Entries for this class may be ridden or ground driven. Course consists of 8-12 obstacles worth 10 points each to be completed at a walk and trot where indicated. Scored and timed. Time is worth up to 10 points. Time Limit applies. Open to all ages and skill levels of horse, pony, handler, or rider with the following exceptions:

- no ridden entry for horses or ponies under 4 yrs of age
- no ground driven entries for horses or ponies under two years of age

=====

Prior to START: A Course Walk-Through for competitors will be held 1/2 hour before competition begins. It is the competitor's responsibility to fully understand the course and rules *at this time*. Competitors are responsible for their course. Obstacles must be completed in the designated order.

It is acceptable to ask the judges where to go next or have the ring steward call it out for you.

SAFETY: 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 for that obstacle but will still receive a score for the course. Helmets and proper footwear are required for all competitors.

The judge is required to walk the course and has the right and duty to alter the course in any manner. The judge may remove or change any obstacle he deems unsafe or non-negotiable prior to the start of the class. If at any time an obstacle is deemed to be unsafe by the judge, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and some entries have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous works for that class.

The judge may ask a handler or rider to move on to the next obstacle if the horse is unable to complete the maneuver in a reasonable time or if the judge deems that the rider is, or will be, in an unsafe situation. The judge may also ask the rider to move on after a third refusal at an obstacle.

OBSTACLES: TACK & EQUIPMENT

All tack & equipment must be suitable fitting and safe for the work. Helmets required for handlers & riders. No severe bits are allowed.

In-Hand:

Entries will be in any standard style halter (no bits) and lead rope of leather, nylon, or rope cord. Lead ropes may not have stud chains. Stallion tack (surcingle and side reins) are not permissible. Handlers may not carry crops or whips. The judge will be the final authority for any questionable tack or equipment.

Ridden or Ground Driven:

Ridden entries may wear any standard style bridle & non-severe bit and use any type of saddle & pad (Western or English) suitable for their mount. Riders may carry a crop as an aid; judge may penalize or excuse any entry exhibiting disciplinary crop action.

Ground Driven entries may wear halter, closed or open bridles and/or side reins if using a surcingle or full harness. No part of a harness may drag, interfere with entry's movement or be unsafe in the judge's opinion. A long whip may be carried by a handler as an aid to help guide the horse; judge may penalize or excuse any entry exhibiting disciplinary whip action.

WHAT the JUDGE is LOOKING FOR:

Whether In-Hand or Ridden or Ground Driving, these classes are designed to show the entry's ability to navigate and cope with a variety of obstacles and situations mimicking those encountered in everyday ranch work. They are designed to measure the willingness and ability of a horse or pony to negotiate these tasks when asked by the handler or rider. Specifically, the entry is judged on cleanness and promptness with which the obstacles are negotiated, ability to negotiate obstacles correctly, and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse or pony while negotiating the course.

TYPES of OBSTACLES

Possible obstacles include: negotiating backing through an L pattern (ground poles), opening and closing a gate or mailbox, a bridge to cross (no water), picking up an item from one barrel to another, turn on the forehand or haunches between poles, walk or trot from one point to another, crossing a tarp, weaving through cones, passing a scary obstacle, step or jump over a low obstacle, carrying a flapping object such as a flag or slicker, handler or rider dragging a fence post.

Wherever possible, realistic or natural obstacles will be used - hay bales, ground poles, wooden bridges, cones. No ground tie will be required as a task. No water. Simple low jump for ridden obstacles only.

TIE-BREAKERS

At least two or three obstacles will be designated as tie breakers and shall be selected prior to the beginning of the competition. One of the mandatory obstacles will be used as the first tie breaker.

GAITS - Walk/Trot

The horse will be shown at a walk and trot (or natural gait) between the obstacles. The walk may be judged as part of an obstacle. Between obstacles, at least 30 feet will be allowed for the trot. Gaits between obstacles will be scored as part of the next obstacle.

Riders trotting may either post, sit the trot, or stand in the stirrups to the front of the saddle. Holding the saddle horn is permissible, at this gait, as might be done in open terrain. No additional credit will be given for unnecessary/additional maneuvers (such as sidepassing to and from an obstacle).