

Sunset Ranch Obstacle Challenges

~ Judging Guidelines ~

Scores from 1-10 are given for each obstacle. Any directive in the instructions not completed will receive a negative score - 4.5 or below, $\frac{1}{2}$ points may be used.

0-missed obstacle and cones OR 3 refusals, 1- Very Bad or not attempted BUT went through start cones-
2- Very Bad or not attempted BUT went through start AND end cones. 3- Poor Attempt 4- Almost Complete, 5- Completed with trouble , 6- Adequate needs polish, 7- Reasonably Good, 8-Good, 9-Very Good-, 10 -Excellent/Olympic Quality.

In addition to obstacle scores there are three Supplemental Scores from 1-10 awarded. In the event of a tie the 3 three supplemental scores will serve as the tie breaker. The three supplemental scores are:

Course Navigation- How the rider/handler engages the course. Higher marks will be given for smooth lines, straight approaches to obstacles and the flow throughout the course.

If a competitor is lost or off course: First time = negative score -4.5, then 1 additional point will be lost per occurrence. Additionally, 1 point will be deducted from this score for each missed navigation gait between obstacles.

Partnership- The overall harmony between horse/rider (or handler). Lower marks for resistance from horse i.e. mouth gaping, ear pinning, disobedience.

Presentation- Cleanliness of horse and equipment. Completeness of rider/handler's clothing i.e. belts, scarves coordination with horse's tack. Attention to detail and effort will be rewarded.

~ Common Mistakes & Related Scoring ~

-Knocking over part of the obstacle- This will result in a negative score - 4.5 or below.

-Refusals- Loss of forward motion for 30 seconds or backward steps. 3 X = a score of 0.

- Obstacle not attempted- 1 point will be awarded for start cones and one point for end cones- 2 points max. *This is preferred to over-facing an inexperienced animal*

~ Level Standards ~

Level 1 - Responsiveness to the bit, obedience, maintaining gait and direction. Level 1 may have a caller. Course should not put the audience to sleep nor look rushed. This Level is for inexperienced horses or riders/handlers.

Level 2 - Some beginnings of flexion/softening to the but should be evident, responsiveness to leg, bending in the direction of travel and willingness are the standard.

Level 3 - Consistent flexion/collection frame appropriate to the discipline/style, and bend in the direction of travel is expected at this level. Canter work should be controlled, balanced and rhythmic to compete in level 3.