

## **GUIDELINES FOR LED OBSTACLE TEST**

### **Two Sections**

Section One – Walk only

Section Two – Walk and Trot. Optional Canter

The Leader Must wear an Australian Standard approved riding helmet. Shoes or boots must have enclosed toes. Sandals and thongs are prohibited.

The Horse Can wear either a bridle or halter. The halter can be leather, nylon or rope.

Bending poles can be substituted with cones

Poles are ideally 3 – 3.5 metres (10-12 feet) but shorter ones are acceptable. They can be made of wood or plastic. Make sure they are secured so they do not move if touched.

### **The judging directives will show you how the obstacles will be judged.**

**10 of the 12 activities may be completed.**

#### **Activities:**

1. Leading on the near side of the horse (on its left) walk or trot around a square (each side approximately 10 metres) to the left.

Judging directives: is the horse's shoulder beside the leader? Does the horse keep the same speed? Is the walk active? Does the trot keep the same speed? Does the horse turn obediently? Does the horse stay beside the leader?

2. Leading on the off side of the horse (on its right) walk or trot around the square (each side 10m approx.) to the right.

Judging Directives: Is the horse willing to be led from the off-side? Is the walk active? Does the trot keep the same speed? Does the horse turn obediently? Does the horse stay beside the leader?

3. Walk through the poles (one metre apart). Stop just before the end. Rein-back through the poles.

Judging directives: Does the horse approach the poles straight? Does it stop without resisting? Does it stand still before moving backwards? Does it step back without resistance?

For safety reasons, the leader should stand beside, and facing the horse's head, when asking for the halt and rein-back. Standing in front of the horse is not recommended.

4. Side-pass over a pole at walk (2 metres minimum)

Judging directives: Did the horse approach the pole calmly? Did it stop when asked? Did it step sideways over the pole with front feet staying on one side of the pole and the hindfeet on the other side? Did the horse keep the same steady speed in the sideways steps?

5. Walk or trot up to line of 6 stepping-stones (between 50 and 60 cm apart). Keep the horse's shoulder beside the leader. The leader walks or runs over the stepping-stones. If in a wheelchair the horse is on the other side of the stepping-stones from the wheelchair.

Judging directives: did the horse approach the stepping-stones in an active walk or a trot? Did it stay straight in the approach and through the obstacle? Did the horse keep the same distance from the leader? Did it keep the same speed?

6. Walk or Trot for 10 metres – halt between 2 cones – walk or trot for 10 metres in a straight line

Judging directives: did the horse stay straight when going into the halt? Was the halt still and straight? Were the legs square? Did the horse move directly from the halt to a trot? Did it stay straight? Did the horse's head carriage stay steady?

7. Walking or trotting between 6 Bending Poles, set 6 metres apart in a straight line. The horse showing definite changes of bend between each pole.

Judging directives: did the horse keep the same speed? Did it show changes of bend right to left? Did it show changes of bend left to right?

8. 4 poles on a left curve – middle distance 9 feet (2.7 m). walk or trot on curve to the left.

Judging directives: did the horse cross each pole at the same distance from end of pole? Did it drift in or out? Did it keep the same speed?

9. 4 poles on a right curve – middle distance 9 feet (2.7 m). walk or trot on curve to right

Judging directives: did the horse cross each pole at the same distance from end of the pole? Did it drift in or out? Did it keep the same speed?

10. Drag a bag – a bag filled with empty cans that rattle. A rope at least 2 metres long. Leader drags rattling bag on ground for 5 metres. Either at walk or trot.

Judging directives: did the horse show any anxiety? Did it show confidence? Did it keep the same speed?

11. Carry a bucket – the leader carries a bucket around the 10m square without the horse trying to put its head into it.

Judging directives: did the horse try to put its head in the bucket? Did it keep the same speed?

12. 'Happy birthday' rhythm on a 44 gallon drum or tray. The leader leads the horse around a drum at the walk while tapping out the rhythm of the song 'happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you' with a stick.

Judging directives: is the rhythm of the song correct? Did the horse keep walking around the drum? Did it keep walking?