

GUIDELINES FOR RIDDEN OBSTACLE TEST

REGULATIONS

Rider – must be wearing an Australian standard approved equestrian helmet. Correct riding shoes or boots. Whips allowed but no spurs are permitted.

Horse – any correctly fitted saddle or saddle pad is allowed. A bridle must be worn. Bitless bridles allowed.

Two Sections

Section One – walk only

Section Two – walk and trot

Section Three – trot and canter

Bending poles can be substituted with cones

Walk and trot 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 activities may be completed. Only the highest scoring 10 activities will count for the total score.

1. Walk or trot/canter outside the square (each side 15 m long) to the left. Hold reins in one hand. Other hand hanging beside hip.

Judging directives: Does rider complete riding around the square with one hand only on the reins? Are the turns smooth? Did the speed stay the same?

2. Walk or trot/canter outside the square (each side 15 m long) to the right. Hold reins in one hand, Other hand hanging beside hip.

Judging directives: Does the rider complete riding around the triangle with one hand only on the reins? Are the turns smooth? Did the speed stay the same?

3. Side-pass over a pole at walk. (minimum 2 metres. Maximum 3.5)

Judging directives: Did the horse approach the pole calmly? Did it start sideways steps without resistance? Did the front feet stay 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?

4. Walk or trot between 6 bending poles, set 6 metres apart in a straight line. Show changes of bend. In canter poles are 9 metres apart.

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? Were the changes of bend smooth?

5. 3 clothes pegs 20 cms apart on a washing line rope. Move the first peg to the other end while at the halt, walk or trot.

Judging directive: Did the horse stay straight and level with the line? Did the rider perform the task smoothly?

6. Walk between two 3 – 3.5 m poles 1 metre apart. A third pole is placed closing the end. Stop before the end pole. Rein-back out of the poles.

Judging directives: Did the horse walk willingly into the pole laneway? Did it stop without resistance? Did it rein-back willingly? Did it stay straight in the rein-back?

7. Pick up jumper or jacket from a post or barrel. Put it over the pommel. Ride around the square at walk, trot or canter. Return it to same place.

Judging directives: Was the horse calm when the rider picked up the garment? Was the horse calm when carrying the garment? Did it stay relaxed when the rider put the garment back?

8. Walk or trot around a 44 gallon drum or fixed tray. Using a stick or spoon, tap the first two lines of the song 'Jingle Bells'.

Judging directives: Does the horse keep moving? Does it stay close to the drum? Does the rider tap the correct rhythm?

9. Figure of eight circles in walk or trot. Showing changes of bend. Approximately 10 metre diameter circle in walk or approximately 20 metre circle in trot or canter. In canter change canter lead through trot.

Judging directives: are the two circles similar sizes? Is the same speed maintained? Does the horse look to the inside on the circles? Is the change from one circle to the other smooth?

10. In a straight line walk or trot for 15 metres. Halt between 2 cones, 1 metre apart, for 5 seconds. Move off at walk or for 15 metres in a straight line.

Judging directives: Did horse stay straight? Did it halt without resistance? Was the walk, or trot active? Was the transition after the halt active?

11. Walk or trot over 4 poles on a bend. 3 metres apart in the middle of the pole.

Judging directives: Does the horse look at the poles? Does it step clearly over the poles? Is the speed maintained? Does the horse stay on the line of the bend?

12. A beanbag, or similar article, on drum. At walk, trot or canter, pick up article and ride 15 m to bucket. Place beanbag in the bucket and ride on in a straight line.

Judging directives: Was horse willing to go up to drum? Did it go directly to the bucket? Did the rider put the beanbag into the bucket? Did the horse stay straight?

13. 50 centimetre jump. Straight rail which may have a ground line or filling. For safety, poles must not be fixed.

Judging directives: Does the horse stay straight in the approach, over the jump and in the departure? Does the rider stay in balance over the jump? Is the horse willing to jump?

14. At the halt the rider leans forward and pats the horse on the neck with one or two hands. The rider keeps hold of the reins which can be loose.

Judging directives: Does the horse stay still when the rider leans forward? Does the rider lean far forward? Does the horse stay still while the rider pats the horse with both hands at once?