

# **PHA Obstacle Challenge**

## **Classes Offered**

### **2020-2021**

1. In-Hand Youth 10 and Under
2. In-hand Youth 17 and Under
3. In-hand Novice (1<sup>st</sup> year of competition)
4. In-hand Adult (non-professionals only)
5. In-hand Open (no restrictions)
6. Lead-line Under-saddle (10 years and younger)
7. Under Saddle Youth 10 and Under
- ~~8.~~ Under Saddle Youth 17 and under
9. Under Saddle Novice (1<sup>st</sup> year of competition)
10. Under Saddle Adult (non-professionals only)
11. Under Saddle Open (no restrictions)

# General Class Guidelines

## In-hand:

- In-hand classes are to be performed in a halter (flat, rope or show halters acceptable) or English bridle with lead (reins may be left on the bridle but shall be secured)
- Horse may have saddle on
- Physical aids may only be used in the Novice Classes. (whips, lead ropes, hand, etc..) Hands should be on the lead rope at all times unless using the hand to handle a portion of the obstacle.

## Lead-Line:

- Leadline can be done with a handler walking beside the rider or with a leadline attached. The rider should be able to exhibit the ability to stop and turn their horse.

## Under Saddle:

- Tack may be English or Western (training or show tack)
- Physical aids may only be used in the Novice Classes. (whips, reins, hand, etc..) Spurs are acceptable at all levels.
- Bits and rein usage is per AQHA regulations (two hands are acceptable depending on bit used with the exception of when you use you hand to perform an obstacle)

## Equitation score:

- Handlers will position themselves safely at the side of the horse and hold lead correctly. Riders will demonstrate correct rider position. Both handlers and riders will be scored on effective use of the aids.

## Partnership score:

- Handlers and riders that are in tune with their horse and communicate seamlessly, and horses that look to their handler for direction with confident obedience, will be rewarded. Handlers will lose points for: sharp corrections with the lead, touching the horse to guide ("Good Boy" rubs/pats allowed between obstacles), yelling, hindering the horse in any way and placing him or herself in the path of the horse. Riders will lose points for: excessive use of aids, loss of control, misguiding horse through obstacle, and misinterpretation of obstacle.

## Presentation score:

- The horse is groomed appropriately and displays health and good care. Handler/rider is dressed to match tack. Tack is clean, well-cared for, fits correctly, and is consistent.
- Leg/hoof protection is acceptable

**Judge's decisions are final, and a competitor may be eliminated for any unsafe situation, including dangerous behavior or equipment and any sign of abusive practices. Competitors will not be eliminated for going off course, but 10 points will be deducted from final score as well as points lost for any obstacles not executed.**

## **Examples of Possible Obstacles (and How to Execute):**

### **Canopies:**

- Enter straight with no hesitation, maintaining careful rhythm.
- Obvious rushing will result in lower score.

### **Backing:**

- Stride carefully but purposefully.
- Straight, pivots may be required.

### **Gate:**

- Approach and line up easily, maneuver handily through gate, and close with no resistance.

### **Bridge and tarps:**

- Enter straight and cross with deliberate careful smooth steps.

### **Weaving:**

- Flex through, with efficient strides, and show correct bend.

### **Ground Poles:**

- Horses must step over each pole.
- Points are taken off for moving or nicking the poles.

### **Mailbox:**

- Approach with confidence and stand quietly with loose lead or rein and move off with minimal cue from rider/handler.

### **Car wash:**

- Enter straight and step through with confidence, maintaining rhythm.
- Obvious rushing will result in lower score.

### **Moving objects on course:**

- Object movements can be done exaggerated or minimal.
- Each will be judged accordingly.