

Obstacle Challenge

2021-2022 Rules and Information

PHA's Obstacle Challenge is a fun and easy introduction to obstacle events that follow AQHA guidelines. The events are judged, untimed and open to any discipline. This is a family friendly way to better your horsemanship and strengthen the bond with your equine partner. Expect the obstacles to be similar to those found in a variety of trail type classes.

- 1) Please read the PHA General Rules and Obstacles Class Guide. Any challenges, please ask the Obstacle Chair IN WRITING as they have the final decision.
- 2) All participants must be a member of PHA in good standing.
- 3) All participants must present a current copy of a negative Coggins test and the horse's name must match the one on the entry form.
- 4) One horse and rider/handler combination per entry form. Entry forms are available online and will be provided the morning of competition. Adding classes and additional runs are allowed the morning of the competition.
- 5) Entry forms are available online and pre-entry is encouraged. Entries will be accepted the day of the show up until the start of the class you are entering.
- 6) Show attire for your respective discipline is encouraged. SEI approved helmets are mandatory for all riders/handlers under the age of 18 and encouraged for all participants. Long pants, boots, belt, and a sleeved, collared shirt are required. No tank tops.
- 7) After registering, riders/handlers will receive a back number and their score sheet will be given to the scribe to hold. Participants are responsible for making sure the correct back number and class is listed on their score sheets.
- 8) 17 and Under, Adult and Open classes will have 2+ more obstacles than the Lead-line, 10 and Under and Novice classes. Open classes may be asked to trot or canter between obstacles.
- 9) A walk-through is available ½ hour before the start of the show. 15 min before the first class there will be a guided walkthrough with the judge and director for everyone's advantage and will not be repeated for those not present. No horses are allowed on the course until competition begins. No mounted horses on course until the completion of the in-hand classes.
- 10) The show will start promptly at the time specified. Classes are run in number order starting with in-hand. Any competitors cross-entering from the Hunter/Jumper ring will be able to run out of order. Please contact the gatekeeper on the day of the show to coordinate.
- 11) Be courteous at the in-gate. Do not crowd other participants and work together to help keep the show flowing. Please be ready at the in-gate at the start of your class. Classes will not be held for late arrivals. If you are not present at the in-gate when your class is called, you will be disqualified.
- 12) Only one horse and rider/handler permitted on the course at a time except for lead-line classes and during open-schooling during the first break (max 6 horses at a time during open schooling).
- 13) Fees:
 - a) Obstacle/office fee \$10

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- b) Class fee \$15
 - c) Open Schooling fee \$10 (Open schooling will be during the first break between the In-hand and under-saddle classes)
 - d) Unjudged runs \$10 each (Unjudged runs will be at the conclusion of the show)
- 14) The course must be performed as shown in the course diagram/walkthrough the day of the show.
- 15) Scoring is determined by 0-10 points awarded per obstacle, then 0-10 points awarded for Equitation, and another 0-10 for Partnership. Please see judge's guidelines for an explanation of what is expected. The points will be compiled, and the highest number points determine class placings. Ties will be broken by the partnership score. If that is the same, then the judge decides placings.
- 16) No more than 3 attempts at an obstacle are allowed, after 3 attempts and 3 refusals, the horse/rider must move on to the next obstacle and will receive a score of '0' for the obstacle. The judge may excuse a participant for anything deemed unsafe or abusive and disqualify the horse/rider.
- 17) Horses entered in leadline under saddle class have the option of doing an unjudged, in-hand run-through prior to the lead-line under saddle class. Lead-line competitors may not cross enter into any other under saddle classes.
- 18) Daily awards: Classes will be placed with 1st-6th place ribbons. If there are 3 or more participants in a class, 1st place prize/trophy may be available the day of show. Prizes and ribbons must be collected the day of the show.
- 19) Year-end Awards: Year-end high points will be determined by the following:
- a) 1st place - up to 6 points
 - b) 2nd place - up to 5 points
 - c) 3rd place - up to 4 points
 - d) 4th place - up to 3 points
 - e) 5th place - up to 2 points
 - f) 6th place - up to 1 point
- Points are based on the number of participants in the class. (eg, if there are 3 participants, 1st place will get 3 points) Highest number of points will determine Champion and 2nd highest will determine Reserve Champion. Please see general rules to be sure to qualify for year-end awards.
- 20) Divisions:
- a) Lead-Line
 - b) Youth 10 and Under
 - c) Youth 17 and Under
 - d) Novice
 - e) Green Horse
 - f) Adult
 - g) Open

Class List

- 1) In-Hand Youth 10 and Under
- 2) In-hand Youth 17 and under
- 3) In-hand Novice (Handler 1st year of competition)
- 4) In-hand Green horse (horse 1st year of competition)
- 5) In-hand Adult (Amateur)
- 6) In-hand Open (no restrictions)
- 7) Open Schooling (during break)
- 8) Lead-line Under-saddle (10 years and under)
- 9) Under Saddle Youth 10 and Under
- 10) Under Saddle Youth 17 and under
- 11) Under Saddle Novice (Rider 1st year of competition)
- 12) Under Saddle Green Horse (Horse 1st year of competition)
- 13) Under Saddle Adult (Amateur)
- 14) Under Saddle Open (no restrictions)
- 15) Unjudged runs



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OBSTACLES ENTRY
FORM

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 your hand to perform an obstacle)

Scoring

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.