

Obstacle Challenge

2023-2024 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 concerns, please ask the Obstacle Chair IN WRITING as they have the final decision.
- 2) 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.
- 3) One horse and rider/handler combination per entry form. Entry forms are available online and pre-entry is highly encouraged. Entries will be accepted the morning of the show up until the start of the first class of the Obstacle Challenge. Adding classes and additional runs may be allowed the morning of the competition.
- 4) After registering, riders/handlers will receive a back number and their score sheet will be given to the scribe and/or judge.
- 5) Show attire for your respective discipline is encouraged. SEI/ASTM approved helmets are mandatory for all riders/handlers under the age of 18 and encouraged for all participants. Long pants, boots, belt and a collared shirt are required. No tank tops.
- 6) A walk-through is available ½ hour before the start of the show and 15 min before the first class there will be a guided walk-through 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.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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.
- 9) 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).
- 10) Fees:
 - a) Obstacle/office fee \$10 (This Office fee is waived if you cross enter in Hunter/Jumper for the day)
 - 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)
- 11) The course must be performed as shown in the course diagram/walkthrough the day of the show.

12) Scoring is determined by 0-10 points awarded per obstacle, then 0-10 points awarded for Partnership. Please see the judge's guidelines for an explanation of what is expected. The points will be compiled, and the highest number of points determine class placings. Ties will be broken by the partnership score. If that is the same, then the judge decides placements.

13) 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.

14) 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.

15) 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. Points are based on the number of participants in the class (ex., if there are 3 participants, 1st place will get 3 points).

16) Year-end Awards: Year-end high points will be determined by the following:

- e) 1st place - up to 6 points
- f) 2nd place - up to 5 points
- g) 3rd place - up to 4 points
- h) 4th place - up to 3 points
- i) 5th place - up to 2 points
- j) 6th place - up to 1 point

Highest number of points will determine Champion and 2nd highest will determine the Reserve Champion. Please see general rules to be sure to qualify for year-end awards.

17) Divisions:

- k) Lead-Line
- l) Youth 10 and Under
- m) Youth 11-17
- n) Novice
- o) Green Horse
- p) Adult
- q) Open

Classes Offered

- 1) In-Hand Youth 10 and Under
- 2) In-hand Youth 11-17
- 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 11-17
- 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