

# 2017 Maple Fest Trail Challenge Rules

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**Article I. Riders and their horse will be scored on control, trust, partnership and performance as they negotiate a series of obstacles. Each obstacle will be awarded a maximum of 5 points. A maximum of 5 minutes will be given to complete the course. Fastest time will be used as a tie breaker. Timer starts as soon as pair enters the ring and stops as beam is broken upon exit of ring. Do not hesitate until ring has been exited.**

## **Obstacles will be scored as follows**

- a. 5pts – Horse/Rider Approach obstacle with ease and focus, navigate the obstacle without hesitation and leave calmly.
- b. 4pts – Horse enters obstacle with some hesitation, stepping to side or back slightly, but completes the obstacle under complete control.
- c. 3pts- Hesitation is very evident as horse steps back or sideways several steps showing some refusal. Rider gives continued encouragement and performs obstacle, but perhaps horse exits abruptly.
- d. 2pts- There is much nervousness, refusal and dancing around by the horse. Rider convinces the horse to at least try. It appears that given more time the team would be able to negotiate the obstacle, but they are unable to do so at this time.
- e. 1pt- Horse “puts on the Brakes” and refuses to even try with coaxing from rider. Continued efforts by rider escalate into a “fight” and the rider is forced to give up.
- f. 0 pts- A 0 will be given if rider uses excessive force (verbal or physical), or is otherwise deemed to be exhibiting unsportsmanlike behavior. If rider behavior is deemed abusive it shall be grounds for immediate disqualification. Half points may be awarded if judge feels the team performance falls between the point scales as outlined above.

**A. Participants are required to complete and submit entry form, acknowledgement of risk form, entry check, coggins, (may bring coggins with them to event). First come first serve pre entry basis, up to 48 riders.**

**B. Participants must agree to abide by all rules of this event and Fairgrounds policies. Such as parking in designated area, parking lot #3, enter through gate 3, no alcoholic beverages or unsportsmanlike behavior at any time.**

**C. Participants will abide by ruling of the judge and judge’s ruling is final.**

**D. Order of go will be In hand Division first, Youth Riders, then Adult division will follow.**

**E. Judge will show the order of course completion and execution before each division starts, riders are responsible to pay attention and ask questions at this time only.**

**F. Official order of go may not be challenged and must compete in the order they are drawn.**

**G. Numbers must be on back of rider or both sides of saddle.**

**H. Rider may enter more than one horse as long as horses are sound and over the age of 3. Riders must be age 8 or older. Age 18 and under MUST wear Helmet.**

**I. Judge or show official may disqualify a participant for abuse of any animal or violation of rules.**

**J. No assistance is allowed in the ring while participant is being judged.**

**K. No refunds for any reason unless event is canceled, but horse and rider substitutions are allowed.**

**Happy Trails!!!**



