



Cornerstone Horsemanship Performance Trail Challenge

RULES

The Cornerstone Horsemanship Performance Trail Challenge, held during the 2018 Virginia Horse Festival in Doswell, Virginia, is a special event consisting of maneuvers and obstacles. The Performance Trail Challenge is intended to reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working horse in the task of performing a designated pattern. The Performance Trail Challenge will test the horse and rider's partnership and abilities while engaging obstacles and performing required maneuvers.

Contestants will use their judgment on how best to complete the obstacles and the overall course in order to finish the Challenge within the 5 minute time limit. However, the judging is based on precision, not speed. An uncompleted course will not disqualify the horse/rider team, but all obstacles and maneuvers must be attempted. The main objective of the Performance Trail Challenge is to display the horse's ability to work at a forward working speed, completing the course with accuracy, ease, smoothness, responsiveness, and control.

Preliminary Rounds: There will be 2 preliminary goes for contestants to choose from (Friday 5:00-7:00pm or Saturday 10:00am-12:00pm), with a maximum of 20 horses in each session.

The top ten scoring horses from the combined preliminary rounds will return for the **Finals** on Saturday at 5:00pm.

Rules:

1. The Performance Trail Challenge is open to all riders.
2. Rider may enter more than one horse. You must submit a separate entry form for each.
3. Horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, and stallions are welcome at this event.
4. Any horse deemed unsound by judge(s) may be disqualified from the competition. Unsoundness could include, but is not limited to lameness, illness or evidence of drugging.
5. Judge(s) decisions are final, and no refunds will be given.
6. Obstacles and course rules will be reviewed before the competition begins during a pre-competition meeting. It is the responsibility of the Participant to fully understand the rules of the course before the challenge begins. Participants are allowed to ask questions about the rules during this meeting. Private conversation with the judges is not allowed.
7. Participants may not practice on the course with their horse.
8. Casual attire and boots with heels required.
9. Standard Western or English tack and equipment is allowed.
10. Standard snaffle bits, hackamores or bosals are permitted on any age horse. A hackamore includes a bosal, rounded in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather, and must have a flexible nonmetallic core attached to a suitable headstall. Attached reins may be of hair, rope, or leather. No other material of any kind is to be used in conjunction with a bosal, i.e., metal or chains.
11. If a shanked bit is used, only one hand may be used on the reins, and the hand must not be changed except to complete an obstacle.
12. No tie downs, mechanical hackamores, quick stops, martingales, gag bits, wire on the curb device or any part of the headstall.

Judging:

1. Each horse/rider team should negotiate obstacles and maneuvers with calmness and patience. Each horse should move safely through the obstacles with awareness, without spooking, shying, or refusing. The horse should be responsive in negotiating obstacles and performing required maneuvers.
2. The judge has the right to ask any rider to pass an obstacle if he/she feels it will be unsafe. Control of the horse must be maintained throughout the event.
3. Scores are calculated using a 0-10 scoring scale, which is broken down as follows:

1 – Very Bad	2 – Bad	3 – Fairly Bad	4 – Insufficient	5 - Sufficient
6 –Satisfactory	7 – Fairly good	8 – Good	9 – Very Good	10 - Excellent

4. A score of “0” on a given obstacle or maneuver means that nothing of the required movement had been performed.
5. Obstacles and maneuvers must be attempted in the designated order to avoid disqualification. Each obstacle or maneuver not completed when the time is up will receive a “0” score. There is a 5 minute time limit. An uncompleted course will not disqualify the horse/rider team.
6. Any obstacle or maneuver skipped before time expires will result in a disqualification.
7. Riders may be disqualified for any type of inhumane treatment of a horse, including but not limited to excessive spurring, or whipping, or excessive jerking of the reins, unsportsmanlike conduct or any other form of misconduct that is irresponsible, illegal, indecent, profane, intimidating, or abusive.
8. Fall to the ground of horse and/or rider will be a disqualification.

Registration:

1. An entry fee of \$75 per horse is required with the entry form. No entry will be accepted without payment in full.
2. Stalls, if requested, are \$25/day and must be reserved thru the Meadow Event Park.
3. Bedding may be purchased on-site for \$6/bag, or you may also bring your own.
4. Admission to Virginia Horse Festival requires the purchase of a daily admission ticket. Participants of the Performance Trail Challenge will be admitted in the VHF at no charge on the day(s) of their competition. Family, friends and helpers will need to purchase a daily admission ticket in order to watch the Challenge or enter the VHF.
5. Liability Release forms for Cornerstone Horsemanship (Charles & Michele Pellham) and the Virginia Horse Festival Participation Agreement must be included with Entry Form.
6. No refunds of entry fees will be made within 30 days of event, however, horse and/or rider substitutions may be made.