

WILD ROSE JUDGING CRITERIA 7-19-18

**GENERAL judging guidelines for horse obstacle contest.**

Rider should plan the obstacle performance. It is rider's responsibility to set the horse up for success at the start and each step of each obstacle.



Disobedience by horse will incur penalty. Think gapping mouth, moving off, not responding to cues.

Rider's eyes should be looking ahead in direction of travel.

Horse's and rider's attitudes/demeanor, good or bad will be considered. Look like you're having fun.

Horses should be ridden on a loose rein.

The softer the rider's cues the more they will be appreciated by the judge.

Horse is expected to respond to rider's cues when given, delay in response may incur a deduction.

Limited hesitation of a horse to look at/check out a ditch, ravine, bridge, water, log is permitted.

Prolonged hesitation may incur a penalty.

Avoid leaning from saddle.

Riders posture, seat, balance and rein management will be evaluated.

Failure to follow pattern, course, or written or verbal instructions will have negative effect on score.

**MANEUVER judging specific guidelines. (Alphabetical order)**

**Back:** Look for softness in the neck and poll. Be aware of rider's balance if rider is looking to the side or back. Looking is not the issue but balance is to be considered.

**Gate:** Releasing gate will be penalized. Unless specified differently in obstacle instructions or instructed by judge, rider may choose how to move through gate.

**Jump:** look for eyes looking out ahead (not down). Seat should be out of saddle, heels down and feet under rider. Hands must be in forward position allowing horse freedom to stretch out for the jump.

**Mount:** Rider must- maintain control reins, use gentleness when taking seat, using mounting block or terrain to facilitate balance of horse and rider will be appreciated.

**Rope:** Riders to hold rope in a folded fashion to avoid getting caught up in rope. Never hold a coiled rope in your hand. Never dally, full or partial.

**Side pass:** Horse should cross over feet, avoid shuffling feet. When horse is side passing both the front and backend of the horse should move in line together.

**Turn on forehand:** Front feet of the horse are to remain quiet (minimal movement) while the rider encourages horse to hind end in a circle around the front end of horse.

**Turn on Haunches:** (hindquarters stay in place) one back foot should remain quiet (in place) while the frontend of the horse turn in a circle around the rump.

**Uphill/Downhill:** Riders position in saddle should be vertical, aligned with trees.