

# WILD ROSE HORSE OBSTACLE CONTESTS

## RULES AND INFORMATION

**BE SAFE   HAVE FUN   COMPETE**

### **CONTEST OVERVIEW:**

The Wild Rose Horse Obstacle Contests are unique competitions that encourage you and your horse to develop a partnership based on trust and to measure your horsemanship skills. Your partnership is scored on an obstacle course designed to challenge your skills and encourage good horsemanship.

Competitions are designed to give you the opportunity to set goals, measure your progress, gain confidence and expose your horse to new things and compete. The Wild Rose Horse Obstacle Contests are focused on safety, fun, confidence building, promoting good horsemanship and challenging you and your horse to new levels.

### **CONTEST RULE:**

All contest facilities have an open area or an arena to exercise or warm up your equine. There is no leaving the camp area to “ride the trails”.

### **CONTEST FORMAT:**

Riders may choose from three levels of difficulty **each day** of the competition. Your level of difficulty will remain the same at all obstacles for that day of the competition. You will choose a level of difficulty at the time of registration on the website.

Each day is a “competition”; scores from each day do not carry forward.

Ribbons will be awarded from first through sixth place in each division on each day of the competition. Ride the day. As participants you are only concerned with the day (not tomorrow or year-end events). After each day’s competition,

the question you should ask yourself is “how well did I help/encourage my horse today?” Track your personal enjoyment, satisfaction, progress, stress level and skills.

Become a student – study, watch and feel how your horse responds to cues, how he expresses levels of relaxation and comfort with you, the environment and the obstacles.

**CONTEST COURSES:** 5-7 mile trail obstacle course with 6 obstacles

**CONTEST DIVISIONS:**

1. **Novice Division:** For green riders and/or green horses. Open to all riders who have never been paid to ride, train or give lessons.
2. **Pleasure Division:** For riders and horses with experience (i.e., good trail skills – limited horsemanship/showmanship skills). Open to all riders and horses.
3. **Advanced Division:** Most difficult. Open to all riders and horses.
4. **Youth Division:** Ages seven (7) through seventeen (17).
5. **Companion Rider:** Participates on the trail ride without trying the obstacles.

**Changing Division:** If a rider decides to change their division level after they have registered on line, they may do so: (1) at the time of check in on the day of the competition; or (2) at the first obstacle of the competition. It is the rider’s responsibility to advise the Scorer at the Registration Table as well as EACH judge at each obstacle.

**Moving to Higher Division:** A team (horse and rider combination) must move into the next higher division when two (2) wins (blue ribbons) are accumulated by said team in a division at a Wild Rose Competition. This movement to the next division must occur at the next Wild Rose Competition following the achievement of two (2) blue ribbons.

However, riders are encouraged to stretch their horsemanship skills and move to a higher level even when not required to do so.

**EVENT FEE SCHEDULE:** See Fee Schedule regarding registration fees for adults, youth and companion riders. See the individual ride write-ups on the Bethany's Gait Ranch for Heroes website for additional miscellaneous fees associated with each ride location. These fees are payable in cash at ride check in.

After you have registered online and a situation arises that will prevent you from attending a competition, you must contact Wild Rose prior to the day of the competition to receive a credit. **Do not register online to use the credit.** You must call Wild Rose who will sign you up for the competition to use the credit.

This credit will stay on the books for six (6) months. After six (6) months, the funds will be considered a donation to Bethany's Gait.

**EVENT SAFETY:** Helmets are required for riders under eighteen (18) years of age. For adults, helmets are encouraged.

Minimum age for rider's participation is seven (7) years old. Youth (under eighteen)) must have an adult accompany them on the trail.

Competitors and parent/legal guardians of youth assume all responsibility when on the grounds at each host facility.

Facility fences are not appropriate places to tie your horse.

It is your responsibility to keep yourself safe as well as those in close proximity. Be aware of your surroundings.

Obstacles are designed with safety in mind. However, if you feel an obstacle is beyond the ability of you and/or your horse, you may skip that obstacle.

**HORSE ELIGIBILITY:** Open to any breed and riding discipline. Horses may enter each contest only once. You are limited to **one (1) horse on site each day** at each competition. You **MAY NOT** have two (2) horses on site each day at a competition facility. All horses on site must be entered in and compete in the competition.

Bringing two horses on site will result in disqualification for the events and you will be asked to leave the facility.

**RIDER ELIGIBILITY:** Minimum age for rider is seven (7) years old. Youth under eighteen (18) must have an adult accompany them on the trail.

### **RIDERS PROTOCOL/RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Be safe.
2. Riders must exhibit “control” of their horses at all times and in all situations, whether on or off the course; violations are subject to disqualification and/or removal from the facility.
3. Be timely. Listen for the cowbell.
4. You **MUST** attend Riders’ Meeting prior to each day’s competition.
5. To facilitate flow of event, riders are strongly expected to study the obstacle sheet while riding to the next obstacle.
6. When approaching obstacle and judge, you must give number, name and division level (novice, pleasure, advanced, youth, companion) at which you are competing for that day.
7. Do not interfere with other riders during an obstacle performance; stay back; **be quiet.**
8. No trail short cuts – disqualification.
9. Do not engage judges as to your scores or performance during or after a competition. Scores and judges comments will be emailed to you.
10. If slow group is ahead of you, and you want to pass, request permission and proceed slowly.
11. Generator usage: Be considerate of others when parking near others and running your generator. Please limit use of your generator to minimize disturbing your neighbors and others. There are two types of generators:

(1) quiet, and (2) noisy. Be considerate so we don't have to set generator hours.

## 12. Practice the Golden Rule

**TACK AND ATTIRE:** Shoes or boots with a ½ inch or more heel are mandatory. Dress should be appropriate for the weather and the event, neat and functional. No shorts or sneakers. **Helmets are required for riders under eighteen (18) years of age.** For adults, helmets are encouraged.

Horses must wear saddle; bareback pads not acceptable.

Tack must be safe, humane and in good working condition. If Wild Rose Management or judges determine an item to be unsafe or not humane, you may correct the problem and return to the course if you do so in a timely manner.

Horses must wear some type of bridle with two reins or a loop reined attached to each side of bridle. Horses may be shown with 1 hand or 2 hands in approved bitless head gear such as a bosal, hackamore, or bitless bridle designed specifically for optimal control of the horse while maintaining the horse's comfort and safety. Riders using a bitless bridle/halter may be asked to demonstrate their effectiveness. Halters with lead ropes are not considered a bridle. If there is a question regarding proper equipment, the Wild Rose Ride Manager will make the final determination regarding the equipment.

The rider must exhibit "control" of their horse at all times and in all situations.

## **MANAGEMENT**

Wild Rose Management team and judges (Wild Rose Management) are solely responsible for review of all rule infractions.

Wild Rose Management reserves authority and right to refuse entry to and/or disqualify riders/horses at events at their discretion. This includes but not limited to safety violations, misconduct, disrespect directed toward any person, animal or property or other violations deemed inappropriate at the event.

Wild Rose Management has the discretion in a disqualification ( DQ ) situation to give riders a DQ at a specific obstacle, or DQ from the entire competition for the day.

**RULES:**

1. It is your responsibility to fully understand the course and rules.
2. You must sign all liability release forms at the time of check-in acknowledging your assumption of risk. Riders under eighteen (18) years of age must have parent/guardian signature on release form.
3. Equines must be serviceably sound and in good condition as determined by Wild Rose Management.
4. It is expected that each horse shall be treated humanely with kindness and respect all times. Horses should have the opportunity to display their great natural ability not hindered by drugs, surgical alterations or inhumane treatment. Wild Rose Management's position is to hold the highest standard of integrity in treatment and care of the horse.
5. Whining, moaning or complaining is discouraged. The object of our competitions is to have fun and to better our horsemanship.
6. No horses on the course prior to the competitions or before their turn.
7. No stallions allowed on site.
8. Known kickers must wear a red ribbon in their tail.
9. It is permissible to change rein hand to work with obstacles.
10. Please respect the facility, treat it well and clean up after yourself. Leave no trace.
11. Wild Rose Management has the right to add additional rules as necessary. Rule additions will be posted at the registration table or announced at the Riders' Meeting.

12. Coaching riders after they pass start cones is prohibited. Coach will be penalized.
13. Riders approaching an obstacle shall stay back, be quiet and not interfere with riders engaged at an obstacle.
14. Use of any performance enhancing pharmaceuticals that are not considered “over the counter” are prohibited.
15. If a horse drops and rolls or falls due to rider error or a behavior issue, a deduction of 10 points will be taken from the rider’s score by the judge at the obstacle. Riders will be expected to disclose a roll or fall if it occurs outside of the judge’s view.
16. Use of restrictive equipment, such as western cavessons, martingales, tie downs, draw reins, is not allowed.
17. Riders using harsh training methods or excessive force anywhere on the premises of the event are subject to disqualification.
18. You may not consume alcoholic beverages before or during the competition. If Wild Rose Management becomes aware that you were consuming alcohol out on the trail, you will be disqualified from the event and asked to leave the facility. You will be disqualified if it appears that the you are using drugs or alcohol. If after the ride, during any meetings, award ceremonies, dinners, etc., you become obnoxious and disrespectful of others, due to what appears to be alcohol or drug usage, you will be asked to leave the events and you will be disqualified for the entire weekend.
19. If permitted on facility, dogs must be on a leash at all times or contained in vehicle or trailer. If left unattended, they must be kept in your trailer and not disturb other people. Please pick up after your dog at all event locations. **NO DOGS ALLOWED ON THE TRAILS** or in proximity to any horses. This is coyote country – do not tie your dog to your trailer and leave it.

**CONTEST OBSTACLES:** Most obstacles will come from this list. Wild Rose Management has the right to be creative. Riders may be required to move forward, back, side pass, up, down as required by the obstacle description.

1. **Gate:** opening, passing through and closing the gate
2. **Crossing Obstacle:** poles, logs, bridge, water, ditch, tarp, carpet, box
3. **Dragging Obstacle:** log, tire, tarp, pallet, Boneless Bob, etc.
4. **Remove, carry and replace an item:** slicker, bucket, ball, flag, saddlebag, mailbox
5. **Jumps**
6. **Natural terrain:** brush, sticks, downfall areas, ravines, hill, debris
7. **Mounting:** from fence, block, log, ravine
8. **Circles or straight line:** walk, trot, lope, lead changes, transitions, yield diagonally
9. **Picking up horse's feet**
10. **Maneuvers:** pivots, rollbacks, stops, weaving or pattern, slingshot
11. **Water:** crossing, sprinkler, carry, creek, squirt guns
12. **Stop/halt from different gaits**
13. **Sensitizing opportunities:** moving vehicles, hikers, bikers and others

### **JUDGING:**

Obstacles are not timed. The obstacle judge will allow sufficient time for horse rider team to demonstrate their skill at completing the obstacle. When the judge excuses a rider to move on to the next obstacle, judging is completed. These events are competitions and not training situations.



Each judge will score based on what the rider and horse accomplish at the obstacle. We encourage you to accomplish as much as possible at each obstacle. Simply going through the start and/or end cones will earn the rider a score. If you pass on an obstacle, both you and horse receive “0” for that obstacle.

You will perform the required trail pattern individually. The best trail horse will be willingly guided with no apparent resistance. Any movement made by the horse on its own or deviation from the pattern must be considered a penalty. Credit will be given for horsemanship, smoothness, calmness, finesse, forward motion, control, attitude, quickness and authority in performing the various obstacles. The contests are intended to display the versatile working ability of a horse. A good horseman will never endanger themselves or their horse. A good working relationship between the horse and rider should be rewarded. You will be penalized for harshness with hands and rewarded for soft quiet hands.

Riders must abide by the ruling of the judge. All judges’ decisions are final.

If a judge can see you, they have authority and responsibility to enforce the rules.

Judges are instructed not to engage with riders or anyone regarding a rider’s strengths, weaknesses or scores at an obstacle on day of competition. Scores will be emailed to the participants within a few days.

Judges have complete authority at their obstacle. Riders shall comply with all judges’ instructions.

Judges can engage with you to explain the obstacle and answer questions, but once you pass the start cones, they will not respond.

Judges will engage in positive constructive comments when discussing competitors’ participation, i.e. Honey Bee Awards, etc.

**SCORING:** Each obstacle will be worth up to a maximum of twenty (20) points – ten (10) points maximum for the horse and ten (10) points maximum for the rider.

**TIES:** Exceptional performance completed by horse and/or rider may earn a plus from the judge. In case of ties, the total number of pluses per horse and rider will break the tie; next tie breaker will be decided by determining the hardest obstacle for that day and breaking tie will be the best in completing that obstacle. If need be, this process may be continued until we have a “winner”.

**SCORING GUIDELINES:** See Scoring Guidelines for more information.

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC:** Everyone needs to participate in creating the safest and best environment as per your understanding of best practices – masking when in the vicinity of other individuals, maintaining a 6-foot perimeter from other individuals when in a group setting, washing your hands and all other common-sense protocols.