



Countryside Challenge Course Instructions 2020

Instructions

It is important that all helpers and side walkers are fully informed and know the permitted instructions as detailed below. They must not bring any papers into the arena with them. Riders, helpers and leaders are strongly advised to walk the course prior to the commencement of the event. Times for this will be allocated.

Led Classes

Leaders must lead at the 3rd stage of leading.

Where riders are physically unable to organise their reins into one hand to complete a task with the other, they may lay the reins down neatly on the horse/pony's neck, with the buckle in the middle. Leaders do not have to change sides when the rein is changed.

Commanders

In the unled classes, commanders should stand in a central or roving central position. In the led classes, the leader or side helper may act as commander, but should be careful to limit instructions to text in bold. Side walkers will be allowed to give clearer and more detailed instruction to visually impaired and hearing impaired riders.

The walk only option is available in all classes.

Each rider may attempt each obstacle twice only. If the obstacle is still unsuccessful, the rider must move to the next obstacle.

1. SEVEN OBSTACLES

Bend around 7 numbered obstacles leaving first obstacles to the right (i.e. tyre, cone, feed sack, milk churn, small bin, flower pot and straw bale) placed at varying angles and distances. For led classes leaders must stay to the left of the obstacles, rider to demonstrate ability to steer pony/horse and maintain active walk.

2. ANNIVERSARY ARCH

Walk under the arch. Central approach, maintain rhythm with correct forward swing under archway looking for and taking the correct route towards the centre line between the two barrels.

3. BARRELS

Walk centrally between the two barrels and circle around EITHER the right OR left barrel. To be judged on accuracy, the shape of the circle and maintaining an active walk throughout.

4. APPLE TREES

Halt between Apple Trees. Pick up apple and drop into bucket. Rider to halt centrally, pick apple off one tree and using the same hand, drop into bucket on the **opposite side**. Effort to maintain square halt for apple picking, organisation of reins and overall control.

5. ROAD

Proceed along road to "HALT" sign, halt for 6 seconds then turn left. Following the road turn left again. Leader to lead from the left side, leaders and side walkers must stay on the outside of the road. To be judged on accurate steering, rhythmical walk and up and down transitions. Horses head not to go beyond road line.

6. BRIDLE PATH

Bridle path sign to shrub markers.

Please note that the rider must use the same option for both the Regional Qualifier and National Championships.

6a "WALK ONLY" Halt at bridle path sign, maintain a good square halt for 6 seconds and walk on, showing a good transition from halt to walk, walk centrally over pole showing a light seat position and maintaining a straight active walk throughout. Walk centrally between shrubs.

6b Begin Trot at bridle path sign to walk at shrub markers. Proceed in sitting or rising trot, trot centrally over pole showing a light seat position. Attempt correct aids for transitions, these may include voice – walk centrally between shrub markers.

6c Trot at bridle path sign, negotiate small jump (independent class only). Show correct position over jump and attempt correct aids for transitions these may include voice - walk between shrub markers.

7. BRIDGE

Walk centrally over bridge (leader/side walker to walk over bridge). To show accurate steering on approach and over bridge, maintaining an active walk.

8. POND

Serpentine around Duck Pond. Rider to start a 2 loop serpentine from the bridge around the top of the pond towards the sheep pen whilst maintaining an active walk.

9. SHEEP PEN

Continue 2 loop serpentine around the FRONT of the sheep pen and continue the serpentine towards shrubs, showing an accurate flowing walk. Ride behind shrubs showing an accurate line and approach to the free walk.

10. WALK STRETCHING ON A LONGER REIN

Walk stretching on a longer rein along farm track of differing 'material' e.g. wood chippings, shavings or straw. Show controlled free walk from start of track, reins to be shortened before leaving track demonstrating an ability to lengthen and shorten reins smoothly while maintaining control.

11. TREFOIL GATE

Walk from 'track', open gate and walk through. Thank Farmer. Correct parallel approach to gate. Open gate & walk through. No need to shut it. Thank farmer by raising hand, nodding or voice and take letter from farmer.

12. POST BOXES

Walk to postbox, showing a positive approach to either postbox. Halt and post letter. Reward pony or horse by patting or using voice.

Walk on to exit and leave the course when directed to do so. The rider is no longer being judged at this point.