

COUNTRYSIDE CHALLENGE COURSE INSTRUCTIONS 2022

(Update 12/01/2022)(2)

It is important that all leaders & sidewalkers are fully informed and know the permitted instructions as detailed below. They must not bring any paperwork into the arena with them. Riders, Leaders & Sidewalkers are strongly advised to walk the course, prior to competing. Times for course walks will be advertised.

LED CLASSES

Leaders must lead at the 3rd stage of leading - Leaders do not have to change sides when the rein is changed.

COMMANDERS

In the unlead classes the Commander should be in a central or roving position WITH A LEAD ROPE. In the led classes the leader or sidewalker may act as a commander but should be careful to limit instructions to the text in bold. Sidewalkers will be allowed to give more detailed instruction to Visually Impaired & Hearing Impaired Riders.

VI Rider should wear a white armband (not provided) Hearing Impaired riders should wear a yellow armband (not provided)

Each Rider may attempt each obstacle TWICE only. If the obstacle is still unsuccessful the rider must move onto the next obstacle.

A bell will be rung to start - ENJOY

1. SEVEN or FIVE OBSTACLES

Bend around 7(5) 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. ARCHES

Walk between the arch uprights - These will be set on a curve. Central approach, & RIDER to keep central on the curve, maintain rhythm, looking for and taking the correct route towards the centre line between the two barrels. (Leader/Sidewalker to walk between uprights)

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 go forward into 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 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. WALK CENTRALLY BETWEEN SHRUB MARKERS, Show correct route to Bridge.

From centre of Shrub Markers show accurate steering to start of Bridge in an active walk.

8. WALK CENTRALLY OVER BRIDGE, Rider to maintain central position

Leader/sidewalker walk over Bridge.

9. 3 LOOP SERPENTINE

Serpentine around - 1. SCARECROW > 2. SHEEP > 3. POND. Rider to show even accurate loops maintaining an active & regular pace.

10. RIVERSIDE WALK

Controlled walk stretching on a longer rein along the riverside. Show controlled free walk from start of track, reins to be shortened before leaving track demonstrating an ability to lengthen & shorten reins smoothly whilst maintaining control (Leader/sidewalker to stay outside track)

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. Halt, Thank farmer by raising hand, nodding or voice.

12. POSTBOX - The farmer will hand the rider (or side walker) a letter. Rider will take a letter and proceed to EITHER postbox, to show a positive approach & good transitions, HALT & Post letter, Pat or thank pony, gather reins walk on & leave course.