

TRAIL TRIALS

Resolution # TT 1

Trail Trials, Consistent Use of the Term Rider

WHEREAS, the CSHA Trail Trials rule book should be consistent in using either the word rider or competitor;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials chapter be amended as follows:

All instances of competitor, participant, etc., be changed to **rider**.

Submitted by: LaRae Sizer, CSHA Indirect Member, Tri Valley Trailblazers

Committee: Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_

Council of Members : Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_

Resolution # TT 2

Trial Trials, SEC. 2.0 General Rules, rule 2.14, new rule

WHEREAS, according to 2.14.1, judging shall start only after the judge tells the rider "you are now being judged" or "you may proceed.", and;

WHEREAS, there have been multiple cases where the behavior of the horse and/or rider's lack of control of the horse has put the obstacle judge at safety risk, and;

WHEREAS, the obstacle judge needs to have the ability to determine if the lack of control of the horse is going to put them at risk and be able to dismiss the rider and horse from the obstacle prior to becoming at risk;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trial Trials, SEC. 2.0 General Rules, rule 2.14 be amended to add:

2.14.2 Once the rider is called by the obstacle judge to move beyond the orange cone/obstacle marker and approach the obstacle, if in the opinion of the obstacle judge, the behavior of the horse and/or rider's lack of control of the horse would put the obstacle judge at safety risk, the obstacle judge may immediately declare that horse and rider team disqualified with maximum points applying the obstacle judge safety rule.

Submitted by: Rosellyn Matranga, Direct Senior Member

Committee: Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected__X

Council of Members : Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_

Resolution # TT 3
Trail Trials, SEC. 2.0 General Rules, rule 2.16.1

WHEREAS, the topic of safety is mentioned on the first page of Trail Trial Rules (as written in the first paragraph, second to the last sentence), and;

WHEREAS, rule 2.16.1 should be revised in keeping with those words;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 2.0 General Rules, rule 2.16.1 be amended as follows:

2.16.1 It is allowed should a rider dismount to retrieve a prop they may have dropped which is necessary to complete the obstacle and they immediately remount and complete the obstacle but the dismount/remount will judged accordingly. An appropriate mounting block (plastic mounting block, natural rock, log, etc.) will be supplied for a safe remount.

Submitted by: LaRae Sizer, CSHA Indirect Member, Tri Valley Trailblazers

Committee: Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected X

Council of Members : Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected X

Resolution # TT 4
Trail Trials, SEC. 2.0 General Rules, rule 2.17 Clarification of definition of SCE Qualified Horse

WHEREAS, the wording of rule 2.17 should be clarified to prevent misinterpretation of the definition of a qualified horse and rider for SCE competition;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 2.0 General Rules, rule 2.17 be amended as follows:

2.17 A horse at any event may only be ridden by one rider in the event. Should a horse qualify for the SCE under multiple riders, only one rider will be allowed to ride that qualified horse and enter the SCE.

Submitted by: LaRae Sizer, CSHA Indirect Member, Tri Valley Trailblazers

Committee: Adopted as written X Adopted as amended ___ Rejected ___

Council of Members : Adopted as written X Adopted as amended ___ Rejected ___

Resolution # TT 5

Trail Trials, SEC. 4.0 Categories and Divisions, rule 4.1.2

WHEREAS, there has been comments and concerns voiced by riders that the obstacle instructions appear to be more a “test of the memory” for Intermediate/Advance riders and not so much clarifying the specific requirements of completing that obstacle, and;

WHEREAS, on occasion, the obstacle instructions are not specifically concise. Using the example, "Ride to the rock, dismount and lead your horse to the tree." If the instructions did not clearly state: “dismount on to rock and lead your horse to the tree”, the rider should not be penalized for presuming it’s okay to dismount “near” the rock;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 4.0 Categories and Divisions, rule 4.1.2 be amended as follows:

4.1.2 Ride managers shall endeavor to design the majority of obstacles with both Novice and Advanced directions and they shall design obstacles that are category appropriate. Obstacle instructions should be written clearly and concisely, using short sentences with simple and specific information.

Submitted by: LaRae Sizer, CSHA Indirect Member, Tri Valley Trailblazers

Committee: Adopted as written Adopted as amended Rejected
Council of Members : Adopted as written Adopted as amended Rejected

Resolution # TT 6

Trail Trials, SEC. 7.0 Senior Judge Responsibilities, rule 7.4

WHEREAS, in addition to the Senior Judge signing the Official Ride Results Form, an additional duty should be specified as part of the Senior Judge responsibilities;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 7.0 Senior Judge Responsibilities, rule 7.4 be amended as follows:

7.4 Prior to signing the Official Ride Results Form, his initials/signature and date on each rider’s score sheet shall certify his review of the obstacle judge’s addition of point(s) total for said obstacle, including using the appropriate category and assigning points (0-3), (0 or 2) or (24/26). He shall be responsible for signing the Official Ride Results Form, which will be submitted to the State Trail Trials Sanctioning Chair.

Submitted by: LaRae Sizer, CSHA Indirect Member, Tri Valley Trailblazers

Committee: Adopted as written Adopted as amended Rejected
Council of Members : Adopted as written Adopted as amended Rejected

Resolution # TT 7 Trail Trials, SEC. 7.0 Senior Judge Responsibilities, rule 7.6.2

WHEREAS, concern has been expressed whether the Senior Judge takes safety of all rider categories into consideration when determining the level of difficulty for obstacles, and;

WHEREAS, rules 7.2.1 and 7.6.2 do not specifically specify the Senior Judge's role in determining the safety of the obstacle;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 7.0 Senior Judge Responsibilities, rule 7.6.2 be amended as follows:

7.6.2 The Senior Judge shall consider first and foremost, the safety of all horse and rider categories when evaluating obstacles, including appraising terrain, before allowing the inclusion of any obstacle instruction or obstacle that may have the potential to be dangerous and/or unsafe.

Submitted by: LaRae Sizer, CSHA Indirect Member, Tri Valley Trailblazers

Committee: Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_
Council of Members : Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_

Resolution # TT 8 Trail Trials, SEC. 7.0 Senior Judge Responsibilities, rule 7.6, new rule

WHEREAS, the ongoing growth and success depends in competitors having reasonably safe obstacles appropriate to their skill level, and;

WHEREAS, though riders are responsible for their own safety, in the heat of competition, they are more likely to take chances they may not normally take, and;

WHEREAS, the Trail Trials rule book cannot sufficiently cover all the safety guidelines that knowledgeable horseman learn over time with experience in the saddle, and;

WHEREAS, there are no prerequisites to taking the role of either a ride manager or obstacle writer, and;

WHEREAS, the senior judges are well trained and seasoned in horsemanship, have a defined level of expertise in our sport having completed the Senior Judge criteria in order to earn their role, and are the only person at a Trail Trial certified to have the ultimate authority on practices at a trail trial, and;

WHEREAS, senior judges need to have the final authority on the safety and appropriateness of an obstacle, and must have the authority to modify any or all portions of an obstacle to ensure that the obstacle properly reflects safe and sometimes unwritten Trail Trial practices and that the degree of difficulty and risk level of the obstacle appropriate to the level of the competitive teams, therefore,

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 7.0 Senior Judge Responsibilities, rule 7.6 be amended to add:

7.6.4 The Senior Judge will have the final authority to modify any or all portions of an obstacle to ensure that the obstacle properly reflects safe Trail Trial practices - whether or not they are present in this rule book - and ensure the degree of difficulty and risk level of the obstacle is appropriate to the level of the competitive teams that will execute that obstacle.

Submitted by: Andrew Turnbull, Indirect Member, San Ramon Valley Horsemen's Association

Committee: Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected X
Council of Members : Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected X

Resolution # TT 9

Trail Trials, SEC. 9.0 State Championship Event (SCE), rule 9.1

WHEREAS, it has become increasingly difficult to appoint a willing chairman with the resources necessary to host the State Championship Event, and;

WHEREAS, the State Committee endeavors to rotate the event when possible but needs to set aside the rule mandating rotation when a volunteer/location is not available, and;

WHEREAS, the majority of the riders in Trail Trials are from the Central and Northern Regions which is where the volunteers to run the SCE come from;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that that Trail Trials, SEC. 9.0 State Championship Event (SCE), rule 9.1 be amended as follows:

9.1 The SCE Chairman shall be appointed on an Area rotating basis when possible and when resources, a willing chair and a location to accommodate our needs is available.

Submitted by: Tami Sandberg, Senior Member

Committee: Adopted as written X Adopted as amended ___ Rejected ___
Council of Members : Adopted as written X Adopted as amended ___ Rejected ___

Resolution # TT 10

Trail Trials, SEC. 9.0 State Championship Event (SCE), rule 9.4.3

WHEREAS, Trail Trails is a sporting activity that depends heavily on volunteer contributions to preparation, set-up, administration, logistics, judging, scoring, fundraising, clean-up, and follow-up to successfully conduct each Trail Trial event, and;

WHEREAS, the privilege of riding at the State Championship Event depends on the volunteer contributions of numerous individuals who give up the opportunity to ride in a trail trial in order to support that Trail Trial, and;

WHEREAS, all competitors at State should provide a minimum of one day of service during the current regular season without competing that day to contribute to the operations of a sanctioned Trail Trial in service to a Ride Manager who would list all the volunteers for that Trail Trial in a simple report to be submitted along with the official score sheet that is posted as ride results;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that that Trail Trials, SEC. 9.0 State Championship Event (SCE), rule 9.4.3 be amended as follows:

9.4.3 The rider must complete three (3) CSHA sanctioned Trail Trials with the same horse in the same category and age division within the ride year, and must contribute one day of volunteer service at a regular season Trail Trial as a Ride Manager, Judge, Reader, Scorer, Starter, Ride Secretary, Raffle lead, Lunch Preparer, or other helper role - during a day in which the volunteer does not compete in the Trail Trial - in order to be eligible to compete in the Year End State Championship Event.

Submitted by:

Stephanie Solhan, Family Member, and Andrew Turnbull, Indirect Member, San Ramon Valley Horsemen's Association

Committee: Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended X Rejected___

Council of Members : Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended X Rejected___

Resolution # TT 11

Trail Trials, SEC. 12.0 Obstacle Skills, rule 12.1.2

WHEREAS, rule 12.1.2 refers to securing the reins while dismounted, and;

WHEREAS, the word secured is not clearly defined;

Therefore be it *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 12.0 Obstacle Skills, rule 12.1.2 be amended as follows:

Simply placing the reins over the saddle horn is not considered secure. Riders should use a twist or other means for securing the reins.

Submitted by: Kelly York, Senior Member

Committee: Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected X

Council of Members : Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected X

Resolution # TT 12

Trail Trials, SEC. 12.0 Obstacle Skills, Rule 12.2 Mounting - Mounting block should be available

WHEREAS, a suggested revision to SEC. 2.0 General Rules, Rule 2.16.1 has been put forth relating to safety, so should Rule 12.2 also be revised;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials SEC. 12 Obstacle Skills, Rule 12.2 be amended as follows:

12.2 Mounting: The rider must check cinch. The stirrup does not have to be laid over the saddle seat. Horse will stand quietly and not move off when mounted. Style of mounting is not considered, only a smooth mount that does not unbalance the horse. A rider must have the reins in hand while mounting. An appropriate mounting block (plastic mounting block, natural rock, log, etc.) will be supplied for a safe mount.

Submitted by: LaRae Sizer, CSHA Indirect Member, Tri Valley Trailblazers

Committee: Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_
Council of Members : Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_

Resolution # TT 13

Trail Trials, SEC. 12 Obstacle Skills, rule 12.5

WHEREAS, the title of Water Crossing should be changed to indicate other instances of water obstacles to include water bucket and the filling of that bucket with water, and;

WHEREAS, there have been instances at past events of using an obstacle with instructions: “enter the water, use the bucket provided, fill bucket, etc.”, and;

WHEREAS, riders may not know how to properly and safely perform this obstacle skill, and;

WHEREAS, the education of properly applying this skill has not been a part of any recent CSHA obstacle clinic, nor has the skill been demonstrated how to correctly and safely accomplish the task;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 12 Obstacle Skills, Rule 12.5 be amended as follows:

12.5 Water Obstacles

Water crossing: The horse should walk quietly through the water. It is at the rider's discretion if the horse will be allowed to drink or not to drink without being penalized. Horses will not be penalized for acknowledging the obstacle before entering it.

When obstacle instructions call for dipping a Bucket in Water or to take the bucket and rope provided and fill the bucket, riders need to know that the safe way to accomplish this task is to use appropriate rope skills, enter the water and dip the bucket only allowing it to float downstream when filling. This process may prevent the bucket and rope from floating and getting tangled underneath the horse's feet and belly.

Submitted by: LaRae Sizer, CSHA Indirect Member, Tri Valley Trailblazers

Committee: Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_
Council of Members : Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_

Resolution # TT 14 Trail Trials, SEC. 12 Obstacle Skills, rule 12.10

WHEREAS, there is no mention of specific material used for a gate, and;

WHEREAS, past trail trial events have utilized metal gates, rope gates, etc. and thus, there are no set standards for what type of materials can be used, and;

WHEREAS, in addition, the focus should be on safety rather than testing how much the rider or horse struggles to complete the obstacle;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials SEC. 12 Obstacle Skills, rule 12.10 be amended as follows:

12.10.1 If available, use a metal or wooden gate that is of sufficient height and not so low that riders must lean precariously down or over to open/close the gate. For Example: it should be sufficient in height for a junior rider on a tall horse.

12.10.2 If using a rope for the gate, allow for a small amount of slack in the length of the rope. Tie the small loop closure securely around the tree or post. DO NOT use electric fence tape or wire to create an enclosure and/or a gate.

12.10.3 Do not use baling twine for the loop enclosure if the gate consists of a clip (carabiner, or similar snap) and rope. Baling twine frays and unravels after continued use and the clip gets stuck in the twine.

Submitted by: LaRae Sizer, CSHA Indirect Member, Tri Valley Trailblazers

Committee: Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_
Council of Members : Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_

Resolution # TT 15
Trail Trials, SEC. 12 Obstacle Skills, rule 12.11

WHEREAS, at a recent Trail Trial event, there was rider confusion related to instructions stating, “pull the bucket to the branch, count, lower the bucket to the ground, drop the rope safely.”, and;

WHEREAS, because the pull is a backward motion, (the horse is backing), then the presumed, correct way to lower the object would be to ride the horse forward, while the rider lowers the rope and object;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 12 Obstacles Skills, rule 12.11 be amended as follows:

12.11.2 If obstacle instructions involve a pull and lowering an item safely, then the rider is to walk the horse forward to lower the object. The rider is not to use hand-over-hand to let the rope out to lower the object otherwise the rider will be penalized with points accordingly.

Submitted by: LaRae Sizer, CSHA Indirect Member, Tri Valley Trailblazers

Committee: Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_

Council of Members : Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_

Resolution # TT 16
Trail Trials, SEC. 12 Obstacle Skills, rule 12.11, new rule

WHEREAS, Trail Trial competition embraces different types of riders with a variety of saddles – including but not limited to English, Australian and Endurance style all of which lack horns for dallying, and;

WHEREAS, junior riders as well as riders in other age groups may not have the strength to pull heavy or resistant objects, and;

WHEREAS, the weight or friction resistance of a drag or pull obstacle that requires a dally gives an unfair advantage to competitors in western saddles with horns;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 12 Obstacle Skills, rule 12.11 be amended to add new sub rule:

Drag and/or pull obstacle objects must be light enough for a rider to drag or pull with the rope in hand, and not so heavy or resistant to require a dally.

Submitted by: Dean Witter, Family Member and Rebekah Witter, Family Member

Committee: Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_

Council of Members : Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_

Resolution # TT 17

Trail Trials, SEC. 12.0 Obstacle Skills, rule 12.11, new rule

WHEREAS, Rule 4.1.1.1 identifies that novice obstacle skills are “elementary and performed on mostly undemanding terrain, in a calm environment, and;

WHEREAS, dragging and pulling shall be performed in a straight line, on even footing, for short distances”, and;

WHEREAS, this definition is being missed because it is not within the obstacle skills section;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 12 Obstacle Skills, rule 12.11 be amended to add new sub rule:

12.11.1 As stated in rule 4.1.1.1, Novice obstacle skills are elementary and performed on mostly undemanding terrain, in a calm environment. Dragging and pulling shall be performed in a straight line, on even footing, for short distances.

Submitted by: Diane Medlock, Family Member

Committee: Adopted as written X__ Adopted as amended __ Rejected__

Council of Members : Adopted as written X__ Adopted as amended __ Rejected__

Resolution # TT 18
Trail Trials, SEC. 12 Obstacle Skills, rule 12.17.7

WHEREAS, the topic of safety is mentioned in the first page, first paragraph, 2nd to the last sentence of Trail Trial Rules: A judge at each obstacle evaluates the way both horse and rider negotiates these obstacles by keeping common sense and safety in mind, and;

WHEREAS, many riders may know the steps to take for an emergency dismount (though they may not practice it regularly): take both feet out of stirrups, place both hands on either side of the saddle horn, swing leg over saddle, landing on feet, facing forward, and be prepared to roll away from the horse if necessary for your safety, and;

WHEREAS, if safety is first and foremost, an emergency dismount obstacle should not be a part of Trail Trials competition. There are other ways to show the skill of horse and rider, and;

WHEREAS, CSHA removed the Tailing Obstacle at the 2014 CSHA Convention, and it should follow that in consideration of safety for both rider and horse, that Emergency Dismount not be used as an obstacle;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials, Sec. 12.0, Obstacle Skills, rule 12.17 be amended as follows:

12.17.7 Emergency Dismount shall not be used as an obstacle.

Submitted by: LaRae Sizer, CSHA Indirect Member, Tri Valley Trailblazers

Committee: Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_

Council of Members : Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_

Resolution # TT 19
Trail Trials, SEC. 14.0 Scoring, rule 14.1, new rule

WHEREAS, rider complaints regarding scoring have increased throughout the past couple of years, and;

WHEREAS, most complaints are not rule violations and are based on rider opinions of "My horse did not do that", and;

WHEREAS, complaints cause delays in awards ceremonies and can discourage volunteer judges from returning to help at events;

Therefore be it *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 14.0, rule 14.1.be amended to add:

14.1.2 All obstacle scores are final and will only be changed by the Senior Judge if there is a mathematical error or a rule violation. If a rider disagrees with a score, then they can follow the procedures outlined in Sec. 10.0 - Protests

Submitted by: Kelly York, Senior Member

Committee: Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended _X_ Rejected___

Council of Members : Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended _X_ Rejected___

Resolution # TT 20

Trail Trials, SEC. 14.0 Scoring, rule 14.2, sub rule 14.2.1

WHEREAS, Sec. 13.1 General Rules, Cinch Check: includes “Cinch checks are required before mounting, going up or down hills, or pulling and/or dragging which are all considered stresses on the saddle,” and;

WHEREAS, an important aspect of Trail Trial competition is as a *foundation of learning, practicing and adopting safety and practical skills valuable to aid horse and rider, and ;*

WHEREAS, the five cinch check requirements are valuable pro-active safety indicators and identifiers prior to the specific actions of mounting, going uphill, going downhill, dragging or pulling objects, and;

WHEREAS, being sure the cinch is properly set for such activities is performed in order to prevent accidents and injuries and therefore, it is vital for riders to learn, identify and implement these safety checks at the appropriate times, and;

WHEREAS, Rule 12.11 was amended to educate and implement appropriate timing of cinch check within a judged obstacle, thus setting the precedent that a rider is responsible to know when a cinch check is required, and;

WHEREAS, many competitors make a mindless ‘cover all bets’ habit of checking their cinch at all obstacles rather than learning and identifying the five situations when a safety cinch check is vitally important, and;

WHEREAS, safety education is important to the well-being of riders and the advancement of excellence within the sport of Trail Trials;

Therefore be it *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 14.0 Scoring, rule 14.2 be amended to add:

14.2.1 The exception to this rule is “cinch check”:

0 = Rider checked cinch

2 = Rider did not check cinch

2 = Rider told judge he was checking the cinch at an obstacle that cinch check was not required indicating the rider does not know or understand cinch check safety rule 13.1.

Submitted by: Dean Witter, Family Member, and Rebekah Witter, Family Member

Committee: Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_

Council of Members : Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_

Resolution # TT 21
Trial Trials, Appendix, new

WHEREAS, all forms except CSHA Membership and decal order form are for ride managers rather than individual riders. However, the link to *Rider Manager Guidelines* has information that is informative and of possible value to ALL riders. It would be beneficial to create a separate document to be labeled Appendix E in the Trail Trial Rules, include it in the Rider Manager Guidelines and also create a new tab into the trailtrials.com website page to include said document, therefore,

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials chapter be amended as follows:

Add new appendix *Rider Manager Guidelines*

Add a tab at the top of the web page (trailtrials.com), with the title: Best Practices and Safety Guidelines - Information for Senior Judge, Ride Manager & Riders. Within that tab would be information and/or examples that may not be found in specific Trail Trial Rules or any other area of the program. Example: Resolutions not approved, but potentially helpful, examples of how to perform specific obstacle skills, etc. If a resolution is not approved, but does have value, it is hoped that it could be included in this new document.

Submitted by: LaRae Sizer, CSHA Indirect Member, Tri Valley Trailblazers

Committee: Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_

Council of Members : Adopted as written ___ Adopted as amended ___ Rejected_X_