

TRAIL TRIALS RESOLUTIONS

2018

Resolution # TT 1

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

WHEREAS, a group of active and passionate Trail Trials competitors came together to find a way to encourage top horse and rider teams in Novice and Intermediate to progress to the Intermediate and Advanced categories, and;

WHEREAS, we believe that riders who have performed at the top of a division should progress to the next level to make room for new competitors to ascend and to encourage horse and rider teams to progress in the sport, and;

WHEREAS, our sport will improve when horse and rider teams are riding in the appropriate divisions in every Trail trial statewide, and;

WHEREAS, one of the principles of our sport is to provide level-appropriate trail challenges for the horse and rider teams to compete on a level playing field;

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

Add new rule:

In all Trail Trial programs statewide, rider and horse teams that have placed as Champion or Reserve Champion twice in the Novice or Intermediate categories – regardless of changing age divisions – will move up to the next higher category in the following ride year in order to continue competing for year-end Region awards.

Submitted by: Carlena Kellogg, Twain Harte Horsemen's member, Julie Dorrepaal, Senior Member, Holly Foiles, Senior Member, Andrew Turnbull, Family Member

Committee:	Adopted as written ___	Adopted as amended ___	Rejected___
Council Of Members :	Adopted as written ___	Adopted as amended ___	Rejected___



Resolution # TT 2
Trail Trials, SEC. 12.0 Obstacle Skills, rule 12.1.1.2

WHEREAS, Trail Trial competitors who have been using the natural hackamore have been penalized for securing the rope reins on the saddle horn and leading the horse with the macate rope, and;

WHEREAS, upon re-reading the rules: 12.1.1.2 If a horse is wearing a bosal [Spanish hackamore] and a mecate, or snaffle bridle and a mecate, the rider may tie the mecate into a leading-hitch (see Appendix A). Riders will not be penalized for using the mecate, so hitched, in lieu of a halter and lead rope. These rules say that the natural hackamore *MAY* be tied like a Spanish hackamore, but does not specify that it must be tied like the Spanish hackamore, and;

WHEREAS, the reason the Spanish Hackamore needs to be tied with a leading hitch is *to prevent the hanger from being pulled over the horse's ears when force is applied to the reins*, and;



WHEREAS, the so called “Natural Hackamore” is simply a rope halter and lead line with a single attached line, tied to allow for reins plus a leading line, this rig is closer to a halter and lead line or a Riding Halter than it is to a Spanish hackamore, since its headstall is held in place by a snug throatlatch and noseband. In addition side straps that encircle the jowl and join under the jaw making it impossible to be pulled off the horse’s head when being led by the lead rope which is attached under the jaw at the base of the noseband, and;

WHEREAS, using the term “Hackamore” may cause this confusion – in that there is no bit, but the rope halter is closer to a bridle in how it is securely fitted on the horse’s head so as to make it impossible to pull off the head when being led, and;

WHEREAS, this photo of a Riding Halter only differs in that it has reins snapped to the halter where the Natural Hackamore has the knot joining the reins and the lead line, and;



WHEREAS, in form and function, the “Natural Hackamore” is closer to a halter and lead or a Riding Halter and lead in purpose, configuration and security while leading than it is to the Spanish Hackamore that has just a hanger on the head with no cheek straps, throatlatch noseband or chinstraps to keep it on the horse’s head, and;

WHEREAS, this halter-lead rigging is the same as leading with a halter and lead under a bridle and should be led with the reins simply twisted onto the horn, not required to form a leading hitch that a Spanish Hackamore is required for safety and security while leading —to prevent the hanger from being pulled over the horse's ears when force is applied to the reins, and;

WHEREAS, the 2018 TT Rules state the following:

SEC. 12.0 Obstacle Skills

This section provides riders with some general guidelines for executing obstacles.

12.1 Leading: Horse to follow willingly, not crowding or lagging. Excess rope shall be held in the non-leading hand.

12.1.1 The horse must be lead with a halter and lead rope, not the reins, with the following exceptions:

12.1.1.1 Horses wearing a halter-bridle do not have to be lead with a separate halter. The rein must be unclipped from the bit rings and correctly fastened to the leading-ring of the halter bridle.

12.1.1.2 If a horse is wearing a bosal [Spanish hackamore] and a mecate, or snaffle bridle and a mecate, the rider may tie the mecate into a leading-hitch (see Appendix A). Riders will not be penalized for using the mecate, so hitched, in lieu of a halter and lead rope.

12.1.1.3 Horses wearing a Western bridle with a bosal and mecate [under bridle] may be led by the mecate

12.1.2 Reins should be secured to the horn of Western saddles, or knotted and/or appropriately secured, if no saddle horn is available.

and APPENDIX A states:

HITCHING A HACKAMORE LEADING RIG

A Spanish hackamore offers its user the convenience of providing a leading rig. If the mecate (rope rein) is correctly hitched around the horse's neck **to prevent the hanger from being pulled over the horse's ears when force is applied to the reins.**

There are several different, safe methods of hitching up the reins to make the leading rig. They all have the following points in common:

1. The reins are looped around the horse's neck to form a neck rope.
2. The reins are hitched over themselves to secure the neck rope in place.
3. The running end of the mecate lead rope is passed through a bite of the reins to secure the neck rope and take up any force if the horse pulls back while being led.

Example of correctly hitched mecate.

TT 20 Adopted November 2017, and;

WHEREAS, there is no reason to have the natural hackamore halter and lead rope made into a leading hitch since there is no possible way that halter can be pulled off the head of the horse with the security of throat-latch, noseband, cheek and chin straps;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 12.0 Obstacle Skills, rule 12.1.1.2 be amended as follows:

Add:

A horse wearing the Natural Hackamore as defined in the appendix is not required to tie the leading hitch and may simply apply rule 12.1.2.

Submitted by Rebekah Witter, Senior Member

Committee:	Adopted as written ___	Adopted as amended ___	Rejected___
Council Of Members :	Adopted as written ___	Adopted as amended ___	Rejected___



Resolution # TT 3
Trail Trials, SEC. 12 Obstacle Skills, rule 12.1.5

WHEREAS, Trail Trials Rules under SEC. 12.0 Obstacle Skills state that this section provides riders with some general guidelines for executing obstacles, and the rule further states under 12.1.5., that when a horse is asked to “send” in an obstacle a halter and lead rope must be used and that sending is not considered a novice obstacle, and;

WHEREAS, Trail Trial makes sending a horse an intermediate or advanced obstacle when in fact it should be a basic request that all riders are capable of using, and;

WHEREAS, sending your horse means having him go ahead of you and is a process used in trailer loading to avoid having the rider get front of the horse thus putting the rider in a dangerous spot or using straight load trailers where leading a horse in is not an option, and;

WHEREAS, most people send their horse in to a trailer and then step in to the side to hook them up, and;

WHEREAS, sending should be practiced by all riders not just intermediate or advanced, and sending may also be applied as a skill to certain gates, small entrances, and some enclosures, therefore, a novice rider should be encouraged to send their horse around an object;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 12 Obstacle Skills, rule 12.1.5 be amended as follows:

delete

Sending is not considered a novice obstacle.

Submitted by Russ Mullins, Paradise Horsemen’s Assoc. member

Committee:	Adopted as written ___	Adopted as amended ___	Rejected___
Council Of Members :	Adopted as written ___	Adopted as amended ___	Rejected___



Resolution # TT 4
Trail Trials, SEC. 12 Obstacle Skills, rules 12.2 and 12.3

WHEREAS, the rider should have discretion on whether to use a saddle's stirrups during mounting and dismounting under any condition as long as the mount or dismount is executed per existing rules in 12.2 and 12.3, and;

WHEREAS, some obstacle judges are giving penalty points when a rider exercises his discretion on the use of the stirrups;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 12 Obstacle Skills, rules 12.2 and 12.3 be amended as follows:

Rule 12.2 add:

Use of stirrups for mounting is optional.

Rule 12.3 add:

Use of stirrups for dismounting is optional.

Submitted by: Jennifer Myla Armitage, Senior Member

Committee:	Adopted as written ___	Adopted as amended ___	Rejected___
Council Of Members :	Adopted as written ___	Adopted as amended ___	Rejected___



Resolution # TT 5
Trail Trials, SEC. 12 Obstacle Skills, rule 12.17.7 Emergency Dismount
Trail Trials, SEC. 2.0 General Rules, new rule

WHEREAS, Trail Trials focus on safety, and;

WHEREAS, safety is first and foremost for rider and horse and knowing how to perform an emergency dismount in a life-threatening situation is important, it is not used daily while riding, and;

WHEREAS, the emergency dismount is a maneuver rather than an obstacle or skill, and;

WHEREAS, CSHA Trail Trials removed the Tailing Obstacle at the 2014 CSHA Convention on behalf of safety for rider and horse, similarly, the Emergency Dismount should not be used as a trail trial obstacle;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trial Rules Sec. 12.0, Obstacle Skills, rule 12.17.7 be amended as follows:

12.17.7 Emergency Dismount shall not be used as an obstacle.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, a similar rule will be added under Section 2.0:

2.21 Emergency dismount shall not be used as an obstacle.

Submitted by: LaRae Sizer, Senior Member

Committee:	Adopted as written ___	Adopted as amended ___	Rejected___
Council Of Members :	Adopted as written ___	Adopted as amended ___	Rejected___



Resolution # TT 6
Trail Trials, SEC. 13.0 Obstacle Judging, rule 13.4

WHEREAS, horses are natural-born grazing animals and a horse eating at an obstacle is currently cause for awarding penalty points for the rider, and;

WHEREAS, recently some riders have resorted to using products like "nibble-nots" which artificially prevents a horse from eating on the trail or at an obstacle thus creating an unfair advantage, and;

WHEREAS, neither Section 12 Obstacle Skills nor Section 13 Obstacle Judging – Score Sheet Standards, specifically state that penalty points will be given if the horse attempts to eat (grass, twigs, bark off the tree or bush, etc.)” or casually sniffs or touches an obstacle, but there is a wide perception that eating at an obstacle is grounds for penalty points;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 13.0 Obstacle Judging, rule 13.4 be amended as follows:

add a sentence at the end of the paragraph 13.4 RIDERS CONTROL:

A horse will not receive penalty points for eating during an obstacle or sniffing/touching during an obstacle as long as the horse remains attentive to and in control of the rider.

Submitted by: Marsha Arthur, Senior Member and LaRae Sizer, Senior Member

Committee:	Adopted as written ___	Adopted as amended ___	Rejected ___
Council Of Members :	Adopted as written ___	Adopted as amended ___	Rejected ___



Resolution # TT 7
Trail Trials, SEC. 14 Scoring, new rule

WHEREAS, Trail Trials relies on layman obstacle judges, the Senior Judge provides a final review of the score sheet and obstacle judge's comments in an effort to ensure each obstacle is judged properly per the rules, prior to signing the Official Ride Results Form, and;

WHEREAS, it is a benefit to competitors to have the opportunity to review the posted score sheets for 30 minutes prior to scores being finalized in order to tally and review penalty points, take note of judge's comments, and speak to the Senior Judge for clarification regarding scoring and comments on particular obstacles, and;

WHEREAS, the finalization of scores and awards presentation will follow this ½ hour review period;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 14 Scoring be amended as follows:

Add sub rule:

Upon posting of the score sheets, a ½ hour review period will be made available to competitors allowing for review of the score sheet (tally, penalty point review, noting judge's comments) and to speak to the Senior Judge for clarification regarding scoring and comments on particular obstacles, prior to scores being finalized and awards being presented.

Submitted by: LaRae Sizer, Senior Member

Committee:	Adopted as written ___	Adopted as amended ___	Rejected___
Council Of Members :	Adopted as written ___	Adopted as amended ___	Rejected___



Resolution # TT 8
Trail Trials, SEC. 14.0 Scoring, rule 14.2

WHEREAS, 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, the current rule book reads: 14.2 Scoring values will be assessed per each section of judging per obstacle as follows: 0 = Perfect, no discernible mistakes 1 = Above average, very minor mistakes 2 = Adequate job, obvious mistakes 3 = Made effort, skills need development, and;

WHEREAS, an additional scoring option of giving 4 points for inadequate performance on an obstacle offers the obstacle judge greater discretion to properly scoring a competitor, and provides the opportunity to give larger scores in specific areas rather than applying Disqualification for inadequate performance on an Obstacle, and;

WHEREAS, this is an opportunity to rewrite 14.2 for clarity and apply the commonly used Likert Scale, Scores of 0 through 4 will be made available to the Obstacle Judge in the appropriate scoring areas of the score sheet, and;

WHEREAS, there will be no change to the Cinch Check, Refusal Penalties or By-Pass/DQ scoring areas, and;

WHEREAS, it is clearer to re-label the “competing within boundary scoring area” to be “Off Course” (rather than On-Course) the Official Score sheet will read “Off Course”;

Therefore Be It *Resolved* that Trail Trials, SEC. 14.0 Scoring, rule 14.2 be amended as follows:

14.2 Scoring values will be assessed per each section of judging per obstacle as follows:

- 0 = Excellent, no mistakes observed
- 1 = Above Average, minor mistakes observed
- 2 = Average, obvious mistakes observed
- 3 = Below Average, several mistakes observed
- 4 = Inadequate, skills need development

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Trail Trials Score sheet will be changed from “On Course” to “Off Course.”

Submitted by Patty Walters, Senior Member

Committee:	Adopted as written	__	Adopted as amended	__	Rejected	__
Council Of Members :	Adopted as written	__	Adopted as amended	__	Rejected	__
