

CSHA Trail Trials Judges' Symposium

January 28, 2023, 8-11 a.m.

Pacheco South Room

Mission De Oro, Santa Nella

Senior Judges Present: Victor Pedroza, Charlotte Johnson, Diane Medlock, Maria Hines, Debra Waters, Cindi James McElwain

Senior Judges Absent: Joan Wilkinsen, Kelly York (remote attendance and written response to topics for discussion), Cindi Paine

Conflict Resolution Session 8-9 am

Jennifer Garcia, Vice-Chair of the State Trail Trials Committee, Retired UCD police officer will conduct this session in order to give us more tools in our tool belt to help resolve conflict and ensure everyone has a positive judging/competing experience.

Excellent workshop and well received. LISTEN to what they are saying, take your time responding, look at rules and interpret, look at overall scores by an obstacle judge.

2023 Trail Trials Rules available on the CSHA website or from a link on the trail trials website Calendar of Events.

Regular Session 9-11 am

1. Rule Changes. **4.2** At the SCE each category will have the following divisions.
 1. 17 and under Junior
 2. 18-59 Adult
 3. 60 and over Senior
2. Rope Handling. Soft ropes bunched or coiled revisit
Consensus either is fine. No wrapping around hands. Loops should be about the size of a lariat coil. Watch diameter of soft ropes for small hand size and too small for safety.
3. Halter Definition. Can a "loping bridle" be used as a halter? Many, many discussions on this topic thru the years. Consensus has always been no, lots of gimmicks but intent is a safe halter to tie horse up or safely lead.
Consensus as above.
4. Rule 7.2, how is everyone complying with this rule? i.e., you ride all advanced, ride manager ride novice and you watch/discuss with obstacle judge? You ride both? What is acceptable?
Consensus that we all do one or the other and acceptable.

5. When you look over scoresheets and a large percentage of riders fail the obstacle, what is your reaction? Do you review with obstacle judge? When you pre-rode were you aware of this possibility?

Yes, review with obstacle judge to make sure it was judged according to preride criteria. Obstacle thrown out should be discussed and agreed to with Ride Manager.

6. Insurance and our role. We are ~~independent contractors~~, check with your homeowners policy to see if you are covered.

This topic continues to be discussed.

7. Judges licensing requirements, review. Your opinion. Good or revise,
No discussion.

8. Horsemanship changes how we perceive novice/beginner trail and obstacles.

Consensus discussion to keep Novice obstacles elementary without multiple elements. Also assess trail for novice level. Might need to reroute the trail to be sure that Novice level riders can safely complete the trail.

9. How do we handle a Ride Manager who ignores our exclusion of an obstacle or trail?

What to do if you feel the need to exclude an obstacle or trail the ride manager has chosen?

- Try to come up with a scenario that might work to include the obstacle.
- Try to find a connecting trail that will make a portion of the trail viable
- You might not be able to include everything the ride manager wants but remember that safety, especially for our novice, is what you are focused on.

10. Transitions and distance required for "changes" in gaits as an obstacle.

Consensus that obstacle be placed in an area where gaits can be evaluated, not just allow for one or two strides.

11. Requiring "loose" rein in an obstacle.

Consensus not to use word "loose rein" in an obstacle direction as some riders ride with contact.

12. Judges' meetings before the ride, ZOOM?

Consensus not to allow to replace the in person meeting but pre pre ride ok.

13. Unsound horses and competing. Rules say no special consideration, our job to monitor unsoundness or exclude from competition?. How do we all handle?

Discussion on asking owner if horse ok to compete but no special consideration given. The issue will show itself at obstacles when the animal is limited in what it can do and/or tripping

14. Judging gaited horses at the trot, be sure obstacle judges are aware of what they might see and how to score.

Consensus to tell obstacle judge they are likely to see speed change.

15. ADA allowances: CSHA statement

16. Directions for sidepass. Should expectations be written. i.e. "Sidepass the log to the right, stop at end of log and count to 5" or "Without straddling the log, sidepass to the right, stop at end of log and count to 5".

Consensus to be clear. Idea brought up that obstacle could not be completed correctly if rider was to straddle or not straddle.

17. Discuss rider concerns. How do we all handle questions from riders regarding specific obstacles. For example: Rider approaches you to question why they got two points for a cinch check in an obstacle not requiring a cinch check.

Keeping our Conflict Resolution tips in mind, do our best to soften the impact, look at how judge scored overall, listen. Use it to educate for next ride.

18. Score sheet changes. All changes should be initialed, who can change?

Some judges authorize scorekeeper in advance to change addition errors but all changes must be initialed.

19. Senior Judges volunteering for work credit.

Consensus that this is ok as long as judge is volunteering and no \$.

20. DQ vs Lots of Points - revisit

Consensus that there is no good answer but we should do our best to make sure obstacles And directions allow for points not DQ