

APPENDIX B

OBSTACLES

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APPENDIX B. OBSTACLES
(refer to Table 6-1 for gait requirements)

Note: Severe mistakes are identified for each of the obstacles. These mistakes will lower the mark or may result in a negative mark. The final mark will be based on the execution of the entire obstacle.

1. Bridge

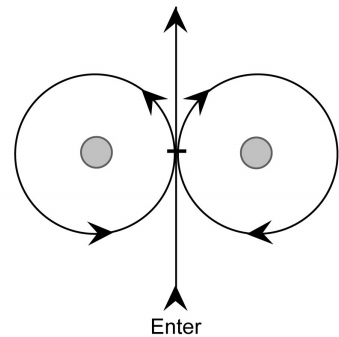
- a. Description. The bridge should be made of wood and be solidly constructed to ensure that it is not a danger for the horse or rider. The deck of the bridge must not be slippery. The bridge may be arched or angled in its rise. Recommended dimensions are minimum width: 1.5 m (5 ft); minimum length: 4 m (13 ft); minimum height: 20 cm (8 in.). The bridge may have side rails. If side rails are used, for safety considerations the rails must be constructed such that they can be quickly and easily removed without the use of tools. Side rails should be between 90 cm (3 ft.) and 1.2 m (4 ft.) in height.
- a. Execution. The bridge must be crossed at a walk in the Ease of Handling phase for all levels. The bridge may be crossed in both directions provided that there is one obstacle in between the first and second crossing.
- b. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the transition to the walk, the quality and regularity of the walk, the straightness of the horse going over the bridge, and the confidence of the horse and rider while navigating this obstacle. Points will be deducted if a horse shows any awkwardness, hesitation, or irregularity. Stepping off the bridge prematurely is a course error.

Severe mistakes:

- Not performing the obstacle at walk
- Destruction of the obstacle
- Severe resistance or hesitation
- Changes in Rhythm
- Difficult transitions

2. Figure 8

- a. Description. Two drums (or similar upright items) are placed 3m (10 ft) apart on center.
- b. Execution. The horse performs a circle around the right hand drum. Upon completing the turn, halfway between the drums, the horse will change direction and begin a circle of the same diameter around the left hand drum. When completing the second circle, the horse must pass between the drums to exit the obstacle. The circles must be uniform in size with the change of lead and/or bend on-center between the drums. A circle size of 3m represents the highest degree of



execution. The Advanced (L6) and Masters (L7) levels may be required to rein back through the obstacle after the initial circuits in the forward direction. The first circuit in reverse must circle the drum on the right. **To complete the reverse Figure 8, the horse must back completely (all four feet) out of the obstacle (including markers if used).** If this option is included, it must be indicated on the course map.

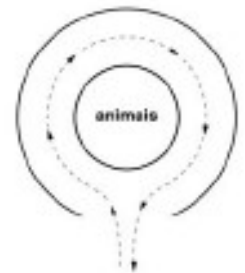
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the straightness of the approach to the obstacle; correctness of the horse's posture during the change of lead; the passage half way between the drums; the shape, symmetry, and precision of the circles; and the horse's response to the aids. A lower score will be given if the change of lead and/or change of bend are not centered between the drums. A negative mark will be given if the rider fails to perform a change of lead or if a drum is knocked over.

Severe mistakes:

- Failure to perform lead change (L4-L7)
- Changes in rhythm
- Circles not the same size
- Contact problems and/or severe resistances
- Knocking down the drum/element

3. Pen

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of a round enclosure approximately 6 m (20 ft) in diameter, with an entrance between 1.5-m (5-ft) and 2.5-m (8 ft) wide. Inside the round enclosure is a smaller round fenced enclosure 3 m (10 ft) in diameter meant to simulate a livestock pen. The inner pen may have small animals or statuary placed inside of the enclosure. The corridor around the livestock pen should be 1.5-m (5-ft) wide.



- b. Execution. The horse should enter the obstacle at the prescribed gait according to level in one direction, exit the obstacle, change direction, and re-enter the obstacle going in the opposite direction. The course designer or Judge may indicate the initial direction or leave it to the rider's discretion. When changing direction, the horse will execute a semi-circle, half pirouette, or turn on the haunches. If cantering, a change of lead is required.

In the Speed trial, the Pen is performed in one circuit only; the rider may choose the direction unless it is specifically designated on the course map or by the Judge.

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the horse's serenity and confidence, quality of gaits, and the rider's serenity and use of aids in performing the obstacle. The turn outside the pen and change of lead if required between circuits of the pen are considered as components of the obstacle.

Severe mistakes:

- Trotting in the pen
- Severe resistances

Rhythm faults
Mistake in the lead change.

4. Jug

- a. Description. A jug sits on top of a small table or other platform that is at least 1.2 m (4 ft) high. A manufactured table is not required; a table-like platform may be constructed of common materials (e.g., hay bales, sacks of grain, etc.) The jug must have a handle. The jug must be placed in the same position for each competitor. Course markers are required to indicate direction of entry to the obstacle. These are not to be considered transition markers.
- b. Execution. The rider approaches the table in the prescribed gait, halts with the rider's leg even with the table, raises the jug above his/her head, and replaces the jug on the table. The obstacle must be approached by facing the numbered side. The rider may stop at any position around the table as long as the obstacle is approached facing the numbered side. The horse must depart at the same gait as it approached the obstacle.

If the jug is dropped, a member of the ground crew will hand the jug to the riders competing at Children and Introductory (L1) levels. Novice (L2/L3) level riders must dismount, retrieve the jug, remount and replace the jug on the table or may request permission to pass and receive a 0 score. Intermediate (L4) through Masters (L7) riders must dismount, retrieve the jug, remount, and replace the jug; failure to do so will result in disqualification.

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches and remains immobile next to the table without showing any fear and trusting the rider's use of aids. The jug, when placed on the table, must remain upright. Any jarring movement against the table will result in a lower score. Intermediate (L4) through Masters (L7) level riders will receive a higher score for approaching the table at canter with a good canter-to-halt transition.

Severe mistakes:

Lack of immobility at the halt
Trajectory and transitions not well defined
Severe resistance

5. Remove Pole

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of an open-topped drum and a pole 2.5 to 3.5 m (8 to 11.5 ft) in length. The pole is placed in the drum, butt end down. The tip of the pole should be easily identified as such by a pronounced taper or distinctive coloring. The grounds crew, at the direction of the Judge, will place the pole in the same position for all riders. A rider may **ask the Judge for permission to have the ground crew adjust the**

position of the pole, but may do so only if the Judge grants permission. If a rider adjusts the position of the pole without permission this is considered showing an obstacle to the horse in an overt manner and is thus grounds for disqualification from the trial.

- b. Execution. The rider should approach the drum and retrieve the pole without stopping or breaking gait. The horse should advance at a steady gait and not react negatively to the appearance of the drum or the rider's removal of the pole. The rider may circle the drum once before picking up the pole, though this is considered less difficult than a straight approach.

If the pole is dropped, a member of the ground crew will hand the pole to the riders competing at Children and Introductory (L1) levels. Novice (L2/L3) level riders must dismount, retrieve the pole, and remount with the pole in hand or may request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. Intermediate (L4) through Masters (L7) riders must dismount, retrieve the pole, and remount with the pole in hand. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

This obstacle must be used in conjunction with **Replace Pole (#7)**. The **Spear Ring (#6)** obstacle is not required but may be included in the sequence. When used in sequence with **Remove/Place Pole**, they are considered and scored as a single obstacle. If other obstacles are encountered between them, they are scored separately (e.g., if the **Remove Pole** and **Spear Ring** obstacles are performed in sequence and another obstacle is performed before **Replace Pole** is encountered, then **Remove Pole** and **Spear Ring** are considered a single obstacle, and **Replace Pole** is considered a separate obstacle).

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the obstacle, its reaction to the movement of the pole, and the relaxed manner in which the rider uses the pole. A lower mark will be given for any alteration of the cadence or change of movement. Picking up the pole in a straight line is considered more difficult and will earn a higher score than circling the drum while picking up the pole. Circling the drum more than one time will result in a negative score. Knocking down the drum will result in a negative score.

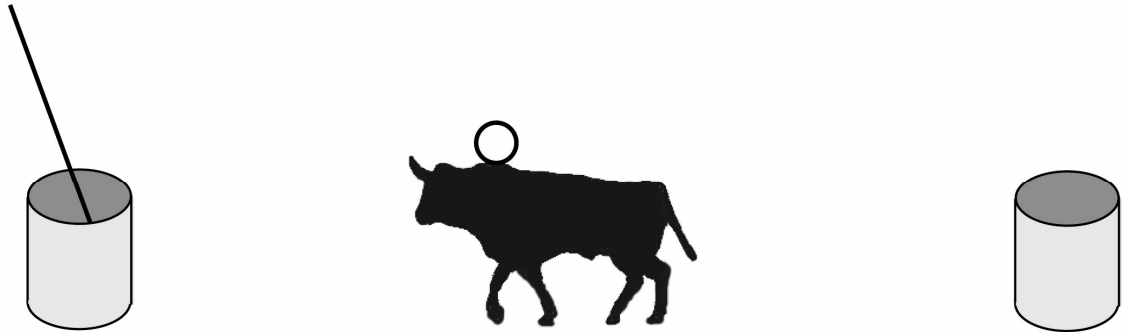
Severe mistakes:

- Severe hesitation/lack of confidence
- Knocking over the drum
- Change in cadence of gait or breaking gait
- Severe resistance
- Incorrect bend or canter on the incorrect lead

6. Spear Ring

- a. Description. The obstacle consists of a pole and a ring. The pole is taken from the **Remove Pole** obstacle (#5). If using multiple rings, the rings should be set at varying heights. It is traditional for the base to be in the shape of a bull with the ring placed on top. The rings can be made out of wood, metal, or plastic and should be approximately 15 cm (6 in.) in diameter.

The obstacle is used in conjunction with **Remove Pole (#5)** and **Replace Pole (#7)** and may be placed between these obstacles in the course, but may have additional obstacles in between.



- b. Execution. The competitor must skewer the ring(s) with the tip of the pole. The horse must maintain gait as prescribed for the level of competition.

If the pole is dropped, a member of the ground crew will hand the pole to the riders competing at Children and Introductory (L1) levels. Novice (L2/L3) level riders must dismount, retrieve the pole, and remount with the pole in hand or may request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. Intermediate (L4) through Masters (L7) riders must dismount, retrieve the pole, and remount with the pole in hand. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the obstacle, maintaining a good posture and not changing the cadence, and the fluidity with which the rider completes the exercise. Any break in the horse's movement with loss of fluidity will be penalized. Striking any part of the obstacle will result in a lower score. Skewering the ring is not nearly as important as the style/approach to the obstacle, the continuity in movement of the horse and rider, the correct bend, correct lead, and evenness of gait. Dropping the ring after picking it up or failure to skewer the ring will result in a lower score.

Severe mistakes:

- Lack of straightness
- Change in cadence of the gait or breaking gait
- Change of trajectory
- Incorrect bend or canter on the incorrect lead

7. **Replace Pole**

- a. Description. The obstacle is an open-topped drum set some distance apart from the drum in **Remove Pole** obstacle (#5). The drum in obstacle #5 may be used for this obstacle provided there is another obstacle in-between or a prescribed route away from it in the course design.

- b. Execution. The pole is deposited with the butt end down in the drum. The rider may circle the drum once before replacing the pole, though this is considered less difficult than a straight approach.

The pole must be deposited into and remain in the drum. If the pole bounces out or is dropped, a member of the ground crew will hand the pole to the riders competing at Children and Introductory (L1) levels. Novice (L2/L3) level riders must dismount, retrieve the pole, and remount with the pole in hand and complete the obstacle or may request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. Intermediate (L4) through Masters (L7) riders must dismount, retrieve the pole, and remount with the pole in hand and complete the obstacle. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

This obstacle must be used in conjunction with **Remove Pole (#5)**. The **Spear Ring (#6)** obstacle is not required but may be included in the sequence. When used in sequence with **Remove/Replace Pole**, they are considered and scored as a single obstacle. If other obstacles are encountered between them, they are scored separately (e.g., if the **Remove Pole** and **Spear Ring** obstacles are performed in sequence and another obstacle is performed before **Replace Pole** is encountered, then **Remove Pole** and **Spear Ring** are considered a single obstacle, and **Replace Pole** is considered a separate obstacle).

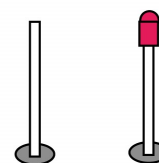
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the obstacle, its reaction to the movement of the pole, and the relaxed manner in which the rider uses the pole. Any break in gait or change of cadence by the horse will be penalized. Depositing the pole in a straight line will earn a higher score than circling the drum. Circling the drum more than one time will result in a negative score. Knocking down the drum will result in a negative score. Placing the tip end of the pole in the drum will receive a negative score.

Severe mistakes:

- Severe hesitation/lack of confidence
- Knocking over the drum
- Change in cadence of gait or breaking the rhythm
- Severe resistance
- Incorrect bend or canter on the incorrect lead
- Placing the pole tip in first

8. Switch Cup

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of two bending poles that are approximately 2 m (6.5 ft) in height, with an exterior base not secured in the ground. The poles are set 1.2 m (4 ft) apart. A drinking cup is placed upside down on the tip of one of the poles. The cup must be placed on the same pole for all competitors in the division or level.



- b. Execution. The horse and rider approach the obstacle at the prescribed gait and halts. The rider removes the cup from the pole where it is set, places it on the other pole, and then immediately exits the obstacle proceeding forward at the prescribed gait. If the cup is dropped, a member of the ground crew will hand the cup to the riders competing at Children and Introductory (L1) levels. Novice level (L2/L3) riders must dismount, retrieve the cup, and remount with the cup in hand and complete the obstacle or may request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. Intermediate (L4) through Masters (L7) riders must dismount, retrieve the cup, and remount with the cup in hand and complete the obstacle. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

If the pole that the cup is to be placed on is knocked down, the ground crew will reset the pole for Children and L1 riders. L2/L3 riders must dismount, reset the pole, remount and place the cup on the pole, or request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. L4 through L7 riders must dismount, reset, remount, and place the cup on the pole; failure to do so will result in disqualification.

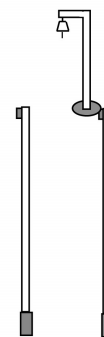
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the horse's attitude, calmness, straightness, and collection; the immobility of the horse, the rider's use of aids; and the fluidity, continuity, and quality of performance. Points will be awarded for the horse's immobility when switching the cup from one pole to another, and its immediate exit from the obstacle at the prescribed gait. The transition should be smooth, uphill, and come from the haunches. The horse should not "jump" forward. A lower score will be given if the horse is positioned so that the rider has to reach out of the saddle to move the cup. Dropping the cup will result in lower score.

Severe mistakes:

- Strong resistance in transitions,
- Lack of immobility
- No clear transitions

9. Bell Corridor

- a. Description. A corridor is made from two parallel rails resting on supports, small fences, or walls at least 30 cm (12 in.) in height. The supports are not secured in the ground. The rails are approximately 3.7-m (12-ft) long and 1.5 m (5-ft) apart. A bell is placed 2-m (6.5-ft) high at the end of the corridor. The support holding the bell is placed so that the bell hangs in the center of the corridor. **The support is to be placed on either side of the corridor so it does not block the end of the corridor.**



- b. Execution. The horse and rider enter the corridor at the prescribed gait for the level and halt at the end of the corridor. The rider rings the bell and reins back through the corridor. The obstacle is completed when the front of the horse clears the obstacle and course markers (if present).
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the horse's attitude, straightness, gait, and collection; the immobility of the horse at the bell; the rider's use of aids; and the fluidity, continuity, and quality of the performance. A higher score will be awarded

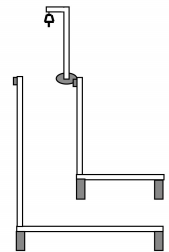
for performing the obstacle well at the trot or canter rather than at walk when allowed. A lower score will be given if the horse is positioned so that the rider has to reach out of the saddle to ring the bell. The Judge will give a lower mark to a horse that drags its feet during the rein-back. The Judge will give a lower mark if a horse bumps the rails, and a negative mark if the horse displaces or knocks down any of the rails or if the horse steps over the rails. Failure of the horse to remain still will be penalized. Failure of the rider to ring the bell will result in disqualification. Exiting the bell end of the corridor with all four feet will result in a disqualification.

Severe mistakes:

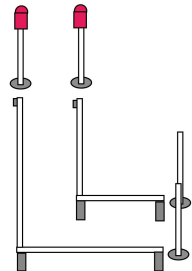
- Displace either of the rails
- Breaking the rhythm
- Lack of immobility
- Strong resistance to rein back/loss of diagonal pairs

10. Rein-back "L"

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of an L-shaped corridor made from parallel rails resting on supports, small fences, or walls at least 30 cm (12 in.) in height. The bend of the "L" may be in either direction. The supports are not secured in the ground. The outer rails are approximately 3.7-m (12-ft) long and 1.5-m (5-ft) apart. There are two variations to this obstacle:



- (1) A bell is placed 2-m (6.5-ft) high at the end of the corridor (identical to obstacle #9 Bell Corridor).
- (2) Two bending poles are at the end of the corridor, one on each side. A cup is placed upside down on each of the poles. There is a second set of bending poles at the entrance to the obstacle.



- b. Execution. The horse and rider enter the corridor at the prescribed gait for the level and halt at the end of the corridor. Depending on the configuration, the rider either:
- (1) Rings the bell and backs down the "L" corridor to exit the obstacle, or
 - (2) Removes the cup and backs down the "L" corridor. Upon exiting, the rider halts and places the cup on the pole at the entrance corresponding with the side from which the cup was removed.

If the cup is dropped, Novice level (L2/L3) riders must dismount, retrieve the cup, and remount with the cup in hand and complete the obstacle or may request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. Intermediate (L4) through Masters (L7) riders must dismount, retrieve the cup, and remount with the cup in hand and complete the obstacle. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

If the pole that the cup is to be placed on is knocked down, L2/L3 riders must dismount, reset the pole, remount and place the cup on the pole, or request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. L4 through L7 riders must dismount, reset, remount, and place the cup on the pole; failure to do so will result in disqualification.

This obstacle is not used for Children or Introductory (L1) levels.

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the fluidity of the horse's movements and its response to the use of the aids, enabling the route to be performed with maximum smoothness and accuracy. The Judge should consider the quality of the halt transition.

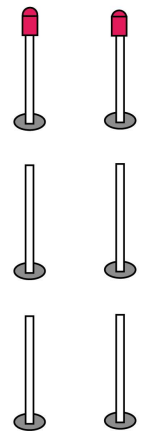
The Judge will give a lower mark if a horse bumps the rails, and a negative mark if the horse displaces or knocks down any of the rails or if the horse steps over the rails. Failure of the horse to remain immobile will be penalized. The Judge will give a lower mark to a horse that drags its feet during the rein-back. Knocking over any part of the obstacle will result in a negative score. A lower score will be given if the horse is positioned so that the rider has to reach out of the saddle to ring the bell or move the cup. Failure of the rider to ring the bell will result in disqualification. Exiting the corridor on the destination end with all four feet is a disqualification.

Severe mistakes:

- Touching or knocking down the posts
- Resistance in transitions
- Poor quality of reinback (loss of diagonals)
- Lack of immobility in the halt

11. Rounding Posts

- a. Description. Two parallel lines of three posts each create a 1.5-m (5-ft-wide) corridor. The posts in each line are separated a minimum of 2.5 m (8 ft) and a maximum of 3m (10 ft) from each other, and are aligned with the posts on the other line. A cup is placed upside down on the tip of each of the last posts in the corridor.



- b. Execution. The rider advances through the corridor and halts between the end posts to pick up a cup. The rider then reins back in a reverse slalom around the middle post on one side of the corridor from which he/she removed the cup and halts between the entrance posts to deposit the cup on the tip of the post at the entrance of the corridor corresponding with the side from which the cup was retrieved. The rider must keep the cup in his/her hand throughout the execution of the obstacle, but the obstacle can be completed with two hands on the reins if the rider is performing two-handed.

The horse must halt between the posts, showing immobility when the rider picks up the cup from the post and places the cup upside down on the top of the first post. To complete the obstacle, the horse must rein back fully to exit (i.e., all four feet) from the last pair of posts or entrance markers if included.

If the cup is dropped, a member of the ground crew will hand the cup to the riders competing at Introductory (L1) level. Novice (L2/L3) riders must dismount, retrieve the cup, remount with the cup in hand, and place it on the post or may request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. Intermediate (L4) through Masters (L7) riders must dismount, retrieve, remount, and place the cup or be disqualified.

If ANY post is knocked down, the ground crew will reset the pole for Introductory (L1) riders. Novice riders (L2/L3) have the option of dismounting, resetting the post, remounting, and replacing the cup (if needed), or may request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. Intermediate through Masters riders must dismount, reset the post, remount, and place the cup on the post (if needed); failure to do so will result in disqualification.

This obstacle is not performed at the Children level. At the Introductory (L1) and Novice (L2/L3) levels, the horse and rider rein back straight between the posts without performing a slalom.

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge should consider the quality of the gait and the halt transition. The Judge will evaluate the fluidity of the horse's movements and its response to the use of the aids, enabling the obstacle to be performed with maximum smoothness and accuracy. Failure of the horse to remain still will be penalized. A lower score will be given if the horse is positioned so that the rider has to reach out of the saddle to move the cup. Bumping a post without knocking it over will result in a lower score. Knocking over a post will result in a negative score. Failure to replace the cup on the designated post will result in disqualification. Exiting the destination end of the corridor with all four feet will result in a disqualification. The Judge will give a lower mark to a horse that drags its feet during the rein-back.

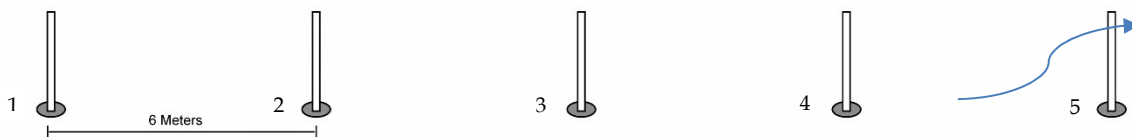
Severe mistakes:

- Touching or knocking down the posts
- Resistance in transitions
- Poor quality of reinback (loss of diagonals)
- Lack of immobility at the halt.

12. Single Slalom

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of an odd number of posts or similarly shaped objects (must be a minimum of five **maximum of seven**, seven are recommended for Advanced and Masters) in a straight line with bases not secured to the ground. The posts are approximately 2 m (6.5 ft) in height, and set with a distance 6m (20') between each post. Markers indicating side of entry can be placed on the appropriate side of the first post or can be placed on the post itself.

- b. Execution. The obstacle is entered in the prescribed gait. If exit markers are not used, the obstacle is complete when the rider's shoulder passes the final post in the direction



of travel of the whole obstacle. The line of travel should be weaving through the posts rather than loops around the posts. Lead changes must be performed as prescribed for that level. Changes of bend and lead are to be executed at each change of direction, in the line and midway between the posts. The horse's lead and bend should be in conformity with the turn.

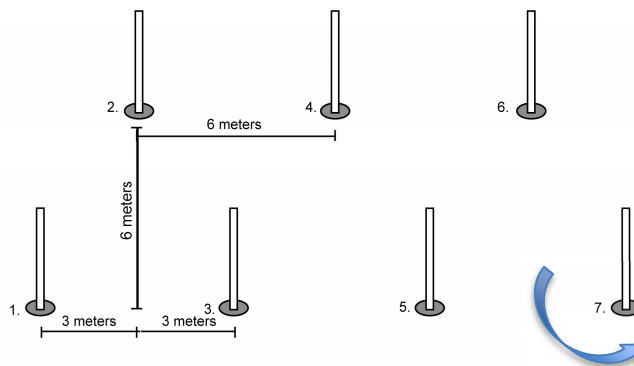
- c. Assessment Criteria. The Judge will evaluate the horse's calm, precise action; fluid and continuous movement; quality of gait; overall manner in performing this obstacle; and the quality of the lead changes. The Judge should consider correctness and attitude during the change of lead and/or changes of bend through the horse's body. Failure to perform lead changes and/or changes of bend will result in a negative mark. Late or delayed lead changes and/or changes of bend will result in a lower score. The shape, symmetry, and precision of the bending line, and the horse's response to the rider's aids will be considered. A negative score will be given for knocking down any of the posts.

Severe Mistakes:

- Failure to perform lead changes or mistakes in them
- Severe resistances
- Changes in rhythm
- Failure to keep uniform and symmetrical bend
- Knocking down post(s)

13. Double Slalom

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of an odd number of upright posts: minimum of five **maximum of seven**. **Seven** used for Advanced and Masters levels. Each post is approximately 2 m (6.5 ft) in height, with a base not secured to the ground. The posts are arranged in two staggered parallel lines, with a distance of 6m (20') between the parallel lines and between each post on the line. The posts are staggered such that the midpoint between the first two posts of the first line is directly opposite the first post of the second line.



- b. Execution. The obstacle is entered in the prescribed gait. The horse will perform loops or turns of consistent size around the posts, in the direction indicated. Changes of lead/bend are performed halfway between the posts and on the line between the successive posts. The horse's lead and bend should conform to the direction of the turn. If exit markers are not used, the obstacle is complete when the rider's shoulder passes the final post in the direction of travel of the whole obstacle, i.e. completing at least a ¼ loop or turn of the last post.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the horse's calm, precise action; quality of gait; fluid and continuous movement; overall manner in performing this obstacle; and the quality of the lead changes or changes of bend. The Judge should consider correctness and attitude during the change of lead and/or changes of bend through the horse's body, and the horse's bend around the posts. Failure to perform lead changes and/or changes of bend will result in a negative mark. Late or delayed lead changes or changes of bend will result in a lower score. The shape, symmetry, and precision of the turns for this obstacle, and the horse's response to the rider's aids will be considered. A negative score will be given for knocking down any of the posts.

Severe Mistakes:

- Mistakes (more than one) in the lead changes
- Mistakes in the rhythm
- Failure to keep symmetrical bends
- Knocking down the posts

14. Gate

- a. Description. The gate must be at least 1.3 m (4-ft 3-in.) high and 2-m (6.5-ft) wide, supported by two weighted posts (or jump standards) and two hinges. A latch easily operated from horseback should be used. The gate can be opened to the right or left depending on how the obstacle is set in the course. A rope between two posts can be used instead of a solid gate. A solid gate is preferred for Ease of Handling and is required in championship competitions; a rope gate should be used for Speed.
- b. Execution. The rider will approach perpendicular to the gate at the prescribed gait for the level and transition to the walk as he/she approaches the gate. The rider then moves the horse laterally and halts alongside the gate. The rider must lift the latch, open the gate, and go through the entrance. When the horse has fully passed to the other side of the gate, the rider may back up one or two steps to close the gate. With the horse squarely halted, the rider will then put the latch in place to complete the obstacle. The rider should not release control of the gate at any point in the performance of this exercise until the gate is latched. The obstacle may be required in both directions providing there is at least one obstacle in between the first and second execution. If a rope gate is used, the rope may not be passed over the rider's head.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the horse's action which should be fluid and without any hesitation. The horse should pay attention to and participate in

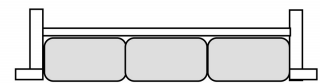
the opening and closing movements without showing any signs of insecurity or disobedience. The rider's action should be easy, precise, and free from hesitation. A negative score will be given if the rider releases control of the gate by letting go for more than a momentary adjustment of hand position at any time during the execution of this obstacle or if there is any sign of insecurity by the horse or rider or lack of continuity (fluidity) of the action. Switching hands will result in a disqualification. Passing the rope gate over the rider's head will result in disqualification.

Severe Mistakes:

Hesitation, tension or rein-back approaching the gate;
Resistance in transitions and passing the gate;
Breaking the rhythm

15. Jump

- a. Description. The obstacle consists of a single jump in a progression of heights for each level. Standard jump rails or a solid wood obstacle (like a flower box) can be used. Bales of straw placed end-to-end are acceptable. The jump must be at least 3-m (10-ft) across. The jump must be positioned between two jump standards with appropriate jump cups (breakaway cups recommended).



Children: A single rail is placed on the ground between the jump standards; jump cups must be removed.

L1: Jump consists of a pair of crossed rails not to exceed 0.3 m (12 in.) at the center

L2 and L3: Jump consists of a pair of crossed rails not to exceed 0.5 m (22 in.) at the standard and 0.4 m (15 in.) at the center.

L4 thru L7: Jump consists of a solid-looking obstacle or rails set approximately 0.5 m (22 in.) high. A rail is to be positioned in cups, on top of the 'solid' obstacle.

- b. Execution. The horse should approach and jump over the obstacle cleanly, naturally, and with assurance. The obstacle may be required in both directions providing there is at least one obstacle in between the first and second execution.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches and leaves the obstacle; the horse's calmness, straightness, and tempo throughout the obstacle; the bascule over the jump and the pair's **balance**, confidence and style. Knocking over any part of the obstacle will result in a negative score.

Severe Mistakes:

Refusal (s) to jump
Bad style
Breaking the rhythm
Loss of balance of rider or horse
Knocking over any part of the obstacle

16. Sidepass Rail

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of one or more rails about 3.7 m (12 ft) in length with a diameter of not more than 10 cm (4 in.), supported 5-10 cm (2-4 in.) above the ground. The rails may be arranged in the following configurations:

- (1) Single rail
- (2) Two rails in a line separated by at least 3 m (10 ft)
- (3) Two parallel rails separated by at least 3 m (10 ft)
- (4) Two rails in an "L" configuration
- (5) Three rails in a zig-zag ("⌒") configuration; rails are set at 90 degrees.

Course markers are required to indicate the direction of entry/exit to the obstacle. These are not to be considered as transition markers.

- b. Execution. The horse should be in sidepass position before reaching the rail. The horse's legs should cross in a lateral movement along the rail with the rail between the horse's front and hind legs throughout the obstacle. The course map may indicate which direction (right or left) the horse and rider must pass over the rail; when not specified, the rider chooses the direction. For the two rails in a line (2) and the parallel (3) configurations, the rails must be ridden in different directions. For an "L" configuration, the horse must be positioned so that its head is to the inside of the "L". Any changes in gait required to execute this obstacle must occur at the entrance and exit markers.

	Single Rail	2 in a line	2 parallel	'L' config	'⌒' config
Introductory	--	--	--	--	--
Novice	√	√	√	--	--
Intermediate	√	√	√	√	--
Advanced	√	√	√	√	--
Masters	√	√	√	√	√

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the horse's calmness, capacity to perform the obstacle, crossing of the legs, and the fluidity and continuity of the action. A bend in the direction of the movement will garner a higher score than if the horse is bent away from the movement. A lower mark will be given for bumping the rail as seen or heard. A negative mark will be given for knocking over the rail or if the horse steps across the rail with one or more feet. The Judge will give a lower mark for a lack of crossing of the horse's legs in the lateral movement. Exiting the rail prematurely or failing to sidestep over the entire length of the rail is a course error.

Severe Mistakes

Failure to cross legs (if done in walk)

Knocking over the rail

Severe resistance

Not performing the obstacle bent in the direction of travel (L4 and above)

17. Water

- a. Description. The ditch should be a minimum of 1.5 m (5 ft.) in the direction of travel (long), and a minimum of 2.4 m (8 ft.) wide. The ditch may be flat to a depth of up to 10 cm (4 in) or gently sloping to a maximum depth of 20 cm (8 in.). The bottom surface should be safe for horses to travel across. Course markers must be used to mark the entrance and exit. The obstacle may be framed with logs so horses have to step over and into/out of the water.
- b. Execution. The horse should approach and maintain gait through the water naturally and without any hesitation. This obstacle is not used for Children and Introductory (L1) levels.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the obstacle, its reaction when going through the water, and the consistency of gait throughout the exercise. A lower mark will be given for hesitancy by the horse. A negative mark will be given if the horse steps backward before riding through the obstacle or jumps the obstacle without going through the water.

Severe mistakes:

Hesitation and refusal to enter/cross through the water
Severe resistance to rider's aids.

18. Bank

- a. Description. The obstacle consists of an embankment of natural substance positioned not more than 30 to 60 cm (1 to 2 ft.) above ground level. A level plateau is at the top and bottom of the embankment; the plateau must be at least 2-m (6.5-ft) long in the direction of travel. There may be ramps leading to and away from the level plateaus.
- b. Execution. The horse should approach and maintain the chosen gait through the obstacle naturally and without any hesitation. The obstacle can be executed in either direction. The obstacle can be executed as either an up-bank or a down-bank. Both an up-bank and a down-bank may be incorporated and scored as one obstacle. This obstacle is not used for Children and Introductory (L1) riders.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the bank, the smoothness of the jump, the consistency and quality of gait throughout the exercise, and confidence in the rider's instructions. Lower marks are awarded for hesitancy. A horse that steps backward before going over the bank will receive a negative mark.

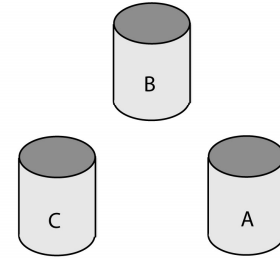
Severe mistakes:

Hesitation and refusal to jump on and off the bank

Severe resistance to rider's aids.

19. Drums

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of three drums positioned at the three points of an equilateral triangle with sides 3 or 4 m (10 or 13 ft) long, measured from the center of the drums. The drums are set 4 m (13 ft) apart for Children, Introductory (L1), Novice (L2/L3), and Intermediate (L4/L5) levels, and 3 m (10 ft) apart for Advanced (L6) and Masters (L7) levels.
- b. Execution. The horse enters at the appropriate gait for the level between drums A & C.



The horse makes a full circle to the right around drum A. The horse proceeds to pass halfway between drums A & B, with a change of lead and/or bend over the imaginary line between A & B. The horse makes a loop to the left around drum B. The horse then proceeds to pass halfway between drums B & C, with a change of lead and/or bend along the imaginary line between B & C. The horse makes a full circle to the right around drum C and exits at the same point from which the exercise began.

All circles should be symmetrical and of the same diameter.

~~The obstacle may be executed to the left first only if designated on the course map and approved by the Judge.~~

- c. Assessment Criteria. The Judge will consider the horse's attitude, the rider's use of aids, tempo, continuity of action, quality of gait, fluidity of performance, correctness and attitude during the change of lead, accuracy of the passage halfway between the drums, and the shape, symmetry, and precision of the circles. The highest degree of execution is a 4-m circle for Children through Intermediate levels, and a 3-m circle for Advanced and Masters levels. A lower score will be given for incorrect placement of change of lead and/or change of bend (failure to perform midway between the drums). A negative mark will be given for failure to perform a change of lead and/or change of bend. The Judge will give a negative mark if a drum is knocked over.

Severe Mistakes:

- Failure and/or mistakes in the lead changes
- Rhythm mistakes
- Knocking down the drums
- Severe resistances
- Too large circles (L6/L7)