



**A judged trail course designed to challenge
& build confidence in you & your horse.**

2010 Rule Book

www.TrailRiderChallenge.com

Trail Rider Challenge

2010 Official Details & Rules

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Description

The Trail Rider Challenge (TRC) is a unique event that encourages you and your horse to develop a partnership based on trust, and develop and measure your horsemanship skills, while having fun and meeting other horse people. Your partnership is then scored on an obstacle course designed to challenge your skills at all levels and encourage good horsemanship.

Purpose

This event will give you the opportunity to set goals, measure your progress, gain confidence, expose your horse to new things, and win prizes. The TRC is about having fun, building confidence, promoting good horsemanship and challenging you and your horse to new levels. It is an encouraging, supportive group of people who want to learn and challenge themselves.

2010 Events

Trail Rider Challenge

- June 12 Omaha Stockyards Saddle Club Arena, Omaha, NE
Special Division: Rookie
- July 17 Capital City Horse Club Arena, Lincoln, NE
Special Division: 40 & over
- August 7 Skyline Arena, Elkhorn, NE
Special Division: Colts (2 & 3 year olds)
- September 11 Triple M Stable, Council Bluffs, IA
Special Division: Mustangs (any BLM branded horse)
- October 23 Awards Banquet at Kelli's
People only. No horses.

All TRC's begin at 9:00 am. Registration opens at 8:00 am.

*September 4 Trail Rider Challenge – EXTENDED VERSION
4 miles. 16 obstacles. Ride with your friends.
Pacific Junction, IA.
Does not count towards year-end awards. Divisions
will be slightly different.*

Clinics

- June 13 Omaha Stockyards Saddle Club Arena,
July 18 Capital City Horse & Pony Club Arena,
August 8 Skyline Ranch Arena, Elkhorn, NE
- Each clinic is held Sunday from 1 - 4 on each of the TRC courses.
Newcomers welcome to try out the course.
TRC participants can practice on the course.
Assistance available. More clinics listed online.

Practice for TRC participants that weekend \$30

Clinic participants \$40.

Divisions

Five divisions will be at each event and have year-end prizes.

1. **Extreme – Short Course:** Last class of the day. The TRC course is changed up and 6 obstacles will challenge the extreme in you!

Open to riders 13 and over, not novice riders. Timed.

2. The **Trail Rider Challenge Division** is scored and timed. 10 obstacles are worth 10 points each. Time is worth 10 points. Overall horsemanship is worth 5 points. It is in an open area and includes loping. Open to all ages and skill levels of horse and rider.

3. The **Novice Division** is for beginner adults, teens or inexperienced horses. Novices have NOT competed in the Extreme division. Novices have never won a TRC, a Trail Class or a similar event. Novices have never been paid to ride, train or give lessons. The class is in an arena and the pattern includes walk and trot. No loping. 10 obstacles are worth 10 points each. Not timed. Time limit strictly enforced.

4. **Senior Youth Division:** Youth 13 to 18 as of January 1. The Sr. Youth Division will be held on the Trail Rider Challenge course. Sr. Youth may enter the Trail Rider Challenge and compete with the adults. They would run the course once. The score would count twice. Sr. Youth may enter the Novice division.

5. **Junior Youth Division:** Youth 12 and under as of January 1. The Junior division competes on the same arena course as the novices. Walk - trot. Time limit.

Special Divisions: Special Divisions will be completed with the Trail Rider Challenge Division. A rider may enter their score in the Trail Rider Challenge Division and /or the special division. The horse and rider go through the course once. Their score applies to the division(s) they enter.

June 12: Rookie Division (1st time at TRC)

July 17: 40 & over

August 7: Colt Division (2 & 3 year olds)

September 11: Mustang Division

Prizes & Awards

Ribbons 1st – 6th. in all divisions.

Award for 1st place in all divisions.

Year-end points; 1st place will receive 10 points, 2nd place 9 points, 3rd place 8 points, 4th place 7 points, etc to tenth place. There are four point events for 2010.

Year-end Awards: Each division will receive awards 1st – 4th place.

Awards will most likely be trophy buckles for 1st and 2nd, tack for 3rd and 4th. In the event we have enough participants in a division to afford a trophy saddle then those arrangements will be made.

Exhibitor Numbers

Each exhibitor will purchase a number for the year. The proceeds from the sale of numbers will fund the year-end awards. This reduces the amount of entry fees approximately \$20 per class from 2009 fees and rewards those who show multiple times.

Trail Rider Challenge: \$35

Novice Division: \$25

Sr. Youth: \$15

Jr. Youth: \$10

Entry Fees

Trail Rider Challenge: \$45

Novice Division: \$35

Sr. Youth: \$20

Jr. Youth: \$15

Special Divisions: If horse and rider compete in Trail Rider Challenge it is an additional \$20. If horse & rider compete in the Special division only the entry fee is \$35.

If Sr. Youth enter the Sr. Youth and Trail Rider Division both there is a \$10 discount.

How to Enter: Entries close 30 minutes before a division begins. Entries may be mailed in ahead of time.

Spectators: Free. Bring a lawn chair.

Horse Eligibility

Horses may see a course only once. The exception is the Extreme division will be ran on the Trail Rider Course. A horse may compete on both the Trail Rider Challenge Course and Novice Course. Open to any breed and riding discipline.

Show is approved for PAC (APHA) points and several other breed association programs. Please bring your paper work with you. Check ahead of time for your breed rules and requirements.

Exhibitor Order will be determined by show management by drawing and posted. Accommodations are made for exhibitors with multiple horses. You must compete in this order.

Trail Rider Challenge OBSTACLES

Most obstacles will come from this list. Show management has the right to be creative.

TYPICAL OBSTACLES:

1. GATE - Opening, passing through and closing the gate.
2. CROSSING OBSTACLE – poles, logs, bridge, water, ditch, or tarp
3. DRAGGING OBSTACLE – log, tire, tarp, pallet, etc
4. ROPE A STATIONARY STEER – judged on horse, not rider's roping ability
5. LOADING INTO A TRAILER
6. REMOVE, CARRY AND REPLACE AN ITEM - slicker, bucket, ball, flag, saddlebag, etc
7. BACK or ride thru & around obstacles or up and down hill
8. SIPEPASS over a single pole or poles.
9. JUMP - Lope over a small jump (log or small barrel). Youth may trot.
10. MAILBOX – Approaching the object and handling an item
11. THROUGH – Cowboy curtains, tunnels
12. NATURAL TERRAIN - brush, sticks, downfall areas, ravines, hills, debris

13. MOUNTING – From fence, block, log, windmill
14. CIRCLES or Straight Line– trot, lope, lead changes, slow, fast
15. SMOKE - campfire
16. LOUD NOISES
17. MAZE or tight fit
18. PICKIN UP HORSES FEET
19. PONY A HORSE (Xtreme division)
20. MANUEVERS - Pivots, rollbacks, stops, weaving or pattern
21. CATTLE – Move from pen to pen (Xtreme division)
22. WATER – crossing, sprinkler, carry, creek

A course walk through for competitors will be 30 minutes before competition begins. It is the competitor's responsibility to fully understand the course and rules at this time. Obstacles must be completed in the designated order. It is acceptable to ask the judge where to go next in the Youth and Novice Divisions. The Trail Rider Challenge division should know the course. A 10-point deduction will be made if a rider in the TRC division goes off course.

SAFTEY

Obstacles are designed with safety in mind. However, if you feel an obstacle is beyond the abilities of you and/or your horse you may skip that obstacle. You will receive a zero for that obstacle but will still receive a score for the course. 30 seconds will be added to your time. Helmets are encouraged but not required. Competitors and parents/legal guardians of youth assume all responsibility when on the grounds and participating in the event.

RULES

1. Open to any discipline of riding and breed(s) of horse.
2. Horse can go through each course only once. A rider may exhibit multiple horses.
3. All riders must sign a release form. Riders 17 years or age and under must have parent/guardian signature on release form. Release forms online.

4. Riders must pay a non-refundable entry fee.
5. Riders may not consume alcoholic beverages before or during their ride. A rider will be disqualified if it appears that the rider is using drugs or alcohol.
6. Equines must be serviceably sound and in good condition as determined by the judge.
7. Horses may be shown in any division if the rider is eligible for the division.
8. It is expected that each horse shall be treated humanely with kindness and respect at all times. Horses should have the opportunity to display their great natural ability not hindered by drugs, surgical alterations or inhumane treatment. Our position is to hold to the highest standard of integrity in treatment and care of the horse.
9. The judge always has the option of disqualifying an exhibitor for safety reasons, disrespect or misconduct.
10. No whining, moaning, or complaining. There shall be a one-year ban on crybabies and poor sports and a three-year ban on jerks. The object is to have fun and to better our horsemanship. Suggestions are welcome.
11. No horses on the course before their turn.
12. If you choose to lead your horse through an obstacle you must remount before moving toward the next obstacle.
13. If you happen to fall off your horse and you can regain control with out assistance and remount you may do so. If your horse leaves the course you are disqualified.
14. The judge shall have the right to the blow whistle and ask contestant to move on to next obstacle upon the third refusal or 30 seconds the rider should move to the next obstacle.
15. Failure to complete an obstacle results in a zero for that obstacle and a 30 second time penalty, not a disqualification.
16. It is permissible to change rein hand to work with an obstacle.
17. Please respect the facility, treat it well and clean up after yourself.
18. Show management has the right to add additional rules if necessary. Rule additions will be posted at registration table.

TACK & ATTIRE

Attire: Boots with a heel are mandatory. Dress should be appropriate for the weather and the event, neat and functional. Show clothing not required.

Numbers: the show secretary will issue each rider one number for the season. The number will be displayed in a visible manner. Failure to do so results in disqualification.

Tack must be safe, humane and in good working condition. If show management determines an item to be unsafe or not humane the exhibitor has 10 minutes to correct the problem and return to the course.

Snaffle Bits and Bosals: Any horse may be shown 2 handed using a snaffle or bosal.

Horses that are shown in bit with a shank should be ridden one-handed. Use of two-hands penalized.

Discouraged Equipment: Mechanical hackamores, tie-downs, draw reins, martingales, and wire chinstraps strongly discouraged.

JUDGING

Each contestant will perform the required trail pattern individually. The best trail horse will be willfully guided with no apparent resistance. Any movement made by the horse on it's own or deviation from the pattern must be considered a lack of control. Credit will be given for horsemanship, smoothness, calmness, finesse, forward motion, control, attitude, **quickness** and authority in performing the various obstacles while using controlled speed. This event is intended to display the versatile working ability of a horse.

- A good horseman will never endanger themselves or their horse.
- A good working relationship between horse and rider should be rewarded

Riders will abide by the ruling of the judge. All judges' decisions are final.

SCORING

Each obstacle will be worth 10 points for a possible total score of 120 points.

Points can be given in .5 increments.

Scoring system;

- 0 – Not Attempted
- 1 – Attempt made, uncooperative horse, 3 refusals
- 2 - Attempt made, uncooperative horse, 2 refusals
- 3 – Attempt made, uncooperative horse, 1 refusal
- 4 – Obstacle complete with hesitation, rough but done
- 5 – Obstacle completed with slight deviation or hesitation
- 6 – Obstacle completed as expected
- 7 – Obstacle completed smoothly and willingly
- 8 – Obstacle completed willingly with finesse
- 9 – Obstacle completed willingly with a higher degree of difficulty
- 10 - Obstacle completed willingly with a higher degree of difficulty and extreme finesse

TIME

The competition time keeper/time clock will record the entry/competitors time. The official timer will have the final time decision and may not be challenged.

10-minute time limit for all divisions or as posted at walk through.

Trail Rider Challenge: Time points are given in 30-second increments. Time points are given in addition to the exhibitors score for obstacles.

- The fastest time is awarded 10 pts
- Exhibitors within 30 seconds of the fastest time receive 9pts.
- Exhibitors within the next 30 seconds will receive 8pts.
- Exhibitors within the next 30 seconds will receive 7pts.
- Exhibitors within the next 30 seconds will receive 6pts.
- Exhibitors within the next 30 seconds will receive 5pts.
- Exhibitors within the next 30 seconds will receive 4pts.

Exhibitors within the next 30 seconds will receive 3pts.
Exhibitors within the next 30 seconds will receive 2pts.
Exhibitors within the next 30 seconds will receive 1pts.
Points are awarded based on the fastest time and 4.5 minutes thereafter.

Extreme Division: Time points are given in 20-second increments.
Time points are given in addition to the exhibitors score for obstacles.

The fastest time is awarded 10 pts
Exhibitors within 20 seconds of the fastest time receive 9pts.
Exhibitors within the next 20 seconds will receive 8pts.
Exhibitors within the next 20 seconds will receive 7pts.
Exhibitors within the next 20 seconds will receive 6pts.
Exhibitors within the next 20 seconds will receive 5pts.
Exhibitors within the next 20 seconds will receive 4pts.
Exhibitors within the next 20 seconds will receive 3pts.
Exhibitors within the next 20 seconds will receive 2pts.
Exhibitors within the next 20 seconds will receive 1pts.
Points are awarded based on the fastest time and 3 minutes thereafter.

In the event of a tie score in any division, the fastest time will win.

GOOD LUCK!