

## Questions for the Judges

2026

- 1) Do the judges ever tell a host that an obstacle is not safe and needs to be removed? For example, walking on slippery silage poly?  
Yes, and we have removed obstacles. It's based on each division.
- 2) Is there, or should there be a limit for the depth of a water box?  
No, we don't. If it became an issue, it would be reviewed at that time.
- 3) When roping the dummy, I like to stand in my stirrups and lean forward like I would when actually roping a live calf. Is that the body position you want to see?  
There is no specific body position. Standing or sitting is irrelevant.
- 4) How much of a deduction is it if a horse touches/ticks a rail when side passing or backing an "L." A Tick is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  point per tick. Moving a rail is between  $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 point or more, depending on the scenario. Backup L is more about the straightness and control.
- 5) Do you want to see the rope coiled after throwing or just thrown back to the dummy steer. If you miss, we would like to see it coiled up and ideally take it with you. If you catch, coil it up and put it on the steer head.
- 6) How much of a deduction is it to switch from one hand to two? Or from the left hand to the right? If you are switching to complete an obstacle, it's typically not an issue. If it's between an obstacle or a free ride, then  $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  point each time. If you have to switch to two hands from one during an obstacle because of an issue, then you might gain the points you lose by switching to two hands. A shank bit should be ridden one-handed.
- 7) How many times should a person attempt an obstacle if a horse refuses an obstacle, but a rider knows their horse can do it, as it has done it in the past? It's up to the rider how long they want to keep going. Every refusal will cost you. You also need to keep in mind how many obstacles you have left to complete.
- 8) Do you want to see side passing in and out of obstacles like the gate, send around, or other circular obstacles, or would you prefer to see them just ride smoothly to it? There isn't "one correct way" to enter and exit obstacles. Each obstacle is different, and it depends which direction you are coming from and going to next. The goal is to have a fluid and smooth transition.
- 9) When time is called, and a participant is ready to execute, or in the middle of executing an obstacle, will that obstacle count, or do they need to have completed it to count? As per rule, 4.4. A maximum time of six minutes is

allowed to complete the course. Each ride will be timed, and there will be a one-minute warning. Should a rider not complete the course in the time limit they will be scored only to the obstacles completed. The time limit may be extended where longer courses warrant, at the discretion of the judges and course designer.