

# *Judging for Mountain Trail*

## Criteria

Each obstacle counts for 10 points

The judging is as follows

- 1- Entry into the obstacle -2 points*
- 2- Navigating through the obstacle- 5 points*
- 3- Exit from the obstacle – 2 points*
- 4- ½ points are recommended to be used where it is needed to difference ate between riders.*
- 5- Some obstacles at the shows to be determined by the head show judge will be valued at times two.*

**1- Entry:** Two points are given if the horse enters the obstacle straight, acknowledges the obstacle and maintains forward motion in an alert and willing manner. A horse has up to 3 seconds to examine the obstacle before entry. After 3 seconds it will be counted as a refusal and lack of forward motion.

**2- Navigating:** Five points are given if the horse picks his way through in a willing safe manner without stumbles, ticks, or breaks in gate.

**3- Exit:** Two points are given if the horse exits at the same speed that it entered and is straight and on course.

If 1, 2 and 3 are all smooth, safe and enjoyable to watch then the judge has the option of granting an extra point which brings the total possible points to 10. Ten is the best.

It is recognized that each breed may have a different head set, speed of forward motion or gait – however all must move in a safe manner with a willing attitude.

This system applies to each obstacle whether it is a bridge, gate, trench, water and or logs rocks etc.

### **Points**

A horse that receives a 0 for any obstacle for a complete refusal may **NOT** place higher than a horse with a score for each obstacle.

#### **Entry**

-1 point - Horse does not enter an obstacle straight, willing and or breaks forward motion with a pause longer than 3 seconds. (“stop” is a break of forward motion longer than 3 seconds)

-2 point - Horse refuses twice (the horse backs up twice) Horse has, two refusals and not straight and or will not enter obstacle.

After three refusals the horse and rider must move on – a show is not a place to train – this will result in a 0 for obstacle.

#### **Navigating:**

-1 point – Horse and rider lose forward motion

-2 point – Horse stumbles, ticks, in a hurry

-3 point – Horse is not listening to the rider

-4 point – Horse does all three above

-5 point – All the above and or rider and horses safety is at risk.

#### **Exit:**

-1 point – Hurries and not straight

-2 point – Not straight and all the above and not safe

All penalties apply to each obstacle.

This system will allow the spectators and competitors to understand how the judging takes place. It will also be fun for everyone to score along and see how they do.