

# RULES FOR VPR OBSTACLE CHALLENGE 2018



1. Safety is the number one priority.
2. This is a timed and accumulated point event during which the performance of the horse and rider will be judged at the approach, execution and departure of each obstacle. Judges will award points on a scale of 1-10, in  $\frac{1}{2}$  point increments based on the horse's attitude, the rider's horsemanship, cadence and their overall performance. (0=not completed, 10=best) At the judge's discretion, points will be deducted for rushing your horse through the obstacle(s).
3. \*The course will consist of 6 to 13 Obstacles. Obstacle for each class are as follows: Buckaroos (6), Wranglers (8), Youth Riders (10), Green Horse (10), Novice (10), Amateur Gaited (13), Limited Amateur (13), Amateur (13) and Open (13).
4. Times will be translated into points as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> fastest time = 10pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> =9.5 pts, 3<sup>rd</sup>=9pts, 4<sup>th</sup>=8.5 pts, 5<sup>th</sup>=8 pts, 6<sup>th</sup>=7.5 pts, 7<sup>th</sup>=7 pts, 8<sup>th</sup>=6.5 pts, 9<sup>th</sup>=6 pts, 10<sup>th</sup>=5.5 pts and all else will receive 5pts each. Points from the obstacles and overall horsemanship points will be added to the time points. The horse and rider with the most points wins. In case of a point tie, the fastest time wins.
5. Open to any rider, discipline and breed.
6. Judges and timers decisions are final. Arguing, complaining or challenging can be grounds for disqualification.
7. Judges will disqualify any horse that is not deemed fit and sound. No refunds will be allowed.
8. Riders may not abuse horses for any reason. Any abuse, as defined by the judge or management, is grounds for disqualification. No refunds will be allowed.
9. Entry Fees are Non-Refundable. Entry Fees are per horse /rider team.
10. \*The official timer will make all decisions related to timing of competitors. Their decisions are final and may not be challenged in any way by contestant or any representative at any time. Timing starts when competitor is signaled to start and will continue until competitor completes the course or is disqualified. The course has a limit of 8 minutes to complete.
11. \*The Judges are responsible for designing the course, creating and handing out the map on the day of competition. There will a walk through with the Judges to explain obstacle and it is the competitor's responsibility to understand the course before they compete.
12. Breaking the course pattern (skipping an obstacle and then returning to it) will result in disqualification. Missing an obstacle will result in a score of zero for that obstacle and an additional time of 30 seconds added to the score.
13. Refusal of an obstacle will be judged and given points on the approach, the horsemanship during the attempt and the departure. Acknowledge to the judge that you will be moving on to the next obstacle.
14. \*Competitors have a 30 second time limit once obstacle is approached. The judge may choose to extend the 30 second time limit on some obstacles. At the judge's discretion, after 3 refusals and loss of forward motion, competitor will be asked to move to the next obstacle.
15. \*A horse may be ridden more than once as long as it is a different rider in a separate division (with exception made for Buckaroos because it is a leadline class). Competitors may enter twice per class providing they ride a different horse and a separate entry is completed and paid. Competitors can only compete on the same horse in two divisions.
16. \*Only one competitor on the course at a time. No horses or riders on the course prior to walk through. This is ground for disqualification.
17. If you are dismounted and you can regain control of your horse and remount unassisted, you may continue the obstacle challenge. Youth riders may be assisted. There is a 60 second time limit to remount and continue the course after which the rider becomes disqualified. If your horse leaves the course you will be disqualified.
18. Should a distraction from inside or outside the obstacle area be so great as to inhibit the competitor from competing, a competitor may ask and be granted a re-ride at the judge's discretion. If so, the re-ride will take place at the end of the class/division.
19. All riders must sign a Release of Liability. Riders under the age of 18 must wear a helmet. All riders are encouraged to wear helmets.
20. \*Competitors must ride with a saddle and bridle. No mechanical hackamores, gag bits, leverage devices, tie downs, gimmick bits or martingales of any kind allowed. If you have a question about whether your tack is legal, please ask the judge before you ride.
21. All riders and lead line walkers must wear appropriate attire and shoes (no tank tops or shorts)
22. \*Once a rider/horse combination has won a VPR Obstacle Series Champion (buckle), then that rider/horse combination may not compete in that same division again and should move up to the next higher division at any future VPR Obstacle Series event (does not apply to the Buckaroos, Wranglers or Youth Rider).
23. \*Ribbons to the top five (5) in each division after each show. After the 4<sup>th</sup> show, each division's Champion (high Point) will receive a Buckle and the Reserve Champion (2<sup>nd</sup> Place) will receive a prize for the best 3 out of 4 scores in the series.
24. Contestant's names will be drawn to determine the order of go and may not be changed. Contestants will compete in the order drawn or be disqualified.
25. \*50/50 - For divisions having a PAYOUT of entry fees they will be calculated in the following manner. 1<sup>st</sup> place - 25%, 2<sup>nd</sup> place - 15%, 3<sup>rd</sup> place 10%. Cash will be paid out at the end of each show. Participants under 18 years of age will not receive payouts.
26. \*VPR may change the rules at any time without notice. Exception to the rules as stated maybe granted.

*\*Changes have been made to these rules.*

I have read and understand the above listed rules.

Signature of Contestant/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Revised 4/8/18