

**ACTHA2017 RULES effective January 1, 2017**

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*This Rulebook supersedes all previous editions. The rules published here are effective January 1, 2017 unless otherwise specified at the time of their enactment. These rules will remain in effect except as superseded by rule changes enacted by ACTHA Board of Directors. Refer to ACTHA's [www.actha.ca](http://www.actha.ca) website for the most updated version of the rules. Any differences between information on our website, printed material, social media, and this handbook shall be governed by the official rules in this handbook.*

**1. Definitions.**

- i. All-Breed Competitive Trail Horse Activities., is herein recognized as ACTHA
- ii. A 'Competitive Trail Challenge' is herein referred to as a CTC.
- iii. An 'Arena Obstacle Challenge' is herein referred to as an AOC.
- iv. A Timed Obstacle Challenge is herein referred to as a TOC
- v. Rules shall be specified by the word 'MUST'/'MUST NOT'. Rules MUST be abided by. They are NOT Suggestions.
- vi. Suggestions shall be specified by the word 'SHOULD'. Although they do not have to be complied to, they are proposals which are recommended by ACTHA.
- vii. A 'minor' is an individual under the age of 18.
- viii. A 'junior' is an individual between the ages of 7 and 15.

**2. ACTHA's Disclaimer of Responsibility for Safety.** ACTHA does not assume responsibility for the safety of participants, volunteers, or attendees at any ACTHA sanctioned event. ACTHA event hosts act as independent contractors, agreeing to hold the event according to ACTHA rules, which are designed to promote friendly, fair, casual competition. Event Hosts are responsible for the safety of participants. Safety is a concern of everyone, but ACTHA does not assume responsibility for the safety of horse or human.

All riders assume the risk of horseback riding as participants in an ACTHA event. All adult riders MUST sign a waiver of liability acknowledging their assumption of risk in order to participate in a CTC/AOC/TOC. This is done online if you register for a CTC/AOC/TOC online, otherwise it MUST be signed at the event. Minors must have a paper waiver signed by a parent or guardian and submit it to the ride host.

**3. Membership**

a. *Membership Types*

- i. Annual Membership consists of a 12-month period beginning with the date of purchase and expiring 12 months later.

- ii. Single Event Trial Membership is available to individuals who wish to explore the benefits of ACTHA without the commitment of an annual membership.
  
- b. Membership Accounts. Members may select an adult or minor membership. Membership fees are \$25.00 for one adult and one horse and \$10.00 for one minor and one horse. To add additional horses, the fee is \$10.00 per horse. Family members or people sharing the same horses can be on the same account if they wish.
  
- c. For 2017, Cavallo is donating a \$50.00 gift certificate to each member.
  
- d. *Membership Responsibilities.* Membership in ACTHA is by mutual agreement. Membership therefore, may be terminated by ACTHA for cause detrimental to the interest of ACTHA, its events, objectives and pleasurable relationship of its members, as determined by the Board of Directors or Steering Committee. By participating in ACTHA events, a participant agrees to hold ACTHA and its management harmless from any damage incurred as a result of membership or participation in ACTHA activities. Members are responsible for understanding the current rules as they appear on the rules page of our website and agree to abide by same. All ACTHA members have the responsibility to obey and be bound by the rules of the organization.
  - i. ACTHA reserves the right to refuse entry or disqualify participants at its discretion for any reason, including, but not limited to, inhumane treatment of animals, poor sportsmanship, or failure to pay debt to ACTHA or ACTHA event host, being under the influence of alcohol or any other personality altering drug or for any reason.
  
  - ii. ACTHA operates on an honor system. Any participant who displays dishonest character with regard to ACTHA competition will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the association, loss of points, and being banned from participation in future events.
  
- e. *Cancellation of Membership.* Either party may cancel membership for any reason or pro-rated standard membership dues will be refunded. Membership add-ons are not refundable.

**Media Rule.** Attendance at an ACTHA approved event, in whatever capacity, shall constitute authorization for ACTHA, its agents, designees, or assigns to photograph, video tape, or record by other means (hereinafter referred to as “photographic material”) any person or animal participating, and shall further constitute authorization for the use of the photographic material in any manner that ACTHA, in its sole discretion, determines would be beneficial to promoting the purposes and goals of ACTHA; provided, however, that no

photographic material or related information will be used in conjunction with the endorsement of any product unless prior written consent is obtained. Attendance at an ACTHA event shall further constitute agreement to the terms and conditions outlined above, and shall constitute a waiver and release, without limitation, for photographic material obtained at an ACTHA event to be used for promotional purposes, with no obligation or promise of compensation for said use of photographic material.

## 5. Divisions of ACTHA

a. Mentor Division - Open to riders 18 years and older. Obstacles are to be executed per Open Division requirements, but the expectation is for a much higher degree of finesse and riders may include additional maneuvers into the execution of the obstacle. Riders must be a member of ACTHA and this division is open to clinicians, instructors, trainers or professionals. Open competitors are not required to move up to this division, but may do so if they choose. Participants will be judged but the results will not be announced publicly. Benefits include points towards Achievement Program. Mentors may ride with and instruct their students during the event and use the obstacles to demonstrate techniques.

b. Open Division - Open to riders 7 years and older. This is a competitive division open to members. Obstacles will be more difficult than those of the Pleasure Division. Benefits include 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> ribbons and points towards National Standings and Achievement Program. Additional prizes, cash jackpot and additional awards at discretion of individual ACTHA event host. Additional prizes and awards are not required and are solely at the discretion of individual ACTHA event host and may widely vary at each event.

c. Pleasure Division - Open to riders 7 years and older. This is a competitive division open to members. Obstacles will be technically less difficult than those of the Open Division. Benefits include 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> ribbons and points towards National Standings and Achievement Program. Additional prizes, cash jackpot and additional awards at discretion of individual ACTHA event host. Additional prizes and awards are not required and are solely at the discretion of individual ACTHA event host and may widely vary at each event.

d. Scout Division - Open to riders 7 years and older. This is a competitive division open to both ACTHA annual and single event members. Obstacles will be executed similar to the Pleasure Division. Benefits include 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> ribbons and points towards the Achievement Program. Additional prizes and awards are not required and are solely at the discretion of individual ACTHA event host and may widely vary at each event.

f. Buddy Division - Open to riders 7 years and older. This is a non-competitive division open to both ACTHA annual and single event members. Buddy riders

participate on the trail ride but do not participate in the judged obstacles. There are no ribbons, points, or additional prizes for this recreational rider division.

g. *Junior Division* - Open to riders age 7-15. This is a competitive division open to ACTHA members. Juniors MUST wear a CSA approved helmet that covers the back of their head and must be accompanied by an adult rider. One adult rider may accompany up to five junior riders. Each junior rider must provide written authorization from their parent or legal guardian permitting the minor to participate in the event. Obstacle difficulty is similar to the pleasure division. Juniors may win ribbons and prizes, and points towards National Standings and Achievement Program but are not eligible to participate for jackpot cash prizes.

h. *In Hand Division* - This division is available to members only, in Arena Obstacle and Timed Obstacle Challenges only. Obstacles must be performed on a lead, and all participants are judged on partnership and execution of the obstacle from the ground. Judging criteria focuses on a willing partner and good communication skills with your horse. All styles of ground work are welcome and encouraged. It is the result and partnership that is being judged. Benefits include 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> ribbons, points towards the Achievement Program. Additional prizes or awards are at the discretion of the individual ACTHA event host but are not required and may widely vary at each event. Minors MUST wear a helmet when competing "In-Hand."

**6. Moving Between Divisions of ACTHA.** We have designed the divisions of ACTHA to welcome all levels of riders and horses.

a. Riders are permitted to move between divisions as they see fit. For example, if a rider usually rides the open division with their most seasoned horse and that horse goes lame, the rider may ride the pleasure division with a less seasoned horse on a subsequent event. If a rider usually competes in pleasure and purchases a horse that has competed in the open division, the horse and rider TEAM has the option to compete in the pleasure, or open divisions. The determination as to which divisions are available to a horse and rider is based on the team performance, not the performance of an individual. It is intended that the rider strives towards moving up in levels and difficulty, and riders are encouraged to participate in the division which best suits *their* horsemanship level and challenges the team for better performance.

b. *Juniors*- Junior riders may compete in any division. If a junior begins the ACTHA season as a junior rider but turns 16 before the end of the season, they may continue to ride in the junior division for the remainder of the current season.

c. *Scouts*- Scouts may move up to Open or Pleasure division as they see fit. A scout may bump up into Pleasure and come back down to Scout if they feel that the Scout division is more suitable to them.

d. *Pleasure*- A Pleasure Division rider may voluntarily “try” Open Division and may be allowed to come back down to pleasure so long as they have not earned more than 10 points in the Open Division. Once a Pleasure Rider has earned 10 points in the open division, they may not step back down to pleasure on that same horse.

e. *Mentor Division* Open competitors are not required to move up to this division, but may do so if they wish. Mentors may move to the Open Division if they wish.

## 7. Equipment Regulations at ACTHA Events

a. Proper equestrian attire **MUST** be worn. No shorts, sneakers, or flip flops.

b. Riders dress should be comfortable and neat. They can choose to be casual or wear formal show clothes for the discipline in which they are riding. Riders **SHOULD** use tack and ride in the style that is traditional and accepted by their discipline.

c. A rider **SHOULD** carry for their use on the trail: lead rope, halter, hoof pick, knife, identification, and a bottle of drinking water.

d. Horses **MUST** wear some form of **HEADSTALL**, such as a bridle or hackamore. If an English or Western style hackamore, bosal, or side pull is questionable, rider must show proof that the device was manufactured/advertised/sold as a hackamore. All publicized hackamores/bitless bridles are allowed (Parelli Natural Hackamore, Advantage Horsemanship Bitless Bridle, Dr. Cook’s for example)

e. Horses **MUST NOT** wear a halter by itself with lead rope or reins attached. If a halter is worn, it **MUST** be worn under some type of headgear.

f. Horses **MUST** wear some type of **SADDLE**. No bareback pads, or saddles without stirrups.

g. Training devices such as martingales (standing, running, German) of any kind, or tie-downs **MUST NOT** be used during an AOC/CTC/TOC. No form of head restraint other than a bridle is permitted, this includes an over-check.

h. Protective Sport Boots are permitted for your horse during a CTC/AOC/TOC. The use of a protective hoof boot for an unshod horse is permitted.

i. No props, or other distractions or devices may be carried on the ride (radios, toys, tarps, etc.).

j. Crops, spurs, dressage whips, carrot/handy sticks, and other aids are allowed; how they are used will be taken into account and riders will be judged accordingly. Excessively harsh use of aids, or abuse of the horse will result in disqualification from the competition.

- k. Participants in the In-Hand Division MUST use a halter and lead rope.
- l. Minors (under 18) MUST wear a helmet any time while mounted, or competing “In-Hand.”

## **8. Rules Relating to Equines**

- a. Horses MUST be tied to horse trailers or suitable trees. Horses must not be tied to fences or anything that cannot withstand the pressure of a horse pulling back. Horses may be tied to a picket line. If your horse needs to be tied to a tree, we suggest using a Tree Saver Tie. Contestants may use portable electric fences or portable corrals if permitted by the Ride Host.
- b. Rider MUST enter with a serviceably sound equine and assumes all responsibility for the horse's actions.
- c. Competing with Stallions.
  - i. Stallions are permitted in ACTHA events but MUST NOT be shown by a minor rider (under the age of 18 years of age).
  - ii. Stallions MUST be identified by securing a yellow ribbon to its tail.
  - iii. Stallions MUST be double tied to trailers.
  - iv. Stallions may be kept in permanent stalls, but may not be kept in portable stalls, portable electric or portable non-electric pens. Stationary, heavy duty arena/gate panels may be used, providing they have been pre-approved for use by sending photo to ACTHA and with permission of event host.
  - v. When with other riders, the stallion rider MUST give verbal notification to other participants that he/she is riding a stallion.
  - vi. Stallion riders/handlers must make every effort to ensure the safety of their stallion and the safety of other horses, riders, and spectators.
  - vii. Stallions behaving in an unruly manner may be disqualified and asked to be removed from the premises.
  - viii. Stallion riders will be disqualified and asked to remove the stallion from the premises if the rider does not comply with the “Stallion Handling” rules.

**9. Rules Governing Attendance at an ACTHA Event**

- a. ACTHA does not approve of the use of any performance enhancing equine pharmaceuticals. Any ACTHA participant who is able to be held accountable for such behavior will face suspension from ACTHA for up to one full competition season from the incident date, which will be determined at ACTHA's discretion.
- b. The use of any excessive force or unsportsmanlike behavior by an ACTHA participant directed towards another rider/ride staff/equine is subject to disqualification, at a length which will be determined at ACTHA's discretion
- c. Alcohol **MUST NOT** be consumed or carried on a CTC/AOC/TOC by an ACTHA participant before or during the event.
- d. Firearms **MUST NOT** be carried on a CTC/AOC/TOC.
- e. If permitted by the Ride Host, and if allowed at the venue, dogs **MUST** be on a leash at all times. Pets **MUST NOT** accompany a rider on the CTC trail or in the AOC/TOC arena; this includes pets on the ground, on the horse, or on the person.
- f. Accidents/injuries are handled by Ride Management. All riders are expected to continue riding the trail in the competition, so as not to hold up the ride. If an accompanying rider chooses to stay at the scene of an accident, the rider bears the responsibility.

**10. Rules Relating to Event Sizes, Divisions and Points.**

- a. All events, no matter the size of any division will carry points towards the National Standings and Medal Achievements Program.
- f. Events with fewer than 12 participants 36 hours from start of event **may** be cancelled or rescheduled, depending on several factors, including geographic location, weather, the host's efforts, and the likelihood of having a number of competitors that makes an event viable.
- i. If an event is cancelled, all registration fees will automatically credited to the rider's ACTHA account. A refund to the rider's credit card will be made promptly upon request. There will be no fees associated with refunding a credit card for an event that has been cancelled. The event host will send an email and make an effort to reach riders by phone, however it is the rider's responsibility to check the event status prior to leaving to attend for an event in the event of last minute changes due to weather or lack of attendance. ACTHA will make every attempt to assist the event host to exceed 12 riders by actively marketing their event.

## **11. Rules Governing Participation at an ACTHA Event & Event Sign Up**

- a. Rude or unsportsmanlike behavior to a host, judge, volunteer, another participant, or ACTHA staff member may result in being disqualified from the event and membership revocation.
- b. Minors **MUST** wear a CSA approved helmet that covers the back of their head and **MUST** have a release form signed by a parent/guardian at the event. Parents and legal guardians of minors must review the ACTHA Rules and safe riding procedures with their child prior to their participation in a CTC/AOC/TOC. A minor is not eligible for jackpot cash prizes. Minors **MUST** wear a helmet when competing "In-Hand."
- c. Participants **MUST NOT** ride the course or practice the obstacles on the course prior to the event.
- d. If a horse or rider is added incorrectly to a roster, corrections may be made before the ride close date or by notifying ACTHA.
- e. *Hosts may, at their discretion accept late registrations after the event close.* Riders with or without an ACTHA Membership or ACTHA account are eligible for post entries. Hosts can add this option and disclosure will show on their event page. It may not be removed within 48 hours of the event.
- f. Event close date is determined by the Ride Host. It is the responsibility of the competitor to register prior to closing date to avoid possible late fees or inability to participate.

## **12. The ACTHA Logo and Images**

- a. The ACTHA logo may be used on any printed advertisement, website, or flyers to advertise any scheduled ACTHA sanctioned event.
- b. The ACTHA logo may be used on any banner or signage that a Ride Host wishes to have printed for their event.
- c. ACTHA Ride Hosts may use the ACTHA logo for print on any awards which are to be given out at an ACTHA sanctioned event.
- d. Merchandise with the ACTHA logo **MUST NOT** be printed for resale in any manner without explicit written permission from ACTHA.
- e. The ACTHA logo or the ACTHA name **MUST NOT** be used in conjunction with any clinic or organized event that is not approved by ACTHA.



f. Any ACTHA member wishing to use the ACTHA logo for any other purpose MUST contact ACTHA for permission.

### **13. Rules Governing Event Organization & Responsibility of Hosts**

a. ACTHA recognizes that every ride is different, every ride host is an individual and we are excited to offer our ride hosts and riders the opportunity to make their event personalized for a unique experience. We require hosts to fully disclose any restrictions, or special events; it is the rider's responsibility to read each event's offerings carefully, as they may vary from event to event. Any fees for 'extras' are collected by the host, at the event.

b. An Event Host MUST NOT ride in an event that they are hosting. A family member of the Event Host may participate only if they have no knowledge of the obstacle course for that particular CTC/AOC/TOC before the other contestants receive the obstacle information.

c. CTC's, AOC's and TOC's can be held any day, any time at the Ride Host's discretion.

d. ACTHA is responsible for providing adequate judging criteria and information to event hosts. It is the responsibility of the event host to ensure that all judges have reviewed and understand ACTHA rules, judging procedures and standards.

e. Ride Hosts have the latitude to change an obstacle if it is determined that weather has created an unsafe situation. Host and judges MUST use safety and common sense. An example may be a water crossing that has become boggy. The event host or the judge has the authority to move the obstacle to a safer water crossing further up or down from the original. Every attempt will be made to keep the obstacle exactly the same or as close to the original obstacle as possible. If unable to do so (in the opinion of the host), all scores from the obstacle will be discarded.

f. Participants may make a donation to the charity that the host has selected. If they require a receipt they should make a cheque out directly to the charity.

### **14. Competition Rules, In General**

a. A competitor MUST only complete obstacles at their division level. For example, a Pleasure Division rider MUST NOT complete Open Division obstacles during an event for extra points if they are riding as a Pleasure Division rider. Stay in your Division, and complete the obstacles of your division for the entire event. The exception to this rule is for the Mentors Division. They may add elements to the execution of their obstacle to show finesse, control, and partnership, or to demonstrate to their students.

- b. Event Host **MUST** hold a mandatory Riders Briefing. It **SHOULD** cover the rules, the course, the obstacles, and the “flow” of the event.
- c. Participants **MUST** be given a list of the obstacles and the expectation for performance prior to the start of the competition.
- d. A rider may voluntarily dismount from their horse at any time, but **MUST** remain mounted when moving forward, with the exception of walking forward a **SHORT** distance to find a suitable mounting aid.
- e. A rider may not lead his horse in order to advance any distance down the trail. If a rider cannot safely maintain forward movement down the trail while being ridden, the horse may be led or ‘ponied’ to a place of safety, but the rider will receive a disqualification. An example of this may be a water crossing with no alternative route. In this case, a horse refusing to cross water may be ‘ponied’ or led across the water, but will incur a disqualification.
- f. A rider may stop their horse to water at any stream or pond during a CTC ride, but they **MUST NOT** be watered at a judged obstacle, due to time constraints on the ride (this will cause a ride to back up). A rider can allow their horse to drink before or after a water obstacle but a rider **MUST NOT** allow their horse to drink during a judged obstacle.
- g. A ‘Fall’ of a Rider is a disqualification. A ‘fall’ of a rider is described as any involuntary dismount. This will be based on the honor system. Any ACTHA participant who displays dishonest character will face suspension from ACTHA for up to one full competition season from the incident date, which will be determined at ACTHA’s discretion.
- h. A ‘Fall’ of a Horse is a disqualification. A ‘Fall’ of a horse can be described, as when a horse drops to the ground at a point above his knees, such as their shoulders for any reason, to include “laying down” of a horse. Any fall which involves the horse falling to their knees or below is regarded as a stumble. This will be based on the honor system. Any ACTHA participant who fails to report a fall will face suspension from ACTHA for up to one full competition season from the incident date, at ACTHA’s discretion.
- i. Any harsh or unusual use of bits, spurs, or tack will be penalized by the judges as they see fit. Riders **SHOULD** use tack and ride in the style that is traditional and accepted by their discipline. A trail horse needs the use of his head and neck for balance and eyesight, therefore, a soft use of the reins will be appreciated by the judges.

j. A rider **MUST NOT** interfere with another contestant's performance of an obstacle. To do so will incur a disqualification. (An example of this would be, allowing a horse to water in such a way as to impede the movement of another contestant within the obstacle).

k. No contestant is to knowingly stray from the trail or cut off distance (short cuts). This will result in a disqualification. Trails should be **WELL MARKED**, so getting lost is not an issue. If a rider does get lost, they should return to the trail as soon as possible. We will leave this matter in the hands of the Ride Host, as to whether the violation was deliberate or the result of getting lost.

l. A rider **MUST NOT** 'double up' or 'double ride' on a single horse at any time during the CTC/AOC/TOC. Two riders **MUST NOT** ride the same horse, at the same time.

m. If you are at the sight of an obstacle, anywhere within the judge's realm, that judge may judge the horse and rider. For example, a horse misbehaves and refuses to enter through the start cones, points may be deducted from that horse and rider score. If a judge can see you, they may judge you.

n. Execution of the obstacles during a CTC or AOC are not timed however, you might be asked to move on after 2 or 3 minutes if there is a number of riders waiting and it appears that your horse is not going to do the obstacle or if the rider is not able to complete it.

o. All riders ride the same trail/course and have the same obstacles. The difference in the divisions is only the degree of difficulty and performance expectations in executing the obstacle. Typically, when planning obstacles, it **SHOULD** be simple (for juniors), average (for pleasure & scout), difficult (for open and mentor). Buddy riders **DO NOT** perform obstacles, they simply pass them by and ride the trail only.

i. Example of how obstacles **SHOULD** be designed to accommodate the different divisions.

Cavaletti – Poles – Instructions for all divisions: Navigate the first 6 poles and stop on the 7th pole.

a. Junior Division: Trot over the first 6 poles and stop with your horse's front feet just before the 7th pole. Count to 3 and continue down the trail.

b. Pleasure/Scout Division: Trot over the first 6 poles and straddle stop the 7th pole. Count to 3 and continue down the trail.

- c. Open & Masters Division: Approach the poles centered, trot over the first 6 poles, straddle stop the 7th pole. Stop for a count of 3, sidepass to the right to the end of the pole. Stop, sidepass left completely off the pole. Stop momentarily and canter out of course.

## 15. Prizes and Special Events at AOCs and CTCs.

a. *Cash Jackpot.* This may be offered at the discretion of the host. Open and Pleasure divisions may ride for monetary prizes provided by an optional Jackpot. Cash is contributed by participating competitors and is collected on the day of the event at registration (\$20 for open/ \$10 for pleasure). All money is disbursed as shown below.

- i. 1-5 entries pays 1 place 100%
- ii. 6-10 entries pays 2 places 60/40%
- iii. 11-15 entries pays 3 places 50/30/20%
- iv. 16-20 entries pays 4 places 40/30/20/10%
- v. 21+ entries pays 5 places 30/25/20/15/10%

c. *Cavallo "Judge's Pick" Award.* Each judge will be looking for the horse/rider team that really stands out to them for whatever reason they see fit. It could be the wise old horse that takes care of a novice rider, the cute pony with the adorable child, the rider that opts to dismount and take the zero because it is the "right choice" for the horse, or it could be the rider who just "bombs" the obstacle, but laughs all the way through it without punishing their horse. It is a great reason to give a prize to someone who may not necessarily earn a performance ribbon, but was having a good time, doing the right thing, or exhibiting good sportsmanship at an obstacle. At the awards ceremony, judges will recognize their "Judges Pick", explain why, and award a Cavallo hoof pick to the winner. You do not have to be a member to win a Judges Pick Award. A rider is only eligible to be picked once per event as a 'Judges Pick' recipient. The judge SHOULD explain why he/she chose their recipient during the awards ceremony.

## 16. Rules Governing Arena Obstacle Challenges (AOCs)

- a. An AOC may be held in an arena (open, covered, or indoor), or in a field.
- b. An AOC may have 8-12 obstacles, chosen from the list on the ACTHA website. ACTHA may approve obstacles not on the list that have been submitted in advance, in detail prior to the event. These obstacles are intended to simulate obstacles that might reasonably be expected to find on the trail.
- c. Each host may, at their discretion offer the following formats at their AOC:

- i. *Double Double Format.* All competitor complete the course twice. The scores are then added together to determine the placings.
  - ii. *Gamblers Choice Format.* All competitor compete the course once. Scores are not announced. EACH competitor has the option to throw out their scores from the first run and “re-run” the course gambling that their second attempt will result in a better score. If competitor want to keep their first scores they are welcome to do the course again for fun.
- d. There must be a minimum of two judges for an AOC, in which case Judge #1 would be responsible for obstacles 1 through 4 and Judge #2 would be responsible for obstacles 5-8. If there are 12 obstacles, there must be a third judge to judge obstacles 9-12. There may be as many as one judge per obstacle.
- e. Ribbons will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> place for Open, Pleasure, Scout, Junior and In-Hand Divisions.

### **17. Rules Governing Timed Obstacle Challenges (TOC)**

- a. A TOC may be held in an arena (open, covered, or indoor), or in a field.
- b. A TOC may have 8-12 obstacles, chosen from the list on the ACTHA website. ACTHA may approve obstacles not on the list that have been submitted in advance, in detail prior to the event. These obstacles are intended to simulate obstacles that might reasonably be expected to find on the trail.
- c. The competitor may do the obstacles in whatever order they choose. If they complete an obstacle they receive the points assigned to that obstacle. If they knock over or seriously disrupt an obstacle they receive no marks for that particular obstacle. They are not judged on how they complete the obstacle.
- c. Each host may, at their discretion offer the same formats as listed for the AOCs at their TOC.
- d. There is one judge who determines if the obstacle has been completed and an assistant who records the scores.
- e. Ribbons will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> place for Open, Pleasure, Scout, Junior and In-Hand Divisions.

### **18. Rules Specific to In Hand Division**

- a. In Hand Division is open to members only.
- b. Equines MUST be at least 1 year old.

- c. Horses must be shown in a halter.
- d. Ribbons 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> place will be awarded
- e. Horse are allowed to cross-enter with riding divisions.
- f. Hosts can choose if they want to offer In Hand or not. If they offer In-Hand they must either:
  - i. Have a separate set of obstacles either in the same or a different area which is only for the people doing In Hand.
  - ii. They must have the In Hand division go first (both goes) and then change at least 2 of the obstacles and change or reverse the order in which the riders must perform the obstacles.

### **19. Rules Governing Competitive Trail Challenges (CTCs)**

- a. A CTC SHOULD be 10 to 14 km. Events whose distance is either more or less than 10 to 14 km, MUST be disclosed on the event page. Every effort should be made to be accurate in distance and terrain.
- b. A CTC may have 6 obstacles, chosen from the list on the ACTHA website. ACTHA may approve obstacles not on the list that have been submitted in advance, in detail prior to the event. These obstacles are intended to simulate obstacles that might reasonably be expected to find on the trail.
- c. There SHOULD be at least one judge per obstacle. In an emergency, a judge may be required to judge two obstacles, with prior approval from ACTHA. Approval can be obtained by calling the Host Support Line.

### **20. Rules Governing Judges and Judging**

- a. An ACTHA appointed judge has the right to disqualify a competitor from that judged obstacle, or the remainder of the event, for whatever reason they see fit. Whether it is for safety reasons, unsportsmanlike conduct, dangerous conditions or unsoundness problems exhibited by their horse.
- b. A judge may instruct a particular rider to dismount at any time without incurring a penalty. For instance, a rider drops a rope in the drag. The rider may ask and receive permission to retrieve the rope. If the rider dismounts within an obstacle, when there is no written or verbal instruction to do so, will incur a zero for the rider.
- c. A judge may instruct a rider to dismount for a safety reason during the execution of an obstacle, in which case the rider and horse will receive a zero/zero. Horse may have gotten rope under his tail in a drag obstacle and a wreck is imminent, or a horse is observed in a bog-type situation.

d. ACTHA will not penalize any rider who rides with two hands on a shanked bit. ACTHA is looking that the horse is offering absolutely no resistance to the bit and is working in a relaxed and comfortable manner. The rider SHOULD not change from one hand to two (or two to one) during the execution of an obstacle except where expected to do so in the execution of that particular obstacle i.e. opening gates, dragging an object or anything that requires the use of a riders hand. There is no objection to a rider switching from one hand to two hands between obstacles, whether on the trail or in the arena. ACTHA is looking for no resistance to the bit and that the horse and rider are communicating harmoniously.

## 21. Rules Relating to Scoring

a. ACTHA is committed to ensuring Ride Hosts are educated in ensuring consistency in training and appointing judges for a CTC/AOC. Discrepancies are inevitable. All scores given during an event are FINAL, and MUST NOT be adjusted after the judge has handed in their score cards and they have been processed. Competitors DO NOT have the right to protest or object to a score which they have received.

b. If a score is entered into the system incorrectly, it may be adjusted/fixed to reflect the scores given at the event and recorded on the original judge's score sheets. Hosts may be required to submit original judging score sheets to ACTHA by sending photo by phone, fax, scan or snail mail.

c. Ties SHOULD be broken by any plus points given to horse and rider. If a tie is still present, it may be broken by referring to the hardest obstacle score, and then the next hardest and so on. It is the ride host's discretion as to the hardest obstacle.

d. It is optional for Ride Hosts to share the judges handwritten score sheets at the ride.

e. Points for the CTC/AOC– Horse and rider begin each obstacle with a score of 10 points. Horse and rider team can score a maximum of 20 points for each obstacle (10 for horse, 10 for rider). Additional Points are to reward for a high level of communication, superb performance or for an excellent try with a green horse and are solely at the judge's discretion. With the exception of the Mentor's Division, riders MUST NOT gain extra points by performing an obstacle in another manner or with criteria from a different division.

**SCORING SCALE: 10=Excellent, 9=Very Good, 8=Good, 7=Fairly Good, 6=Satisfactory, 5=Sufficient, 4=Insufficient, 3=Fairly Poor, 2=Very Poor, 1=Extremely Poor, 0=Not Executed/No Try**

f. A score other than ZERO must be given to the horse and rider team making a legitimate attempt at executing an obstacle, regardless if they are unsuccessful at executing the obstacle. Riders will receive a score for a legitimate attempt, even if they are not successful at the obstacle, so long as they do not otherwise do something to warrant a zero (see below).

g. *Zeroes* will be given for

i. NO attempt

ii. Voluntary dismount in the obstacle when not specifically called for during obstacle execution.

iii. “Safety call” – when the judge requests you dismount for safety reasons.

iv. Going completely “off course.” We intend this to mean that the horse and rider leave the general area of the obstacle, not a hoof “out of bounds.” It is intended that the rider has adequate control of their mount to keep it within the general boundaries of the obstacle.

i. *Disqualifications* – ACTHA strives not to have any DQ’s on a ride. Reasons for a DQ would be

i. Improper equipment on the trail – No sneakers, no bareback pads, no shorts, no tie downs, no martingales, no training equipment of any kind that will restrict head movement.

ii. Stallion not identified – Stallions MUST have a yellow ribbon in their tail and double tied when tied.

iii. Involuntary fall of horse or rider. Horse is considered down if any point of the horse above the knee touches the ground for ANY reason.

iv. Intentionally going off trail to create a short cut

v. Very noticeable lameness or injury. (ie. Severe girth gall, bleeding cut, or metabolic stress)

vi. Rude or unsportsmanlike behavior to anyone – 4 legged or 2.

j. (+) Pluses are used at the judge’s discretion and will help break ties. A plus can be given for a high level of communication, a superb performance or for an excellent try with a green horse, for example. Judge can award just one plus to horse and/or one plus to rider for any score range. You can only give one plus to each member of the team (horse/rider), for a total of 2 per obstacle



## 22. Rules Violations and Protests

a. Any rider who wants to file a protest for a rule violation may do so by submitting the protest in writing to ACTHA (Box 1202, Onoway, AB, T0E 1V0) or email to [info@actha.ca](mailto:info@actha.ca). The rule violation must be witnessed and signed by 2 ACTHA riders along with a check for \$50 or an eTransfer if protest is by email. The written protest must be received within 7 days of the event. A staff member of ACTHA, along with the Ride Host and a judge will decide the outcome of the protest. If the protest is in favor of the rider, the check will not be cashed or the eTransfer deposited. Protests must relate to rule violations and may not refer to scoring issues. Scoring issues will be taken up with the Ride Host directly.

b. ACTHA Steering Committee is the forum within ACTHA that reviews alleged violations of rules and protests by participants. A participant may be disciplined, suspended, and/or expelled, and may be denied any or all ACTHA privileges.

## 23. ACTHA Rules and Guidelines

a. *ACTHA Rules.* ACTHA 2017 Rules supersedes all previous editions. The rules published on our website are effective as of the date on the top of the rule book. The rules will remain in effect except as superseded by rule changes enacted by the ACTHA Board of Directors. Every effort will be made to avoid mid-season rule changes, however if a change becomes necessary to maintain a level playing field for all participants, for safety reasons, or to accommodate special circumstances that did not exist at the beginning of the season, such changes will be posted on page 1 of the rules with the effective date of the change, and the reason for the change. Any changes will have at least a 30 day notice, with the exception of a rule for safety concern. Refer to ACTHA's website for the most updated version of the rules. Any differences between rules and information on our website, publications, or social media shall be governed by the official rules on our website.

b. *Rule Changes.* Any member may request a rule change for the next season by submitting the proposed change, in writing to ACTHA, Box 1202, Onoway, AB, T0E 1V0. It must be accompanied by the signatures of 10 ACTHA members in good standing who are in support of the proposed rule change. Proposed rule changes will be reviewed annually by ACTHA Steering Committee, Board of Directors and ACTHA management by January 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year

## 24. National Champions

- a. 2017 season will begin on January 1, 2017 and end on December 31, 2017. If there are events held after the awards presentations those events will count for the following year. Thereafter it will begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and end on December 31<sup>th</sup>.
- b. ACTHA will recognize the 'Top Three' ranking participants in the Open, Pleasure, and Junior Divisions.
- c. Winners must have a current ACTHA membership.
- d. A rider may win national titles in several divisions on different horses.
- e. *Determining National Champion Rankings.* The total points from your 5 best finishes are used to determine the National Champion.
  - i. The total of the top 5 finishes will be calculated to determine the winner. Ties, if any, will be broken by adding the next level (6<sup>th</sup>) best ride to determine the highest average. If a tie still exists, the next (7<sup>th</sup>) best ride will be used, and will continue until the tie is broken. Pluses (+'s) will not play a factor in winning the National Championship.
- f. Prizes for National Champion Winners will be shown on our website.

## 24. Achievement Awards Program.

Every time you participate in an ACTHA event you receive one point. If you place you will receive additional points. When you collect 50 points you will receive an Achievement Award regardless of how long it takes to collect the 50 points.

- a. Points will be awarded as follows for AOCs, CTCs and TOCs:
  - i. If there are 7 or more competitors in a division the points will be awarded as follows:  
  
1<sup>st</sup> place= 7 points    2<sup>nd</sup> place= 6 points    3<sup>rd</sup> place=5 points  
4<sup>th</sup> place=4 points    5<sup>th</sup> place= 3 points    6<sup>th</sup> place = 2 points  
Completion with no DQ = 1 point
  - ii. If there are 6 competitors or less they receive 1 point for participation and 1 point for every competitor they beat. For example:  
  
If there are 3 competitors in a division, first would get a total of 3 points, second would get 2 points and third would get 1 point.