



# United States Rules for Working Equitation



## APPENDIX B

## OBSTACLES



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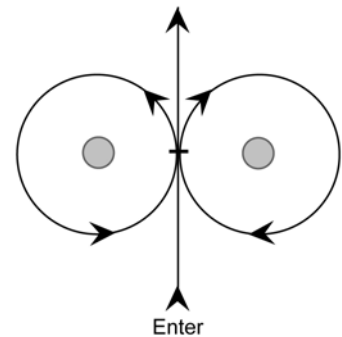
(refer to Table 6-1 for gait requirements)

### 1. Bridge

- a. Description. The bridge should be made of wood and be solidly constructed to ensure that it is not a danger for the horse or rider. The deck of the bridge must not be slippery. The bridge may be arched or angled in its rise. Recommended dimensions are minimum width: 1.5 m (5 ft); minimum length: 4 m (13 ft); minimum height: 20 cm (8 in.). The bridge may have side rails. If side rails are used, for safety considerations the rails must be constructed such that they can be quickly and easily removed without the use of tools. Side rails should be between 91 cm (3 ft) and 1.2 m (4 ft) in height.
- b. Execution. The bridge must be crossed at a walk in the Ease of Handling phase for all levels. The bridge may be crossed in both directions provided that there is one obstacle in between the first and second crossing.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the transition to the walk, the quality and regularity of the walk, the straightness of the horse going over the bridge, and the confidence of the horse and rider while navigating this obstacle. Points will be deducted if a horse shows any awkwardness, hesitation, or irregularity. Stepping off the bridge prematurely is a course error.

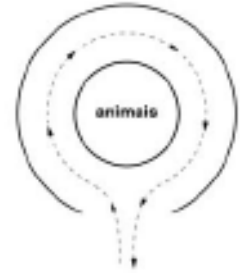
### 2. Figure 8

- a. Description. Two drums (or similar upright items) are placed 3-m (10-ft) apart on center.
- b. Execution. The horse performs a circle around the right-hand drum. Upon completing the turn, halfway between the drums, the horse will change direction and begin a circle of the same diameter around the left-hand drum. When completing the second circle, the horse must pass between the drums to exit the obstacle. The circles must be uniform in size with the change of lead and/or bend on-center between the drums. A circle size of 3 m (10 ft) represents the highest degree of execution. The Advanced (L6) and Masters (L7) levels may be required to rein back through the obstacle after the initial circuits in the forward direction. The first circuit in reverse must circle the drum on the right. If this option is included, it must be indicated on the course map.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the straightness of the approach to the obstacle; correctness of the horse's posture during the change of lead; the passage half way between the drums; the shape, symmetry, and precision of the circles; and the horse's response to the aids. A lower score will be given if the change of lead and/or change of bend are not centered between the drums. A negative mark will be given if the rider fails to perform a change of lead or if a drum is knocked over.



### 3. Pen

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of a round enclosure 6 m (20 ft) in diameter, with an entrance between 1.5-m (5-ft) and 2.5-m (8-ft) wide. Inside the round enclosure is a smaller round fenced enclosure 3 m (10 ft) in diameter meant to simulate a livestock pen. The inner pen may have small animals or statuary placed inside of the enclosure. The corridor around the livestock pen should be 1.5-m (5-ft) wide.



- b. Execution. The horse should enter the obstacle at the prescribed gait in one direction, exit the obstacle, change direction, and re-enter the obstacle going in the opposite direction. The rider may choose the initial direction unless it is specifically designated on the course map or by the Judge. When changing direction, the horse will execute a semicircle, half pirouette, or turn on the haunches. If cantering, a change of lead is required.

In the Speed trial, the Pen is performed in one circuit only; the rider may choose the direction unless it is specifically designated on the course map or by the Judge.

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the horse's serenity and confidence, quality of gaits, and the rider's serenity and use of aids in performing the obstacle. The turn outside the pen and change of lead if required between circuits of the pen are considered as components of the obstacle.

### 4. Jug

- a. Description. A jug sits on top of a small table or other platform that is at least 1.2-m (4-ft) high. A manufactured table is not required; a table-like platform may be constructed of common materials (e.g., hay bales, sacks of grain, etc.) The jug must have a handle. The jug must be placed in the same position for each competitor.
- b. Execution. The rider approaches the table in the prescribed gait, halts with the rider's leg even with the table, raises the jug above her/his head, and replaces the jug on the table. The obstacle must be approached from the numbered side. The rider may stop at any position around the table as long as the obstacle is approached from the numbered side. The horse must depart at the same gait as it approached the obstacle.

If the jug is dropped, a member of the ground crew will hand the jug to the riders competing at the Introductory (L1) level. Novice (L2/L3) level riders must dismount, retrieve the jug, remount and replace the jug on the table, or may request permission to pass and receive a 0 score. Intermediate (L4) through Masters (L7) riders must dismount, retrieve the jug, remount, and replace the jug; failure to do so will result in disqualification.

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches and remains immobile next to the table without showing any fear and trusting the rider's use of aids. The jug, when placed on the table, must remain upright. Any jarring movement against the table will result in a lower score. Intermediate (L4) through Masters (L7) level riders will receive a higher score for approaching the table at canter with a good canter-to-halt transition.

## 5. Remove Pole

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of an open-topped drum and a pole 2.5 to 3.5 m (8 to 11.5 ft) in length. The pole is placed in the drum, butt end down. The tip of the pole should be easily identified as such by a pronounced taper or distinctive coloring. The ground crew, at the direction of the Judge, will place the pole in the same position for all riders. A rider may request permission of the Judge to adjust the position of the pole but may only do so if the Judge grants permission. Adjusting the position of the pole without permission is considered showing an obstacle to the horse in an overt manner and is thus grounds for disqualification from the trial.
- b. Execution. The rider should approach the drum and retrieve the pole without stopping or breaking gait. The horse should advance at a steady gait and not react negatively to the appearance of the drum or the rider's removal of the pole. The rider may circle the drum once before picking up the pole, though this is considered less difficult than a straight approach.

If the pole is dropped, a member of the ground crew will hand the pole to the riders competing at the Introductory (L1) level. Novice (L2/L3) level riders must dismount, retrieve the pole, remount, and **place it in the drum from horseback**, or may request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. Intermediate (L4) through Masters (L7) riders must dismount, retrieve the pole, remount, **and place it in the drum from horseback**. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

This obstacle must be used in conjunction with **Replace Pole (#7)**. The **Spear Ring (#6)** obstacle is not required but may be included in the sequence. When used in sequence with **Remove/Replace Pole**, they are considered and scored as a single obstacle. If other obstacles are encountered between them, they are scored separately (e.g., if the **Remove Pole** and **Spear Ring** obstacles are performed in sequence and another obstacle is performed before **Replace Pole** is encountered, then **Remove Pole** and **Spear Ring** are considered a single obstacle, and **Replace Pole** is considered a separate obstacle).

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the obstacle, its reaction to the movement of the pole, and the relaxed manner in which the rider uses the pole. A lower mark will be given for any alteration of the cadence or change of movement. Picking up the pole in a straight line is considered more difficult and will earn a higher score than circling the drum while picking up the pole. Circling the drum more than one time will result in a negative score. Knocking down the drum will result in a negative score.

## 6. Spear Ring

- a. Description. The obstacle consists of a pole and a ring. The pole is taken from the **Remove Pole** obstacle (#5). If using multiple rings, the rings should be set at varying heights. It is traditional for the base to be in the shape of a bull with the ring placed on top. The rings can be made out of wood, metal, or plastic and should be approximately 15 cm (6 in.) in diameter.

The obstacle is used in conjunction with **Remove Pole** (#5) and **Replace Pole** (#7) and may be placed between these obstacles in the course but may have additional obstacles in between.



- b. Execution. The competitor must skewer the ring(s) with the tip of the pole. The horse must maintain gait as prescribed for the level of competition.

If the pole is dropped, a member of the ground crew will hand the pole to the riders competing at the Introductory (L1) level. Novice (L2/L3) level riders must dismount, retrieve the pole, and remount with the pole in hand or may request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. Intermediate (L4) through Masters (L7) riders must dismount, retrieve the pole, and remount with the pole in hand. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the obstacle, maintaining a good posture and not changing the cadence, and the fluidity with which the rider completes the exercise. Any break in the horse's movement with loss of fluidity will be penalized. Striking any part of the obstacle will result in a lower score. Skewering the ring is not nearly as important as the style/approach to the obstacle, the continuity in movement of the horse and rider, correct bend, correct lead, and evenness of gait. Dropping the ring after picking it up or failure to skewer the ring will result in a lower score.

## 7. Replace Pole

- a. Description. The obstacle is an open-topped drum set some distance apart from the drum in **Remove Pole** obstacle (#5). The drum in obstacle #5 may be used for this obstacle provided there is another obstacle in-between or a prescribed route away from it in the course design.
- b. Execution. The pole is deposited with the butt end down in the drum. The rider may circle the drum once before replacing the pole, though this is considered less difficult than a straight approach.

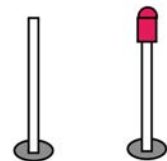
The pole must be deposited into and remain in the drum. If the pole bounces out or is dropped, a member of the ground crew will hand the pole to the riders competing at Introductory (L1) level. Novice (L2/L3) level riders must dismount, retrieve the pole, remount, **and place it in the drum from horseback**, or may request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. Intermediate (L4) through Masters (L7) riders must dismount, retrieve the pole, remount, **and place it in the drum from horseback**. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

This obstacle must be used in conjunction with **Remove Pole** (#5). The **Spear Ring** (#6) obstacle is not required but may be included in the sequence. When used in sequence with **Remove/Replace Pole**, they are considered and scored as a single obstacle. If other obstacles are encountered between them, they are scored separately (e.g., if the **Remove Pole** and **Spear Ring** obstacles are performed in sequence and another obstacle is performed before **Replace Pole** is encountered, then **Remove Pole** and **Spear Ring** are considered a single obstacle, and **Replace Pole** is considered a separate obstacle).

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the obstacle, its reaction to the movement of the pole, and the relaxed manner in which the rider uses the pole. Any break in gait or change of cadence by the horse will be penalized. Depositing the pole in a straight line will earn a higher score than circling the drum. Circling the drum more than one time will result in a negative score. Knocking down the drum will result in a negative score. Placing the tip end of the pole in the drum will receive a negative score.

## 8. Switch Cup

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of two bending poles that are approximately 2 m (6.5 ft) in height, with an exterior base not secured in the ground. The poles are set 1.2-m (4-ft) apart. A drinking cup is placed upside down on the tip of one of the poles. The cup must be placed on the same pole for all competitors in the division or level.



- b. Execution. The horse and rider approach the obstacle at the prescribed gait and halt. The rider removes the cup from the pole where it is set, places it on the other pole, and then immediately exits the obstacle, proceeding forward at the prescribed gait.



If the cup is dropped, a member of the ground crew will hand the cup to the riders competing at the Introductory (L1) level. Novice level (L2/L3) riders must dismount, retrieve the cup, remount, and **place it on the pole from horseback**, or may request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. Intermediate (L4) through Masters (L7) riders must dismount, retrieve the cup, remount, and **place it on the pole from horseback**; failure to do so will result in disqualification.

If the pole that the cup is to be placed on is knocked down, the ground crew will reset the pole for L1 riders. L2/L3 riders must dismount, reset the pole, remount and place the cup on the pole, or request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. L4 through L7 riders must dismount, reset, remount, and place the cup on the pole; failure to do so will result in disqualification.

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the horse's attitude, calmness, straightness, and collection; the immobility of the horse, the rider's use of aids; and the fluidity, continuity, and quality of performance. Points will be awarded for the horse's immobility when switching the cup from one pole to another, and its immediate exit from the obstacle at the prescribed gait. The transition should be smooth, uphill, and come from the haunches. The horse should not "jump" forward. Dropping the cup will result in lower score.

## 9. Bell Corridor

- a. Description. A corridor is made from two parallel rails resting on supports, small fences, or walls at least 30 cm (12 in.) in height. The supports are not secured in the ground. The rails are approximately 3.7-m (12-ft) long and 1.5 m (5-ft) apart. A bell is placed 2-m (6.5-ft) high at the end of the corridor. The support holding the bell is placed so that the bell hangs in center of the corridor.

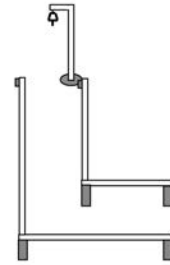


- b. Execution. The horse and rider enter the corridor at the prescribed gait for the level and halt at the end of the corridor. The rider rings the bell and reins back through the corridor. The obstacle is completed when the front of the horse clears the obstacle and course markers (if present).

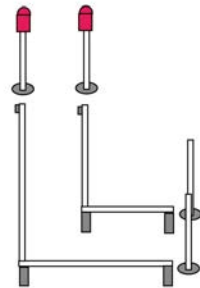
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the horse's attitude, straightness, gait, and collection; the immobility of the horse at the bell; the rider's use of aids; and the fluidity, continuity, and quality of the performance. A higher score will be awarded for performing the obstacle well at the canter rather than at walk when allowed. The Judge will give a lower mark to a horse that drags its feet during the rein back. The Judge will give a lower mark if a horse touches the rails, and a negative mark if the horse displaces or knocks down any of the rails or if the horse steps over the rails. Failure of the horse to remain still will be penalized. Failure of the rider to ring the bell will result in disqualification. Exiting the destination (bell) end of the corridor with all four feet will result in disqualification.

## 10. Reinback “L”

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of an L-shaped corridor made from parallel rails resting on supports, small fences, or walls at least 30 cm (12 in.) in height. The bend of the “L” may be in either direction. The supports are not secured in the ground. The outer rails are approximately 3.7-m (12-ft) long. The corridor is 1.5-m (5-ft) **wide**. There are two variations to this obstacle:



- (1) A bell is placed 2-m (6.5-ft) high at the end of the corridor (identical to #9, **Bell Corridor**).
- (2) Two bending poles are at the end of the corridor, one on each side. A cup is placed upside down on each of the poles. There is a second set of bending poles at the entrance to the obstacle.



- b. Execution. The horse and rider enter the corridor at the prescribed gait for the level and halt at the end of the corridor. Depending on the configuration, the rider either:

- (1) Rings the bell and backs down the “L” corridor to exit the obstacle, or
- (2) Removes the cup and backs down the “L” corridor. Upon exiting, the rider halts and places the cup on the pole at the entrance corresponding with the side from which the cup was removed.

If the cup is dropped, Novice level (L2/L3) riders must dismount, retrieve the cup, remount, and **place it on the pole from horseback**, or may request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. Intermediate (L4) through Masters (L7) riders must dismount, retrieve the cup, remount, and **place it on the pole from horseback**. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

If the pole that the cup is to be placed on is knocked down, L2/L3 riders must dismount, reset the pole, remount and place the cup on the pole, or request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. L4 through L7 riders must dismount, reset, remount, and place the cup on the pole; failure to do so will result in disqualification.

This obstacle is not used for the Introductory (L1) level.

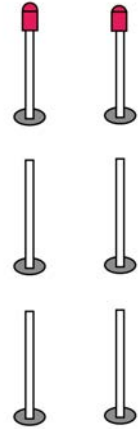
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the fluidity of the horse’s movements and its response to the use of the aids, enabling the route to be performed with maximum smoothness and accuracy. The Judge should consider the quality of the halt transition. The horse should remain immobile in the halt; failure to do so should result in a negative mark. Bumping any part of the obstacle without knocking it over will result in a lower score. Knocking over any part of the obstacle will result in a negative score. The Judge will give a lower mark to a horse that drags its feet during the rein back.

Failure of the rider to ring the bell will result in disqualification.

Exiting the corridor on the destination end with all four feet is a disqualification.

## 11. Rounding Posts

- a. Description. Two parallel lines of three posts each create a 1.5-m (5-ft) wide corridor. The posts in each line are separated a minimum of 2.5 m (8 ft) and a maximum of 3 m (10 ft) from each other, and are aligned with the posts on the other line. A cup is placed upside-down on the tip of each of the end posts in the corridor.



- b. Execution. The rider advances through the corridor at the prescribed gait and halts between the end posts to pick up a cup. The rider then reins back in a reverse slalom around the middle post on the side of the corridor from which she/he removed the cup and halts between the entrance posts to deposit the cup on the tip of the post at the entrance of the corridor corresponding with the side from which the cup was retrieved. The rider must keep the cup in her/his hand throughout the execution of the obstacle, but the obstacle can be completed with two hands on the reins if the rider is performing two-handed.

The horse must halt between the posts, showing immobility when the rider picks up the cup from the post and places the cup upside down on the top of the first post. To complete the obstacle, the horse must rein back fully to exit (i.e., all four feet) from the last pair of posts or entrance markers if included.

This obstacle is not performed at the Introductory (L1) level. At the Novice (L2/L3) levels, the horse and rider rein back straight between the posts without performing a slalom.

If the cup is dropped, Novice (L2/L3) riders must dismount, retrieve the cup, remount with the cup in hand, and replace it on the post or may request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. Intermediate (L4) through Masters (L7) riders must dismount, retrieve, remount, and place the cup or be disqualified.

If the post that the cup is to be placed on is knocked down, L2/L3 riders have the option of dismounting, resetting the post, remounting, and replacing the cup, or request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. L4 through L7 riders must dismount, reset the post, remount, and place the cup on the post; failure to do so will result in disqualification.

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge should consider the quality of the gait and the halt transition. The Judge will evaluate the fluidity of the horse's movements and its response to the use of the aids, enabling the obstacle to be performed with maximum smoothness and accuracy. The horse should remain immobile in the halt; failure to do so will result in a negative score. Touching any of the posts will result in a lower score. Knocking over a post will result in a negative score. Failure to replace the cup on the designated post will result in a disqualification. Exiting the destination end of the corridor with all four feet will result in a disqualification. The Judge will give a lower mark to a horse that drags its feet during the rein back.

## 12. Single Slalom

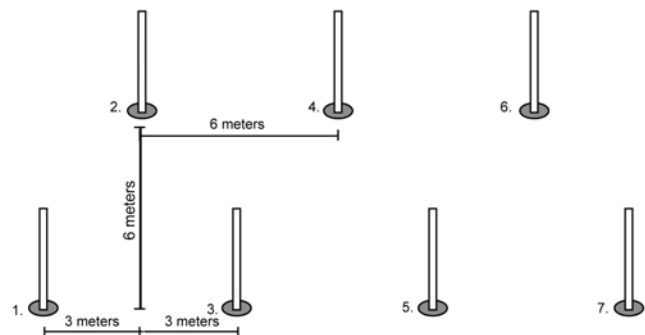
- a. Description. This obstacle consists of an odd number of posts or similarly shaped objects in a straight line with bases not secured to the ground. There must be a minimum of five posts; seven are recommended for Advanced and Masters levels. The posts are approximately 2 m (6.5 ft) in height and set with a distance of 6 m (20 ft) between each post. Flags indicating side of entry are placed on the appropriate side of the first post or can be placed on the post itself.



- b. Execution. The obstacle is entered in the prescribed gait. If there are not flags marking the exit of the obstacle, the obstacle is complete when the horse has broken the line between the two final posts. The line of travel should be weaving through the posts rather than loops around the posts. Lead changes must be performed as prescribed for that level. Changes of bend and lead are to be executed at each change of direction, in the line and midway between the posts. The horse's lead and bend should be in conformity with the turn.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the horse's calm, precise action; fluid and continuous movement; quality of gait; overall manner in performing this obstacle; and the quality of the lead changes. The Judge should consider correctness and attitude during the change of lead and/or changes of bend through the horse's body. Late or delayed lead changes and/or changes of bend will result in a lower score. Failure to perform lead changes and/or changes of bend will result in a negative mark. The shape, symmetry, and precision of the bending line, and the horse's response to the rider's aids will be considered. A negative score will be given for knocking down any of the posts.

## 13. Double Slalom

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of an odd number of upright posts: minimum of five; seven recommended; minimum of seven for Advanced and Masters levels. Each post is approximately 2 m (6.5 ft) in height, with a base not secured to the ground. The posts are arranged in two staggered parallel lines, with a distance of 6 m (20 ft) between the parallel lines and between each post on the line. The posts are staggered such that the midpoint between the first two posts of the first line is directly opposite the first post of the second line.



- b. Execution. The obstacle is entered at the prescribed gait. The horse will perform half loops or turns of consistent size around the posts in the direction indicated by the flags. Changes of lead/bend are performed halfway between the posts and on the line between the successive posts. The horse's lead and bend should conform to the direction of the turn. If there are no exit markers, the obstacle is complete when the horse has crossed the line between the final two posts.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the horse's calm, precise action; quality of gait; fluid and continuous movement; overall manner in performing this obstacle; and the quality of the lead changes or changes of bend. The Judge should consider correctness and attitude during the change of lead and/or changes of bend through the horse's body, and the horse's bend around the posts. Late or delayed lead changes or changes of bend will result in a lower score. Failure to perform lead changes and/or changes of bend will result in a negative mark. The shape, symmetry, and precision of the turns for this obstacle, and the horse's response to the rider's aids will be considered. A negative score will be given for knocking down any of the posts.

#### 14. Gate

- a. Description. The gate must be at least 1.3 m (4-ft 3-in.) high and 2-m (6.5-ft) wide, supported by two weighted posts (or jump standards) and two hinges. A latch easily operated from horseback should be used. The gate can be opened to the right or left depending on how the obstacle is set in the course. A rope between two posts can be used instead of a solid gate. A solid gate is preferred for Ease of Handling in licensed shows and is required in championship competitions. A rope gate should be used for Speed.
- b. Execution. The rider will approach perpendicular to the gate at the prescribed gait for the level and transition to the walk as she/he approaches the gate. The rider then moves the horse laterally and halts alongside the gate. The rider must lift the latch, open the gate, and go through the entrance. When the horse has fully passed to the other side of the gate, the rider may back up one or two steps to close the gate. With the horse squarely halted, the rider will then put the latch in place to complete the obstacle. The rider should not release control of the gate at any point in the performance of this exercise until the gate is latched. The obstacle may be required in both directions providing there is at least one obstacle in between the first and second execution.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the horse's action, which should be fluid and without any hesitation. The horse should pay attention to and participate in the opening and closing movements without showing any signs of insecurity or disobedience. The rider's action should be easy, precise, and free from hesitation. A negative score will be given if the rider releases control of the gate by letting go for more than a momentary adjustment of hand position at any time during the execution of this obstacle, or if there is any sign of insecurity by the horse or rider or lack of continuity (fluidity) of the action. Switching hands will result in a disqualification.

## 15. Jump

- a. Description. The obstacle consists of a single jump in a progression of heights for each level. Standard jump rails or a solid wood obstacle (like a flower box) can be used. Bales of straw placed end-to-end are acceptable. The jump must be at least 3-m (10-ft) across. The jump must be positioned between two jump standards with appropriate jump cups.

L1: A single rail is placed on the ground between the jump standards; jump cups must be removed. Up to two ground rails may be set in front of the jump rail; each 1- to 1.2-m (3.5- to 4-ft) apart.

L2 and L3: Jump consists of a pair of crossed rails not to exceed 0.5 m (22 in.) at the standard and 0.4 m (15 in.) at the center.

L4 thru L7: Jump consists of a solid-looking obstacle or rails set 0.5-m (22-in.) high.

- b. Execution. The horse should approach and jump over the obstacle cleanly, naturally, and with assurance. The obstacle may be required in both directions providing there is at least one obstacle in between the first and second execution.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches and leaves the obstacle; the horse's calmness, straightness, and tempo throughout the obstacle; the bascule over the jump; and the pair's confidence and style. Knocking over any part of the obstacle will result in a negative score.

## 16. Sidepass Rail

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of one or more rails about 3.7 m (12 ft) in length with a diameter of not more than 10 cm (4 in.), supported 5-10 cm (2-4 in.) above the ground. The rails may be arranged in the following configurations:

- (1) Single rail
- (2) Two rails in a line separated by at least 3 m (10 ft)
- (3) Two parallel rails separated by at least 3 m (10 ft)
- (4) Two rails in an "L" configuration
- (5) Three rails in a zigzag ("Z") configuration; rails are set at 90 degrees

- b. Execution. The horse's legs must cross in a lateral movement over the rail, keeping the rail between the horse's front and hind legs throughout the obstacle. The course map may indicate which direction (right or left) the horse and rider must pass over the rail; when not specified, the rider chooses the direction. For the two rails in a line (2) and the parallel rail (3) configurations, the rails must be ridden in different directions. For the "L" configuration (4), the horse must be positioned so that its head is to the inside of the "L". Any changes in gait required to execute this obstacle must occur at the entrance and exit markers.

This obstacle is not used for Introductory (L1) riders. Novice (L2/L3) levels can be asked to execute the single rail, two rails in a line, or parallel rails. Intermediate (L4/L5) and



Advanced (L6) riders can be asked to execute single rail, two rails in a line, parallel rails, or the “L” configuration. Masters level (L7) riders can be asked to perform all configurations.

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the horse’s calmness, capacity to perform the obstacle, crossing of the legs, and the fluidity and continuity of the action. A bend in the direction of the movement will garner a higher score than if the horse is bent away from the movement. A lower mark will be given for bumping the rail. The Judge will give a lower mark for a lack of crossing of the horse’s legs in the lateral movement. A negative mark will be given for knocking over the rail or if the horse steps across the rail with one or more feet. Exiting the rail prematurely or failing to sidestep over the entire length of the rail is a course error.

### 17. Water

- a. Description. The ditch should be a minimum of 1.5 m (5 ft) in the direction of travel (long), and a minimum of 2.4 m (8 ft) wide. The ditch may be flat with a minimum depth of 10 cm (4 in.) or gently sloping to a maximum depth of 0.6 m (2 ft). The bottom surface should be safe for horses to travel across. Course markers must be used to mark the entrance and exit. The obstacle may be framed with logs so horses have to step over and into/out of the water.
- b. Execution. The horse should approach and maintain gait through the water naturally and without any hesitation. This obstacle is not used for Introductory (L1) riders.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the ditch, its reaction when going through the water, and the consistency of gait throughout the exercise. A lower mark will be given for hesitancy by the horse. A negative mark will be given if the horse steps backward before riding through the ditch or jumps the ditch without going through the water.

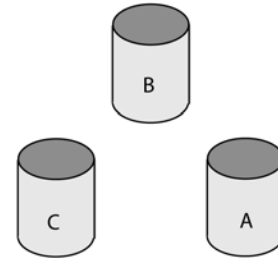
### 18. Bank

- a. Description. The obstacle consists of an embankment of natural substance positioned not more than 30 to 60 cm (1 to 2 ft) above ground level. A level plateau is at the top and bottom of the embankment; the plateau must be at least 2-m (6.5-ft) long in the direction of travel. There may be ramps leading to and away from the level plateaus.
- b. Execution. The horse should approach and maintain the chosen gait through the obstacle naturally and without any hesitation. The obstacle can be executed as either an up-bank or a down-bank. Both an up-bank and a down-bank may be incorporated and scored as one obstacle. This obstacle is not used for Introductory (L1) riders.

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the bank, the smoothness of the execution, the consistency and quality of gait throughout the exercise, and confidence in the rider's instructions. Lower marks are awarded for hesitancy. A horse that steps backward before going over the bank or steps off the side of the bank will receive a negative mark.

## 19. Drums

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of three drums positioned at the three points of an equilateral triangle with sides 3- to 4-m (10- to 13-ft) long, measured from the center of the drums. The drums are set 4-m (13-ft) apart for Introductory (L1), Novice (L2/L3), and Intermediate (L4/L5) levels, and 3-m (10-ft) apart for Advanced (L6) and Masters (L7) levels.



- b. Execution. The horse enters at the appropriate gait for the level between drums A & C. The horse makes a full circle to the right around drum A. The horse proceeds to pass halfway between drums A & B, with a change of lead and/or bend over the imaginary line between A & B. The horse makes a loop to the left around drum B. The horse then proceeds to pass halfway between drums B & C, with a change of lead and/or bend along the imaginary line between B & C. The horse makes a full circle to the right around drum C and exits at the same point from which the exercise began.

The obstacle may be executed to the left first if designated on the course map **or** approved by the Judge. The horse makes a full circle to the left around drum C. The horse proceeds to pass halfway between drums C & B, with a change of lead and/or bend over the imaginary line between C & B. The horse makes a loop to the right around drum B. The horse then proceeds to pass halfway between drums B & A, with a change of lead and/or bend along the imaginary line between B & A. The horse makes a full circle to the left around drum A, and exits at the same point from which the exercise began.

All circles should be symmetrical and of the same diameter.

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will consider the horse's attitude, the rider's use of aids, tempo, continuity of action, quality of gait, fluidity of performance, correctness and attitude during the change of lead, accuracy of the passage halfway between the drums, and the shape, symmetry, and precision of the circles. The highest degree of execution is a 4-m circle for Introductory through Intermediate levels, and a 3-m circle for Advanced and Masters levels. A lower score will be given for incorrect placement of change of lead and/or change of bend (failure to perform midway between the drums). A negative mark will be given for failure to perform a change of lead and/or change of bend. The Judge will give a negative mark if a drum is knocked over.



The following obstacles are alternative representations of traditional cattle handling methods used throughout the world. They are not used in WAVE competitions.

## 20. Move Sack

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of a table or platform, at least 1.2-m (4-ft) high. Two tables or platforms may be used, set some distance apart. A sack containing items not to exceed 4.5 kg (10 lbs) is set on one of the tables. The sack should be made of natural material such as burlap, canvas, or cotton (not a plastic bag).
- b. Execution. The rider picks up the sack from table A, continues forward at the prescribed gait and sets the sack down on table B. Introductory (L1) riders walk to perform this obstacle and may halt to pick up/drop off the sack. Novice (L2/L3) riders may walk or trot to perform the pickup/drop-off. Intermediate and Advanced (L4-L6) riders perform the pickup/drop-off at the walk or canter. Masters (L7) riders perform this obstacle at canter. If only one table is used, the rider follows a track prescribed on the course map.

If the sack is dropped, it will be handed back to Introductory (L1) riders. Novice (L2/L3) riders must dismount, retrieve the sack, remount with the sack in hand, and place it on table B or request permission to pass and receive a 0 for the obstacle. Intermediate (L4) through Masters (L7) riders must dismount, retrieve the sack, remount, and replace it on table B. Failure to do so will result in a disqualification.

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the obstacle, confidence between tables/platforms, the reaction to the movement of the sack, and its response to the aids to enable the route to be performed with maximum smoothness. A higher score will be given for performing this obstacle without changing gait.

## 21. Drag Item

- a. Description. The obstacle consists of:
  - (1) An item to drag, which should resemble objects found in the field such as a log, a weighted skid, or a weighted sack.
  - (2) One or two tables, drums, or upright structures at least 1.2-m (4-ft) high.
  - (3) A standard lariat (lasso, reata, rope), a minimum of 6-m (20-ft) long. The coiled free end is positioned on the first table. The loop end is securely attached to the drag item.

The drag may be in a straight line from table 1 to table 2, a “U” from table 1 around a specified object and back to table 1, a circle around table 1, a serpentine through cones, or other pattern as designated.

- b. Execution. Rider will halt at the first table, pick up the rope, and drag the item in the designated pattern. Rider will then coil the rope and place it on the designated table. Riders using saddles with horns may dally the rope. If the rider drops the rope, Novice (L2/L3) riders must dismount, retrieve the rope, and remount with the rope. Failure to

dismount, retrieve the rope, and remount with the rope will result in a 0 for the obstacle. Intermediate (L4/L5) riders must dismount, retrieve the rope, and remount with the rope. Failure to do so will result in a disqualification.

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the obstacle, its reaction to the movement of the dragged item, and its response to the aids to enable the route to be performed with maximum smoothness. Dropping the rope will result in a negative score.

This obstacle may not be used at the Introductory (L1) level.

## 22. Varied Footing

- a. Description. Any variety of safe, uneven or textured footing may be used. Sample footings include shavings, sand, bark, wet sand/soil, grass, straw, light brush, gravel, rubber mats, or wood sheeting. The obstacle should be a minimum of 1.2 m x 2.4 m (4 x 8 ft). Safety of the footing should be considered.
- b. Execution. The rider will enter the obstacle at a walk, cross at a walk, and proceed at the prescribed gait upon exiting.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the transition to the walk, the quality and regularity of the walk, the straightness of the horse while navigating the obstacle, and the confidence of the horse and rider while navigating this obstacle. Points will be deducted if a horse shows any awkwardness, hesitation, or irregularity.

## 23. Herding Cattle

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of two adjacent and connected fenced enclosures. The fence panels must be 1.5- to 2.1-m. (5- to 7-ft) high, each with an exterior entrance gate and one gate connecting the two enclosures, all of which can be operated from horseback. Each enclosure should be a minimum of 6 x 6 m (20 x 20 ft,) or sufficient in size for a horse and rider to enter and easily move through or properly herd the cattle contained in the pen. The obstacle should be erected within a perimeter fence secure enough to contain the stock should any escape from the obstacle. The perimeter fence may be used as a portion of the obstacle.

The cattle should be reasonably quiet and accustomed to being worked from horseback. The animals should be larger than 300 pounds. Bulls larger than 500 pounds or over 8 months of age are not to be used. The Judge may remove any individual animals that are too wild or aggressive to ensure safe and sporting conditions.

- b. Execution. The rider will open the exterior gate to the empty pen, enter, and then close the gate. The rider will then open the gate between the two pens, herd the animals from one pen to another, and close the gate between the two pens. The rider will then exit through the exterior gate of the now empty pen, closing the gate behind him/her. Riders must open/close the gates by themselves.



## United States Rules for Working Equitation



This obstacle should be performed at the walk, with momentary short bursts of speed as needed to properly execute the elements required.

This obstacle is not used for the Introductory (L1) level.

- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The Judge will evaluate the smoothness and harmony of the operation, including the rider's ability to complete the exercise with the animals remaining calm. The Judge will consider the operation of the gates the same as the Gate obstacle. The Judge will consider the horse's naturalness and submission in herding the animals. A negative mark will be given for any signs of fear visible in the horse's reaction to the animals being herded. The Judge will give a negative mark if an animal escapes from the obstacle.