COUNTRYSIDE CHALLENGE VIRTUAL COURSE INSTRUCTIONS 20234

(Updated 24/01/2024)

**It is important that all leaders & side walkers are fully informed and know the permitted instructions as detailed below. They must not bring any paperwork into the arena with them. Riders, Leaders & side walkers are strongly advised to walk the course prior to competing. Times for course walks will be advertised.**

**LED CLASSES**

Leaders must lead at the 3rd stage of leading – Leaders do not need to change sides when the rein is changed.

**COMMANDERS**

In the **unled** classes, commanders should be in a central or roving position, WITH A LEADROPE. In the led classes the leader or side walker may act as commander, but should be careful to limit the instructions to the text in bold. Side walkers will be allowed to give clearer and more detailed instruction to visually impaired and hearing impaired riders.

**VI Riders should wear a white armband (not provided)**

**Hearing Impaired riders should wear a blue armband (not provided)**

Each rider may attempt each obstacle TWICE only. If the obstacle is still unsuccessful, the rider must move on to the next obstacle.

The WALK ONLY option is available in all classes.

**ARENA/COURSE SIZE – Approx: 20 x 40m**

**A bell will be rung to start – ENJOY**

**1 – THREE/FIVE OBSTACLES – Pace should be active throughout. All obstacles should be entered centrally.**

**Bend around 3/5 obstacles, leaving the first obstacle to the RIGHT** (i.e. tyre, cone, straw bale etc) these will be placed at varying angles and distances. For the led classes the Leader must stay to the LEFT of all the obstacles, Rider to demonstrate ability to steer and maintain an active walk.

**2 – DOUBLE CLOUD & RAINBOW UPRIGHTS**

**Walk Centrally Between both sets of Uprights** - these will be positioned on a curve) Rider looking for and taking the correct HALF CIRCLE route towards the centre line between the two trees, maintaining rhythm.

**3 – APPLE TREES**

**Active walk to Trees, halt centrally using one hand only, pick up an apple & put in bucket on Opposite side** to show accurate approach to trees, position and balance whilst picking apple, show good transitions (Leader/side walker may stand in front of equine)

**4 – BARRELS Walk centrally between the two barrels and circle around EITHER the right or left barrel,** to be judged on accuracy, the shape of the circle and maintaining an active walk throughout. CIRCLE can be any size providing it begins & ends at the centre between the barrels.

**5 – ROAD**

**Choose correct entrance and walk centrally through the road**, showing smooth turns and a regular pace (Leader/Side walker to stay to the outside of the track).

**6 – BRIDLE PATH**

**Bridle path sign to Shrub Markers.**

**6a - “WALK ONLY” Halt at Bridle Path sign, maintain a square halt for 6 seconds,** walk on, to show good transitions, walk centrally over pole showing a light seat position and maintaining a straight active walk throughout.

**6b - Begin TROT at Bridle Path sign,** proceed in sitting or rising trot, trot centrally over pole showing a light seat position. Attempt correct aids for transitions, this may include voice.

**7 – SHRUB MARKERS/BRIDGE**

**Walk centrally between shrub markers, show the correct route to and over the bridge** (Leader/Side walker to walk over Bridge with the Rider in the central position) to show accurate steering on approach and over bridge, maintaining an active walk.

**8 – 2 LOOP SERPENTINE**

**Walk from Bridge to begin serpentine around – 1. SCARECROW > 2. SHEEP** Rider to show accurate and even loops whilst maintaining an active and regular pace and walking behind pond showing correct approach to riverside walk.

**9 – RIVERSIDE WALK**

**Controlled walk stretching on a longer rein along the riverside,** Show controlled free walk from start of track, reins to be shortened before leaving track demonstrating an ability to lengthen & shorten reins smoothly whilst maintaining control. ( Leader/Side walker to stay outside the track)

**10 – TREFOIL GATE Walk from Riverside and show correct parallel approach to gate, open gate, circle away and walk through – no need to close gate.**

**Walk over 1st pole and halt in BOX – THANK HORSE/PONY** - to show control, good transitions and a correct balanced entry into box

**Walk on to exit and leave the course when directed to do so. The rider is no longer being judged at this point.**