

# **BRIDGE**

## **Description**

All horses must walk over the bridge.  
For safety, horses MUST NOT be asked to trot over any bridge or slick surface.

## **Judge Criteria**

- Horse is to proceed forward at rider`s cue without hesitation.
- Horse may regard bridge for a moment without penalty, but must cross willingly when asked.
- Long hesitation will incur a penalty.
- Any form of disobedience or refusal is a penalty.
- Stepping off the bridge is a penalty.
- All rules for proper balanced equitation apply.

## **Options**

- stop after bridge
- back off bridge
- stop in the middle of bridge
- pick up something that is on the bridge, or place something on the bridge
- dismount and walk over bridge safely and quietly

# **GATE**

## **Description**

Team ride to gate ride up parallel to gate and stand quietly, open gate in any manner in which the gate swings (unless specified by the affiliate) and walk horse through opening turn horse and side pass to close gate.

## **Judge Criteria**

- Rider must maintain control of the gate by keeping their hand on the gate at all times. Judge will deduct points from rider if they remove their hand from the gate.
- Horse will incur penalty points for: spooking, backing away, refusing to cooperate with riders aids, gaping mouth, head tossing, any sign of disobedience, or pushing the gate with their head or chest.
- Judge is to always reward refined and subtle aids or cues. Punishing aids from rider will result in a lower score.

## **Options**

- (pl/jr) may open gate only
- (open) back through gate
- (open) step over pole under gate
- (open) side pass from marker to gate
- (open) hang plastic bag on gate

## **HAT PICK UP**

### **Description**

The judge will toss a hat on the ground near the horse, and hand the rider a stick and ask the rider to retrieve the hat from the back of the horse.

This is meant to be a FUN obstacle.

### **Judge Criteria**

- The horse is to remain calm and quiet. Spooking will receive a deduction in points from horse. The horse may move only when asked by rider.
- Horse may retrieve the hat in his mouth if trained to do so.
- The judge is to reward smoothness and quickness on the part of the rider.
- Calm and willing attitude on the part of the horse will be rewarded.

### **Options**

- Open division may be asked to pick up a different type of hat or a hat with bright colors.
- Seasonal decor is permissible (Santa hat at Christmas time, for example).
- Judge may ask to see emergency equipment such as knife, hoof pick, halter, and lead rope
- Judge may ask questions such as, "What type of bit are you using and why?" (Same for hackamore); 30 second extension of time given if needed for questions.

## **L-BACK**

### **Description**

Rider will be asked to back horse through an 'L' shaped obstacle.

### **Judge Criteria**

- Horse should back with straightness and not step out of "L".
- Penalize stepping on poles or dislodging a pole.
- Horse should be straight from head to tail.
- Reward subtle cues.
- Rider should be balanced in the middle of their horse.
- Rider may look back, but should return to centered position.
- Horse should be careful and slow.
- Penalize any resistance (tossing head, opening mouth, etc.).

### **Options**

- Plr/Jr Div. may be asked to back the straight portion of the 'L' only and then walk forward exiting the obstacle.