

FOLSOM LAKE TRAIL PATROL BENEFIT TRAIL TRIALS

Sunday, May 21, 2017

INSTRUCTIONS, RULES and SCORING

Safety comes first!

RIDER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Please sign up for the proper division: **Buddy** (no obstacles, no scoring, ride with friends); **Junior** (age 17 and under); **Novice** (a horse or rider who have never won a blue ribbon in a competitive trail event); **Geezer** (age 55 or over); and **Open**.
- Any type clothing suitable for riding is acceptable, but rider must wear appropriate riding footwear.
- Helmets are strongly recommended and are mandatory for those 17 years of age and under.
- Horses must be visibly sound before and after the competition.

EQUIPMENT

- Any type saddle (no bareback pads) and any type bridle or bosal-hackamore with mecate, or side-pull. Halters are not allowed for riding.
- It is the rider's responsibility to determine the appropriateness of their tack and to ensure that the tack fits the horse and is used properly.
- For safety on the trail, tie-downs are not allowed.
- A halter with lead rope, or halter-bridle, or knowledge to properly tie a mecate so your bosal/hackamore can be used to lead your horse (see drawing), and a hoof pick, are required. A bottle of water and a knife is suggested. Juniors are not to carry knives.
- It is suggested you use a breast collar and/or crupper, depending on your horse's conformation and way of going, as there will be some steep hills.
- Barefoot or shod is permissible. Protective horse boots are permitted.

GENERAL

- The Trail Trials will take place on the hiker-horse and multi-use trails of Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. You may encounter mt. bikes, dogs, strollers, backpackers, and loud noise.
- Two riders may not ride or compete with the same horse at the same time. No stallions, no dogs, no alcohol, no riding double, no ponying of another horse.
- No other gait but walk is allowed between obstacles.
- State Parks rules state all riders must stay on marked trails and do not enter the lake or beaches, except to water your horse. Any rider observed off the marked or park designated trails or in the lake will be disqualified.
- A Judge or Ride Manager has the right to disqualify a competitor from any obstacle or the whole competition for safety reasons, unsportsmanlike conduct, dangerous conditions, or unsoundness or injuries exhibited by their horse. Any harsh use of crops, bits, or spurs will be penalized and subject to disqualification.
- A rider may stop their horse to drink at any stream or pond during the ride or obstacle.
- **Manure must be picked up from camping and parking areas. Take it out with you.**

SCORING

Our Trails Trials is a fun event, and is **not** sanctioned by any organization. The only rules that will be followed are listed here, will be given to you as written or spoken instructions at the ride meeting, or is for safety and common sense. If you would like to know more about official sanctioned Trail Trials and their organizations and rules, go to these websites:

California State Horsemen's Association www.TrailTrials.com

Equine Trail Sports www.EquineTrailSports.com

Trail Trials is a competitive event. The Judges will consistently assign scores which reflect the quality and safety of the performance over and through the obstacle. The Judges will be looking for a calm, safe horse who shows no resistance to the rider's cues. All scores are final and there is no protest procedure. If there is a tie, pre-selected obstacles will be a tie breaker, and if a tie, a coin toss.

- Participants will be given written instructions in their packets explaining each obstacle and the order they must be taken.
- Judging takes place only at obstacles and you will be judged at entering, performing and exiting the obstacle.
- Between the obstacles, participants of all divisions may enjoy the ride with others on the trail.
- When you approach the obstacle, the Judge or Judge's assistant will ask at what division you are competing and give you the appropriate directions.
- Judge will read the instructions to each rider. The same instructions will be given to each rider.
- At each obstacle, the Judge will award a possible 10 points for each horse and each rider as a team, for the highest total of 10 possible points at each obstacle. Pluses (+) are given for an exemplary try or performance by either horse or rider and are awarded at the discretion of the individual Judge.

10 - Excellent

9 - Very Good

8 - Good

7 - Fairly Good

6 - Satisfactory

5 - Sufficient (Average)

4 - Insufficient

3 - Fairly bad

2 - Bad

1 - Very Bad

0 - Not performed

- Time limits for the obstacles may be assigned, if the rider exceeds the time limit, or if a rider has three refusals (back up steps), or has sufficient difficulty, the rider will receive a zero and the Judge will ask the rider to move on. The rider may not practice the obstacle then, but may after the competition is over.
- Horse refusals and rider failures to follow instructions are penalized. A basic guideline would be two points off for the first refusal, an additional four points for the second refusal and dismissal (zero score) for the third refusal.
- A rider may elect not to perform any obstacle and receive a zero.
- For safety, a Judge may instruct a particular rider to dismount at any time without

incurring a penalty. But, a fall of a rider is an obstacle disqualification and a zero score. A fall is described as an involuntary dismount.

- The judge may use a "Safety Call" to intervene for safety reasons, such as. "Drop the slicker, please."
- All scores given are final.

All fees will benefit the Folsom Lake Mounted Trail Patrol and the trails of Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. The Folsom Lake SRA parking/entrance fee will be waived for all Trail Trials entrants.

If you have any questions, please contact

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The Folsom Lake Trail Patrol 2017 Benefit Trail Trials are operated under a FLSRA Special Use Permit.