



2023 Colorado Obstacle Series Rules

Arena Obstacle Challenge – An arena style obstacle challenge. Course is in an enclosed area and is judged on the performance of the horse and rider at each obstacle. Obstacles can be natural or manmade; anything that is safe for a horse and rider. There is a time limit per obstacle, with total course time acting as a tiebreaker. In case of a double tie, (meaning the obstacle AND times result in the riders still being tied) a 2 obstacle 'Ride Off' will be the tie breaker.

Trail Obstacle Challenge - Designed out of the confines of an arena. The course is an open area and judged on the performance of the horse and rider at each obstacle. Obstacles will be natural or manmade and deemed safe for horse and rider. There is a time limit per obstacle, with total course time being the tiebreaker. In case of a double tie, (meaning the obstacle AND times result in the riders still being tied) a 2 obstacle 'Ride Off' will be the tie breaker

The host club has the option to offer a Jackpot Event to be held 'after' all the regular Divisions have been completed. The Jackpot Event can be offered as a draw for competitors for a per event payout. The course and obstacles are at the discretion of the host club.

Jackpot - \$20 entry fee

Jackpot entry fees - 100% payout 50% / 30% / 20% - Pays 1st thru 3rd place

Divisions

ALL riders may ONLY ride in one division. (not to include the Greenhorse or NRF Primetime Divisions or the Jackpot race)

Riders must ride in the Division appropriate for THEIR riding ability, NOT the ability of their horse. It is irrelevant if you have ever ridden in an obstacle challenge or not. It is based on YOUR skill set as a rider.

If you have questions as to which Division you should enter, please discuss it with the registration assistants, or, you can contact Colorado Obstacle Series who would be happy to assist in determining which Division you should enter.

Lead Line – Leadline, while **NOT** a ‘Division’ is an opportunity for parents of riders up to 6 years in age to have (1) adult lead the rider through the course. The obstacle course will consist 5 obstacles of the course for the day, in an enclosed area or Trail setting. The course will consist of one section of 5 obstacles. Each obstacle will have a time limit of 30 seconds.

Youth – This Division is for riders age 7 to 13. The obstacle course will consist of 10 obstacles appropriate for youth riders, in either an Arena setting or an open Trail Course. The course will be divided into two sections; each section will have 5 obstacles. Each obstacle will have a time limit of 30 seconds. Riders will wait at the beginning of each section for the judge's signal to begin. ***(Parents or trainers are NOT allowed on the course or in the judge's area)***

Novice – This Division is for **beginner** riders, who have been riding less than 2 years and NEVER competed in ANY type of competition which includes Gymkhana. A rider may only compete in the Novice Division 1 season unless approved by COS to remain another season. From here they will be moved to either Amateur or Open, dependent upon their riding skill ability. The obstacle course will consist of 10 obstacles appropriate for beginning riders, in either an Arena setting or an open Trail Course. The course will be divided into 2 sections; each section will have 5 obstacles. Each obstacle will have a time limit of 30 seconds. Riders will wait at the beginning of each section for the judge's signal to begin.

Green Horse and Not Ready For Prime Time are the only Divisions based on *horse* skill set and requirements rather than rider ability.

Green Horse : Horses may be *any age* . Horses may be of any breed, with 90 days or less under saddle. Horses over 5 years of age will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In these cases, the horse **MUST** be cleared by Colorado Obstacle Series **PRIOR** to the first Event they wish to attend. This is done by sending an email to coloradoobstaclechallenge@gmail.com stating the horse's name, age, horse information in regard to training, horse ability, etc. Any horse ridden in the Green Horse Division may NOT be ridden in any other Division. A horse may be ridden in this Division 1 season. ***This Division is based on the HORSE Ability. If it is deemed the horse should be in a more competitive Division the rider will be notified and the horse will be moved into the riders normal division*** The obstacle course will consist of 10 obstacles as used in the Novice division, in either an Arena setting or an open Trail Course. The course will be divided into 2 sections; each section will have 5 obstacles. Each obstacle will have a time limit of 30 seconds. Riders will wait at the beginning of each section for the judge's signal to begin.

Not Ready For (NRF) PrimeTime: This Division is for horses that have been to trainers and multiple clinics and still don't quite 'get it'. *Horses may be any age* . In this Division, horses will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In these cases, the horse **MUST** be cleared by Colorado Obstacle Series **PRIOR** to the first Event they wish to attend. This is done by sending an email to coloradoobstaclechallenge@gmail.com include horses name, age, issues, etc. For a horse to qualify for this division, the rider must ride in their appropriate Division at their first event. The rider is responsible for submitting a full video of this ride to coloradoobstaclechallenge@gmail.com .The ride will be evaluated by COS to determine if the horse qualifies to be entered in this division. Any horse ridden in the NRF Prime Time Division may NOT be ridden in any other Division. **This Division is based on the HORSE Ability.** The obstacle course will consist of 10 obstacles as used in the Novice division, in either an Arena setting or an open Trail Course. The course will be divided into 2 sections; each section will have 5 obstacles. Each obstacle will have a time limit of 30 seconds. Riders will wait at the beginning of each section for the judge's signal to begin.

Amateur – This Division is for intermediate riders. Those who are more advanced in skill level than Novice, but, not yet ready for Open. This includes recreational trail riders, **minimal** competition experience in **ANY** discipline which includes Gymkhana. It will be a challenging course with advanced obstacles. The obstacle course will consist of 10 obstacles appropriate for Intermediate riders, either in an Arena setting or an open Trail course. The course will be divided into two sections; each section will have 5 obstacles. Each obstacle will have a time limit of 30 seconds. Riders will wait at the beginning of each section for the judge's signal to begin.

Open - This Division is for any age rider. Open Division is for riders who are above the Intermediate riders of the Amateur Division These riders are advanced in rider skill set. Competition experience in ANY discipline which includes Gymkhana. Riding with more formalized groups such as mounted patrol unit, drill team, etc. Years of riding horses. It will be a challenging course with advanced obstacles. The obstacle course will consist of 10 obstacles appropriate for Advanced riders, either in an Arena setting or an open Trail Course. The course will be divided into two sections; each section will have 5 obstacles. Each obstacle will have a time limit of 30 seconds. Riders will wait at the beginning of each section for the judge's signal to begin.

The Classics- This Division is for riders aged 65 to 75. It will be a challenging course with advanced obstacles. The obstacle course will consist of 10 obstacles appropriate for Advanced riders, either in an Arena setting or an open Trail Course. The course will be divided into two sections; each section will have 5 obstacles. Each obstacle will have a time limit of 30 seconds. Riders will wait at the beginning of each section for the judge's signal to begin.

Legends- This Division is for riders 75 and older. The obstacle course will consist of 10 obstacles appropriate for Intermediate riders. The obstacle course will consist of 10 obstacles, either in an Arena setting or an open Trail course. The course will be divided into two sections; each

section will have 5 obstacles. Each obstacle will have a time limit of 30 seconds. Riders will wait at the beginning of each section for the judge's signal to begin.

Pro - This Division is exclusively for Professional riders. Pro Division will be defined as Riders who have received payment of \$1000 or more annually, for training or lessons. **Pro rider must show their horse riding with one hand on the reins, unless the horse is being shown in a snaffle bit, D ring, O ring or hackamore (bosal).** It will be a challenging course with advanced obstacles. The obstacle course will consist of 10 obstacles appropriate for the most advanced skill level riders, in an Arena setting or an open Trail Course. The course will be divided into two sections; each section will have 5 obstacles. Each obstacle will have a time limit of 30 seconds. Riders will wait at the beginning of each section for the judge's signal to begin.

COS Rising Stars- Rising stars is our special needs division for Colorado Obstacle Series. Special needs are not limited to physical or visual disabilities. We strive to keep our program **all inclusive** and have our Colorado Obstacle Series 'family' support throughout. The obstacle course will consist of 10 obstacles as used in the Novice Division, in either an Arena setting or an open Trail Course. The course will be divided into 2 sections; each section will have 5 obstacles. Each obstacle will have a time limit of 30 seconds. Riders will wait at the beginning of each section for the judge's signal to begin. **A horse used for Rising Stars may not be ridden in any other Division.** Rising Stars are allowed to have, and must provide any assistants needed for their ride. Appropriate tack adjustments are allowed. For this division there must be prior approval for support services. Contact us at coloradoobstaclechallenge@gmail.com.

Jackpot – This Event will be held end of day. This Event is open to any age with **NO** class divisions. The fee for this Event is \$20.00 with 100% payout going to the participants of this Event. This event will be completed in an arena setting or an open trail course It will consist of 10 obstacles. In this event both obstacle **score and time** will factor in determining placings. See judge's matrix for scoring details.

Jackpot - \$20

Jackpot entry fees - 100% payout - 50% / 30% / 20% - Pays 1st thru third plac

ENTRY FEES & REQUIREMENTS

Entry Fees are \$28.00 per Division. If you pre-register, you will save \$5.00 per run. (\$23.00) If registering on site, regular run fee of \$28.00.

Leadline, is \$15.00. There is a 'time only' run that will follow ALL other Divisions for the day, There is a \$10.00 fee and no points are accrued, Rider may ride or lead through the time only run. No awards are given.

Some Host sites may require stall fees, etc. this will be made public prior to the Event. Competitors do not have to be a resident of the State of Colorado. If a horse is from out of State, a current coggins and health check **WILL** be required.

Riders who preregister will have the choice of where they wish to be placed in order of go, TOWARDS the beginning, the middle, or the end of their Division. A specific place cannot be claimed, but, arrangements will be made to get them as close to their choice as possible. On site registrations will be added to the list as they arrive.

Host Facility per event entry fees - 70% of overall fees go to the host site. 30% of overall fees go to Colorado Obstacle Series to be used for end of year awards and Judge fees. (This excludes Jackpot entry fees)

Cancellation: If an Event has started for the day and must be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances **ANY** competitor who has not made their run for the Event will be given their choice of either a refund of their entry fees **OR** points added for the day at the following rate:

- A) If there have been runs already completed in a Division, the Competitors who are unable to continue due to **cancellation of Event through no fault of their own:** the amount of points given will be given at the rate of 5 points less than the lowest score for that Division.

ie: Say there are 15 Competitors in a Division. 4 Competitors made their run, with the lowest of those rides being 60 points. The remaining Competitors may choose points **INSTEAD** of a refund. The amount of points the remaining Competitors

would be eligible to receive would be 55. This would be added to the spreadsheet for the day, and, added to their YTD point total.

- B) If NO runs had been completed in a Division prior to the Event cancellation, the points the Competitors from those Divisions would be eligible for would be 50 points. These 50 points would be added to the spreadsheet for the day, and, added to their YTD point total.
- C) The ONLY Competitors who this would apply to would be Competitors registered for the Event, and ONSITE when the cancellation takes place.
- D) This **MUST** be decided **PRIOR** to the Competitor leaving the Event site, and, **ONLY** applies to the cancellation of an Event that is underway.

Death of Horse

If a rider suffers the death of the horse they have been competing on during a season:

The rider may substitute a horse for the duration of the season with the points from their original mount moved to the new mount. This will only be done 1 time, to 1 horse to finish the current season. The rider should not suffer the loss of their points for the current season. **No other situation will apply to transfer of points.**

SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY*

- Registration morning Divisions open until 9:00am unless specified
- Walkthrough
- Morning Divisions, Division Order: Green Horse, NRF Prime Time, Novice, Youth, Amateur, Legends
- Registration for afternoon Divisions open until 12:00 unless specified, lunch, morning Division awards
- Afternoon Divisions, Division Order: Rising Stars, Leadline, Open, The Classics and Pro
- Jackpot
- Afternoon Division Awards

* Times will be determined by number of riders.

END OF YEAR AWARDS

- Pro – 1st - 2023 Colorado Obstacle Series Champion Belt Buckle, Champion Neck Ribbon
- Legends- 1st - 2023 Colorado Obstacle Series Champion Belt Buckle, Champion Neck Ribbon
- The Classics- 1st - 2023 Colorado Obstacle Series Champion Belt Buckle, Champion Neck Ribbon
- Open - 1st - 2023 Colorado Obstacle Series Champion Belt Buckle, Champion Neck Ribbon
- Amateur - 1st - 2023 Colorado Obstacle Series Champion Belt Buckle, Champion Neck Ribbon
- Green Horse - 1st – 2023 Colorado Obstacle Series Champion Belt Buckle, Champion Neck Ribbon
- NRF Prime Time- 1st – 2023 Colorado Obstacle Series Champion Belt Buckle, Champion Neck Ribbon
- Novice - 1st - 2023 Colorado Obstacle Series Champion Belt Buckle, Champion Neck Ribbon
- Youth - 1st - 2023 Colorado Obstacle Series Champion Belt Buckle, Champion Neck Ribbon

- Rising Stars - 1st - 2023 Colorado Obstacle Series Champion Belt Buckle, Champion Neck Ribbon
- All Divisions 2nd and 3rd Place - Neck Ribbon 4th to 6th - Ribbon

Overall High Point Horsemanship Buckle

The focus of Colorado Obstacle Series has and will always be that of horsemanship. This buckle recognizes the rider who embraces this aspect of what we do by earning the most horsemanship points at the end of the Season. To be eligible for this RE-ward, a rider must attend 66% (2/3) of the scheduled Events for the Season. A rider's horsemanship points from each Event will be tallied, then divided by the number of Events they attended. In case of a tie, the tie breaker will be the fastest time.

JUDGING AND POINT SYSTEM

Horses will be judged at each obstacle for their willingness and skill at correctly completing the obstacle, and the riders will be judged on their skill and horsemanship at handling and maneuvering their horse through the obstacle. The judging score is 0 through 10. (10 reflects the highest score for an obstacle completion). A score of 0 is only given when an obstacle is skipped, done out of order, the rider begins before the judge's signal, or the horse/rider team becomes dangerous (i.e. rearing, bucking, etc.).

The Horsemanship score will reflect the softness and effectiveness of the rider's cues while guiding their horse through the course on a scale of 0 - 10. (10 reflects the highest score given for Horsemanship) Improper use of cues, spurring, poor equitation, or any show of poor sportsmanship or horsemanship will receive a lesser score. Each entry's total ride time will be recorded by the timekeeper and will be used as a tiebreaker for multiple entries with the same score.

- A rider crossing over the start/finish line at any time during the run that is inappropriate will result in a disqualification of that portion of the run.
- Scores will reflect excessive force, or excessive use of spurs, excessive cuing etc.
- A judge has the right to dismiss any rider at any time.
- All judges are trained and will follow the Judges scoring matrix approved by COS.
- It will be the rider's responsibility to be familiar with the current rules.
- **Visit our website for more information on what the judges are looking for.**

RIDER & MOUNT

Tack:

It is up to the rider the type of saddle, bridle and bit, halter, hackamore, gear and equipment to be used. **Pro rider's must show their horse riding with one hand on the reins, unless the horse is being shown in a snaffle bit, D ring, O ring or hackamore (bosal)**

Devices such as combination bits, draw reins, side pulls, martingales (standing, running, etc.) cavesons and tie downs are not allowed. Any other form of head restraint other than a bridle or halter is not permitted. Rider will be given a chance to adjust or remove any tack that is not allowed prior to their ride. If an adjustment is not made it will result in a disqualification with no refund.

Riders may choose to ride bridle less or bareback, but this will not be reflected in the rider's score. Safety is always a priority and an unbalanced or out of control rider will receive lower scores or may be excused.

General Rules:

Horsemanship and building partnerships between horse and rider is of highest priority in our Events.

Helmets *may* be required for riders under 18 years of age at some of the host facilities please be aware when registering for an event of these requirements. Adult riders may choose not to wear a helmet, however if a helmet is not worn, a western hat if riding western, or traditional English headwear if riding English.

Parents are responsible for monitoring their children. There are a lot of horses and riders and we don't want any children wandering into danger. If allowed on site, dogs must be leashed, or otherwise under control. All Host sites are allowed to choose if riders are able to bring dogs to their site or not.

No cantering/loping or trotting horses in the common areas (trailer parking area, etc.) Please limit canter/lope and trot work to the designated warm-up areas only.

All entries must sign a liability release form and any out of State horses must provide a current coggins test and 30 day health cert.

All minors must have release signed by a parent or guardian.

All breeds of horses, mules, donkeys or cows may ride in the competition. Well behaved stallions are welcome to compete. The Event Manager and /or judges retain the right to dismiss **ANY** mount whose behavior is deemed unsafe.

Any discipline is welcome. Show attire for your respective discipline MUST be worn for competition. Clothes neat, pressed, not in poor condition. **NO** T shirts, **NO** ball caps. Tank tops and spaghetti straps are prohibited. Long sleeve western shirts may be button up or zipper enclosure for Western discipline. Jackets for English discipline. Boots and hats / helmets as attire from any given discipline must be worn. A rider not adhering to the dress code will NOT be allowed to compete and SHALL be disqualified. **Dress code may at times be relaxed in cases of heat or cold. In the instance of heat, a button up or zipper enclosure short sleeve (not sleeveless) western shirt for western riders, a polo shirt for English may be worn in lieu of traditional show attire. Again, no t shirts, tank tops, or spaghetti straps are allowed.**

Riders may compete with as many horses as they want in their chosen Division.

The same horse may enter a DIFFERENT class with a DIFFERENT rider up to three times per event. The exception to this would be Rising Stars. A horse ridden by a Rising Star may **not** be ridden in any other Division. Horses ridden in the Green Horse and NRF Prime Time may **ONLY** be ridden in the those Divisions.

For everyone's sake, including your own, please do not ride in the Novice Division if you are competitive at the Amateur or Open level. This gives beginners a fair chance to learn the sport.

A competitor will be moved to a different Division if that the rider is not competing in the correct Division for their capabilities .If COS moves a rider after the riders first ride, the points will follow the rider IF a rider has enrolled him/herself in an inappropriate Division for their riding ability, any accumulated points shall NOT follow the rider if moved.

Prior to starting the competition there will be a walk through to view the course, discuss the obstacles and answer any questions. All courses will be posted the morning of the competition, prior to the start of the competition.

Competitors are not allowed to ride their horse onto the course prior to their run on the day of competition - *Any rider doing so will be disqualified for that event.*

Riders must be ready to ride when they are called to start their course. There will be three calls for the rider before a rider forfeits their ride for that class.

If a rider falls off they have 1 minute to catch their horse and remount unassisted or will be disqualified.

The only people allowed on the course during competition will be Judges, scribes, timers, Course resetters, Event photographer, COS staff. **NO one else will be allowed on the course**

A judge or event manager can ask a person to leave the premises if any treatment of any equine is deemed inhumane resulting in forfeiture of entry fees.

Inappropriate language or a show of poor sportsmanship will be grounds for disqualification resulting in forfeiture of entry fees.

Good Sportsmanship is mandatory. Any display of poor sportsmanship is subject to being removed from the grounds, with any entry fees for that Event being forfeit. This includes threatening or aggressive behavior to any Host, Judge, COS staff, another rider, spectator, or any other person on the Event grounds. Tampering with another person's horse or tack. Showing disrespect to any Host, judge, COS staff or any other person on the Event grounds. **Bullying will not be tolerated.** Anyone bullying or otherwise mistreating any other rider will be dismissed from the event immediately, no refunds, no questions asked. This falls under poor sportsmanship.

Judges scoresheets are available to EVERY contestant the day of each Event. **If ANY rider has ANY issues or concerns on scoring, they MUST discuss the issue with the judge responsible for the score in question THE DAY OF the Event prior to awards. NO RIDER WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE JUDGE AREA TO DISCUSS THEIR SCORESHEET! IT MUST BE HANDLED AT LUNCH BREAK OR AFTER THE JUDGE IS FINISHED FOR THE DAY.**

If there are ANY questions, concerns, complaints, issues in regards to an Event, this MUST be brought to COS attention within 48 hours of said Event via email to coloradoobstaclechallenge@gmail.com

<https://coloradoobstacleseries.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/coobstaclechallengeseries/>