



COMPETITION RULES

Oregon Rescue Challenge 2019

1. **SHOW MANAGER:** THE OREGON RESCUE CHALLENGE (ORC) COMMITTEE may designate one or more individuals as a Show manager to support the efforts of the show officials, trainers and event organizers. The Show manager's responsibilities may include but are not limited to: 1) Monitor show grounds for inhumane treatment of horses and unsportsmanlike conduct; 2) Investigate complaints and issue warnings (after 2 warnings there will be an elimination); and 3) Assist show officials and trustees in any capacity.
2. Participants must fulfill all requirements set forth in any other event-related document related to hauling, stable facilities, care, and training, for the duration of the Competition.
3. Horses may be exhibited in English, Western or other appropriate equine style and equipment. Exhibitors are asked to wear appropriate attire and headgear, which reflects the style of their riding or discipline. Additional elements such as silver on saddles or sequins on shirts will not earn extra consideration in this competition.
4. **ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT** that will result in automatic disqualification from the Competition (regardless of discipline) includes: snaffle bits with mouthpieces smaller than 5/16" in cross-section diameter and/or consisting of non-smooth material (such as twisted wire), and bosals made of anything but rawhide, leather or rope with a flexible core (no metal of any kind), spade, high port, or long-shanked bits, and mechanical hackamores. Tie downs and martingales will not be allowed. Judges and Stewards may prohibit the use of any bit or equipment which they consider inhumane or which would tend to give a horse/rider an unfair advantage. Bits and bridles used in the Competition will be examined prior to the first class of the day.
5. Horses may be ridden with two hands when using a snaffle bit or bosal. Showing a horse in a Western discipline with two hands when using a curb or shank-type bit is strongly discouraged. Use of two hands under English when using a Weymouth or double bridle is considered appropriate.
6. Training aides (whips, sticks, treats, etc.) will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses shown with the use of training aides might receive a deduction off the overall class score.
7. Excessive spurring or jerking on the reins or lead line during the Competition will result in disqualification in that class. (no points given)
8. Trainers will be given specific competition courses, scoring and requirements. Trainers will attend a rule meeting with the Judge(s) and Show manager immediately before the beginning of the competition. Trainers will have the opportunity to practice the trail course on their horses the day before the trail class.
9. In case of ties, tiebreakers will be decided by the highest horsemanship score.
10. **DRUGS:** No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a competing horse, either before or during the Competition or adoption. Any medication, drug, mechanical device, or artificial appliance, which is of such character as could affect the horse's performance or appearance at the event is prohibited. If a horse is receiving medication for therapeutic purposes, the trainer must submit a letter from their veterinarian to Oregon Rescue Challenge as to the reason for medication and the prescribed amount. The event organizers reserve the right to randomly or directly drug test any horse in the Competition. Positive tests may result in removal from the event, removal of reimbursement and prize money, refund of adoption fees paid by an adopter and return of the horse to its rescue should the adopter wish to return the adopted horse.



11. CLASSES:

Trainers and their horses will be judged, under Saddle, in three classes – Execution of Compulsory Maneuvers, Obstacle Course(trail and Freestyle).

A. EXECUTION OF COMPULSORY MANEUVERS – 110 points

Good horsemanship and partnership will be given a higher priority than completion of a maneuver. This score will reflect completion of the maneuver as well as the horse's level of willingness to execute the maneuver in a relaxed and confident manner. Trainers will carry their Compulsory Maneuver and Obstacle Course score forward to the Freestyle Finale. A pattern will be provided and may include but not limited to the following maneuvers:

Under Saddle:

1. Stop
2. Back
3. Lope or canter one (1) full circle Right
4. Lope or canter one (1) full circle Left
5. Simple or Flying lead change
6. Pivot or spin on forehand, Right and Left
7. Side pass to the Right and Left
8. Jog, extended trot, extended canter or lope, stop with rollback or pivot on haunches

B. OBSTACLE COURSE – 110 points

Each competitor will have a maximum of 12 minutes to complete the trail course. Horses are given three attempts at an obstacle before they must move to the next obstacle.

Trainers will be asked to ride their horse through a course of basic maneuvers and obstacles that may include but are not limited to:

- Walk, trot, canter/lope, stop, and back
- Turns and circles to the left and right
- Walk over logs/poles
- Simple or flying lead changes
- Walk over bridge
- Maneuver forward and/or reverse through a simple or complex chute
- Pick up object and carry from point to point
- Drag items for a specified length
- Trot over elevated obstacle
- Pivot/spin 360 degrees to the Left and Right
- Side pass
- Open gate
- Walk over tarp or other footing
- Load in trailer

C. FREESTYLE -110 Points

ALL horses will perform in the Freestyle class. Trainers are asked to select music, props, and costumes, which will best show the athletic ability and personality of their horse in a crowd-pleasing way.



Description and Scoring:

- **Freestyle contestants will be given four (4) minutes to arrange arena and set up props.**

- Trainers must provide their own props and assistance for arena set-up and teardown. It is the trainer's responsibility to make sure all props are cleared from the arena immediately following the conclusion of their freestyle performance, including hay, confetti, etc.

- Props of a pyrotechnic nature including fireworks, flares, flame, sparklers, firecrackers, etc., are not allowed.

- **Trainers will have 4 minutes to complete their freestyle performance.** Music and time will start when competitor enters the arena.

- Live "voice-overs" and/or commentary from the trainer are not allowed during the performance.

- Music is a required component of the freestyle performance – if the trainer does not turn in music during the finalists' meeting, music may be selected for him/her. **Music must be submitted as one single track CD or electronic form 1 week prior to competition.** All music is subject to review and approval by Oregon Rescue Challenge.

- If gunfire (blanks!) is planned during the freestyle performance, the trainer **MUST** inform the Show Manager by JUNE 28th 2018, those contestants will be placed at the end of the performance line-up. No practice involving gunfire will be permitted prior to the finale performance.

- Additional animals of any species will be allowed in the arena during the freestyle performance, however roping or any inhuman treatment will not be allowed. No calf roping will be allowed. If additional animals are to be used in the performance, prior authorization is required. Housing arrangement must be made prior to arrival.

- Other persons will not be allowed in the arena during the freestyle performance for any reason. Other persons are not allowed to act as props, ride, or come in contact with the horse at any time during the performance

- Horses are not allowed to trot or lope onto/into any moving or covered vehicles or trailers of any kind.

- Horses are not allowed to trot or lope through any moving vehicle/trailer/prop of any kind.

- During the performance, once the horse's feet leave the arena floor (i.e. if the horse gets on top of a trailer, vehicle, or any other obstacle) the trainer must either dismount or remain seated on the horse. The trainer is not allowed to stand, kneel, etc. on top of a horse that does not have all four feet on the arena floor.

- In the event of ties, the exhibitor with the higher overall horsemanship score will be declared with winner of the tie,

- All items subject to final review and approval by event organizers.



Freestyle Performance – 110 points

The freestyle portion is worth a total of 110 points and will be scored in the following areas:

A. Overall Horsemanship – 30 points

- The horse's ability to perform and execute maneuvers in a relaxed and confident manner. Communication and partnership between horse and rider/handler are paramount.

. (15 points)

B. Artistic Interpretation – 30 points

- Components of Choreography – the composition and arrangement of the performance and its rhythm, as well as the use of maneuvers, costumes, and/or props to enhance the performance.

- The “WOW” Factor – level of originality and the overall entertainment value of the performance.

C. Difficulty of Maneuvers 30 points

- The incorporation of maneuvers and their degree of difficulty. These maneuvers would include but are not limited to: side pass, two-tracking either direction, pulling or dragging, jumping, serpentines, rollbacks, roping, lead changes, circles with variation in size and speed, obstacles, stops, etc. However, the degree of difficulty cannot be considered as a measure of trainer success if there is evidence of the horse's discomfort in performing those maneuvers

D. Overall Assessment of the horse 20 points

-Horse demonstrates a certain understanding of the task with an active interest and positive attitude, which will best prepare him/her for a successful adoption. Judges will reward horses with natural gaits and rate overall quality of gait and movement, expression, and willingness of the horse.

Degree of Difficulty:

The Oregon Rescue is open to horses of all backgrounds and levels of training. In an effort to acknowledge the challenge our trainers take on, horses will be assigned a handicap in the form of degree of difficulty. Each horse entered in the Oregon Rescue Challenge will be evaluated by the show manager within 30 days of pickup to determine the degree of difficulty of each horse. Each horse will awarded 1-5 points to their total score. Degree of difficulty is not intended to determine the winner of the Oregon Rescue Challenge, rather it is to reflect the broad range of experiences each of the horses may bring to competition.

1-Previously ridden under saddle, responds to “whoa”, backs up with pressure, turns left and right, and understands cues to move forward. No resistant behavior observed (rearing, bucking, striking, biting)

2-Experience under saddle, minor resistance (more reactive than a well-trained horse, requires encouragement and reassurance)

3- Horse that has been handled but is reactive, may have been saddled/ minimal riding. Avoids obstacle and pressure. May had previous trauma history but does not respond to triggers with aggression. May buck or spook under saddle but recovers quickly and demonstrates williness.



4-Heightened situational awareness. May have been previously saddled/ ridden but appears to have had negative experiences under saddle. Wild horse that may have been minimally handled. Difficult to catch. Flees rather than draws to human.

5- Wild horse. Not trained to be haltered or led. Minimal contact/ handling with humans. Heightened fight or flight response. OR horse that is high reactively as the result of abuse or trauma.

Finalists will be scored on the following:

Accumulated scores from the 3 classes plus Degree of Difficulty assessment;

Compulsory Maneuvers: 110 points
Obstacle Course: 110 points
Freestyle: 110 points
Degree of Difficulty: 5 points

12. AWARDS:

1. All competing trainers will receive 25% commission (over the reserve set by each Rescue).
2. The top 2 trainers scoring the highest points in the overall competition will be awarded prize money.
3. The top 3 trainers scoring the highest points in each class will be awarded prize money.

13. ADOPTION:

1. Trainers are required to present their horse during the adoption. Trainers are required to present their horse in a manner consistent with the appearance and level of training demonstrated during the competition. Trainers may have an opportunity to speak to the adoption audience during their adoption presentation.
2. Trainers are required to meet the adopter of their horse and are asked to spend time with the new adopters on Sunday following the competition to help adopters get to know their horses. Rescues are required to leave food and water in the horse's stall prior to departing, and one bale of hay to assure appropriate feed transition.
3. Trainers wishing to adopt their own horse must follow the guidelines set forth by the Rescue to bid on the horse as the public. Trainers may apply any prize money and/or commission earned toward the adoption price. Trainers who adopt their horses must complete the necessary adoption paperwork with their associated RESCUE immediately following the adoption event.

All Horses competing in Oregon Rescue Challenge must compete under saddle at the ORC event June 29 & 30th, 2018. If the horse deemed not fit to compete by their Veterinarian prior to the competition, the rescue & trainer are to notify ORC immediately. Horses will be subject to a Vet check by the event Veterinarian.

Oregon Rescue Challenge reserves the right to modify or amend Competition Rules as necessary.