

LONGHORN RANCH HORSE CHALLENGE
2018 JUDGES and RIDERS GUIDELINES

While this is a COMPETITIVE EVENT, we also encourage as much FUN as possible within the lines of SAFETY and GOOD HORSEMANSHIP. The FOCUS of this event is the HORSE – all aspects of how the horse and the rider work together to perform typical ranch work that would be encountered on a typical day. It is UP TO THE JUDGE on each course to KNOW THE COURSE AND ITS RULES THOROUGHLY so as to make good decisions on the run of each rider. ANY and ALL QUESTIONS should be asked of the head judge at the judges meeting EACH DAY prior to the start of competition. A JUDGE is not to alter their manner of judging once a class has begun. PLAN TO CONDUCT your riders meeting PRIOR to the start of your course so that all competitors have an equal advantage to understand what it is that they will be judged on. A judge is NOT ABLE TO ANSWER INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS FROM RIDERS (or their designee) once the course has opened, including times, scores, or questions on scores. Please urge all riders on your course to attend your RIDERS MEETING. YOU are not responsible for any rider(s) who do not attend your course meeting.

TIMING: ALL TIMES will be recorded to the highest number to the right of the decimal point on timing equipment. DO NOT ROUND NUMBER. It is close to impossible to have a TIE TIME on any of our courses if times are NOT ROUNDED. Should there be a tie, please consult the head judge immediately prior to proceeding through the class.

Times are NOT to be given out to riders while the class is open. No rider should approach the timing area after their run/during the class. ALL RIDERS OR FAMILY/FRIENDS of any rider should stay well-away from the timing area on all courses.

Times will be official and posted after review by the show officials at the office. RIDERS AND FAMILY should not interrupt the show officials for their times at the office.

SAFETY ON THE COURSES: Our goal is an accident-free event. However, accidents do occur. Should an accident occur, STOP all competition at once. If the horse is running free, see to the rider FIRST and then get help to secure the horse as quickly and gently as possible. Assess the situation. The course officials and family members or responsible parties will be responsible to call for emergency assistance if needed. Competition will NOT RESUME until the course area is secured, judge/timers/course obstacles or stock are ready to start anew. The COURSE JUDGE will REOPEN the course at that time.

HELMETS: Helmets may be worn by ANY RIDER ON ANY COURSE if they so choose. There will be no penalties assessed by the course judges for this choice. A helmet will be made available on the KIDS COURSE to competitors if they want to use it.

ATTIRE FOR THE COMPETITION: ALL RIDERS will compete in western attire to include:

- LONG SLEEVE SHIRT while on course (for safety and sun protection).
- TANK TOPS will not be permitted on any course competitor.
- LONG JEANS (no cut-offs or shorts allowed).
- BOOTS/RIDING SHOES with at least 1/2" heel. PULL ON boots are suggested for safety. Riding in lace-up boots or shoes will not be penalized.
- COWBOY HAT with or without stampede strings. PLEASE NOTE: Ellensburg is known for its WIND. Should a strong wind present itself, all riders and course personnel can wear a baseball or sports cap. If questions, see your course judge for decision.
- CHAPS, CHINKS, ARMITAS may be worn by competitors at their discretion.
- GLOVES are encouraged for all riders but not required.
- JACKETS and VESTS may be worn in response to weather.

TACK AND GEAR:

- All competitors will ride in recognized WESTERN saddles and use western bridles. AUSTRALLIAN stock saddles are permitted.
- ALL TACK will be in good repair and NOT AT RISK of breaking under the stress of use and competition. If you have a question about your tack, please see your course judge PRIOR to competition.
- BREAST COLLARS (any type) are acceptable.
- REAR CINCHES are encouraged to stabilize saddle during competition. All rear cinches will be adjusted to within 1/2" of the horse's belly.
- MARTINGALES/DRAW REINS/SIDE REINS – will NOT be used on any course. These are training equipment, not for showing/competing.
- CAVESONS (either above the bit or below the bit) are training equipment and not to be used.
- MECHANICAL HACKAMORES are discouraged for competition.
- BOSALS AND MACATES may be used at any level. Judge's discretion based on the rider's ability to use correctly.
- TIE-DOWNS in the ROPING CLASS ONLY.
- MISUSE of tack or gear may be grounds or dismissals from any class.
- UNSAFE TACK OR GEAR may be grounds for dismissal from any class.
- UNDUE HARSHNESS with the potential to cause harm to any animal will be cause for dismissal from any class. COURSE JUDGES with the HEAD JUDGE'S DECISION IS FINAL.

BITS: All competitors will use standard bits for this competition, to include:

- Snaffle bits (no shanks) ridden two handed.
- Shank bits (with acceptable length shanks and mouth pieces) ridden one handed.

SPURS: Any competitor using spurs so harshly as to mark the animal to include blood, skin, or haircoat tears may be dismissed from the course at the judges' discretion.

STALLIONS: ALL STALLIONS on the property will be made known to GREG AKEHURST upon arrival at the event site. ALL STALLIONS will be secured away from the competition area at all times. IF A STALLION is going to be shown at this competition, GREG AKEHURST will alert the HEAD JUDGE and the COURSE JUDGE to that situation. This event has lots of mares in attendance. Every effort towards SAFETY will be observed. Please see that all STALLIONS regardless of their breeding status are SECURED.

HORSES THAT KICK OR ARE CRANKY: Must wear a HIGHLY VISIBLE RED RIBBON in their tail to alert other riders and people of the potential to kick. It is the RIDER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW their horse's habits. ALL RIDERS will be ALERT to RED RIBBONS in ANY horse's tail.

In addition, we encourage CHILDREN to be present and active in this event, also NON-HORSE persons will be on the property. Every effort will be made for their safety and enjoyment as well.

WEATHER DELAYS: Should inclement weather be upon us, the HEAD JUDGE and the EVENT OFFICIALS will decide to delay or cancel courses.

GUESTS AND OBSERVERS: Will be in designated areas to observe the competition, take pictures, and have fun. Competitors are responsible to see that their family, guests, friends know where to be. Areas will be marked. Non-competitors, guests, visitors WILL NOT ride horses on the property during the competition.

COURSES OPEN AND CLOSED: ALL COURSES will be marked as OPEN (during competition) and CLOSED (non-competition). Any rider on a course that is marked as CLOSED may be disqualified from competition or will be asked to leave that area. Please help us keep our riding areas safe.

SPECIAL NOTE TO ALL COMPETITORS: All judges and officials endeavor to present a safe and fun atmosphere for your enjoyment and riding pleasure. If you want to discuss the event, the competition, or any aspect of the proceedings, please make that known to Janie Larson (Head Judge) or Greg Akehurst (Event Promoter) who will set a time for the three of us to sit down and discuss your concerns or suggestions. Unsportsmanlike conduct, rude or discourteous behavior, or acts of violence will be grounds for dismissal from the property. Drunken or drug related behaviors will not be tolerated. Due diligence is appreciated in the picking up of trash and garbage during the weekend.