

Rules for 2019 VPR Obstacle Challenge Buckle Series

- 1. SAFETY IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY.**
- This is a **timed and accumulated point event** during which the performance of the horse and rider will be judged at the approach, execution and departure of each obstacle. Judges will award points on a scale of 1-10, in ½ point increments based on the horse's attitude, the rider's horsemanship, cadence and their overall performance. (0=not completed, 10=best, D=disqualified, T/O=turn out, N/T=no time). At the judge's discretion, points will be deducted for rushing your horse through the obstacle(s).
- Open to any rider, discipline and breed. Green horse class has no age limit for horse or rider and will be judged.
- 4. Entry fees are per horse/rider and are non-refundable.**
- All riders must sign a release of liability. **Riders under the age of 18 must wear a helmet.** All riders are encouraged to wear helmets.
- All riders and lead line walkers must wear appropriate attire and shoes (no tank tops or shorts).
- Competitors must ride with a saddle and bridle. **No mechanical hackamores, gag bits, standing martingales or tie downs allowed.** If you have a question about whether your tack is legal, please ask the judge before you ride.
- No horse or rider on course prior to walk through. This is grounds for disqualification. Only one competitor on the course at a time.
- 9. Same horse and riders are limited to ride in two classes.** However; you may enter twice in one class if you ride a different horse and pay a separate entry fee.
- 10. Judges and timers' decisions are final.** Arguing, complaining or challenging can be grounds for disqualification.
- Judges will disqualify any horse that is not deemed fit and sound.
- Rider may not abuse horses for any reason. Any abuse, as defined by the Judge or management, is grounds for disqualification.
- Judges are responsible for designing the course. Judges will do a walk through prior to the challenge to explain obstacles. It is the competitor's responsibility to understand the course before they compete.
- The course will consist of 6 to 13 obstacles which are as follows: Buckaroo (6), Wrangler (8), Youth Rider (10), Novice (10), Limited Amateur (13), Amateur (13) and Open (13). There will be a Green Horse Schooling class which will be judged only. This class does not qualify for prize money, medal or buckle.
- Time will be translated into points as follows: 1st fastest time=10 pts, 2nd=9.5 pts, 3rd=9 pts, 4th=8.5 pts, 5th=8 pts, 6th=7.5 pts, 7th=7 pts, 8th=6.5 pts, 9th=6 pts, 10th=5.5 pts and all else will receive 5 pts each. Points from the obstacles and overall horsemanship points will be added to the time points. The horse and rider with the most points wins. In the case of a point tie, the fastest time wins.
- The official timers will make all decisions related to timing of competitors. Their decisions are final and may not be challenged in any way by contestant or any representative at any time. Timing starts when competitor is signaled to start and will continue until competitor completed the course or disqualified.
- 17. Competitors have 30 seconds to complete an obstacle once approached.** The judge may choose to extend the 30 second time limit on some obstacles. At the judge's discretion, after 3 refusals and loss of forward motion, competitor will be asked to move to the next obstacle. **Course must be completed in 8 minutes or rider will be disqualified.**
- If rider is dismounted and can regain control of their horse and remount unassisted, they may continue the obstacle challenge. Youth riders may be assisted. There is a 60 second time limit to remount and continue the course after which the rider becomes disqualified. If your horse leaves the course you will be disqualified.
- Breaking the course pattern (skipping an obstacle and then returning to it) will result in disqualification. Missing an obstacle will result in a score of zero for the obstacle and an additional time of 30 seconds added to the score.
- Refusal of an obstacle will be judged and given points on approach, horsemanship during the attempt and the departure. Acknowledge to the judge that you will be moving on to the next obstacle.
- Should a distraction from inside or outside the obstacle area be so great as to inhibit the competitor from competing, a competitor may ask and be granted a re-ride at the judge's discretion. If so, the re-ride will take place at the end of the class.
- Contestant's names will be drawn to determine the order of go and may not be changed. **Contestants will compete in the order drawn or be disqualified.**
- 23. In order to have a class there must be at least 3 contestants, otherwise this class will be considered a schooling class and no cash prize or buckles will be given.**
- 24. For classes having a PAYOUT of entry fees, Novice, Limited Amateur, Amateur Open, (Young Rider will receive a gift cert. = to prize money) they will be calculated in the following manner: 1st Place-20%, 2nd Place- 10%, 3rd Place - 5% of entry fees collected for that class. Cash will be paid out at the end of each show.**
- 25. Medals to the top 3 in each class after each show.** After the 3rd show, each class Champion (High Point) will receive a Buckle and the Reserve Champion (2nd Place) will receive a prize for the best 2 out of 3 scores in the series.

VPR may change the rules at any time. Contestants will be notified of any changes. Exception to the rules as stated may be granted.

Signature of Contestant/Guardian _____ Date _____
I have read and understand the above listed rules

March 2019