

IHSGB TRACK & TRAIL GUIDELINES 2022

INTRODUCTION

The Track and Trail class was originally conceived by IHSGB members, Roger Bax and Catherine Holland, as a class that anyone could enter, at any level of riding and competing experience.

Combining one round of the Oval Track in any gait the rider chooses with a series of obstacles the 'Track and Trail' was designed to:

- Provide an opportunity for those who may not feel ready for the traditional gaited classes, to have a go on the Oval Track, and demonstrate their other horsemanship skills.
- Provide another class (in addition to the Figures Test) for those who do not wish to complete in the usual Oval Track Classes.
- Provide an opportunity for those who may usually only compete on the Track to show the level of training and versatility of their horse.
- Promote good horsemanship and rounded training.

Key to Roger's and Catherine's vision for this class was accessibility to a wide range of riders, and the promotion of harmonious riding and good relationships with our horses. This vision is reflected in the rules and judges guidance for marking.

In 2016, following Roger's sudden death, the Society created the 'Roger Bax Award' to recognise his contribution to this important and popular class. The 'Roger Bax' trophy is presented to the winner of this class.



DESCRIPTION

The Track and Trail class consists of two parts. The Track part equals one element of the Trail. Both parts must be completed to receive a score:

Part 1: Track – the horse/rider partnership show one lap of the oval track in a gait of their choice. This part is judged according to the FEIF Sport Judges Guidelines. If choosing 'walk', only half a lap is required. If choosing 'pace' two attempts are permitted, one on each long side. Only one lap of the Oval track is permitted for all entrants.

From the FEIF Sport Judges Guidelines 2022:

Prime Judging Criterion

'The prime judging criterion should be the harmony between horse and rider. The rider must handle the horse with fairness, delicacy and respect; be its true leader rather than its dominator. At all times the rider must put the horse's welfare paramount and guard its health and safety. The horse should be able to fulfil its tasks with pleasure; be calm and supple, but also confident, attentive and keen.'

Key elements

'The guidelines are based on certain key elements that must all be taken into consideration when making a well-balanced assessment. Those key elements are:

- Riding skills and connection
- Beat and balance
- Suppleness and relaxation
- Outline and movements
- Correctness and precision of the execution'

Part 2: Trail – the trail consists of a variety of obstacles or tasks for the horse/rider partnership to complete. This element is not timed, and participants may choose to do the obstacles in whichever gait is best for them and their horse (unless otherwise stated in the obstacle/task description). Additional points are not gained for speed or type of gait used.

One horse starts at a time. The next horse enters the Trail when the judge indicates that they are ready.

The quality of the gait is not judged; however, the horse should be balanced without tension or constrained movements. The rider should handle the horse with fairness and respect, and in a way that the horse is calm, confident, and attentive. 1-2 additional points, at the judges discretion, can be earned for demonstrating good horsemanship.

It is important to remember the focus on harmony and good horsemanship. Completing an obstacle at all costs will not earn the highest mark.

It is permitted to decline any obstacle. A zero will be scored for that part. You may choose to do this if you already know that your horse is not ready for that challenge. Simply inform the judge and move to the next obstacle.

The judge may ask you to move on from an obstacle after multiple failed attempts at a specific obstacle, if your horse is unduly distressed, or very poor riding is evident at that obstacle.

If possible, obstacles will be left out at end of the class for a short period to enable some limited training/confidence building. This depends on the venue and the competition schedule and can not be guaranteed.

Unless a lead-rein entry has been agreed, no one is allowed to physically assist, or provide a lead with another horse on an obstacle. The judge will be able to remind you of what is required at each obstacle and where to go next.

A list of obstacles will be provided prior to the event to allow for training and practice. However, Competition organisers retain the right to vary the obstacles according to local conditions and availability of equipment. The Trail will consist of a minimum of **five elements and a maximum of eight**, and may include the any of following:

- Open and close a gate from horseback
- *Walk backwards between two poles (80cm gap, 4m length)
- *Side-pass along the line of a pole to the markers (3m)
- *Bending through a line of poles/markers with reins in one hand, in both directions (5m between poles/markers, corridor either side 2m)
- *Ride though water
- Ride over a footbridge, actual or simulated
- *Ground tying (horse stands in a circle, rider dismounts and goes around the outside)
- *Mounting from a block
- Walk on loose reins (40 meters)

- Ride through a 'ribbon gate'
- *Ride through an 's-bend' of poles (90cm gap)
- Ride through a narrow gap
- *Move a flag, or other object between two points
- Other similar obstacles may be include, with due regard to safety of design.

Each obstacle is marked out of 10 using the grid below. The Track element is also marked out of 10. The scores are added together. The highest score wins.

OBSTACLES SELECTED FOR 2022 SUMMER SHOW are marked *

TACK & EQUIPMENT

The FEIF Rules and Regulations regarding tack and equipment apply with the following specifics:

Boots and whips are permitted according to the FEIF rules.

Icelandic curb bits are not permitted for the Trail element, due to the action of this bit when not in either full or no contact.

TRAIL JUDGES GUIDELINES

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Horse & rider connection. Riding skills & aids.	Rough riding, very poor riding skills, serious lack of cooperation, very poor connection			Some clear faults in riding problems with the connection <i>The seriousness of the shortcoming should influence the mark</i>			Generally good riding style horse generally submitting to the riding aids		Harmony, very good connection, excellent riding	
Balance, outline & relaxation	Horse is very unbalanced, very tense, constrained movements.			Some stiffness or tension Constrained in movement clear faults in outline.			Predominantly / reasonable supple Some faults in outline, average movements and roominess			The horse is in balance, relaxed and unconstrained in its movements. Good back bearing, engaged hind legs, self carriage.
Execution & accuracy	Obstacle/task attempted, mostly not completed.	Obstacle/task attempted, mostly completed.	Obstacle/task completed with six or more faults.	Obstacle/task Completed with five faults	Obstacle/task completed with four faults.	Obstacle/task completed with three faults.	Obstacle/task completed with two faults.	Obstacle/task completed with one fault.	Obstacle/task completed with no faults.	Obstacle/task completed without hesitation.

- Failure to attempt the obstacle scores zero.
- 1 to 2 marks can be awarded for good horsemanship at the judge's discretion. This could be for showing a good understanding of horse behaviour and good training, such as knowing when to move on from a failed attempt or partially completed obstacle/task.
- Judges may remind riders what needs to be done at each obstacle and which obstacle is next.
- Judges may instruct a rider to move to the next obstacle if multiple attempts have been made, the horse is unduly distressed, or very poor riding is demonstrated.
- If a horse or rider is injured, judges should instruct a withdrawal from the class, and the rider advised to seek appropriate assistance.