



Rally for the Rescues Trainer's Challenge

Rulebook *2018*

Rally for the Rescues Trainer's Challenge is a competition in which volunteer amateur and professional trainers work the a Tennessee rescue foster horse for 4 months leading up to the competition for the trainer's challenge at the James E Ward Agricultural Center in Lebanon, TN on September 8 & 9, 2018.

PURPOSE: Promote and showcase the rescue horse's value and trainability to potential adopters and give the trainers a venue to showcase their horsemanship skills.

THE MAIN GOAL is to produce a horse with a solid foundation in ground manners; and a horse that is relaxed and willing to follow the trainer's cues and commands. Timeframe does not allow training for show quality discipline but to showcase a horse that will be attractive to potential horse owners who need a safe, trusting and willing partner. *Treat and train the rescue horse as if the adoptive owner (family) is a beginner and does not have extensive horse training experience. More thorough groundwork and the horse is calm and quiet.*

DIVISIONS

Trainers:

Mini	In-hand
Youth – Up to Age 17	In-hand or under saddle
Open	Under saddle
Rescue Open-Jackpot**	Under saddle

Youth trainers who are training under saddle are required to be working under an adult trainer to assist them in issues that arise.

THE HORSES: All horses for the trainer divisions will come from Tennessee rescue organizations. Any and all breeds of horses may be considered as long as they meet the minimum requirements. Horses that qualify for the trainer divisions of the competition will be halter broke with no other known handling or training so basically unstarted. They will be expected to lead and not have any dangerous behavioral issues and be mentally fit if to be trained under saddle.

Horses under the age of 3 will be considered for in-hand only. Horses for open or youth under saddle can be any age older than 4 YO. Mini horses can be of any age.

****All horses for the Rescue Open-Jackpot must be adopted Rally for the Rescues horses or a horse adopted from one of the participating rescues.**

Trainers will be responsible for picking up their challenge horse and transporting to the competition.

FOSTER RULES:

All trainers will HAVE to meet specific foster requirements and contracts of their respective rescue organization. Please read the ***General Trainer Foster Guidelines*** information sheet to ensure all criteria can be met.

GENERAL RULES:

All training and challenge exhibition must be humane and compassionate. Softness is encouraged. The physical and mental wellbeing and best interest of the horse will be number one priority. Any behavior deemed to be excessively harsh or harmful could result in disqualification.

All trainers will be required to submit within 5 days after picking up their challenge horse, 4 pictures (360 degree) of their horse. This will be used by the trainers to help judge overall condition of the horse as not all horses start in the same condition.

Trainers MUST elect 30 days prior to Trainer's Challenge if they decide to show In-Hand instead of riding. Once election is made cannot be changed. And they will show in hand but not be judged or eligible for prizes.

All horses must be sound, disqualifications for unsoundness is at the judges discretion.

Horses can be ridden/shown with two hands in a snaffle bit, bosal or bitless bridle. If using a shank bit MUST ride with one hand. No riding/showing in halters.

Tie downs, martingales, mechanical hackamores are prohibited.

No slider shoes will be worn for the competition and sliding stops are prohibited.

The use of training aides (whips, sticks, end of lead rope etc.) is prohibited. The exception is using a stick if doing liberty during the freestyle. If youth or in-hand adult,

Excessive spurring or jerking on the reins or lead line during the competition is prohibited and could result in point deduction from the judges.

Use of any bit or equipment deemed too severe by the judges will not be allowed and result in disqualification for that class.

Trainers will be given the specific patterns and obstacle course the morning of the challenge and will have an opportunity to “walk through” the course with judges prior to classes.

The participating trainer will be the one to ride and show the horse the day of the competition.

Attire and Tack:

All trainers under the age of 18 **MUST** wear an approved ASTM/SEI helmet with a chinstrap. However, helmets are highly encouraged.

Horses may be exhibited in English or Western. Trainers are asked to wear appropriate attire and head gear that reflects the style of riding. No extra points given for excess bling, silver or sequins on tack or shirts.

Mane and tail costumes are allowed in the freestyle.

Judges:

JUDGES DECISIONS ARE FINAL. Judges shall place participants fairly and according to class rules. However, understanding the unique element of this challenge where all these horses come with a troubled past, the judges will be familiar with the story of each horse’s background which will help assess and judge accordingly in the performance of each horse.

Classes:

Mini’s and youth in-hand will show in handling & fitness class, obstacle class and freestyle.

Youth riders and Open division will show in all four classes.

Rescue Open Jackpot will show in horsemanship class and obstacle class.

1). Handling and Fitness Class ~ 30 points per judge

The overall poise, confidence, appearance and position throughout the class, and the physical appearance of the horse will be evaluated. Trainers can show in a “show halter” but will not get extra points.

Conditioning – 10 points – The horse’s body condition and overall fitness will be assessed.

5 points – Overall appearance reflected for hair coat, mane/tail, hoof and feet condition etc.

5 points – Appropriate weight and muscling. Fitness condition. The score will not reflect conformation.

Handling – 20 points – The horse’s demeanor and responsiveness, as well as the relationship between horse and trainer will be assessed in the completion of the following maneuvers:

- Walk

- Trot
- Stop
- Back
- Pick up feet

2). Pattern (Horsemanship Class) – 10 points per maneuver per judge – Under saddle

This class will assess the horse's performance, willingness and ability to complete a pattern of generic maneuvers. A horse will be assessed on gait quality, head carriage in natural position, control and balance. Maneuvers may include but are not limited to:

- Walk or Trot
- Change direction
- Stop
- Back
- Pivots or turns
- Lead changes

3). Obstacle – 10 points per obstacle per judge + 10 points horsemanship per judge

This class will assess the horse's performance and willingness over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, control during performance, response to the rider and quality of movement.

Estimated 10 obstacles

The following will result in "no score" for that particular obstacle:

- 30 second time limit is used up without completing the obstacle
- Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction
- Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side
- Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence
- Skipping an obstacle

Obstacles may include but not limited to:

Walk across a bridge

Go over poles or a small jump

Work a gate

Back up through an obstacle

Pick up object and relocate to another location

Dragging items

Walk/trot through poles or cones

4.) Freestyle Performance – 50 points per judge

The freestyle performance encourages the trainers to choose music, costumes and props that will highlight the abilities and strengths of their horse and showcase what is special about their horse. Participants will be scored based on:

25 points – Overall Horsemanship – this will assess the partnership between trainer and horse, and the horse's overall willingness to perform and execute maneuvers in controlled, relaxed and confident manner. Also assessed will be the incorporation of maneuvers.

25 points – Originality and artistic interpretation – composition and arrangement (choreography) of the ride to the music and rhythm and use of costumes, props. Also assessed will be level of originality and overall entertainment value.

Trainers will provide their own props and assistance for arena setup and tear down.

Music is required for the freestyle and must be submitted as one single track either on CD or as an mp3 file.

Trainers will have 5 minutes to complete their freestyle performance – music and time will start when participant enters the arena.

Prize Structure:

TRAINERS –

Total scores will be the combination of scores in all the classes.

Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for youth divisions, mini division and open division. Amounts yet to be determined based on sponsorship deadline.

Buckles awarded for Grand Champion and Reserve only.

Non Compulsory Prize -

Overall Fan Favorite day of the event. – Spectators will choose their favorite trainer/horse team.

Each trainer will get a long sleeve button up shirt.

RESCUE OPEN – Participating rider/horse teams will be scored in the horsemanship class and the obstacle trail class. Total score will be the combination of scores in both classes. If tie, the participating team receiving the highest score on a pre-determined obstacle will be the winner. \$50 entry fee with 70% payout and 30% going to Rally for the Rescues. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and possibly 3rd place depending on number of entries.