



# 4-H TRAIL



The trail class is an under-saddle mounted test of horse control and the rider's ability to guide the horse through a series of obstacles. The course must be safe for horse and rider. The obstacles may be progressively harder for each age group.

The course should not be spread out over a very large area; obstacle spacing must allow the horse to move easily between obstacles with no wasted time. The course should be designed to be completed in less than 5 minutes. Riders may be asked to move on at the judge's discretion or after 3 refusals.

The rider may show English or western. See clothing and equipment specifications for proper tack and attire. Riders moving on to championship classes must ride the same seat as in the first class.

Courses must be posted showing the order and direction of the obstacles. Measure and reset each disturbed obstacle for the next rider. Courses will contain 6–10 obstacles and be typical of items members might encounter on a regular trail ride. See Table 2, page 18 of [PNW574 Horse Contest Guide](#) for obstacles and suggested spacing. Obstacles may be used individually or in combination.

Unsafe or unnatural items are not permitted, such as stepping into tires, water box with floating or moving objects, fire extinguishers, and cinder blocks.

Each obstacle has a value of 10 and is scored according to how the rider maneuvers through the entire obstacle. Judges should give credit for any positive action. The course may be scored by 1 judge or divided between 2 or more judges, with each scoring specific obstacles.

*Information from PNW574 4-H Horse  
Contest Guide, provided by:*

