

Maine Trail Riders Association

Trail Challenge - Rules and Regulations

Sunday, October 12, 2025

MTRA Grounds, 6 Tutt Lane, Litchfield, ME 04340

Judge: Caitlin Miller

Show Manager: Steven Blanc

Proof of Negative Coggins is REQUIRED (within 3 years from Maine, within 1 year outside Maine). Proof of Rabies vaccination or Rabies Titre > 0.5 IU/mL is REQUIRED (within 1 year).

General Rules

This show is open to equines of any breed/type, including mules and donkeys. Equine rider/handler teams may only be entered once per class. Equine that are known to kick are required to have a red ribbon displayed in their tail. Stallions are required to have a yellow ribbon displayed in their tail.

Each class will present ribbons up to six places. Classes that have 8-9 paid registrations will payback first and second place. Classes with 10+ paid registrations will payback first, second, and third place.

Paybacks:

Registrations	First	Second	Third
<8	0	0	0
8-9	\$40	\$20	0
>10	\$60	\$40	\$20

All dogs must be leashed at all times while on club grounds during show.

Event camping is free to MTRA members. Annual membership is \$25/individual or \$35/household and must be completed prior to arrival on the grounds for camping. Pit toilets for humans, and water for horses are available free of charge. Horses must be tied, high-lined, or contained within temporary fencing while on the grounds and not being ridden. The arena is not an acceptable place for your horse to be left.

Rider/Handler and Equine Eligibility

Mini/Very Small Equine (VSE): Equine are all to be under 40" or 10hh. This class is for small equines that are not ridden and are shown in-hand. Obstacles may be scaled down to a suitable size for the small equine to maneuver.

In-hand: This class is intended for those horses that are not rideable, either because of size, age, or disability. These horses are not eligible to compete in any other classes during the same day. Handlers must be 9 years old or older as of January 1 of the show year.

Leadline: Open to riders of all ages. All riders must have attendant, over the age of 14 and capable of maintaining control of equine, with them always holding the equine. The rider is responsible for knowing the course and being in control of the equine. The attendant must not provide any coaching or feedback. The equine may compete in other classes with a different rider. Rider may not ride in any other classes.

Youth W/T: Open to riders under the age of 18 on January 1 of show year. This class is intended for younger riders with less experience in versatility and is shown at a walk and trot/jog only.

Adult Novice W/T: Open to riders over the age of 18 on January 1 of the show year. This class is intended for adult riders with limited experience in versatility.

Open W/T/L: Open to riders of all ages. This class is intended for horses and riders with experience in versatility.

Speed Round: Open to riders of all ages. Equine/Rider teams from other classes may also compete in this class. Class may be ridden at any gait.

Equipment and Attire

Riders may choose to ride in whichever type of saddle they feel comfortable in as long as it is safe and serviceable. The saddle must have stirrups. Leg wraps and boots are allowed. Tie downs are acceptable. No draw reins. Bridles may be curb, snaffle, bitless, side pull or halter. Rider equipment will not reduce or enhance a score.

Riders are expected to have boots with a heel and long pants. No tank tops, except for a button-up sleeveless shirt, are permitted. Helmets are recommended for everyone but are *mandatory for anyone under the age of 18 (including in-hand classes)*. Rider attire will not reduce or enhance a score.

The judge or show manager may prohibit the use of any equipment deemed to be inhumane, or any clothing deemed inappropriate. The judge may inspect bits and equipment at any time.

Fees

- \$40 per horse/rider (or handler) combination, per class, if registered **and paid** by Thursday before the show
- \$50 per horse/rider (or handler) combination, per class, for registration and payments after Thursday before the show (including day of)

Participants are encouraged to register before the show, even if not paying in advance, and will not be charged if they decide not to come (\$55 rate applies). Refunds are outlined later in this document.

Versatility Rules and Scoring

The pattern for all versatility classes will be posted no less than 7 days prior to the show. This shall eliminate any perception of an unfair advantage posed by prior course knowledge. Each contestant will have the opportunity to walk through the course with the judge on the day of the show and ask any questions that they may have about the course. No equines are allowed on the course prior to their registered classes.

All obstacles are timed. The Mini/VSE, In-hand, Leadline, Youth, and Adult Novice will be allowed 60 seconds to complete each obstacle. Open and Speed classes will be allowed 45 seconds for each obstacle. When time is called for an obstacle, the team will move on to the next obstacle and a score not greater than 0.5 will be assigned for the attempt. Some multi-step obstacles will be allowed extra time at the discretion of the course designer and/or judge and will be determined and noted before the start of the competition.

Each obstacle is scored from 1 to 5 in 0.5 increments. Scores for each obstacle are added to create an overall score. Each course pattern will have at least 14 scored obstacles.

Obstacles skipped, missed or taken out of order will result in a disqualification for the class and no score will be awarded.

Score	Description
1 – Attempted with Major Issues	Horse and/or rider attempted the task but showed significant resistance, confusion, or lack of control. Completion may have required external assistance or was unsafe.
2 – Partially Completed	Task was completed with moderate difficulty. Horse may have hesitated,

	shown resistance, or lacked precision. Rider may have needed to correct or repeat parts of the task.
3 – Completed with Minor Faults	Task was completed safely and correctly, but with minor faults such as hesitation, uneven pace, or slight misalignment. Horse and rider showed basic understanding and control.
4 – Well Executed	Task was completed smoothly and confidently. Horse and rider demonstrated good communication, control, and technique. Minor refinements could improve performance.
5 – Excellent Execution	Task was completed with precision, fluidity, and confidence. Horse and rider worked in harmony, showing advanced skill, responsiveness, and trust. No faults observed.

Speed Round factors into the score the overall time to complete the course. Obstacles are scored as normal, and up to 10 points are added based on the overall time. The fastest time is awarded 10 points, then next fastest 9 points, and so on to the 10th fastest which is awarded 1 point. Any slower teams are added no additional points for speed. Knocking over or dropping an obstacle or failing to close the gate properly result in 1 second penalty for each occurrence.

Other

Judges' decisions are final. No exhibitor or person shall approach a judge to discuss a decision or matter unless they obtain permission from the show manager. Any exhibitor or person disregarding this rule may be asked to cancel all entries and forfeit entry fees. The show manager reserves the right to vary or change the judge or to decline any entry. The show manager reserves the right to divide or combine any class in the best interests of the show. The show manager reserves the right not to delay classes due to conflicts and not to allow substitution of classes or horses.

Horses entered and not exhibited shall forfeit fees, unless the show manager is presented with a veterinary certificate, or physician's certificate in the case of the rider, by the end of the show day. Once a horse has been shown in a class or division, it is no longer eligible for a refund. Eligible refunds will be made within 5 days after the show. Checks returned for any reason will be subject to a \$25 fee.

Courteous behavior is expected from all exhibitors. Any protest must be submitted in writing to the Show Manager, postmarked within 5 days of the close of the show. All protests will be reviewed by the show committee.