

Ohio TIP Challenge 2020 – VIRTUAL COMPETITION RULES:

1. **All trainers are required to show their Mustang in-hand** – riding, sitting or standing on their Mustang during the competition is not an option and doing so will result in disqualification.
2. Training aides (whips, sticks, treats, the tail end of lead rope, etc.) will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses shown with the use of training aides will be judged accordingly. Any excessive use of a training aid (including striking the horse) will result in an automatic 10 points deduction from each judge in that class.
3. Excessive jerking on the lead line during the competition will result in an automatic 10 points deduction from each judge off the overall class score.
4. Stud chains along with any other equipment determined severe by the judges will not be allowed and will result in disqualification from the class in which it was used.
5. Wearing guns (real or toy) in any arena or during the competition, as well as shooting guns and/or blanks is not allowed during the competition or anywhere on the grounds and will result in an automatic disqualification.
6. Trainers will be given specific competition courses the evening prior to the class. The course will have specific details and measurements for the course set up. There will be a designated place for the camera to be set up. Trainers will have an opportunity to “walk through” the course via video and post their questions prior to video submission. Videos will be available for the handling and conditioning and pattern classes. If you have any questions regarding any components or music for your freestyle, please email those in advance to mustangtipchallenge@gmail.com.
7. Any class ties will be broken by the score from a predetermined element in the class. The tiebreaker element will be determined prior to the start of the event. In case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used or an additional element in the class. The tiebreaker judge will be appointed prior to the start of the event.
8. Ties will be broken by the Pattern class to determine overall winners. If a tie exists between Pattern class scores, the score from a predetermined element in the trail class will break the tie. The tiebreaker element will be determined prior to the start of the event. In case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used. The tiebreaker judge will be appointed prior to the start of the event.
9. Horses may show tacked or untacked during the competition.
10. Classes do not need to be performed in an arena. It is acceptable to haul to a local facility if desired but not required.
11. **Competition Classes:** Trainers will be judged in three (3) classes: Handling & Conditioning, Pattern and Freestyle. ALL competitors will compete in each class.

1. Handling and Conditioning Class – 55 points from each judge

This class will be judged on the following:

Handling – 45 points – Judges will assess the horse’s demeanor and responsiveness during the haltering process, as well as the relationship between horse and trainer through the completion of additional handling maneuvers including but not limited to the following:

- Walk
- Maneuver forward and/or reverse through a simple chute
- Walk over logs/poles
- Trot
- Stop
- Back
- Pick-up feet
- Load and unload from trailer (*this will be recorded as a separate video from the rest of the course and scored as part of the Handling. Trainers will use the trailer they have access to.)

Conditioning – 10 points - The horse's condition will be judged in two areas:

- Appropriate weight/muscling (5 points).
- Overall Appearance – this score will reflect hair coat, feet condition, etc. (5 points).

No person shall alter, change or attempt to hide the natural marking and/or rubbed or raw skin of a horse by surgery, dye, powder, hoof polish, or in any other manner. Trainers may clip/trim horses, or leave mane, tail, ears, muzzle and fetlocks natural. Use of false tails or extensions on the mane or tail are prohibited. No points will be deducted for short or rubbed out manes or tails. The score will not reflect conformation. To learn more about appropriate weight/conditioning for a horse please visit

<http://www.gerlltd.org/Education/Equine%20Body%20Condition%20Score%20Presentation.pdf>.

2. Pattern Class - 45 Points from each judge: This class is intended to show the horse's willingness and ability to complete a pattern. Maneuvers may include but are not limited to:

- Walk/trot between cones
- Back
- Stop
- Pivots or turns to right and left
- Side pass

3. Freestyle – 40 points per judge (All competitors): During this class exhibitors are encouraged to choose musical scores, costumes and props that permit them to show the athletic abilities of their horses in a crowd appealing way.

- A. Horses 12-24 months old are not allowed to pull any items (doing so will result in disqualification), however the exhibitor may pull an item while leading the horse.
- B. Trainers may promote personal businesses/sponsors on props used during the freestyle performance, however the promotion logo/statement must be no larger than 12 inches by 24 inches.
- C. All props must be freestanding and not permanent structures/objects. Nothing may be driven into the ground (i.e. rebar, stakes, etc.), and doing so will result in a no score for the freestyle. No items plugged in/electrical with extension cords.
- D. Props of pyrotechnic nature i.e. fireworks, flares, sparklers, firecrackers, etc. are not allowed and will result in disqualification.
- E. Wearing guns (real or toy) in any arena or during the competition, as well as shooting guns and/or blanks is not allowed during the competition or anywhere on the grounds and will result in an automatic disqualification.

- F. Trainers will not be timed on their freestyle performance.
- G. Trainers will have 3.5 minutes to complete their freestyle performance. The music and time should start simultaneously when the trainer or horse enters the arena, whichever comes first.
- H. Live "voice-overs" and/or commentary from the trainer and/or trainer representative are not allowed during the performance and will result in disqualification.
- I. Music is a required component of the freestyle performance. All music is subject to review and approval by TIP staff.
- J. Other animals (dogs, additional horses, etc.) will NOT be allowed in the arena during the finals performance for any reason and will result in disqualification.
- K. Other people (including children) will NOT be allowed in the arena during the final's performance for any reason other than to drive a vehicle to be used during the performance. If someone other than the trainer is driving a vehicle in the performance **none of the occupants** of the vehicle will be allowed to exit the vehicle while in the arena and the windows must be rolled up at all times (the vehicle, if driven by someone other than the trainer, must be closed-cab; gators, golf carts, ATV's, etc. will not be allowed and will result in disqualification). Other people are NOT allowed to act as props, ride or come in contact with the horse at any point during the performance and will result in disqualification. Other people may hand props to the trainer from outside the arena.
- L. Mustangs are not allowed to walk, trot or lope onto/into any *moving* vehicles or trailers of any kind and doing so will result in disqualification. Mustangs are not allowed to trot or lope onto/into any *covered* vehicles or trailers of any kind and doing so will result in disqualification.
- M. Trainers must wear appropriate footwear during the freestyle performance – bare feet are not allowed and will result in disqualification.
- N. TIP staff may choose to disqualify any performance deemed unsafe, dangerous or otherwise inappropriate.
- O. The freestyle portion is worth a total of 40 points and will be scored in the following areas. Ties will be broken by the communication and partnership score. In case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used or another element of the freestyle.

A. Overall Horsemanship - 30 points:

- The communication and partnership between horse and rider, and the horse's overall willingness to perform and execute maneuvers correctly in a controlled, relaxed and confident manner, (15 points).
- Incorporation of a variety of maneuvers and their degree of difficulty (15 points). These maneuvers would include but are not limited to: *sidepass, pulling or dragging, serpentines, circles with variance in size and speed, stops, etc.*

B. Entertainment Value - 10 points:

- Components of Choreography – the composition and arrangement of the exhibition in relation to the music and its rhythm. (5 points)

- Creativity – the use of themes, maneuvers, costumes, and/or props to enhance the performance and overall originality. (5 points).

Videos:

The camera/recorder must be positioned as designated on the pattern for each class.

If a phone or similar device is used to video, the video must be created in horizontal format (with the phone turned sideways)

The full horse and full handler **MUST** always be within the frame of the camera. No zooming in / out once recording starts. The camera person can pan left and right.

If a video presents unclear, out of focus or the horse/handler remains out of frame repeatedly (for at least 3 maneuvers) in a test, then the TIP staff has the discretion to disqualify the submission.

Video must be recorded from beginning to end without editing. If there is questionable content, then the TIP staff has the discretion to disqualify the submission.

At the beginning of each video, the competitor (or camera person) must state their number, name, horse name, bio info.

Competitors will be provided a link to upload their videos for submission. (No Facebook or YouTube links will be accepted)