

## CCWE STANDARDS GUIDELINE

March 2014. Version 1

Central Coast Working Equitation has recognised the requirement to implement a guide brochure to ensure the cultural aspects of the World Association Working Equitation are preserved so that Working Equitation is a defined and recognised sport.

In general there has been lots of enquiry in relation to standards to ensure that the integrity of the sport is maintained.

Construction of obstacles that are outside limitations and guidelines can be dangerous and in accordance with the WAVE rules a host club is not allowed to use obstacles that would disadvantage other riders at the competition.

An example of this is the construction of a bridge that may otherwise be a design for a pedestrian creek crossing. Or a gate that is made of steel with open spaces and sharp protrusions or pins to hold it in place.

The WAVE regulations have a range of structural and layout requirements that are intended to retain the identity of the sport as “Working Equitation”

This guideline will provide the following

- a) Standards
- b) Obstacle Dimensions and minimum requirements
- c) Sample Course Instructions
- d) Sample Course Obstacle Layout
- e) Safety Management

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## Standards

The WAWE rules and regulations have set out the type of equipment required for obstacles and the design of the layouts.

The information must be preserved to retain the identity of Working Equitation as a sport.

If the integrity of Working Equitation is compromised then the sport becomes a segregated activity within another form of sport.

To uphold the intended objectives and standards of Working Equitation is honouring the objectives of the founders when it was formed in Portugal and respecting the implementation of those objectives by the World Association Working Equitation.

## **Obstacle Dimensions and Minimum Requirements**

The following information is from the WAWE rule book or other documented recommendations that further underpins the need to create standards and guidelines for clubs to adhere to and consider at the construction stage of obstacles.

- a) Riding Arena. Recommended minimum size if 70m x 30m (Page 15 WAWE Rules, tab 1)
- b) Obstacle standards should not be allowed to be adjusted to allow the host club the opportunity to surprise the riders (Refer to page 15 of the WAWE rules, tab 3)
- c) The bridge and the gate are the most common obstacles that are constructed without use of the minimum guidelines set out by WAWE. While there are reasonable reasons for people to use various object designs for training and horsemanship purposes, there is no allowance for the objects to be used for competitive purposes if the obstacle does not conform to the minimum construction guidelines and the “Surprise” element as described above at “B”. Constructing a bridge made of steel and using a design intended for a creek crossing is not an acceptable design and is likely to cause breaches of the rules and safety standards.

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- d) The Bridge must be no less than 3m long and no more than 4m long and 1.5m wide. It must be a minimum 200mm above ground and made of wooden planks with slopes either ends. The bridge must be flat at the highest point to allow the horse to stand on the bridge at the flattest area if it was to stop at the middle point of the bridge. The bridge surface should not be slippery or made of materials that would cause it to be slippery (Refer to WAVE rule page 20). The bridge barriers should not prevent the escape or otherwise cause a horse to panic. The preferred method is to have collapsible sides or sides that would otherwise be low enough to allow the horse to escape if it slipped or panicked.
- e) The gate: Should be constructed of wood and wire mesh (to prevent horse head or hooves entering gaps) and be closed with an iron hoop. The 2 up rights should be no less than 2m apart to allow a 2m wide opening. The gate should be a minimum 1.3m high but not more than 1.5m high. The gate should not have openings without cross bars or mesh that could allow a horse to enter its head. The gate should not be secured using long pins or have protruding edges or points if it is dislodged or knocked over. Blunt weights, pot plants or sand bags should be used to secure the gate to prevent it from falling
- f) Drums: Drums should not have bare metal edges without a form of protective cushioning to prevent the drum from the potential to cause injuries. The drum can be made from plastic or wooden wine barrels but will still be required to have blunt edges or cushioned edges.
- g) The Stock Pen. The international standard is a 6m outer barrier and a 3m wide internal barrier. The stock pen should not be less than 6m and can be up to 8m for training and exposure purposes. The inner barrier can be less than 3m for training purposes as well. The objective is to train the horse to traverse the outer limit of the barrier. The outer barriers should consist of sides no more than 1.3m and the inner barrier can be up to 2m high or as little as 300mm high depending on the course design. The construction materials should be blunt with no protruding edges that may cause injury or part of the rider to get caught on something.
- h) The Bull: The design of a bull should consider that if the bull head is facing the direction the rider is approaching then this may lead to other issues to consider.
  - a) If the bull head has sharp edges (such as horns) then the tips and edges should be constructed so that the edges are blunt and sufficient not to allow a stirrup to get caught on the edge.

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- b) The ring holder be constructed so that it is away approximately 300mm away from the edge of the bull to allow some room for the horse and rider to be at a safe distance from the bull.
- c) That the construction of the base no protrude any more than 200mm from the edge of the bull so that the horses hooves have sufficient room to traverse past the bull without knocking the base.
- d) Ideally the bull design should be made so that the bull has no base protruding at the ring pick up side of the bull.

The above descriptions are the main indicators that people enquire about or have concerns about with competitions and training of the obstacles. While there is a multitude of obstacles such as bendy poles, tables, poles and bull designs there simply needs to be some attention drawn to safety concerns in all construction of equipment.

## **Course Instructions**

The following information can be used as a guide for instructions to riders but also can be useful for formulating and building a course for a competition.

### **In preparation for your Ease Of Handling Ride: For the Obstacle Map Below**

- a) Riding order is the same as the dressage draw for both EOH and the speed phase. So make sure you have completed a gear check, are ready and warmed up with minimum 7minutes to spare before your turn to ride the EOH. Keep track of who is in front of you to help determine how much time you have to warm up and prepare, but please note any scratchings/eliminations may bump you forward in the order timing.
- b) After the previous rider has finished, walk around the outside of the course to introduce yourself/horse, class/level, test etc. to the judges tables. You may nod or salute the judges at this point. This is your opportunity to impress the judges with your presentation of the horse and your attire/tack.
- c) Return to the start line area and wait for the judges to ring the bell, do not enter without invitation. You will be required to start within 30seconds of the bell. Canter is desired from the start line to the 1<sup>st</sup> obstacle on left lead.

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- d) Where there is a requirement to walk the last 2m of approach to an obstacle the objective is to only walk from the mark but it is recommended that the transition be between no earlier than 4m from the obstacle and no less than 3m from the obstacle to allow for a smooth transition and not just a halt then walk transition at the 2m line.
  - e) Remember to briefly acknowledge the judges on the fly when you have finished your ride while leaving the course
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- 1) Bridge: WALK ONLY permitted on the bridge/t in all levels at all times including speed.
    - a) Objective is to approach bridge in the centre while displaying least resistance in approach and over bridge.
    - b) Walk must commence 2m from the bridge to enter and 2m from the bridge at exit before transition.
    - c) Cones will indicate the distance before and after bridge.
  - 2) Double Slalom: Enter with (No 2) 1<sup>st</sup> pole on your right leg on the right lead/rein.
    - a) Proceed bending through poles to end finishing on right leg/lead/rein.
    - b) The aim is to achieve flying changes in the mid section of the slalom.
    - c) Simple changes, walk or controlled trot with correct bend and flexion would gain better recognition by the judges.
    - d) Make the best decisions for your ability to obtain the maximum scores possible for your level.
    - e) Maintain consistent distances away from poles that isn't cutting in nor going too wide.
  - 3) Stock Pen: Enter on left side-**Circle right on right lead**
    - a) Exit pen to 4. (pole or cone).
    - b) Objective is to canter pen, exit to 4 and do a simple/flying change at half way point from pen to 4.
    - c) Canter, trot, walk the stock pen with accuracy between the fence and inner barrel, calmness and confidence.
  - 4) Stock Pen Turn Point: Separate score for turn-around/pirouette
    - a) Options at 4 are to walk with a shoulder (FQ) yield back to the stock pen, Pirouette, or forward turn, or
    - b) Canter the turn point in a half circle and return to stock pen on left lead.
    - c) Walk or trot the turn point with a slow and controlled turn.
    - d) Canter or walk Pirouette

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- 5) After turn then a left lead canter is desirable for best results to enter the stock pen.
- 6 R) Side Pass to Right, horse facing in either direction of travel for best results or straight or away from direction of travel.
  - a) Ensure walk at least 2m before the poles and calmly walk to position maintaining momentum. Calmness/ smooth movements would be favourable.
  - b) Objective is to side pass the entire pole length without touching or moving the poles with correct foot falls for best results. Rider to face the direction of travel. Horse can face direction of travel, straight ahead or bend away from direction of travel. Proceed to next pole.
- 7 L) Side Pass to Left: with as above requirements
  - a) Display controlled movements. Calm and smooth movements that require the least effort by the rider.
  - b) Objective is to side pass entire length without bumping poles or moving them with fluidity of movement.
- 8) Bridge: WALK ONLY permitted on the bridge in all levels at all times including speed.
  - d) Objective is to approach bridge in the centre while displaying least resistance in approach and over bridge.
  - e) Walk must commence 2m from the bridge to enter and 2m from the bridge at exit before transition. Cones will be used to indicate the distance.
- 9) Gate: Open and close gate with right hand only. Try to do it slowly and with small steps
  - 1) Approach gate square & directly perpendicular and hind quarter yield the horse to the gate to be parallel.
  - 2) Walk is required by a 2m distance from the gate marked with cones. (penalties apply if not walking by the 2m mark)
  - 3) Ensure correct positioning to allow the least amount of reaching to the latch for best results.
  - 4) Open without letting go with your right hand..
  - 5) Objective is to open gate sufficient for horse and rider to fit through without bumping gate.
  - 6) Yield back to close the gate while maintaining your right hand on the gate.
- 10) Drag the sack with a lead rope. Approach rope hitch and grab rope with your right hand. Drag the sack about 10m to the next rope latch and place rope on the latch. Walk only is required.

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- 11) Jump: At a suitable speed to your horse's ability with safety being foremost priority.
  - a) Objective is to demonstrate calmness and confidence by horse and rider in both the approach and over the jump.
  - b) The exit of the jump will also be considered for continuity and rhythm.
  - c) Prepare your horse for a change of lead while going over the jump
- 12) 3 Barrels Clover-leaf: Enter centre of barrels with the number 12 on your right leg 1st, 360° right turn, then left U-turn the centre barrel, then right 360° exit to jump.
  - a) Objective is to canter the barrels but trot and walk is acceptable. Select the best option for your current level.
  - b) Attempt to enter/exit the half way points between the barrels
  - c) Display control by not allowing the horse to cut inside the barrels or go too far away from the barrels  
Select a suitable distance around barrels and maintain consistency for all barrels for best results.
- 13) Garrocha: Pick up Garrocha lance pole with your right hand only while circling the barrel 360°+
  - a) Objective is to approach the barrel at a pace that will allow ease of turn in either walk trot or canter.
  - b) Attempt to grab the Garrocha at the point at which you will hold the Garrocha during the ride to minimise the need to adjust the pole length.
  - c) Prior adjustment of reins prior to holding the Garrocha will minimise the need to adjust reins during the ride.
- 14) For safety it is recommended that the Garrocha not be allowed to flop around so as to allow it to bump the hind.  
Bull Ring Pick-UP: Use the Garrocha in your right hand to lift the ring off the bull on the fly at walk, trot, canter.
  - a) Objective is to display least resistance and accuracy in the approach and at canter.
  - b) Accuracy in the pass as the ring is being removed from the bull.
  - c) Quality of walk, trot, canter - no slowing of chosen pace - "on the fly"

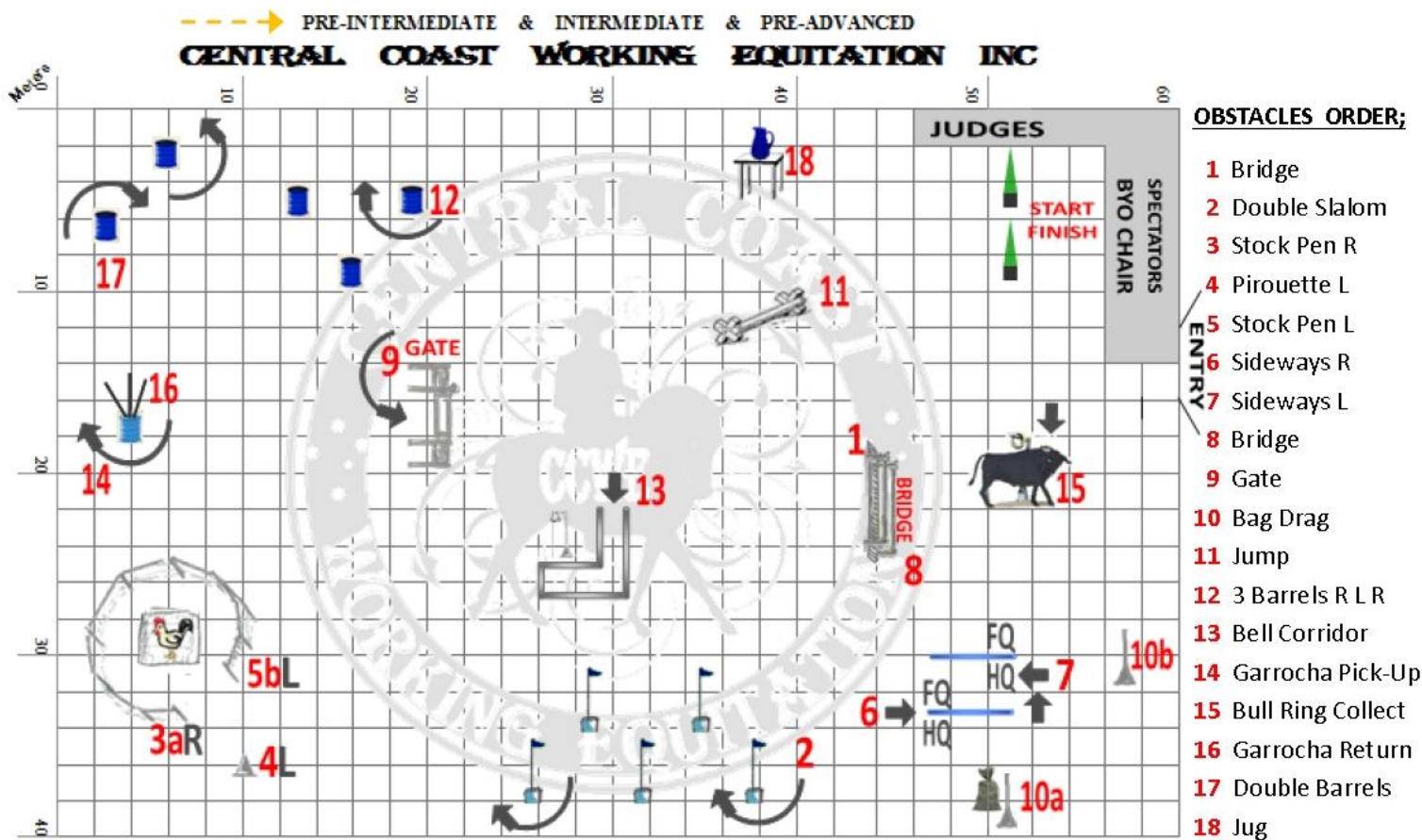
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- d) When attempting bull ring pick-up, ensure pole is out away from body, under the forearm, but not under the arm pit.
- 15) Garrocha Return: Circle barrel, Place Garrocha with care in barrel with thick end down, thin point end up, with ring still on Garrocha. (Don't throw pole into barrel - may ricochet out and the score will be affected by this)
  - a) Objective is to display quality of circle and the return of the Garrocha.
  - b) A full 360 is permitted but may also be a half turn if the return is successful
  - c) Do not allow the Garrocha to bounce out of barrel. If it does bounce out then dismount, pick up pole, remount and place back in the barrel. Or simply leave it and learn by the experience.
  - d) The speed does not compulsory require a 360 around barrel but it may be a better option depending on the course instructions. The speed phase allows the pole to be replaced without doing a circle of barrel.
- 16) Figure 8 Barrels: Enter with the number on your right hand side. Do a 360 and re enter the centre. Exit the centre of barrels to the left and complete a 360 and then proceed to the next obstacle
  - a) Aim for the centre of barrels for entry and exit.
  - b) A flying change at the centre point
  - c) Consistent circles to achieve best results.
  - d) Walk, trot or canter paces
- 17) Jug: Halt in correct position,
  - a) Objective is to have a square halt and remain still while you lean down to grab the jug until the jug is returned.
  - b) Horse positioned in correct location to make reaching for the jug as easy as possible.
  - c) Lift jug high above your head to signal completion of the course.
  - d) Proceed toward the judges and acknowledge as you exit on a loose rein at a walk.
- a) Do not start course until after introduction & saluted judges table and bell sounds.
- b) NO LIVE CROSSING IS PERMITTED. Crossing over other obstacles is not permitted unless the obstacle has been completed already ie; "dead".
- c) Leave arena on a loose rein and acknowledge and thank the judges.



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Below is a sample Obstacle Course Map



## Safety

The information should be a minimum safety standard when conducting activities of Working Equitation.

Individual assessment of each site should also be undertaken to further ensure the onsite safety management is at the highest level.

A pre site safety analysis is required before events proceed and a site layout should be available to all participants and the public.

Please be advised that if this document is to be relied upon for anything that the document refers to that there is no liability or warranty accepted by CCWE.

The document is to be used as a guide and used for the benefit of preserving Working Equitation as a DISCIPLINE and not just a function within other sports.