

A. MANAGEMENT

1. Equine Trail Sports (ETS) Management is directly responsible for the evaluation and review of violations within this rulebook.
2. ETS Management and the ETS Event Manager reserve the right to refuse entry or to disqualify participants at any event, at its discretion.
3. If a disqualification status is incurred for equipment reasons, the rider is allowed to remedy this once if it does not cause the ride to be delayed (i.e. remove a martingale).
4. All scores given during an ETS event are final and cannot be adjusted unless a data entry error occurred or a score of zero was given in violation of ETS Judging Standards. A rider can only receive zeroes at an obstacle if the rider passes on an obstacle, if the horse and/or rider fall during the obstacle, or the rider did not get past the start point.
5. Protests must be submitted in writing to info@EquineTrailSports.com within 3 days after scores are available online for the protested event. Please include the contact information for 2 witnesses and the ETS Rule and/or ETS Standard that was allegedly violated.
6. If permitted by the ETS Event Manager and the event facility, dogs must be on a leash at all times.
7. Pets cannot accompany a rider during an ETS event, whether the pet is on horseback or on foot.
8. Merchandise with the ETS logo cannot be printed for resale in any manner.

B. RIDERS

1. A rider under the age of 18 is considered a minor. Minors must wear a properly fitted SEI/ASTM approved riding helmet at all ETS Events and will incur a disqualification if one is not worn.
2. All riders assume the risk of horseback riding as participants in an ETS event. All riders must sign a waiver of liability either at the time of online registration or at the time of check-in at the ETS event acknowledging their assumption of risk in order to participate in an ETS event.
3. Riders must produce appropriate state required health papers for their equine to the ETS Event Manager (Coggins/Health Certificate). It is the rider's responsibility to be aware of what is required by their individual state.
4. Proper equestrian attire must be worn. Shoes must have a half inch heel. No shorts, sneakers, flip-flops. This will incur a disqualification if this rule is violated.
5. Riders must be at least 7 years of age. Youth riders (7-15 years of age) must be accompanied by an adult as their guardian.
6. To ensure fairness, participants may not ride the course to practice the obstacles that have been set up for the event prior to the start of the event. Along this same reasoning, equines may not be ridden by multiple riders. This will incur a disqualification if this rule is violated.
7. Illegal drugs and alcohol are not allowed during the event and will incur a disqualification if consumed during the competition.
8. Riders must ride the entire course for the competition. A rider cannot lead their horse in order to advance down the trail on foot. This does not apply if a rider needs to dismount for health or safety reasons. Any rider dismounting to lead their horse for health or safety reasons is subject to receiving 0s for the remainder of the course, if the act of walking would delay the competition.

9. A rider cannot knowingly stray from the trail to cut off distance. Intentional shortcuts will result in a disqualification. Trails should be well marked, so a rider is prevented from getting lost. If a rider does get lost, they should return to the trail as soon as possible.
10. Outside of an obstacle, if a rider experiences a 'fall' (any involuntary dismount from their equine) during the event, the rider must report this to an ETS judge or the Event Manager. The rider may continue the competition if able and if they choose to do so. Subject to Ride Manager discretion, the rider may receive a penalty of 20 points from the rider's total score. If a 'fall' occurs during an obstacle, the obstacle score will be zero.
11. If an accompanying rider chooses to stay at the scene of an accident to assist an injured horse or rider, they accept the responsibilities that they may not be able to complete the event.
12. A rider cannot interfere with another rider's performance at an obstacle. To do so will incur a disqualification from the ETS event.
13. Riders are not allowed to bring extra horses to 'pony' along for the competition.
14. Riders cannot 'double up' or 'double ride' a horse during an ETS event.

C. HORSES

1. Horses must not be tied to any unstable structures such as wire fences. Horses may be tied to horse trailers or trees.
2. Participants may use portable electric fences or portable corrals if permitted by the facility.
3. A horse which shows an obvious lameness will be disqualified from the Event.
4. Outside of an obstacle, if your horse experiences a 'fall' (when a horse drops to the ground at a point above his knees), or lies down in water during the event, the rider must report this to an ETS judge or the Event Manager. The rider may continue the competition if able (no injury) and if they choose to do so. Subject to Ride Manager discretion, the rider may receive a penalty of 20 points from the rider's total score. If a 'fall' occurs during an obstacle, the obstacle score will be zero.
5. The use of any excessive force or harsh training methods to any equine present at an ETS event is not allowed and will incur a disqualification.
6. Any performance enhancing equine pharmaceuticals that are not considered 'over the counter' are not allowed and will incur a disqualification.
7. Horses that have a kicking tendency must be identified with a **red** ribbon in their tail.
8. STALLIONS:
 - a. Stallions are permitted at ETS events but cannot be shown by a minor rider (under the age of 18 years of age).
 - b. Stallions must be identified by securing a **yellow** ribbon to its forelock and tail.
 - c. When with other riders, a rider riding a stallion must give verbal notification to other surrounding participants that he/she is riding a stallion.
 - d. Stallion riders must make every effort to ensure the safety of their stallion and the safety of other horses, riders and spectators.
 - e. Stallions behaving in an unruly manner may be disqualified by the ETS Event Manager and asked to be removed from the event location.

- f. Stallions will be disqualified from an ETS event if the stallion handler does not follow the ETS rules in regards to stallions at an ETS Event.

D. EQUIPMENT

1. Horses must wear some form of headgear with reins on each side of the horse's neck. Horses cannot be shown in an ETS event bridleless. Riders are expected to provide appropriate tack for their horse to maintain control of their horse in a different setting among several other horses. A violation of this rule will incur a disqualification.
2. Horses must wear some type of saddle. Horses cannot be ridden bareback at an ETS event. Bareback pads are not considered a type of saddle and cannot be used at any time during an ETS event. Treeless saddles are permitted. A violation of this rule will incur a disqualification.
3. Training devices such as martingales (standing, running & German martingales) and tie-downs are not permitted during an ETS event. No form of head training device other than a bridle is permitted. A disqualification will be incurred if this rule is violated.
4. Equine protective equipment such as Sport Boots and Hoof Boots are permitted at any ETS event.