

# KENTUCKY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM SPECIAL EVENT

## 4-H HORSE TRIALS

### What is a “Horse Trial”?

A “Horse Trial” is a term used to define a test of horse and rider over one or two days that consists of three phases: dressage, cross country and show jumping. The same horse and rider combination are required to perform all three phases, and the Dressage test is always the first to be performed. Penalty points are calculated in each phase, and in the end, the horse and rider with the least amount of penalty points wins!

Horse Trials are named and categorized by difficulty level. The United States Eventing Association (USEA) recognizes the following levels:

- Advanced-the highest national level of a Horse Trial, it offers tests of significant difficulty designed to prepare competitors and horses for either Three or Four Star Events.
- Intermediate-an examination of increasing technical difficulty, preparing competitors and horses for Two Star Events.
- Preliminary-a moderate examination of competitors and horses in a regular training program preparing for One Star Events.
- Training-an elementary examination of competitors and horses with some experience and training
- Novice-designed for competitors and horses with some experience at lower levels or for experienced riders and horses new to the sport.
- Beginner Novice-designed to introduce green horses and riders to Horse Trials.

There are also “Tests” which consist of one or more of the three phases of a horse trial. They are designed to introduce and prepare horse and rider for Horse Trials, and are not normally recognized USEA events.

- Starter Event Rider/Horse Tests are open to riders of any age who have never competed in a horse trial or whose horse has never competed in a horse trial. They usually include a walk/trot Dressage test, and shorted cross country and show jumping courses.
- Green Horse/Rider Tests are open to riders of any age who have never competed in a horse trial or whose horse has never competed in a horse trial. They usually include a walk/trot Dressage test, poles on the ground for cross country, and cross-rails for show jumping.

### The Three Phases

#### Dressage

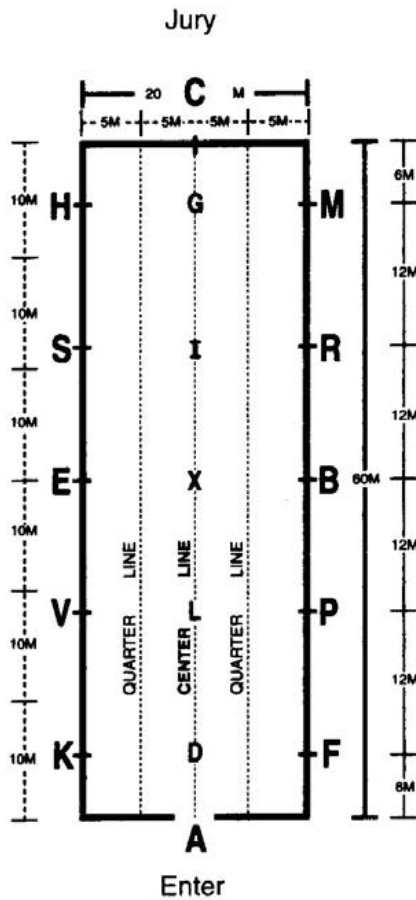
The primary objective Dressage is the harmonious development of the physique and ability of the horse. A specific set of maneuvers in order are performed on the flat. These are called “tests” and are different for each level depending on difficulty. All tests are to be carried out by memory and no reader

is allowed. Each competitor's good marks awarded by the judge are converted into penalty points, with a lower number being desirable.

The tests are carried out in a standard 20m x 40x (small) or 20m x 60m (standard) arena marked according to the following diagram:

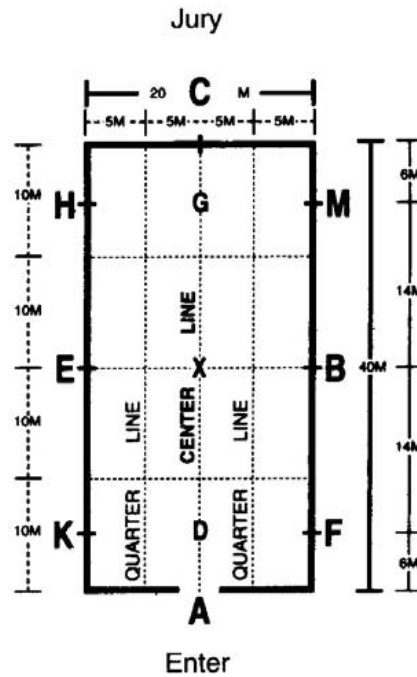
**STANDARD ARENA**  
(20m x 60m)

Diagonal Length:  
63.25 m = 207'6"



**SMALL ARENA**  
(20m x 40m)

Diagonal Length:  
44.72 m = 146'9"



*Tests*

- Walk/Trot tests are available through the U.S. Dressage Federation:  
[http://www.usdf.org/docs/tests/2008\\_Directory\\_intro\\_testsAB\\_movements.pdf](http://www.usdf.org/docs/tests/2008_Directory_intro_testsAB_movements.pdf)
- Beginner Novice and above tests are available at:  
<http://www.useventing.com/education.php?section=docs>

*Equipment*

- ASTM-SEI Certified Equestrian helmet is **REQUIRED** in all levels, no exceptions! Black or dark blue is acceptable for the Dressage phase. ASTM-SEI Certified Equestrian helmet is **REQUIRED** in all levels, no exceptions! Helmet must be solid black or dark blue. It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent or guardian or trainer of the junior exhibitor to see to it that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use, and is properly fitted and in good condition, and the Federation, Show Committee, and Licensed Officials are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance
- Coat-dark color or tweed, tail coats are not permitted.
- Shirt-white or light color, with stock and pin, or choker, or tie.
- Gloves (optional)-dark color, tan, beige or white.
- Jodhpurs/Britches-light color or white.
- Boots-black, brown, field, jodhpur or a black or brown full grain smooth leather leg piece and matching leather boots.
- Chaps and/or half-chaps are **NOT** allowed.
- Whips no longer than 43.3” may be carried during the Dressage Test.
- Spurs made of smooth metal are allowed at any time.
- An English type saddle and permitted bridle are compulsory.
- Cavessons, dropped, crossed, or flash nosebands are acceptable.
- A snaffle bit made of metal, leather, rubber or plastic material is permitted.
- Breast plates may be used.
- Martingales, bit guards, boots, bandages, blinkers are strictly forbidden.

### **Cross Country**

The primary objective of Cross Country is to prove the speed, endurance, and jumping ability of the true cross country horse when it is well-trained and conditioned. It is performed over a cross country course with obstacles, normally carried out at a gallop. Each competitor’s penalties for jumping faults at obstacles are added to the penalties incurred for excess time.

#### ***Equipment***

- ASTM-SEI Certified Equestrian helmet is **REQUIRED** in all levels, no exceptions! Any color headgear is acceptable during this phase. ASTM-SEI Certified Equestrian helmet is **REQUIRED** in all levels, no exceptions! Helmet must be solid black or dark blue. It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent or guardian or trainer of the junior exhibitor to see to it that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use, and is properly fitted and in good condition, and the Federation, Show Committee, and Licensed Officials are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance
- Light weight clothing is appropriate-shirt of any color with sleeves must be worn.

- Britches/jodhpurs-any color
- Gloves (optional)-any color
- Boots-black, brown, field, jodhpur or a black or brown full grain smooth leather leg piece and matching leather boots.
- Chaps or half-chaps are not allowed.
- A body protecting vest must be worn warming up for and in the cross country test. The vest should meet the current ASTM-SEI standards.
- US Eventing Association Medical Card armband.
- Whips no more than 30" in length and not weighted at the end may be carried during cross country.
- Spurs made of smooth metal may be worn at any time.
- The type of saddlery is optional with the exception of any form of blinkers.
- Only unrestricted running martingales with rein stops or Irish martingales are allowed.
- Gags or hackamores are allowed.

### **Show Jumping**

The primary objective of Show Jumping is to prove that the horse and rider are well trained in the specialist discipline of show jumping. The nature of the course, its length, the speed demanded and the dimensions of the obstacles are different for each level. Each competitor's penalties for faults at obstacles are added to the penalties incurred for excess time.

#### ***Equipment***

- ASTM-SEI Certified Equestrian helmet is **REQUIRED** in all levels, no exceptions! Helmet must be solid black or dark blue. It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent or guardian or trainer of the junior exhibitor to see to it that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use, and is properly fitted and in good condition, and the Federation, Show Committee, and Licensed Officials are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance
- Hunting dress or uniform is appropriate.
- Coat-dark color or tweed.
- Shirt-stock with pin, choker or tie.
- Gloves (optional)-dark color, tan, beige, or white.
- Jodhpurs/Britches-light color or white.
- Boots-black, brown, field, jodhpur or a black or brown full grain smooth leather leg piece and matching leather boots.
- Chaps or half-chaps are not allowed.
- The type of saddlery is optional with the exception of any form of blinkers.
- Only unrestricted running martingales with rein stops or Irish martingales are allowed.

- Gags or hackamores are allowed.
- US Eventing Association Medical Card armband.

### **Ready to Enter?**

- Download Entry Form, Show information and Guidelines from the Team CEO Website: [www.teamceoeventing.com](http://www.teamceoeventing.com)
  - Click on “Calendar” and scroll down to “August” to see a link to the entry information.
- Opening date to enter is June 24<sup>th</sup> and closing date is August 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Be sure to complete your paperwork in full.
  - Send entry form, stall fee, and entry fees prior to the closing date!
  - Make sure to signify that you are a **4-Her** competing on the form to receive your special awards!
  - Check to see if your entry has been received on the Team CEO website.
- Make sure your horse’s Coggins and CVI are up-to-date.
- On August 12<sup>th</sup>, each rider’s ride times will be posted on the Team CEO website
  - Ride times for Dressage, Cross-Country and Stadium Jumping will give you a good idea on how to plan your day.

### **What You Need To Know When You Get There Checking-In**

Once you arrive on the show grounds, you need to check in at the designated Show Office to receive the following information:

- Stall assignments (if necessary)
  - Get horse settled into stall, fresh water, hay
- Exhibitors packet-check for the following:
  - Exhibitor name and horse’s name are correct
  - Bridle number
  - Ride times
  - Cross Country course map
- Show Secretary will also be able to tell you when the Cross Country course is open for walking
  - This is good to plan your route on foot before riding the course

*Good luck at your first Horse Trial!!*

**For more information on Horse Trials:**

<http://www.usef.org/documents/ruleBook/2009/12-EV.pdf>

<http://www.useventing.com/resources/files/docs/TheStartingBox.pdf>

[www.teamceoeventing.com](http://www.teamceoeventing.com)