

TREC-USA Rulebook

- 1) FITE Rules
- 2) General Event Rules for all TREC-USA Events
- 3) Equipment
- 4) Trail Packs
- 5) Trail Etiquette and Safety
- 6) Soundness and Fitness Concerns
- 7) Schooling
- 8) Protests
- 9) TREC-USA Levels
- 10) Other Events
- 11) Event Organizer Rules and Information

1. FITE Competition Rules:

TREC-USA generally follows the International T.R.E.C. Rules and obstacle specifications put forth by the International Federation of Equestrian Tourism (FITE) for the purposes of teaching, training, and hosting official TREC competitions in the United States. These documents can be downloaded from the FITE website under Sports / TREC. <https://en.fite-net.org>

2. General Event Rules (All TREC-USA Events)

- a) All participants (or their guardian if under participant is under 18) must sign the Participant's Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement EACH TIME that they participate in a TREC-USA Event.
- b) Youth participants under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult when riding / driving on the trail. In a competition, the adult may ride as a non-competitor / companion without paying an additional entry fee.
- c) Parents / legal guardians of minors are expected to review the TREC-USA Rules and Trail Etiquette and Safety guidelines with their child prior to their participation in a TREC- USA Event.
- d) Participants must provide proof of a negative Coggins test for any horse that they bring to a TREC-USA Event. Other appropriate state required health papers for their horse (Health Certificate, Brand Inspections) may be required as designated by the Event Organizer.

e) TREC-USA reserves the right to refuse entry to or disqualify any participant(s) at the discretion of the Event Organizer(s) and their assignees.

f) The use of excessive force or unsportsmanlike behavior by any participant directed towards another rider, event staff, equine, volunteer, or spectator is subject to immediate disqualification from participation at that event.

g) TREC-USA does not approve of the use of any performance-enhancing equine pharmaceuticals. Any participant who is shown to be accountable for such behavior will face suspension from participation in TREC-USA events for up to one full year from the date of the incident.

h) Alcohol or other performance-altering substances may not be consumed or carried by any participant on the day of the event until after they have completed riding or driving.

i) If permitted by the Event Organizers, and the host venue, dogs may be allowed but must be on a leash at all times. Pets may not accompany a rider while mounted at a competition.

j) Horses must be kept in a secure manner while at a TREC-USA Event. The methods permitted include: tying to a horse trailer, tying inside a horse trailer, or tying to a tree / picket line (if permitted by the host venue). Horses must not be tied to fence rails or anything else that cannot withstand the pressure of a horse pulling back. Participants may also use portable electric fences or portable corrals to secure animals if permitted by the host venue (excluding stallions, see section m). If you tie your horse to a tree, we suggest using a Tree Saver Tie.

k) Horses must wear a halter when tied or kept in any type of portable containment device.

l) TREC-USA recommends that owners place ID on their horses if left unaccompanied.

m) Stallions are permitted at TREC-USA events under the following conditions:

- The host venue permits stallions on their farm.
- Stallions may not be handled by a minor (anyone under the age of 18).
- Stallion riders / handlers must make every effort to ensure the safety of their horse and the safety of other horses, riders, and spectators.
- When with other event participants and their horses, the stallion handler must give verbal notification that he/she is riding, driving, or leading a stallion.
- Stallions should be identified by securing a ribbon to its tail.

- Stallions may be kept in permanent stalls, but may not be kept in in any type of portable containment devise other than inside a horse trailer.
 - Stallions must be double tied if left unattended.
 -
- n) Any animal behaving in an unruly manner may be disqualified and owners asked to remove the animal from the premises.
- o) Accidents and injuries are to be handled by the Event Organizers and their assignees.
- p) If a Rider or Horse falls during any phase of a competition the Rider is excused and must leave the course unmounted. They will receive a 0 score for that phase.
- q) Full refunds for entries are given if the event is canceled by the organizer without a scheduled rain date, OR if the participant provides a doctor's note or veterinary certificate prior to the event date.
- r) Refunds for entries are given at the organizer's discretion if there is a rain date scheduled.

3. Equipment:

- a) All participants (riders and drivers) must wear an SEI/ASTM approved riding helmet while mounted or in the carriage.
- b) All participants are strongly encouraged to wear body protection when riding trail obstacles. Body protectors must be worn in the PTV phase in all International Competitions.
- c) The use of additional protective equipment (such as sport boots, hoof boots, chaps, gloves) is permitted for both horse and rider. Please see FITE rules for further details / possible exceptions to this rule in competitions.
- d) While TREC-USA encourages and requires the use of some protective equipment, it warns participants that no protective equipment can guard against all forms of injury.
- e) Suitable equestrian attire must be worn including sturdy footwear. No shorts, sneakers, flip-flops.
- f) Horses must wear some headgear, such as a bridle or hackamore when ridden. Riding in a halter is permitted.

g) In general, horses must be ridden with a saddle. Bareback pads are not permitted. When appropriate, an event organizer may indicate a change to this rule. For example: a pond- swim. Saddles may be English, western, endurance, trail, or any variation thereof. When doing obstacles in hand, saddles with English-style stirrup leathers must have stirrups run- up or crossed over the saddle. Western-style saddles, or other saddles where the stirrups are attached to wide fenders, do not require stirrups being crossed over the saddle. Individual obstacle score sheet may reference stirrups being crossed, but this requirement is waived across the board for saddles with fenders.

h) Artificial Aids (crops, whips, spurs) are permitted at TREC-USA Events as long as they are not used in an abusive manner. Please see FITE rules for further details / possible exceptions to this rule in competitions.

i) Artificial Training Devices (standing martingales, tie-downs, side-reins) are NOT permitted at TREC-USA events with one exception: The running martingale may be used.

j) No props or other distractions or devices (radios, flags, animals etc.) may be carried on the trail. However, bells may be worn on the trail during hunting season.

k) Riders may change tack between phases.

4. Trail Packs:

TREC-USA Event participants are encouraged to carry ID on both horse and rider, and to consider carrying items from the lists below (taken from the FITE Competition Rules).

In the orienteering phase of a TREC Competition riders are expected to carry with them the following equipment:

Required Equipment:

Rider and Horse Identification Halter and Lead Rope
High Visibility Reflective Gear Emergency Hoof Care
First Aid Kit for Horse & Rider

Recommended Equipment:

Food / Water
Whistle
Flash Light / Head Lamp Weather Appropriate Clothing Map / Watch / Compass / Pens

Trail packs may be checked at any time during the Orienteering Phase (POR). Riders will receive a penalty of -10 points per missing item listed under required equipment not to exceed -30 pts total.

5. Trail Etiquette and Safety

a) In general we ask that you be respectful of others and others property:

Keep to trails.

Keep to the edges of any cultivated fields including hay unless given express permission by the event organizers.

Steer clear of from private drives and residences.

Leave gates how you found them (either open or closed).

b) When riding in a group please observe the following:

Call out hazards to riders behind you - pass warnings on to other riders.

Call ahead when approaching from behind.

Always ask for permission to pass.

Keep a safe distance from the horse/carriage in front of you.

Be mindful of others around you (people and horses) who may be less experienced.

Keep the path clear before and after obstacles (road crossing, ravine, bad footing, low branches, bridge, gate, jump, incline, stream).

Wait for other riders to be safely across/through obstacle before picking up the pace.

6. Soundness and Fitness Concerns:

a) In general, if a horse appears lame, unduly stressed or otherwise burdened by the activities they are being asked to perform, a TREC-USA organizer or their assignees may ask the participant to allow the horse to rest before continuing and/or recommend that they voluntarily withdraw from further participation.

b) See FITE Rules for further details regarding veterinary checks at competitions.

7. Schooling:

a) Participants are NOT permitted to ride on course (trails and/or obstacles) 24 hours prior to the start of an event, nor on the day of the event, unless specifically invited to do so by the event organizer.

b) For insurance purposes, horses visiting a host venue for a TREC-USA event are not to be ridden or driven on location the day before or after the event unless such activity is covered under the host's insurance policy. Event organizers should provide details.

8. Protests:

Any participant who wishes to protest the way an event was run may do so by submitting the protest in writing addressed to TREC-USAPO Box 16623 Chapel Hill NC 27516. The rule violation must be submitted in writing, signed by the participant, witnessed, and sent to TREC-USA with a check for \$50 within 3 days of the event. A TREC-USA staff member, along with the Event Organizer and another third party present at the event will decide the outcome of the protest. If the protest is ruled in favor of the person(s) filing the complaint, the check will not be cashed. Protests must relate to rule violations and may not refer to scoring issues. Scoring issues will be taken up with the event organizer directly.

9. TREC-USA Levels:

While we generally follow the rules put forth by FITE, these rules and obstacle descriptions are written to provide standards for International Level Competitions. We have therefore added the following guidelines for different levels to accommodate various levels of riders.

LEVELS

Orienteering / POR – 240 points				
LEVEL	I	II	III	IV
Distances	Up to 12 km	Up to 20 km	Up to 35 km	Up to 45 km
Map Skills	Map should be able to be ridden mostly from critical landmarks.	Map to include some challenges in reading the trail, critical landmarks and contour lines. Use of compass may be needed.	Use of compass to be necessary.	Use of compass to be necessary. Azimuths and grid reference points may be part of the test.
Speed & Timing 6-12 km/h	Slower speeds, aimed toward rider and horse safety, fitness and control.	Speeds moderate. Timing and judging pace over varied terrain becomes more challenging.	Speeds varied. Speed and time become factors in identifying correct trails.	Speeds greater with emphasis on speed and time calculations as critical tools.
Level III – IV riders / drivers may start before sunrise or finish after sunset. Longer distances are usually reserved for championship competitions.				

Control of Paces / COP / MA - 60 points				
LEVEL	I	II	III	IV
Corridor Width	150m x 2.0m	150m x 2.0m	150m x 2.2 m	150m x 2.0m
The Control of Paces / Mastery of Gaits is the same for all Levels.				

Trail Obstacle Course / PTV - 160 points				
LEVEL	I	II	III	IV
Maximum Jump H/D	2'-0" (.609m)	2'- 6" (.762m)	3'-0" (.914m)	3'-3" (1.07m)
Minimum Jump H	1"-0"	2-0"	2'-6"	3'-0"
Course Design: Standard FITE widths used for all elements.	Inviting. Easy distances between obstacles.	Moderate. More challenging routes introduced.	Challenging. Obstacle combinations introduced.	Difficult. Challenging combinations and difficult routes to be expected.
Time Allowed:	Ample	Reasonable	A Consideration	A Factor
Maximum jump sizes are typically reserved for championship competitions. Participants MUST wear body protectors when riding obstacles exceeding 3-0" (Level IV).				

10. Other Events:

In addition to official TREC competitions, workshops, and trainings, TREC-USA offers a number of activities including Recreational Trail Rides and Drives, Promotional Activities, and Judged Pleasure TREC Rides and Drives.

The general rules in this TREC-USA Rulebook apply to ALL types of events hosted by TREC-USA. Some types of events may have additional guidelines associated with them.

11. Event Organizer Rules and Information: In General:

Event organizers may not compete in any TREC-USA Competition that they are hosting. A judge may not ride or drive in the same division that they are judging. Family members of judges and organizers may participate. For more detailed information regarding hosting a TREC-USA event, please refer to the TREC- USA Event Organizer Handbook.