

Road Trial Highlights Rules & Regulations

CHAPTER 1 - General Regulations

SECTION 19. Disqualification and Ineligibility.

Bitches in season shall be allowed to compete if scheduling permits them to be run last, but they must be run last, and at the owner's risk. It shall be the handler's responsibility to notify the Road Trial Committee by 7 AM on the day of the Road Trial if his bitch is in season. If, in the opinion of either Veterinarian or Judge, any bitch is in season whose handler has not notified the Road Trial Committee by 7 AM on the day of the trial, that handler and dog shall be barred from the competition, and the Official Judge's Book shall be marked, "Excused, in season, not reported."

A Judge or Veterinarian must disqualify any dog that attempts to attack any person or horse on the grounds, and the dog shall be immediately removed from the course.

A dog or a horse that is lame or otherwise unsound may not compete in a Road Trial.

SECTION 22. Training On the Grounds.

There shall be no drilling nor intensive or abusive training of dogs on the grounds or premises at a Road Trial.

SECTION 5. Praise and Food.

Verbal praise is allowed during, between, and after exercises. A handler may not carry or offer food for his dogs on the course, but may arrange in advance for a snack for his dog(s) to be at the Mid-Point Veterinary Check, or the Host may offer a snack for dogs at the Mid-Point Veterinary Check.

It shall be the exhibitor's responsibility to determine which medical inoculations are deemed necessary for his dog(s) and horse(s) for the geographic area of a particular Road Trial. He may be required to show veterinary certificates of certain inoculations, as specified in each Road Trial's premium list.

SECTION 3. **Equipment.**

Exhibitors, escorts, and the Mounted Judge shall be required to wear ASTM approved safety riding helmets, and riding boots or shoes with at least a ½ inch heel. Bike helmets will not be allowed.

SECTION 5. **Standard of Perfection and Veterinary Scoring.**

SECTION 11. **Announcement of Veterinary Check Pass/Fail Rating.**

Each Veterinarian/Vet Tech shall notify each exhibitor of the Pass/Fail status of each dog as soon as the exam has been completed, and the results entered on the score sheets. The Start/Finish Vet shall not disclose the points awarded each dog at the Finish. If a dog or horse has been given the maximum allowed rest period and has failed any veterinary exam, the animal shall not be allowed to continue on the course.

CHAPTER 2 - Overall Regulations for Performance

SECTION 3. **Hands.**

In all exercises on the course, the handler's arms and hands shall be in a natural riding or driving position.

SECTION 4. **Commands.**

Whenever a command is mentioned in these Regulations, a single verbal command by the handler is preferable, although extra commands may be permissible. Any extra commands, if needed to keep the dog(s) under control, will be scored accordingly. A handler may praise his dog(s) during an exercise, or use a voice correction, but this should not be excessive. Delay in following a judge's order to give a command must be penalized, unless the judge, because of some distraction or interference, directs the delay. Any unusual noise or motion may be considered a correction.

CHAPTER 6 - Regulations for Performance and Judging

SECTION 5. **Judge's Directions.**

After each Exercise, the Judge shall advise the exhibitor if any dog on the team has failed the Exercise, and the exhibitor shall be given the option of continuing on the course. The Judge is not required to explain his scoring and need not enter into any discussion with any exhibitor who appears dissatisfied.