

Pre-Trial Briefing for Participants and Handlers

Performance Deductions

Depending on the trial level you have entered, only a set number of Performance Points may be deducted for unacceptable or unsafe behavior by you or your llama before your llama will be disqualified from the trial. These deductions are cumulative from Manageability Tasks and the Field Test. If the limit of deductions is reached during manageability, the llama is disqualified and there is no need to undertake the Field Test.

<u>Trial Level</u>	<u>Deductions Allowed</u>
Basic	Five
Advanced	Three
Master	Two
Elite	Two

Course Design

The Field Test courses vary depending on the trial level. Deviations from standards in distance/elevation gain and obstacles may have been made to accommodate local terrain. Obstacles will be clearly marked and/or fully explained by the Steward so that each participant knows what is expected of their llama.

Manageability Tasks

You may have someone assist you with saddling and pack attachment. Manageability Tasks are evaluated on the behavior of the llama.

Field Test

Llamas are allowed three attempts for each obstacle. If on the fourth attempt the llamas still refuses they are disqualified and need not complete the course. Be aware that llamas sometimes need time to think over a situation and evaluate the obstacle before negotiating it. Llamas are judged on two criteria, behavior and completion. Safety is paramount.

Field Tests are judged on a pass/fail basis. As long as the llama negotiates the obstacle in a safe manner, they are judged successful. For example, on an Up/Down/Across obstacle if the llama hesitates and is encouraged by light tugging, it counts. If the llama nicks the top of the jump with a foot, it counts. If the llama jumps over the log but lands on the handler, it counts but a performance point is deducted. If the llama jumps over the log in the same way, but the handler is aware and moves out of the way, it counts with no performance deductions.

On obstacles where the packs or saddle is manipulated or foot is inspected, the handler may tie the llama to a stationary obstacle or have someone hold the llama during the process.

Llamas are required to walk through Foot Fear and Picking One's Way obstacles, not jump over them.

Grounds for Disqualification

The steward will inform the handler when a deduction is made and will record the circumstances on the score sheet and will inform the handler if the number of allowable deductions has been exceeded. Any disputes will be settled by the PLTA Certifier. The most common reasons for disqualification are:

- Accumulation of more than the allowed number of Performance Deductions.
- Failure to complete an obstacle.
- Inability to maintain an acceptable pace or refusal to complete the course.

Trial Completion

When the trial is complete, the Steward will sign and date the score sheet and deliver them to the trial chairperson or secretary. Llamas successfully completing the trial will be given a Proof of Completion form signed and dated by the certifier and trial chairperson.