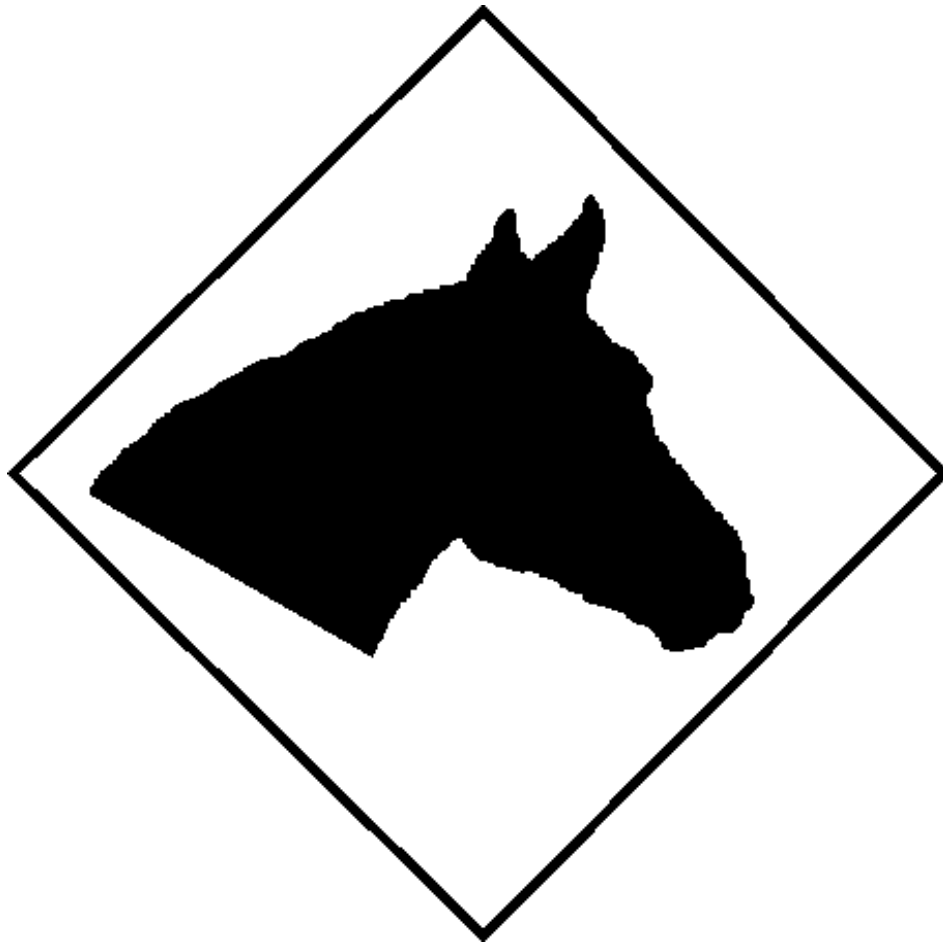


**Ascension Equestrian, Inc.**  
**Gonzales, LA**



**Rule Book**

# Ascension Equestrian, Inc.

## Rules & Regulations

### GENERAL

1. Anyone who is not a member of the AEI will not be allowed to ride or use AEI facilities (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SPECIAL EVENTS.)
2. A person must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a single membership, price \$40. A family membership must be purchased for all other cases, price \$80. (A family membership will consist of father, mother, children and stepchildren 18 and under, and grandchildren living in the same household. Also, children in school, living at home and/or being supported by parents.)
3. All coggins must be current within 12 months or you will not be allowed to ride the horse in question. Members must have a copy of their coggins with them and may be asked to show a copy to a representative of the board or a representative of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture while on AEI property.
4. Contestants must wear boots or tenny ropers (must have a prominent heel) to ride on AEI property. (The only exception will be small children in the Lead In Class.)
5. Please choose your clothing appropriately when participating in a club function. Long pants are required if competing. (The only exception will be small children in the Lead In Class.) No tube tops please.
6. Public display of drunkenness, vulgar language, or any other unseemly conduct will not be tolerated and the member will be charged with conduct unbecoming a member. Anyone charged with conduct unbecoming a member may be suspended, expelled or fined by the Board of Directors. Visitors who display unbecoming conduct will be escorted from the premises immediately and may be asked not to return.
7. The Board of Directors of AEI has the right to disqualify any person mistreating a horse, such as excessive whipping or spurring of a horse, inside and outside of the arena. Anyone who treats their horse in this manner may be charged with conduct unbecoming a member and dealt with accordingly. The Board also reserves the right to deem a horse physically unfit and not allow it to be ridden at a club function. (The Board cannot allow one member to jeopardize the future of club functions.)

8. Any protest must be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors immediately, by the person involved for final discussion.
9. It is the responsibility of each member to contact a Board Member regarding the cancellation of a Friday Night ride due to inclement weather.
10. It is the responsibility of participating members to work at least 16 hours a year per membership or a fine of \$5.00 per hour may be assessed for hours not worked. Work hours may be accrued during major events, Friday night rides and scheduled workdays. Work hours must be in or fines paid by the end of the year for a member to remain in good standings.
11. Age groups: (All ages are as of January 1 of calendar year)
  - Lead Ins – Open to all children
  - Peanuts – 0 to 8 years of age
  - Peewee – 9 to 13 years of age
  - Juniors – 14 to 18 years of age
  - Seniors – 19 years of age & older
12. Only two events per Friday night will be ridden and count toward year end points, unless otherwise specified by the Board of Directors. (Example: poles & stake race) The events will either be posted or announced prior to the Friday night ride.
13. The top five riders in each class, except Lead Ins, will receive points for each event. First place is awarded 5 points, second place is awarded 4 points, third place is awarded 3 points, fourth place is awarded 2 points, and fifth place is awarded one point. In all pointed classes, a contestant who competes in both events will have one (1) point added to his or her riding points. No points will be given in the Lead In class.
14. In all pointed classes, except Seniors, a rider who has competed in both events will draw a handicap number after their class has finished the second event. The handicap number system consists of one number for each rider in the class being put in the “hat”. The highest number being the total number of contestants in the class. Each rider pulls a number out of the “hat” and that number is added to his or her riding points for combined total points for the night.
15. Awards will be given at the end of the year to at least the top five riders in each pointed class. High point champion & reserve champion awards are given on riding points only. Third through fifth places will be given on combined riding and handicap points. The Senior placings will be given on riding points only.

Peanuts & Peewees that do not place in the top five at the end of the year will receive a participation award. All Lead Ins will receive a participation award at the end of the year. Any awards other than the ones stated above will be awarded at the Board of Directors' discretion. To receive an end of the year award a member must be in good standings.

16. A participating member may bring an invited guest(s) to the end of the year awards banquet. Invited guests may be required to pay. A price will be included in the banquet notification letter sent to participating members.
17. An event fee will be charged per person per event including Lead-Ins. That fee will be determined at the beginning of each year and then posted at the show.
18. Entry books will remain open for each class until last person in the class has ridden.
19. Horses for the Lead In class must be led or a responsible person must be accompanying the horse through the pattern. That responsible person is allowed to ride double on the horse and the horse must be walked. No exceptions.
20. Rerides for points will be given for timer malfunction only. No rerides will be granted for horses falling or broken tack/equipment. If any penalties are received during a run and the timer malfunctions, the penalties will carry over and be added to the reride time. If any penalties are received during a reride, the rider has the option of keeping the penalized time or another reride. Whatever the outcome, the second reride is final.
21. All riders will run with a closed gate unless the rider or an adult responsible for the Peanut/Peewee rider states otherwise prior to each run. The gate will be closed for the Lead In class. We ask that you do no run into the alleyway.
22. Barrels and poles may be moved due to arena conditions. Pattern must remain the same throughout entire class.
23. The pen will be closed at 12:00 noon on Thursday in preparations for Friday night and special events.
24. An arena director will be appointed each Friday night to oversee the running of the patterns for that night. The arena director's decision will be final.
25. The schedule of events may be changed without prior notice.

26. In the case of a tie, the riders in question must decide whether to flip a coin or have a run off to decide the placings in question. Whoever wins the coin toss or the run off will be awarded the higher placing and the other rider will receive the lower placing. The riders also have the option of combining the points for the tied placings and splitting them equally.

## **TIMED EVENTS**

**\*\*\*\*Rerides for points will only be given for timer malfunction, not for horses falling or equipment failure. See General, Rule 20.\*\*\*\***

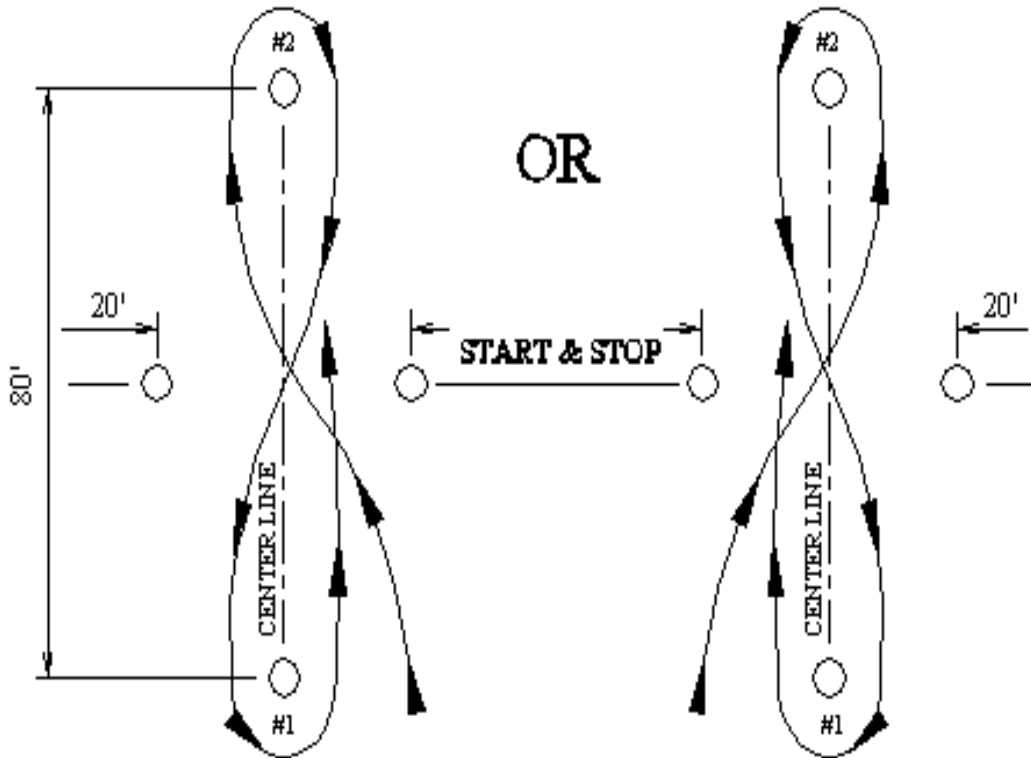
### *Stake Race (Figure Eight Race)*

Two poles are set 80 feet apart at opposite ends of the course with two markers designating the start-finish line, 20 feet apart mid way between the two end poles.

The contestant is allowed a running start and may begin the run from either the left or right side of the first pole. Start by crossing over the center line between pole #1 and pole #2, turn around the second pole, cross over the center line again between the poles, then around the first pole and run back across the finish line.

The contestant must start and finish between the center markers. Failure to follow the exact course shall cause disqualification. Knocking over a pole is a five (5) second penalty. A horse will be considered off pattern if it changes the sequence of poles. A horse that misses a pole will be considered on pattern as long as it retraces its steps to the point of error and completes the pattern.

### *Stake Race Pattern*



## TIMED EVENTS (Continued)

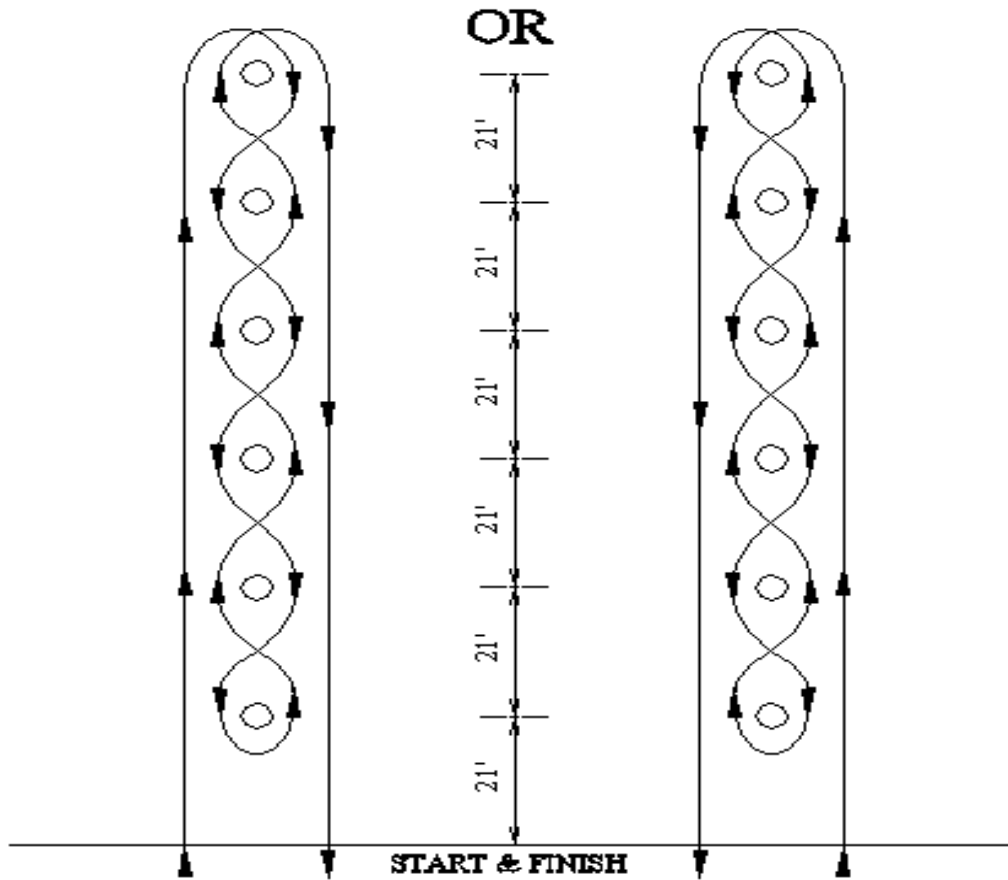
### *Pole Bending*

The contestant is allowed a running start. Time shall begin as soon as the horse's nose reaches the starting line and will be stopped when the horse's nose passes over the finish line. The pole bending pattern is to be ran or walked around six (6) poles. Each pole is to be twenty-one (21) feet apart and the first pole is to be twenty-one (21) feet from the starting line.

A horse may start either to the right or to the left of the first pole and then run the remainder of the pattern accordingly. See pattern below.

Failure to follow the exact course shall cause disqualification. Knocking over a pole is a five (5) second penalty. A horse will be considered off pattern if it changes the sequence of poles. A horse that misses a pole will be considered on pattern as long as it retraces its steps to the point of error and completes the pattern. Crossing the starting line before completing the pattern shall cause disqualification, regardless of timer malfunction.

### *Pole Bending Pattern*



## TIMED EVENTS (Continued)

### *Barrel Racing*

The contestant is allowed a running start. Time shall begin as soon as the horse's nose reaches the starting line and will be stopped when the horse's nose passes over the finish line.

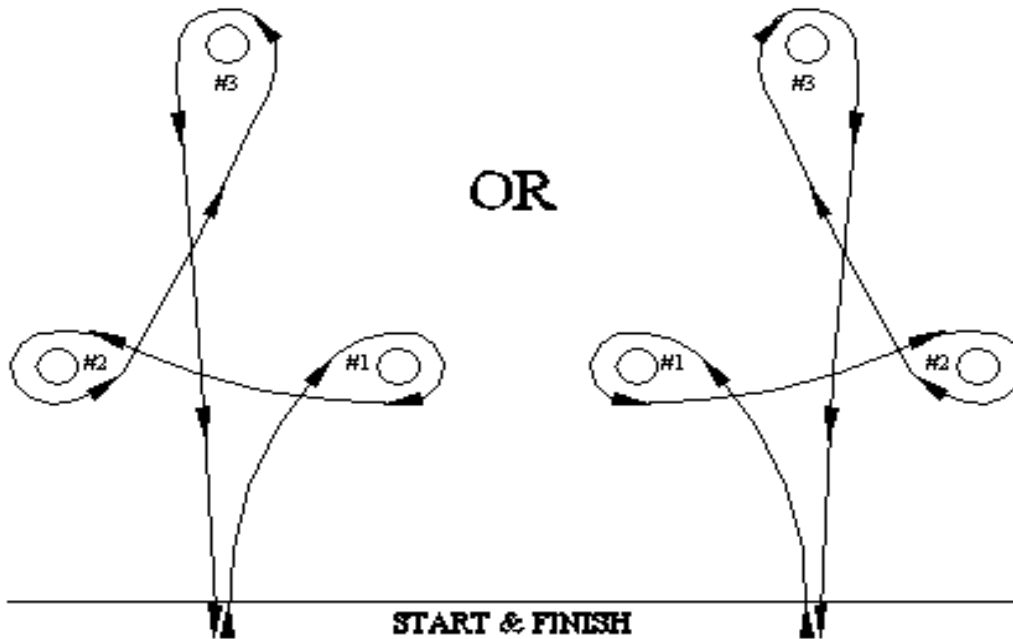
The contestant will run to barrel #1, make a right turn around this barrel, complete a 360 degree turn, then on to barrel #2, this time turning to the left with another 360 degree turn. At barrel #3 the same passage to the left and 360 degree turn is accomplished. As soon as the turn is completed around barrel #3, the contestant sprints the horse to the finish line passing between barrels #1 and #2. This barrel course may also be run to the left barrel first and then run the remainder of the pattern accordingly. See pattern below.

Barrel #1 and barrel #2 must be a minimum of 21 feet from the side fences and a minimum of 21 feet from the timer/start & finish line. Barrel #3 must be minimum of 30' from the back fence.

Failure to follow the exact course shall cause disqualification. Knocking over a barrel is a five (5) second penalty. A horse will be considered off pattern if it changes the sequence

of barrels. A horse that misses a barrel will be considered on pattern as long as it retraces its steps to the point of error and completes the pattern. Crossing the starting line before completing the pattern shall cause disqualification, regardless of timer malfunction.

### Barrel Racing Pattern



## **TIMED EVENTS (Continued)**

### ***Arena Race***

Contestant is allowed a running start. Time begins when the horse's nose crosses the starting line and stops when the horse's nose crosses the finish line.

One (1) barrel is approximately 150 feet from the starting line or a minimum of 30' from the back fence. The contestant must run to the barrel and complete either a left or a right turn around the barrel and return to the finish line.

Failure to follow the exact course shall cause disqualification. Knocking over a barrel is a five (5) second penalty. A horse will be considered off pattern if it does not go around the barrel. A horse that misses the barrel will be considered on pattern as long as it retraces its steps to the point of error and completes the pattern. Crossing the starting line before completing the pattern shall cause disqualification, regardless of timer malfunction.

### *Arena Race Pattern*



OR

