

Cowboy Challenge Course Approval Requirements



Each Cowboy Challenge course must be approved prior to the course walk by the judges who will be judging the Challenge. This is usually carried out by both judges, but can be done by one qualified judge if necessary. A Probationary Judge shall not undertake the course approval on their own.

A time is to be arranged between the course organiser and the judges for this to occur. Time needs to be allowed for any adjustments to be made to the course in advance of the course walk. Approval can take up to two hours for a two Round Challenge.

What to check during the course approval:

1. Start and finish lines are in appropriate places, are accessible from the warm up area, and clearly visible for the timers.
2. Obstacles meet requirements stated in the Rule Book.
3. Specific directions for an obstacle, eg how many times to go around xxx, number of rollbacks, which way to face for sidepass, and that these are achievable. Note these down so there is no question as to what was agreed to, and so they can be correctly conveyed to competitors on the course walk.
4. All obstacles are positioned so that the judge can clearly see the horse and rider completing them, including the approaches and departures, and the judging locations are appropriate for this.
5. Correct position for numbers/markers.
6. Potential hazards are minimised, eg no protruding nails, no loose material underfoot, appropriate length of ropes, tip bridges secured, no sharp edges, gudgeons on fence posts covered, electric fences off, frames holding obstacles do not allow horse or rider to get caught in them, holes marked.
7. Any designated paths to follow.
8. Ground conditions over the course pathway (the whole course pathway needs to be walked).
9. Course has been measured and the times for each round are appropriate.
10. Sufficient course crew available to reset relevant obstacles.
11. Significant activity (eg float parking, toilet placement) will not be within 10 metres of the course.
12. People on site can move around without crossing the course grounds.

Once the courses have been approved by the judge/s, they shall not be changed, unless there is a further discussion between the course organiser and judges prior to the course walk and an adjustment is approved.

No changes shall be made to the approved course during the course walk. The only reason a competitor may question an obstacle, marker or pathway is due to significant safety concerns or a violation of a Rule. If this occurs, the judges and course designer may discuss the concern privately and agree to an adjustment, which then needs to be advised to all competitors.