

NZCCA Judge Guideline

Rule 7.8 Overall time limit - Page 4

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Course designers will measure the overall distance of the course and suggest suitable overall course times for each division (Note guideline in rule says “**should** differ between divisions”).

Judges, during course approval, will need to decide if the overall course time set will allow “a horse moving forward freely between obstacles at a reasonable speed” to complete the course without incurring a penalty for being over the overall time limit.

The following information can be used to check that the overall time limit is appropriate:

- Most obstacles have a 45 sec time limit, a few have longer (eg Patterns). The time used in doing obstacles on most courses will be a maximum of 10 minutes.
- **Trotting** average speed is approx. 220 - 320m/min (13 to 19 km/h)
- **Canter** average speed is approx. 320 - 400m/min (19 to 24 km/h)
- **Rookie division** – use average speed of 320m/min to calculate Overall time limit on flat ground in good conditions.
- **Open division** – use average speed of 400m/min to calculate Overall time limit on flat ground in good conditions.

Things to consider when adding extra minutes to the overall course time:

- Ground conditions – add extra time when ground conditions are more difficult.
- Sloping/undulating country - add extra time to allow for slower average speeds on this type of country.
- Course in a small area or arena – while the distance will be shorter, it could make the overall time longer as the closeness of the obstacles to each other will cause a combination’s average speed to be slower and there will not be any long runs that usually allow fast competitors to catch up time.
- Safety.

Overall Time Calculations – example:

Course is 1500m (1.5km) on flat ground with good ground conditions.

Open division: For an average speed of 400m/min it will take approx. 4 min to canter and approx. 10 min to do obstacles, so overall time limit will be greater than 14 min and less than 18 mins.

Intermediate division: Will have a similar but slightly longer overall time compared to Open.

Rookie division: The same course at an average speed of 320m/min will take approx. 5 min, plus 10 min for obstacles means overall time limit will most likely be greater than 15 mins and less than 20 mins.

Youth division: Will have a similar but longer overall time compared to Rookie.

Overall course time (minutes) = $\frac{\text{length of course in metres}}{\text{average speed in m/min}} + 10\text{min for obstacles} + \text{extra minutes}$