

WSCA Adaptive Riding Program Guide 2023

The Western Saddle Clubs Association Adaptive Riding Program Guide was created based upon the following rule books: Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI), Special Olympics Minnesota, Minnesota 4H Challenged Rider Program, and Western Saddle Clubs Association.

Competitor Eligibility

All competitors must be members in good standing of a Western Saddle Clubs Association saddle club. Published deadlines must be met to qualify for competition. Divisions are created according to ability level and not age or gender. It is required that all competitors have at least ten riding training sessions within the six months prior to the WSCA Championship Show Showcase, with a minimum of ten hours of training between the dates of 9/2/22-8/13/23. Riders must not cross-enter into other WSCA Championship Show classes. Western Saddle Club Association membership information, rule book, and Championship Show materials can be found online at wsca.org.

Spotters

Spotters approved by the Show Management will remain in strategic places within the arena to act in case of emergency for unassisted riders. Other attendants are not allowed in the competition ring except at the request of judge(s) or when specified by the event requirements (horse leaders and rider assistants are required in all Assisted Classes, and one assistant is required to remain inside the arena during Unassisted Classes). Coaches may request the ability to act as a spotter for exhibitors in advance of events. Final approval resides with Show Management.

Assistance

Unauthorized and unnecessary assistance from horse leaders or rider assistants will result in penalties to the rider in Assisted Classes. Horse handler volunteers must lead from behind the horse's nose and are meant to keep the horse in the pattern and not to lead them through a pattern. Service dogs must be approved by Show Management and confined to a 6 (six) foot leash. Service dogs are not allowed inside the arena and must maintain a 10 (ten) foot distance from any arena wall.

Horses

Competitors or their guardians are responsible for supplying an appropriate horse to pair with rider's needs, and horse handlers/ rider assistants. Safety and matching of horse to rider is of the utmost importance. Also important are knowledgeable and practiced handlers and assistants.

Tack, Attire and Equipment

Competitors will follow WSCA rules for tack and attire, with the exception that riders must wear ASTM/SEI approved protective headgear. Riders must wear a boot with a heel, but can wear other footwear as a result of physical disability. If modified footwear is required by a competitor, Show Management should be made aware prior to class. Any lead lines used must be attached to the halter and not the bridle. The halter may be over or under the bridle so long as it does not interfere with the use of the bit or reins. Handlers and assistants follow WSCA western attire rules, though are not required to wear a western hat. Helmets are encouraged.

Adaptive Equipment

Riders may use adaptive equipment without penalty in both Assisted and Unassisted classes. A mounting block/ ramp shall be made available by Show Management. Any additional adaptive equipment needed by an individual rider must be supplied by that rider.

Exhibitors, Horse Leaders and Riding Assistants

Each rider is required to have one horse handler to participate in Assisted Classes. Assisted Class riders may also have at least one (1) riding assistant and more as needed. To participate in Unassisted Classes, each rider is required one assistant to remain in the arena with the competitor. Leaders are meant to keep horses in the pattern and not to lead them through a pattern. It is the responsibility of the rider/ rider guardian to find and make horse handlers and riding assistants familiar with themselves and their horse during their practice leading up to the event. WSCA will not provide horse handlers or riding assistants. Volunteers serving as horse handlers, riding assistants or arena spotters must be 18 years or over to participate in the WSCA Championship Show Adaptive Showcase.

Classes

Class eligibility will be determined by individual's ability to ride and skill level.

1. Assisted Obstacle Game Class- Walk and trot with horse handler and riding assistants as needed. Class will be judged on the proper execution of obstacles, balance and seat, control of mount, quietness of mount and pace, and safety awareness. Arena spotters are required.

2. Unassisted Obstacle Game Class- Walk, trot or canter unassisted. Arena spotters are required. Class will be judged on proper execution of pattern and time. The exhibitor with the fastest time is the winner of the event.

Penalties

Penalties and disqualifications will follow the WSCA rule book, with the following exception:

In Assisted Obstacle Game classes: a 5 (five) second penalty will be applied for every 3 (three) strides over the allotted gait for that division (ex. trot to canter).

Facilities & Set Up

Standard WSCA Game equipment and measurement rules apply.

Whenever possible, starting line markers/ upright poles or electric timers should be placed along the arena wall.

Upright poles should be used to mark the time line whenever possible.

Mounting block/ ramp should be made available for riders. Wheelchair accessible mounting block will be available.

Spotters must be made available by Show Management and be positioned such as not to interfere with runs.

Minnesota Statute 604A.12

Under Minnesota law, participants who engage in livestock activities assume the risks of engaging in, and legal responsibility for, injury, loss or damage to person or property.

Game Patterns follow current WSCA Rule book for Cloverleaf Barrels, Key Hole & Poles. Size of pattern may vary according to class needs.