

ALSA Performance guidelines and helpful hints for show superintendents and course designers

Safety for the animals and the exhibitors needs to be in the for front of designing any course.

The performance committee removed the mandatory obstacles in order to better accommodate the designers, but there has been some confusion concerning this change.

There are still many rules that need to be followed, such as weight in packs on llamas over 3 years of age. What the deletion of mandatory obstacles means is there is no longer a need to have a bridge in every course, but we still want to see bridges somewhere in these 30 obstacles. Eliminating the mandatory obstacles is to give designers more freedom in being creative and designing fun courses.

We are still required to change at least 4 obstacles from pack to obstacle and obstacle to PR, each class having obstacles reflecting the purpose of each course, (pack class for example should include obstacles they may encounter when out on a hike etc. and adjusting the level of difficulty in each division.

Safety issues to be aware of include but not limited to:

*Elevated side pass in pack class. This is a health issue for the llamas carrying weight.

*Tunnels and gates that are too narrow or too short for the large llamas with their pack systems. If a llama is 42" high with his pack system, the obstacle needs to be taller than that, so the horn of the saddle doesn't catch on the obstacle. If the llama with his system is 45 inches wide, it cannot be expected to negotiate an opening of anything narrower as this gives these large animals a big disadvantage and causes a safety concern if the pack system were to catch on the obstacle and cause it to drag along on the pack or fall on the handler or animals.

* Bridges should not follow a water obstacle

*Obstacles that flip or fall when an animal is trying to negotiate them is not safe and should be secured

Examples of Level of difficulty between divisions

- A novice/junior backing could be a straight line.
- Advanced /intermediate and senior could be an L pattern.

- Masters could be a Z or a U shape.
- A novice or junior tunnel could be a covered tunnel.
- Adding streamers for advanced
- Adding a cover at the entrance or exit for masters.

Thank you for all you do for ALSA and the shows, and we hope this helps in your designing of the courses. Please feel free to reach out to any member of the performance committee with questions you may have.

Respectfully The ALSA Performance Committee

