

## **ALSA Performance Course Construction**

**Course Construction: A summary of obstacle size requirements may be found in Table 1 – Performance Course Size Requirements Summary at the end of Part M.**

### **A. Bridges, Ramps and Stairs**

1. Minimum width 30 inches for Youth, Open and Novice divisions.
2. Minimum width 24 inches for Advanced and Master divisions.
3. The recommended length of a bridge is approximately 8 feet.
4. All surfaces must be treated or toughened to avoid slippery surfaces. ALSA recommends carpet or commercial treads for all surfaces.
5. Shall not swing, sway, or sag.
6. Maximum height for any bridge is 24 inches.
7. Ramp requirements must meet all the above.
8. The width and height of stairs and ramps shall match the width and height of the bridge.
9. Minimum depth of stairs is 10 inches with risers a maximum of 9 inches.
10. Bridges, ramps, and stairs must not immediately follow a water obstacle.
11. An elevated side passes may not be used in Pack classes because this moves the pack weight to the lower back of the animal.

### **B. Jumps or Barriers**

1. Jumps in Open, Master, Advanced and Novice llama and alpaca classes may range from a minimum of 14 inches to a maximum of 20 inches in height. The maximum height for jumps in Senior and Intermediate Youth llama and alpaca classes is 18 inches. The maximum height for jumps in Junior Youth llama and alpaca classes is 15 inches.
2. The width of the obstacle should be a minimum of 4 feet.
3. Jumps in combination jumps or barriers should be approximately 6 feet apart and should be appropriately spaced for the age of the exhibitors.
4. Poles (cross bars) must be a minimum of 3 inches in diameter.

5. A solid jump shall be greater than 4 feet wide, but no more than 12 inches high and 20 inches deep at the base.

6. The jumps or barriers should be solid or anchored so as not to tip over easily, but the poles themselves should not be anchored.

#### C. Flexibility and Maneuvering

1. Weaving around objects (intricate weaves are not recommended.)

2. Walking through gates or doors.

3. The height and width of openings through which an animal must pass shall be constructed to accommodate the largest animal/pack system in the division.

#### D. Change of Pace

1. The handler and llama shall be required to jog or run for some distance.

2. There shall be a definite starting and stopping point.

#### E. Manageability

##### 1. Types

a. Haltering

b. Taking off a pack

c. Adding items to a pack

d. Touching and inspecting specific llama parts

##### 2. Rules

a. Haltering must take place within an enclosure. For example, 4 portable corral panels

b. When an obstacle in a Novice or Youth class requires two hands of the handler to perform a task, the exhibitor has the option of the animal being tied or held by an assistant.

c. The assistant shall not participate in any activity other than holding the lead rope.

d. Correct saddling, loading, and unloading procedures must be followed. (See Section 10.D. Judging/Scoring).

#### F. Water Obstacle

1. Obstacles where an animal is required to pass through water should be shallow enough, so the water does not come above the knees of the smallest animal in the class.
2. Safety for both handler and animal should be considered.

#### G. Deadfall.

1. A jumble of posts, logs, tree limbs, etc.
2. This obstacle should be a minimum of 8 feet in diameter.
3. The height of this obstacle should not exceed 12 inches where the animal crosses.
4. The number of posts, etc. should be no less than six.

#### H. Backing

1. The passageway may be defined as minimally as 2 inch PVC pipes or 2"x 4"s, a flat plank walkway, a low angled ramp, or as extensively as panels or a wall. Ropes and other similar thin materials are not suitable to define a backing obstacle.
2. Passageways may be straight, angled, or curved.
3. Passageways shall be a minimum width which allows passage of the largest llama and a length of at least 10 feet.
4. The backing activity (i.e., backing into or out of) should reflect the degree of proficiency expected of the division.
5. The minimum width of the backing obstacle is 24 inches.
6. Backing down steep stairs, ramps or other unsafe obstacles is not permitted for safety reasons. Backing over low ramps, bridges or planks is permitted if approved by the Judge as safe.

#### I. Animate and Inanimate Objects

1. Animate objects include but not limited to backpackers, dogs, pack horses, mules, goats, people in wheelchairs or beds, youth on tricycles, etc.

2. Inanimate objects include tents, motorcycles, bicycles, etc.
3. Animal skins may be used provided they are not of a predator, alpaca, or llama skin.

#### J. Ducking

1. Any time an animal is required to pass under an obstacle, the obstacle must be securely anchored so it does not move when an animal presses against the crosspiece or upright.
2. This obstacle may be used in any performance class where the age and size of the llamas is more predictable but should be constructed to accommodate the tallest animal with packs on to prevent hooking of packs on the obstacle.

K. Steep Climbs and Descents -These challenges will depend on the terrain available and should be included where possible.

#### L. Loading in Vehicles

1. A full-size van or a trailer (minimum 10 feet by 5 feet) may be used. The height of the floor of the vehicle may not be more than 30 inches from the ground.
2. Vehicles must have non-slip surfaces.
3. Vehicles should be inspected closely for safety.
4. Animals will be loaded into vehicles without packs.

#### M. Platform Obstacle

1. The platform must not be raised off the ground more than 10 inches if a turnaround is required.
2. If a turnaround is required, the platform or bridge/plank must be a minimum of 5 feet square to accommodate a large animal and handler.
3. When carrying a pack, an animal should not be required to step down more than 12 inches.

N. When an animal is tied as part of a performance course, a quick release knot must be used. A quick release knot is a knot that allows the handler to release the animal with a tug on the free end of the rope.

