



### KCRC TRAIL VERSATILITY CHALLENGE RULES

1. To qualify for the year end awards, a rider must be a KCRC member before the beginning of the second event.
2. TVC is open to any discipline and breed of horse, mule, or donkey.
3. Riders may use tack from any chosen discipline.
4. The use of combination bits, draw reins, martingales, cavessons, and tie downs is prohibited. No form of head restraint other than a bridle or halter is permitted. Riders will be given a chance to adjust or remove any tack that is not allowed prior to their ride. If an adjustment is not made, it will result in disqualification with no refund. It is acceptable to ride bridle-less or bareback, but this will not be reflected in the rider's score.
5. The dress code consists of show attire for the rider's chosen discipline, to include a long sleeve button-down shirt, unless otherwise authorized by the TVC Committee Chair (e.g., for weather conditions). Riders shall wear a Western or English style hat. Helmets are not mandatory but are highly encouraged. Boots with a heel are required.
6. An equine may go through a division only once per competition, except for the Buckaroo and Wrangler divisions. A rider may compete in the same division with up to two equines.
7. Divisions are based on equine/rider teams.
  - a. Questions about division placement should be raised to the registration staff, who will connect riders with a current member of the TVC Planning Committee.
  - b. A competitor will be moved to a different division if the rider is observed to be entered into an inappropriate division for their riding or their equine's ability. If an equine/rider combination is reassigned to a lower division, all points will be transferred to the new division.
  - c. If the equine/rider combination is moved up to a higher division after having competed in a lower division with easier obstacles, the points from the event at the lower division shall be tabulated as an average of the riders in the higher division that they are now competing in.
  - d. If a rider has purposefully registered themselves in an inappropriate division for their ability for any reason, those event points shall not be tabulated in the year-end total.
8. All non-KCRC members must sign a hold harmless form at registration.
9. Riders must pay a non-refundable entry fee.
10. Equines must be sound showing no obvious signs of lameness or distress.
11. It is expected that every equine will always be treated humanely with kindness and respect. Riding in a manner that endangers the safety of either equine or rider shall be penalized or disqualified by the judge. All riders are expected to always maintain control of their equines. The judge has the authority to dismiss an equine they deem to be out of control or unfit for competition.
12. Stallions **are prohibited**.
13. All judges/event manager decisions are final.
14. No whining, moaning, or complaining. The objective is to have fun and improve horsemanship skills.
15. KCRC cannot control mother nature. There will be no re-rides for mother nature (e.g., gusts of wind). This is not a speed event, so riders may take a moment to wait for conditions to improve. Riders must provide a clear signal of intent to the judge, who ultimately decides how much time will be allowed.
16. **ABSOLUTELY, NO** equine or rider is to be on the course before the walk through or before their turn. A course walk-through will be done with the judge(s) prior to the start of each event. Being on the course when not allowed will result in disqualification and no refunds will be issued.

17. Obstacles will have a 30-second time limit to engage the obstacle; however, if an equine is maintaining forward motion, a judge—at their discretion—may allow that rider to continue. The judge will ask the rider to move on after 30 seconds if there is a lack of forward motion or 3 balks.
18. If a rider falls off or loses control of their equine, the rider will have 60 seconds to regain control and remount without assistance.
19. If a rider misses an obstacle and begins the next obstacle, they may not go back to the obstacle that was missed.
20. Each obstacle will be judged on the approach to and departure from the obstacle. Equines will be judged for their willingness and skill at correctly completing the obstacle, and the riders will be judged on their skill and horsemanship at handling and maneuvering their equine through the obstacle. The Horsemanship Score, based on a scale of 0-10 (with 10 being the highest score given), will reflect the softness and effectiveness of the rider's cues while guiding their equine through the course. Improper use of cues, spurring, poor equitation, and any show of poor sportsmanship or horsemanship will result in a lower score. A score of 0 is only given when an obstacle is skipped, done out of order, the rider begins before the judge's signal, or the equine/rider team becomes dangerous.
21. The order of go will be posted after registration and course walk-throughs are completed. Pony Up, Buckaroo, Wrangler, Maverick and Bronc will start on the trail side. Bronc Buster and Trail Boss will start on the arena side. There may be some adjustments made depending on the number of riders entered in each division. KCRC tries to accommodate everyone's requests at each event. Please be patient.
22. Consumption of any form of alcohol during an event is not allowed. Any form of drugs other than prescription are never allowed.
23. Ribbons will be awarded to each division for first to fifth place at every event. Buckles will be awarded for end-of-year high points in all divisions except Pony Up.
24. To be eligible for the year end awards each rider must be a KCRC member (before the beginning of the second event) and complete 4 hours of volunteer work throughout the season. This could include helping tear down obstacles, helping to reset obstacles during the event, being a gate keeper, etc. Volunteer positions needed at each event will be posted by the event manager.
25. Please remember that any equine event is a glimpse into the "way of the cowboy" where trust, loyalty, honor and a handshake mean something. Honor those traditions put into place by our cowboy ancestors.
26. Riders must participate in a minimum of three events to be eligible for year-end awards. There are 4 events for the year 2026. Points from each event will be counted towards year end awards.
27. The arena course will be posted a week in advance. The course will be designed by a non-competitor who is familiar with obstacle competitions.
  - **Pony Up** – The Pony Up Division is an in-hand division for equines that are not competing in any other division. This division is open to equine/rider teams of any age, who—for any reason—may not be confident riding through obstacles. This class is designed to use the obstacles from the trail course but are modified for an in-hand competitor. The Pony-Up Division will only compete on the trail side of the course.
  - **Buckaroo (lead line)** - The Buckaroo Division is a lead line division intended to include the younger family members in the excitement of competing. It is for the rider not quite ready to be on his/her own. The handler may hold on to the lead rope and/or can send the rider and equine through an obstacle on their own and can intervene when necessary. The Buckaroo Division will only compete on the trail side of the course and may use an equine that is competing with another rider. The Buckaroo division is open to any age rider. When a lead line competitor feels they are ready to advance to the Wrangler division (if age is 15 yrs or younger), they may compete in both divisions for one transition year.
  - **Wrangler** – The Wrangler Division is designed for youth up to 15 yrs of age - can choose to compete in a division other than Wrangler, but not with the same equine.

- **Maverick (Novice)** – The Maverick Division is for the beginner equine/rider combination (e.g., the rider may be a seasoned rider, but the equine has not done any type of competition before). The equine/rider combination has never competed in any type of competition which includes gymkhana. The equine/rider combination has basic horsemanship skills but lacks the confidence and knowledge of the more advanced equine/rider combinations. At the conclusion of the year, any competitor who wins this division, provided there are a total of five competitors in the division, is required to advance to the next division. Starting with the year 2026, an equine may only compete in this division for two years before being moved up to the next division.
- **Bronc (Amateur)** – The Bronc Division is designed for the inexperienced equine/rider combination. Open to equine/rider combinations who have not competed in an event at a higher level in the last 2 years. This is an equine/rider combination that still may lack some horsemanship skills, but they as a team are not beginner/novice. A Bronc equine/rider combination can comfortably transition between gaits. Cantering may or may not be a skill that is comfortable for them, but they are able to do it with the basic understanding of lead changes. At the conclusion of the year, any competitor who wins this division, provided there are a total of five competitors in the division, is required to advance to the next division.
- **Bronc Buster (Intermediate)** – The Bronc Buster Division is designed for an equine/rider combination too advanced for the Bronc Division but does not desire to ride in the Trail Boss Division. This division is for the most experienced equine/rider combination. At the conclusion of the year, any competitor who wins this division, provided there are a total of five competitors in the division, is required to advance to the next division.
- **Trail Boss (Advanced Intermediate)** – The Trail Boss Division is the most advanced/competitive division, open to anyone of any age, regardless of equine/rider experience or skill level.

**Note:**

**All appeals shall go through the KCRC Board of Directors after going through the TVC Committee Chairperson. All appeals need to be submitted in writing via email to [kcrconline@gmail.com](mailto:kcrconline@gmail.com) within 3 days of when the scores are posted for each event. Please include any information regarding the incident and the TVC rule that was allegedly violated.**