

2024 KCRC Trail Versatility Challenge rules

1. To qualify for the year end awards, you must be KCRC member before the beginning of the second event.
2. Open to any discipline and breed of horse.
3. You may ride using tack from your chosen discipline.
4. Devices such as combination bits, draw reins, martingales, cavesson, and tie downs are not allowed. Any form of head restraint other than a bridle or halter is not permitted. Rider 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. Dress code consists of show attire for your respective chosen discipline. Riders shall wear a western or English style hat. Helmets will not be mandated, but highly encouraged. Boots with a heel are mandatory.
6. A horse may go through any division only once, except for lead line. A rider may compete in their perspective division on up to two horses.
7. Divisions are based on rider/horse teams. A rider may have experience but riding a green horse with little or no experience.
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 will be expected that every horse will be always treated humanely with kindness and respect. Riding in a manner that endangers the safety of horse and rider shall be penalized or disqualified by the judge. All riders are expected to always maintain control of their horses. The judge has the authority to dismiss a horse they deem to be out of control or that they deem to be unfit for competition.
12. Stallions **are NOT** permitted.
13. All judges/event manager decisions are final.
14. No whining, moaning, or complaining. The objective is to have fun and better our horsemanship.

15. **ABSOLUTELY, no** horse or rider is to be on the course before the walk through or before their turn. A walk-through of the course will be done with the judge prior to the start of each event.
16. Obstacles will have a 30 second time limit to engage the obstacle.; however, if a horse is maintaining forward motion, a judge should allow that rider to continue at his/her discretion. The judge will whistle the rider to move on in 30 seconds if there is a lack of forward motion or 3 balks.
17. If a rider falls off or loses control of their horse, the rider will have 60 seconds to regain control, remount without assistance.
18. If a rider misses an obstacle and begins the next obstacle, they may not go back to the obstacle that was missed.
19. Each obstacle will be judged on the approach to the obstacle and the descent from the obstacle. Horses 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 horse through the obstacle. 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 horse/rider team becomes dangerous. The Horsemanship score will reflect the softness and effectiveness of the rider's cues while guiding their horse through the course on a scale of 0-10. (10 reflects the highest score given for horsemanship) Improper use of cues, spurring, poor equitation, and any show of poor sportsmanship; or horsemanship will receive a lesser score. Each competitor's total time will be recorded by the timekeeper and will be used as a tiebreaker for multiple entries with the same score.
20. Consumption of any form of alcohol during an event is not allowed. Any form of drugs other than prescription are never allowed.
21. Each division will be awarded ribbons First place through Fifth place at each event. End of year high point in each division will be awarded a buckle.
22. 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 with the obstacle, helping to reset obstacles during the event, gate keeper etc. Volunteer positions needed at each event will be posted by the event manager.

23. Please remember that any equine event is a glimpse into the “way of the cowboy” where trust, loyalty, honor and a handshake meant something. Honor those traditions put into place by our cowboy ancestors.

Pony Up – An in-hand class for horses that are not competing in any other division. This division is open to rider/horse teams of any age, that may not be confident riding through obstacles for whatever reason. This class is designed to use the obstacles from the Trail Obstacles Course but be modified for an in-hand competitor.

Buckaroo (lead line) - The Buckaroo divisions 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 or her own. The handler may hold on to the lead rope and/or can send the rider and horse through an obstacle on their own and can intervene in case there is a bind. The Buckaroo Division will only compete on the Trail Obstacle Course and may use a horse that is competing with another rider. Buckaroo is also open to any age special needs rider. A buckaroo will do any six of the ten obstacles. When a lead line competitor feels they are ready to advance to the Wrangler division, they may compete in both divisions for one transition year.

Wrangler – 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) – This division is for the beginner rider/horse combination. Those rider/horse combinations who have never competed in any type of competition which includes gymkhana. The rider/horse combination has basic horsemanship skills but lacks the confidence and knowledge of the more advanced horse/rider combinations. Once you win this division at year end, with 5 competitors total then you must move up to the next level.

Bronc (Amateur) – This division is designed for the inexperienced rider/horse combination. Open to rider/horse combinations who have not competed in an event at a higher level in the last 2 years. This is a rider/horse combination that still may lack some horsemanship skills, but they as a team are not a

beginner/novice. A Bronc rider/horse 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. Once you win this division, at year end, with 5 competitors total, then you must move up to the next level.

Bronc Buster (Intermediate) - A rider/horse 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 rider/horse combination. A Bronc Buster has not directly or indirectly earned money for training equine(s) or giving riding lessons in the last 5 years. Once you win this division at year end, with 5 competitors total, then you must move up to the next level.

Trail Boss (Pro) – The most competitive division, open to anyone of any age, regardless of horse/rider experience or skill level. Includes those participants that earn money teaching lessons or training equine(s) within the last 5 years

If you have questions about which division you should enter, please discuss it with a member of the TVC Committee.

Note: A competitor will be moved to a different division if the rider is observed to be entered into a division that is not appropriate for their riding or their horse's ability. Points will follow the horse/rider combination to the newly assigned division.