



## **APPENDIX B**

## **OBSTACLES**



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## APPENDIX B. OBSTACLES

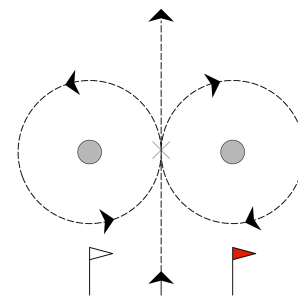
(Refer also to Table 4-1 for a summary of the level requirements for each obstacle.)

### 1. Bridge

- a. Description. The bridge is made of wood, at least 4-m (13-ft long), 1.5-m (5-ft) wide, and at least 20-cm (8-in.) in height at the center. The floor must not be slippery. The obstacle should be built with solid materials so that it is not a danger for the horse or rider. The bridge may be arched and may or may not have side rails. If there are side rails, they should be removable in case of an accident.
- b. Execution. The bridge must be crossed at a walk in the Ease of Handling phase. In the Speed phase, the bridge may be crossed at any speed, with or without touching it. The bridge may be crossed in both directions.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the transition to the walk, the quality and regularity of the walk, the straightness of the horse going over the bridge, and the confidence of the horse and rider in dealing with this obstacle. Points will be deducted if a horse shows any awkwardness, hesitation, or irregularity. Any gait other than walk will receive a negative mark (less than 5).

### 2. Figure 8

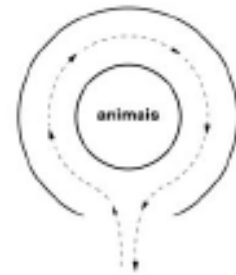
- a. Description. Two barrels (or similar upright items) are placed 3m (10 ft) apart on center.
- b. Execution. The horse passes between the barrels and performs a circle around the barrel to the right, passing back between the barrels with a change of direction to perform a complete circle around the left barrel. Upon completing the circle on the left hand side, it will pass halfway between the barrels and exit the obstacle. The circles must be uniform in size with the change of lead and direction on-center between the barrels. L1 thru L4: circles can be any size. L5 and L6: circles are 3m (10 ft) in diameter. The obstacle may also be performed in rein back for L5 and L6.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the straightness of the approach to the obstacle, correctness of the horse's posture during the change of canter, the passage half way between the barrels, the shape and symmetry of the circles, the horse's response to the aids, and the quality of the change of lead. A negative mark will be given if the rider fails to perform the change of lead. At L5 and L6, the judge will assign a negative mark if the rider fails to coincide the change of lead with the midpoint between the barrels.





### 3. Livestock Pen

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of a round enclosure approximately 7.5 m (25 ft) in diameter, with an entrance a minimum of 1.5-m (5-ft) wide. Inside the round enclosure is a smaller round fenced enclosure a minimum of 3 m (10 ft) in diameter meant to simulate a livestock pen. The corridor around the livestock pen should be 1.5-m wide.



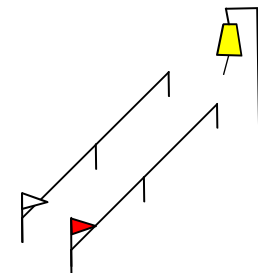
- b. Execution. The horse should enter the obstacle at a walk or canter, proceed around either to the right or the left, exit and perform a full turn, and re-enter the obstacle going in the opposite direction.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the horse's serenity and confidence, and the rider's serenity and use of aids in performing the obstacle.

### 4. Water Jug

- a. Description. A jug sits on top of a small table that is 1-m (3-ft) high.
- b. Execution. The rider approaches the table and halts with the rider's leg even with the table, lifts the jug and raises it above his/her head, and replaces the jug in its original place.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches and remains immobile next to the table without showing any fear and trusting the rider's use of aids. The jug, when placed on the table, must remain upright. Any jarring movement against the table will result in a lower score. A higher score will be awarded for approaching the table at canter rather than walk. If the jug is dropped, the score is 0 for L1 thru L4 competitors; L5 and L6 riders must dismount and retrieve the jug.

### 5. Corridor Bell

- a. Description. A corridor is made from two parallel poles approximately 4-m (13-ft) long, which are held up by supports approximately 0.3-m (1-ft) to 0.6-m (2-ft) high (the higher the support, the more difficult the obstacle). The supports are not set in the ground. The corridor is 1.5-m (5-ft) wide. A bell is placed at the end of the corridor, on the right side, 2-m (6.5-ft) high. The corridor may also take the form of an "L" or a "Z."



- b. Execution. The horse and rider enter the corridor at a walk or canter and halt at the end of the corridor. The rider rings the bell and, depending on the level, either moves the horse forward out of the obstacle (L1) or reins back through the corridor.



- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the horse's attitude, straightness, and collection; the immobility of the horse at the bell; the rider's use of aids; and the fluidity, continuity, and quality of the performance. A higher score will be awarded for performing the obstacle at canter rather than at walk. Failure of the horse to remain still will be penalized. Failure to ring the bell or knocking over any part of the obstacle will result in a negative score.

## 6. Remove Pole

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of a barrel and a pole 3 to 4 m in length (10 to 13 ft).
- b. Execution. The rider should approach the barrel and retrieve the pole without stopping and without the horse appearing to take any notice. The horse should advance at a steady gait and not demonstrate any unusual reaction to the appearance of the barrel or the rider's removal of the pole. The rider may circle the barrel one revolution before picking up the pole.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the obstacle, its reaction to the movement of the pole, and the relaxed manner in which the rider uses the pole. Any break or change of movement by the horse is penalized. Picking up the pole in a straight line will earn a higher score than circling the barrel while picking up the pole. Knocking down the barrel will result in a negative score. If the rider drops the pole, the score for the obstacle is 0 for L1 thru L3 competitors; L4 thru L6 riders must dismount and retrieve the pole.

## 7. Skewer Ring

- a. Description. The obstacle consists of a pole and a ring. (If using multiple rings, the rings can be set at varying heights.) The rings can be made out of wood, metal, or plastic and should be approximately 13-15 cm (5-6 in.) in diameter.
- b. Execution. With the tip of the pole the competitor must skewer the ring(s). The horse must maintain gait.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the obstacle, maintaining a good posture and not slowing down, and the fluidity with which the rider completes the exercise. Any break in the horse's movement with loss of fluidity will be penalized. Striking any part of the obstacle will result in a lower score. Skewering the ring is not nearly as important as the style/approach to the obstacle and the continuity of the horse and rider. Dropping the ring after picking it up will result in a negative score.

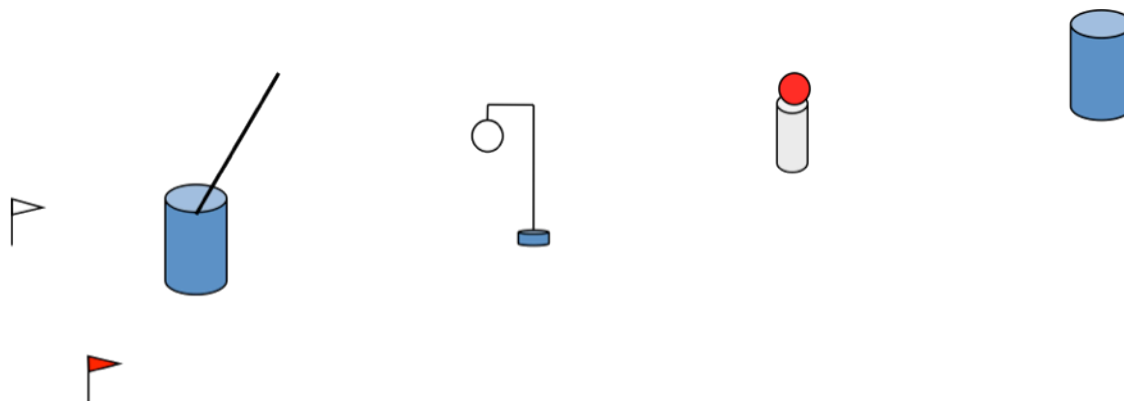


## 8. Knock Ball

- a. Description. The obstacle consists of a pole and balls of various sizes set at different heights. The balls should not be smaller than 15 cm (6 in.) in diameter.
- b. Execution. The competitor must knock down the balls from a base using the tip of the pole. The horse must maintain gait.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the obstacle, maintaining a good posture and not slowing down, and the fluidity with which the rider completes the exercise. Any break in the horse's movement with loss of fluidity will be penalized. Knocking the ball is not nearly as important as the style/approach to the obstacle and the continuity of the horse and rider. Striking any part of the obstacle or striking the ball with other than the tip of the pole will result in a lower score.

## 9. Replace Pole

- a. Description. The obstacle is a second barrel set some distance apart from the first barrel.
- b. Execution. The pole is deposited with the butt end down in the barrel. The rider may circle the barrel one revolution while depositing the pole.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the obstacle, its reaction to the movement of the pole, and the relaxed manner in which the rider uses the pole. Any break or change of movement by the horse will be penalized. Depositing the pole in a straight line will earn a higher score than circling the barrel. Knocking down the barrel will result in a negative score. If the rider drops the pole or if the pole bounces out of the barrel, the score for the obstacle is 0 for L1 thru L3 competitors; L4 thru L6 riders must dismount, retrieve the pole, remount and place it in the barrel. Riders are not required to pick up dropped rings or balls.



**Note:** Obstacles 6, 7, 8 and/or 9 can be combined as elements of one obstacle.

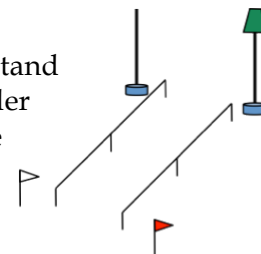


## 10. Switch Cup

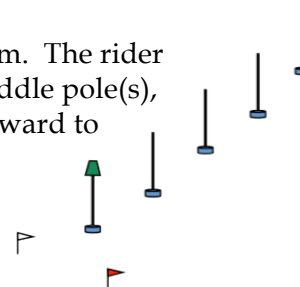
- a. Description. This obstacle consists of two or more bending poles that are 2 m (6.5 ft) in height, with an exterior base not set in the ground. A drinking cup is placed on the tip of one of the poles. The poles can be set in a variety of configurations.

b. Execution

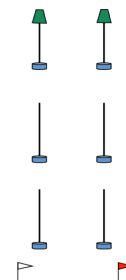
- (1) Two poles are set 1.3m (5 ft) apart at the end of a corridor, or can stand alone as one obstacle, with the cup on the right hand pole. The rider halts between the two poles, switches the cup from one pole to the other, and exits the obstacle. If a corridor is included, L2 thru L6 riders rein back through the corridor once the cup has been placed.



- (2) Three to five poles are set 5 m (20 ft.) apart in a single slalom. The rider picks up the cup from the first pole, weaves around the middle pole(s), and places the cup on the end pole. Level L1 continues forward to the next obstacle; L2 thru L6 riders rein back through the middle pole(s) and exit the obstacle at the entrance.



- (3) Two columns of three poles are set in straight lines with a distance of 4.5m (15 ft) between each pole. Cups are placed on the tip of the last poles for either right- or left-hand riders. The rider goes through the corridor of poles and stops between the end poles to retrieve the cup. The rider then reins back around a middle pole (RH riders on the RH pole; LH riders on the LH pole) and stops between the entrance flags to deposit the cup on the tip of the applicable first pole.

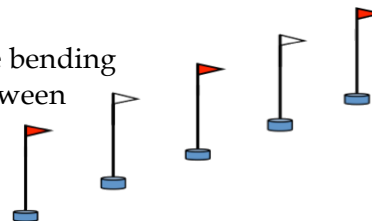


- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the fluency of the horse's movements and its response to the use of the aids, enabling the route to be performed with maximum smoothness and accuracy. Touching any of the poles will result in a negative score. If the rider drops the cup, the score for the obstacle is 0 for L1 thru L3 competitors; L4 thru L6 riders must dismount and retrieve the cup. If the pole that the cup is to be placed on is knocked down, the score for the obstacle is 0 for L1 thru L3 riders; L4 thru L6 riders must dismount and re-set the pole.



### 11. Single Pole Slalom

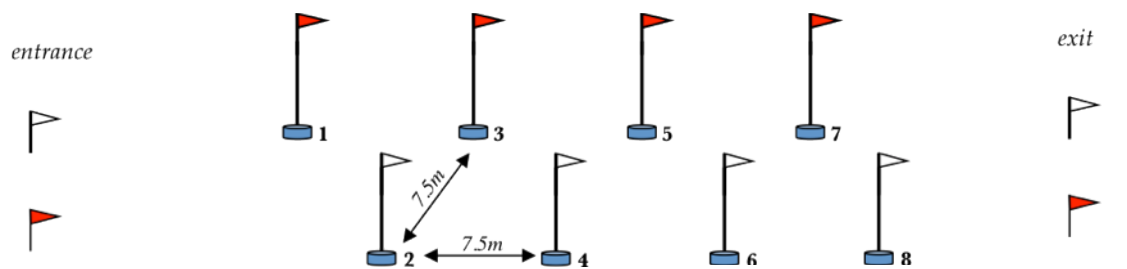
- a. Description. This obstacle consists of a minimum of five bending poles in a straight line with a distance of 7 m (~24 ft) between each pole for L1 thru L4, 6 m (~20 ft) for L5 and L6. The poles should be 2m (6.5 ft) in height, with an exterior base not set in the ground.



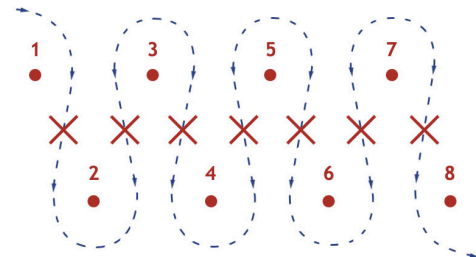
- b. Execution. The obstacle is entered at a canter. A change of lead (flying change or simple change) is to be executed at each change of direction, on the line midway between the poles. L1 riders trot through this obstacle.
- c. Assessment Criteria. The judge will evaluate the rider’s calm, precise action; fluid and continuous movement; overall manner in performing this obstacle; and the quality of the lead changes. Failure to perform lead changes will result in a negative mark.

### 12. Double Pole Slalom

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of a minimum of seven 2-m (6.5-ft.) high poles, each fixed to an outside base that is not secured to the ground. For L1 thru L4, the poles are laid out in two staggered parallel lines, with a distance of 7.5 m (~25 ft.) between the rows. The poles on each parallel line are 7.5 m (25 ft.) apart. For L5 and L6, the poles are 6 m apart.



- b. Execution. The horse will perform half turns around the poles, in the order indicated by the number or letter on each pole and in the direction indicated by the flags. Changes of lead are performed halfway between the poles.



- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the continuity of the action, harmony and precision of the horse’s movements, the rider’s use of aids, the way in which the changes of lead are performed, and the way in which the rider/horse maintain the prescribed configuration of the exercise. Knocking over poles or failure to complete lead changes will result in a negative mark.



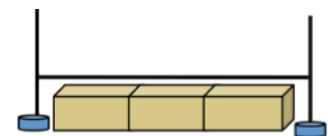


### 13. Gate

- a. Description. The obstacle is a gate at least 1.2 m (4-ft) high and 2-m (6.5-ft) wide, supported by two weighted posts (jump standards) and two hinges. The latch should be made of stiff wire or rope that can be easily operated from horseback. The gate can be opened to the right or left depending on how the flags are set. A rope between two posts can be used instead of a solid gate.
- b. Execution. The horse will canter up close to the gate and make its final approach at a walk. The horse is positioned step by step to the side of the gate (to the left or right, depending on the direction in which it opens). The rider may use either hand to lift the latch, open the gate, and go through the entrance without letting go of the gate. When the horse has fully exited the other side of the gate, the rider may back up one or two steps to close the gate. The rider will then put the latch in place to complete the obstacle. The rider should not let go of the gate in performance of this exercise. The obstacle may be required in both directions in levels L4 thru L6.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the horse's action which should be fluid and without any hesitation. The horse should pay attention to and participate in the opening and closing movements without showing any signs of insecurity or disobedience. The rider's action should be easy, precise, and free from hesitation. A negative score will be given if the rider lets go of the gate at any time during the execution of this obstacle, or if there is any sign of insecurity by the horse or rider or lack of continuity (fluidity) of the action.

### 14. Jump

- a. Description. The obstacle consists of three or four bales of hay (or straw) placed between two upright jump standards. The standards support one jump pole just above the top of the bales. Any solid-looking natural object that does not exceed approximate hay bale size may be used (22 in. x 42 in. x 15 in.).



- b. Execution. The horse must arrive at the obstacle straight and with impulsion and jump the obstacle cleanly.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the obstacle, the smoothness of the route, and the bascule over the jump. Knocking over any part of the obstacle will result in a negative score.



## 15. Sidestep (Side Pass) over Pole

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of a 4-m (~ 12-ft) pole resting on supports approximately 10-cm (4-in.) high. To increase the degree of difficulty, a second or third pole can be added to form an "L", a "Z", or other configuration. Two poles can be parallel to one another.
- b. Execution. The horse approaches perpendicular to the pole, either on the right or left side depending on course design, and walks in a lateral movement with the pole between the horse's front and back legs.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the horse's calmness, capacity to perform the obstacle, crossing of the legs, and the fluidity and continuity of the action. A bend in the direction of the movement will garner a higher score than if the horse is bent away from the movement. A negative mark will be given for touching or knocking over the pole or if the pole gets between the horse's front feet or back feet.

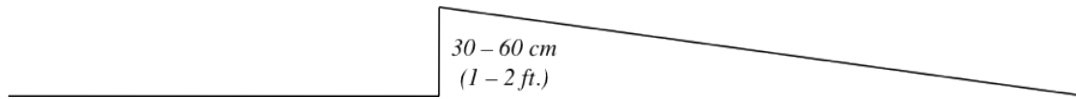
## 16. Water Ditch

- a. Description. The ditch should be a minimum of 1.5 m (5 ft.) in the direction of travel (long), and a minimum of 2.4 m (8 ft.) wide. The ditch may be flat to a depth of up to 15 cm (6 in.) or gently sloping to a maximum depth of 45 cm (18 in.). The ditch should never be more than 2 ft. deep.
- b. Execution. The horse should approach and maintain gait through the ditch naturally and without any hesitation.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the ditch, its reaction when going through the water, and the consistency of gait throughout the exercise.



### 17. Bank Jump

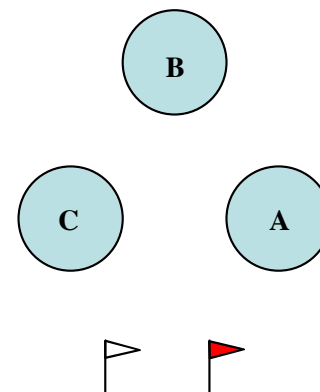
- a. Description. The obstacle consists of a level plateau at least 2 m (6 to 8 ft.) wide leading to an embankment of natural substance positioned not more than 30 to 60 cm (1 to 2 ft.) above ground level, terminating in a ramp back to normal ground level.



- b. Execution. The horse should approach and maintain the chosen gait through the obstacle naturally and without any hesitation. The obstacle can be executed in either direction.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the bank, the smoothness of the jump, the consistency of gait throughout the exercise, and confidence in the rider’s instructions.

### 18. Cloverleaf

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of three barrels positioned at the three points of an equilateral triangle with 3 to 4-m. (10-13 ft) sides measured from the center of the barrels.



- b. Execution. The horse enters at a canter between barrels A & C and makes a full circle to the right around barrel A; proceeds to barrel B with a change of lead over the imaginary line between A & B and makes a left turn around barrel B; and then proceeds to barrel C with a change of lead along the imaginary line between B & C.

The horse makes a full circle to the right, around barrel C, and exits at the same point from which the exercise began. Another version of this same obstacle is to reverse positions of barrels A and C, and perform the maneuver starting on a circle to the left around barrel A and finishing with a left-hand circle around barrel C.

The objective of this obstacle is to show ease-of-handling and the capacity to perform in tight areas while also maintaining impulsion and cadence in the canter.

- c. Assessment Criteria. The judge will evaluate the horse’s posture, effectiveness of the rider’s aids, cadence, continuity of action, fluidity of performance, and correctness of the lead changes.



**The following obstacles are representative of traditional  
cattle handling methods used in the United States.  
They are not used in international competitions.**

**19. Move Sack**

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of two tables or platforms set some distance apart, each being 1- 1.5m (3-4 ft.) high. A sack containing items not to exceed 4.5 kg (10 lbs) is set on one of the tables. The sack should be made of natural material such as burlap, canvas, or cotton (not a plastic trash bag).
- b. Execution. The rider picks up the sack from element A, continues forward and sets the sack down on element B at the gait designated on the course map. L1 and L2 riders may halt to pick up/set down the sack.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the obstacle, its reaction to the movement of the sack, and its response to the aids to enable the route to be performed with maximum smoothness.

**20. Varied Footing**

- a. Description. Any variety of natural, safe, uneven or textured footing may be used. Sample footings include shavings, sand, bark, wet sand/soil, grass, straw, light brush, gravel, asphalt, rubber mats, wood sheeting, or heavy material/tarps. The obstacle should be a minimum of 2 m x 4 m (6 x 13 ft.).
- b. Execution. The rider will enter the obstacle at a walk, cross at a walk, and proceed at the chosen gait upon exiting.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the horse's calmness and confidence in negotiating the obstacle, exhibiting care and consideration of the varied terrain.



## 21. Drag Item

a. Description. The obstacle consists of:

- (1) An item to drag, which should resemble objects found in the field such as a log, a weighted skid, or a weighted sack.
- (2) One or two tables, barrels, or upright structures approximately 1m (3 to 4 ft.) high.
- (3) A standard lariat (lasso, reata, rope), a minimum of 6-7m (20-ft.) long. The coiled free end is positioned on the first table. The loop end is securely attached to the drag item.

The drag may be in a straight line from table 1 to table 2, a “U” from table 1 around a cone and back to table 1, a circle around table 1, a serpentine through cones, or other pattern as designated.

- b. Execution. Rider will halt at the first table, pick up the rope, and drag the item in the designated pattern. Rider will then coil the rope and place it on the designated table. Competitors using saddles with horns may dally the rope.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the manner in which the horse approaches the obstacle, its reaction to the movement of the dragged item, and its response to the aids to enable the route to be performed with maximum smoothness.

## 22. Cattle Sorting

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of two contiguous holding pens, each approximately 4 to 8 m (12 to 30 ft) on each side. The fence panels will be 1.5 to 2 m. (4 to 6 ft.) high, with at least one exterior entrance gate on each side and one sifting gate in between, all of which can be operated from horseback. Two to four cattle will be in one of the pens.
- b. Execution. The rider will open the entry gate to pen 1, enter, and then close the gate. Rider will open the sifting gate between the two pens and herd the cattle through from pen 1 to pen 2, following and closing the sifting gate. The rider will then open and exit through the exterior entry gate to pen 2. L2 riders are only required to walk through the pens, not move cattle from one pen to the other.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate the smoothness and harmony of the operation, including the rider’s ability to complete the exercise with the cattle remaining calm.



### 23. Throw Rope

- a. Description. This obstacle consists of a coiled standard lariat (lasso, reata, rope) between 9 – 16 m (30 – 50 ft.) long. The lariat will be hung or set on a table-like structure approximately 1 m (3 to 4 ft.) high. A three-dimensional artificial cow target is positioned approximately 3 – 6 m (10 – 20 ft.) away. The target must have an obvious ‘head’ such as a plastic roping steer.
- b. Execution. The rider will halt next to the table, pick up the lariat, make a loop swinging a minimum of three revolutions, and throw the loop at the target. Rider may make three attempts to catch the target. Once completed, the rider will set the remaining coils back on the table, and then rein back until clear of the obstacle.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). Higher scores will be awarded to riders who lasso the target in the fewest attempts. A rider who fails to lasso the target will receive a minimal score.

### 24. Ground Tie

- a. Description. A specific location in the arena is identified by a set of cones, ground rails, or a chalk line defining a square at least 3m x 3m (10 x 10 ft). A mounting block is optional.
- b. Execution. The rider will halt in the square, fix his/her reins according to the tradition represented by their tack and attire (e.g., reins or ‘get-down’ rope may be dropped on the ground), and dismount. Rider will walk a full circle around the horse, maintaining a minimum of 3 m (10 ft.) distance from the horse. The rider may not hold the reins or touch the horse during the course of the circle; if the rider touches the horse or the reins during the course of the circle, he/she must restart the circle. Upon completion of the circle the rider will then remount and exit the obstacle.
- c. Assessment Criteria (EOH). The judge will evaluate quietness, steadiness, and immobility of the horse in the execution of this obstacle. Any touching of the horse or the reins during the course of the circle will receive a lower score.