



Planning Your Show Schedule

Here's a list of recommended time allotments to help you plan your show day.

Start of the Day Announcements and National Anthem – 10 min

Breaks – 10 minutes per 2-hour judging

Course Set Up – 30 minutes each (Dressage, Ease of Handling); 10-20 minutes Speed and 45 min Cattle

Course Walks – Ease of Handling and Speed – 30 minutes (15 minutes minimum, first horse on deck 15 minutes after course closes)

Lunch – 30-60 minutes

Protests - If a rider has a dispute about a run, she/he must submit a protest in writing within the protest filing time allotment. If a protest is filed, the Protest Committee (Judge, TD and Show Manager) must issue a ruling within 2 hours of submission; the show will be put on hold until that time. If a protest is upheld, the Protest Committee must issue a statement to that effect and correct the posting of any scores and/or results affected by the ruling, or allow a re-ride if that is the determination.

Awards – 30 minutes. To speed up the awards ceremony, have the awards organized by division and performance level ahead of time

Recommended Ride Time Allocation – Use the ride time allocation chart (below) to plan your show's entry order/start list - this includes 'transition times' between riders to allow sufficient time (per trial) for each rider-horse pair to enter the arena and complete their ride. For those using the GIRA online scoring/placement program, ride time recommendations are already factored into GIRA's Start List.

RECOMMENDED RIDE TIME ALLOCATION				
Performance Level	Dressage	Ease of Handling	Speed	Cattle
L1 Introductory	8 minutes	10 minutes	Not eligible	Not eligible
L2 Novice A	8 minutes	10 minutes	5 minutes	10 minutes per rider
L3-L7 Novice B - Masters	8 minutes	8-10 minutes		

Course Setup – plan on 20-30 minutes for each course setup if you only have one arena and need to set up Dressage, Ease of Handling and Speed courses between trials. Plan on at least 45 min for Cattle trial setup (including herd settling); ensure the cattle supplier has a list of cattle ear tag#s for your Judge.

Performance Level Changes – plan on 5–10 minutes for performance level course changes between each Ease of Handling and Speed course. Note: Course Design can significantly play into the course reset timeline, a well-designed course that has minimal adjustments between performance levels is fast to reset and takes minimal crew.

Course Walks – plan on offering a 15- to 30-minute window each for Ease of Handling and Speed course walk; then no less than 15 minutes for the first horse to be on deck and start each trial (per 6.5 US Rules for Working Equitation). The Judge or Technical Delegate will signal the arena's opening and closing.

When you have a lot of new rider-horse pairs at your event, it's a good idea to allot more time (30-45 minutes) for the course walk to give the judge the chance to provide a lot of explanations to new riders.

Other options include: Scheduling a course walk to take place just prior to the lunch break, with the goal being to give people the opportunity to walk the course, then grab some food, then saddle/warm up (this also gives the officials sufficient time to rest up between Dressage and EOH). In multi-day shows, it is sometimes most advantageous to have the course walk take place late in the day after all the Dressage rides are done -- so that the next morning, everyone can start fresh with the EOH trial.



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Course Closing - plan no less than 15 minutes after Ease of Handling and Speed course walk for the first horse to be on deck and start each trial (per 6.5 US Rules for Working Equitation). Recommend including the following statement on your Entry Order/Start List:

Competitors may not school on the course at any time. No competitor may remain in the arena after the closing signal has been given. The trial will begin no less than 15 minutes later.

Entry Order – An inverse order of performance level is recommended as it allows advanced riders to ride first, novice riders opportunities to settle their horse and watch the higher-level riders and allocates less ‘down’ time for L1 riders waiting for their awards.

The Show Secretary and/or Technical Delegate draw numbers to determine the entry order. Once finalized, the Show Secretary will post the entry order and/or make it available to all competitors at least 2 hours before the start of each trial. Course maps for EOH and Speed must be posted at the same time.

For championship competitions, the entry order for EOH and Speed trials is the inverse of the placing at the time of the trials. The Show Secretary will maintain the entry order and adjust it as necessary for conflicts involving riders with several horses. It is recommended that licensed competitions follow this entry order process, but they have the option to use the same entry order for all trials. Any competitor who competes with multiple horses is entitled to at least 20 minutes between rides. A competitor entering three or more horses in a division/level waives the right to the minimum time between rides.

The Gate Steward inspects each competitor before and after the trial, verifying that equipment, tack, and attire are in accordance with requirements. Competitors with inappropriate equipment/attire will be given the opportunity to correct the deficiency and will be placed at the end of the scheduled ride order (per 3.9 US Rules for Working Equitation).

If you choose to list specific horse-rider ride times, recommend including the following statement on your Entry Order/Start List (per 4.2 US Rules for Working Equitation):

Ride times are not required; if listed, time is considered tentative. It is the rider’s responsibility to know the entry order and monitor the progress of the trial to ensure they are ready at the gate when called. Competitors have 60 seconds to appear at the gate after being called or will be disqualified.

Protests - if a protest is filed, the TD must notify the Judge and Show Manager immediately. The Protest Committee (Judge, TD and Show Manager) must issue a ruling within 2 hours of submission; the show will be put on hold until that time. If a protest is upheld, the Protest Committee must issue a statement to that effect and correct the posting of any scores and/or results affected by the ruling, or allow a re-ride if that is the determination.

Protests must be filed no later than (NLT)

Eligibility of horse or competitor	NLT 1 hour before start of competition
Condition of dressage arena	NLT 1 hour before start of trial
EOH/Speed: Obstacle, length of course, condition of course	NLT 15 minutes before start of relevant trial
Dressage/EOH/Speed: Irregularities or incidents during the competition, or scoring (except as noted below)	As soon as possible, but NLT 30 minutes after publishing the results of the relevant test
Cattle: Irregularities or incidents during the competition	As soon as possible, but NLT 30 minutes after the ride
Mathematical or transcription errors in scoring	NLT 1 hour after posting the results.