

Hope Haven

Fall Invitational 2026

October 26th - 31st , 2026

Video Competition Guidelines

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Overview:

Hope Haven Video Competitions provide equestrians of all (dis)abilities and diverse needs an opportunity for competition in the comfort of their home facility and with their familiar mount. A unique advantage of our competitions is that we provide a list of compensating aids allowed to assist individuals with intellectual disabilities as well as physical impairments to reach the highest level of independence.

Note: Due to the nature of video competitions, our classes follow basic set up requirements in order to be accessible to all centres.

Divisions Offered:

1. **Open Division** - all ages and abilities.
2. **Special Olympics Division** - competitors must be registered on a Special Olympics Equestrian team that has been recognized by their provincial SO organization.

Division Levels:

There are 6 division levels offered in each of the above divisions. See page 4 for a full description and how to choose what level is appropriate for you or your competitor.

Classes Offered:

1. Dressage
2. Equitation Over Fences
3. Time Trials (Mounted)
4. Time Trials (Unmounted)

Awards:

Ribbons will be awarded to the top 8 places in each class under each division level. Results will be finalized and posted on our website when the judging of all classes and divisions is complete.

How To Enter:

1. Thoroughly read through this competition package which includes how to determine a competitor's division and division level, class rules, judging considerations, video requirements and class set-up.
2. Solidify with your coach/instructor both the division as well as the division level you will be competing in.
3. Video your class(es) you are entering according to the video guidelines, class set up and pattern requirements provided. Each class entry must have a separate video.
4. Upload your video(s) onto your YouTube account, format title as follows:
   Last Name, First Initial - Horse - Class # - Division Level - Month/Year
   Example: Smith, J - Princess - 3O - BI - 6/23
5. Complete the Online Entry Form; includes waiver and uploading of video links. Entries will be accepted between **October 26th - October 31st , 2026**.

General Rules:

1. Must wear an approved safety helmet for all mounted and unmounted classes.
2. Must wear boots with heels or use enclosed toe stirrups.
3. Halter over bridle or cavesson with fixed ring to be used for supported riders on lead.
4. Competitors must compete in the same division and division level across all entered classes.
5. Different competitors may use the same horse.
6. Assistance (verbal comments, physical prompts, sounds, gestures) from coach, leaders or sidewalkers will result in penalties unless an allowed compensating aid is being utilized (eg. living letters or advanced caller).
7. Compensating aids used must be indicated on competitor entry form in space provided (see allowed compensating aids on page 10).
8. Spotters can be placed strategically for independent riders within the ring.
9. Coaches should not act as leaders or sidewalkers for their own athlete but may act as an "Advanced Caller" (see compensating aid chart for explanation).

Divisions:

1. Open Division
2. Special Olympics Division

Division Levels:

The athlete's coach is required to determine what division level their athlete falls into and therefore what classes they are appropriate to enter. All decisions on division levels are in good faith and should portray where the rider is the **most independent**. In particular for supported riders, the leaders should be primarily considered a safety, and as much as possible the rider should show their ability to make transitions, steer and sustain paces.

Level	Gaits Required	Level of Independence	Description
A	Walk/Trot/Canter	Independent	No assistance
BI	Walk/Trot	Independent	No assistance
BS	Walk/Trot	Supported	Requires a horse leader and/or physical support of 1 or 2 sidewalkers. Has ability to help with transitions and steering, **is almost independent at trot.**
CI	Walk	Independent	No assistance
CS	Walk	Supported	Requires a horse leader and/or physical support of 1 or 2 sidewalkers.
UM	Walk Unmounted	Independent or supported	May be supported by another person, for safety, by the use of a long lead on the opposite side of participant. Influence of horse from support person will be penalized.

Note: There are 6 division levels: A, BI, BS, CI, CS, UM. See full breakdown in chart below:

Classes Offered Per Division Level:

Class	A	BI	BS	CI	CS	UM
Dressage	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Equitation over Fences	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Time Trials (Mounted)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Time Trials (Unmounted)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Class Information & Requirements:

Class #1 - Dressage:

- **Class #1a -** Dressage - Open Division
- **Class #1b -** Dressage - Special Olympics Division

Division Levels:

- A, BI, CI, CS

Rules:

- All dressage tests may be called; movements may only be called twice as written in the test, any further repetition or cuing is considered unauthorized assistance. No use of headset unless listed as a compensating aid for hearing impaired.
- Use of voice, including clucking, is permissible.
- Trot may be ridden sitting or rising.

Judging:

- You will receive a judges card once results are posted for a full score breakdown.

Video Requirements:

- Video must be taken from **C**.
- If using a phone, make sure to shoot it horizontally. Zoom must remain fixed for the entire class, panning of camera allowed to keep rider in center of the shot.
- Horse and rider must remain in the camera view when riding in corners
- Start recording 5 seconds prior to entering at **A** and 5 seconds after the halt at the end of the test.

Set Up:

- 40m x 20m arena
- All letters marked at correct locations

Dressage Class Tests:

Both the Open Division and the Special Olympics Division will use **Level 3 Dressage Tests** indicated below:

***Please refer to your division level below and click on the corresponding test requirements:**

- **Division Level A:** **2026 HH Fall Invitational Dressage Class: Walk Trot Canter Test**
- **Division Level BI:** **2026 HH Fall Invitational Dressage Class: Walk/Trot Test**
- **Division Level CI & CS:** **2026 HH Fall Invitational Dressage Class: Walk Test**

Class #2 - Equitation Over Fences Class:

Course Set-Up and Level Instructions: Refer to Appendix A (page 11) for course diagram and page 12 for class/division instructions**.**

- **Class #2a -** Equitation Over Fences - Open Division
- **Class #2b -** Equitation Over Fences - Special Olympics Division

***Note:** Due to the nature of video competitions, the Equitation Over Fences Class is limited to 6 fences with basic set up requirements in order to be accessible to all centres.

Division Levels:

- A, BI, BS, CI, CS

Division Level Requirements:

- **CS & CI Levels** - Walk a course of 6 ground poles
- **BI Level** - Trot a course of 6 ground or raised poles (30cm or less)
- **BS Level** - Trot a course of 6 ground poles while supported
- **A Level** - Canter a course of 6 fences, 30cm crossrails or verticals (-10 point deduction if ground poles are used).

  ***Note:** Courtesy circle of approximately 15-20 metres at A permitted and advised for all levels.

Rules:

- Wraps and boots on horses legs are permitted and advised.
- No whips or crops (unless listed as a compensating aid - see page 9).
- No spurs

Equitation Over Fences Class - Judging:

- Each pole/fence is marked out of 10 points.
- Emphasis on the rider position and effectiveness of the rider while navigating their horse around the course
- Scoring based on correctness of rider position over jump (two-point), accuracy of course, approach/straightness to jump, use of corners , and responsiveness of horse to rider's aids.
- Please submit entries of the full completed course in the correct sequence of fences/ground poles.

Faults & deductions: (Each fence will be scored out of 10)

- Knocking down obstacle or knocking ground pole = **-2 per occurrence**
- First refusal = **-3**; second refusal = **-3**; third refusal = **elimination**
- Off course = **elimination.**
- **A level riders**: jumps may be moved down to ground poles for a **-10 point deduction overall**
- No attempt at two-point position = **-5 per fence**
- 3 strides over allotted gait for that division = **-5 per occurrence**
- Use of a crop or whip (other than as a compensating aid - see page 10) will result in a **-10 deduction overall.**
- Use of spurs will result in **elimination.**
- Unfair use or overuse of these aids will result in **elimination.**

Equitation Over Fences - Class Video Requirements:

- **Video taken from letter A**. If using a phone, make sure to shoot it horizontally. Zoom must remain fixed for the entire class, panning of camera allowed to keep rider in center of the shot.
- Start recording at least 5-10 sec before fence # 1, stop recording 5-10 sec after fence #6 (to allow for approach, finish, and courtesy circles to be recorded).

Equitation Over Fences - Course Set-up Requirements:

*Please refer to the following for course set-up requirements;

- **Course Set-Up =** Appendix A (see page 11) **NOT TO SCALE**
- Refer to **Appendix A - Equitation Over Fences** for diagram & instructions
- A fenced or enclosed arena ofApprox 25m x 45m required
- Fences to be set at the following verticals for each division:
  - **A** = 30 cm crossrails (if moved to ground poles, a -10 deduction will be applied)
  - **BI & BS** = ground poles or raised poles (30 cm or less)
  - **CI & CS** = ground poles **only**

Class #3 -Mounted Speed Trials Class (Timed):

- **Class #3a -** Mounted Speed Trials - Open Division
- **Class #3b -** Mounted Speed Trials - Special Olympics Division

Division Levels:

- A, BI, BS CI, CS

Course Set-Up and Level Instructions: Refer to **Appendix B1** and **Appendix B2** (page 13 & 14) and class instructions (pages 15)

Rules:

- No crops or whips (unless listed as a compensating aid - see page 10).
- No spurs.
- Horse must be in movement through the start/finish line.

Judging and Scoring:

- All riders will complete the 2 designated races (i.e. time trials).
- Each race will be timed individually. **The two race times will then be added together for a total overall time to determine placings in this class.**
- **+2 second penalty for**:
    - Hitting/knocking barrel (per occurence)
- **+3 second penalty for:**
    - knocking over a barrel (per occurence)
- **+5 second penalty for:**
    - Interference or aid from volunteer/coach
    - Performing 3 strides over the allotted gait for that division (per occurrence)
    - No visible effort by rider to steer the course or to control pace of horse
- **Elimination for:**
    - Failure to follow set race course
    - Failure to show the start and finish times on screen during videotaping.
    - Failure to cross start/finish line between markers at designated gate/pace.
    - Excessive use of legs/crop/whip as determined by judge

***Note:** In the event of a tie, the judge will determine which rider used their aides more correctly to help their horse navigate the race cleanly and effectively.

Mounted Time Trials (Races) - Class Video Requirements:

- Video must be filmed from **A.** If using a phone, make sure to shoot it **horizontally.**
- **Zoom must remain fixed for the entire class**, panning of camera allowed to keep rider in center of the shot.
- Video must show a stop watch or phone timer on screen and commence timing as the horse/rider crosses the start line.
- Horse must be in movement through the start/finish line.
- Timer starts and stops when the horse's nose passes the marked start/finish line.
- Video must show finish time immediately after the rider crosses the finish line on the same timer/stop watch.

Class #4 - Unmounted Time Trials Class (Timed):

- **Class #4a - Unmounted Games - Open Division**
- **Class #4b - Unmounted Games - Special Olympics Division**

Division Levels:

- UM

***Unmounted Class Instructions:** Athletes must safely lead their horse through the timed courses and complete each race thereby meeting their division level requirements**.**

Note: The same rules and requirements for the Mounted Time Trials Class apply to the Unmounted Time Trials Class.

Mounted/Unmounted Time Trials Class - Course Set-up Requirements:

- Refer to Appendix B-1/B-2 (page 13&14) for the **Mounted/Unmounted Time Trials Class** course set-up and page 15 for class instructions. (**Note: Diagrams not to scale**).
- An enclosed or fenced arena of approximately 20m x 40m or more is required**.**

Compensating Aids:

All aids listed below are for use in all classes as deemed appropriate.

Intellectual Disabilities

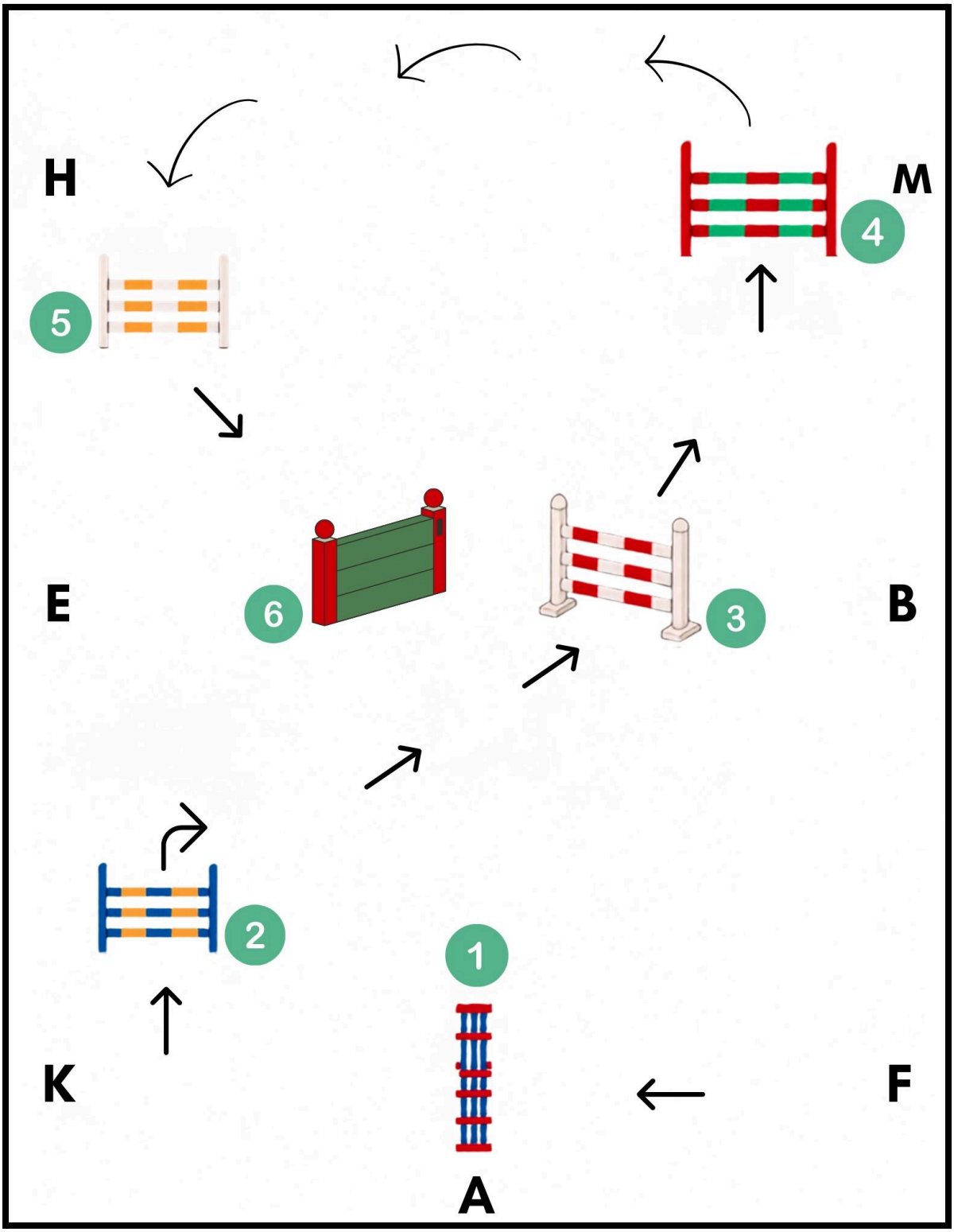
Memory	-Everyone with an ID allowed a caller -Numbering of jumps or elements
Spatial Awareness (unmarked transition points (eg. x), lines, circles, corners)	Pylons, shavings, poles (minimal)
Left-Right Confusion	Bracelets on wrists, coloured ribbons on reins
Obtaining Correct Rein Length	Rainbow reins or looped reins
Illiterate with letters	Animal pictures or colours at letters
Requires specific, 1 step instructions (unable to complete more complex instruction such as "20m circle at A")	"Advanced caller" - coach walking near rider to call 1 step instructions such as transitions, turns and other physical steps needed to complete task. (eg. turn left, halt, walk on, 2 -point)

Physical Disabilities

Visually impaired	Living letters or elements
Hearing Impaired	- Cue cards in place of verbal calling: (1=walk 2=sitting trot 3=posting trot 4=canter 0=reverse stop sign=halt) - Headset for caller - ASL interpreter for caller
Limited use of legs	- 1 or 2 Dressage whips - Use of voice
Difficulty maintaining grip on reins	Looped, rubber, ladder
Positioning needs or safety of hand hold	Pad and surcingle options
Balance deficits	-Hard hand hold - Use of voice -Sticky seat saver/gel pad -Hands off spotter follow as sidewalker
Sensory impairment in saddle region	Seat saver

Appendix A

Equitation Over Fences Course



Equitation Over Fences Class Instructions:

***Please refer to Appendix A above (page 11) for course set-up diagram.**

Level CI/CS (Supported) Instructions:

- Courtesy circle on right rein at **A** (approx 10-15m) to start and finish the course
- Walk entire course of ground poles, with two-point position over each pole
- **Hold two-point position between jumps 2&3 and jumps 5&6**

Level BI/BS (Supported) Instructions:

- Courtesy circle on right rein at **A** (approx. 15m) to start and finish the course at the trot
- Trot entire course of ground or raised poles, with two-point position over each jump
- **Hold two-point position between jumps 2&3 and jumps 5&6**

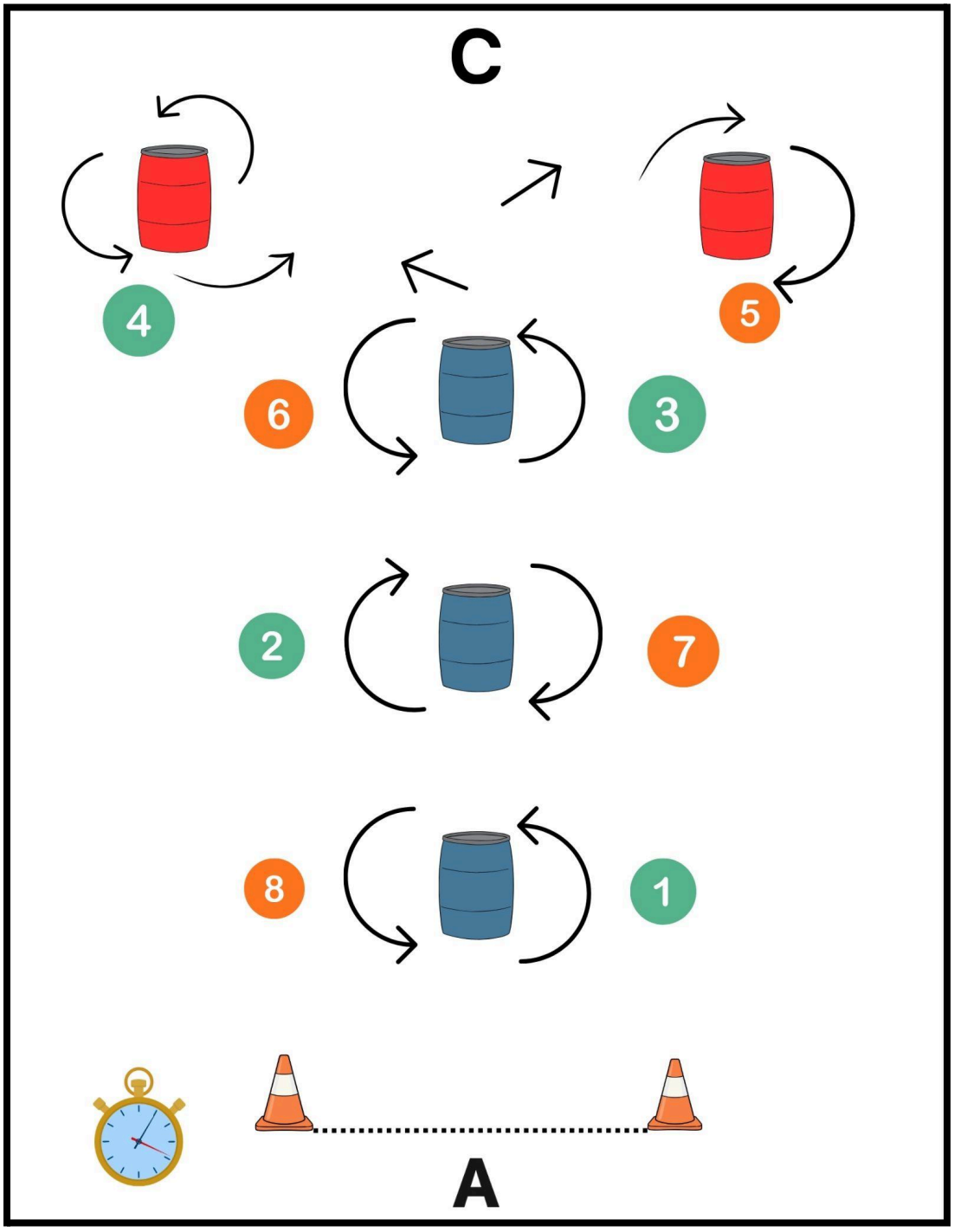
Level A Instructions:

- Courtesy circle on right rein at **A** (approx 15-20m) to start the course, developing the canter.
- Courtesy circle on right rein at **A** (approx 15-20m) to finish the course at the trot**.**
- Canter entire course of cross rails or raised poles (30cm), with 2-point position over each jump
- **Hold two-point position between jumps 2&3 and jumps 5&6**
- **A level riders:** jumps may be moved down to ground poles for a **-10 point deduction overall**

Appendix B-1

Time Trials: Course #1

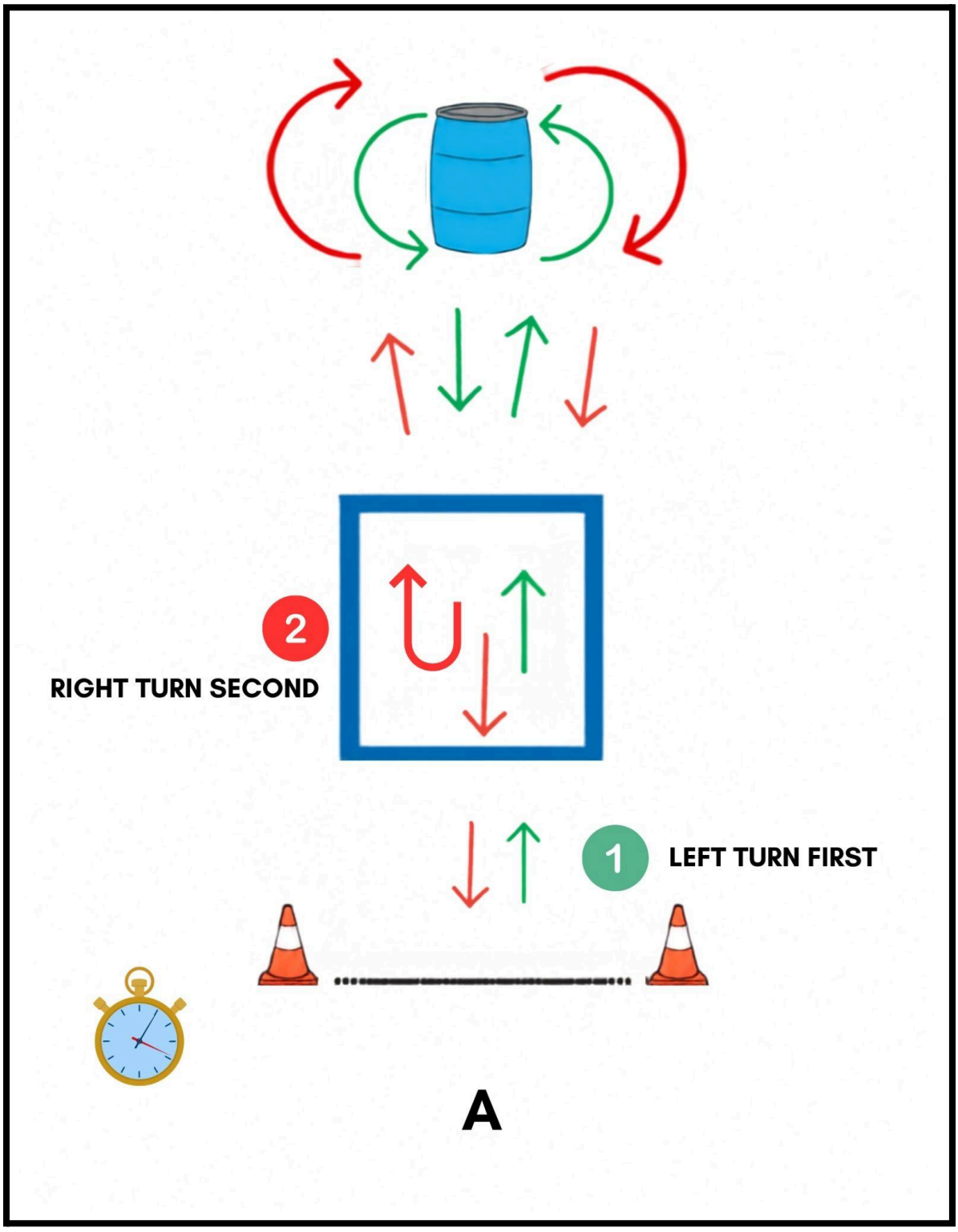
THE BIG "T" SPEED RACE (TIMED)



Appendix B-2

Time Trials Course #2

THE HOPE HAVEN HUSTLE (TIMED)



Time Trials Class (Timed) - Diagrams and Instructions:

*Please refer to Appendix B-1 and B-2 above (page 13&14) for the course set-up diagram and instructions (page 15).

NOTE: The two individual races will be timed separately. Then the two race times (minus any penalties) will be added together for a cumulative total time. **The cumulative time will determine the placings in this class.**

- Horse must be in movement through the start/finish line.
- Timer starts and stops when the horse's nose passes the marked start/finish line.

A.) Course #1: The Big "T" Speed (Timed)

1. At designated gait, cross over Start Line at **A** to activate timer.
2. Weave through barrels towards **C** in the pattern outlined in Appendix B-1 (**Note**: pylons or poles may be used as a substitute for barrels).
3. Left turn around barrel at **H.**
4. Right turn around barrel at **M.**
5. Weave through barrels towards **A** in the pattern outlined in **Appendix B-1**
6. At designated gait, cross over Finish Line at **A** to stop timer.
7. The timer must be shown in the video when it starts at beginning of the course and when it stops at finish line.

B.) Course #2: The Hope Haven Hustle (Timed)

1. At designated gait, cross over Start Line at **A** to activate timer.
2. Pass through the "box" at **X** (marked by ground poles, pylons or barrels) and continue at the designated gate towards **C** . (Refer to **Appendix B-2**)
3. Left turn around barrel/ pylon placed at **C.**
4. At the designated gate, return to the box at **X** and do a **180 degree U-TURN**. And head back to barrel placed at **C.**
5. At designated gait, pass through "box" area towards finish line at A
6. Cross over finish line to stop timer.
7. Weave through barrels towards **A** in the pattern outlined in Appendix B-1
8. At designated gait, cross over Finish Line at **A** to stop timer.
9. The timer must be shown in the video when it starts at beginning of the course and when it stops at finish line.