



PLTA Pack Trial Requirements Reference Sheet

March 22, 2026

General Requirements

	Basic	Advanced	Master	Elite
Number of Trials	2	3 – 4	3 – 4	2
Minimum age	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years
Allowable Deductions	5	3	2	2
Total # Obstacles	5	10	15	20
Miles ¹	3	5	8	10
Elevation Gain	250 – 500	750 - 1000	1500 – 2000	2500 - 3000
Units of Effort ²	4 – 5	8 – 9	14 – 16	20 – 22

¹Distance may be substituted for elevation gain at a rate of 1 mile per 250 feet.

²See PLTA Pack Trial Handbook, Section 3.1: A Useful Tool for Calculating Distance/Elevation Gain

Field Test Obstacle Requirements

Basic		Advanced		Master		Elite	
Category	Obstacle	Category	Obstacle	Category	Obstacle	Category	Obstacles
1	any	1	Deadfall	1	Deadfall	Preferably all categories represented	7 obstacles
2	any	1	Rubble	1	Rubble		
3	any	2	H ₂ O if possible	2	H ₂ O if possible		
4	any	3	any	3	Any	Single Category	7 obstacles
any	any	4	any	4	Brush		
		5	any	5	Any	Combinations from 2 or more categories.	13 obstacles
		choice a	any	6	foot inspection		
		choice b	any	Combinations from 2 or more	8 obstacles		
		choice c	Any				

Field Test Obstacle Categories

Category	Definition	Examples
1. Picking One's Way	Move through material that obscures and complicates footing	Deadfall, slash, rock rubble, dense deep grass
2. Foot Fear	Walk through a medium into which the feet sink.	Water, mud, deep loose sand, cinder or gravel, soft snow 8" – 12" deep
3. Up/Down/Across	Extend stride to climb or stretch (16" – 24" up or down, no specs for across)	High step up, low step down, log, ditch
4. Tight Places	A space that allows limited room to maneuver	Brush, tunnel, duck under, weave, back & turn, squeeze
5. Slippery Slope	A slope of greater than 45 degrees that has loose footing and which may cause load shift	Steep slope up, steep slope down, across steep slope with narrow (8") tread
6. Load Management	Handling of tack or llama's body, exclusive of head and halter	Top-loading, accessing pannier, cinch adjustment, bug spray, foot inspection, rain cover
7. Trail Hazard	Unexpected trail conditions	Structures, debris, livestock, people, pets, machines



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Manageability Test Requirements	
Individual Llamas	String Llamas
Haltering	Saddling
Load & Unload	Pannier Attachment
Picketing (5 min. on 16' lead)	String tie-in
Saddling	
Pannier Attachment	

Load Requirements

Weight	Basic ¹	Advanced	Master	Elite
	10%	15%	20%	25%
250	25.0	37.5	50.0	62.5
260	26.0	39.0	52.0	65.0
270	27.0	40.5	54.0	67.5
280	28.0	42.0	56.0	70.0
290	29.0	43.5	58.0	72.5
300	30.0	45.0	60.0	75.0
310	31.0	46.5	62.0	77.5
320	32.0	48.0	64.0	80.0
330	33.0	49.5	66.0	82.5
340	34.0	51.0	68.0	85.0
350	35.0	52.5	70.0	87.5
360	36.0	54.0	72.0	90.0
370	37.0	55.5	74.0	92.5
380	38.0	57.0	76.0	95.0
390	39.0	58.5	78.0	97.5
400	40.0	60.0	80.0	100.0

¹Basic Llamas between 2 and 2.5 years carry no load other than saddle and empty panniers

Elevation Adjustment for Mileage Changes

Distance	Elevation Adjustment			
	Basic	Advanced	Master	Elite
2	500			
3	250			
3.5	125			
4	0	1000		
5		750		
6		500	2000	
7		250	1750	
8		0	1500	3000
9			1250	2750
10			750	2500
11			500	2250
12			250	2000
13			0	1750
14				1500
15				1250
16				1000
17				750
18				500
19				250
20				0

Highlighted elevation indicates standard requirement. Distances of less than standard are not recommended.