

# Guide to Performance Objectives and Point Deductions

## Performance Point Deduction Criterion

*A single performance point should be deducted per task or obstacle whether the misbehavior takes place once or multiple times.* For example, if during saddling a llama kicks once or kicks five times only one point will be deducted, however if a llama kicks and then spits, two points are deducted. The steward will record details of the point deductions for further review if necessary.

## Manageability Tasks

### HALTERING

*Objective:* The llama should stand calmly and still while the handler takes the halter off and then puts it back on.

*Performance points should be deducted if:*

- The llama jumps around or kicks.
- The llama *tosses* its head around in an unsafe manner during the haltering process.
- The llama pushes the handler around with its body.
- The llama spits or screams.
- The handler is unable to either take the halter off or put it back on.

### TRAILERING

*Objective:* The llama willingly enters and exits the trailer or vehicle.

*Performance points should be deducted if:*

- The llama balks or refuses to either enter or exit the trailer or vehicle.
- The llama leaps out of or into the trailer or vehicle in an unsafe manner.

### PICKET LINE

*Objective:* The llama acts in a calm manner while attached to the picket line. If they become entangled in the line, but remain calm, that's OK.

*Performance points should be deducted if:*

- The llama becomes "hog-tied".
- The llama becomes tangled and panics.
- The llama pushes into the handler forcing them to lose their balance.

Note: If overnight camping took place and the llama was staked out all night without a problem, this task may be waived by the Trial Certifier.

### SADDLING & PANNIER ATTACHMENT

*Objective:* The llama should stand calmly and still while saddling and while the panniers are attached. The handler may have assistance managing cinches and attaching panniers.

- String Trials require use of a chest strap on the lead llama if attaching the tied-in llama to the saddle of the lead llama.

*Performance points should be deducted if:*

- The llama spits.
- The llama kicks.
- The llama dances around avoiding the handler or saddle or panniers.
- If the handler is unable to safely saddle the llama or attach the panniers.

## TIE-IN (String Trials Only)

*Objective:* The lead llama should stand calmly and still while the handler connects the trailing llama to the lead llama in string formation. The trailing llama should remain calm and quiet while close to the lead llama and during the tie-in process. (All connections or tie-ins between llamas must be done with a quick release knot or breakaway system.)

- Performance points are deducted for each llama independently. They are not applied to the entire string.

*Performance points should be deducted if:*

- A llama spits or kicks at the handler or at each other.
- A llama pushes into the handler forcing them to lose their balance or get entangled with the other llama.
- A llama dances around avoiding the tie-in process.
- A llama becomes entangled with the other llama
- If the handler is unable to safely tie-in the llamas.

## Field Test Course Obstacles And Trail Behavior

Llamas are allowed at least three attempts per obstacle. When on the fourth attempt the llama still refuses to move through the obstacle, the llama is disqualified and need not finish the course. Physically forcing a llama to negotiate an obstacle is not acceptable, but Stewards and handlers should be aware that llamas sometimes need time to assess an obstacle before committing to moving through it.

*Objective:* For all trail obstacles, the objective is that the llama safely and calmly negotiates each obstacle while demonstrating a degree of training appropriate to the level they are entered in.

*Performance Point deductions are REQUIRED to be made for any of the following:*

- The llama knocks the handler or any other person down.
- The llama jumps for any reason other than jumping a 'jump' obstacle.
- The llama kicks at its handler or any other person, llama, or trail occupant.
- When negotiating an obstacle, the llama lies down and refuses to attempt the obstacle.
- The llama lunges through an obstacle in an unsafe manner.
- The llama pushes its handler causing them to lose their balance.
- The llama tries to pass its handler on the trail or during an obstacle.
- The handler interferes with another person or llama

## Grounds For Disqualification

Disqualification usually involves llama behavior, but it can also be a result of handler actions. Any disputes will be resolved by the PLTA Certifier. Disqualification will be required if the llama:

- accumulates more than the allowable performance deductions
- refuses to attempt an obstacle on the fourth try
- cannot meet the time windows
- refuses to continue hiking
- is injured
- attacks or dangerously threatens another llama or person