WNY Equifest Trail Challenge Rules & Guidelines

We welcome you to the 2026 WNY Equifest Trail Challenge!

When: Saturday, March 14 8:00 am-11:00 am

Where: The Showplex at the Hamburg Fairgrounds

Please pay close attention to all rules, regulations, guidelines, payment information, payouts, & entries.

1. **Entry Application:**
   - All entries must be submitted online through the Google Forms document: https://forms.gle/uQDjFmLCNuocBu5P9
   - Official entries close February 16, 2026 at midnight or once all slots are filled.
   - There will only be 30 spots; after these spots are filled, you will be placed on a waiting list.
   - Spots are not guaranteed until payment is received.
2. **Payment:**
   - Checks must be post marked within 5 business days of submitting entry. Checks payable to: Erie County Agricultural Society
     - Mail Check to:
       Erie County Agricultural Society
       ATTN WNY Equifest Trail Challenge
       5600 McKinley Parkway Hamburg, NY 14075
   - Card Payment: Call *(716) 649-3900 ext. 6499*
3. **Trail Challenge Format:** *Follows AQHA Guidelines*
   - Each horse and rider combo will be allotted 5 minutes to complete a trail obstacle course.

- Each horse/rider combo is only allowed to ride the course one time.
- Each obstacle will be scored on a 1–10 point system; half points may be given. (0 being a rider is unable to complete the course, and a 10 being a horse/ rider combination completes the obstacle with ease, focus, and no hesitation
- Riders can skip an obstacle and will receive a zero for that obstacle if they feel they can't navigate it safely.
- The course will consist of man-made obstacles and natural obstacles. Obstacles could include, but are not limited bridges, tarps, poles, gates, etc.
- This will be a 3-gate course. A canter will be required as part of the course.

4. **Divisions:**
   - Each exhibitor is automatically entered in the Open division and, if qualified, can enter one other division, Included within entry fees.
   - **Open Division**- Open to all riders, automatically enter the open with your entry.
     - **Green Division**- Horse and Rider combo that has not competed in 2 or more trail classes at any show or trail challenge before.
     - **Youth**- Open to any non-pro youth riders age 18 or younger as of January 1st, 2026.
     - **Non-Pro-** Open to all non-pro riders.
5. **Fees:** *All Fees Apply*
   - Entry Fee: $130 (Includes entry into the Open division and one other division if you qualify).
   - Stalls (mandatory): $75/night *Required Fee*
   - Camping: $30/night (Optional add-on) *Pre order on entry form*
   - Shavings: $10/bag (Optional add-on) *Pre order on entry form*

6. **Stabling:**
    - Assigned upon arrival; stalling is only available for horses entering the Trail Challenge.
    - All horses must be entered online and have a pre-paid stall to participate in the Trail Challenge.
    - Showing off the trailer is not permitted.
    - Current Coggins and Rabies must be emailed to kbooth@ecfair.org by Monday, March 9th.
7. **Camping:**
    - Must be pre-paid prior to arrival.
    - Includes electric and water hookups. (Weather permitting)
8. **Premium Payout:** *Payouts will be sent the Monday following the event*
    - *Open*- 1st- $600, 2nd- $300, 3rd- $200, 4th-$100, 5th-$50
    - *Youth, Green and Non-Pro*- 1st-$125, 2nd- $100, 3rd- $75, 4th- $50, 5th- $25.