

Gymkhana Horsemanship: Mixed Funnel

Mixed Funnels utilizes cones, poles and barrels as a versatile training horsemanship pattern. It allows the judge to better view horsemanship as it pertains to the gymkhana horse and rider. The pattern should be fast paced but always controlled. The rider can begin their pattern to the left or the right and will complete the pattern by turning the middle individual barrel to the left if your 2nd barrel is left or right if the 2nd barrel is right and coming back through the center of the funnel to the end of the arena. The judge may ask to examine your tack at this point or have the contestant dismount and exit the arena.

Required Gear: Helmet, Breast Collar, Single Rein or Split Rein (Knotted).

Rider:

1. The contestant should be using the inside rein to turn (right hand to turn right, left hand to turn left). Using both hands on the reins to turn is acceptable with inside rein slightly higher than outside rein.
2. If turning with one hand on rein, the outside hand should be grabbing the saddle horn for balance.
3. When turning, the rein should run from the hip to slightly higher than the horn. Lifting is preferred to pulling. The horse should bend from the nose through their barrel (midsection).
4. The inside rein should be used to move the horse laterally, moving a shoulder away from an obstacle, rather than pulling the nose to the obstacle.
5. Horse should rate, dropping their hindquarters and setting a pivot foot. This can be achieved by the rider making a vocalization, dropping their weight in the saddle and keeping their legs still and quiet.
6. As the horse moves to the back of the cone/pole/barrel, the rider should look towards the next obstacle.
7. Encourage the horse to accelerate from the obstacle using legs, voice, freeing their head (loosening up the reins) when you have a direct line to the next obstacle.

Horse:

1. The horse's nose should be tipped towards the obstacle and should not be bending through the body.
2. The horse should be able to move laterally as to avoid hitting an obstacle.
3. The horse should turn in the pocket (area about an arm's length away from any obstacle).
4. The horse should rate by gathering himself up and slowing momentum momentarily.
5. The horse should set a rear inside pivot foot.
6. The horse should be on the correct lead when turning.

Faults:

1. Neck reining (outside hand crossing in front of saddle horn when turning). Ran in outside hand instead of inside hand nearest obstacle.
2. Rider's legs are behind them.
3. Kicking through the turn, not asking the horse by body position or voice to check/rate/gather.
4. Running off at an obstacle.
5. Shouldering a barrel (see #1 under horse section).
6. Knocking over an obstacle.
7. Turning in the wrong lead.
8. Balancing on the horse's mouth instead of saddle horn.
9. Grabbing the back of the saddle.
10. Turning an obstacle in the wrong direction.

Disqualifications:

1. Lack of forward motion
2. Broken pattern
3. Falling Off.

