



# Obstacle Challenge

At Darby Oaks Stables

600 CR 48

Bushnell, FL

Saturday, April 15, 2023

Registration Opens at 9:00 a.m.

Competition Starts at 10:00 a.m.



The challenge consists of 12 to 15 obstacles such as water, side-pass, tarps, noodles, bridges, back through, dragging and other interesting obstacles. Horses will be scored on how well they negotiate each one.

## Divisions

Youth, Novice Horse & Rider, Intermediate Horse & Rider, Open Elite and Green Horse Timed Challenge will be held after awards for the Obstacle Challenge.

Multiple judges will allow several horses to be on course at one time.

Payback, prizes & ribbons in all divisions  
(except Green Horse - Prizes & ribbons only, does not count toward high point)

Open to all horses, mules, and riders.  
Helmets required on all riders in the youth division.

SOCA Member Entry Fee: \$45.00 - Non-SOCA Member Entry Fee: \$55.00

Pre-entries suggested & appreciated!!

There will be a posted order of go - Early entries will get preference in order of go!

For More Information contact  
[www.southernobstaclechallenges.com](http://www.southernobstaclechallenges.com)  
Tracy Pinson - 352-217-2448 or email [southernobstaclechallenges@gmail.com](mailto:southernobstaclechallenges@gmail.com)

**SOCA Trail Obstacle Challenge Entry Form – 4/15/23**  
**(one rider & horse/mule/donkey per form)**

Rider's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Horse/Mule/Donkey Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed of Horse \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Riding with (for order of go): \_\_\_\_\_

Age of Rider: \_\_\_\_\_

Age of Horse: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one :                      Novice Horse & Rider                      Intermediate Horse & Rider  
division:                      Youth                      Open Elite                      Green Horse

Entry Fee: \$45 SOCA Members                      \$55 Non-Members                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grounds Fee: \$5 Per Horse                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SOCA Membership (optional)                      Individual (\$10)                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

GRAND TOTAL                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Entry form and payment mailed to:  
SOCA  
PO Box 1479  
Bushnell, FL 33513

Email Entries to:  
southernobstaclechallenges@gmail.com  
or fax to:  
352-444-2511

**CURRENT NEGATIVE COGGINS REQUIRED for all equines to be admitted to Darby Oaks Stables property, no exceptions. Please sign attached release form!**

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY: After the Challenge, we will refund camping, stalls or entry fees if notice is received before the start of the event.

For Office Use Only Paid: \$ _____ Ck _____ Cash _____
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**Release Form – Obstacle Challenge**

**(one must be signed by each participant and mailed with entry)**

I understand horseback riding & related activities are very dangerous & involve the risk of serious injury &/or death, &/or property damage, including injury &/or death to horses, spectators & others. I understand that our horse(s), by being on Darby Oaks Stables, Inc. property, may be exposed to harmful bacteria & viruses, & I assume the risk of possible exposure. Attempting obstacles and participating in extreme cowboy races can be dangerous and involve the risk of serious injury or death. Accordingly, I agree any Activity engaged in by me while participating in activities with the Southern Obstacle Challenge Association and Darby Oaks Stables will be done at my own risk. Accordingly, I release & agree to hold harmless the Southern Obstacle Challenge Association & Darby Oaks Stables, the lessees, their officers & directors & the owner of the property & any & all persons or entities who are guarantors or indemnitors of the above, all agents, employees, & promoters, sponsors, other riders, horse owners, advertisers, sales persons, photographers, volunteers, (hereinafter called "Releasees") for all liability for negligence or otherwise. I assume full responsibility for the risk of bodily injury, illness, death of myself &/or horse(s), & any other property damage due to the negligence of Releasees or otherwise while on premises or engaged in horseback riding related activities, &/or while training, riding, competing, officiating, observing, teaching, working for, or for any purpose related to horseback riding, eventing or participating as a rider or spectator in such activities. I agree not to sue any Releasees & I release & agree to indemnify Releasees from & for all liability for the undersigned, his/her person, representatives, assignees, heirs, & demands therefore on account of injury to the person, or property or death of the undersigned whether caused by negligence of the Releasees or otherwise. I agree that this Release, Waiver & Indemnity Agreement is intended to be as broad & inclusive as is permitted by the law of this state where these activities are conducted, and if any part hereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall continue in full force & effect.

I have read & voluntarily signed the Release & Waiver of Liability & Indemnity Agreement & further agree that no oral representations, statements or inducements, apart from the foregoing written agreements, have been made nor shall be made except by a written and signed Addendum.

*WARNING: Under Florida law (Statute 773.04), an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of, a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities.*

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Signature of Rider (19 or older)	Date	Signature of Parent or Guardian (18 & under)
Printed Name of Rider	Printed Name of Parent or Guardian	

# SOCA Obstacle Challenge - Rules & General Information

EVERY person attending the Challenge (participant or observer) is responsible for knowing & abiding by these rules.

- SAFETY is first and foremost in this event. Please be careful. If your horse gets upset with any obstacle, it is better to pass than to try to force him to do something that will scare him or result in injury to horse or rider. At times there are unique obstacles, you are not forced to do anything that you are not comfortable with. Simply tell the judge that you will pass and they will record a zero for that obstacle.
- Each rider must pick up their own score card at registration. You will not be permitted to access the course and navigate obstacles without an official score card. Carry your score card with you on the course. It is each rider's responsibility to present the card to and collect it from each judge. When your last obstacle is scored, that judge will keep your card and turn in to the scoring team.
- It is mandatory that all riders 16 years and younger be helmeted at all times when on horseback on Darby Oaks Stables property. All competitors in the Youth division are required to wear helmets, regardless of age. All competitors must wear boots or closed toe shoes.
- The obstacle judges have an obligation to ensure safety. If a judge determines a situation is not safe, their word is **FINAL**. If a judge asks you to not continue with a particular obstacle, you must obey that request and withdraw from the obstacle. **Arguing with the judges is not allowed** and will be grounds for dismissal from the Challenge and perhaps from the property.
- This is a family event, we ask that you please watch your language!
- Riding double is NOT allowed on the premises due to liability risk.
- All horses must have some type of bridle, halter, Indian bit or headgear for control and some type of saddle or bare-back pad that has a girth and stirrups. Bareback and bridle-less riding is not allowed. Tie downs, draw reins or martingales are optional, but a minimum of two points per obstacle will be deducted when used.
- Each horse and rider must negotiate obstacles on their own, one at a time, at a walk, unless a gait is specified for that obstacle. You may not follow another horse through an obstacle.
- Riders MUST stay mounted while negotiating an obstacle. A dismount will result in a zero score for that obstacle. [unless dismounting is part of the obstacle]
- Each obstacle has a one-minute (60 second) completion time limit. Please exit when asked, judge will alert you when time is up.
- Scoring will be based on a scale of 0 to 10, with 10 being the best and full point increments being awarded at the judges discretion:
  - **Score of 9-10:** Horse moves willingly toward and through the obstacle with relaxed, forward movements. NO hesitation and NO obvious encouragement from the rider, completes the obstacle.
  - **Score of 7-8:** Horse moves forward willingly with only one or two slight hesitations. Some subtle encouragement from rider and completes the obstacle.
  - **Score of 5-6:** Horse moves forward but is resistant with a stop or two, looking closely at obstacle. Obvious encouragement from rider and completes the obstacle.
  - **Score of 3-4:** Horse is resistant with frequent stopping, encouragement from rider, but completes the obstacle.
  - **Score of 2:** Rider shows good horsemanship skills, horse remains focused ,but does not complete the obstacle.
  - **Score of 1:** Horse is extremely unwilling, but touches or gets through part of the obstacle. Does not complete the obstacle satisfactorily.
  - **Score of 0:** Horse is unable to complete the obstacle.
- There will be multiple judges for the trail challenge competition, each scoring one to four obstacles. The riders scores from all judges will be tallied together for a total score.
- Some obstacles will be timed to break ties, if there are multiple entries with the same total score.
- Concessions – There will be a concession stand open during the event.
- Coggins – Will be checked for all horses entering the event property.
- **Directions:** Take I-75 to Exit #314 (State Road 48) in Bushnell. Head East on SR 48 to the third traffic light (Marathon and CVS on the corners) - Turn right. Go to the second light (CR 476/SR 48) – Turn left. Cross the railroad tracks and turn right at the flashing light (this will be SR 48 again). Take SR 48 one mile and you will see the Darby Oaks Stables sign on the left. Parking will be in the front pasture. If you get lost, feel free to call us at 352-568-2001. If you need to use Mapquest, please use this address: 600 CR 48, Bushnell, FL 33513

- NO horses will be allowed on the course prior to competition.
- **There will be a posted order of go** that will be determined by the order in which entries are received, and will be available via email at least 24 hours prior to the event, as well as posted at the entry office on the day of the event. Post entries will go at the end of the line, in the order received.
- **PRE-ENTRIES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED!!!**
- All breeds of horses, mules and donkeys may be ridden. Stallions are allowed, but we ask that they be handled in a responsible manner for the safety of the exhibitors and spectators. If any horses are deemed to be difficult and pose a potentially unsafe situation, management may dismiss the competitor from the facility.
- Divisions - Please be honest with divisions entered – SOCA promotes a fair playing field for all skill levels. SOCA reserves the right to refuse entries for anyone purposely misrepresenting their abilities, as deemed by judges and officers. If you have questions about what division you belong in, please ask!!
  - **Youth** – Riders 17 & Under (limit of three horses per youth rider)
  - **Novice Horse & Rider** – If you have won a SOCA event or any obstacle challenge, you are not eligible for Novice. SOCA judges or directors can determine that you should remain in Novice or should be moved up due to skill level. Horses and/or riders placing in the top 3, three times in SOCA events, you must move up to Intermediate or Open Elite.
  - **Intermediate Horse & Rider** – Riders 18 & Over who do not accept money for training or riding horses. Horses and/or riders placing in the top 3, three times, will graduate to Open Elite.
  - **Open Elite** – This division is open to trainers and riders that have excelled in the Posse, Non Pro or Intermediate divisions and graduated to Open Elite status. These are the top tier riders and horses, the SOCA Elite!
  - **Green Horse** – Training division for **horses of any age, that are new to obstacle challenges, and riders of any level.** Prizes and ribbons, only. No payback or high point. Horses must move out of Green Horse after three top three finishes at SOCA events. After moving out of GH, horse and rider must compete in the division that the rider is eligible for. For example, if the ride is intermediate, horse and rider must compete in intermediate after moving out of GH. If the horse has competed in previous SOCA events, they are not eligible for Green Horse.
- A mount may only be entered one time per division, however riders may enter more than one mount. Horses may not be entered in multiple divisions with different riders (with the exception of time challenges, if offered).
- Competitors are warned that any act of discourtesy or disobedience to the officials or competition management on the part of the owner or rider will disqualify the horse/mule/donkey from adjudication. The competition management reserves the right to remove the owner or rider from the competition without being liable for compensation or damages. Abuse of horses or humans will not be tolerated!
- Indemnity and Non-responsibility clause: All entries acceptable with the understanding that neither the Southern Obstacle Challenge Association, Florida Horse Park, nor its officers, nor any of the sponsors at the competition will be held responsible for any accidents, personal injury or damages done to any owner, horse/mule/donkey, attendant or their equipment that may be lost, stolen, destroyed or in any way damaged at this competition. All riders will be required to sign releases.
- Prizes (Neither SOCA or the Darby Oaks Stables guarantee any prizes):
  - Total Payback in the obstacle challenge will be at least 50% of total entry fees with each division (excluding Green Horse) receiving 20% of the total Payback pot divided as follows: First place = 40%, Second Place = 30%, Third Place = 20%, & Fourth Place = 10%. For example, if there are 60 entries total at the event at \$40 per entry. Total collected is \$2,400 and total payback will be \$1,200 divided as such: First in each division \$120, Second \$90, Third \$60, Fourth \$30. Prize money in each division will be equal.
  - Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup> place winners and ribbons for 1<sup>st</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> place
- Trash – Please clean up after yourself! We will be happy to provide trash bags.
- Dogs – We ask this if you need to bring dogs, please keep them tied to your trailer or crated for the safety of all horses and riders. They must be on a lease at all times.
- Fun & Safety – We hope that everyone enjoys a day full of fun, but please keep the safety of you, your horse, and other participants in mind.
- CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY: After the Challenge, we will refund camping, stalls or entry fees if notice is received before the start of the event.
- **SOCA has a strict no drug policy for horses – Anyone found in violation will be disqualified!**