

Clinic – Measuring Courses

As more and more shows are being added throughout the State, we thought we'd put together a "cheat sheet" of sorts for Stewards / Judges / Arena Crew to use when setting up events. Please remember that in all events, the electronic clocks are set on the line on the OFF COURSE side...thus the side farthest away from the event properties. For the sake of your electronic clocks, we also recommend that the legs of the timing device not be intertwined with the starting poles at all...back them up about 6" to 12" from the pole so that if a horse hits the pole, your timing device still might be safe.

BARRELS. Set up the starting line (60 feet), dots at 0 feet and 60 feet. For ease of explanation, let's say the 0 is on the right side of the course. Poles go on center of 0 and 60 feet marks. Continue to hold 0 feet on the starting line's 0 mark, have someone hold the 33 feet mark near where the first barrel would be set, have another person hold the 93 feet mark near where the second barrel would be set, have another person hold the 126' mark on the 60' starting line mark (left side of the starting line) – adjust for "straightness" and then dot the 1st and 2nd barrels. This creates a rectangle helping to place the 1st and 2nd barrels. Adjust the tape. Hold 0 feet at the first barrel dot, have someone hold 80 feet near where the third barrel will go, and another person hold 160' at the second barrel dot. When pulled tight in both directions, mark the 80' mark (3rd barrel).

CALIFORNIA STAKE. Set up the starting line (30 feet), dots at 0 feet, 15 feet, and 30 feet. Poles go on center of 0 and 30 feet marks. Now adjust the tape. Hold 0 feet at the starting line's 15' mark, mark the final pole at 120 feet.

FIGURE 8. Set up the starting line (30 feet), dots at 0 feet, 15 feet, and 30 feet. Poles go on center of 0 and 30 feet marks. Now adjust the tape. Hold 60 feet at the starting line's 15' mark, mark poles at 0 feet and 120 feet.

FLAGS / TEAM FLAGS. Set up the starting line (30 feet), dots at 0 feet, 15 feet, and 30 feet. Poles go on center of 0 and 30 feet marks. Now adjust the tape. Hold 0 feet at the starting line's 15' mark, mark the first barrel at 20' and mark the final barrel position at 120 feet.

KEYHOLE. Set up the starting line (30 feet), dots at 0 feet, 15 feet, and 30 feet. Poles go on center of 0 and 30 feet marks. Now adjust the tape. Hold 0 feet at the starting line's 15' mark, mark dots at 80', 90', and 100'. Using a box that measures 5 feet by 10 feet, hold one center of a 5-foot side (2' 6") at the 80' mark, hold one center of a 5' foot side (2' 6") at the 90' mark. The 10-foot sides create the "neck" of the keyhole and are then marked with a white dry substance such as lime, chalk, etc. Holding the 10' mark at the 100' dot and the '0 mark at the 90' dot, begin to make a circle keeping the 10' mark at the 100' dot in place. This creates the "hole" of the keyhole and is then marked with a white dry substance.

KEYRACE. Set up the starting line (30 feet), dots at 0 feet, 15 feet, and 30 feet. Poles go on center of 0 and 30 feet marks. Now adjust the tape. Hold 0 feet at the starting line's 15' mark, mark dots at 110' and 120'. Using a box that measures 5 feet by 10 feet, hold one center of a 5-foot side (2' 6") at the 110' mark, hold one center of a 5' foot side (2' 6") at the 120' mark. Mark each of the corners of the "box" as this is where the four poles will be placed.

POLES / TEAM POLES. Set up the starting line (30 feet), dots at 0 feet, 15 feet, and 30 feet. Poles go on center of 0 and 30 feet marks. Now adjust the tape. Hold 0 feet at the starting line's 15' mark, mark poles at 21', 42', 63', 84', 105', and 126'.

COWHIDE / RESCUE. This is measured the same as 2 Man Stake Race. Instead of placing poles on the 120' end, you will run a chalk line between the two marks making a 30 feet chalk line.

2 MAN STAKE. Set up the starting line (30 feet), dots at 0 feet, 15 feet, and 30 feet. Poles will go on center of 0 and 30 feet marks when done marking. At the starting line 0 mark, run the tape to 120' and place a dot for the 1st pole. Adjust the tape. Hold the 0' mark now on the other side of the starting line (30' mark), run the tape to 120 feet (near where the 2nd pole will be placed), run the tape to 150 feet at the location of your first pole dot. Pull the tape tight in both directions and mark 120 feet...this will be the location of your second pole.

2 MAN 3 BARREL. Set up the starting line (30 feet), dots at 0 feet, 15 feet, and 30 feet. Poles go on center of 0 and 30 feet marks. Now adjust the tape. Hold 0 feet at the starting line's 15' mark, mark the first barrel at 20', the middle barrel at 70', and the final barrel position at 120 feet.

TEAM BATON. Set up the starting line (30 feet), dots at 0 feet, 15 feet, and 30 feet. Poles go on center of 0 and 30 feet marks. Now adjust the tape. Hold 0 feet at the starting line's 15' mark, mark the final barrel at 120 feet.

BAREBACK RELAY. Set up the starting line (30 feet), dots at 0 feet, 15 feet, and 30 feet. Poles go on center of 0 and 30 feet marks. Now adjust the tape. Hold 0 feet at the starting line's 15' mark, mark the final barrel at 100 feet. This is the one event that a chalk line needs to be run at the starting line all the way from 0 to 30.