

Extreme Cowboy Races

November 25, 2014



Generally Extreme Cowboy Races are viewed as a Western event, but those who ride English, saddleseat and everything in between can try their hand at the [Extreme Cowboy Racestoo!](#) Western tack is more

typically seen in the arena, however, people from all disciplines enjoy this type of competition. Some saddles (McLellan and English saddles, for example) may be more difficult to use to complete specific obstacles—such as the log pull—as they don't have a horn where the rider might tie off the rope.

Western garb (a long-sleeved shirt) is required, but a helmet may be worn in place of a cowboy hat. The focus of this event is not on flashy attire and tack, but on how much of a bond exists between them.

In addition, all breeds are seen in the competition arena, from traditional stock-horse breeds like Quarter Horses to Saddlebreds, Thoroughbreds, grade horses and ponies.

Obstacles



Designed to mimic true ranch and trail work, the majority of obstacles presented are those you might find while out on the range. Some obstacles presented in the challenge can include:

- * backing up or down hills
- * riding bareback
- * riding bareback double
- * jumping
- * sorting cows
- * blindfolding horse and leading it
- * ground tying
- * crossing bridges
- * crossing water (shallow and deep)
- * crossing teeter-totter bridges
- * carrying tarps
- * riding through tunnels
- * spearing stationary rings

For a full list of obstacles that can be found in an Extreme Cowboy Race, please go [here](#).

Because of the complexity of some of obstacles, preparation is key. While there is no specialized training necessary for a horse to compete in an Extreme Cowboy Race, it's helpful to attend a few events without your horse to see just what you may be faced with when you compete.

From there, learning how to mimic some of those obstacles at home will make you better prepared once your time to shine comes.



Scoring

The courses at every Extreme Cowboy Race will differ, with a variety of obstacles, terrain and length of course.

At each event, however, a score (1 through 10) is given for every obstacle on course. A score is also given for overall horsemanship

and speed. Obstacles are scored on the following: approach of obstacle, execution of the obstacle itself and departure from the obstacle. A competitor is allowed 30 seconds to complete each obstacle, but some obstacles (cattle sorting or roping, for example) may be given more time for completion at the judge's discretion.

Governing Body

The Extreme Cowboy Association is the official governing body for Extreme Cowboy Racing. There are divisions for “Young Guns” (those ages 7 to 11) , youth, novice, nonprofessionals and professionals. With 14 regions in the Association, each offers local, state and regional championships that culminate in the Extreme Cowboy Association national championship.

To see a video of winners Cam Schryver and Sticks in the Professional Division at the 2013 Extreme Cowboy World Championship, go [here](#).

If you're interested in deepening the bond with your horse and honing your horsemanship skills, Extreme Cowboy Racing might be just the event for you. Once you start, you'll be hooked!

