

BENDING RACE

1. There will be five pegs.
2. The distance between the start line and the first peg will be 8 metres and between pegs 6 metres.
3. Spacing between lines of pegs will be 12 metres and there is no limit to the number of lines of pegs used.
4. Pegs shall be between 1.35 and 1.5 metres high. At State Championships the base shall be a cement block the size of a 4 litre square ice cream container with a 25mm inside diameter UV in the centre. The base of the block to be concave. The pole shall be of UV colour grey 20mm outside diameter.
5. Competitors must leave the first peg on their right.
6. Each competitor must keep to his/her own line of pegs. Crossing over a demarcation line, placed 6 metres out from each line of pegs, will incur disqualification. A steward is required on each "demarcation line" to indicate disqualifications or infringements.
7. The competitor is deemed to have crossed the demarcation line if one or more of the horse's feet is placed on or over this line.
8. Knocking down of any pegs will mean disqualification.
9. a. At State Championships no horse may be held or accompanied to the starting line or outside assistance given. Penalty for breach of this rule is disqualification.
b. All Clubs and Zones will be deemed to have adopted the above Rule 9(a) for the respective Club or Zone fixtures unless a Club or Zone at a properly convened Club or Zone Committee Meeting resolves to permit mounts of children under 13 or such lesser age the Club or Zone elects, to be held at or accompanied to the start of a Bending Race.
10. The start is to be left to the judge's discretion, but he need not wait any longer than 30 seconds for any horse.
11. A moving start may be allowed at the judge's discretion.
12. It is the option of the organizers to conduct the event as follows:
 - a) In heats, semi-finals and finals, or
 - b) Against the clock, or
 - c) By taking the required number of fastest times to fill the placings, to be run off as the final, in a first past the post contest.
13. Pegs should not be touched by the contestants' hands and if in the opinion of the judge a peg is deliberately prevented from falling by the use of the hand, such action can mean disqualification.
14. If the event is run off in heats: only horses placed first in heats may run off in semi-finals and/or finals. If there are insufficient first place getters in heats, to fill all final placings, then horses placed second in heats run off against each other for any unfilled minor placings.
15. In heats or semi-finals, disqualified horses will take no further part in the event and should retire from the course.
16. Schooling on the course is not permitted.
17. No peg or standard may be driven into the ground.
18. If at the judge's discretion, a false start is declared, riders will be recalled by whistle or bell.
19. A peg or pegs broken in a bending race will be deemed a knocked down peg.
20. The winner and place getters are declared when the riders have passed the finishing line, mounted on their horses and with all pegs in his/her line standing and the course has been completed in accordance with these rules.
21. In the event of all competitors in the final being disqualified for infringement of rules, the final must be re-run to determine a winner.
22. If some of the finalists are eliminated in the final heat, leaving insufficient competitors to fill all the placings, the remaining minor placings will be determined by their times taken in the qualifying round and only if competitors remain equal, a re-run of horses concerned is conducted.

