

## **FUN & GAMES DIVISION**

*by Karen Chorney*

Ready to let loose and have some serious fun with your pony? The Fun & Games division is all about laughter, creativity, and creating memories with your four-legged partner. These classes are for everyone—whether you're a young rider trying something new or an adult who's been around the barn for decades. No pressure, just pure enjoyment. Bring your pony, your sense of humor, and your competitive spirit (the friendly kind!). Trust us, you're going to want to sign up for these.

These classes are not awarded points. The Fun & Games classes include:

### **• Don't Spill Derby**

Ever tried jumping a course with a glass of water in your hand? That's exactly what you'll be doing here! Navigate a short course of 2' fences while clutching your glass, and try not to lose your cool—or your water. The winner is the rider who makes it through with the fewest faults and the most water still in their glass. Spoiler alert: it's harder than it looks!



The Don't Spill Derby requires a lot of skill!

### **• Bribe Your Pony**

This one's all about how well your pony knows the sound of a treat bag rustling. Lead your pony into the arena, unclip that lead rope, and then guide them through a small obstacle course using nothing but treats and your voice. No hands allowed—no touching whatsoever! The fastest pair to complete the course wins. May the best bribery skills prevail.



Navigating obstacles in the Bribe Your Pony class.

### • Bareback Barrel Race

Think regular barrel racing, but make it interesting—ditch the saddle! Race those barrels bareback, and the rider who goes clean in the fastest time takes home the win. Hold on tight!

### • Liberty Class

This class is a real showstopper, performed to music of your choice. You and an assistant can enter the ring with whips, but once the music starts, off comes the halter and your pony gets two minutes to strut their stuff at all gaits. Here's the catch: no touching the pony during those two minutes, and your whips can't make contact either. When the music stops, you've got another two minutes to catch your pony. Handlers and assistants are encouraged to dress alike or go all out in costume—maybe as the artist you chose or whatever theme strikes your fancy. Don't worry if your pony gets a little playful; that won't count against you. You will be penalized, though, if you can't wrangle your pony back within the time limit or if anyone breaks the no-touching rule while the music's playing.

### • Tack Dash

Speed tacking at its finest! Enter the arena leading your horse in just a halter. When the whistle blows, bridle up and race bareback to the far end of the ring where your saddle and pad are waiting. Finish tacking up as fast as you can, and the first rider back to the starting side wins. It's organized chaos, and we love it.



Waiting for the Tack Dash to begin.

### • Costume Class

Time to raid your closet and get creative! We want to see your most gorgeous, inventive costumes. You can walk, lead, ride, or even drive your pony—just bring your A-game in the fashion department.



Two great entries in the Costume Class.

• **Fossils Over Fences**

For our distinguished riders who've earned their 40+ stripes! Show the youngsters how it's done over a short .70m jumper course. Age is just a number, and you're here to prove it.



Tackling the Fossils Over Fences course.