

Discussion Points/Guidelines for Third Evening Horsemanship Skills Test

It is understandable for the faculty/evaluators and host site to have a strong desire to accommodate participants so that they can complete the workshop and skills test in one weekend. However, to ensure fair and equitable testing practices for all candidates, it is paramount to take full stock of the facility, time constraints, and potential horse behavior issues when considering evening testing. **Discussions with the host site regarding offering third evening testing should include all of the following to avoid potential conflicts and candidate appeals of skills tests results:**

- Will there be time to measure the course before the first test?
- Will there be time for the evaluators to eat so they can refuel if they wish to?
- Is there sufficient lighting:
 - In the arena?
 - In the barn?
 - Between the barn and arena?
- Will the horse(s) used for the skills test be agitated or uncooperative if their dinner is delayed?
- Can feeding of all horses be postponed to help the horse(s) in the skills test be minimally agitated?
- Will delayed feeding of all horses escalate overall agitation?
- Can center volunteers stay late to support?
- Can the center rep/event contact stay late to support?

It is imperative that the workshop is not cut short, compromising the experience of the group, in order to accommodate testing for one or two people. Bear in mind that testing just may not be feasible on the third evening may not be feasible if you have a large number of workshop participants.