



Battle of the Best Rulebook 2025

THE GOAL:

Produce a horse with a solid foundation in ground manners and under saddle work, who is relaxed and willing to follow cues and commands. The expectation is not a finished horse in 112 days, but the hope is significant progress.

THE HORSES:

The horses will come from Michelle and Kaitlyn Fedewa. Any breed of horse may be considered as long as they pass the vet check prior to competition and are large enough to carry an adult rider.

Division 1 horses will have a minimum age of 4 and a maximum age of 10.

Division 2 horses will be 3 or 4 years of age.

Division 3 horses will be at least 4 and potentially up to 17 years old.

Peewee Division will be between the ages of 9 months and 2 years.

THE DIVISIONS:

1) Division 1:

These are mature horses that can be shown at the walk, trot, lope.

2) Division 2:

These are 3 and 4 year old horses that can be ridden at the walk and trot.

3) Division 3:

These horses are over 4 years old and have been started under saddle.

4) Peewee Division:

These are horses between the ages of 9 months and 2 years that can be shown on ground only. These horses will not be available for sale after the event.

Pickup Day:

Pick-up Date: April 5th, 2025 at 12pm CST

At: Lucky 7 Farm (25144 Xeon St NW, Isanti MN 55040)

Trainers should bring:

- Halter

- Rope
- Fully enclosed trailer
- Folding chair (if you'd like)

Trainers will need to sign the foster guidelines form.

Competition horses will be presented to the trainers prior to the drawing. Descriptions of each horse will be presented, highlighting any major details trainers need to know. A written summary of the horses will be provided to the trainers in each division.

Following horse presentation, trainer names will be drawn at random. When a trainer's name is drawn, they will be able to choose their horse from those not already chosen.

Social Media Posts:

Trainers will post on their own Facebook pages and use a specific hashtag for their horses, using #“HorseName”BBTC Example: #AshBBTC

Pages may be made for the training horse specifically or be posted on a trainer's professional page.

K&K Horses will share posts.

Trainers are encouraged to post as much as possible about their horses, but there will only be three required posts. Failure to make these posts will result in loss of points.

Required posts will be due on May 12th, June 12th, and July 12th. Required content in these posts will include:

-Strengths and Challenges

-What the horse would be good at

(Last post specifically) -The level of rider your horse requires from the choices of beginner with a trainer, intermediate, intermediate with a trainer, advanced, or advanced with a trainer.

(Last post specifically) -If you are willing to do additional training with your horse and your fee/location.

General Rules:

All training and challenge exhibitions must be humane and compassionate. Softness is encouraged. The welfare and best interest of the horse will be number one priority. Any behavior deemed to be excessively harsh or harmful could result in disqualification.

All horses must be sound, disqualifications for unsoundness are at the judge's discretion.

Horses can be ridden/shown with two hands in a snaffle bit, bosal, or bitless bridle. If using a shank bit, MUST ride with one hand.

Tie downs and mechanical hackamores are prohibited.

Excessive spurring or jerking on the reins or lead line during the competition is prohibited and could result in point deduction from the judges.

Use of any bit or equipment deemed too severe by the judges will not be allowed and will result in disqualification for that class.

Attire and Tack:

All competitors **MUST** wear an approved ASTM/SEI helmet with a chinstrap.

Horses may be exhibited in English or Western. Competitors are asked to wear appropriate attire that reflects the style of riding. No extra points given for excess bling, silver, or sequins on tack or shirts.

Attire in the Freestyle is flexible. Costumes may be worn to match a theme. The only requirements for attire in the Freestyle are for safety, including proper footwear and helmets.

Judges:

JUDGES' DECISIONS ARE FINAL.

Judges shall place participants fairly and according to class rules. However, understanding the unique element of this challenge where all these horses come with a troubled past, the judges will be familiar with the story of each horse's background which will help assess and judge accordingly in the performance of each horse.

Show Day:

Show Date: July 26th, 2025 at 12pm CST

At: Isanti County Fairgrounds (Highway 95 Cambridge MN)

Trainers will need to sign a release of liability form in order to compete.

Stalls will be available. Bring your own hay and water buckets. Water will be on at the event.

Pictures of arena and warmup area:



Classes:

Division 1, 2, & 3:

1) Technical With Obstacles

The overall poise, confidence, appearance and position throughout the class, and the physical appearance of the horse will be evaluated. The horse's body condition and overall fitness will be assessed.

Each trainer will be given 12 minutes to complete the pattern, which will be sent out two days prior to the event. A walk-through with the judges will also be held on the day of, one hour before the challenge begins.

The horse's demeanor and responsiveness, as well as the relationship between horse and trainer will be assessed in the completion of a pattern that will include the following maneuvers:

Handling –

- Walk
- Trot
- Stop
- Back
- Pick up feet
- Grooming
- Fly spray
- Tacking

Riding –

- Mounting
- Walk
- Trot
- Canter (Division 1 only)
- Stop
- Back
- Pivots or turns
- Lead changes (Division 1 only)

Obstacles –

Obstacles may include but not limited to:

- Walking across a bridge
- Going over poles
- Cowboy curtain
- Loading into trailer
- Backing up through an obstacle

- Dragging items
- Walk/trot through poles or cones
- Pick up object and relocate to another location
- Sidepass

2) Freestyle Performance –

The freestyle performance encourages the Competitors to choose music, costumes and props that will highlight the abilities and strengths of their horse and showcase what is special about their horse. Participants will be scored based on overall horsemanship and the originality and artistic interpretation of their performance.

Music is required for the freestyle and must be submitted ahead of time.

Each Competitor will get 10 minutes in the arena. Competitors will provide their own props and assistance for arena setup and tear down. Competitors are given 5 minutes for arena setup and tear down.

Competitors will have 5 minutes to complete their freestyle performance – music and time will start when the participant gives a thumbs up to the emcee.

Peewee Division

1) Technical With Obstacles

The overall poise, confidence, appearance and position throughout the class, and the physical appearance of the horse will be evaluated. The horse's body condition and overall fitness will be assessed.

Each trainer will receive 10 minutes to complete their pattern, which will be sent out two days prior to the event. A walk-through with the judges will also be held on the day of, one hour before the challenge begins. If time allows, the trainers may demonstrate a trick or special skill at the end of the pattern for a fun award since they are not doing a freestyle class.

The horse's demeanor and responsiveness, as well as the relationship between horse and trainer will be assessed in the completion of a pattern that will include the following maneuvers:

Handling –

- Walk
- Trot
- Stop
- Back
- Pick up feet
- Grooming
- Fly spray

Obstacles –

- Walking across a bridge
- Going over poles
- Cowboy curtain
- Loading into trailer
- Backing up through an obstacle
- Dragging items
- Walk/trot through poles or cones
- Pick up object and relocate to another location
- Sidepass

Awards:

Individual classes in each division: 1st and 2nd place ribbons will be awarded

Overall in each division: Top 3 champion ribbons will be awarded

Additional awards will be awarded for Dress to Impress, Most Improved, and Fan Favorite.

Cash awards will be awarded based on BBTC sponsorships, which will be finalized before the event.

Horse Sales:

Horses will be offered for sale through a silent auction bid at the July 26th event. Closing time will be posted. Peewee horses will not be offered for sale at or following the event.

Horses will have a minimum bid of \$2,000. Trainers will get half of the sale price.

Anyone participating in the silent auction must get a bid number prior to bidding. Trainers may bid. If bidding on their own horse, trainers will only pay half the fee as the other half would be going to them already. If bidding on another trainer's horse, they will be expected to pay full price to be fair towards the other trainer.

Unsold horses return to Lucky 7 Farm on July 26th. If a horse is sold after the event within a 6 month period, trainers will still receive half of the sale price.