

Cones Out Gate Instructions

Overview:

The Cones Out Gate controls competitors after they leave the ring and ensures that the right competitors remain for the Awards ceremony. Overall standings can change dramatically after a Cones round so this is more an art than a science! Use your best judgment; you will not always be able to hear the score when it is announced. You may get radio instructions or instructions from the announcer – or you may be on your own!

1. Verify the Order of Lineup for awards – it is usually 6,5,4,3,2,1 – but check!
2. Choose a spot well outside of the ring, but directly in the line of sight of a departing competitor. But be sure you can get out of the way if they do not see you or cannot stop!
3. As each competitor enters the ring, check them off your Order of Go, get their packet and decide whether to hold them for Awards or not.
 - Always keep the top 6 competitors in the class
 - Keep an additional 2 competitors if their scores are within 6 points of the top 6
4. After the Competitor has crossed the finish line, stand prominently in their line of sight with your hand quietly raised high. You want to be seen, but not frighten the horses.
 - If they don't look like they are going to stop, get out of the way!
 - If they do stop, stand to the side with feet well clear of the wheels.
 - Offer packet to the Groom, if present; otherwise to the Driver. If they don't take it, just return it to the box when they leave.
 - If competitor is not a "keeper", step back and let them make their own choice about whether to wait or go back to the stables.
 - If the competitor is a "keeper", ask them to please wait in the "Warm Up" area for possible awards.
5. It will be hard to keep track of where the "keepers" are so just assume they will keep listening and come back at the end of the class. As the last competitor in the class enters, signal/radio to the warm up area for the "keepers" to assemble near the ring.
6. After you have finished with the last competitor, direct the "keepers" to head into the arena toward the Award Steward. Tell them the Order of Line Up you learned in Step 1.
7. The Awards Steward will control their lineup and entry to and from the Award area.

Note: Watch your back at all times! If an entry in or out of the ring runs away, they may go anywhere in their attempt to run back to the stables.