

# 2023 Florida Thoroughbred Transformation Expo

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## ABOUT THE EXPO

The Florida Thoroughbred Transformation Exposition is presented by the charitable organization Run For The Ribbons Inc. who dedicates themselves to providing off-track Thoroughbreds the foundation needed to ensure a smooth transition into their next career and home.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Florida Thoroughbred Transformation Expo will be held on December 8th-10th, 2023 at the Florida Horse Park in Ocala, Florida. The Expo will feature competitions in 6 disciplines including Dressage, Working Ranch/Trail Horse, Show Jumper, Show Hunter, Eventing, and Freestyle. Competitors will compete for ribbons, awards, and prize money, while proudly showing off the versatility of the breed. Each discipline will have a restricted and open division and be composed of Jockey Club registered, tattooed, or microchipped off-track Thoroughbreds. Unraced Thoroughbreds are allowed to compete if microchipped/tattooed. (Thoroughbreds not tattooed or microchipped may still compete if they are identifiable through marking descriptions from legible Jockey Club registration papers)

The Florida Thoroughbred Transformation will also have a vendor fair to include shopping and food for exhibitors and the public, as well as an educational seminar and a leadline class in honor of active U.S Military and Veterans.

## MISSION AND GOALS

Run For the Ribbons Inc. hopes that the Florida Thoroughbred Transformation Expo will continue to increase the demand of Thoroughbreds and encourage people to take on a “project horse” or “ex-racehorse”. The Expo was created to showcase the trainability and talent of the Thoroughbred and inspire juniors, amateurs and professionals in their respective disciplines. We also want to encourage the community and the Thoroughbred racing industry to further support our efforts, as well as other charitable organizations in Florida who also dedicate their time and resources to positively impact the lives of these horses.

Run for the Ribbons Inc. realizes that horseracing and Thoroughbred sales are a vital part in Florida’s economy, especially Marion County, producing more than 1,500 Thoroughbred foals every year. Our goal is to create an outlet for them post racing or training to help current racing owners, breeders, and trainers safely retire the equine athlete. We also help to encourage Thoroughbred owners, trainers, and breeders to pave the road to successful futures for these transformation horses through proper training techniques and strong foundations.

We anticipate over 100 horses and aspire to have the Florida Thoroughbred Expo be the biggest and most anticipated Off The Track Thoroughbred annual event in Florida, proudly showcasing the many talents of Thoroughbreds and increasing their marketability in the Southeast. The Florida Thoroughbred Transformation will strive to provide a competitive, fun, and educational environment to celebrate the Thoroughbred breed that we love.

## HORSE ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the 2023 Thoroughbred Transformation Expo, horses must meet the following four criteria:

1. Must be registered with The Jockey Club
  - a. For horses with no tattoo or microchip, Jockey Club papers must be on hand and available for show officials to identify the horse by markings.
2. All horses must have current vaccinations and coggins upon arrival.
  - a. Thoroughbred Transformation Expo and the Florida Department of Agriculture require current (within 12 months) proof of negative Coggins.
  - b. Proof of vaccination for equine herpes virus-1 (EHV-1 or “Rhino”) is also required. Records must reflect vaccine administration no more than 12 months and no less than 14 days.
    - i. The following are the only forms of accepted vaccination documentation.
      - Bill/receipt with vet practice name, contact info, date, and horse’s name, indicating EHV-1 administration.
      - A letter on practice letterhead, signed and dated, certifying administration.
      - Name and vaccine type noted by veterinarian on signed health certificate/import documents.
  - c. Health certificates must be issued within 30 days for out-of-state horses and within 12 months for in-state horses.
3. **RESTRICTED DIVISION**
  - a. For any Thoroughbred whose last race or race training workout was between 1/1/2020 -11/1/2023.
  - b. No restriction on when retraining for a second career began.
  - c. The restricted division will be judged separately from the open division.
4. **OPEN DIVISION**
  - a. For any Thoroughbred whose last race or training workout was prior to January 1, 2020 (open horses last ran/worked out/ trained 12/31/2019 or before that date)
  - b. Any unraced and or raced thoroughbred that is registered with the Jockey Club, tattooed and or microchipped.

## REGISTRATION RULES AND FORMS

1. One entry form is required for each rider and horse combination. (even if horse is ridden by 2 riders)
    - a. Complete online at [www.runfortheribbons.org](http://www.runfortheribbons.org).
  2. No more than 2 disciplines TOTAL per horse
  3. Riders can ride multiple horses in any discipline. (a minimum of 30 minutes between ride times allowed when competing multiple horses)
  4. Scratched horses can be replaced in competition as long as management is notified and you receive approval no later than 1 week before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Expo.
    - a. No division and discipline changes are necessary with replacement horse.
  5. Refund policy
    - a. No refund for missing a class.
    - b. Once checked into competition no refunds and no open checks.
    - c. Entry fees and additional discipline fees are **NON-REFUNDABLE** for scratched entries.
    - d. Medical withdrawals for partial refund.
      - i. If a horse or rider is medically withdrawn from competition, the payee
  6. Payment for stabling, trailering and any competition fees are due at the same time entry form is complete.
  7. No back number until the rider and horse are fully paid.
  8. **Entries close October 31, 2023**
  9. **ENTRY FORM REQUIREMENTS**
    - a. Junior, Professional, and Amature status is pledged.
    - b. Stall/ ship in & RV/Camping
    - c. Horse Bio
    - d. Riders’ information
    - e. Desired disciplines and height if required.
    - f. Restricted or Open divisions pledged.
- is eligible for a 100% refund on stall, ship-in, camping or shavings fees.

## INJURY AND LIABILITY

1. All riders release and hold harmless the TB Expo, its Board of Directors, its staff, and its sponsors from liability for damages resulting from their participation in the Thoroughbred Transformation Expo before, during, and after the event. riders acknowledge that they participate at their own risk and will sign liability waivers at the point of application as a part of their participation agreement.
2. Incidents of falls and/or injury will be documented with the use of an incident report. Event management has the right to request documentation from a veterinary or medical professional clearing a rider or horse to continue in competition.

## ELIMINATIONS

1. Judges may excuse a horse at any time at their discretion for reasons such as:
  - a. Unsoundness
  - b. Dangerous or out- of-control riding
  - c. Poor horsemanship/sportsmanship on the part of the rider, trainer, or owner
    - i. If a horse and rider are excused for any of the above reasons, the pair must leave the competition arena immediately and receive approval from Chief staff member and or treating veterinarian before participating in any further portion of the competition. Excusals will be listed on results as an elimination.
  - d. See the following format sections for discipline -specific eliminations.

## EVENTING

An Eventing Competition includes one or more tests from the following branches of equitation: dressage, cross-country and jumping.

1. Any competitor who rides in such a way as to constitute a hazard to the safety or well-being of the competitor, horse, other competitors, their horses, spectators, or others will be penalized accordingly.
2. CIRCUMSTANCES NOT COVERED IN THESE RULES.
  - a. For any circumstances not specifically covered in these rules, reference should be made to one of the following publications of the FEI:
    - i. Rules for Eventing
    - ii. Rules for Dressage Events
    - iii. Rules for Jumping Events
3. MODIFICATIONS. After the courses have been shown to the competitors, alterations to the course and/or the time allowed may be made only when exceptional circumstances (such as heavy rain or hot weather) make obstacles or a Test unfair or dangerous. The decision will be made by the judge and event coordinators.
4. ABUSE. Any act or series of actions that, in the opinion of the Ground Jury or in its absence the Technical Delegate, can clearly and without doubt be defined as abuse of horses shall be penalized by disqualification. Such acts include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Riding an exhausted horse.
  - b. Excessive pressing of a tired horse.
  - c. Excessive use of whip and/or spurs, and/or bit.
  - d. Riding an obviously lame horse.
5. The President of the Ground Jury may, in addition, designate one or several deputies.
6. MEDICAL CARDS/MEDICAL BRACELETS. To ensure that vital information is available to medical personnel in the case of emergency, competitors must comply with the following:
  - a. It is mandatory that Competitors include the telephone number of an emergency contact on the entry form.
  - b. Declaration of medical condition. Competitors with medical conditions that may be relevant in case of a medical emergency are responsible for wearing either a medical data carrier (Medical date carrier: a small emblem or tag worn on a bracelet, neck chain, or on the clothing, intended to alert medical personnel/physicians that the

wearer has an important medical condition) or a medical armband at every event while riding. Alternatively (and at minimum) a medical armband can be used. Conditions that are relevant include recent head injury, serious past injuries/surgery, chronic health problems such as diabetes, long-term medications, and allergies. If in doubt, the Competitor should discuss this with his/her own treating physician.

**7. PROTECTIVE VESTS.**

a. A body protecting vest must be worn warming-up for and in the cross-country test.

8. Disqualification means that a competitor and his horse(s) may not take further part in the Event. It is applied at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

**9. LEVELS OF COMPETITION**

a. Entry/Starter

b. Beginner novice

c. Novice

d. Training- **OPEN HORSES ONLY**

**10. DRESSAGE**

a. The arena must be 60 meters long and 20 meters wide (Standard Arena) or 40 meters long and 20 meters wide (Small Arena), depending on the specifications for the test to be used.

b. **MARKING**-judges will award good marks from 0-10 for each movement and for each collective mark, with 0 being the lowest mark and 10 being the highest. All half marks from 0.5 - 9.5 may be used both for movements and collective marks, at the discretion of the judge, and scores given must be recorded with a decimal.

c. **ERRORS-**

i. Entering the space around the arena with a whip (when whips are forbidden) or with boots or bandages on the horse's legs.

**11. CROSS COUNTRY**

a. This test is to prove the speed, endurance and jumping ability of the true cross-country horse when it is well trained and conditioned. At the same time, it demonstrates the competitor's knowledge of pace and the use of his horse across the country.

b. If a competitor is not ready to start at his correct time (original or revised schedule), he may be allowed, at the discretion of the starter, to be given a new start time.

c. **OPTIMUM TIME**-The distance divided by the designated speed gives the optimum time. Completing the course in less than the optimum time results in zero time penalties.

d. **SPEED FAULT TIME**-Completing the course in less than the optimum time.

i. Exceeding optimum time 0.4 penalty points per sec.

e. **PLAN OF THE COURSE**- Each competitor will be given in advance a plan showing the track of the course. The plan must be available by at least 3:00 p.m. of the day before the entire competition but may be available sooner at the Organizing Committee's discretion.

f. **SCORING**

i. First refusal, run-out or circle 20 penalties.

ii. Second refusal, run-out or circle at the same obstacle 40 penalties.

iii. Third refusal, run-out or circle at the same obstacle Elimination.

iv. Optimum time penalties will also be added accordingly if acquired.

v. **GENERAL**. Faults (refusals, run-outs, circles and falls) will be penalized unless in the opinion of the responsible judge.

**12. JUMPING TEST**

a. **ENTRY, BEGINNER NOVICE, NOVICE, AND TRAINING ARE THE LEVELS OFFERED**

b. The nature of the course, its length, the speed demanded, and the dimensions of the obstacles depend on the degree of difficulty of the whole competition.

c. **SCORING** - penalty points for stadium jumping are as follows:

i. Knocking down an obstacle – 4 faults

ii. 1<sup>st</sup> disobedience (refusal. Run-out, circle, stepping backwards) – 4 faults.

iii. 2<sup>nd</sup> disobedience – 8 faults

iv. 3<sup>rd</sup> disobedience – elimination

v. first fall of rider – 8 faults

- vi. 2<sup>nd</sup> fall of rider – elimination.
- vii. more than 24 jumping penalties – compulsory retirement
- viii. fall of horse – elimination
- ix. exceeding time allowed – 1 penalty per second.
- x. jumping obstacle in wrong order - elimination

13. FINALE- ALL horses/rider combos not previously eliminated in Dressage or Cross-Country phase will compete in jumping phase as final test on Sunday.

- a. **HORSE AND RIDER MUST STAY IN SELECTED LEVEL** throughout all 3 phases of competition.

### SHOW HUNTER

Show hunters are subjectively judged, based on the horse's quality of movement and performance both over fences and under saddle. Judging will be based on style, pace, rhythm, manners, and relaxation. Horses will be scheduled in groups of no more than 6 based on course height, jumping two over-fence trips at the same height, and judged on the flat in a group in the Under Saddle phase.

1. **The heights offered for the RESTRICTED division are 2', 2'6", and 3'.**
2. **The heights offered for the OPEN division are 2', 2'6", 3', and 3'6".**
3. Show Hunter Attire and Equipment- Attire and equipment are to be in accordance with [USEF Hunter Division Rules Subchapter HU-3](#). See Equipment section for additional information
4. SCORING - scores of 1-100 will be given for each class and totaled for preliminary final score; final score will be carried over into finale and added to the 2 scores received in finale to determine OVERALL final placings. (i.e. - exhibitor #312 receives a 78 in under saddle, 65 in over fences A and 70 in over fences B = 213 preliminary final score... then receive a 75 in finale under saddle and 75 in finale over fences... Their OVERALL FINAL SCORE = 363)
5. FINALE- Will consist of the top 6 horse/rider combos selected from both the restricted and open division. Also, the top 6 Juniors will move onto finale (open & restricted combined)
  - a. The selected top horses will perform an additional over fence and under saddle class.
    - i. **HORSE AND RIDER MUST STAY IN SELECTED HEIGHT**

### SHOW JUMPER

Show jumpers will compete in 2 timed jumping rounds. The horses must compete in the same height for each class.

1. **The heights offered for RESTRICTED are: 2', 2'6", and 3'.**
2. **The heights offered for OPEN division are: 2', 2'6, 3' and 3'6".**
3. **Timed jump off round**-Each horse will compete in 1 round. If the horse and rider complete the course with no faults they will **stay in the ring** and complete jump-off to obtain a final time/score that will go towards the final score.
4. **Power and Speed round**- Will be composed of a full course the timer will begin at fence 5. If the horse and rider have completed the first 5 fences with no faults, they will continue the course after fence 5 and the last portion of the course will be timed. The score that will go towards their final score will be the timed portion of the course. .
5. Show Jumper Attire and Equipment-Attire and equipment are to be in accordance with [USEF Rules for Jumpers Subchapter JP-1](#). See Equipment section above for more information.
6. SCORING - first 2 rounds will be pinned in accordance with [USEF rules JP \(usef.org\) Subchapter JP-6](#)
  - a. All riders will receive numerical points depending on total entry #'s in class and score from each class will be added together for preliminary final score; final score will be carried over into finale and added to the doubled score received in finale to determine OVERALL final placings. (i.e. 20 riders in Restricted division; 1st place = 20 pts, 2nd place = 19 pts & so forth... therefore if exhibitor #312 finished 3rd & 5th they have a preliminary final score of 34 pts & in finale if they place 3rd out of 6 finalists... OVERALL FINAL SCORE = 42)
7. FINALE- will consist of the top 6 horse/rider combos from both the restricted and open division. Also, the top 6 juniors will move onto finale (open & restricted combined)
  - a. Each combination will compete in 1 additional timed jump-off round that will compose their final score.
    - i. **HORSE AND RIDER MUST STAY IN SELECTED HEIGHT**

## DRESSAGE

The object of dressage is the development of the horse into a happy athlete through harmonious education. As a result, it makes the horse calm, supple, loose, and flexible, but also confident, attentive and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding with the rider.

1. Dressage attire and equipment are to be in accordance with USEF Rules for Jumpers Subchapter DR-1
2. All eliminations will be up to the discretion of the judge.
3. SCORING - REFERENCE USEF RULE BOOK FOR REGULATIONS
4. **RESTRICTED-** Horses and rider combination must complete following test for their preliminary ride: USDF Training Level Test 1
5. **OPEN-** Horses and rider combination must complete following test for their preliminary ride: USDF First Level Test 2
6. FINALE
  - a. Top 6 Restricted- Horse and rider combinations must complete: USDF Training Level Test 3.
  - b. Top 6 Open horses- Horse and rider combinations must complete: USDF First Level Test 3
  - c. Top 6 junior riders (open & restricted combined)

## WORKING RANCH / TRAIL HORSE

The working ranch/ trail horses test has two parts. First, horses will perform in an obstacle trail test followed by an AQHA Ranch Riding Pattern (TBA). Judges will be looking for horses who are prepared to become a competing ranch horse or competitive trail horse, characterized by a desire to move forward at an even pace and to negotiate tasks commonly found in a ranch/trail setting without resistance.

1. Attire and Equipment
  - a. Both Western and English tack are suitable. Adult trainers may wear either a western hat or ASTM-approved helmet. Junior trainers must wear an ASTM-approved helmet. Trainers must wear a long-sleeved shirt; chaps or chinks are optional.
  - b. Wraps, protective boots, and hoof boots are permitted.
  - c. Horses may be ridden in a snaffle bit or bosal regardless of age. Riders shall ride horses in this tack with two hands. Mechanical hackamores, side pulls, and other bitless bridles are prohibited. Gag and slip bits are prohibited whether used with one or two hands.
  - d. Spur shanks may not exceed 2.5" in length. Spur rowels may not exceed 1" in diameter and must be blunt.
2. Ranch Work Eliminations, Faults, Ties, and Formalities
  - a. Horses exceeding the maximum course time will be eliminated and excused (indicated by whistle or other alert sound) and must exit the course immediately in the most direct route available.
  - b. Horses are eliminated for going off pattern in the ranch riding pattern. Off-course in the ranch trail portion is defined as **appearing to initiate an obstacle out of sequence, or exiting the path reasonably interpreted by the course map. Horses eliminated for going off course may complete the course at the discretion of the judges if they are still under course time.**
3. SCORING - horse/rider combinations will receive a numerical score 1-100 for each of the 2 phases and scores will be added together for preliminary final score; final score will be carried over into finale and added to score received in finale to determine OVERALL final placings. (i.e. - exhibitor #312 receives a 70 in ranch pattern and 65 in obstacle trail = 135 preliminary final score... then receive a 82 in finale pattern... Their OVERALL FINAL SCORE = 220)
4. FINALE- will consist of the top 6 horse/rider combos from both the restricted and open division. Also, the top 6 Juniors will move onto finale (open & restricted combined)
  - a. Each horse and rider combination will compete in the AQHA Ranch riding pattern.



## FREESTYLE

Horses and riders may choose to perform in any discipline other than the 6 offered for up to a 10-minute performance. Performance should show the unique talents of the horse and their willingness and responsiveness to given commands. This can be a demonstration or routine showing the trainability, athleticism and or talent of the horse.

1. Two scores will be given based off:
  - a. Overall performance score
  - b. Required movements score: which will reflect on the competitor's ability to perform the following movements.
    - i. Halting/stand for minimum of 5 sec
    - ii. Backing of horse
    - iii. At least 2 changes of direction
  - c. No fireworks, fire, or firearms unless approved by management.
  - d. Use of microphone available, as well as speakers to play music.
  - e. Contestants may use any material deemed safe and acceptable by management for their performance.
2. SCORING - scores of 1-100 will be given for overall performance and required movements and totaled for preliminary final score; final score will be carried over into finale and added to the 2 scores received in finale to determine OVERALL final placings. (i.e. - exhibitor #312 receives a 85 in overall score and an 80 in required movements score = 165 preliminary final score... then receive a 82 in finale overall score and 73 in finale required movements score... Their OVERALL FINAL SCORE = 320)
3. FINALE- will consist of the top 6 horse/rider combos from both the restricted and open division. Also the top 6 Juniors will move onto finale (open & restricted combined)

## AWARD & PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTION

**\$\$\$ 2023 Prize Money total TBA \$\$\$ - (to be mailed out no later than Jan. 31, 2024)**

**Most Versatile Thoroughbred Award- \$1000 (\*must compete in 2 disciplines to be eligible)**

**Discipline will be awarded pay out as followed (must have a minimum of 8 entries):**

**\*\*\* disciplines with less than 8 entries in open or restricted will be combined; (must still have a minimum of 8 entries when combined, to pay out discipline prize money)**

**Restricted & Open Division payouts  Champion 1<sup>st</sup> Place – 50%  
Reserve Champion 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – 30%  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place- 20%**

**- Ribbons & Award given to overall Expo Champion & Reserve Champion in each of the 6 disciplines (restricted & open pinned separately) Ribbons given to 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> places**

**- Ribbons & Award given to overall Expo Top Amateur and Top Junior rider in each of the 6 disciplines (restricted & open combined)**

**- Ribbons for 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> will be given out for each phase in all 6 disciplines along with a prize for 1<sup>st</sup> place. (excludes finale)**

## TIP JR. INCENTIVES AND AWARDS

**Top 6 JR's in each discipline will return to finals (restricted & open combined). In addition to competing for overall awards, Jr. riders will also be eligible for ribbons and prizes amongst the Jr.'s ONLY. (Ex. A Jr. rider may receive fourth place in overall open show jumpers, but first place in Jr. standings.)**



**Thoroughbred  
Incentive Program**

## HORSE WELFARE

**Horse Protection Policy-** When an owner/trainer enters a horse in the Transformation Expo he/she agrees to take responsibility for the horse's well-being and to sell or place it in a responsible manner. If a horse is withdrawn, whether it is replaced by another horse or not, the owner/trainer will submit an online withdrawal form indicating the status of the horse. If any owner/trainer is found to have knowingly sent a horse entered in the Expo to a kill buyer or to a livestock auction to be sold for under \$1,000, the trainer will be removed from the competition and be banned from participation in future Run for the Ribbons events.

**Abuse and Neglect-** Alleged instances of horse abuse or neglect during the training process or at the Expo will be investigated by Run for the Ribbons management and be grounds for elimination. Evidence of abuse or neglect during the event should be brought directly to the official show staff, or president of Run for the Ribbons Inc. Evidence of abuse or neglect affecting horses entered in the Expo before the event should be brought to Run for the Ribbons management by phone or email at [runfortheribbons@gmail.com](mailto:runfortheribbons@gmail.com) or 774-328-1760. Soundness- Judges in all disciplines are authorized to eliminate horses for unsoundness. Lameness should not compete.

**Body Condition-** Any horse that arrives at the Expo with a Henneke Body Condition Score of 3.0 or less (out of 9) will not be allowed to compete. Eliminations based on this rule will be made only by the Expo Management Committee in consultation with a veterinarian.

## JUDGING AND SCORING

All disciplines will have one judge whose score will be final. Scoresheets *may* be available upon judge's discretion to competitors after the competition. Judges may not judge competitors for whom they have served as coach, trainer, employer, or employee during the preceding thirty days. Judges will also not judge members of their immediate family. Overall scores will be reflected on the cumulative points obtained over all phases of competition during the 3 days; the exception will be the Junior standings, in which the top 6 Junior riders in each discipline will have scores for finale count individually from prior.

## MANAGING STAFF

Members of the Run for the Ribbons Inc. Board of Directors, its staff, and contractors are eligible to participate in the Thoroughbred Transformation Exposition as owners/trainers as long as they do not serve in the capacity of judges or stewards. They may also serve as coaches, trainers, employees, or employers of participating Expo owners/trainers.

## APPEALS

Any competitor may file a written protest at the Show Office alleging violation of rules or unfair treatment. Protests will be reviewed by the responsible parties and submitted to the Event Coordinators who will respond as they deem appropriate.

## RULE CHANGES

Run for the Ribbons Inc. may amend these rules at any time. If amendments are made all registered Expo participants will be notified of the changes within seven days





## SCHEDULE

(tentative; may change based on entry #'s)

**ALL RIDE TIMES WILL BE POSTED 2 WEEKS BEFORE SHOW DATE**

### Friday December 9, 2022

Eventing/Dressage  
Dressage  
Show Hunter  
Working Ranch/Trail Horse

### Saturday December 10

Eventing/Cross Country  
Show Jumping  
**\*United States Military Veterans Leadline Calvacade\***  
**Donations collected throughout the day for the Wounded Warriors Project**  
Freestyle

### Sunday December 11

Eventing/Stadium  
Jumper Finale  
Dressage Finale  
Show Hunter Finale  
Working Ranch/Trail Horse Finale  
Freestyle Finale

