

Making it *flow* – tips for riding the course

The approach is everything

- Prepare your horse to 'meet' each obstacle balanced and ready
- *The horse should always be slightly looking towards the obstacle, otherwise, there will be resistance & loss of balance*

Flow requires balance

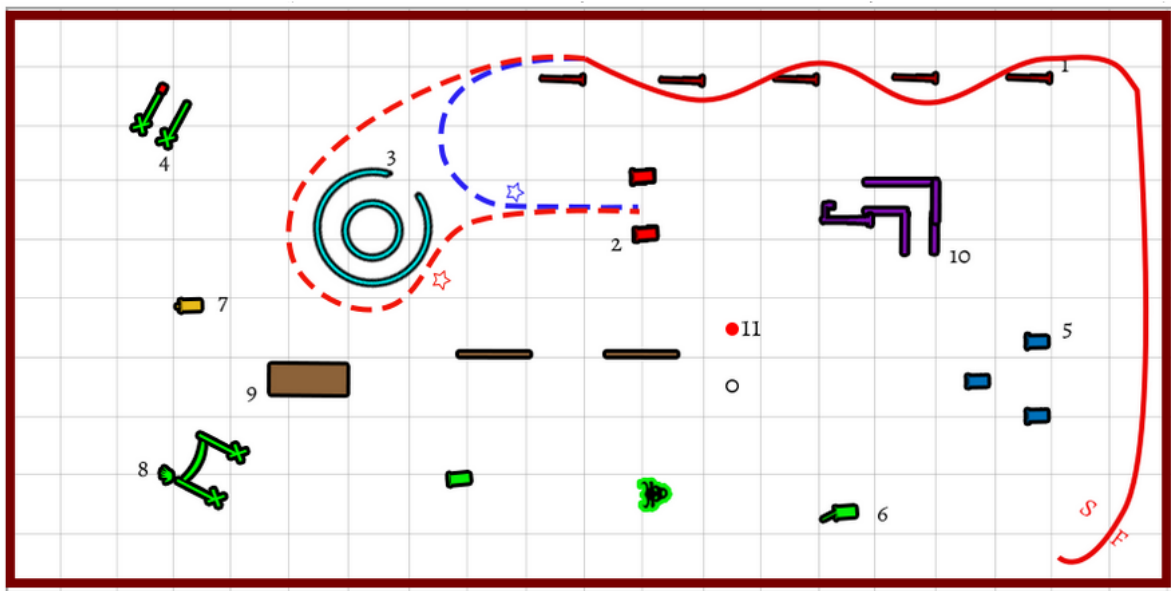
- Your horse needs to trust you to direct their feet in a way that makes them feel good, otherwise they may become nervous, resistant, or just do it their own way
- The line of approach is influenced by your horse's strength and suppleness

Keep the quality of pace

- Build trust, confidence, strength, and suppleness

The obvious line of travel, is not always the best line of travel, for your horse

In the Figure 8, the right drum is always circled first. This means that as the horse crosses the line between the two drums he should already be in a right bend. His spine should match the arc of the circle. The horse will need to have a right flexion on approach and be ready to step into the right bend. Which line above will help more?



Without enough room to prepare, your horse is more likely to resist

- Know which line of travel will allow you the best approach, depending on your horse's level
- Short lines mean the up-transition from the previous obstacle must be considered in your approach to the next obstacle, just as much as the down-transition when you get there.
How much room do you need to prepare for and do them?

To flow from one obstacle to the next, arriving ready to perform it, requires your horse to be balanced.

The line of travel chosen will affect your horse's balance which will affect the flow

You need to know what is required, and how to perform and improve the obstacle, as well as the travel between obstacles

You need to master both straight and bending lines so that your horse is aligned with the line of travel so they are balanced

If they're not balanced, they cannot make a down-transition or bend change without more loss of balance and when this happens close to the obstacle, they won't be ready to perform it.