



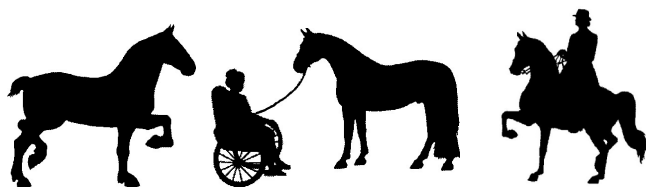
Pennsylvania

4-H



*Horse Show
Rule Book*

2024-2025



PennState Extension

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This publication is made possible through Pennsylvania 4-H program fees.

Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences research and extension programs are funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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PENNSYLVANIA 4-H HORSE SHOW RULE BOOK

This book supersedes all previously published rules and is effective January 2024. **Rule book, class guidelines, and related information are available on the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program SharePoint website.**

New or recently revised rules appear in boxes.

(1) The Pennsylvania State 4-H Horse Show, District Horse Shows, Junior Horse Championship Show, Dressage Championship Show, and County Round-ups or qualifying shows will be governed by the rules as stated in this book and any additional supplement(s) that may be distributed.

At all county and district shows, qualifying classes for the state show must follow state show rules with no additions, deletions, or modifications. In order for an exhibitor to advance to the next show, the class must be conducted, and the exhibitor must successfully compete at the qualifying show.

(2) The State 4-H Horse show committee shall be the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program Development Committee, plus any members appointed by the committee chairperson.

(3) These rules are in effect for the 2024-2025 4-H horse show seasons.

(4) Supplements to the rule book will not be published on a regular basis. Rule changes will be incorporated into the rule book every two (2) years when a new rule book is published. Exception: supplements may be distributed in the event of a safety issue or other extenuating circumstance.

(5) District and County Shows should put in place a committee structure that parallels those outlined in this Rule Book.

The rule books of the United States Equestrian Federation, the American Quarter Horse Association, the American Miniature Horse Association/Registry and the American Driving Society were used as references in formulating certain rules.

General Rules

1. It is obvious that, however complete rules may be, they never can cover all possible situations which may arise. If a matter cannot be solved by interpreting the rules to the letter, the solution to be adopted by those responsible should lie in a principle which follows as nearly as possible the spirit of the rules.
2. If current rules do not address specific situations, generally accepted industry standards will apply at the discretion of the judge and show committee.
3. **When the terms “prohibited”, “not permitted”, “mandatory”, “will”, “required”, “shall” or “must” are used in these rules, any competitor who fails to comply MUST BE DISQUALIFIED by the judge, unless another penalty is stipulated. When the term “should” is used in these rules, and no penalty is prescribed, any competitor who fails to comply MAY BE PENALIZED by the judge.**
4. In the event of a dispute that is not covered in this rule book, the governing 4-H Horse show committee shall render a decision.
5. The show committee's decision is final in regards to a protest decision, rule violation interpretation and/or condition of the show grounds.
6. Video recordings will not be reviewed under any circumstances by show officials.
7. In the event the show committee is not available, the show chairperson may render a decision and his/her decision is final in all decisions that the show committee would adjudicate.
8. Whenever the words "horse" or "pony" appear, this includes all members of the equine family including mules and donkeys.
9. If an exhibitor is showing a gaited horse or pony, whenever the words “trot” or “jog” appear, “easiest gait” may be substituted as appropriate.
10. Currently enrolled 4-H members must enroll **all** their 4-H Project Horse(s) with the county extension office in the 4-H Horse Project by June 1 of the current year to be eligible to show. Pennsylvania 4-H Policy states that a 4-H member must be at least eight years of age and not have passed their nineteenth birthday before January 1. **Whenever this rule book refers to June 1 the following applies:** When June 1 falls on a business day, 4-H Project Horse(s) enrollment forms and other documentation, as required, must be in the extension office by close of business. If June 1 falls on a holiday, Saturday, or Sunday, then 4-H Project Horse(s) enrollment forms and other documentation, as required, must be in the

extension office by close of business on the next business day.

Counties may require earlier deadlines than noted in these rules for show entries and related paperwork.

County deadlines and requirements will apply as appropriate.

11. A 4-H member may have animals in the following projects: Dressage, Junior Horse, Performance, and Competitive Trail Riding. Refer to Dressage, Junior Horse and Performance division, rules in this rule book for specific information regarding the number of animals that may be enrolled. If a member is enrolled in the Competitive Trail Riding project, the animal used may be either the same animal used for Performance, Junior Horse, Dressage, or it may be an additional animal. Animals competing in the Dressage Division must be enrolled as a project animal, and may be the same animal used for Performance, Junior Horse, Competitive Trail, or may be additional animals. Performance, Junior Horse, Dressage and Competitive Trail Ride animals must be enrolled at the extension office by June 1 in order to show or compete in the current year. Entry procedures for Junior Horse, Dressage and State 4-H Competitive Trail Ride will be distributed annually to extension offices.

12. To be eligible to show in the current year, the 4-H member's animal(s) must be enrolled and designated as the member's project animal(s) by June 1 of the current year.

13. All members, to be eligible to compete at the county level and further shows, must be enrolled with the extension office of the county in which they show, and complete appropriate requirements as determined by that county.

14. 4-H Horse Cloverbud members are defined as members aged 5-7 as of January 1. Cloverbud members are eligible for exhibition events at the county level only, in counties that choose to offer this program. 4-H Horse Cloverbud members are exempt from shared horse limitations. For information regarding 4-H Horse Cloverbud members, please refer to the *4-H Horse Cloverbud Policy and Safety Guidelines and the PA 4-H Horse Program Cloverbud Evaluation Form*.

15. Penn State encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact your county extension educator in advance of your participation or visit. Requests for

accommodations should be made to the extension educator at least three weeks in advance of the event

16. The 4-H member is encouraged to care for (feed, exercise, and handle) the animal the majority of the time. Adults should not do the majority of the work. The 4-H member should have *appropriate* involvement or assistance from an adult. Adults *may* assist or ride horses if needed for safety reasons. Exhibitors showing in the Beginner Division are encouraged to participate in the care and management of the animal as much as possible. This rule applies to all 4-H events including but not limited to shows, clinics, mounted meetings, etc.

17. No substitute exhibitors will be permitted with the exception of the allowance for a substitute exhibitor for the Junior Horse Championship Show if an exhibitor qualifies two or more animals for the same championship or grand champion class.

18. *No colts or stallions will be allowed to compete.*

19. A 4-H member may not have a horse project or/projects in more than one Pennsylvania county.

20. A horse or pony shown as a 4-H project cannot be shared by 4-H members unless they are from the immediate family or live in the same home.

Exceptions:

1. Riders in the Equestrians with Disabilities (EWD) and Beginner divisions or the 4-H Horse Cloverbud program are exempt from shared horse limitations. Exhibitors in the Beginner division may not drive a shared horse.

2. A horse may be shared by two unrelated exhibitors, but exhibitors may not show the animal at the same qualifying or state shows. For example, a horse may be shared by unrelated riders, one at the Junior Show and one at the Performance Shows. Another example, a horse may be shared by unrelated riders, one at the Junior Show, one at the Dressage Show.

3. A horse that is shared may not be shown in the same class by two exhibitors.

4. Any shared horse agreement is a voluntary agreement, and the PA 4-H Horse Program has no responsibility in this agreement. Details of the agreement should be determined by the parties involved.

21. Project animals must be owned or leased by the 4-H member or a member of his or/her immediate family prior to June 1 to show that year. The immediate family rule does not apply to animals that are the bona fide property of a 4-H club. The County Extension Office will determine eligibility in such

cases. Leased horses will be eligible if the following items are adhered to:

- a. Lessee must have a verbal or written lease. If the lease is written, the standardized 4-H Horse Project Lease Agreement must be used or must have prior approval by the 4-H insurance company before it is signed.
- b. Lease must be for the minimum of the project year (June 1 current year to day following the Junior Horse Championship Show or State 4-H Horse Show.)
- c. The lease may be between the 4-H member and the owner or the parent or guardian of the 4-H member and owner.
- d. A copy of the lease, or notification of an oral lease, must be provided to the County Extension Office no later than June 1 of the current year.

22. All horses and ponies at 4-H and open horse shows sponsored by 4-H or used in rides at public events must be inoculated for rabies at least 30 days prior to the event if this is the animal's initial inoculation. Re-vaccination is required annually. Vaccination is required for all horses over six (6) months of age. Events that are required to follow Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) health regulations may have more restrictive rabies vaccination requirements that will supersede 4-H Horse Show rules. Mules/donkeys that will be in 4-H shows and ponies participating in 4-H pony rides must also be vaccinated. The PDA will only recognize a rabies vaccination administered by a licensed veterinarian or under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The exact form to be used for rabies vaccination verification is not specified. We will accept any *legitimate* proof of vaccination provided by a licensed veterinarian that includes the veterinarian's signature, date of vaccination, and name and/or description of the horse. Acceptable forms of vaccination verification include, but are not limited to, standard rabies certificate, itemized bill signed by the veterinarian, copy of current CVI listing rabies information, or statement on business letterhead that is signed by the veterinarian.

Verification of vaccination needs to be kept for two (2) years.

23. All horses over six (6) months of age must have proof of current negative Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) status for all Pennsylvania 4-H horse shows and events. Any federal or Pennsylvania state recognized test results for EIA will be acceptable to document negative EIA status. Tests must be dated within 12 months of the show or event.

24. All current federal, state, and/or PDA health regulations will apply as appropriate. Events that are required to follow PDA health regulations may have more restrictive requirements that will supersede 4-H Horse Show rules.

25. Exhibitors who observe an animal that may present a health hazard to other horses are asked to report the horse and/or its stall location to the show committee. The official show veterinarian in consultation with the show committee shall be responsible for determining the health status of all horses. Horses showing evidence of contagious diseases shall be removed by their owner from the show grounds at the direction of the Show Chairperson.

26. If there is a known occurrence of an infectious disease in a certain area, show management in consultation with a veterinarian and Extension personnel, may require additional testing of, or documentation for horses from affected area(s). Upon the advice of the consulting veterinarian, state veterinarian, and/or extension veterinarian, show management may prohibit horses from participating in 4-H events if deemed appropriate to protect the health, welfare, and safety of participants and horses.

27. All animals must be serviceably sound for competition purposes. Animals must not show evidence of lameness or any other unsoundness that renders the animal unsuitable for competition as determined by the official show veterinarian, a veterinarian appointed by the show committee, or the show judge, if a veterinarian is not available.

Animals with complete loss of sight in one eye may be found serviceably sound at the judge's discretion.

28. Cruelty, rough handling, inhumane or unethical treatment of horses will not be allowed at any show. The stewards, judge, or show committee may disqualify anyone mistreating an animal.

29. The judge may excuse any exhibitor due to concerns for the welfare or safety of any participant or horse in any class. Safety concerns may include, but are not limited to animal behavior issues, lack of control or excessive disobedience. Welfare concerns include but are not limited to, significant emaciation, severe lameness or signs of abuse. Safety or welfare concerns should be brought to the attention of the show committee and should be addressed in an appropriate manner.

30. Assistance or coaching from outside the ring may be penalized by the judge at his or her discretion.

31. When an exhibitor, parent, guardian, 4-H leader, coach, educator, or representative acting on behalf of

an exhibitor is guilty of unsportsmanlike or unethical conduct, the 4-H Horse show committee may require the 4-H member to return all trophies and ribbons and may suspend the 4-H member involved from participation in 4-H horse shows or events for such a period as judged appropriate.

A parent, guardian, 4-H leader, coach, educator, or representative acting on behalf of an exhibitor, deemed guilty of unsportsmanlike or unethical conduct may also be prohibited from participation in 4-H horse shows or events for such a period as judged appropriate. Persons deemed guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct may be expelled from the show grounds at the direction of the show committee. The results of such committee action will be sent in writing to the State 4-H Office.

This rule applies at all times during any 4-H horse event, activity or show.

32. An exhibitor does not have the right to view the judge's cards. However, for numerically scored classes, at the discretion of the show committee, exhibitors may view scores and/or scoresheets. At the proper time and place, the show committee may request the judge to give his or her reasons. A judge is not to be approached by any exhibitor or person acting on behalf of the exhibitor with regard to any decision while judging or about to judge.

33. At a show, no judge may be approached by an exhibitor, parent, extension educator, 4-H leader or anyone acting on behalf of an exhibitor without first obtaining the permission of a steward or the show committee. Following a show, communication with a judge in regard to specific show issues is prohibited without obtaining permission from the show committee or steward.

34. In all 4-H sponsored shows/activities it is compulsory for exhibitors 18 years of age or younger, including all 4-H exhibitors regardless of age, to wear properly fastened protective headgear which meets or exceeds current ASTM (American Society for Testing Materials) / SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag.

Headgear must be properly fitted with harness secured and is required while riding or driving anywhere on the event grounds and in all classes *except for Open Division Grooming and Showmanship and Miniature Horse In Hand Trail.*

The Junior Horse Project will require the use of approved headgear for all classes, including In Hand Trail.

Headgear may not be modified in any manner, other than to adjust fit with pads supplied by the manufacturer. Helmet covers may be used provided they can be removed for inspection of the helmet if necessary.

The show committee must immediately prohibit any exhibitor violating this rule at any time from further participation until such headgear is properly in place. During a show class, if the show committee determines that the headgear is inappropriate and the exhibitor is in violation of the rule, the exhibitor will be disqualified from that class and immediately prohibited from further participation until appropriate headgear is properly in place.

It is the responsibility of the exhibitor, the parent or guardian, and the trainer of the exhibitor to see to it that the headgear is worn at the appropriate times, complies with the appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use, and is properly fitted and in good condition. The show committee, show officials, and volunteer leaders are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance *unless* the appropriateness of such headgear is questioned.

Refer to the *PA 4-H Horse Program Protective Headgear Policy Questions and Answers* document for further clarification of the protective headgear rule. (Document available from county extension offices or the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program SharePoint and Cloverlink websites.) Additional information on approved protective headgear is available at: www.seinet.org or www.usef.org.

The Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program Development Committee, Pennsylvania State 4-H Horse Show committee, and the Pennsylvania State University make no representation or warranty, express or implied, regarding any protective headgear, and caution exhibitors and their respective parents or guardians that death or serious injury may result despite wearing such headgear, as all equestrian sports involve inherent dangerous risk and as no helmet can protect against all foreseeable injuries.

In all classes the use of additional safety equipment is permitted, including a protective safety vest specifically designed for use in equestrian sport and any exhibitor may show with this equipment in any class without judging discrimination.

35. A rider may not be fastened or attached in any manner to the horse or tack in any class. "Magic Seats" and rubber bands securing feet in stirrups are

not allowed. In any class, the judge, steward, or show committee may require the removal or alteration of any equipment which is unsafe or inhumane in his/her opinion.

36. The fall of a horse or rider in any class is cause for elimination with the following exception: In Contest classes or Miniature Horse Jumping classes a fall or separation will be cause for elimination only if it occurs after the starting line and before the finish line.

a. Any horse that becomes detached from its handler/rider and is not under control by the handler/rider will be disqualified and excused.

b. The ring conduct of any exhibitor and/or their horse should not adversely affect the exhibition of any other exhibitor's horse in the ring. Exhibitors adversely affecting other exhibitors' performance may be penalized or excused at the judge's discretion.

37. Any personal equipment (protective headgear, riding apparel, tack, mounting blocks or ramp, etc.) must be provided by the 4-H member and their parent and/or guardian.

38. In case of broken equipment or loss of shoe, the exhibitor must continue without delay or be eliminated. **Exceptions exist for loss of shoe in the Saddle Seat and the loss of a shoe or equipment malfunction in the Driving Division; see appropriate section in respective divisions.**

39. Failure to use required tack, equipment, or attire or the use of prohibited tack, equipment, or attire will be cause for disqualification. **The judge may penalize an exhibitor for the use of nontraditional or inappropriate tack or equipment at his/her discretion.**

40. Failure by the exhibitor to wear the correct number in a visible manner or failure to wear a number will result in disqualification.

41. If an exhibitor is disqualified, then he/she may be immediately excused from the arena at the discretion of show management and the judge.

42. Dogs or other pet animals either leashed or unleashed will not be permitted in any part of the Farm Show Complex during the State 4-H Horse Show. This includes the spectator area of the arena and the entire stable area.

43. Drugs & medication

a. No horse or pony may be shown in any class if it has been administered, in any manner, a forbidden substance. A forbidden substance is any substance, including but not limited to stimulants, depressants, or local anesthetics which might affect the

performance of a horse. (Stimulants and depressants are defined as substances which stimulate or depress the circulatory, respiratory, or central nervous systems). Also prohibited are any drugs and substances, regardless of how harmless or innocuous they might be, which by their very nature might mask or screen the presence of the aforementioned prohibited drugs or prevent or delay testing procedures.

b. The full use of modern therapeutic measures including phenylbutazone for the improvement and protection of the health of the horse is permitted, unless the treatment may also stimulate or depress the circulatory, respiratory, or central nervous systems.

For more information on appropriate doses of common therapeutic medications please refer to *USEF Drug and Medication Guidelines* or consult your veterinarian.

c. Horses in competition are subject to examination by a licensed veterinarian appointed by the show committee. The examination may include physical, saliva, urine, and blood tests or any other tests or procedures necessary to effectuate the purposes of this rule. Said veterinarian may examine any or all horses in a class or classes in the shows.

d. Should the chemical analysis of blood, urine, saliva, or other samples taken from the horse indicate the presence of a forbidden substance, this shall be prima facie evidence that a forbidden substance has been administered to the horse.

When a positive report identifying a forbidden substance is received from the testing laboratory, a hearing will be held by the State Show Committee. The 4-H member involved will be notified ten days prior to the meeting. The 4-H member may attend the hearing at his/her option and may bring witnesses, sworn statements or other evidence in their behalf.

e. The show committee may require the 4-H member to return all trophies and/or ribbons and may suspend the 4-H member and the horse or pony involved from competing in 4-H competitive events for a period of one year.

The result of said hearing will be sent in writing to the State 4-H Office and county extension educator.

f. Refusal to submit to the drug test will be interpreted as prima facie evidence of guilt and will result in suspension of exhibitor and animal from the remainder of the show and from any 4-H horse competitive events for a minimum of the following program year. All prizes and awards received at that show will be forfeited.

g. Any horse or pony exhibited that receives any medication which contains a forbidden substance shall not be eligible for competition unless the following requirements are met, and the facts requested are furnished in writing.

1. The medication must be therapeutic and necessary for the treatment of illness or injury.
 2. The horse must be withdrawn from competition for a period of not less than 24 hours after the medication is administered.
 3. The medication must be administered by a licensed veterinarian, if available and in his or her absence by the 4-H member or designated representative.
 4. Identification of medication; the amount, strength, and mode of administration.
 5. Date and time of administration.
 6. Identification of horse, its name, age, sex, color, and entry number.
 7. Diagnosis and reason for administration.
 8. Statement signed by person administering the medication.
 9. Statement filed with steward within one hour after administration or one hour after the steward returns to duty if administration was at a time other than Show hours.
 10. Statement signed by the steward and time of receipt recorded on the statement by the steward.
- h. If the chemical analysis of the sample taken from a horse so treated indicates the presence of a forbidden substance, and all of the requirements of paragraph g have been fully complied with, the information in said medication report and any other relevant evidence shall be considered by the hearing committee in determining guilt or innocence of the 4-H member charged under the provisions of this rule.

Show Committee

Show committees should refer to *Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Show Management Guidelines and Horses, Safety and You – How to Work With and Around a Horse Safely* (available from County Extension Offices and the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program SharePoint and Cloverlink websites).

1. The show committee shall be responsible for the operation of the show. It shall be the duty of this committee to enforce all rules as set forth in this rule book.
2. Show committees should consist of at least one or more persons experienced in horse show management. It is recommended that show committees follow these or other acceptable

guidelines as closely as possible at all 4-H horse shows.

3. The show committee must address and take necessary action to ensure the safety of exhibitors, horses, spectators, and all show participants when planning and conducting shows.

4. If time and conditions warrant, the show committee should permit exhibitors to walk and/or school over the course prior to the following classes: Open Trail, Beginner Trail, Miniature Horse In Hand Trail, Obstacle Trail, Miniature Horse Jumping, Low Working Hunter, Working Hunter, Low Equitation Over Fences and Equitation Over Fences.

5. The show committee shall determine all Open Trail, Beginner Trail, Miniature Horse In Hand Trail, Obstacle Trail, Low Working Hunter, Working Hunter, Low Equitation Over Fences, Equitation Over Fences and Miniature Horse Jumping courses and obtain approval from the judge prior to posting. Courses must be posted at least one hour prior to the start of the class. It is the judge's responsibility in consultation with the show committee to provide patterns/tests for all other classes as appropriate.

Degree of difficulty of patterns/tests should be appropriate for age division.

6. The show committee shall eliminate, without waiting for a protest, an improper entry of an exhibitor.

7. Show committee members have the responsibility to alert the show committee chair or steward of any rule violations or situations that may lead to a protest.

8. The show committee shall determine the working order in individual performance classes.

9. The show committee may require announcement of individual disqualifications in timed or scored events as they occur.

10. An exhibitor does not have the right to view the judge's cards. However, for numerically scored classes, at the discretion of the show committee, exhibitors may view scores and/or scoresheets.

11. The show committee shall weigh all facts and information pertaining to or regarding a protest, rule violation and/or error before rendering a decision.

12. Clerical and/or mathematical errors may be corrected by the show committee and/or in consultation with the judge during a class or after a class has been placed, but no later than 30 minutes after the conclusion of the show.

Stewards

Stewards shall be appointed by the show committee. A steward should clearly understand he or she has no

connection with show committee decisions or the judging of the show. The steward should point out in a diplomatic manner any instance where the rules are not enforced. The steward should not dictate to the judges or the show committee but should immediately report to the appropriate officials any violations of the rules which might invalidate a class. The steward should be available to judges, exhibitors, and the show committee at all times to clarify the application of the State 4-H Horse Show Rules, and to investigate any situation in which the rules are not upheld.

The other duties of the steward shall be, but shall not be limited to, the following:

1. To verify the enforcement of show rules.
2. To protect the interest of exhibitors, judges, and show committee.
3. To report to the show committee any misrepresentation or substitution of entry without waiting for a protest.
4. To supervise and record "time outs."
5. To report to the show committee chair any offense or violation of the rules committed by an exhibitor, judge, or official.

Judges

1. Good judging depends upon the correct observation of horses and/or riders and the measuring of them against a standard commonly accepted as the ideal, according to the conditions of the class being judged. A judge serves three interests: his or her own conscience, the exhibitors, and the spectators. The judge should make clear to the audience that it is the best horses or riders who win. 4-H is a learning experience, and the members should be able to follow the judging procedure.
2. The judge may excuse an exhibitor for the abuse of an animal in the show arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred. The judge may excuse a horse at any time while in the arena for unsafe or inhumane conditions pertaining to the horse and/or rider.
3. The judge may excuse any exhibitor due to concerns for the welfare or safety of any participant or horse in any class.
4. A judge must adjudicate each class in conformity with the rules and specifications of the class as they appear in this rule book. A judge may choose not to place any exhibitor that does not fulfill the requirements of a class as specified in this rule book.

5. In Horsemanship and Equitation on the flat classes, exhibitors going off pattern, knocking over or on the wrong side of a cone, never performing specified gait, or overturning more than a quarter turn than designated, shall not be disqualified, but must always place below exhibitors who incur none of these errors.

6. The decision of each judge is final and represents a non-protestable expression of individual preference, unless a decision is alleged to be in violation of the rules.

7. The judge should approve Open Trail, Beginner Trail, Miniature Horse In Hand Trail, Obstacle Trail, Low Working Hunter, Working Hunter, Low Equitation Over Fences, Equitation Over Fences and Miniature Horse Jumping courses prior to the show committee posting such courses.

8. **The judge should consult with the show committee to determine the appropriate degree of difficulty in patterns/tests.** It is the responsibility of the judge and show management to provide Showmanship, Horsemanship, Saddle Seat Equitation and Equitation on the Flat patterns/tests and determine the pattern to be used for Ranch Riding Horse or Pony and Novice Reining.

Protests

A protest may be made by an exhibitor participating in the class, by his or her parents, the county educator, or a 4-H Leader or Volunteer for any violation of the rules governing a particular class. All protests must be lodged verbally or in writing to the show committee prior to the announcement of the placing of that particular class. Protests must be accompanied by \$50.00 cash. If the protest is upheld, the funds will be returned. However, if the protest is denied, the funds will be deposited in the horse show account. **Height measurement protests must also be accompanied by \$50.00 cash, see height measurement rule, Performance Rules, rule 14d.**

The show committee or show chairperson shall determine decisions regarding protests prior to the announcement of the placing of the class.

The judge may ask the show committee for clarification of the steward's interpretation of the rules as written.

The show committee's decision regarding a protest shall be final and considered accepted by all exhibitors, parents, guardians, and anyone representing the exhibitor.

Video footage will **not** be reviewed as evidence in a protest situation.

Non protestable decisions include: The soundness of a horse when determined by the official veterinarian of the show or by the judge if a veterinarian is not available. A judge's decision shall represent his or her individual opinion. An animal's height is not protestable at a district or state show, providing the exhibitor has a valid PA 4-H Height Certificate.

Junior Horse Project and Junior Horse Championship Show Rules

The Junior Horse Project and Championship Show is open to members with project animals aged yearling through 5 years old. The project will offer expanded opportunities that include in hand and performance classes that demonstrate the members' ability to train and exhibit their project animals.

All Junior Horse Project members are eligible to participate at the Junior Horse Championship Show. At this show, all exhibitors will have the opportunity to progress through preliminary classes to championship classes with the awarding of State Champions.



Junior Horse Rules

The Junior Horse Championship Show is for horses that are yearling through 5 years of age. Current PA 4-H Junior Horse Project Guidelines will apply. Guidelines are available from county extension offices or the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program SharePoint and Cloverlink websites.

The Junior Horse Championship Show rules that are listed in this 2024-2025 rule book will be effective for the 2024 calendar year. The 4-H horse program is currently considering changes that may impact this program in following years.

Protective headgear is required in all Junior Horse classes.

1. 4-H members must be 12 years of age or older or have passed handling skills of the Level 1 Horsemanship Skills Program with *each* Junior Horse project animal to show at a 4-H sponsored show. Youth under 12 years of age exhibiting in riding classes must have passed the entire Level 1 Horsemanship Skills test in order to show. Youth under 12 must retest the appropriate Level 1 Skills on an annual basis with each Junior Horse project animal to be shown. For 4-H members *under* 12 years of age, a copy of the Level 1 Horsemanship Skills Evaluation Sheet must be included with entry forms or submitted at the show for each animal. The Evaluation Sheet must include signatures of 3 trained Horsemanship Skills examiners and indicate that the youth has passed all applicable horsemanship skills. Youth under 12 years of age who have *not* passed Level 1 handling skills may be *enrolled* in the Junior Horse project but will not be allowed to *show* until they are 12 years of age (4-H age as of January 1 of current year) *or* meet the horsemanship skills requirement.
2. All members to be eligible to compete at the Junior Horse Championship show must have completed appropriate project requirements as determined by each county.
3. A Junior Horse project animal may also be used as the member's performance project animal, with the following exceptions:
 - a. No animals 2 years of age or younger will be allowed to compete in any riding or driving classes in the performance division. Animals one (1) year of age and older may be shown in Showmanship and Mini In Hand Trail.
4. Animals may be enrolled in the Junior Horse project at any time during the calendar year;

however, it must be enrolled as a project animal by the county deadline in order to show in the current year's Junior Horse Championship Show. Animals may be enrolled in the project at any age but may not be shown in the Junior Horse project until their yearling year through 5 years of age.

5. No colts or stallions will be permitted to show in the Junior Horse Championship Show.

6. The age of a horse is established on the basis of a calendar year starting January 1 of the year foaled.

The animal is a weanling during the calendar year in which it was foaled and a yearling during the first calendar year following its foaling date, regardless of the time of year foaled. For example, a horse foaled anytime in 2021 is considered a yearling on January 1, 2022; two years old on January 1, 2023, three years old on January 1, 2024, and so on.

7. *If a veterinary certificate states that the project animal is unsound prior to the Junior Horse Championship Show it will be permissible to show a substitute project animal, with the club leader's and county extension educator's approval. Substitute animal must be a currently enrolled Jr. Horse Project prior to June 1 (or county animal enrollment deadline). To make a show entry substitution, a substitution acknowledgement form and documentation must be submitted as per acknowledgement form instructions.*

8. There is no limit to the number of horses a 4-H member may enroll as a project; however, a 4-H member is limited to showing four project animals at the Junior Horse Championship Show.

9. Exhibitors are limited to one entry per class with the exception of the individual performance classes, including: In Hand Trail, Performance Skills, Barrel Race Futurity and Miniature Horse Jumping.

10. All animals 3 years of age and older, exhibiting in a pony class or miniature horse class must be measured or have a valid PA 4-H height certificate for the current year. These animals need to be re-measured annually. The height of the animal is non-protestable. Please refer to Performance Horse General Rule 16b, for details regarding measuring.

11. All animals exhibiting in pony classes should have an expected mature height of 14.2 hands and under.

12. All animals exhibiting in miniature horse classes must be 40 inches and under.

13. All preliminary classes will be judged on the merit system with all entries receiving a blue, red, or yellow merit ribbon.

14. All blue merit ribbon winners in the preliminary classes will be eligible to advance to a Championship class.

15. Upon qualification the exhibitor must report to the show office and register with appropriate fee for their selected Championship type class prior to the advertised deadline at the show.

16. All exhibitors who qualify and intend to show in their Championship class **MUST** report to the show office by the announced deadline following the conclusion of the preliminary classes, make their championship entry and pay the class entry fee. Late entries will **NOT** be accepted.

Exhibitors who fail to complete their Championship entry and submit appropriate fee will **NOT** be allowed to participate.

17. In the event an exhibitor qualifies two or more entries for the same Championship class, that exhibitor needs to report to the show office for approval of a substitute exhibitor. The substitute exhibitor must be a current 4-H member in good standing and approved by the show committee. If the exhibitor qualifies 2 or more horses for the same Performance Skills, In Hand Trail, Miniature Horse Jumping or Barrel Race Futurity, he or she may exhibit multiple animals in that class (no substitute exhibitors).

18. Championship classes will receive ribbon placings 1-6.

Junior Horse Championship Show

Structure and Requirements

In Hand Classes

1. Horses/ponies are judged in hand on: 75% conformation, breed, type and condition of horse and 25% on handling ability of exhibitor (ability of exhibitor to safely control and properly present the horse to the judge).
2. Animals will be shown in hand with halter or bridle in the manner that is conventional for the respective breed or type.
3. Horses will walk to the judge one at a time. As the horse approaches, the judge will step away to enable the horse to trot to a cone approx. 50 ft. away. At the cone, the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left and trot toward the left wall or fence of the arena. After trotting, the horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection. The judge shall inspect each horse from both sides, front and rear.
4. Junior Horse show exhibitors are permitted to show and dress according to respective breed association standards, or they may see the appropriate notation under western, hunter or saddle seat divisions, in performance rules. However, coats will not be required for In Hand classes.
5. Attire should be suitable for the show ring and the job at hand and fit properly without being too loose or too tight. Girls may wear skirt or slacks. T-shirts, halter tops and tank tops are prohibited. Canvas shoes or sneakers are prohibited. Vests, jackets, and ties are optional.
6. Dress requirements for Draft Horse exhibitors: The handler and "trailer", if used, must be neat and clean and quietly dressed. Attire must be suitable for the show ring and the job at hand.
7. **In all registered classes, photocopies of the horses' registration papers must be submitted with entries for the Junior Horse Championship show by the show entry deadline.**
8. For draft breeds where registration paper, breeders' certificate or application for registry is unavailable, a signed statement must be obtained from the owners of the sire and dam indicating that the horse is eligible for registration. This statement must be presented with entries for the Junior Horse Championship show by the show entry deadline.

9. If registration papers (or documentation as indicated in rule 8) are unavailable by the show entry deadline, the horse must be shown as a grade animal. In future years, the horse may be shown as a registered animal with proper proof of registration.

Preliminary In Hand Classes:

1. At the Junior Horse Championship Show, in the preliminary classes all horses will be shown by breed or type, and according to age and sex.
2. All preliminary In Hand classes will be judged on the merit system with all entries receiving a blue, red, or yellow merit ribbon.
3. All blue-ribbon merit ribbon winners in the preliminary classes will be eligible to advance to a championship type class.
4. During the preliminary stages of the Junior Horse Championship Show, a schedule of registered classes will be offered for horses that are registered in the breed associations listed. Animals of different breeds will not be shown in the same registered class. **All unregistered horses or horses registered in associations *not* listed as follows will be shown by type as unregistered or grade animals.**

| BREED | ASSOCIATION |
|----------------------|--|
| Appaloosa | Appaloosa Horse Club, Inc. |
| Arabian/Half Arabian | The Arabian Horse Association or Canadian Arabian Horse Registry International Arabian Horse Assn. |
| Drum/Gypsy Vanner | Gypsy Vanner Horse Society International Drum Horse Association |
| Haflinger | American Haflinger Registry |
| Miniature Horse | American Miniature Horse Assn. or American Miniature Horse Registry |
| Morgan | American Morgan Horse Assn. Inc. |
| Paint | American Paint Horse Association |
| Palomino | Palomino Horse Breeders of America or Palomino Horse Association Inc. |
| Pinto | Pinto Horse Assn. of America Inc. |
| POA | Pony of Americas Club Inc. Am. |
| Quarter Horse | American Quarter Horse Assn. |
| Saddlebred | American Saddlebred Horse Assn. or Canadian American Saddlebred Horse Registry |
| Standardbred | United States Trotting Association Standardbred Breed Registry |
| Shetland Pony | American Shetland Pony Club |
| Thoroughbred | The Jockey Club |
| Welsh/Half Welsh | Welsh Pony and Cob Society of America Welsh Section Canadian Pony Society |
| Warmblood | Performance Horse Registry or Respective Warmblood Breed Registry |
| Belgian | Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America |
| Clydesdale | Clydesdale Breeders of the US |
| Percheron | Percheron Horse Assn. of America |

5. Animals registered in more than one association may be shown in only one breed/type class per project year but may be shown as the alternate breed in future years.
6. Classes for Appaloosa, Paint, or other breeds with color classifications will not be divided into solid, non-characteristic, breeding stock, etc. categories.
7. Type classes for horses and ponies include all grade (unregistered) animals and registered animals for which a specific breed class is not offered. Horse and pony classes will be offered for Draft, Western, Saddle and Hunter types. In addition, a Long Ears (Donkey and Mule) and Miniature Horse types will be offered. *Both* grade (unregistered) and registered animals will be shown together in Long Ears classes.
8. The following In Hand classes may be offered for each breed or type:

REGISTERED AND UNREGISTERED ANIMALS

1. Yearling Geldings
2. 2-year-old Geldings
3. 3-year-old Geldings
4. 4-year-old Geldings
5. 5-year-old Geldings
6. Yearling Fillies
7. 2-year-old Fillies
8. 3-year-old Fillies
9. 4-year-old Fillies
10. 5-year-old Fillies

LONG EARS (Donkeys, Mules)

1. Yearling Geldings
2. 2-year-old Geldings
3. 3-year-old Geldings
4. 4-year-old Geldings
5. 5-year-old Geldings
6. Yearling Jennet
7. 2 -year-old Jennet
8. 3-year-old Jennet
9. 4-year-old Jennet
10. 5-year-old Jennet

Choosing a Preliminary Class:

| If ... | Then ... |
|--|--|
| The horse is registered with one breed registry listed above, | Enter class for that breed based on the horse’s age and sex. |
| The horse is registered with one breed registry, and that breed registry is <i>not</i> listed above, | Enter appropriate type class based on horse’s age and sex. |
| The horse is registered with more than one breed association listed above, | Choose only one breed to show and enter appropriate class for that breed based on the horse’s age and sex. |
| The horse is <i>not</i> registered with any breed association, | Enter appropriate type class based on horse’s age and sex. |

Championship In Hand Classes:

1. Championship classes for the following types are offered:

Draft horses

Draft ponies

Western horses

Western ponies

Saddle horses

Saddle ponies

Hunter horses

Hunter ponies

Long Ears

Miniature Horse

2. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to choose and enter which Championship type class is most appropriate for their animal.

3. Classes will be divided by age and sex within each type in the same manner as preliminary classes.

4. First and Second place award winners of each Championship class will be qualified to advance to the Grand Champion class of their type.

Grand Champion In Hand Classes:

1. Within each type, a Grand Champion and Reserve Champion of each sex will be awarded.

2. The Grand Champion class will be immediately following the conclusion of each type's Championship classes.

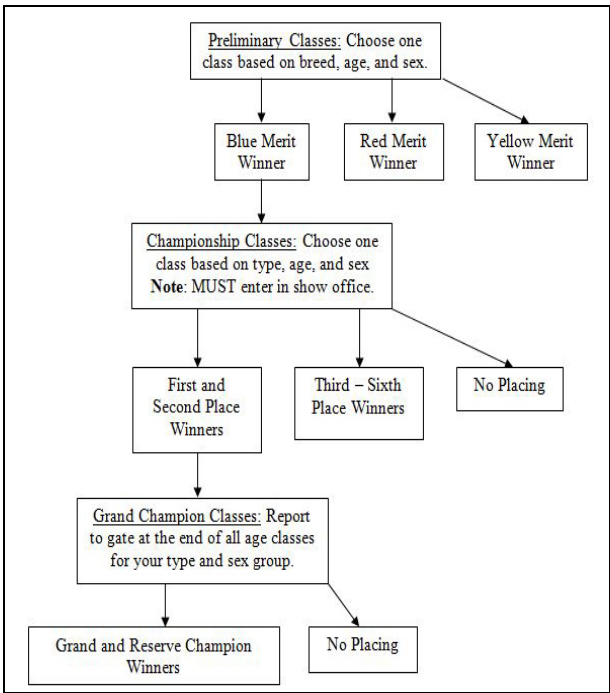
3. There is no entry fee for Grand Champion classes and no entry is required at the show office.

4. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to monitor the progress of the classes and be at ringside at the conclusion of their type's classes.

5. The start of the Grand Championship class will be announced, and a gate call will be given. Any exhibitor that fails to report to the gate within the announced time will be denied entry.

6. Project animals must be exhibited in a Grand Champion class by the enrolled member unless that member qualifies two or more horses in the same Grand Champion class.

7. In the event an exhibitor qualifies two or more entries for the same Grand Champion class, that exhibitor needs to report to the show office for approval of a substitute exhibitor. The substitute exhibitor must be a current 4-H member in good standing and approved by the show committee.



Master Showman Award and Champion Showman Class

This award and class is available to exhibitors that participate in the In Hand classes. Exhibitors that do an exemplary job showing their horse may receive a Master Showman award. A Master Showman award may not be awarded in every class. Exhibitors who earn a Master Showman award in their preliminary class are invited to participate in a Champion Showman class.

Any exhibitor who is awarded a Master Showman award and intends to show in the Champion Showman class **MUST** report to the show office by the announced deadline following the conclusion of the preliminary classes to make their championship entry. Late entries will **NOT** be accepted. Exhibitors who fail to complete their Championship entry will **NOT** be allowed to participate. There is no entry fee for the Champion Showman class.

The structure of the Champion Showman class will follow that of the In-Hand classes.

Futurity Classes

Futurity classes are offered for animals 2 years of age through 5 years of age. Classes will be offered at the walk-trot level for 2 and 3 year olds. Classes will be offered at the walk, trot and canter for 3, 4 and 5 year olds.

Animals may be shown in only one futurity class.

The following classes will be offered at the preliminary level:

- **2 Yr. Old Western Pleasure Futurity Horse W/J**
- **3 Yr. Old Western Pleasure Futurity Horse W/J**
- **2&3 Yr. Old Western Pleasure Futurity Pony W/J**

As a pleasure class, judge should place the emphasis on manners, quality of movement, consistency, conformation, and soundness.

Riders will work both ways of the ring at a walk and jog. Horses may be asked to back.

Clothing and equipment requirements will follow that of the Western Division.

- **3 Yr. Old Western Pleasure Futurity Horse**
- **4 Yr. Old Western Pleasure Futurity Horse**
- **5 Yr. Old Western Pleasure Futurity Horse**
- **3, 4, 5, Yr. Old Western Pleasure Futurity Pony**

As a pleasure class, judge should place the emphasis on manners, quality of movement, consistency, conformation, and soundness.

Riders will work both ways of the ring at a walk, jog and lope. Horses may be asked to back.

Clothing and equipment requirements will follow that of the Western Division.

- **2 Yr. Old English Futurity W/T Horse**
- **3 Yr. Old English Futurity W/T Horse**
- **2&3 Yr. Old English Futurity W/T Pony**

As a pleasure class the horse is to be judged on performance, manners, conformation, soundness, consistency and suitability to purpose.

Exhibitors will be required to walk and trot/easy gait on the rail both directions of the ring. Exhibitors may be asked to back.

Clothing and equipment requirements will follow that of the Hunt Seat and Saddle Seat divisions.

- **3 Yr. Old English Futurity Horse**
- **4 Yr. Old English Futurity Horse**
- **5 Yr. Old English Futurity Horse**
- **3, 4, 5 Yr. Old English Futurity Pony**

As a pleasure class the horse is to be judged on performance, manners, conformation, soundness, consistency and suitability to purpose.

Exhibitors will be required to walk, trot/easy gait and canter on the rail both directions of the ring. Exhibitors may be asked to back.

Clothing and equipment requirements will follow that of the Hunt Seat and Saddle Seat divisions.

Championship Futurity Classes

The following classes will be offered at the championship level:

- **Western Pleasure Futurity W/J Horse/Pony Championship**
- **Western Pleasure Futurity Horse/Pony Championship**
- **English Futurity W/T Horse/Pony Championship**
- **English Futurity Horse/Pony Championship**

Performance Skills Classes

Animals may be shown in only one Performance Skills class.

- **2 Yr. Old Western Performance Skills W/J**
- **3 Yr. Old Western Performance Skills W/J**
- **3 Yr. Old Western Performance Skills**
- **4 Yr. Old Western Performance Skills**
- **5 Yr. Old Western Performance Skills**

- **2 Yr. Old English Performance Skills W/T**
- **3 Yr. Old English Performance Skills W/T**
- **3 Yr. Old English Performance Skills**
- **4 Yr. Old English Performance Skills**
- **5 Yr. Old English Performance Skills**

Championship Performance Skills Classes

The following classes will be offered at the championship level:

- **Western Performance Skills W/J**
- **Western Performance Skills**
- **English Performance Skills W/T**
- **English Performance Skills**

This class is open to all riding disciplines. Clothing and equipment requirements will follow those found in the corresponding Western and English performance divisions. For Western Division, please refer to pages 51-53 and for the English Division, please refer to pages 85-86 and 89-90. For information on use of Western bits and two hands on reins, refer to the performance Western Division.

Performance skills classes will be judged 75% on performance of the horse, responsiveness to aids, manners and 25% on the rider's overall horsemanship or equitation. The horse should be ridden in the frame and style most suitable to the intended purpose of the horse. This class's major focus is on the horse's level of training and accomplishment of the skills, not the quality of movement.

Each rider will perform an individual pattern that has been designed by Show Management. The 2 & 3 Yr. old class skills included in the pattern will be those found in the Level 1 Horsemanship Skills test. In the 3, 4, 5 Yr. old class, skills included in the pattern will be those found in Levels 1 and 2 Horsemanship Skills tests.

Barrel Race Futurity Classes

Barrel Race futurity classes are offered for horses/ponies 4 and 5 years of age.

Clothing and equipment requirements will follow the rules of the Contest Division. For class rules and procedures, please refer to the Performance Contest Division rules.

The following classes will be offered at the preliminary level:

- **4 Yr. Old Barrel Futurity**
- **5 Yr. Old Barrel Futurity**

Placings in the barrel futurity classes will be determined by time with the fastest time used as the basis for determining merit awards/ribbons. All times within 2 seconds of the fastest time will receive a blue merit. Times over 2 seconds slower up to 4 seconds slower than the fastest time will receive a red merit. All times over 4 seconds slower than the fastest time will receive a yellow merit.

Championship Barrel Race Futurity Classes

- **Barrel Futurity Championship**

In Hand Trail Classes

- **Yearling In Hand Trail Horse/Pony**
- **2 Yr. Old In Hand Trail Horse/Pony**

Championship In Hand Trail Class

- **In Hand Horse/Pony Championship**

Exhibitor must show in western, hunt seat or saddle seat attire. Refer to clothing requirements within respective division.

Horses must be shown with a halter and lead, with or without a chain.

Chains may be a part of the lead on the halter but regardless of type of lead used, the chain portion cannot be placed in the horse's mouth or over the horse's nose.

For Judging and Scoring In Hand Trail Classes, please refer to the Performance rules for Miniature Horse In Hand Trail *Judging and Scoring Trail classes* section. Qualifying scores to determine merit ribbons for each preliminary class will be determined by the judge and show management the day of the show.

This class will be judged on performance of the horse with emphasis on manners, response to the handler, movement, willingness and general attitude throughout course. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacle with correctness, and style. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles, capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant, and willingly responding to the handler's cues on more difficult obstacles.

Acceptable handler's cues include voice or mouth commands, soft shaking of lead rope, twirling end of lead rope, and body language. Baiting to encourage an animal to perform one of the obstacles is not allowed. Any baiting is a disqualification.

Handlers will be penalized for physically touching or pushing a horse in any direction, stepping on or in an obstacle with the horse. Exception: walk into square, walk/trot over poles, or by direction of judge.

Preliminary class patterns must be posted at least one hour prior to the start of the class.

Obstacle specifications:

The preliminary course must be posted no less than (1) one hour prior to the class. The course must have a minimum of 5 obstacles, and a maximum of 8 obstacles.

If a horse disrupts the course/obstacle, it shall be reset when that horse finishes the pattern.

Within the course there must be at least 20 to 30 feet of jog/trot space for the judge to evaluate gaits. Any walk over poles should be set with a spacing of 20 to 24 inches. Jog or trot overs should be set at or about 3 feet.

Recommended Obstacles:

1. Back through or out of obstacle
2. Walk through narrow passage
3. Walk across bridge or simulated bridge
4. Walk or trot pattern created with poles or cones such as figure 8, Serpentine, cloverleaf, etc.
5. Walk over poles may be elevated not more than 6 inches. The total height of the obstacle may not exceed 10 inches.
6. Side-pass (either or both directions)
7. Gate - Use a gate which will not endanger horse or handler. Rope gates may be used.

Unacceptable obstacles:

1. Tires and stair steps
2. Animals
3. Hides
4. PVC pipe
5. Rocking or moving bridges
6. Water hazards or Water boxes with floating or moving parts
7. Flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, etc.
8. Log/poles elevated in a manner that permits them to roll.
9. Ground ties
10. Dragging/pulling any objects
11. Lime
12. Jumps

Miniature Horse In Hand Trail

- Yearling In Hand Trail Miniature Horse
- 2 Yr. Old In Hand Trail Miniature Horse
- 3 Yr. Old In Hand Trail Miniature Horse
- 4 Yr. Old In Hand Trail Miniature Horse
- 5 Yr. Old In Hand Trail Miniature Horse

For In Hand Trail Miniature Horse Classes, refer to the Performance rules for Miniature Horse In Hand Trail. Exception: A jump is not an acceptable obstacle.

Qualifying scores to determine merit ribbons for each preliminary class will be determined by the judge and show management the day of the show.

Championship In Hand Trail Class

- Miniature Horse In Hand Trail Championship

| |
|---------------------------------|
| Driving Futurity Classes |
|---------------------------------|

- 3 Yr. Old Miniature Horse Driving
- 4 Yr. Old Miniature Horse Driving
- 5 Yr. Old Miniature Horse Driving

Championship Miniature Horse Driving Class

- Miniature Horse Driving Championship

Open to Miniature Horses 3-5 years of age. To be shown both ways of the ring at a flat-footed walk, a working trot, and a strong trot. Animals will be asked to stand quietly in the line-up and back readily. For a complete class description and information on rules, tack and attire refer to Miniature horse driving in the Performance project.

In the interest of safety, a separate header is required to head each driving animal. The attendant (if present) shall remain in the vehicle while the animals are being judged on the line.

Prior to this class there will be an optional equipment check and safety assessment conducted by show officials. The purpose of this pre-class evaluation is to help assure a safe driving experience for all exhibitors.

- **3 Yr. Old Draft Horse Driving**
- **4 Yr. Old Draft Horse Driving**
- **5 Yr. Old Draft Horse Driving**

Championship Draft Horse Driving Class

- **Draft Horse Driving Championship**

Open to Draft Type horses 3-5 years of age. This class is to be shown both ways of the ring at the flat-footed walk and a trot that is suitable for a youth to drive. No passing is allowed. To reverse direction, it is suggested that the horse be turned toward the center of the ring, cross diagonally to the other side of the ring at a trot and proceed in the opposite direction at the ringmaster's direction. Horses should stand quietly in the line-up and back readily. The horse should be well mannered, easy to handle, responsive to the rein, and have even, ground covering gaits. For a complete class description and information on rules, tack and attire, refer to Draft horse driving in the Performance project. In the interest of safety, a separate header is required to head each driving animal. The attendant shall remain in the vehicle while the animals are being judged on the line.

Prior to this class there will be an optional equipment check and safety assessment conducted by show officials. The purpose of this pre-class evaluation is to help assure a safe driving experience for all exhibitors.

Miniature Horse Jumping

- **3 Yr. Old Miniature Horse Jumping**
- **4 Yr. Old Miniature Horse Jumping**
- **5 Yr. Old Miniature Horse Jumping**

Championship Miniature Horse Jumping

- **Miniature Horse Jumping Championship**

For Miniature Horse Jumping Classes, refer to the Performance rules for Miniature Horse Jumping. Open to Miniature Horses 3-5 years of age.

Performance Horse Project and State 4-H Horse Show Rules

Performance Rules

4-H Member Age Divisions: Members age as of January 1st of current year determines appropriate age division. When classes are divided into 2 age divisions, the groupings are as follow: 8 years to 13 years (8-13) and 14 years to 18 years (14-18) When classes are divided into 3 age divisions, the groups are as such: 8 years to 11 years (8-11), 12 years to 14 years (12-14) and 15 years to 18 years (15-18).

1. A Junior Horse or Dressage project animal may also be used as a performance project animal.
2. All members, to be eligible to compete at the county level and further shows, must be enrolled with the extension office of the county in which they show, and complete appropriate requirements as determined by that county.
3. Record book must be up to date, before a member will be eligible to compete at a district show.
4. Two or more members of an immediate family may show the same horse at the county, district and state shows, management of project to be shared. However, they may not show in the same class. Refer to Glossary number 6 and General Rule 20.
5. A member must show the same horse at county, district, and state shows. The contestant must compete and qualify to be eligible to advance to the next show. If the horse that competed at a county or district roundup is injured or the member cannot compete at the next show, the next lower placing member in the class may compete at the next show. It is the responsibility of the county or district show committee to enforce this rule. Each county should determine which show will be the elimination show, and when substitutions should be made.
6. To be eligible for the State 4-H Horse Show entries must qualify at the district show designated for the county in which they are enrolled.
7. **Entries for the state show must be made at the district show, except in the case of substitutions.** District substitutions for the State Show must be made by the district chairperson in consultation with the State Show secretary. Please consult the State Show entry information for deadlines.

All exhibitors who qualify and intend to show at the state show **MUST** report to the district show office or designated show secretary to verify their state show entry, submit required forms, and obtain state show information. Exhibitors **MUST** report to the show office within 30 minutes of the placing of the last class of the show. Late entries will **NOT** be accepted. Exhibitors who fail to verify their entry and

submit appropriate information will **NOT** be allowed to participate in the state show.

8. *If a veterinary certificate states that the project animal is unsound prior to the county show it will be permissible to enroll and show a substitute project animal, with the club leaders' and county extension educator's approval. To make a project enrollment substitution, a substitution acknowledgement form and documentation must be submitted as per acknowledgement form instructions. Under no conditions may horses be changed after the completion of the county qualifying show(s).*

9. In the Performance Division, a 4-H member is permitted to show only one primary performance animal. One secondary performance animal may be shown in its appropriate driving class and/or Miniature Horse In Hand Trail and Miniature Horse Jumping. If a member has a secondary driving animal or miniature horse, that animal may be used in Grooming and Showmanship, providing it shows in its appropriate driving class and/or Miniature Horse class at the county qualifying show.

10. A draft or miniature horse may be used as the member's primary performance horse in non-driving classes if the member does not have a light performance horse or pony.

Classes are offered in the following divisions:

- **Open Division**

Grooming and Showmanship, Open Trail

- **Beginner Division**

Beginner Western Horsemanship, Beginner Western Pleasure, Beginner English Equitation, Beginner English Pleasure and Beginner Trail

- **Western Division**

Western Pleasure, Ranch Horse Pleasure, Ranch Riding, Open Trail or Ranch Trail, Western Horsemanship, Novice Reining

- **Contest Division**

Ranch Riding, Ranch Trail, Barrel Race, Pole Bending, Raised Box Keyhole and Bow-Tie Race

- **Saddle Seat Division**

Saddle Seat Pleasure and Saddle Seat Equitation

- **Hunt Seat Division**

Hunter under Saddle, Hunt Seat Equitation (on the flat), Hunter Hack, Low Working Hunter, Working Hunter, Low Equitation over Fences and Equitation over Fences

- **Driving Division**

Pleasure Driving and Draft Driving

- **Miniature Horse Division**

Miniature Horse Driving, Miniature Horse In Hand Trail, Miniature Horse Jumping

- **Equestrians with Disabilities Division (EWD)**

EWD Grooming and Showmanship, Obstacle Trail and Walk-Trot Equitation

A member's primary performance animal may compete in only one of the following divisions: Beginner, Western, Hunt Seat, Saddle Seat, Contest or Miniature Horse. Refer to the beginning of each division section for class eligibility.

11. No exhibitor may show a project animal in more than one type of seat/attire. **Exception:** Driving

12. A 4-H member may not show the same animal in *both* pony and horse classes or *both* pony and miniature horse classes.

13. If an exhibitor chooses to show an animal in a higher height division, they must continue to show that animal in the higher height division for the entire program year in all classes.

14. An animal may be shown in only one driving class.

15. A member may show in only **one** equitation class. A member may show in only **one** pleasure/hunter under saddle class. A member may show in only **one** mounted trail class.

16a. ONLY animals exhibited in classes identified as pony or miniature horse classes must be measured. Animals **under** six years-of-age must be measured annually within the calendar year of the county roundup or first qualifying show. Animals six years of age and **older** must also be measured within the calendar year of the county roundup or first qualifying show **unless** they have a valid PA 4-H Height certificate, including a toe and heel measurement. Once a valid height measurement card/certificate has been issued for an animal 6 years of age or older, that will become their permanent height measurement card/certificate.

16b. The animals are to be measured by two Approved Measurers who have been approved since January 1, 1996, and who may be extension educators and/or screened county volunteers; Measurer Trainers designated by the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program Development Committee may also measure animals. To be approved, measurers must have successfully completed training with an official Measurer Trainer.

An animal may be measured by an approved measurer(s) from another county only with prior approval of their county extension educator.

Refer to "Measurement Techniques for Ponies" for additional information on measurement procedures (available at county extension offices or the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program SharePoint website). Measurements are to be made on an unshod basis. Standard forms and instructions are available from county extension office.

16c. If the animal is five years of age or under and has a valid height certificate for the current year, it may continue to show for that show year and the height of the animal is not protestable.

16d. If the animal is six years of age or older its height may be protested. A \$50.00 cash fee must accompany measurement protests. If protest is upheld, \$50.00 will be returned to the party filing the protest. If protest is denied, funds will be deposited into the county 4-H horse account.

If height is protested before animal's first county qualifying show, a written protest must be filed with the county extension office at least 30 days prior to the show. The re-measurement must occur within 30 days of the date the written protest is received in the county office. The 4-H member must deliver the animal to a predetermined location for re-measurement. At re-measurement the animal must show no evidence of lameness. The animal may have been trimmed or reshod and will measure as it stands.

If height is protested at the county qualifying show, the protest must be filed with the show committee or steward. For counties with multiple county qualifying shows, animal's height is only protestable at the animal's first show. Re-measurement must be done immediately, so that no change can be made by re-shoeing or trimming. If the re-measurement exceeds the height limit for the class in which the animal is being shown by more than ½ inch the animal must be disqualified or if possible transferred to the proper class.

16e. If height is protested, re-measurement must be done by a Measurer Trainer and an Approved Measurer, or two Approved Measurers. Once an animal's height has been verified by re-measurement, that height then becomes non-protestable for the current year. An animal's height is not protestable at a district or state show, providing the exhibitor has a valid PA 4-H Height Certificate.

17. No animals 2 years of age or younger will be allowed to compete in any riding or driving performance classes. Animals one (1) year of age and older may be shown in Showmanship and Miniature In Hand Trail.

18. A class begins with the contestant's entry into the show ring, except as noted in Contest classes.

19. All animals entered in an individual performance class must be assembled at the entrance to the arena in ample time for the judging to start promptly and to continue without delay and shall remain there (except while competing) until dismissed. A tardy contestant may be denied competition.

20. For all rail classes, no entry will be permitted to enter the ring after judging is underway.

21. A horse must willingly and safely go through the gate without delaying the horse show. Any horse exhibiting behavior that threatens the safety of the exhibitor and/or spectators may be excused or denied entry into the ring at the discretion of show management and/or the judge.

22. All riders must ride astride.

23. No bandages or boots of any type are allowed in any class except where specified.

24. Because the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program is diverse in both its divisions and in the breeds that compete, it is difficult to generate a complete list of acceptable bits. If exhibitors have questions concerning a bit they wish to use, and that specific bit is not mentioned in these rules, then exhibitors should ask the show stewards and/or the judge if the bit is acceptable for that show. Exhibitors should have alternative bits available so that they can make a change if it is determined by show officials that their preferred bit is unacceptable for that show.

Each county, district and state show is officiated by different stewards and judges. Therefore, exhibitors must seek approval from show officials at each show before using the questionable bit.

Members should consult with professionals in their riding discipline or contact the appropriate breed association for guidance in selecting a bit in order to find one that is both appropriate and acceptable for use in Pennsylvania Horse Shows.

For more information, refer to the appropriate performance division or *Guidelines for Bits in Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Shows* (available from county extension offices or on the Sharepoint and Cloverlink websites).

25. Bitless bridles other than non- mechanical hackamores/bosals are considered non-traditional equipment and may be penalized at the judge's discretion.

26. No horse or pony may be shown with their tongues tied down or with their mouths tied shut. The correct use of a cavesson does not constitute tying a mouth shut.

OPEN DIVISION

See other divisions to determine eligibility for classes in the Open division.

Open Division clothing and equipment requirements:

See appropriate notations under Western, Hunt, and Saddle Seat divisions.

Classes 1-6- Grooming and Showmanship

Class 1 - English Grooming and Showmanship, 8-11

Class 2 - English Grooming and Showmanship, 12-14

Class 3 - English Grooming and Showmanship, 15-18

Class 4 - Western Grooming and Showmanship, 8-11

Class 5 - Western Grooming and Showmanship, 12-14

Class 6 - Western Grooming and Showmanship, 15-18

Showmanship is designed to evaluate the exhibitor's ability to execute, in concert with a well groomed and conditioned horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position.

All horses and ponies are to be shown with a halter, however, those breeds or types normally shown in a bridle, such as Arabians, Hunters, Morgans, Saddle Horses, etc., may show in a bridle. In this class, the horse or pony may be shown with the lead shank under the jaw or over the nose, or with no chain on the lead.

Exhibitors with draft horses and other breeds not exhibited in Saddle Seat, Hunt Seat or Western classes may show in either English or Western Grooming and Showmanship classes. These exhibitors should choose the class they prefer and must show with clothing and tack appropriate for the western, hunt seat or saddleseat division.

See clothing requirements for these divisions.

If an exhibitor also shows a horse in under saddle classes, the style of attire worn while riding must also be used for the Grooming and Showmanship class.

Scoring Grooming and Showmanship

The PA 4-H Horse Program score sheet is recommended, but not required, to be used when judging.

A. Appearance of Animal and exhibitor

1. Condition of the animal

2. Grooming

a. Coat clean and free of stains. Should show evidence of regular grooming. Grooming products and powder should be used sparingly.

- b. Mane and tail clean and free of tangles.
- c. Hooves trimmed and shaped to enable animal to walk and stand naturally. If shod, shoes must fit and not show undue wear. Clinches should be smooth. Hoof dressing permitted.
- d. Tack and/or equipment should be clean and neat and should fit properly.

3. Trimming and Braiding

a. Excess hair may be clipped or trimmed from around fetlocks and head as appropriate for breed or type. Clipping should not be used as a substitute for proper grooming. Trimming will not affect score.

b. Braiding, if used, should be neat and suitable for the type of horse. Western manes may be banded (sectioned off using rubber bands).

4. Exhibitor

Exhibitor must be neat, clean, and dressed in attire appropriate for breed or type.

Exhibitor should be poised, confident, courteous, and sportsmanlike at all times.

B. Showmanship

Exhibitors will each perform an individual pattern at the direction of the judge or ringmaster. Degree of difficulty of patterns/tests should be appropriate for age division. Pattern must be posted at least one hour prior to the class. Patterns may be performed from a line-up or from the gate at the judge's discretion. The following maneuvers are considered acceptable components of a pattern: lead the horse at a walk, jog, trot or extended trot, back in a straight or curved line, stop, turn 90, 180, 270, 360 degrees or any combination or multiple of these turns. Pull turns are prohibited. Judge must have the exhibitor set-up the horse for inspection at least once during the pattern.

The exhibitor should appear business-like, stand and move in a straight, natural, upright manner, and avoid excessive, unnatural, or animated body positions. Both arms should be bent at the elbow with the elbows held close to the exhibitor's side and the forearms held in a natural position. Height of the arms may vary depending on the size of the horse and exhibitor.

The exhibitor should quickly recognize conformational faults of the animal he/she is leading and show it so as to minimize these faults. Exhibitor should keep an eye on the animal, be aware of the location of the judge at all times, and not become distracted by people and things outside the ring.

Exhibitors are being judged from the moment they enter the ring. Exhibitors should respond rapidly to requests from judges and officials and keep showing until the entire class has been placed or they are excused from the ring.

1. Leading

a. Walk on the animal's left (near) side holding the lead shank in the right hand, near the halter. The exhibitor's hand should not be on the chain or snap of the lead shank. The remaining portion of the lead shank is held neatly and safely in the left hand, either in a figure-eight or one or two large loops. A tightly coiled or rolled lead shank will be considered a fault in showmanship. All turns 90 degrees or greater should be made to the right.

b. When leading the horse, the exhibitor should walk so that his/her body is even with the horse's neck and halfway between the head and shoulders. Move in a brisk manner. When moving the horse, be sure that the judge gets a clear, unobstructed view of the horse's action by allowing the horse to move forward freely and in a straight line.

2. Backing

a. When executing a back, the exhibitor should turn from a leading position to face toward the rear of the horse with the right hand extended across the exhibitor's body and walk forward beside the horse with the horse moving backward.

b. The exhibitor should never place themselves directly in front of the horse while backing but maintain a position to the side of the horse.

3. Turning

a. All turns 90 degrees or greater should be made to the right. When initiating a turn to the right the position of the exhibitor is the same as the leading position except that the exhibitor should turn and face toward the horse's head and have the horse move away from them to the right.

b. On turns 90 degrees or greater, the ideal turn consists of the horse pivoting on the right hind leg while stepping across and in front of the right front leg with the left front leg. An exhibitor should not be penalized if their horse performs a pivot on the left hind leg, but an exhibitor whose horse performs the pivot correctly should receive more credit.

c. Pull turns are prohibited.

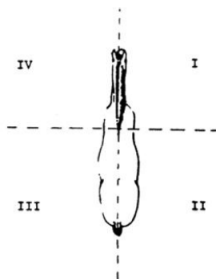
4. Stop – The stop should be straight, prompt, smooth and responsive with the horse's body remaining straight.

5. Setting-up the horse for inspection.

- a. When setting-up the horse, stand toward the front facing the horse, but not directly in front of the horse and always in a position where you can keep your eye on the judge.
- b. Set-up the horse according to its type, breed and/or use. Do most of the showing with the lead strap. The exhibitor should never touch the horse with the hands or feet to assist in the set-up.
- c. Do not crowd the exhibitor next to you when leading into a side-by-side position. Do not crowd the exhibitor in front when leading into a head-to-tail position.
- d. Be natural. Over showing, undue fussing, and maneuvering are objectionable.

The Quarter Method of Showing

The following suggested guidelines of movement are meant to serve as an illustration of proper movement around the horse while showing in Grooming and Showmanship and are for exhibitor information. Imaginary lines divide the horse into four equal parts as seen in the figure below. (Note: The horse has been sectioned into four parts numbered I, II, III and IV for ease of identification.) One line runs across the horse just behind the withers. The other imaginary line runs from head to tail. When the judge is in I, the exhibitor should be in IV. As the judge moves to II, the exhibitor should move to I. When the judge moves to III, the exhibitor moves to IV. As the judge moves up to IV, the exhibitor returns once more to I. This method is based on safety as the exhibitor can keep the horse's hindquarters from swinging toward the judge should the horse become fractious.



6. Disqualification

- a. Loss of control of the horse that endangers the exhibitor, other horses or exhibitors, or the judge.
- b. Knocking over a cone or marker
- c. Going off pattern.

Open Trail

Open to all primary performance animals except Miniature Horses and those in the Beginner Division. Clothing and equipment requirements will follow those listed under Western, Hunt and Saddle Seat divisions.

Classes 7-9 - Open Trail

Class 7 - Open Trail Ponies (14.2 hands and under)

Class 8 - Open Trail Horses, 8-13

Class 9 - Open Trail Horses, 14-18

Participants in Open Trail must have a minimum score of 55 to be considered for advancement to the district show and a minimum score of 60 to be considered for advancement to the state show. The quota system determining the number of participants from each district to advance to the state level will also apply. In no case will more than the maximum quota be permitted to advance to the next level regardless of their score.

A rider may show in only one mounted trail class (see Performance Rule 15).

This class will be judged on the performance of the horse/pony over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Credit will be given to horses/ponies negotiating the obstacle with correctness, style and some degree of speed, providing correctness is not sacrificed. Horses/ponies should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it, and willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles.

Horses/ponies will not be required to work on the rail. However, the course must be designed to require each horse/pony to show three gaits (walk, jog/trot, lope/canter or gaits appropriate for breed) on a reasonably loose rein or light contact.

Patterns must be posted at least one hour prior to the start of the class. Management when setting the courses should keep in mind that the idea is not to trap and/or trick the exhibitor or eliminate them by making an obstacle too difficult. Management and course designers should consider the skill level of the majority of the exhibitors. All courses are to be constructed with SAFETY in mind so as to prevent accidents. Enough space must be provided for a

horse/pony to jog/trot (about 30 feet) and lope/canter (about 50 feet) for the judges to evaluate these gaits.

If time and conditions warrant, the show committee should permit exhibitor to walk and/or school over the course prior to the class. If schooling is permitted over the course, only the exhibitor shall be permitted to ride the horse during schooling over the course.

If an obstacle/course is disrupted, it shall be reset after each horse has worked.

A course shall consist of 6 to 8 obstacles, with at least 10' between all but the combined obstacles.

Required Obstacles

1. Ride over at least four poles/logs- can be placed in a straight line, curved, zigzag. The space between the logs is to be measured and the horse/pony's path should be the measuring point (generally designed to be through the center). The logs/poles should be a type that cannot readily roll. Spacing for walk-overs, trot-overs and lope-overs should be as follows or increments thereof.

A. Walk-over - should be 16" to 20" apart for ponies and 20" to 24" for horses. If elevated, should not be higher than 6" for ponies and 12" for horses.

B. Jog or trot-over – should be 2' to 2'6" apart for ponies and 3' to 3'6" apart for horses. If elevated, should not be higher than 4" for ponies and 8" for horses.

C. Lope or canter-over – should be 5' to 6' for ponies and 6' to 7' for horses. No elevated lope/canter-over should be used.

2. Backing Obstacle – should be a minimum width of 32", or 34" if elevated. Objects should not be secured as to make them immovable (no stationary objects such as heavy wooden posts or metal bars).

A. Back through and around 3 markers (barrels, poles, cones, etc. (Suggested to be placed at 36" apart)

B. Back through L,V,U, straight or similar-shaped obstacles. May be elevated no more than 12". Elevated obstacles should be placed in a cup or notched block so that if hit they can not roll, however if hit hard enough, they may fall. Height is measured from the ground to the top of the element.

3. Gate - Use a gate which will not endanger horse/pony or rider. Rope gates may be used. If the gate has a metal, plastic or wooden support bar under the opening (which pony/horse walks across) contestants must work the gate moving forward through it.

Optional Obstacles

1. Serpentine obstacle – at a walk or jog/trot. Spacing to be a minimum of 3' for the walk and 8' for the jog/trot.
2. Carrying objects – Carry objects from one part of arena to another – only objects which reasonably might be carried on a trail ride may be used. Avoid objects that are noisy, which might create a safety hazardous if dropped.
3. Ride over wooden bridge – Suggested minimum width should be 3' with a minimum length of 6'. Height should not exceed 10 inches. The bridge should be sturdy and safe and negotiated at a walk only.
4. Put on and/or remove slicker.
5. Remove and replace material from a mailbox
6. Sidepass
7. An obstacle consisting of four logs each 5' to 6' long for ponies and 5' to 7' for horses laid in a square. Used for rider to enter and execute a turn and then exit. Each rider will enter the square over log/pole as designated. When all four feet are in the square, the rider should execute a turn, as indicated, and depart.
8. Any other safe and negotiable obstacle which could reasonably be expected to be encountered on a trail ride and meets the approval of the judge may be used.
9. A combination of two or more of any obstacle is acceptable.

Unacceptable obstacles:

1. Tires
2. Animals
3. Hides
4. PVC pipe
5. Dismounting
6. Jumps (does not include elevated log/poles)
7. Rocking or moving bridges
8. Water hazards or water boxes with floating or moving parts
9. Flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, etc.
10. Log/poles elevated in a manner that permits them to roll.
11. Ground ties
12. Dragging/pulling any objects
13. Lime

Judging and scoring trail classes:

The following scoring system is mandatory for all Open trail classes.

Scoring will be on the basis of 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added or subtracted from 70. Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½: -1 ½ =extremely poor, -1=very poor, - ½ = poor, 0= correct, + ½ = good, +1= very good, +1 ½ = excellent. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

An exhibitor who does not complete an obstacle during the course must not place above an exhibitor who has completed all obstacles.

Penalty points will also be assessed at each obstacle as noted below. Penalties will be assessed per occurrence and a maximum of 9 penalty points will be assessed per obstacle.

Penalty Points

-½ point

- For each tick of log, pole, cone or obstacle

-1 point

- Each hit of, bite of, or stepping on a log, pole, cone or obstacle
- Incorrect gait or break of gait at walk or jog/trot for two strides or less
- Incorrect number of strides between poles within an obstacle
- Both front or hind feet in a single strided slot or space at a walk or a jog.
- Skipping over or failing to step into required space
- Failure to meet the correct strides in jog/trot and lope/canter over log obstacles
- Split/straddle pole in a lope-over (Defined as a log between the two front or the two hind feet)

-3 points

- Incorrect gait or break in gait at walk or jog/trot for more than 2 strides
- Out of lead or break of gait at lope/canter (except when correcting an incorrect lead)
- Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant obstacle or severely disturbing an obstacle
- Stepping outside the confines of, falling, or jumping off or out of an obstacle with designated boundaries with only one foot

- First refusal, balk, or attempting to evade an obstacle by shying or backing more than 2 strides away
- Second refusal

-5 points

- Failure to follow the correct line of travel between obstacles
- Overturns of more than a 1/4 turn
- Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course
- Letting go of or dropping gate
- Use of hand to instill fear
- Blatant disobedience (kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking)
- Stepping outside the confines of, falling, or jumping off or out of an obstacle with designated boundaries with more than one foot
- Holding saddle with either hand

-9 points

- Failure of rider to begin to negotiate an obstacle within 30 seconds of arrival at the obstacle. Rider will be asked to move to next obstacle.
- If a rider fails to completely negotiate an obstacle in approximately one minute, unless the nature of the obstacle requires a longer time, i.e. complex back through. Rider will be asked to move to next obstacle.
- Three refusals at an obstacle, regardless of the length of time. Rider will be asked to move to next obstacle.

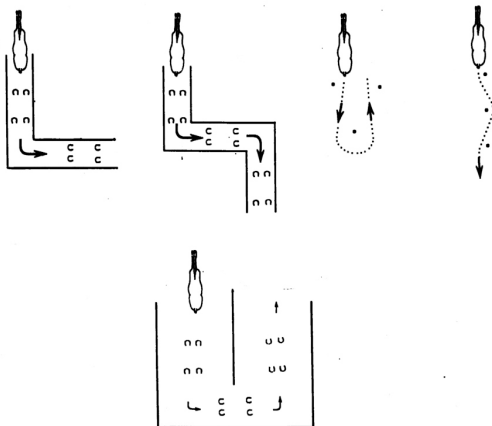
Disqualification:

- Failure to follow the prescribed order of obstacles, including failure to stay inside the designated boundary markers will result in disqualification
- Failure to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction
- Fall to the ground of pony/horse or rider will result in disqualification
- No attempt to perform an obstacle
- Failure to complete three cumulative obstacles will result in disqualification

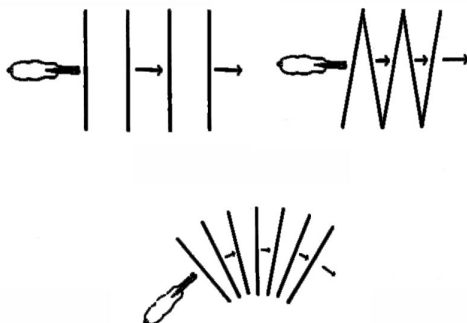
Failure to complete an obstacle is defined as:

- Three refusals at an obstacle or
- More than 30 seconds to begin negotiating each obstacle or
- Failure to complete an obstacle in approximately one minute, unless the nature of the obstacle requires longer time, i.e., complex back through

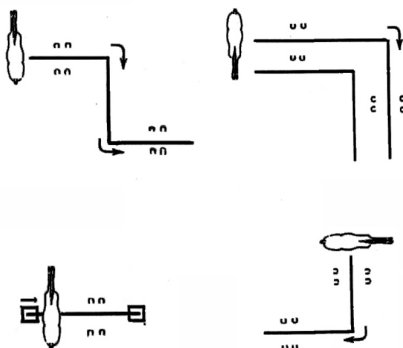
Sample Back Up Obstacles



Sample Walk-Overs (With proper spacing, can also be used for jog-overs or lope-overs).



Sample Side Pass Obstacles



BEGINNER DIVISION

The *primary* performance horse in this division may compete in the following classes only:

Grooming and Showmanship, Beginner Western Pleasure and Beginner Western Horsemanship or Beginner English Pleasure and Beginner English Equitation, Beginner Trail and *Driving (Pleasure or Draft). Please see note below regarding driving.

This division is intended for the beginner rider who is not yet ready to canter or lope in a horse show setting. The spirit of this division is to provide safe opportunities for beginner riders. Because of concerns for safety, the determination of rider participation in this division is non protestable.

Classes will be limited to walk-trot/jog only.

Eligibility for this division is limited to two years.

Riders transitioning from the therapeutic division into the beginner division are exempt from the 2-year limitation.

Riders in this division may exhibit a secondary animal in Miniature Horse In Hand Trail, Miniature Horse Jumping, or Driving- Pleasure, Draft or Miniature Horse (*see shared horse exception below).

Riders in this division who choose to participate in the Junior Horse Championship Show are eligible to participate *only* in the In Hand or walk-trot/jog level classes.

The member and their parent/guardian are responsible to determine if this division is appropriate based on the member's ability. Parent/guardians are encouraged to seek appropriate professional guidance in making this decision. The size and temperament of the horse should be appropriate for the rider. It is highly recommended that exhibitors in this division have mastered PA 4-H Level 1 Horsemanship Skills.

Exhibitors in this division are not required to own or lease a horse, and their project animal may be shared, but may not be shared by two exhibitors in the same class. ***Exhibitors in this division may not show a shared horse in a driving class.** Youth must designate and enroll their project animal by June 1 and meet all enrollment requirements as outlined in the General Rules in order to show that year.

Exhibitors are required to use the same project animal at county, district and state shows. The following exceptions apply:

a. Are exempt from the management and ownership of project animal (General Rules 16 & 20)

Class 10 – Beginner Trail

This class will be judged on the performance of the horse/pony over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement.

Judging and scoring of Beginner Trail classes will follow the scoring of the Open Trail classes.

This class will follow the rules of Open Trail, with the following differences:

1. Eliminate any reference to canter/lope
2. **Obstacle and course design should be a lower degree of difficulty.**
3. Required obstacles remain the same except riders will be required to walk through an opened gate or “work” the open gate. Riders will not be required to open or close the gate.
4. Additions to unacceptable obstacles
 - a. Side pass
 - b. Raised logs
 - c. Put on and/or remove slicker
 - d. Carrying objects

Class 11 – Beginner Western Horsemanship

The Beginner Western Horsemanship class is designed to evaluate the rider’s ability to control the horse and execute maneuvers.

Clothing and equipment requirements will follow that of the Western Division.

Refer to Western Horsemanship for a description of the position of rider.

Class Procedures

Exhibitors will be required to walk and jog on the rail both directions of the ring.

Patterns are optional **and should be a lower degree of difficulty**. If patterns are used, they must be performed after the rail work. A judge may request patterns from some or all exhibitors. If patterns are used at least two more riders than the number of placings must be asked to perform the pattern.

Exhibitors going off pattern, knocking over or on the wrong side of a cone, never performing specified gait, or overturning more than a quarter turn than designated, shall not be disqualified, but must always place below exhibitors who incur none of these errors.

Class 12 – Beginner Western Pleasure

In this class, the horse is to be judged on manners, performance, soundness, and suitability to purpose.

Clothing and equipment requirements will follow that of the Western Division.

Class Procedures

Riders will work both ways of the ring at a walk and jog. Horses may be asked to back.

Class 13 – Beginner English Equitation

The Beginner English Equitation class is designed to evaluate the rider's ability to control the horse and execute maneuvers.

Clothing and equipment requirements will follow that of the Hunt Seat and Saddle Seat divisions.

Refer to Hunt Seat and Saddle Seat divisions for a description of the position of rider.

Class Procedures

Exhibitors will be required to walk and trot/easy gait on the rail both directions of the ring.

Tests are optional **and should be a lower degree of difficulty**. If tests are used, they must be performed after the rail work. A judge may request tests from some or all exhibitors. If tests are used at least two more riders than the number of placings must be asked to test.

Exhibitors going off pattern, knocking over or on the wrong side of a cone, never performing specified gait, or overturning more than a quarter turn than designated, shall not be disqualified, but must always place below exhibitors who incur none of these errors.

Class 14 - Beginner English Pleasure

In this class, the horse is to be judged on, manners, performance, soundness, and suitability to purpose.

Clothing and equipment requirements will follow that of the Hunt Seat and Saddle Seat divisions.

Class Procedures

Exhibitors will be required to walk and trot/easy gait on the rail both directions of the ring. Exhibitors may be asked to back.

WESTERN DIVISION

The primary performance horse in this division may compete in the following classes only: Grooming and Showmanship, Open Trail or **Ranch Trail (choose one)**, Western Pleasure or Ranch Pleasure (choose one), Western Horsemanship, Ranch Riding, Novice Reining and Driving (Pleasure or Draft).

Clothing and Equipment Requirements:

- a. Western pants, western jeans, or western skirt.
- b. Appropriate western attire including long sleeves (that reach approximately to the wrist) and a collar. If the garment has buttons, snaps, etc. at the wrist, they must be secured. Clothing must be neat, workman-like, and suitable for the class in which the exhibitor is participating.
- c. Boots or shoes that have a definite heel as viewed from the side.
- d. Jacket, vest, or tie (optional).
- e. Chaps are optional.
- f. Western type hat or protective headgear for Grooming and Showmanship classes; protective headgear required in all other classes.
- g. Western type spurs are optional; not to be used forward of cinch. Emphasis is placed on correct use of spur by exhibitor. Spurs may be blunt or roweled. Rowels must move freely and be blunt.

Equipment:

- a. Western saddle with a horn: Australian saddle may not be used.
- b. Western type bridle.
- c. If a romal is used, hobbles and rope are optional and must be attached to the saddle.
- d. Safety stirrups are permitted. A tapadero or covered stirrup in which a rider's toe may become entrapped is not considered a safety stirrup and is not permitted.

Prohibited Clothing and Equipment:

- a. slip on spurs not attached with a spur strap
- b. t-shirt, tank tops, and halter tops
- c. protective boots, leg wraps and bandages of any type except as noted in Novice Reining class.
- d. martingales and draw reins
- e. nosebands, cavessons and tie-downs
- f. mechanical hackamores
- g. whips or bats

Correct use of Bits and Reins

Bits that are permitted by respective breed associations may be acceptable at the judge's discretion. A judge at his/her discretion can penalize a horse with non-conventional types of bits.

Horses six years of age and older must be shown with a shanked (curb) bit, and only one hand is to be used for reining. Hands shall not be changed, except where permitted in Trail and Novice Reining.

A shanked (curb bit) is defined as a bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks, and acts with leverage. Shanks may be fixed or loose and the maximum length should not exceed 8 ½ inches. The mouthpiece must be round, oval, or egg shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal, 5/16" to ¾" in diameter when measured 1" from the cheek piece or shank. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece such as extensions or prongs on solid mouthpieces. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces, which lie flat in the horse's mouth. The port must not exceed 3 ½" in height, with rollers or covers being acceptable. Slip or gag bits, and donut and flat polo mouthpieces are not acceptable.

Horses five years old and younger may be shown with either a shanked (curb) bit, hackamore or a snaffle bit.

A hackamore is defined as a flexible, braided rawhide or leather or rope bosal, the core of which may be either rawhide or flexible metal cable. Absolutely no rigid materials will be permitted under the jaw, regardless of how padded or covered. This description DOES NOT refer to a so-called mechanical hackamore. Mechanical hackamores are not permitted in any classes except the Contest classes.

In Western performance classes a snaffle is defined as a conventional O-ring, egg-butt, or D-ring with a ring no larger than a 4" in diameter. The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb, or headstall attachments, which provide leverage. The mouthpiece should be round, oval, or egg shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal. The mouthpiece must be a minimum of 5/16" diameter when measured 1" from the cheekpiece with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces, with no twist, lying flat in the horse's mouth. An optional loose chin strap may be used (leather or nylon only). Reins to be attached above the chin strap.

If a hackamore or snaffle bit is used, the horse may be ridden with one or two hands. When riding with two hands with a hackamore or snaffle bit, bridging of reins is permissible and correct.

The reins must be bridged such that both reins are held in both hands at all times and the tails of the reins are crossed on the opposite side of the neck.

The rider's hands should be carried near the pommel and not further than four inches out on either side of the saddle horn.

Horses six years old and older must be shown with a curb bit. Only one hand is to be used for reining and hands shall not be changed, except where permitted in Trail and Novice Reining.

When split reins are used and horse is ridden with one hand, one finger between the reins is permitted, and the bight of reins should be carried on the same side as the reining hand.

If a romal is used, the rider's hand shall be around the reins and no fingers between the reins are allowed. The tail of the romal shall be in the hand opposite from the reining hand.

The use of two hands on the reins with a shanked (curb) bit (except in Novice Reining) will result in disqualification. A finger between romal reins, or more than one finger between split reins will also result in a disqualification.

When a shanked (curb) bit is used in Western classes a curb strap or curb chain is required. If a curb strap or chain is used, it must be at least ½" in width, lie flat against the horse's jaw, and permit the entry of two fingers between the horse's jaw and the curb strap or chain. No wire or rawhide device, regardless of how padded or taped, may be used in conjunction with, or as part of, the chin strap or chain.

For additional information, refer to *Guidelines for Bits in Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Shows* available from county extension offices or the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program SharePoint and Cloverlink websites.

Classes 15-17 – Western Horsemanship

Class 15 – Western Horsemanship, 8-11

Class 16 – Western Horsemanship, 12-14

Class 17 – Western Horsemanship, 15-18

The Western Horsemanship class is designed to evaluate the rider's ability to control and execute with their horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise, confidence, and maintaining a balanced, functional, and fundamentally correct body position. The ideal horsemanship pattern is extremely precise with the rider and horse working in complete unison, executing each maneuver with subtle aids and cues. Patterns must be posted at least one hour prior to the start of the class. Selected riders will also demonstrate their ability to work correctly and competently with a group, on the rail both directions at all three gaits.

The PA 4-H Horse Program score sheet is recommended, but not required, to be used when judging.

Position of Rider

The rider should appear natural in the seat and ride with a balanced, functional, and correct position regardless of the maneuver or gait being performed. Stiff or artificial body position will be penalized. The rider should sit in the center of the saddle with the legs hanging to form a straight line from the ear, through the shoulder and hip, to the ankle. The heels should be lower than the toes with a slight bend at the knee. The rider's back should be flat, relaxed and supple. During the rail work and pattern, the exhibitor should have strong, secure and proper position.

Use of Reins and Hand Position

Rider's hands must be steady with very limited movement.

Reins are to be carried immediately above or slightly in front of the saddle horn. Reins should be carried so as to have light contact with the horse's mouth. Excessively tight or loose reins will be penalized. Wrists are to be kept straight and relaxed with thumb on top and fingers closed around the reins. Some movement of the arm is permissible, but excessive pumping will be penalized.

Hand is to be around reins. When split reins are used, one finger is permitted between reins.

Refer to Correct use of Bits and Reins under Western Division for additional details.

Class Procedure

All riders must enter the ring and then work individually, or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually. When riders are worked individually from the gate, a working order is recommended. Riders should be instructed to either leave the arena, fall into line, or fall into place on the rail after their work. Following individual patterns, at least two more riders than the number of placings must work at all three gaits both directions of the arena with the reverse executed away from the rail.

The following maneuvers are acceptable in a pattern:

- walk, jog, trot, extended trot, lope or extended lope in a straight line, curved line, serpentine, circle or figure 8, square, or combination of these gaits and maneuvers
- stop
- back in a straight or curved line
- turn or pivot, including spins and rollbacks on the haunches and/or on the forehand
- sidepass
- simple change of lead
- option of simple or flying change of lead
- counter canter

Judges may not ask exhibitors to mount or dismount.

Exhibitors going off pattern, knocking over or on the wrong side of a cone, never performing specified gait, or overturning more than a quarter turn than designated, shall not be disqualified, but must always place below exhibitors who incur none of these errors.

Performance

The exhibitor should perform the work accurately, precisely, smoothly, and with a reasonable amount of promptness. Exhibitors that perform the pattern sluggishly and allow their horse to move without adequate impulsion, collection or cadence will be penalized.

The horse should perform all maneuvers in the pattern willingly, briskly and readily with minimal visible or audible cueing. Severe disobedience will not result in a disqualification, but should be severely penalized, and the exhibitor should not place above an exhibitor that completes the pattern correctly.

Classes 18- Western Pleasure Ponies

Class 18 - Western Pleasure Ponies (14.2 Hands and Under)

Class description will follow that of Western Pleasure Horse. See Western Pleasure Horse class 19 and 20 for complete rules and description.

Classes 19-21 – Western Pleasure Horse and Ranch Pleasure

Two types of Western Pleasure classes are offered: Western and Ranch. Exhibitors may show in only one type of class. The exhibitor and their parent and/or coach should determine which class is best suited for their horse.

Ranch Pleasure

Horses and ponies shown in this class should reflect the versatility, attitude, level of training and quality of movement of a working ranch horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a reasonably forward, working speed while under control by the rider.

Western Pleasure

Horses shown in this class are those typically seen in rail pleasure classes at breed type shows. Quality of movement and consistency of performance are a major consideration.

Class 19 - Western Pleasure Horses, 8-13

Class 20 - Western Pleasure Horses, 14-18

Open to horses or ponies of any breed or combination of breeds normally used for pleasure.

In all pleasure classes, the judge should place the emphasis on manners, performance, conformation, and soundness.

A good pleasure horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with its conformation. The horse should cover a reasonable amount of ground with little effort. Ideally, it should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of the proper cadence.

The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gaits is a major consideration. The horse should carry its head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with its poll level with or slightly above the level of the withers.

The horse should not carry its head behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance. The head should be level with the nose slightly in front of the vertical, having a bright expression with ears alert. The horse should be shown on a reasonably loose rein (not sloppy). The horse should be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions when called for. When asked to extend, it should move out with the same flowing motion. Maximum credit should be given to the flowing, balanced and willing horse that gives the appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride.

Horses will work both directions of the ring at a walk, jog and lope. It is optional that a moderate extension of the jog, which is a lengthening of stride, may be asked for in one direction. Cadence and balance with smoothness is more essential than speed and should be exhibited in all gaits. Horses may be asked to back.

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|-------------------------------------|
| Class 21-22 – Ranch Pleasure |
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| Class 21- Ranch Pleasure 8-13 |
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| Class 22- Ranch Pleasure 14-18 |
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Open to horses and ponies. Light contact should be rewarded, and horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements, and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.

Clothing and Equipment

- Clothing and Equipment requirements are the same as the Western Division (Refer to pages 51-53.)
- A natural and workmanlike appearance of the horse is preferred. Banding of the mane and use of tail extensions is not expected but will not be penalized.
- Workmanlike apparel and tack is acceptable and encouraged.

Class Requirements

- Posting or standing at the extended trot is acceptable.
- Touching or holding the saddle horn at the extended trot is acceptable.

Consideration will be given to the overall cadence and performance of the gaits, with an emphasis on reasonably forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering characteristics for all gaits.

Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.

The horse should be responsive to the rider and make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner.

The horse should be soft in the bridle and yield to contact. The ideal stock horse should have a natural, level-headed carriage at each gait. Horses shall be shown in a group on the rail. All horses must be asked to walk, trot, extended trot, and lope. Horses will be asked to back.

Judges must ask for at least one of the optional gaits or maneuvers in the class.

Required Gaits

- **Walk**– The ranch horse walk is straight, square, flat footed, and relaxed. The horse moves freely with no anticipation to move to the next gait.
- **Trot**– The ranch horse trot is a square two beat diagonal trot and is steady, soft, and slow enough for riding long distances. The rider is seated at this gait.
- **Extended Trot**– The ranch horse extended trot shows lengthening of stride from the regular trot with the same cadence that will cause an increase in speed. This gait is level, flat, and steady with the appearance that the horse would hold this gait for long distances. The rider may be seated, posting, or standing.
- **Lope** – The ranch horse lope is a 3-beat gait that is cadenced, straight and steady and is comfortable to ride over long distances.

Optional Gaits & Maneuvers

- **Extended Walk**– The ranch horse extended walk is straight, square, and flat footed, relaxed, and moves out freely. The extended walk shows more length of stride than the walk with no anticipation to move to the next gait.
- **Extended Lope**– The ranch horse extended lope shows lengthening of stride from the regular lope with the same cadence that will cause an increase in speed. The horse holds the steady gait and increased speed while being under control.
- **Stop**– From both the lope and the trot, the horse should be in the correct stopping position (i.e., both hocks engaged and stopping on the hindquarters). All four feet stop moving before the next maneuver is attempted.
- **Reverse at a trot** – To be performed to the inside

Classes 23 and 24 – Ranch Riding

Class 23 Ranch Riding, 8-13

Class 24 Ranch Riding, 14-18

Horses and ponies in this class should reflect the versatility, attitude, level of training and quality of movement of a working horse or pony. The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a reasonably forward, working speed while under control by the rider. Light contact should be rewarded, and horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements, and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.

Class requirements

- Each horse will work individually and be scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.
- Posting or standing at the extended trot is acceptable.
- Touching or holding the saddle horn at the extended trot is acceptable.
- Consideration will be given to the overall cadence and performance of the gaits, with an emphasis on reasonably forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering characteristics for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.
- One of the following patterns must be used.

Clothing and Equipment

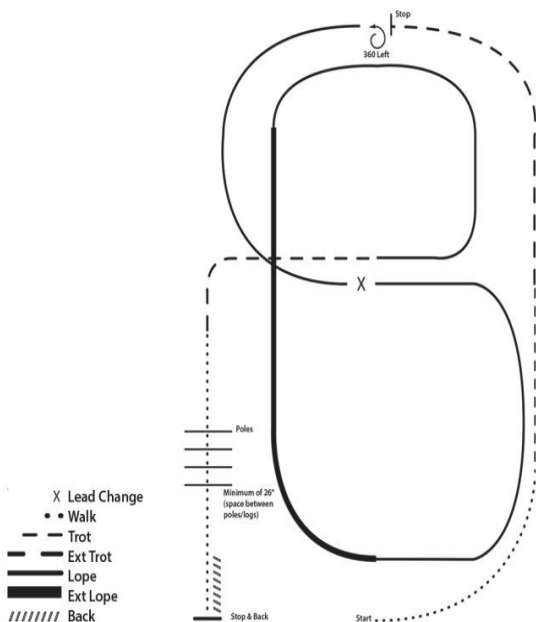
- Clothing and Equipment requirements are the same as the Western Division (Refer to pages 51-53.)
- A natural and workmanlike appearance of the horse is preferred. Banding of the mane and use of tail extensions is not expected but will not be penalized.
- Workmanlike apparel and tack is acceptable and encouraged.
- Although Contest division riders are permitted to show in the Ranch Riding class, equipment specific to the Contest division is not permitted. Prohibited equipment includes, but is not limited to protective leg gear, tie downs, draw reins, mechanical hackamores, whips, closed reins.

Penalties

A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur:

- One (1) point penalties
 - Too slow/per gait
 - Excessive speed
 - Lack of control
 - Over-bridled
 - Out of frame
 - Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less
 - Split leg at lope
- Three (3) point penalties
 - Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
 - Break of gait at lope
 - Wrong lead or out of lead
 - Draped reins
- Five (5) point penalties
 - Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)
- Placed below horses performing all maneuvers
 - Eliminates maneuver
 - Incomplete maneuver
- Zero (0) score
 - Illegal equipment
 - Willful abuse
 - Major disobedience or schooling
 - Use of two hands on the reins except for horses 5 years of age and under wearing a snaffle or bosal

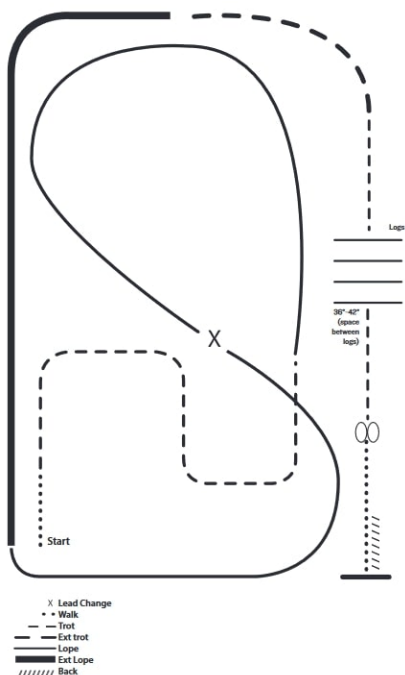
Ranch Riding-Pattern 1



The drawn description of this pattern is only intended for the general depiction of the pattern. Exhibitors should utilize the arena space to best exhibit their horses and ponies.

1. Walk
2. Trot
3. Extend the trot, at the top of the arena, stop
4. 360 turn to the left
5. Left lead 1/2 circle, lope to the center
6. Change leads (simple or flying)
7. Right lead 1/2 circle
8. Extended lope up the long side of the arena (right lead)
9. Collect back to a lope around the top of the arena and back to center
10. Break down to an extended trot
11. Walk over poles
12. Stop and back

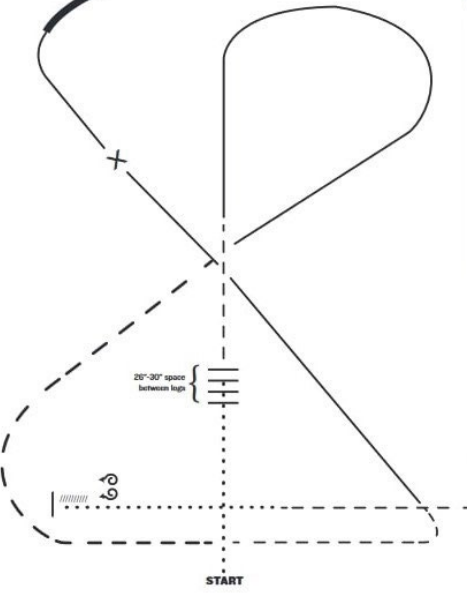
Ranch Riding-Pattern 2



The drawn description of this pattern is only intended for the general depiction of the pattern. Exhibitors should utilize the arena space to best exhibit their horses and ponies.

1. Walk
2. Trot serpentine
3. Lope left lead around the end of the arena and then diagonally across the arena
4. Change leads (simple or flying) and
5. Lope on the right lead around end of the arena
6. Extend lope on the straight away and around corner to the center of the arena
7. Extend trot around corner of the arena
8. Collect to a trot
9. Trot over logs
10. Stop, do 360 degree turn each direction (either direction 1st) (L-R or R-L)
11. Walk, stop and back

Ranch Riding-Pattern 3

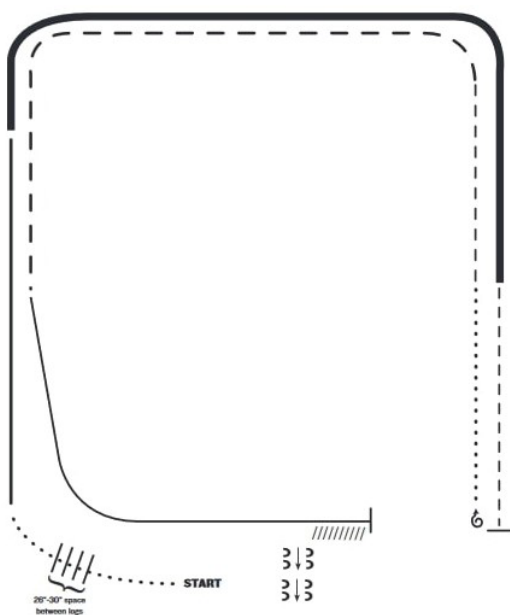


The drawn description of this pattern is only intended for the general depiction of the pattern. Exhibitors should utilize the arena space to best exhibit their horses and ponies.

1. Walk
2. Walk over logs
3. Trot
4. Lope right lead
5. Extended trot
6. Trot
7. Lope left lead
8. Change leads (simple or flying)
9. Right lead, extended lope
10. Collect Lope
11. Trot
12. Walk
13. Stop and back
14. 360 degree turn each direction (either direction 1st)

1. Walk
2. Walk over logs
3. Trot
4. Lope right lead
5. Extended trot
6. Trot
7. Lope left lead
8. Change leads (simple or flying)
9. Right lead, extended lope
10. Collect Lope
11. Trot
12. Walk
13. Stop and back
14. 360 degree turn each direction (either direction 1st)

Ranch Riding-Pattern 4



The drawn description of this pattern is only intended for the general depiction of the pattern. Exhibitors should utilize the arena space to best exhibit their horses and ponies.

1. Walk
2. Walk over logs
3. Lope right lead
4. Extended lope (right lead)
5. Trot
6. Stop, 1 1/2 turns right
7. Walk
8. Trot
9. Extended trot
10. Lope left lead
11. Stop and Back
12. Side pass right

Classes 25-Ranch Trail

Participants in Ranch Trail must have a minimum score of 55 to be considered for advancement to the district show and a minimum score of 60 to be considered for advancement to the state show. The quota system determining the number of participants from each district to advance to the state level will also apply. In no case will more than the maximum quota be permitted to advance to the next level regardless of their score.

This class should test the horse's/pony's ability to navigate situations encountered while being ridden through a pattern of obstacles generally found during everyday ranch work. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse/pony over and or through obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Credit will be given to horses/ponies negotiating the obstacle with correctness, style and some degree of speed, providing correctness is not sacrificed. Horses/ponies should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it, and willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles. The ideal ranch trail horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

Horses/ponies will not be required to work on the rail. However, the course must be designed to require each horse/pony to show three gaits (walk, trot, lope or gaits appropriate for breed) on a reasonably loose rein or light contact.

Patterns must be posted at least one hour prior to the start of the class. Management when setting the courses should keep in mind that the idea is not to trap and/or trick the exhibitor or eliminate them by making an obstacle too difficult. Management and course designers should consider the skill level of the majority of the exhibitors. All courses are to be constructed with SAFETY in mind so as to prevent accidents. Enough space must be provided for a horse/pony to jog/trot (about 30 feet) and lope/canter (about 50 feet) for the judges to evaluate these gaits.

If time and conditions warrant, the show committee should permit exhibitors to walk and/or school over the course prior to the class. If schooling is permitted over the course, only the exhibitor shall be permitted to ride the horse during schooling over the course.

If an obstacle/course is disrupted, it shall be reset after each horse has worked.

A course shall consist of 6 to 8 obstacles, with at least 10' between all but the combined obstacles.

The horse/rider team is judged on the correctness, efficiency, and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated, and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse. Judging emphasis is on identifying the well broke, responsive, and well-mannered horse which can correctly navigate and negotiate the course.

Exhibitors may not cross enter Open Trail.

If time and conditions warrant, the show committee should permit exhibitor to walk and/or school over the course prior to the class. If schooling is permitted over the course, only the exhibitor shall be permitted to ride the horse during schooling over the course.

If an obstacle/course is disrupted, it shall be reset after each horse has worked.

A course shall consist of 6 to 8 obstacles, with at least 10' between all but the combined obstacles.

Required Obstacles and Maneuvers

1. Ride over obstacles on the ground (natural logs are encouraged). Walk, trot or lope may be used but only one gait is required.

A. Walk-overs: Walk over no more than five logs no more than 10 inches high and spacing between 26 – 30 inches. The formation may be straight, curved, zigzagged, or raised.

B. Trot-overs: Trot over no more than five logs no more than 10 inches high. The space between logs or poles should be 36-42 inches. The formation can also be straight, curved, zigzagged, or raised.

C. Lope-overs: Lope over no more than five logs no more than 10 inches high. The space between logs should be 6 to 7 feet. The formation can also be straight, curved, zigzagged, or raised.

2. Backing obstacles: Backing obstacles are to be spaced at a minimum of 28 inches. If elevated, 30 inch spacing is required. Back through and around at least three markers. Back through L, V, U or straight or similarly shaped course which may be elevated no more than 24 inches.

Optional Obstacles and Maneuvers

Optional obstacles may be used provided the obstacles can be found in everyday ranch work. Optional obstacles from which selections can be made include, but are not limited to:

1. Opening, passing through and closing a hinged swinging gate (a rope gate may also be used): Use gate that will not endanger horse or rider and requires minimum side-passing.
2. Ride over wooden bridge: Bridge should be sturdy, safe and negotiated at a walk only. Heavy plywood lying flat on the ground is an acceptable simulation of a bridge. Suggested minimum width shall be 36 inches wide and at least 6 feet long.
3. An obstacle consisting of four logs each 5' to 7' long laid in a square. Used for rider to enter and execute a turn and then exit. Each rider will enter the square over log/pole as designated. When all four feet are in the square, the rider should execute a turn, as indicated, and depart.
4. Side-pass obstacle: Any object which is safe and of any length may be used to demonstrate responsiveness of the horse to leg signals. Raised side pass obstacles should not exceed 12 inches.
5. Carry object from one part of the arena to another.
6. Remove and replace materials from a mailbox.
7. Trot through cones spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart.
8. Cross natural ditches or ride up embankments.
9. Step in and out of obstacle.
10. Walk through brush.
11. Put on slicker or coat.
12. Stand to mount with mounting block.
13. Dismount
14. Open gate on foot.
15. Pick up a front foot.
16. Lead at the trot.

Unacceptable obstacles:

1. Animals
2. Tarps
3. Tires
4. Hides
5. Water obstacles with slick bottoms
6. PVC pipe used as a jump or walk over
7. Rocking or moving bridges,
8. Logs/poles elevated in a manner that permits them to roll in a dangerous manner.
9. Flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, etc.
10. Dragging/pulling any objects
11. Lime

Judging and scoring trail classes: The following scoring system is mandatory for all Ranch Trail classes.

Scoring will be on the basis of 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added or subtracted from 70. Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½: -1 ½ =extremely poor, -1=very poor, - ½ = poor, 0= correct, + ½ = good, +1= very good, +1 ½ = excellent. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

An exhibitor who does not complete an obstacle during the course must not place above an exhibitor who has completed all obstacles.

Penalty points will also be assessed at each obstacle as noted below. Penalties will be assessed per occurrence and a maximum of 9 penalty points will be assessed per obstacle.

Natural ranch horse appearance will also be evaluated ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½.

Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

Penalty Points

-1 points

- Over-bridled (per maneuver)
- Out of frame (per maneuver)
- Each hit, bite or stepping on a log, cone plant or any component of the obstacle
- Incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less
- Both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space at a walk or trot
- Skipping over or failing to step into required space
- Split pole in lope-over Incorrect number of strides, if specified
- One to two steps on mount/dismount except shifting to balance
- Wrong lead or out of lead for two (2) strides or less

-3 points

- Wrong lead or out of lead for more than two (2) strides
- Draped reins
- Break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead
- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides
- Three to four steps on mount/dismount
- Trotting for more than three (3) strides in lope departures or exiting a rollback into a lope from a stop or walk
- Knocking down or over, or severely disturbing an obstacle
- Stepping out of or falling off an obstacle with one (1) foot
- Missing or evading part of a log/obstacle with one (1) foot

-5 points

- Spurring in front of cinch
- Blatant disobedience
- Use of either hand to instill fear/praise
- Stepping out of or falling off an obstacle with more than one (1) foot
- Dropping an object required to be carried 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal
- Letting go of gate
- Five or more steps on mount/dismount
- Missing or evading part of a log/obstacle with more than one foot

-9 points

- Failure of rider to begin to negotiate an obstacle within 30 seconds of arrival at the obstacle. Rider will be asked to move to next obstacle.
- If a rider fails to completely negotiate an obstacle in approximately one minute, unless the nature of the obstacle requires a longer time, i.e. complex back through. Rider will be asked to move to next obstacle.
- Three refusals at an obstacle, regardless of the length of time. Rider will be asked to move to next obstacle.

Disqualification:

- Failure to follow the prescribed order of obstacles, including failure to stay inside the designated boundary markers will result in disqualification
- Failure to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction
- Fall to the ground of pony/horse or rider will result in disqualification
- No attempt to perform an obstacle
- Failure to complete three cumulative obstacles will result in disqualification

Failure to complete an obstacle is defined as:

- Three refusals at an obstacle or
- More than 30 seconds to begin negotiating each obstacle or
- Failure to complete an obstacle in approximately one minute, unless the nature of the obstacle requires longer time, i.e. complex back through.

Class 26 - Novice Reining

The scoring system outlined below must be followed and minimum scores must be attained before a 4-H member can advance through the qualifying system. Participants in Novice Reining must have a minimum score of 60 to be considered for advancement to the district show and a minimum score of 63 to be considered for advancement to the state show. The quota system determining the number of participants from each district to advance to the state level will also apply. In no case will more than the maximum quota be permitted to advance to the next level regardless of their score.

To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of or temporary loss of control, and therefore faulted according to severity of deviation. After deducting all faults against execution of the pattern and the horse's overall performance, credit will be given for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority in performing the various maneuvers while using controlled speed which raises the difficulty level and makes the horse more exciting and pleasing to watch.

1. Riders may ride with one hand or two regardless of type of bit but must be consistent throughout the entire pattern.
2. Lead changes may be flying or simple. Simple lead changes are defined as a prompt change in the correct location of the pattern where the horse trots no more than two strides. Correctly executed simple changes shall not be penalized. Credit will be given for properly executed flying lead change.
3. Turns performed as a fluid and correct 360⁰ pivot on the hindquarters will receive a maneuver score of "0". Credit will be given for properly executed spins.
4. Rollbacks performed as a fluid and correct 180⁰ pivot on the hindquarters will receive a maneuver score of "0". Credit will be given for properly executed roll backs.
5. An overall score of "0" or a no score will not be eligible for placing or advancement.

SCORING:

Scoring will be on a 0 to Infinity basis, with 70 denoting an average performance. Individual maneuvers are scored in 1/2 point increments from a low of -1 1/2 to a high of +1 1/2 with a score of 0 denoting a maneuver that is correct with no degree of difficulty.

(a) The following will result in NO SCORE.

1. Use of illegal equipment (equipment requirements are the same as the Western division. Protective leg gear on the horse is permitted, such as splint boots, bell boots, and skid boots, etc.). Boots may not be of the slip-on type that covers the sole of the hoof.
2. Use of whips or bats is prohibited.
3. Disrespect or misconduct by the exhibitor.
4. Abuse of an animal in the show arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred. The judge may excuse a horse at any time while in the arena for unsafe conditions or improper exhibition pertaining to the horse and/or rider.

(b) The rider may untangle or straighten excess rein, where excess rein may prevent the rider from continuing the pattern, where the excess can be adjusted without affecting the performance of the horse, during hesitations, or when stopped and settling the horse; the rider's free hand may be used to hold a romal in the normal fashion.

(c) The following will result in a score of 0.

1. Use of more than index or first finger between reins, if riding one handed
2. Changing from two to one or one to two hands during the pattern
3. Improper use of romal (use of the free hand while holding the romal to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand is considered to be the use of two hands, and will result in a 0 score – the romal may not be used as a whip or bat at any time).
4. Failure to complete the pattern as written.
5. Inclusion of maneuvers not specified, including, but not limited to:
 - a. backing more than 2 strides
 - b. turning more than 90 degrees
6. Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern; including dropping a rein that contacts the ground while the horse is in motion.
7. Balking or refusal of command where pattern is delayed
8. Running away or failing to guide where it becomes impossible to discern whether the entry is on pattern.

9. Jogging in excess of one-half circle or one-half the length of the arena
 10. Overturns or spins of more than 1/4 turn
 11. Fall to the ground of horse or rider
- (d) The following will result in a deduction of 5 points:
1. Spurring in front of cinch
 2. Use of either hand to instill fear or praise
 3. Holding saddle with either hand
 4. Blatant disobediences including kicking, biting, bucking, rearing, and striking.
- (e) The following will result in a deduction of 2 points:
1. Breaking gait
 2. Freezing up in turns or spins
 3. On walk-in patterns, failure to stop or walk before executing a canter departure
 4. If a horse does not completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position.
- (f) Each time a horse is out of lead, a judge is required to deduct 1 point. The penalty for being out of lead is accumulative and the judge will deduct 1 penalty point for each quarter of the circumference of a circle or any part thereof that a horse is out of lead. A judge is required to penalize a horse 1/2 point for a delayed change of lead by one stride.
- (g) Deduction of 1/2 point for starting a circle at a jog or exiting roll back (or 180° turn on the hindquarters) at a jog up to two strides. Jogging beyond two strides, but less than 1/2 circle or 1/2 the length of the arena, is a deduction of 2 points.
- (h) Deduction of 1/2 point for over or under turning or spinning up to 1/8 of a turn; deduct 1 point for over or under turning or spinning from 1/8 to 1/4 turn.
- (i) Deduction of 1/2 point for failure to remain a minimum of 20 feet from the wall or fence when approaching a stop or roll back (or 180° turn on the hindquarters).
- (j) In patterns requiring a run-around, failure to be on the correct lead when rounding the end of the arena will be penalized as follows: for 1/2 the turn or less, 1 point; for more than 1/2 turn, 2 points.
- (k) Faults against the horse to be scored accordingly, but not to cause disqualification:
1. Opening mouth excessively when wearing a bit
 2. Excessive jawing, opening mouth or head raising on stop
 3. Lack of smooth, straight stop on haunches, bouncing or sideways stop

4. Refusing to change leads
5. Anticipating signals
6. Stumbling
7. Backing Sideways
8. Knocking over markers

(l) Faults against the rider to be scored accordingly, but not to cause disqualification

1. Losing stirrup
2. Failure to run circles or figure eights within the markers is not considered a fault depending on arena conditions and size; however, failure to go beyond markers on rollbacks (or 180⁰ turns on the hindquarters) or stops is considered a fault.

(m) Any fault incurred prior to the commencement of a pattern will be scored according to the rules for judging.

PATTERNS:

The following patterns are to be worked as stated, not as drawn. The drawn pattern is just to give the general idea of what the pattern will look like in the arena.

Markers will be placed on the wall or fence of the arena as follows:

At the center of the arena

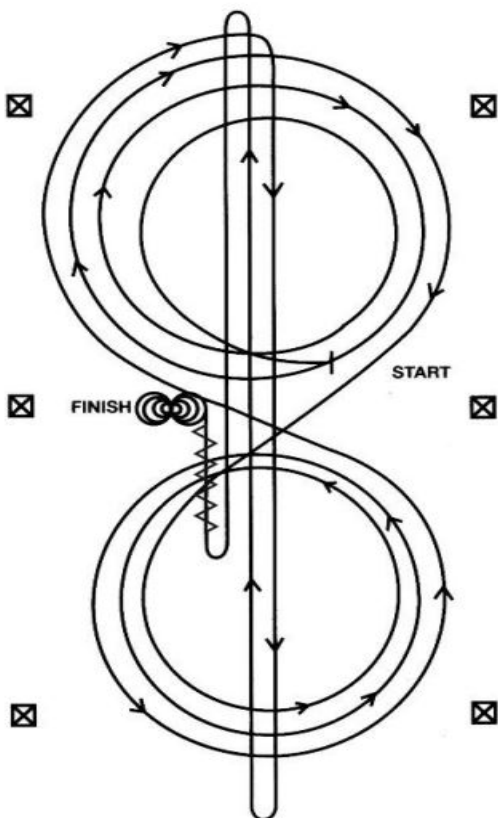
At least 50 feet from each end wall

Where designated in the pattern for stops to be beyond a marker, the horse should begin his stop after he passes the specified marker.

Each pattern is drawn so that the bottom of the page represents the end of the arena entered by exhibitors and must be run as such. In the event that an arena has only one gate and it is in the exact middle of the side, that side shall represent the right side of the page the pattern is drawn on.

All horses will be judged immediately upon entering the arena and judging will cease after the last maneuver.

Novice Reining Pattern 1

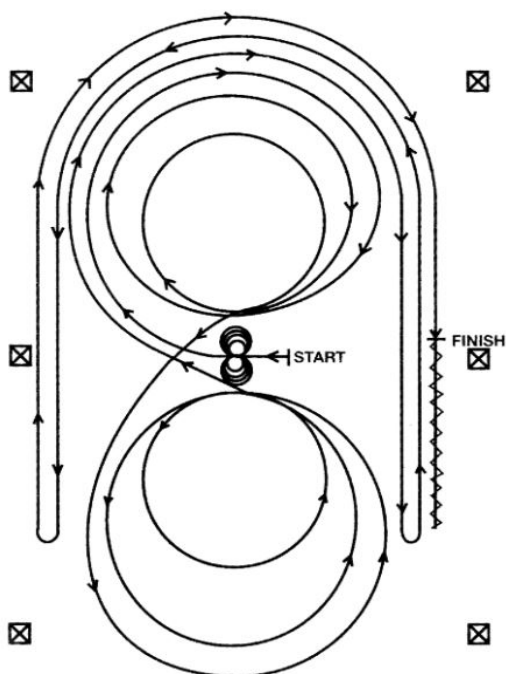


Horses may walk or trot to the center of arena. Horses must walk or stop prior to starting pattern. Beginning at the center of the arena facing the left wall or fence.

1. Beginning on the right lead, complete three circles to the right: the first circle small and slow; the next two circles large and fast. Change leads at the center of the arena.
2. Complete three circles to the left: the first circle small and slow; the next two circles large and fast. Change leads at the center of the arena.
3. Continue around previous circle to the right. At the top of the circle, run down the middle to the far end of the arena past the end marker and do a right rollback – no hesitation.
4. Run up the middle to the opposite end of the arena past the end marker and do a left rollback – no hesitation.
5. Run past the center marker and do a sliding stop. Back up to the center of the arena or at least ten feet (three meters). Hesitate.
6. Complete four spins to the right. Hesitate.
7. Complete four spins to the left. Hesitate to demonstrate the completion of the pattern.

Rider may be asked to dismount and drop bridle to the designated judge

Novice Reining Pattern 2

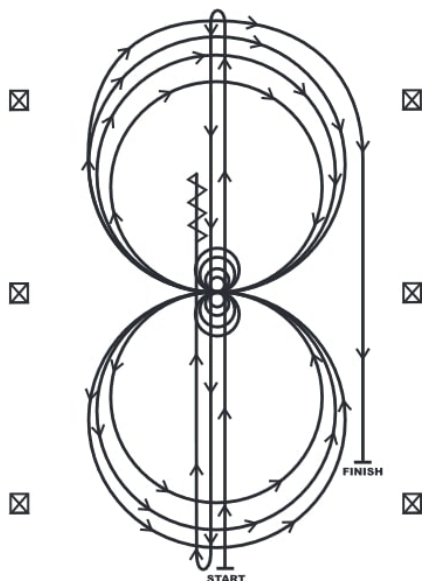


Horses may walk or trot to the center of arena. Horses must walk or stop prior to starting pattern. Beginning at the center of arena facing the left wall or fence.

1. Complete four spins to the left. Hesitate.
2. Complete four spins to the right. Hesitate.
3. Beginning on the right lead, complete three circles to the right: the first circle large and fast; the second circle small and slow; the third circle large and fast. Change leads at the center of the arena.
4. Complete three circles to the left: the first circle large and fast; the second circle small and slow; the third circle large and fast. Change leads at the center of the arena.
5. Begin a large fast circle to the right but do not close this circle. Run straight down the right side of the arena past the center marker and do a left rollback at least twenty feet (six meters) from the wall or fence—no hesitation.
6. Continue back around the previous circle, but do not close this circle. Run down the left side of the arena past the center marker and do a right rollback at least twenty feet (six meters) from the wall or fence—no hesitation.
7. Continue back around the previous circle but do not close the circle. Run down the right side of the arena past the center marker and do a sliding stop at least twenty feet (six meters) from the wall or fence. Back up at least ten feet (three meters). Hesitate to demonstrate completion of the pattern.

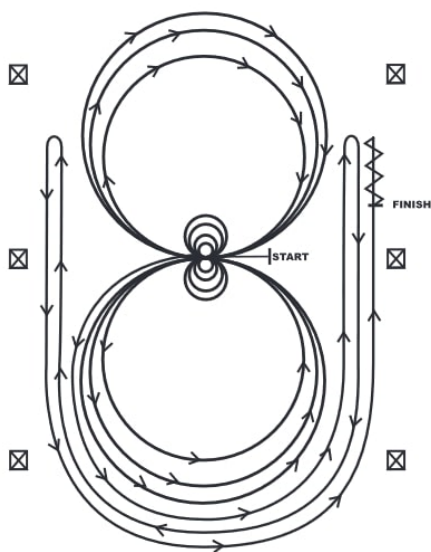
Rider may be asked to dismount and drop bridle to the judge.

Novice Reining Pattern 3



1. Run at speed to the far end of the arena past the end marker and do a left rollback—no hesitation.
 2. Run to the opposite end of the arena past the end marker and do a right rollback—no hesitation.
 3. Run past the center marker and do a sliding stop. Back up to the center of the arena or at least ten feet (three meters). Hesitate.
 4. Complete four spins to the right. Hesitate.
 5. Complete four and one-quarter spins to the left so that horse is facing left wall or fence. Hesitate.
 6. Beginning on the right lead, complete three circles to the right: the first two circles large fast; the third circle small and slow. Change leads at the center of the arena.
 7. Complete three circles to the left: the first two circles large fast; the third circle small and slow. Change leads at the center of the arena.
 8. Begin a large circle to the right but do not close this circle. Run straight down the right side of the arena past the center marker and do a sliding stop at least twenty feet (six meters) from the wall or fence. Hesitate to demonstrate completion of the pattern.
- Rider may be asked to dismount and drop bridle to the judge.

Novice Reining Pattern 4



Horses may walk or trot to the center of arena. Horses must walk or stop prior to starting pattern. Beginning at the center of arena facing the left wall or fence.

1. Beginning on the left lead, complete two circles to the left: the first circle large and fast; the second circle small and slow. Stop at the center of the arena. Hesitate.
 2. Complete four spins to the left. Hesitate.
 3. Beginning on the right lead, complete two circles to the right: the first being large and fast; the second circle small and slow. Stop at the center of the arena. Hesitate.
 4. Complete four spins to the right. Hesitate.
 5. Beginning on the left lead, run a large fast circle to the left, change leads at the center of the arena, run a large fast circle to the right, and change leads at the center of the arena.
 6. Continue around previous circle to the left but do not close this circle. Run up the right side of the arena past the center marker and do a right rollback at least 20 feet (6meters) from the wall or fence-no hesitation.
 7. Continue around previous circle but do not close this circle. Run up the left side of the arena past the center marker and do a left rollback at least 20 feet (6 meters) from the wall or fence-no hesitation.
 8. Continue back around previous circle but do not close this circle. Run up the right side of the arena past the center marker and do a sliding stop at least 20 feet (6 meters) from the wall or fence. Back up at least 10 feet (3 meters). Hesitate to demonstrate completion of pattern.
- Rider may be asked to dismount and drop bridle to the

CONTEST DIVISION

The primary performance horse in this division may compete in the following classes only:

Grooming and Showmanship, Open Trail or **Ranch Trail, (choose one)** Ranch Riding, Pole Bending, Barrel Race, Raised Box Keyhole, **Bow-Tie Race** and Driving (Pleasure or Draft).

Clothing and equipment requirements are the same as the Western Division except as noted below. These exceptions listed below are only for the timed events in the contest division.

- a. The use of protective leg or shin gear for horse or rider is optional. Boots may not be of the slip-on type that covers the sole of the hoof.
- b. Protective shin guards for the rider are optional.
- c. Tie downs and draw reins are optional.
- d. Mechanical hackamores are permitted; however, metal must not be in contact with the nose of the horse.
- e. Use of a hackamore (including mechanical hackamores) or other type of bridles and bits is the choice of the exhibitor. However, the judge may prohibit the use of bits or equipment he/she may consider severe or inhumane.

For additional information, refer to *Guidelines for Bits in Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Shows* available from county extension offices or the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program SharePoint and Cloverlink websites.

- f. Beginning with the contestant's entry in the ring, the following rules apply. Bats, crops, whips, or ropes may be used on the horse only behind the girth. A judge, at his/her discretion, may disqualify a contestant for excessive use of a bat, crop, whip, or rope or for the use of equipment that is considered abusive or inhumane. The use of the reins or hands as a whip shall cause disqualification.

1. If officials and conditions in the arena are not ready for the exhibitor, the gate shall be closed and remain closed until the arena and officials are ready.
2. The animal must be under control as it enters through the gate. Running of the gate is not permitted. The gate must be closed as soon as the exhibitor enters the arena, and must remain closed throughout the performance; however, exhibitors may begin their pattern as soon as they have entered the arena. Once the contestant has entered the arena, they have one minute to commence their performance.

An unmounted handler may lead a horse into the ring for a contest class and must exit after releasing the horse.

3. A contest class begins when the horse's nose crosses the starting line and ends when the horse's nose crosses the finish line.
4. Use of two hands rule found in General Western Rules does not apply in Contest Classes. Both hands may be used for reining in Contest events.
5. Contestant may touch an obstacle. Grasping and moving of an obstacle causing alteration of the course will result in disqualification.
6. Failure to follow the course, including negotiating obstacles in other than the specified order or in the wrong direction, shall cause disqualification.
7. In the case of broken equipment or loss of shoe, the exhibitor must continue or be eliminated. Re-runs will not be allowed in instances of equipment failure or loss of shoe.
8. In the event of electric timer failure, a rider will be permitted to rerun. The rider may choose to run immediately or add his/her number to the bottom of the working order.

Classes 23 and 24- Ranch Riding

Class 23 Ranch Riding, 8-13

Class 24 Ranch Riding, 14-18

See the Western Division for class description, clothing and equipment, pages 51-53. Although Contest division riders are permitted to show in the Ranch Riding class, equipment specific to the Contest division is not permitted. Prohibited equipment includes, but is not limited to; protective leg gear, tie downs, draw reins, mechanical hackamores, whips, closed reins. Refer to the Western division for appropriate bits and equipment.

Class 25 -Ranch Trail

See the Western Division for class description, clothing and equipment, pages 51-53. Although Contest division riders are permitted to show in the Ranch Trail class, equipment specific to the Contest division is not permitted. Prohibited equipment includes, but is not limited to; protective leg gear, tie downs, draw reins, mechanical hackamores, whips, closed reins. Refer to the Western division for appropriate bits and equipment.

Classes 27-30 Pole Bending

Class 27- Pole Bending Ponies, 8-13

(14.2 hands and under)

Class 28 – Pole Bending Ponies, 14-18

(14.2 hands and under)

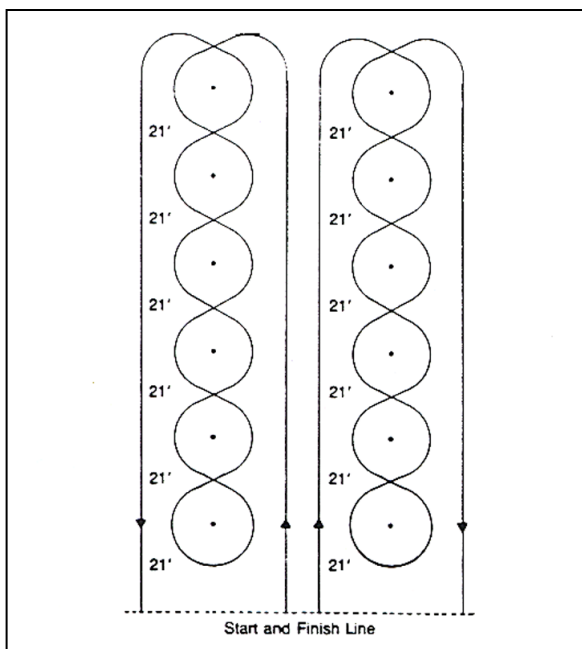
Class 29 - Pole Bending Horses, 8-13

Class 30 – Pole Bending Horses, 14-18

This is a timed event. The pole-bending pattern is to be run around six poles, spaced 21 feet apart, with the first pole 21 feet from the starting line. Poles shall be set on top of the ground, six feet in height, with a base no more than 14 inches in diameter. The horse crosses the starting line with a running start either to the right or left of the first pole and then runs the remainder of the pattern accordingly. Knocking over a pole incurs a five second penalty per knockdown.

Crossing the finish line before completing the course shall cause disqualification.

POLE BENDING PATTERN



Classes 31-34 - Barrel Race

Class 31 - Barrel Race Ponies, 8-13

(14.2 hands and under)

Class 32 - Barrel Race Ponies, 14-18

(14.2 hands and under)

Class 33 - Barrel Race Horses, 8-13

Class 34 - Barrel Race Horses, 14-18

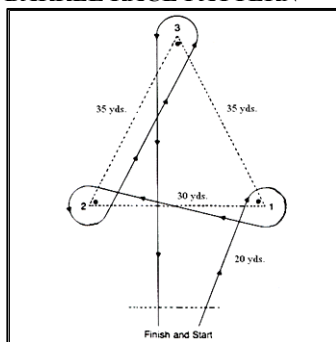
This is a timed event using three barrels set in a triangular pattern. If metal barrels are used, protective barrel covers are recommended. Plastic barrels specifically manufactured for use in Barrel Racing are acceptable. If plastic barrels are used, protective covers should not be used.

The distance from the arena walls/fence must be a minimum of 18 feet from the first and second barrels and a minimum of 36 feet from the third barrel to the end of the arena. A distance of 30 yards between the first and second barrels and 35 yards between the second and third and third and first barrels is required with the following exception: If the arena space does not permit regulation distances, the distance between barrels may be reduced in 5 yard increments. The timer should be set 20 yards from the line intersecting the first and second barrels. It is recommended that there be at least 45 ft. from the starting line to the end of the arena.

Horses cross the starting line with a running start and proceed to the first barrel on the right, circle it from the left side and proceed to the barrel directly across from it, circle it from the right side, and proceed to the end barrel and circle it from the right side, then run with speed to the finish line. Knocking over a barrel incurs a five second penalty per knockdown.

Crossing the finish line before the end of the course shall cause disqualification. The pattern may be run reversed.

BARREL RACE PATTERN



Class 35-38- Raised Box Keyhole

**Class 35 - Raised Box Keyhole Ponies, 8-13
(14.2 hands and under)**

**Class 36 - Raised Box Keyhole Ponies, 14-18
(14.2 hands and under)**

Class 37 - Raised Box Keyhole Horses, 8-13

Class 38 - Raised Box Keyhole Horses, 14-18

This is a timed event. The raised box keyhole shall be located 40 yards (120 ft) from the starting line. If space is limited, a shorter distance may be used. The keyhole shall consist of eight cones with PVC plastic pipe or wooden boards of sufficient cross-section (that will not splinter) placed on top of the cone to form the sides and back of the box. The box shall be 12 ft x 12 ft, with 4 ft between the entry/exit cones, as measured from the base edge of each cone. Two additional cones shall be placed across the front of the box, one to each side of the 4-foot opening.

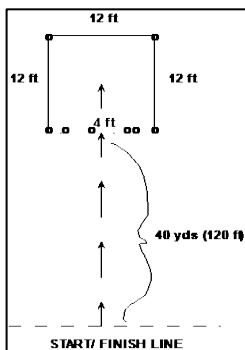
It is strongly recommended to use 28-inch traffic cones.

Horses cross the starting line with a running start and proceed to the raised box keyhole located at the opposite end of the arena. The exhibitor shall enter the keyhole between the center two entry/exit cones. Entire body of horse must enter the keyhole and must fully pass the plane of the entrance cones. Inside the raised box keyhole, the exhibitor must turn his horse 180° and exit through the same two entry/exit cones.

A five second penalty will be assessed if either of the two required entrance cones are knocked over (both cones - 10 seconds).

A cone that is knocked down and rights itself with no displacement is not considered a knockdown. Elimination will result if any remaining portion of the keyhole is knocked over or displaced.

RAISED BOX KEYHOLE PATTERN



Classes 39-42- Bow-Tie Race

Class 39- Bow-Tie Race Ponies, 8-13

(14.2 hands and under)

Class 40 – Bow-Tie Race Ponies, 14-18

(14.2 hands and under)

Class 41 – Bow-Tie Race Horses, 8-13

Class 42 – Bow-Tie Race Horses, 14-18

This is a timed event. The pattern is set with 3 poles in a straight line across the arena. The distance from the arena walls/fence must be a minimum of 20 feet for the side poles. The distance between the center pole and each of the side poles must be equal. The distance from the starting line to the middle pole shall be a minimum of 100 feet. The distance from the starting line may be adjusted if arena size does not permit the required distance.

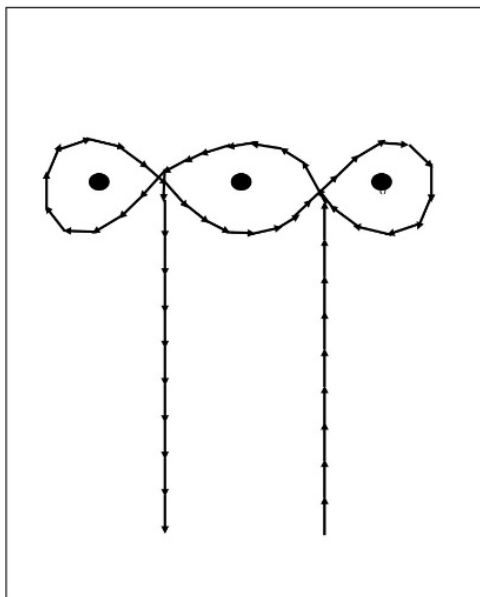
Pattern pictured below can be ran from either the left or right.

Off course will result in elimination.

Knocking over a pole incurs a five second penalty per knockdown.

Crossing the finish line before completing the course shall cause disqualification.

BOW TIE RACE PATTERN



SADDLE SEAT DIVISION

The primary performance horse in this division may compete in the following classes only:

Grooming and Showmanship, Open Trail, Saddle Seat Pleasure, Saddle Seat Equitation and Driving (Pleasure or Draft).

Open to horses or ponies of any breed or combination of breeds and typically includes those used for Saddle Seat. The Pennsylvania 4-H horse program may include diverse breeds and types in this division. Although there are many types of clothing and equipment acceptable for different breeds and types, the following requirements apply for 4-H shows.

A timeout for a period of up to 7 minutes is allowed in the event of a horse casting a shoe while in the ring. No animal shall be permitted more than one such time out per class. The exhibitor should request a timeout by riding to the center of the ring and/or approaching the ringmaster or the judge. Upon acknowledgement by the judge or ringmaster, the rider may dismount, and an attendant may enter the ring to assist. Show stewards are responsible for keeping track of time outs. If at the expiration of 7 minutes, the repair has not been made, the competitor may proceed as is or be eliminated.

Clothing and equipment requirements:

- a. Jodhpur pants or skirt
- b. Jodhpur boots
- c. Shirt and tie
- d. Coat
- e. Protective headgear is required in all classes except Grooming and Showmanship; derby, top hat or hat appropriate for breed/type is optional in Grooming and Showmanship.
- f. In equitation classes informal (anytime of day or night), conservative colors are suggested including black, blue, gray, dark green, beige or brown, in herringbone, pinstripe, or solid colors. Coat and jodhpur pants should be of same color. Day coats are not recommended in equitation classes.
- g. Optional formal wear is only allowed after 6:00 pm, and consists of conservative colors such as dark gray, dark brown, dark blue, or black tuxedo jacket with collar and lapels of same color with matching jodhpurs, tuxedo shirt, bow tie, and gloves.
- h. In pleasure classes, a day coat or coat of contrasting color to the jodhpurs may be worn. Informal matching equitation suit is also acceptable in pleasure classes.

Equipment:

- a. Flat, English type saddle
- b. Pelham, single curb, or full bridle

A pelham is a compromise between a snaffle and a double bridle and uses two reins. The mouthpiece of a pelham may be jointed, straight, or ported. The use of a bit converter (U shaped piece of leather) that fastens between the snaffle ring and the curb rein at the end of the shank on the bit is not illegal, however, it is not considered correct by most judges and may be penalized.

A single curb is permitted with many breeds ridden Saddle Seat that do not have a natural trot such as Walking Horses and other “easy gaited” breeds. A single curb should always be used with a curb strap or chain.

A full or double bridle utilizes two bits (snaffle and curb) in the horse’s mouth at the same time. The snaffle (bridoon) should have a broken mouthpiece and the curb should have a straight (unbroken) mouthpiece and may be either a straight bar or ported. The curb bit should be used with a curb strap or chain and a lip strap.

When a curb strap or chain is used, it must be at least ½” in width, lie flat against the horse’s jaw, and permit the entry of two fingers between the horse’s jaw and the curb strap or chain. No wire or rawhide device, regardless of how padded or taped, may be used in conjunction with, or as part of, the chin strap or chain.

A gag bit with no shanks is not considered a standard Walking Horse bit and should not be used. Gag bits with shanks may be permitted if acceptable by respective breed associations and at the judge’s discretion.

- c. Bits that are permitted by respective breed associations may be acceptable at the judge’s discretion. A judge at his/her discretion can penalize a horse with non-conventional types of bits or nose bands.

For additional information, refer to *Guidelines for Bits in Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Shows* available from county extension offices or the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program SharePoint and Cloverlink websites.

- d. Whips and spurs without rowels are optional. Slip on spurs, not attached with a spur strap, are not permitted.

- e. Martingales, tie downs, and ankle chains are prohibited.

SADDLE SEAT EQUITATION

This class is open to both trotting and non-trotting breeds/types. The rider's performance and skills are being judged in this class. The rider's basic position, use of hands and legs, and their ability to control and show their horses are important. The horse's and the rider's performance and execution, must be considered. Rider should maintain a seat that is thoroughly efficient and in balance with the horse for riding at any gait and for any length of time. The rider should have the mount under control and demonstrate his or her horsemanship ability at all times. Any excessive motion in the saddle or swinging of the arms and legs should be penalized. An artificial or unnatural appearance in the saddle also should be penalized. If applicable, the rider should be on the correct diagonal at the trot. The horse should be on the proper lead at the canter. Ring generalship must be taken into consideration by the judge. A complete picture of the whole is of major importance.

Hands should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle. The method of holding the reins is optional, however, both hands must be used, and reins must be picked up at one time. Bight of reins should be on offside. Riders may be asked to back their horse.

Basic Position - To obtain the proper position, the rider should place his or herself comfortably in the saddle and find their center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knees without use of irons. While in this position, adjust leathers to fit. Irons should be placed under ball of foot with even pressure on entire width of sole and center of iron. Foot position should be natural.

Riders of breeds of horses that do not have a natural trot are not required to meet the diagonal requirements.

Classes 43 and 44—Saddle Seat Equitation

Class 43 - Saddle Seat Equitation, 8-13

Class 44- Saddle Seat Equitation, 14-18

Rider will enter the ring to the right at the trot or easiest gait and proceed counterclockwise. Rider will show horse at a walk, trot (or easiest gait), and canter, both ways of the ring. At least two more riders than the number of placings will be required to perform an individual test that the judge feels will demonstrate the rider's ability. Tests must be posted at least one hour prior to the class.

Tests will include one or more of the following skills:

- Address the reins only in the lineup.
- In the lineup, drop and regain stirrups.
- Circle at a trot or easiest gait.
- Ride without stirrups for a brief period of time, no more than 1 minute. Riders may be asked to disengage or engage stirrups at any gait.
- If appropriate for all riders in the class - change of diagonals down center of ring or on the rail
- Serpentine at a trot or easiest gait. A series of left and right half-circles with correct diagonals (if appropriate) must be shown.
- Back for no more than eight steps.
- Figure-eight at a trot or easiest gait demonstrating change of diagonals, if appropriate.
- Circle at the canter on the correct lead.
- Serpentine at a canter on correct lead demonstrating a simple change of lead.
- Figure-eight at canter on a correct lead demonstrating simple change of lead.
- Change leads down center of ring or on the rail demonstrating simple change of lead. The judge must specify the beginning lead and subsequent lead changes to be performed.

Exhibitors going off pattern, knocking over or on the wrong side of a cone, never performing specified gait, or overturning more than a quarter turn than designated, shall not be disqualified, but must always place below exhibitors who incur none of these errors.

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| Class 45 -- Saddle Seat Pleasure |
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Open to horses or ponies of any breed or combination of breeds normally used for Saddle Seat Pleasure. Horses and ponies will compete in the same class. Junior (8-13) and Senior (14-18) riders will compete in this class.

This class will be judged on manners, consistency, way of going, performance, and soundness. Animals are to be shown at a walk, trot or easiest gait, and canter both ways of the ring.

HUNT SEAT DIVISION

The primary performance horse in this division may compete in the following classes: Grooming and Showmanship, Open Trail, Hunter Under Saddle, Equitation (choose one), Working Hunter (choose one), Hunter Hack and Driving (Pleasure or Draft).

Clothing and equipment requirements:

- a. Riding breeches, jodhpurs or skirt
- b. Hunt boots or paddock boots
- c. Shirt or ratcatcher shirt
- d. Tie or choker
- e. Riding coat
- f. Hunt cap or protective headgear for Grooming and Showmanship classes; protective headgear required in all other classes.

Equipment:

- a. Hunt or forward seat saddle.
- b. Snaffles, kimberwicks, pelhams, and/or full bridles, all with cavesson nose bands and plain leather brow bands, are required.

Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece. Solid and broken mouthpieces may have a port no higher than 1 ½". On broken mouthpieces only, connecting rings of 1 ¼" or less in diameter or connecting flat bar that lies flat in the horse's mouth are acceptable. All mouthpieces must be a minimum of 5/16" in diameter when measured 1" from the cheek or ring. The snaffle bit ring may not exceed 4" in diameter. Smooth round, oval or egg-shaped, slow twist, corkscrew, single twisted wire, or double twisted wire mouth pieces and straight bar or solid mouthpieces are permitted.

Bits of any style with mouthpieces with cathedrals, donuts, prongs, sharp edges, or rough, sharp material shall be cause for elimination.

Slip or gag bits or hackamores of any type are not permitted.

Any bit having a fixed rein that functions with leverage or has a port should be used with a curb strap or chain.

When a curb strap or chain is used, it must be at least ½" in width, lie flat against the horse's jaw, and permit the entry of two fingers between the horse's jaw and the curb strap or chain. No wire or rawhide device, regardless of how padded or taped, may be used in conjunction with, or as part of, the chin strap or chain.

c. Bits that are permitted by respective breed associations may be acceptable at the judge's discretion. A judge at his/her own discretion can penalize a horse with non-conventional types of bits, bridles or nosebands. Drop nosebands, flash nosebands, bitless bridles, etc., are considered non-conventional.

For additional information, refer to *Guidelines for Bits in Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Shows* available from county extension offices or the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program SharePoint website.

d. Standing martingales are optional in Working Hunter classes and Equitation Over Fences.

e. Whips and crops are optional. Regular hunting spurs without rowels are optional.

f. In equitation classes, protective boots or conservative colored bandages are permitted. In Low/Working Hunter and Hunter Hack classes in inclement weather, the show committee or judge may permit the use of bell boots only. Boots may not be of the slip-on type that covers the sole of the hoof.

Prohibited Clothing and Equipment:

a. slip on spurs not attached with a spur strap

b. protective boots, leg wraps and bandages except as noted in item **f** above. Boots may not be of the slip-on type that covers the sole of the hoof.

c. draw reins

d. Martingales are prohibited, **Exception:** Standing martingales are permitted in Working Hunter classes and Equitation Over Fences classes.

e. mechanical hackamores

f. whips or bats exceeding 30 inches in length

HUNT SEAT EQUITATION

Exhibitors may show in only one equitation class. Exhibitors may choose to ride in Hunt Seat Equitation on the Flat or one of the two Equitation Over Fences classes. Exhibitors showing in the Low Equitation over Fences classes may show in Low Working Hunter, but not the Working Hunter. Exhibitors showing in the Equitation over Fences may show in the Working Hunter, but not the Low Working Hunter.

A rider may show in only one equitation class (see Performance Rule 15). Only the rider is being judged. Rider should have workmanlike appearance, seat and hands should be light and supple, conveying the impression of complete control should an emergency arise.

Hands - Hands should be over and in front of horse's withers, knuckles thirty degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from horse's mouth to rider's elbow. Light contact with horse's mouth is required.

Basic Position - The eyes should be up and shoulders back. Toes should be at an angle best suited to rider's conformation: ankles flexed in, heels down, calf of leg in contact with horse and slightly behind girth. Iron should be on the ball of the foot and must not be tied to the girth.

Position in Motion - At the walk, sitting trot and canter, body should be a couple of degrees in front of the vertical: posting trot, inclined forward; galloping and jumping, same inclination as posting trot.

Classes 46-48 Hunt Seat Equitation On the Flat

Class 46 - Hunt Seat Equitation On the Flat, 8-11

Class 47 - Hunt Seat Equitation On the Flat, 12-14

Class 48 - Hunt Seat Equitation On the Flat, 15-18

Exhibitors will show on the rail at a walk, trot and canter in both directions with the reverse executed away from the rail.

At least two more riders than the numbers of placings will be required to perform a test that the judge feels will demonstrate the rider's ability. At the judge's discretion testing may be executed as part of the rail work and/or as an individually executed test. If an individual test is used, it will follow the rail work and be posted at least one hour prior to the start of the class.

If markers are used in the tests, appropriate length of hunter stride should be taken into account when determining space for the tests or patterns.

Tests will include one or more of the following skills:

- halt 4-6 seconds
- back
- walk or extended walk in a straight line or circle
- trot or extended trot in a straight line or circle
- sitting trot, posting trot, and/or two-point position in a straight line or circle
- figure 8 or serpentine at trot demonstrating change of diagonal
- canter in a straight line or circle
- ride without stirrups, riders must be allowed the option to cross stirrups
- turn on the forehand
- turn on the haunches no more than 180
- figure 8 at a canter, demonstrating a simple or flying change of lead
- serpentine at a canter on correct lead demonstrating a simple or flying change of lead
- change leads on a line, demonstrating a simple or flying change of lead
- counter canter
- hand gallop

Exhibitors going off pattern, knocking over or on the wrong side of a cone, never performing specified gait, or overturning more than a quarter turn than designated, shall not be disqualified, but must always place below exhibitors who incur none of these errors.

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|---|
| Classes 49 and 50 – Low Equitation Over Fences |
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All exhibitors in the same age divisions will show in the same class but will take jumps of different heights. Jumps will be about 2' for small and medium ponies (13.2 hands and under); about 2' 3" for large ponies (over 13.2 hands). Jumps for horses will not exceed 2' 6". There will be no oxers.

Class 49 – Low Equitation Over Fences, 8-13

Class 50 – Low Equitation Over Fences, 14-18

Classes 51 and 52 - Equitation Over Fences

All exhibitors in the same age divisions will show in the same class but will take jumps of different heights.

Jumps will be about 2' for small ponies (12.2 hands and under); and about 2' 3" for medium ponies (over 12.2 hands but not exceeding 13.2 hands). 2'6" for large ponies (over 13.2 and not exceeding 14.2 hands); and about 2'9" for horses over 14.2 hands.

Class 51 - Equitation Over Fences, 8-13

Class 52 - Equitation Over Fences, 14-18

Participants in Low Equitation Over Fences and Equitation Over Fences must have a minimum score of 50 to be considered for advancement to the district show and a minimum score of 60 to be considered for advancement to the state show. The quota system determining the number of participants from each district to advance to the state level will also apply. In no case will more than the maximum quota be permitted to advance to the next level regardless of their score.

The class objective is to judge the rider's ability over fences, not the horse's ability. Rider should have workmanlike appearance with light and supple seat and hands, conveying the impression of complete control in any situation. Equitation will be judged on hands, seat, legs, use of aids and control.

Except for refusals, jumping faults of the horse are not to be considered *unless* they are the result of the rider's ability.

Refer to, *Courses and Fences* (in the Low Working/Working Hunter Section) for information on acceptable course and fence design.

If time and conditions warrant, the show committee should permit exhibitor to walk and/or school over the course prior to the class. If schooling over the course is permitted, only the exhibitor shall be allowed to school the horse over the fences.

Types of jumps shall be left to the discretion of the show committee. Courses must be posted at least one hour prior to the start of the class. See individual class descriptions for jump heights. All horses and ponies in a class must jump the same jumps. When adjusting fence heights, the components of the fence must not be changed.

Each contestant may circle once if desired before approaching first jump. Additional circles are considered a major fault. He/she shall then proceed around the course of no less than six jumps, keeping an even pace throughout.

The performance begins when the horse enters the ring or is given the signal to proceed after entering ring.

The scoring shall be on a basis of 0 – 100, with 70 denoting an average performance with approximate breakdown as follows:

- 90 – 100: Excellent equitation, position, and presentation; meets all fences squarely and at proper distance
- 80 – 89: Above average performer. Meets all fences squarely and at proper distance, rider position correct, minor equitation faults, rider still maintains a quality ride
- 70 – 79: Average to above average performer, but with minor faults. Not a flowing course, some distances not accurate, rider position weak, but still effective.
- 60 -69: Rider position less than average, some errors in the components of the course.
- 50 – 59: Rider position is ineffective, examples of errors in course may include: break in gait, extra stride in lines.
- 40 -49: Rider position interferes with performance of horse, examples of errors in course may include refusal, rail down as a result of rider's ability
- 10 - 39: Rider position and course errors avoid elimination
- 0 Elimination

Elimination:

Three refusals (i.e., refusal, run-out, stop on course (unless for reset), extra circle)

Off Course

Jumping a fence before reset

Bolting on the course

Fall of horse or rider

If the horse steps into an obvious wrong lead for one or two strides *only* before or on the courtesy circle, it is noted on the score sheet; this may be used as a tie breaker in the event of a ride of equal quality and score.

Classes 53 and 54 - Hunter Under Saddle Ponies

**Class 53 - Hunter Under Saddle Ponies
(13.2 hands and under)**

**Class 54 - Hunter Under Saddle Ponies
(over 13.2 hands and not over 14.2 hands)**

Hunter Under Saddle Pony classes will be divided only by height and not by type.

Hunter ponies will be shown at a walk, trot, and canter, both ways of the ring.

The judge may require a hand gallop in one direction (not more than eight ponies at one time). Ponies should back easily and stand quietly. Martingales prohibited.

To be judged on performance, manners, conformation, soundness, and suitability to purpose.

Classes 55-58 Hunter Under Saddle Horses

Two types of Hunter Under Saddle Horse classes are offered: Classic Type and Breed Type. Exhibitors may show in only one type of class. The exhibitor and their parent and/or coach should determine which class is best suited for their horse.

Classic Hunter Under Saddle

Horses shown in these classes will *generally* be the type shown at USEF hunter and open hunter shows. These may include, but are not limited to Thoroughbreds, Thoroughbred types, Warmbloods and Warmblood types.

Breed Type Hunter Under Saddle

Horses shown in these classes will *generally* be the type shown at breed shows and open shows. These will typically be of stock breed origin and usually include, but are not limited to Quarter Horses, Paints, Appaloosas and crosses of these breeds.

Exhibitors of breeds or types not specifically stated (i.e. Arabians, Morgans, etc.) may show in one of either type class and should choose the class most appropriate for their horse. Judges should expect to see different types and breeds of horses. The judge should evaluate way of going relative to the type and breed of animal. The judge should consider industry standards for breeds/types being shown.

Class 55 – Classic Hunter Under Saddle Horses, 8-13

Class 56 – Classic Hunter Under Saddle Horses, 14-18

Horses are to be shown at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring. The judge may require a hand gallop in one direction, not more than 8 horses at one time. Horses should back easily and stand quietly. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. To be judged on performance, manners, soundness, and suitability to purpose. Regardless of breed, horses should be obedient, alert, responsive, and move in a balanced frame, with long, low strides reaching forward with ease and smoothness, be able to lengthen stride and cover ground with relaxed, free-flowing movement, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of the proper cadence.

The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gait is a major consideration.

Class 57-Breed Type Hunter Under Saddle Horses, 8-13

Class 58-Breed Type Hunter Under Saddle Horses, 14-18

Horses to be judged on performance, manners, soundness and suitability to purpose. Horses should move with long, low strides reaching forward with ease and smoothness, be able to lengthen stride and cover ground with relaxed, free-flowing movement, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of the proper cadence. The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gait is a major consideration. The poll should be level with, or slightly above, the withers to allow the proper impulsion behind. The head position should be slightly in front or on the vertical. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Horses will be shown at a walk, trot and canter, both ways of the ring. Horses should back easily and stand quietly. The judge may require a hand gallop in one direction, not more than 8 horses at one time.

Classes 59 and 60 - Low Working Hunter

Class 59 - Low Working Hunter Ponies

All ponies will be shown in the same class but will take jumps of different heights.

Jumps will be about 2' for small and medium ponies (13.2 hands and under); and about 2' 3" for large ponies (over 13.2 hands). There will be no oxers.

Class 60 - Low Working Hunter Horses

Jumps to be about 2' 6" inches. There will be no oxers.

Classes 61 and 62 - Working Hunter

Class 61 - Working Hunter Ponies

Large and small ponies will be shown in the same class but will take jumps of different heights.

Jumps will be about 2' for small ponies (12.2 hands and under); about 2' 3" for medium ponies (over 12.2 hands and not exceeding 13.2 hands); and about 2' 6" for large ponies (over 13.2 hands).

Class 62 - Working Hunter Horses

Jumps to be about 2'9".

Exhibitors showing in the Low Working Hunter may show in the Low Equitation Over Fences, but not the Equitation over Fences.

Exhibitors showing in the Working Hunter may show in the Equitation over Fences, but not the Low Equitation over Fences. Exhibitors may show in only one Working Hunter class.

Participants in Working Hunter and Low Working Hunter must have a minimum score of 50 to be considered for advancement to the district show and a minimum score of 60 to be considered for advancement to the state show. The quota system determining the number of participants from each district to advance to the state level will also apply. In no case will more than the maximum quota be permitted to advance to the next level regardless of their score.

Courses and Fences

For assistance in designing jumps and courses, refer to the *Sample Jumps and Course Design for Over Fences Classes* available from county extension offices or the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program SharePoint website.

Course diagrams must be posted at least one hour before the scheduled time of the class. The diagram must show the obstacles, which must be taken in the order and direction indicated by their numbers, but apart from this, the rider is not bound to follow a compulsory track.

A hunter course shall consist of at least six fences which management deems a fair test of a hunter. Fences should simulate obstacles found in the hunting field, such as natural post and rail, brush, stone walls, white board fence or gate, natural gates, and oxers. Oxers are not to be square; a 6" difference is recommended for the back element with a minimum of 2'9". In the Low Working Hunter Classes (horses and ponies) there will be no oxers. A ground line is recommended for all fences. There must be at least one change of direction in the course.

A rail must be the uppermost factor of an element to allow a horse to safely brush a fence. When building jumps, standards and wings should be built to allow for 2'9" adjustment capability.

When an oxer or spread jump is included on the course, the back rail must be supported by an FEI approved safety mechanism (refer to the *Sample Jumps and Course Design for Over Fences Classes* for ordering the safety jump cups). When setting an oxer, the width should never exceed the height.

Fences that are not be used include a chicken coop that is hinged at the top and not secured at the bottom. This type of coop is considered a safety hazard. Jumps such as triple bars, hogbacks, targets and any spread over 4' are prohibited.

Each course should have at least three different types of fences. All fences should have rails as the top element. All fences should have adequate wings. Rails, gates and fillers should be at least 10 ft. in length. It is recommended that the wings be at least 30 inches wide and 12 inches higher than the obstacle. The use of a ground line is recommended for all obstacles but should not be a jump rail that can roll if a horse steps on it.

When an obstacle is moved or altered, it must be reset to its original position. When designing courses, whether it is an Equitation Class, Low Working Hunter or Working Hunter Class, generally, the lines for a 2'6" or 2'9" course are based on a 12' stride, with 6' for take-off and 6' for landing. (example - a four stride is a sixty-foot line). However, when in a small ring or indoor, many times an 11' stride can be used.

In a small or indoor ring, horses don't land as far into a line, and thus a line based in an 11' stride will allow the riders and horses to ride a more balanced course.

It is suggested to test equally, both leads should be demonstrated over the same number of fences. However, every course **must** require at least one lead change.

It is best to start a course with a single fence and not a line, as this provides an advantage to the horse and rider. Using a single fence headed toward the in-gate gives the horse confidence and is a great way to start a course. Any line must start with a vertical fence and may have either an oxer or a vertical to finish (Oxers cannot be used in Low Working Hunter Classes).

If the distance between the jumps is 90 feet or less from base to base the distance should be included in posted course diagrams.

Management should make every attempt to post distances with the posted courses. This will help educate 4-H members to properly ride courses.

Management should also provide a practice jump or two in a safe area so exhibitors may school horses. If time and conditions warrant, the show committee should permit exhibitor to walk and/or school over the course prior to the class.

Judging

All horses and ponies must be serviceably sound. All horses being considered for an award must be jogged for soundness with rider dismounted. Horses that are not serviceably sound are ineligible for an award.

The competition begins when the horse or pony enters the ring and ends when he leaves the ring.

In the event of elimination, the horse must exit the ring immediately.

To be judged on manners, way of going, and style of jumping. Horses shall be credited with maintaining an even hunting pace that covers the course with free-flowing strides. Preference will be given to horses with correct jumping style that meets fences squarely, jumping the center of the fence.

Judges shall penalize unsafe jumping and bad form over fences, whether touched or untouched. Incorrect leads around the ends of the course or cross-cantering shall be penalized. Any error which endangers the horse and/or rider, particularly refusals or knockdowns, shall be heavily penalized.

In cases of broken equipment or loss of shoe, the rider may either continue without penalty or be eliminated.

Circling once upon entering the ring and once upon leaving is permissible. Additional circles are considered a major fault and scored as a refusal.

The scoring shall be on a basis of 0 – 100, with 70 denoting and average performance with approximate breakdown as follows:

- 90 – 100: An excellent performer that jumps the entire course in excellent form with cadence, balance and style
- 80 - 89: An above average performer that jumps all fences in excellent form, but may commit one or two minor faults
- 70 - 79: An average, fair performer that makes no major faults, but lacks the style, cadence and good balance of the scopier horses
- 60 – 69: An average or fair performer that has one or two poor fences but no major faults or disobediences
- 50 – 59: A horse that commits one major fault, such as trot, cross canter or drops a leg
- 30 - 49: A horse that commits two or more major faults, including knockdowns and refusals, or jumps in a manner that otherwise endangers the horse and/or rider
- 10 - 29: A horse that avoids elimination but jumps and performs in such an unsafe and dangerous manner as to preclude a higher score
- 0 Elimination

FAULTS:

Minor or Major Faults *The following faults are scored according to the judge's opinion, and depending on severity, may be considered minor or major faults:*

Showing an obstacle to a horse

A late lead change

Kicking out

Spooking

Jumping out of form

Jumping into corners of obstacles

Not jumping the center of fence

Minor changes in pace

Unhappy expression (pinning ears)

Excessive use of crop

Major Faults:

Knock down of any part of an obstacle

Refusals

Break of gait:

Examples include, trotting on course when not specified or a simple lead change

Bucking

Stopping for loss of shoe or broken equipment

Circling while on course

Dangerous jumping

Severe changes of pace

Incorrect pace (over or under)

Cross Canter

Completely missing a lead change

Leaving a stride out of a line

The following may or may not be considered as faults, depending on their severity and frequency:

Light rubs

Swapping leads in a line

Late lead changes

Excessive show of animation

Adding a stride in a line

Elimination:

Three refusals (i.e., refusal, run-out, stop on course (unless for reset) extra circle)

Off course (i.e., jumping an extra fence)

Jumping a fence before it is reset

Bolting from the ring

Fall of horse or rider

Tack – Standing martingales are permitted. Boots and bandages of any description are prohibited.

In case of inclement weather, the show committee or judge may permit the use of bell boots only.

Classes 63 and 64 - Hunter Hack

Class 63 - Hunter Hack Ponies (14.2 hands and under)

Class 64- Hunter Hack Horses

The hunter hack horse should move as a hunter under saddle horse. Judging emphasis will be placed equally on the flat as well as fence work. The hack horse should be quiet, move at a good hunting pace, possess good manners and way of going, and be capable of jumping a few fences in a good, safe style.

Exhibitors are required to work both on the flat and over fences. Riders must perform at a walk, trot, and canter both directions of the arena.

Horses will also be required to hand gallop one direction of the arena, or a hand gallop may be performed individually following completion of the last fence. At the discretion of the judge, horses may be asked to halt, stand quietly and back following the individual's completion of fences. No more than 8 horses will be allowed to hand gallop at the same time.

All exhibitors will be required to jump a minimum of two fences and may be asked to jump a third fence at the discretion of the show committee, judge or course designer. Fence height will be about 2' for small and medium ponies (13.2 hands and under) and 2' 3" for large ponies (over 13.2 hands). Fences for all horses will be about 2' 6" The fences are commonly set in a straight line in the center of the arena but may be set anywhere in the arena that may be safely jumped. The jumps used are usually of a rather simple vertical post and rail type, and the use of a ground line is recommended. However, jumps may also be used that are commonly seen in a low working hunter class. Refer to courses and fences (under the low working hunter/working hunter section) for information on acceptable fence design.

Jumps may be set as; two single fences, a line of two fences or a line of two fences with an additional single, third fence. Fence order will be determined by the show committee, judge, or course designer. If the jumps are set in a line, they are recommended to be set in 12-foot increments with a minimum of 60'. If ring conditions do not permit, a 48' line may be used.

Faults over fences are judged as in the Working Hunter and Low Working Hunter classes.

A horse will not be permitted to advance to the next qualifying show if it does not fulfill the jumping requirements.

One courtesy circle prior to the first fence is permitted. Additional circles are considered a major fault.

Martingales prohibited. Boots and bandages of any description are prohibited. In case of inclement weather, the show committee or judge may permit the use of bell boots only.

DRIVING DIVISION

The primary performance horse may compete in this division, the open division and one of the following: Western, Saddle Seat, Hunt Seat and Contest. Please see the respective divisions for a list of classes. If a member has a secondary driving animal or miniature horse, that animal may be used in Grooming and Showmanship.

A timeout for a period of up to 7 minutes is allowed in the event of a horse casting a shoe or an equipment malfunction while in the ring. No animal shall be permitted more than one such time out per class. The exhibitor should request a timeout by driving to the center of the ring and/or approaching the ringmaster or the judge. Upon acknowledgement by the judge or ringmaster, the driver may exit the vehicle and an attendant may enter the ring to head the horse or pony. Show stewards are responsible for keeping track of time outs. If at the expiration of 7 minutes, the repair has not been made, the competitor may proceed as is or be eliminated.

General Specifications:

Judges should expect to see different styles and types of horses and movement, styles of driving, etc. in the driving classes. The judge should evaluate way of going relative to the style and type of animal, ie: pleasure, park (saddle), draft type, etc. The judge should consider desired standards for breed types being shown.

The term "Whip" is a traditional, but sometimes confusing euphemism. The person controlling the lines and whip shall be referred herein as driver.

The only person to handle the lines and whip is the driver. Assistance from attendant or any other person will be penalized. The driver shall sit on the right-hand side (offside) of the vehicle.

Either one- or two-handed method of driving is acceptable. Common to both methods, the elbows and arms should be close to the body with an allowing, but steady hand enabling a consistent "feel" with the horse's mouth.

Competitors must use an appropriate two-wheeled vehicle, stable and in good repair. The vehicle must have a floor or basket and must seat at least two people (the driver and the attendant). Jog carts that meet these criteria are acceptable (the term "jog cart" can be used interchangeably with "show cart"). A jog cart is defined as a wooden or metal-framed vehicle with wire wheels and pneumatic tires or wooden wheels.

Wheel size for jog carts must not exceed 26" in diameter. Wheel size must be appropriate for the size of the animal and cart.

It is the responsibility of each competitor to ensure that harness and vehicle are in good repair and structurally sound. It is the responsibility of each competitor to ensure that the harness is correctly fitted and adjusted to the horse and vehicle. The turnout should be clean and fit properly. A full collar harness may be used except with miniature horses. A breast plate is suitable with lightweight vehicles and must be used with miniature horses. Blinders are strongly recommended on all bridles. The term blinkers or winkers can be used interchangeably with blinders.

No type of "bitless" bridle may be used in driving classes.

For additional information on driving bits, refer to *Guidelines for Bits in Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Shows* available from county extension offices or the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program SharePoint website.

For additional information on harness, refer to *Quick Guide for Driving in Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Shows* available from county extension offices or the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program SharePoint and Cloverlink websites.

Horses must be serviceably sound and must not show evidence of lameness, broken wind, or impairment of vision in both eyes. It is the responsibility of each competitor to ensure that his horse is physically fit to fulfill the tasks required of it.

If shod, horses and ponies should be suitably shod for pleasure driving. In Draft Horse Driving Classes, scotch shoes will not be penalized.

Braiding of the mane is optional. Any mane, tail, or fetlock trimming may conform to breed standards. The application of artificial hair in mane or tail is discouraged. A tail set or the use of ginger to induce a high tail carriage is prohibited.

Gaits - Gaits and manners should be suitable for a youth to drive. The following descriptions constitute the approved standard for performance of each of the required gaits in pleasure driving.

Walk - A free, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate extension is desired. The horses and ponies should walk energetically, but calmly, with an even and determined pace.

Working Trot - The horse or pony should go forward freely and straight, engaging the hind legs with good hock action, on a taut but light rein, the position being balanced and unconstrained.

The steps should be as even as possible. The hind feet should touch the ground in the footprints of the fore feet.

The degree of energy and impulsion displayed at the working trot denotes clearly the degree of suppleness and balance of the animal.

Strong Trot - Horses should demonstrate a clear but not excessive increase in pace and lengthening of stride while remaining well balanced and showing appropriate lateral flexion on turns; light contact to be maintained. Excessive speed will be penalized. The term used for calling this gait is strong trot.

Halt - Horses or ponies and vehicle should be brought to a complete square stop without abruptness or veering. At the halt, horses should stand attentively, motionless and straight, with the weight evenly distributed over the legs, and be ready to move off at the slightest command from the driver.

Back - This is a backward movement in which the legs are raised and set down simultaneously in diagonal pairs, with the hind legs remaining well in line. The "Back" maneuver is to be performed in two parts: (1) Back at least four steps, unhurried, with head flexed and straight, pushing back evenly in a straight line using light contact and quiet aids. (2) Move forward willingly to former position using the same quiet aids. Judges shall not call for Halt and/or Back while the horses or ponies are on the rail.

Reverse Direction – It is suggested that the horse be turned toward the center of the ring, cross diagonally to the other side of the ring, and proceed in the opposite direction at the ringmaster's instruction.

Safety:

All persons involved in driving - attendants, officials, spectators, etc. should place safety foremost!

1. Having one's horse under control at all times is a mandatory safeguard for the driver, passengers, and everyone involved in the sport. The judge must eliminate from competition an unsafe vehicle, harness or an unruly horse.
2. A bridle should not be removed from a horse while it is still put to a vehicle.
3. Horses put to a vehicle must never be left unattended.
4. A driver should never allow passengers to enter a vehicle until he or she is seated with lines in hand and must never dismount while passengers are on the vehicle.
5. A knowledgeable adult attendant (must have reached their 19th birthday on or before Jan 1) is required to ride in the vehicle with the driver *except* in Miniature Horse Driving, 14-18.

The attendant shall render no other assistance except in an emergency.

6. When on the line:

a) The attendant may remain in the vehicle if a header enters the ring and heads the horse in line. Attendants and headers should use caution and walk quietly when approaching horses in the line. OR

b) The attendant must dismount and stand at the head of the horse until it is called to perform on the rail.

7. Bridles should fit snugly to prevent catching on a vehicle or other pieces of harness. Lines may be placed under the shoulder strap going to the breast plate.

8. At the judge's discretion, turnouts that pose a safety risk may be penalized or disqualified (including excessively noisy harness and carts in pleasure or miniature horse driving).

Classes 65 and 66 - Pleasure Driving

Class 65 - Pleasure Pony Driving (14.2 h & under)

Class 66 - Pleasure Horse Driving

A pleasure driving class is one in which entries are judged primarily on the ability of the horse or pony to provide a pleasurable drive. Pleasure Driving Classes will be judged 70% on manners, performance, and way of going, 20% on condition and fit of harness and vehicle, and 10% on neatness of attire.

Personal Attire and Appointments for Driver and Attendant:

A. Required

1. Protective headgear is required for all drivers. A hat (or protective headgear) is required for attendants.

2. Riding boots or shoes with distinguishable heel; heel not to exceed two inches.

3. Gloves

4. Attire shall be conservative according to the style of the present day. Girls/women shall wear a slack suit, dress suit, dress or skirt and blouse. Boys/men shall wear a coat or jacket with a shirt and tie and slacks or suit. As an alternative, personal attire and appointments that are appropriate to the seat you ride will also be acceptable.

Exception: Blue denim jeans are prohibited. Other color denim jeans are acceptable.

B. Optional

1. Lap robes or aprons optional for driver. Lap robes or aprons for attendants are not recommended.

C. Prohibited:

1. Period costumes
2. T-shirts, sweatshirts, tank tops or crew neck shirts, spaghetti straps, strapless outfits and blue jeans.
3. Open-toed shoes, sandals, sneakers, clogs, shoes or boots with excessively high heels.

Attire for headers:

1. Neat, clean and conservative attire, no blue jeans allowed. Hard soled shoes or boots are required.

Tack and Equipment:

A. Required:

1. Appropriate two-wheeled vehicle, stable and in good repair. The vehicle must have a floor or basket and must seat at least two people (the driver and the attendant). Jog carts that meet these criteria are acceptable. A jog cart is defined as a wooden or metal-framed vehicle with wire wheels and pneumatic tires or wooden wheels. Wheel size for jog carts must not exceed 26" in diameter. Wheel size must be appropriate for the size of the animal and cart.
2. Standard bridle with or without blinders, however blinders are strongly recommended. Cavesson or noseband that completely encircles the nose.
3. Snaffle or driving bit (i.e. liverpool). Bits may be covered with rubber or leather. Bits permitted by respective breed/driving associations may be acceptable at the judge's discretion. For additional information on driving bits, refer to *Guidelines for Bits in Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Shows* available from county extension offices or the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program SharePoint website.
4. Driving harness. Pleasure, light and fine harnesses are acceptable. A full collar harness may be used; a breast plate is suitable with lightweight vehicles. No scotch collar or housing is permitted.
5. Breeching or thimbles required for all harnesses *except* when using fine harness for Jerald, Houghton, Serafin or similar show or pleasure jog carts. Breeching or thimbles are recommended as a safety precaution with heavier vehicles, especially in uneven terrain.
6. Whip – While remaining seated, the driver must be able to reach the shoulder on the near side of the horse with the lash of the whip. Whip must be carried in hand at all times while driving.

Proper driving whips should be used. Non conventional whips (ex. lunge whips or whips with lashes longer than those on conventional driving whips) should not be used and may be penalized.

B. Optional:

1. Running martingales are permitted with jog carts only; prohibited with any other vehicle. Martingales are prohibited with leverage bits.
2. Sidechecks are permitted with any vehicle; overchecks allowed only with jog carts or draft type harness.

C. Prohibited:

1. Racing sulkies and chariots, vehicles with foot-stirrups, vehicles suitable for only a single person and vehicles other than a two-wheeled vehicle.
2. Scotch collar or housing
3. Wrapping of trace lines around the vehicle shafts.
4. Martingales are prohibited with leverage bits.
5. Quarter boots
6. Twisted wire or wire bits.
7. Tail appliances other than a regular low crupper.

Class 65 - Pleasure Pony Driving

Open to ponies 14.2 hands and under to be shown in pleasure, light, or fine harness. It is recommended that all animals 14.2 hands and under be shown in this class. **To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, working trot and strong trot.** The pony should stand quietly in the line-up and back readily. To be hitched to a suitable two-wheeled vehicle.

Class 66 - Pleasure Horse Driving

Open to pleasure type horses to be shown in pleasure, light or fine harness.

To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, working trot, and strong trot. The horse should stand quietly in the line-up and back readily. To be hitched to a suitable two-wheeled vehicle.

Class 67 - Draft Horse Driving

Open to horses of draft type, with an expected mature weight of 1,500 pounds or more. Horses should exhibit characteristics that are typical of draft horse breeds. Judges at their discretion may penalize horses that do not exhibit acceptable draft type characteristics.

General Specifications:

This class is to be shown both ways of the ring at the flat-footed walk and a trot that is suitable for a youth to drive. No passing is allowed. To reverse direction, it is suggested that the horse be turned toward the center of the ring, cross diagonally to the other side of the ring at a trot and proceed in the opposite direction at the ringmaster's direction.

Horses should stand quietly in the line-up and back readily.

The horse should be well mannered, easy to handle, responsive to the rein, and have even, ground covering gaits.

The horse should demonstrate a trot that shows both knee action and speed, while remaining a manageable animal for a youth to drive. It should come down to a flat-footed walk and stand quietly when stopped. It should back willingly in a reasonably straight line without throwing its head.

This class will be judged 70% on manners, performance, and way of going, 20% on condition and fit of harness and vehicle, and 10% on neatness of attire.

Personal Attire and Appointments for Driver and Attendant:

A. Required:

1. Protective headgear is required for all drivers. A hat (or protective headgear) is optional for attendants.
2. Riding boots or shoes with distinguishable heel; heel not to exceed two inches.
3. Attire must be conservative according to the style of the present day. Girls/women must wear a long dress, slack suit, dress suit, dress or skirt and blouse. Boys/men must wear a coat or jacket with a shirt and tie and slacks or suit. As an alternative, personal attire and appointments that are appropriate to the seat you ride will also be acceptable.

B. Optional

1. Lap robes or aprons optional for driver. Lap robes or aprons for attendants are not recommended.
2. Gloves

C. Prohibited:

1. Period costumes
2. T-shirts, sweatshirts, tank tops or crew neck shirts, spaghetti straps, strapless outfits and blue jeans.
3. Open-toed shoes, sandals, sneakers, clogs, shoes or boots with excessively high heels.

Attire for headers:

1. Neat, clean and conservative attire, no blue jeans allowed. Hard soled shoes or boots are required.

Tack and Equipment:

A. Required:

1. A suitable two-wheeled cart. The vehicle must seat at least two people-the driver and attendant.
2. Standard bridle with or without blinders, however blinders are strongly recommended.
3. A straight or broken driving bit (i.e. liverpool or buxton). Horse should have lines attached at the upper position on the bit when using a liverpool unless the driver cannot control the horse with the lines in this position. Some judges may penalize an exhibitor for "curbing" his horse (positioning the lines further down the bit). For additional information on driving bits, refer to *Guidelines for Bits in Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Shows* available from county extension offices or the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program SharePoint and Cloverlink websites.
4. A check rein is required (either a sidecheck, overcheck, or other working type check rein).
5. Working type draft harness or show type harness with scotch top-collars, or draft type breast collar.
6. Whip - Must be carried in hand at all times while driving. While remaining seated, the driver must be able to reach the horse's near flank with the lash of the whip.

Proper driving whips should be used.

Nonconventional whips (ex. lunge whips or whips with lashes longer than those on conventional driving whips) should not be used and may be penalized.

B. Optional:

1. Decorative martingales are permitted but may not be attached to any part of the bit.
2. Scotch type shoes.

C. Prohibited

Functional martingales are prohibited.

MINIATURE HORSE DIVISION

The primary performance horse in this division may compete in the following classes only;

Grooming and Showmanship, Miniature Horse Driving, Miniature Horse In Hand Trail and Miniature Horse Jumping.

If a member has a secondary performance animal in the Miniature Horse Division, this animal is eligible to participate in Miniature Horse In Hand Trail, Miniature Horse Jumping and Miniature Horse Driving and Grooming and Showmanship.

If a member exhibits both a primary and secondary performance animal, and both are minis, only one animal may be shown in each class in this division.

Classes 68 and 69 – Miniature Horse Driving

Class 68 - Miniature Horse Driving, 8-13

Class 69 – Miniature Horse Driving, 14-18

Refer to Driving Division General Specifications as appropriate.

Open to any horse measuring 40 inches and under and 3 yrs of age and older. Animals may not be shown in both Miniature Horse Driving and Pleasure Pony Driving.

To be shown both ways of the ring at a flat-footed walk, a working trot, and a strong trot. Vehicles must be of the two-wheel type and have a floor or basket. Animals will be asked to stand quietly in the line-up and back readily. See Gaits in Driving Division for definitions of gaits.

Miniature Horse Driving is to be judged 60% on performance, manners, and “way of going”; 30% on condition, fit and appropriateness of harness and vehicle; and 10% on neatness, appropriateness of attire, and overall impression. Excessive speed will be penalized.

Personal Attire and Appointments for Driver and Attendant:

A. Required

1. Protective headgear is required for all drivers. A hat (or protective headgear) is required for attendants.
2. Riding boots or shoes with distinguishable heel; heel not to exceed two inches.
3. Gloves
4. Attire must be conservative according to the style of the present day. Girls/women must wear a slack suit, dress suit, dress or skirt and blouse. Boys/men must wear a coat or jacket with a shirt and tie and slacks or suit. As an alternative, personal attire and appointments that are appropriate to the seat you ride will also be acceptable.

Exception: Blue denim jeans are prohibited. Other color denim jeans are acceptable.

B. Optional

1. Lap robes or aprons optional for driver. Lap robes or aprons for attendants are not recommended.

C. Prohibited:

1. Period costumes
2. T-shirts, sweatshirts, tank tops or crew neck shirts, spaghetti straps, strapless outfits and blue jeans.
3. Open-toed shoes, sandals, sneakers, clogs, shoes or boots with excessively high heels.

Attire for headers:

1. Neat, clean and conservative attire, no blue jeans allowed. Hard soled shoes or boots are required.

Tack and Equipment:

A. Required:

1. Appropriate two-wheeled vehicle, stable and in good repair with a floor or basket. The vehicle must accommodate two people (driver and attendant) when an attendant is utilized. Jog carts that meet these criteria are acceptable. A jog cart is defined as a wooden or metal-framed vehicle with wire wheels and pneumatic tires or wooden wheels. Wheel size for jog carts must not exceed 26" in diameter. Wheel size must be appropriate for the size of the animal and cart.
2. Standard bridle with or without blinders, however blinders are strongly recommended.
3. Snaffle or driving bit (i.e. liverpool). Bits may be covered with rubber or leather. Bits permitted by respective breed/driving associations may be acceptable at the judge's discretion. For additional information on driving bits, refer to *Guidelines for Bits in Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Shows* available from county extension offices or the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program SharePoint and Cloverlink websites.
4. Driving Harness –A full breast plate or collar harness must be used with miniature horses. No scotch collar or housing is permitted.
5. Breeching or thimbles required for all harnesses except when using fine harness for Jerald, Houghton, or Serafin or similar show or pleasure jog carts. Breeching or thimbles are recommended as a safety precaution with heavier vehicles, especially in uneven terrain.
6. Whip - the lash of the whip must be long enough to reach the shoulder of the near side of the horse. Whip must be carried in hand at all times while driving.

Proper driving whips should be used.

Nonconventional whips (ex. lunge whips or whips with lashes longer than those on conventional driving whips) should not be used and may be penalized.

B. Optional:

1. Running martingales are permitted with jog carts only; prohibited with any other vehicle. Martingales are prohibited with leverage bits.
2. Sidechecks are permitted with any vehicle; overchecks allowed only with jog carts.
3. The forelock may be braided.

C. Prohibited:

1. Racing sulkies and chariots, vehicles with footstirrups and vehicles other than a two-wheeled vehicle.
2. Wrapping of tracelines around the vehicle shafts.
3. Quarter boots
4. Twisted wire or wire bits.
5. Tail appliances other than a regular low crupper.
6. No ribbons, braids, glitter, or any other decorative accessories are allowed. The only exception: the forelock may be braided.
7. Miniature horses must not be shod.

Class 68 - Miniature Horse Driving, 8-13

Attendant required.

Class 69 – Miniature Horse Driving, 14-18

Attendant optional while driving. If no attendant is in the cart, an attendant is required to head the horse in the lineup.

Classes 70 and 71 Miniature Horse In Hand Trail

Class 70 - Miniature Horse In Hand Trail, 8-13

Class 71 – Miniature Horse In Hand Trail, 14-18

(Open to horses 40" and under and one (1) year of age and older)

Participants in Miniature Horse In Hand Trail must have a minimum score of 55 to be considered for advancement to the district show and a minimum score of 60 to be considered for advancement to the state show. The quota system determining the number of participants from each district to advance to the state level will also apply. In no case will more than the maximum quota be permitted to advance to the next level regardless of their score.

Clothing and Equipment Requirements:

- Hat or protective headgear appropriate to style of attire.
- Exhibitor must show in western, hunter or saddle seat attire. Refer to clothing requirements within respective division.
- Horses must be shown with a halter and lead, with or without a chain.
- Chains may be a part of the lead on the halter but regardless of type of lead used, the chain portion cannot be placed in the horse's mouth or over the horse's nose.

This class will be judged on performance of the horse with emphasis on manners, response to the handler, movement, willingness and general attitude throughout course. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacle with correctness, and style. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles, capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant, and willingly responding to the handler's cues on more difficult obstacles.

Acceptable handler's cues include voice or mouth commands, soft shaking of lead rope, twirling end of lead rope, and body language. Baiting to encourage an animal to perform one of the obstacles is not allowed. Any baiting is a disqualification. Handlers will be penalized for physically touching or pushing a horse in any direction.

Patterns must be posted at least one hour prior to the start of the class. Management when setting the courses should keep in mind that the idea is not to trap and/or trick the exhibitor or eliminate them by making an obstacle too difficult. Management and course designers should consider the skill level of the majority of the exhibitors. All courses are to be constructed with SAFETY in mind so as to prevent accidents.

If time and conditions warrant, show committee should permit exhibitor to walk and/or school over the course prior to the class.

Obstacle specifications:

- The course must have a minimum of 6 obstacles, and a maximum of 8 obstacles.
- If a horse disrupts the course/obstacle, it shall be reset when that horse finishes the pattern.
- Within the course there must be at least 20 to 30 feet of jog/trot space for the judge to evaluate gaits.

Permitted Obstacles:

1. Back through or out of obstacle
2. Walk through narrow passage
3. Pick up an object (letter, umbrella, bucket, flag, etc.) and place it at a designated location.
4. Walk across bridge or simulated bridge
5. Walk or trot pattern created with poles or cones such as figure 8, Serpentine, cloverleaf, etc.
 - a. Walk over poles may be elevated not more than 4 inches. The total height of the obstacle may not exceed 8 inches. Distance should be 15 to 18 inches between walk over poles.
 - b. Distance between trot over poles should be 2 feet 6 inches.
6. Side-pass (either or both directions)
7. Gate - Use a gate which will not endanger horse or handler. Rope gates may be used
8. Jump- maximum height 12 inches

Unacceptable obstacles:

1. Tires and stair steps
2. Animals
3. Hides
4. Rocking or moving bridges
5. Water hazards or Water boxes with floating or moving parts
6. Flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, etc.
7. Log/poles elevated in a manner that permits them to roll.
8. Ground ties
9. Dragging/pulling any objects
10. Lime

Judging and scoring trail classes:

The following scoring system is mandatory for Miniature Horse In Hand trail classes.

Scoring will be on the basis of 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added or subtracted from 70. Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½: -1 ½ = extremely poor, -1 = very poor, - ½ = poor, 0 = correct, + ½ = good, +1 = very good, +1 ½ = excellent. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

An exhibitor who does not complete an obstacle during the course must not place above an exhibitor who has completed all obstacles.

Penalty points will also be assessed at each obstacle as noted below. Penalties will be assessed per occurrence and a maximum of 9 penalty points will be assessed per obstacle.

Penalty Points

-½ point

- For each tick of log, pole, cone or obstacle

-1 point

- Each hit of, bite of or stepping on a log, pole, cone or obstacle
- Incorrect gait or break of gait at walk or jog/trot for two strides or less
- Skipping over or failing to step into required space

-3 points

- Incorrect gait or break in gait at walk or jog/trot for more than 2 strides
- Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant obstacle or severely disturbing an obstacle
- Stepping outside the confines of, falling, or jumping off or out of an obstacle with designated boundaries with only one foot
- First refusal, balk, or attempting to evade an obstacle by shying or backing more than 2 strides away
- Second refusal

-5 points

- Failure to follow the correct line of travel between obstacles
- Overturns of more than a 1/4 turn
- Letting go of or dropping gate
- Touching horse with hand or use of hand to instill fear
- Dropping object required to be carried on course
- Blatant disobedience (kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking)
- Stepping outside the confines of, falling, or jumping off or out of an obstacle with designated boundaries with more than one foot

-9 points

- Failure of handler to begin to negotiate an obstacle within 30 seconds of arrival at the obstacle. Rider will be asked to move to next obstacle.
- If a handler fails to completely negotiate an obstacle in approximately one minute, unless the nature of the obstacle requires a longer time, i.e. complex back through. Handler will be asked to move to next obstacle.
- Three refusals at an obstacle, regardless of the length of time. Handler will be asked to move to next obstacle.

Disqualification:

- Baiting an animal to perform and obstacle
- Failure to follow the prescribed order of obstacles, including failure to stay inside the designated boundary markers will result in disqualification
- Failure to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction
- Fall to the ground of horse and/or handler
- No attempt to perform an obstacle
- Failure to complete three cumulative obstacles will result in disqualification

Failure to complete an obstacle is defined as:

- Three refusals at an obstacle or
- More than 30 seconds to begin negotiating each obstacle or
- Failure to complete an obstacle in approximately one minute, unless the nature of the obstacle requires longer time, i.e. complex back through

Classes 72 and 73 Miniature Horse Jumping

Class 72 - Miniature Horse Jumping, 8-13

Class 73 - Miniature Horse Jumping, 14-18

(Open to horses 40" and under and three (3) years of age and older)

Clothing and Equipment Requirements:

1. All exhibitors must wear ASTM/SEI approved headgear.
2. Exhibitors may wear appropriate English or Western attire. Refer to clothing requirements within respective divisions. Polo shirts with western slacks, breeches/ jodhpur pants, or jeans are acceptable.
3. Footwear: Tennis shoes (sneakers), plastic-based cleats (non-metal), or boots are acceptable.
4. Whips not exceeding 48 inches in length including lash may be carried in jumping classes. Any whips exceeding 48 inches are not acceptable.
5. Splint boots, bell boots and polo wraps are permissible.
6. Horses must be shown with a halter and lead. Chains may be a part of the lead, but regardless of the type of lead used, the chain portion cannot be placed in the horse's mouth or over the horse's nose.

The person showing a jumper cannot jump the obstacle with the horse.

The courses for jumper classes must be posted at least one hour prior to the scheduled time of the class. If time and conditions warrant, the show committee should permit exhibitors to walk and/or school the course prior to the class.

Course and Jumps

1. Course diagrams must show, with arrows, the direction each obstacle must be taken, and markers or a line must indicate the start and finish of the course. Any In & Out must be marked as elements A and B and will count as one jump. i.e. 4A, 4B.
2. All jumps used in this class must be collapsible.
3. There will be a minimum of four and a maximum of six jumps. Obstacles may be jumped more than once. A course will have a maximum of 8 jumping efforts.

4. **An In & Out is considered a combination obstacle and is scored as such. Refusal of one element of the in and out requires of the retaking of both elements. Faults are accrued at all parts of a combination obstacle.**
5. The jumps can range in height from twelve to twenty-four inches (in the jump-off this will change to a minimum of twelve to a maximum of thirty inches).
6. Jumps will be made of 1-1 1/2" schedule 40 PVC piping or other suitable lightweight material with jump cups, not to include pegs, nails, bolts, etc. EXCEPT to secure the jump cups in place.
7. All jumps must be a minimum of five (5) feet wide, with a minimum of twenty (20) feet between jumps, with the exception of an in and out.
8. Uprights are to be a maximum of forty (40) inches in height.
9. Any decorations or jump wings must not protrude more than twenty-four (24) inches from the uprights.
10. All jumps must have a ground pole.
11. The distance between the two jumps in an In & Out should be 10-12 feet. An In & Out should never be the first jump in the course.

Judging & Scoring Miniature Horse Jumpers

1. Jumpers are scored mathematically, based on faults accumulated between the Start and Finish lines. In the case of a tie or ties, there will be a jump-off. The jump-off is described below.

2. Faults

- **Knockdowns** – an obstacle is considered knocked down when in jumping an obstacle, a horse or handler, by contact, lowers the established height of the jump in any way – 4 faults.
- **Refusals** – stopping at an obstacle without knocking it down and without backing, followed by jumping from a standstill is not penalized. However, if the halt continues or if the horse backs even a single step, side steps or circles to retake the fence, a refusal is incurred:

- 1st refusal 4 faults
- 2nd refusal 4 faults
- 3rd refusal..... disqualification

3. Circling 4 faults

any form of circle or circles on course, stops advancing toward the next obstacle, or turns away from the next obstacle, except to retake an obstacle after a disobedience.

Crossing your own path (i.e. circling between fences, NOT retaking a fence from a refusal). A courtesy circle prior to crossing the start line is permissible.

4. An In & Out jump is considered one obstacle and scored as such. Refusal of one element of the In & Out requires the retaking of both elements.

5. Elimination:

- Three (3) refusals
- Off course (this includes failure of both horse and handler to cross the start and/or finish line)
- Jumping a fence before reset
- Fall of horse and/or exhibitor
- Any separation of handler & horse
- Handler jumps obstacle with horse

Jump-off:

1. All ties in a Jumper class must be broken by means of a jump-off.
2. To be held over the original course.
3. Height of the jumps shall be increased not more than six inches in height. It is suggested that not ALL jumps be raised, rather just a couple.
4. Jump-off will be timed. The horse who has the fewest faults in the jump-off round will be declared the winner. In the event of equal number of faults, the horse with the fastest time will be declared the winner.
5. Elimination in the jump-off does not eliminate the horse from final placings. Regardless of faults or elimination in the jump-off, any horse qualifying for the jump-off will place over horses that did not qualify for the jump-off. A horse that qualifies for the jump-off but chooses not to participate will not place over any horse that participates in the jump-off.

EQUESTRIANS WITH DISABILITIES DIVISION

The Equestrians with Disabilities Division (EWD) is intended for exhibitors with disabilities who are unable to participate in other divisions with *or* without reasonable accommodations. Exhibitors, their parent/guardian and health care professionals should determine if the classes in this divisions are most appropriate for their abilities *or* if they wish to participate in other divisions. If the exhibitor wishes to participate in *other* divisions, please contact your county educator as noted below if accommodations are requested. Exhibitors with disabilities may participate in *either* the Equestrians with Disabilities Division (EWD) *or* in other divisions but *not* in *both* divisions in the current year except as noted below.

Exhibitors in the EWD division may participate in the following classes: Obstacle Trail, Walk-Trot Equitation, Grooming and Showmanship (Open Division or EWD Grooming and Showmanship Equestrians - choose one), Miniature Horse In Hand Trail and Miniature Horse Jumping.

Penn State encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact your county extension educator in advance of your participation or visit. Requests for accommodations should be made to the county extension educator at least three weeks in advance of the event.

Classes included in this division are divided into three subdivisions: maximum assistance, minimum assistance, and independent. Parent or guardian is responsible to consult with their child's health care professional to determine the appropriate level of assistance. Riders should be placed in the classes that are most appropriate for their ability. Please see additional descriptions for EWD showmanship.

Maximum assistance – riders in this division are required to have two or more aides (leader and 1 or 2 side walkers). Horse must remain under control of the leader with an attached lead at all times.

Minimum assistance – riders in this division are those riders who only require one aide (leader or side walker).

Independent- riders in this division are able to safely control their horse independently without the

assistance of an aide. Each independent rider will have one assistant available and standing in an area designated by show management.

General Rules

Participants in this division (Classes 74-82):

- a. Will not participate in any other classes, with the exception of classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 70, 71, 72 73.
- b. Exhibitors in this division are not required to own or lease a horse, and their project animal may be shared, but may not be shared by two exhibitors in the same class. Youth must designate and enroll their project animal by June 1 and meet all enrollment requirements as outlined in the General Rules in order to show that year. Exhibitors are required to use the same project animal at county, district and state shows.

See exceptions below:

- c. Are exempt from the management and ownership of project animal (General Rules 16 & 20)
- d. Will submit Equestrians with Disabilities Form (EWD 1), Medical History Form (EWD 2) and Registration and Release Form (EWD 3). Forms available from county extension office.
- e. Will in no way be attached to their saddle or mount by straps, belts, etc.
- f. **Must wear protective headgear for all classes in the equestrians with disabilities division.** Refer to general rules regarding helmet use.
- g. Will have at least one aide (leader, side walker) or assistant, that is familiar and has worked with the rider. All aides must be 14 years of age or older. The aide must assist the rider during mounting and dismounting. No more than three aides may assist the rider in the class. Aides may, if needed, communicate verbally with the rider, but any physical assistance in guiding or controlling the horse will be penalized, except in the case of emergency. Special consideration will be given according to individual disabilities. The degree of assistance provided by the aide(s) will vary and is dependent on the ability of the rider.
- h. Required for all independent exhibitor classes: one assistant per entry to facilitate the safety of the exhibitor. The assistant must be 14 years of age or older. The assistant must have a lead line without a chain in their hand in case of safety issues. Assistant shall stand quietly in an area designated by show management, not obscuring the judge's line of vision, unless their assistance is required and requested by the judge or ring steward in the event of a safety issue. After exhibitor's pattern is completed or the class has come to line up, the assistant may either

take a position beside or in front of their respective exhibitor's horse or quietly walk forward and snap onto the horse's halter or leading Y. Outside assistance during the class may be penalized at the judge's discretion.

i. The size and temperament of the horse should be appropriate for the rider. The size and ability of the aide(s) should be appropriate to assist both the rider and horse.

j. May not participate if they have any contraindications for participating in PA 4-H horse activities. Parent or guardian is responsible for consulting their child's health care professional(s) to determine if there are contraindications for participation in 4-H horse activities. Additional information on contraindications for horse activities may be obtained from Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH, INT'l) pathintl.org or 800-369-RIDE or Council for Education and Certification in Therapeutic Horsemanship (CECTH) at www.cecth.org

Unauthorized assistance in the ring will be cause for the rider to be penalized.

Clothing and Equipment Requirements:

a. Riders may use English or Western tack and attire. Clothing and equipment should be the same as English and Western divisions except as noted below; reasonable accommodations are acceptable. Jeans or other long pants and hard soled shoes or boots are acceptable. Attire will be neat. Aides for all levels should be dressed in workmanlike attire; long pants or skirts, shirts with sleeves. Appropriate footwear is noted below.

b. Tank tops, halter tops, or soft soled shoes are not permitted for riders, horse leaders or side aides.

c. Sneakers or other soft soled shoes may be worn only with written permission of a physician.

d. Tack: Style of tack is optional. Tack and equipment must be appropriate for the seat and class entered. Mechanical hackamores are prohibited.

Halter and bridle, halter/bridle combination or bridle with snaffle bit and leading Y are required on all horses; (*Exception:* Non-mechanical hackamores or bosals are permitted on horses 5 years of age and under.). A lead rope is required and may or may not be attached to the horse, depending upon ability of the rider. Attached lead ropes will not be penalized. If a halter *and* bridle are used *and* the lead rope is attached, the lead rope must be attached to the halter; (*Exception:* A leading Y is permitted with a snaffle bit only.). If a special type of bridle and/or bit is

necessary due to an individual disability, a request for an accommodation should be made to the county extension educator.

Tack should be appropriate for the rider's size and ability, and properly fitted to the horse and rider. Riders should ride with feet in stirrups unless unable to do so due to their condition.

Adaptive equipment may be used, but in no way may the rider be attached to the horse or saddle. Safety stirrups are advised. Safety handles should be used on all English saddles.

e. Spurs are discouraged and should only be used as adaptive equipment if appropriate for horse and rider.

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| Classes 74 -76 – Equestrians with Disabilities (EWD) Grooming and Showmanship |
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Class 74-- Grooming and Showmanship- Walk Only

Class 75-- Grooming and Showmanship Assisted Walk/Trot/Jog

Class 76-- Grooming and Showmanship Independent Walk/Trot/Jog

Grooming and Showmanship- Walk Only (Up to two assistants)

Grooming and Showmanship Assisted Walk/Trot/Jog (One or two assistants)

Grooming and Showmanship Independent Walk/Trot/Jog

For class specifications refer back to Open Division Grooming and Showmanship page 38-41.

The emphasis in the showmanship class should be on the exhibitor's ability to handle and show the horse, with safety as the main consideration. Exhibitors should utilize the quarter method to the best of their ability.

Exhibitors will be worked from the gate individually. No exhibitor will be disqualified except for safety reasons at the judge's discretion. Exhibitors going off pattern will be penalized and placed at the bottom of the class.

The following maneuvers are considered acceptable elements for individual test/patterns:

1. Lead the horse at a walk or jog/trot
2. Back in a straight or curved line
3. Halt
4. Pivot or turn-quarter, half or full (360 degrees)
5. Set up square

Classes 77 -79 - Obstacle Trail:

Class 77 -- Obstacle Trail, Maximum Assistance

Class 78 -- Obstacle Trail, Minimum Assistance

Class 79 -- Obstacle Trail, Independent

Course designers must consider safety first at all times and are encouraged to design courses that will demonstrate proper horse handling techniques and horsemanship skills for riders with disabilities. Show management has two options for trail courses for Obstacle Trail. Management may use one of the 3 recommended patterns found within the Guidelines for PA 4-H Obstacle Trail (Equestrians with Disabilities Division) publication. Refer to *Guidelines for PA 4-H Obstacle Trail* (Equestrians with Disabilities Division) publication (available in county extension offices or the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program SharePoint and Cloverlink websites). The second option is show management may develop a trail course using the recommendations found within the Guidelines for PA 4-H Obstacle Trail (Equestrians with Disabilities Division) publication. Courses must be posted at the beginning of the show and a copy should be made available to all entrants. Management and course designers should consider the skill level of the majority of the exhibitors. All courses are to be constructed with SAFETY in mind so as to prevent accidents.

Minimum and Maximum Assistance entries must be accompanied by at least one and not more than three aides. (If one aide is used, he/she must remain in close proximity to the horse.) Assistant for Independent riders will stand in a designated area for the duration of the exhibitor's course.

RIDER MUST GUIDE MOUNT THROUGH A PRE-POSTED COURSE. RIDERS MAY "WALK" (without their mounts) THE COURSE IF NEEDED, PRIOR TO START OF CLASS. RIDERS WILL BE ASKED TO TROT OR JOG AT SOME PLACE IN THE PATTERN.

To be shown at a walk and sitting or posting trot or jog or alternate gait at the appropriate and indicated parts of the course.

Riders must execute the course as posted.

A minimum of five and maximum of seven obstacles will be used.

Course distances and obstacle recommendations:

The following are a sample of recommendations for course design. Refer to the *PA 4-H Guidelines for Obstacle Trail* for suggested course distances, recommendations and other course details.

1. 20 to 36 ft. from starting/ending point to first/last obstacle. At least 20 to 30 ft. between obstacles when jog/trot or alternate gait is used.
2. Figure 8 with two 25 ft. diameter circles.
3. Figure 8 around two markers – markers must be a minimum of 14 ft. apart.
4. Walk-overs – 4 rails (at least 10 ft. long) placed at no less than 24 in. apart.
5. Zig-Zag - Guide the horse through a "Z" of ground poles at the walk. Rails must be at least 6' ft. apart.
6. At least 20 to 30 ft. between obstacles when jog/trot or alternate gait is used.
7. Serpentine at least 5 markers (obstacles must be 10 ft. apart).
8. 360 Box - Turning the mount around in a prescribed circle or box (may be combined with stepping over poles if poles are used to make the box - this would count as two obstacles). Box should be at least 10 ft. square.
9. Halt and back.

Maximum assistance shall not be asked to back into, or out of any obstacle.

Independent/Minimum assistance back through obstacles should be at least 6ft apart, with no angles or bends. Backing should be done in a straight line.

Unacceptable obstacles:

1. Handling or dragging of obstacles
2. Mounting and/or dismounting

Judging and scoring obstacle trail classes:

Each obstacle will be scored on a scale of 0-10.

Horse will be given credit for response to the rider, movement, willingness, and manners and general attitude throughout the course. Exhibitors should negotiate the obstacles with correctness and style. Credit will be given for the ability to negotiate the obstacles without additional physical assistance from aides.

| |
|--|
| Classes 80 -82 - Walk Trot Equitation |
|--|

Class 80 – Walk Trot Equitation, Maximum Assistance

Class 81 – Walk Trot Equitation, Minimum Assistance

Class 82- Walk Trot Equitation, Independent

Equitation will be judged on the position of the rider, balance, use of the natural aids, and control of the mount. Particular attention will be paid to the rider's ability to safely and independently control the horse. Aides and assistants are reminded that their position is one of safety - too much unnecessary assistance will be penalized by the judge.

Minimum and Maximum Assistance entries must be accompanied by at least one and not more than three aides. (If one aide is used, he/she must remain in close proximity to the horse.) Assistant for Independent riders will stand in a designated area for the duration of the exhibitor's course.

Will be asked to perform at the walk: circle, halt, and reverse; and at the trot, sitting or posting (unless medically contraindicated). Trot will be performed on the rail. Trot should be performed a safe distance off the rail at the direction of the judge and/or ring steward.

Dressage Show Rules

The Dressage Championship Show is open to members with project animals at least 2 years of age. The show will offer opportunities that include individually performed Dressage tests that demonstrate the members' ability to train and exhibit their project animals.

All members are eligible to participate at the Dressage Championship Show.

This show will have both classic and western Dressage. Animals competing in the Dressage Division must be enrolled as a project animal, and may be the same animal used for Performance, Junior Horse, Competitive Trail, or may be additional animals. This animal does not have to be the same animal used in other projects.

Dressage is derived from the French term meaning "training" and its purpose is to strengthen and supple the horse while maintaining a calm and attentive demeanor. Dressage involves progressively difficult levels incorporating multiple tests within each level. Each test is a series of movements that must be performed by the horse and rider. Each movement is scored by a judge on a scale of 0-10.

Dressage Rules

The Dressage Championship Show is open to members with project animals at least 2 years of age. The show will offer opportunities that include individually performed Dressage classes that demonstrate the members' ability to train and exhibit their project animals.

Guidelines are available from county extension offices or the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program SharePoint and Cloverlink websites.

Protective headgear is required in all Dressage classes.

1. All members to be eligible to compete at the PA State 4-H Dressage Championship show must have completed appropriate project requirements as determined by each county.
2. A Dressage project animal must be enrolled as a project. The animal enrolled may also be the member's Performance, Junior, or Competitive Trail projects. The Dressage project may cross over into any of these projects.
3. Animals 2 years of age are eligible to compete in walk/trot or walk/jog tests only.
4. *If a veterinary certificate states that the project animal is unsound prior to the Dressage Championship Show it will be permissible to show a substitute project animal, with the club leader's and county extension educator's approval. Substitute animal must be a currently enrolled horse project prior to June 1 (or county animal enrollment deadline). To make a show entry substitution, a substitution acknowledgement form and documentation must be submitted as per acknowledgement form instructions.*
5. Members are limited to two animals at the PA State 4-H Dressage Championship Show.
6. Both Classical and Western divisions will be offered. Exhibitors are limited to two tests per horse. Tests must be consecutive within the same discipline. Consecutive tests defined means two consecutive tests within the same level or highest test within one level and the lowest test within the next higher level.
7. All classes will be championships. There will not be a preliminary round of classes.
8. Ride times will be posted prior to the show on the PA 4-H Horse Program SharePoint and Cloverlink websites.

9. Class placings, ribbons and tests should be available to the competitors approximately 30 minutes following the placing of the class.

10. If a mathematical error on the scoresheet is discovered, it must be brought to the attention of show management within 1 hour of the official posting of the scores from the last class of that competition day.

11. Exhibitors must provide their own readers.

12. Lateness or errors on part of the reader will not relieve error penalties.

13. Calling or reading the movements is limited to exactly as written and one time only.

14. Readers will be allowed in classes.

15. Each test will be placed 1-6.

16. Champion through 6th place will be pinned based upon the highest percentage score for each Level.

Scoring

During each test each movement is scored on a **0** to **10** scale. The points are totaled and divided by the possible number of points to give you a percentage score.

| Points | Rating | The Judge's Opinion |
|--------|---------------------|--|
| 10 | Excellent | Perfect; no improvement possible (rarely given) |
| 9 | Very good | Movement hard to fault, but not quite perfect (rarely given) |
| 8 | Good | Outstanding; lovely to watch (occasionally given) |
| 7 | Fairly good | Performed nicely, movement above average |
| 6 | Satisfactory | Movement correct |
| 5 | Marginal/sufficient | Okay, neither good nor bad, noncommittal score |
| 4 | Insufficient | Performed but lacking in precision and/or control |
| 3 | Fairly bad | No precision, little control or response to aids |
| 2 | Bad | No response to aids |
| 1 | Very bad | No control |
| 0 | Not performed | Rarely given |

In addition, for each test, selected movements may be given a coefficient, i.e., they are multiplied by 2 or 3 and added to the marks already totaled for the movements.

Collective Marks

Collective marks are scores for impression of the ride as a whole and may be given a coefficient. They include:

1. Gaits (freedom and regularity)
2. Impulsion (desire to move forward, elasticity of the steps, suppleness of the back, engagement of hindquarters)
3. Submission (attention and confidence; harmony, lightness, and ease of movements; acceptance of the bridle; lightness of the forehand)
4. Rider's position and seat; correctness and effect of the aids

Elimination

1. Fall of horse and or rider
2. Illegal attire
3. Use of illegal equipment
4. Unauthorized assistance

Any intervention by a third party, including members of show management, with the object of facilitating the task of the competitor, including coaching from outside the arena.

5. Third error of the course

6. Horse's tongue tied down
7. Late entry into the arena (must enter within 45 seconds)
8. All four feet of the horse leave the arena during the test
9. Cruelty
10. Marked lameness
11. Resistance of longer than 20 seconds (balking)
12. Concern for safety of rider, other exhibitors, or their entries
13. Performing movements which are not allowed
14. Evidence of blood on a horse in the competition arena or outside the arena
15. Failure to wear correct number

Classical Dressage Division

The following levels will be offered at the state Dressage championship show, USDF Introductory tests A-C, USEF training tests 1-3, USEF First Level tests 1-3, Riders Choice, and designated Special Olympics tests.

EWD riders must choose from the most current Special Olympics tests, C1 (Walk) Tests 1 and 2, B1(Walk/Trot) Tests 1 and 2, A1 (Walk/Trot/Canter)

Tests 1 and 2 or may request reasonable accommodations for higher level tests.

The correct version of the Special Olympics tests can be found in the PA 4-H Horse Program Dressage Guidelines.

Dressage tests are available from the United States Dressage Federation at usdf.org

Clothing requirements:

- a. Protective headgear required in all classes.
- b. Riding breeches, jodhpurs or skirt
- b. Hunt boots or paddock boots
- c. Shirt or rat catcher shirt
- d. Tie (choker or stock tie)
- e. Riding jacket

Optional

- a. Gloves

Equipment:

- a. Dressage, hunt or saddle seat type saddle
- b. A plain snaffle bridle and regular cavesson, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband, or a Figure 8 noseband. Nosebands may not contain metal “except buckles”. Micklem bridles are acceptable.
- c. All bits must be smooth

Optional

- a. A whip, which is no longer than 47.2 inches, including the lash is permitted in all tests.
- Spurs (English type and rowels must turn)

Prohibited Clothing and Equipment:

- a. Twisted, wire, and roller bits are prohibited.
- b. Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages of any type are prohibited.
- c. slip on spurs not attached with a spur strap
- d. martingales and draw reins

Descriptions of Levels

Introductory Level

Introductory Level Tests provide an opportunity for the horse and/or rider new to dressage to demonstrate the elementary skills. All trot work is to be ridden rising. The rider should maintain light but steady contact except at the free walk, in which the horse is allowed complete freedom to lower and stretch out its head and neck. The tests have been designed to encourage correct performance and to prepare the horse for transition to USEF tests.

Training level

Training Level introduces the rider and horse to the basic principles of dressage competition. This level requires “obedience” to the aids of the rider without fight or evasion when ridden on light contact. The rider is searching for free, rhythmic, and forward movement. The horse should be relaxed and obedient, stretching into the bit in a calm, receptive manner.

First level

First Level determines that the correct foundation is being laid for successful training of the riding horse. The horse should move forward freely in a relaxed manner and with rhythm. First Level tests require not only the “obedience” and “relaxation” qualities of the Training Level, they require that the horse shows “soft response” to the aids. Examples of this are softening of the lower jaw, some flexion at the poll, lateral bending, lengthening at the trot and canter, and quiet transitions.

Riders Choice

Riders at more advanced levels may choose their tests from this division. Test may be chosen for this division from Second Level, test 1 through Fourth Level.

Tests must still be consecutive.

Riders should choose tests they are proficient in.

Riders will be entered in the classes they have chosen on their entry form.

Western Dressage Division

The following levels will be offered at the state Dressage championship show, Introductory level tests 1-4, Basic level tests 1-4, Level 1 tests 1-4, Riders Choice, and designated Special Olympics tests.

EWD riders must choose from the most current Special Olympics tests, C1 (Walk) Tests 1 and 2, B1(Walk/Trot) Tests 1 and 2, A1 (Walk/Trot/Canter) Tests 1 and 2 or may request reasonable accommodations for higher level tests.

The correct version of the Special Olympics tests can be found in the PA 4-H Horse Program Dressage Guidelines.

Dressage tests are available from the Western Dressage Association of American at westerndressageassociation.org

Clothing requirements:

- a. Protective headgear required in all classes
- b. Western pants, western jeans, or western skirts
- c. Appropriate western attire including long sleeves (that reach approximately to the wrist) and a collar. If the garment has buttons, snaps, etc. at the wrist, they must be secured. Clothing must be neat, workman-like, and suitable for the class in which the exhibitor is participating.
- d. Boots or shoes that have a definite heel as viewed from the side.

Optional

- a. Chaps, shot gun chaps and chinks are optional
Western and English type spurs are optional; not to be used forward of cinch. Emphasis is placed on correct use of spur by exhibitor. Spurs may be blunt or roweled. Rowels must move freely and be blunt.
- b. Jacket, vest, or tie

Equipment:

- a. A standard western saddle is customary. A working saddle or Australian stock saddle are also acceptable. Show equipment will not count over a good working outfit.
- b. Western type bridle.
A snaffle bit may be used on a horse of any age, ridden at any level.
All bits must be smooth. Twisted, wire, and roller bits are prohibited.
Any standard western curb bit may be used on a horse of any age, ridden at any level.
Reins must be attached to each shank.

If riding with a snaffle, bosal or hackamore you must use two hands on the reins. If riding with a curb bit you may use one or two hands on the reins.

When a curb bit is used a curb strap or chain is required and must be a minimum of ½ inch in width, lie flat against the horse's jaw, and permit the entry of two fingers between the horse's jaw and the curb strap or chain. No wire or rawhide device, regardless of how padded or taped, may be used in conjunction with, or as part of, the chin strap or chain.

c. If a romal is used, hobbles and rope are optional and must be attached to the saddle.

d. Safety stirrups are permitted. A tapadero or covered stirrup in which a rider's toe may become entrapped is not considered a safety stirrup and is not permitted.

Optional

a. Breast collar

b. Western cavesson

c. Rear cinch strap, if used a connector strap is required

d. A whip, which is no longer than 47.2 inches, including the lash is permitted in all tests.

Prohibited Clothing and Equipment:

a. slip on spurs not attached with a spur strap

b. t-shirt, tank tops, and halter tops

c. Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages of any type are prohibited.

d. martingales and draw reins

e. tie-downs

f. Dropped noseband, a flash noseband, or a Figure 8 noseband.

g. mechanical hackamores

Descriptions of Levels

Introductory Level

Tests provide an introduction to the discipline of Western Dressage; the horse performs only at the gaits of walk and jog. The rider may sit or post the jog. The rider should demonstrate correct basic position, use of basic aids, and understanding of the figures. The horse should show relaxation and harmony between the rider. The horse accepts the aids and influence of the rider. The jog should be a natural gait within the horse's scope and should demonstrate a swinging back.

Basic Level

Basic tests confirm that the horse is supple and moves freely forward in a clear and steady rhythm, accepting light contact with the bit. The horse demonstrates a greater understanding of the aids and calm acceptance of the bridle; greater emphasis is placed on relaxation, willing cooperation, harmony, rideability and pure gaits. The horse is beginning to develop more impulsion and balance.

Level 1

Tests confirm that the horse is building on the elements from lower levels and is developing more engagement to show sufficient impulsion as the lengthened jog and lope are performed. The horse demonstrates a more consistent light contact with the bit. These tests introduce some collection and lateral and longitudinal balance, suppleness, and emphasize harmony and rideability.

Riders Choice

Riders at more advanced levels may choose their tests from this division. Test may be chosen for this division from Level 2, test 1 through Level 4.

Tests must still be consecutive.

Riders should choose tests they are proficient in.

Riders will be entered in the classes they have chosen on their entry form.

GLOSSARY

- 1. 4-H Member Age Divisions:** Members age as of January 1st of current year determines appropriate age division. When classes are divided into 2 age divisions, the groupings are as follow: 8 years to 13 years (8-13) and 14 years to 18 years (14-18) When classes are divided into 3 age divisions, the groups are as such: 8 years to 11 years (8-11), 12 years to 14 years (12-14) and 15 years to 18 years (15-18).
- 2.** Whenever this rule book refers to June 1 the following applies: When June 1 falls on a business day, enrollment forms and other documentation, as required, must be in the extension office by close of business. If June 1 falls on a holiday, Saturday, or Sunday, then enrollment forms and other documentation, as required, must be in the extension office by close of business on the next business day.
- 3.** A rider is considered to have fallen when he or she is separated from the horse that has not fallen, in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle. A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunch on the same side have touched the ground or an obstacle and the ground.
- 4.** Height of horses and ponies should be made on an unshod basis by using the vertical distance from the ground to the top of the withers. To calculate the unshod height the heel thickness of the front shoe should be deducted from the measured height.
- 5.** A turnout is defined as a combination of horse, vehicle, and driver.
- 6.** Immediate family is defined as: parent, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, grandparents, and bona fide foster parents and/or legal guardians.

PENNSYLVANIA 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

A goal of the 4-H Youth Development Program of Penn State Cooperative Extension is to provide opportunities for children and youth to develop character. Pennsylvania 4-H supports the **CHARACTER COUNTS!** six pillars of character: **TRUSTWORTHINESS, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, FAIRNESS, CARING, and CITIZENSHIP.** In order to assure that the 4-H Youth Development Program of Penn State Cooperative Extension provides positive environments for all individuals to learn and grow, participants agree to abide by these expectations of behavior:

I will be trustworthy. I will be worthy of trust, honor, and confidence. I will be a model of integrity by doing the right thing even when the cost is high. I will be honest in all my activities. I will keep my commitments by attending all sessions of the planned event. If I am not feeling well or have a schedule conflict, I will inform my chaperone or a person in charge. I will be in the assigned area (e. g. club meeting room, building, dorm) at all times. Pennsylvania 4-H does not permit dishonesty by lying, cheating, deception, or omission.

I will be respectful. I will show respect, courtesy, and consideration to everyone, including myself, other program participants, and those in authority. I will act and speak respectfully. I will treat program areas, lodging areas, and transportation vehicles with respect. I will not use vulgar or abusive language or cause physical harm. I will appreciate diversity in skill, gender, ethnicity, and ability. Pennsylvania 4-H does not tolerate statements or acts of discrimination or prejudice.

I will be responsible. I will be responsible, accountable, and self-disciplined in the pursuit of excellence. I will live up to high expectations so I can be proud of my work and conduct. I will be on time to all program events. I will be accountable by accepting responsibility for my choices and actions. I will abide by the established program curfew. I will be responsible for any damage, theft, or misconduct in which I participate.

I will be fair. I will be just, fair, and open. I will participate in events fairly by following the rules, not taking advantage of others, and not asking for special exceptions.

I will be caring. I will be caring in my relationships with others. I will be kind and show compassion for others. I will treat others the way I want to be treated. I will show appreciation for the efforts of others. I will help members in my group to have a good experience by striving to include all participants.

I will be a good citizen. I will be a contributing and law-abiding citizen. I will be respectful to the environment and contribute to the greater good. I will not use any illegal substances such as tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

SM CHARACTER COUNTS! Is a service mark of the CHARACTER COUNTS Coalition, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics.

Pennsylvania 4-H Member Code of Conduct

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to providing a safe environment for all youth participating in activities offered through the University. All Penn State youth programs including 4-H have policies in place to ensure the safety of youth participating in our programs and to ensure safety is not compromised.

4-H members participating in or attending club, county, regional, district, state, and national programs, activities, events, shows, and contests sponsored for youth by the 4-H Youth Development Program of Penn State Cooperative Extension are required to conduct themselves according to the Pennsylvania 4-H Code of Conduct and the Code of Conduct, rules, policies, and regulations for each specific 4-H activity. The code operates in conjunction with the Pennsylvania 4-H Youth Development Program Behavioral Expectations and the rules and regulations of the specific activity.

Adults attending or participating in 4-H youth activities are expected to conduct themselves according to the code and to assist and support youth in their efforts to adhere to the code.

The following are not permitted at 4-H sponsored programs, activities, or events:

- Possession, consumption or distribution of alcohol.
- Possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs.
- Possession or use of all tobacco products, this includes the use of electronic cigarettes, personal vaporizers, or electronic nicotine delivery systems that simulate tobacco smoking.
- Violence, including, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, physical, verbal, emotional, or mental abuse of another person.
- Sexual activity.
- Boys in girls' rooms and girls in boys' rooms or lodging areas.
- Cheating or misrepresenting project work.
- Theft, destruction, or abuse of property.
- Violation of an established curfew.
- Unauthorized absence from program site.
- Bullying of any kind including verbal, physical, and cyber bullying (social media).
- The inappropriate use of camera, imaging, and digital devices where privacy is expected.
- Unethical or inhumane treatment of animals.
- Possession or use of a weapon. (This does not refer to the equipment used in authorized shooting sports practice or competition.)
- Possession or use of a harmful object with the intent to hurt or intimidate others.
- Other conduct deemed inappropriate for the youth development program by an event chair; a designated Penn State Extension Educator, faculty, or staff member; or a 4-H volunteer leader.
- Public displays of affection are not appropriate.
- Possession or use of fireworks.

Youth attending 4-H events on the University Park campus must abide by all University regulations. While attending and participating in an on campus event, the operation of a motor vehicle is prohibited. Parking of vehicles must be in accordance with University parking regulations. Misuse or damage of University property is unacceptable. Charges will be assessed against those participants who are responsible for damages or misusing University property.

The 4-H name and emblem is to be used appropriately at all times. It may only be used to promote the 4-H program and is not permitted for use for personal gain. For information and guidelines on appropriate use of the 4-H name and emblem reference VIP Fact Sheet 14 on the PA 4-H website at: extension.psu.edu/4-h.

If a 4-H member discloses personal information that may indicate dangerous behaviors affecting the well-being of the child, a staff member or volunteer will share the information with the parent/guardian.

Pennsylvania 4-H Member Code of Conduct Cont.

If the code is violated, the following steps may be taken:

- The adult chaperone for the youth involved in the violation (Extension Educator or 4-H leader) will be made aware of the situation.
- The parent(s) may be called and arrangements made for transportation home at the parent's expense.
- The 4-H'er(s) may be barred from participating in 4-H.
- When a violation occurs at a competitive event, 4-H members may be disqualified from the contest and be ineligible for any awards. Competition in later contests may also be barred. This will be determined by the event chair; a designated Penn State Extension Educator, faculty, or staff member; or a 4-H volunteer leader. Disqualification of an individual may impact participation of an entire team.
- If any laws are violated, the case may be referred to the police.
- All chaperones are responsible for all youth at an event.

Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program

Statement of Position on Animal Welfare

Pennsylvania 4-H horse programs support humane treatment of all equine and are committed to the following principles:

1. Advocating and upholding the welfare of all equine, as a primary concern in all activities of the 4-H horse program.
2. Requiring that all equine be treated humanely, with respect and compassion, and not be mistreated by participants of the 4-H horse program. Participants include 4-H members, exhibitors, parents or guardians of 4-H members or exhibitors, coaches, trainers, instructors, or other persons acting on behalf of 4-H members or exhibitors.
3. Promoting responsible care in the handling, treatment, and transportation of all equine.
4. Providing for the continuous well-being of all equine by recommending routine inspections and consultations with health care specialists, competition officials, and other equine professionals to assure the highest standards of safety, comfort, sanitation, health, and nutrition.
5. Promoting continuing education in care, management, handling, training, and horsemanship activities, including new technology and developments within the equine industry.
6. Requiring that all Pennsylvania 4-H horse program members follow the rules as stated in the current Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Show Rule Book and 4-H/Youth Development Policy and Resource Manual, and operating within these regulations in all 4-H equine related activities.
7. Developing, reviewing, and revising rules for equine activities within the 4-H horse program to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all equine.

The standard thresholds for cruel conduct or inhumane treatment are those that a veterinarian or any reasonable person experienced and informed in equine training, handling, management, and exhibiting procedures would use to determine the presence of abuse, neglect, or deprivation.