

**NEW JERSEY STATE 4-H  
CHAMPION HORSE SHOW  
&  
COUNTY QUALIFYING SHOWS  
RULE BOOK  
*Challenged Rider Division***



**Effective for: 2009-2010**

**RUTGERS**

New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station

**NEW JERSEY STATE 4-H  
CHAMPIONSHIP HORSE SHOW  
&  
COUNTY QUALIFYING SHOWS  
RULE BOOK**

**Effective for 2009- 2010**



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**Use of the Name and Emblem of the 4-H Club**

The use of the name and emblem of 4-H is regulated by federal law. This law states that only activities or programs under the supervision of the Cooperative Extension Service may use the name and emblem of 4-H. Any district, area or state 4-H horse show must have the approval of the State 4-H office. Local and county 4-H horse shows must have the approval of the County 4-H Agent. Shows or events sponsored by other organizations or individuals and shows which provide separate classes for 4-H members are not permitted to use the name and emblem of 4-H without approval of the State 4-H office.



For additional information contact you County 4-H Agent.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. General Rules.....	2
A. Objectives of the NJ Horse Project.....	2
B. County Criteria .....	2
1. County Qualifying Shows .....	2
2. County Entries State Shows .....	3
3. Entry/Horse Changes.....	4
4. Alternate Changes .....	4
C. Member Eligibility.....	5
D. Animal Eligibility.....	6
E. Show Management.....	7
F. Equine Welfare, Sportsmanship & Ethics.....	12
II. Challenged Rider Division .....	13
A. Classes Offered.....	14
B. Attire .....	14
C. Equipment.....	14
III. Appendix	
A. Danish Score System .....	16
B. Score Sheet.....	17
C. Medical Release Form and Entry Form.....	18

## **I. GENERAL RULES AND REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW JERSEY 4-H HORSE PROJECT**

- a) Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, public speaking abilities, sportsmanship and other desirable character traits.
- b) Experience the pride of owning or leasing a horse or pony and being responsible for its management.
- c) Develop and appreciate horseback riding and driving as healthy wholesome forms of recreation.
- d) Learn skills in horsemanship and an understanding of the businesses of raising and training horses.
- e) Increase knowledge of safety precautions to prevent injury to self, others, and the horse.
- f) Promote greater love for animals and a humane attitude toward them.
- g) To be better prepared for citizenship responsibilities through working in groups and supporting community horse projects and activities.

### **B. COUNTY CRITERIA**

#### **1. County Qualifying Shows**

- a) These rules shall apply to the NJ State 4-H Championship Horse Show and all shows that include qualifying classes.
- b) County qualifying shows must use these same classes and class specifications.
- c) It is required that all 4-H qualifying horse shows adopt this official handbook. In this manner uniformity can be established and the riders will be better prepared for the state show.
- d) A county must have one or more 4-H horse shows to qualify members for the State 4-H Championship Horse Show. The shows may be a combined effort between one or more counties.
- e) A member must qualify and be a member in good standing in the county in which he or she is enrolled. In the case of limited entries for certain classes in a county, a member may qualify at another county's qualifying show, for that particular class, with the permission of the host county.

- f) The number of entries allowed per county per class at the state show will be based on the number of entries from a county at the previous year's county qualifying show. The exception will be in the Driving, Growing & Training, Dressage, Mare & Foal and Challenged Division classes, where unlimited entries are invited. The state 4-H Department Liaison will notify counties that are eligible to send three riders per class by May 1 of the project year.
- g) A county **MUST** use the Danish System (excellent, very good, good and fair) in combination with a straight placing system (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.). To qualify, riders must achieve a minimum Danish rating of very good. [See **Appendix A** for Danish System Criteria.]
- h) In order to qualify for the state show, each club member must provide to the County 4-H Agent or county qualifying show committee:
- (1) Proof of a negative Coggins test from an approved laboratory within 24 months of the date of the show. The original copy of the Coggins test results must be in the possession of the member, parent or guardian at the county and state shows.
  - (2) Proof of eastern encephalitis or bivalent encephalitis, tetanus and rabies vaccinations within 1 year of the date of the show. (West Nile and Strangles vaccinations are also strongly recommended.)
  - (3) The New Jersey State Division of Animal Health may conduct a random drug test at any horse show at any time.

## **2. County Entries for State Show**

- a) A list of the qualified individuals and alternates must be approved, signed by the county 4-H agent or program staff and sent to the superintendent of the show. Entries close approximately five weeks prior to the show. Only those members entered will be allowed to exhibit. Counties with qualifying shows held (5) days prior to or after the entry due date will have (1) week from the date of the show to submit their state entries. A Qualifying Show shall be held no later than the last week in July unless there is an approved hardship.
- b) NO REFUNDS of entry or stabling fees will be made after entries close for any reason.
- c) Upon arrival at the show grounds, contestants must register in person at the show office to receive their show number, and present to the show secretary the following documents:
- (1) An original copy of a valid Coggins Certificate and proof of up-to-date vaccinations within the time specified in rule h.1 and h.2 under the section titled "County Qualifying Shows".

(2) 4-H'ers who arrive at the show with expired or invalid vaccinations/Coggins test will not be allowed to compete and the animals must leave the show grounds. There will be no exceptions! [Appendix– My 4-H Horse Project Record Book, p. 35; 4-H Horse Health Information Form]

d) A completed 4-H Event Permission Form. In addition, adult leaders, coaches and parents staying overnight on the show grounds must complete the NJ 4-H Adult Overnight Agreement & Release Form. These forms are available from the county 4-H office and must accompany the entry form. All counties with participants staying overnight must have a minimum of two adults staying with the participants.

### 3. ENTRY/HORSE CHANGES

Members must show the same horse(s) at the county qualifying horse show(s) and the NJ State 4-H Championship Horse Show. If the horse, after completion of the last county qualifying show, is injured or cannot compete at the NJ State 4-H Championship Horse Show, the next highest placing alternate who qualified in the class at the county qualifying show(s) shall be eligible for the state show. There are only three exceptions to this rule:

- a) In Equitation Classes the member may substitute another registered project animal from their county: Western Grooming & Showmanship, English Grooming & Showmanship, English Equitation on the Flat, English Equitation Over Fences, Western Horsemanship, Reinsmanship.
- b) If a 4-H member's horse dies after the last county 4-H qualifying horse show, the member may substitute another currently enrolled 4-H project horse from his/her county. A copy of the veterinarian's certificate of the death, must be filed with the county 4-H agent and the original given to the show secretary the day of the show.
- c) **In case of permanent injury or loss of animal between April 1 of the current project year and that county's first Qualifying Show due to circumstances beyond the 4-H members control (owner sells a leased animal) an individual member may substitute an already registered project animal from their county at their county qualifying show(s) with the exception of halter classes.**

### 4. Alternate Changes

- a) All alternate changes must be made to the Show Secretary. Alternate changes can be made the day of the state show by the county coordinator. Once the alternate substitution is made, the change remains final. (Forms are available from the website: [www.nj4h.Rutgers.edu/horse](http://www.nj4h.Rutgers.edu/horse)).
- b) **If a contestant must scratch any state show class due to an injury or unsoundness that occurred after the NJ State 4-H Horse Show entry deadline, the 4-H member must submit written justification signed by a veterinarian in order to show that project animal in any subsequent classes (such as Halter classes etc.)**

- c) If a contestant decides to scratch a class, **for a reason other than injury or unsoundness of the animal**, the county coordinator may substitute an alternate, however, the original contestant will be scratched from the remainder of the three-day show and cannot decide to participate in any subsequent classes. (i.e. If a horse/rider combination is scratched Saturday, that combination cannot compete Sunday.)
- d) If a contestant is unable to participate in a particular class because of a problem (i.e., heat stress, thrown shoe, etc.) **occurring during the State 4-H Horse Show**, certifiable by the farrier, veterinarian, show steward, judge or medical technician, then an alternate may be substituted by the county coordinator for that class only. The contestant will be permitted to participate in his/her remaining classes pending certification by said farrier, or veterinarian or medical technician, provided the horse is then deemed sound to perform again.

### C. MEMBER ELIGIBILITY

1. General Eligibility - To be eligible to participate in the NJ State 4-H Championship Horse Show, a 4-H member MUST:
- a) Have been enrolled in Grade 5 or higher as of September of the previous school year. The last year of participation is the year in which the member is enrolled in grade 13 (or the equivalent - one-year post grade 12.)
- b) Be a registered 4-H Horse Project member in the county they will represent by January 1 of the current year.
- c) Meet the following “Member In Good Standing” requirements during the current project year. This is to be verified by the club leader and or county agent on the state entry form.
- (1) Have attended at least 70% of regular club meetings.
  - (2) Given a state, county or club 4-H presentation following the State 4-H or Equine Presentations Contest guidelines.
  - (3) Been responsible for the physical care and training of the animal to the fullest extent possible.
  - (4) Complete a 4-H Horse Project Record Book including all of the members horse project animal(s) up to the date of the show entries.
- d) Exhibit in a “showmanship and grooming” class at a county qualifying horse show.
- e) The grade of members shall be determined by the grade enrolled in school the September prior to the State 4-H Championship Horse Show.
- (1) Junior Members: 4-H’ers enrolled in Grades 5-8 as of the September prior to the state show.
  - (2) Senior Members: 4-H’ers enrolled in Grades 9- 13 as of the September prior to the state show.

## **D. ANIMAL ELIGIBILITY**

**1. All breeds of horses, ponies, donkeys and mules are eligible for use as a horse project animal. Project animals may be groomed and shown according to their breed standards in all classes.**

### **2. Animal Measurement**

a) It shall be the responsibility of the County 4-H Agent or county qualifying show committee to issue proof of animal measurement at their qualifying show(s). All animals, 15 hands and under, must be measured at the county qualifying show on a yearly basis up to and including their (6th) year of age. Exhibitors must bring county measurement cards to the state show. No other measurement cards will be accepted.

b) If the height of an animal is questioned by a show official, leader or exhibitor, the current 4-H measurement card must be shown.

c) A horse or pony over six-years of age may not have its height protested provided it has a permanent 4-H card.

### **3. Definition of “Project Horse”**

a) Horses are defined as exceeding 14.2 hands in height, regardless of breed or discipline. To be eligible to participate in the NJ State 4-H Championship Horse Show, the horse, pony, mule, or donkey shown, ridden or driven must adhere to the following:

1) Be the 4-H member’s project animal. A 4-H member may have more than one project animal. A project horse may be shared by no more than two (2) 4-H members regardless of the type of ownership status.

2) Have a completed 4-H Horse Registration form for each animal turned in to the county 4-H office and dated no later than April 1st of the current year. A copy of the 4-H Horse Registration Form can be found on page 33, in the Appendix section of *“My 4-H Horse Project Record Book.”* The horse’s name on the Project Registration Form must be exactly the same as the name on the Coggins Certificate, the Horse Health Form and the State Show entry form.

3) Have been used by the member in the county qualifying show(s).

### **4. Definition of “Project Pony”**

a) Ponies shall follow the same criteria as for horses with the exception that ponies shall be 14.2 hands and under regardless of the breed or discipline.

b) In the English Division, regardless of breed, the size of the ponies is defined as:

(1) Large Ponies - shall be over 13.2 and not to exceed 14.2 hands.

- (2) Medium Ponies - shall be over 12.2 and not to exceed 13.2 hands.
- (3) Small Ponies - shall not exceed 12.2 hands.

## 5. Ownership Classification

Project animals are defined, as either member/family owned or non-family owned. No more than two 4-H members may use a horse. Qualifications for each are specified as follows:

### (1) Member Owned

- (a) *Member-Owned* - owned solely by the member and not by anyone else. The 4-H member is the legal owner. If the animal is registered, the member's name appears on the Breed Association Papers. A 4-H horse club member may share his/her horse with another 4-H horse club member

### (2) Family-Owned

- (a) *Family-Owned* - the animal's legal owner is limited to the 4-H member's parent(s), brother, sister, grandparent(s), aunt, uncle or legal guardian.
- (b) A 4-H horse club member may lease his/her horse with one horseless 4-H horse club member.

### (3) Leased/Borrowed

- (a) *Leased/Borrowed* - the animal's legal owner is anyone other than the 4-H'er or his/her immediate family.
- (b) Project animals falling under the "Leased/Borrowed" category must have a copy of a completed 4-H Horse Project Lease/Borrow Form attached to the 4-H Horse Registration Form and turned in to the county 4-H Office no later than April 1 of the current year. A copy of the 4-H Horse Project Lease/Borrowed Form can be found on page 34 in the Appendix section of "*My 4-H Horse Record Book*." The member must have free access to the horse.
- (c) Leased/ Borrowed horses are ineligible for any conformation (halter) class.

## 6. General Requirements

- a) No more than two 4-H members may use a horse regardless of the type of ownership.
- b) *Age of Horses*. A horse regardless of breed becomes a year older on January 1st of the current year, not on its actual birthday.
  - (1) Junior Horses - up to and including five (5) year olds.
  - (2) Senior Horses – (6) year olds and older.

- c) Horses two-years of age or under as of January 1st of the current year cannot be shown in any performance classes, including the driving classes.
- d) *Stallions are ineligible* to compete in any 4-H horse show. Colts of the current year are eligible to be shown in the Mare and Foal class only.
- e) A project horse is eligible to be shown in all divisions, Challenged, Dressage, Driving, English, Games and Western.
- f) A rider is permitted to show more than one horse per class in individual performance classes.
- g) After a horse wins a halter class, other than Growing and Training and Mare and Foal, it becomes ineligible to compete again in that class, unless the ownership of the animal has changed to a new owner. Leased /borrowed horses are not allowed in halter classes.
- h) Unruly and unsound horses will be excused from the ring.
  - 1) Determination of unruliness will be left to the judge and/or show committee.
  - 2) Determination of unsoundness will be left to the show veterinarian and/or judge at the time of the class.
  - 3) Unsoundness shall not penalize a rider in equitation classes unless it is sufficiently severe to impair the performance of the horse or is detrimental to the horse.

## **E. SHOW MANAGEMENT**

### **1. Judges/Show Officials**

- a) Judges/Show Officials shall be competent, well-qualified individuals, able to reach a definite decision based on sound judgment, and have the confidence to stand by decisions without being defensive.
- b) Good judging depends upon the correct observation of horses and/or riders against a standard commonly accepted as the ideal according to the conditions of the class being judged. The judge must place each class in accordance with the rules and class specifications as outlined in this handbook, and evaluate and rank riders and horses, as they appear **THAT DAY**. They should never pin horses or riders based on their previous show records. It is essential that judges not be partial to any particular breed or be excessively critical.
- c) The decision of the judge/show officials is final. An exhibitor and/or spectator does not have the right to inspect the judge's card or visit with the judge without permission of the show steward. However, an exhibitor may request, through the show steward, the reason for a decision and, at a proper time and place, the show steward may request the judge to give his/her reason for the decision. Any questions from such individuals must be channeled through the show steward.

**2. Show Committee**

The Show Committee for the State Show shall be made up of the Executive Board of HPAC, the Stable Manager(s), the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Liaison and a minimum of one other person designated by the Chair of HPAC.

- a) It is the responsibility of the Show Committee to plan and implement the State 4-H Championship Horse Show.
- b) The decisions of the Show Committee are final, and may supersede the decision of a Show Official or Judge when deemed by the Committee, to be in the best interest of the Show.
- c) The Employee Liaison of Rutgers Cooperative Extension may overrule any decision of a Show Official, or Show Committee if their decision conflicts with the policies or Mission Statement of Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the Department of 4-H Youth Development.

**3. Teams & Championships**

a) County Championships

- (1) A challenge trophy will be awarded in the following divisions to the county team with the highest number of points in that division: Dressage, Driving, English, Games, and Western.
- (2) Points accumulated in each division will only count towards the championship in that division.
- (3) Calculation of championship points will be determined in the following manner:
  - (a) Only the score (points) of the highest placing person from each county in a class will be tabulated into the county team score.
  - (b) Total points for the county will be divided by the number of classes entered by the county.
- (4) Points shall be earned according to the number of horses shown and judged in a particular class as follows.**

# of horses	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>
1	1									
2	2	1								
3	3	2	1							
4	4	3	2	1						
5	5	4	3	2	1					
6	6	5	4	3	2	1				
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		

<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>10 or more</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

- (5) Combined classes will count for points for the day on which the class is being held.
- (6) A county must win a division trophy (3) times in succession to obtain permanent possession of the trophy. A retiring county must replace the trophy with a comparable trophy for the following year.
- (7) It is the responsibility of the winning counties to return team trophies on the 1st day of the show to the show office.
- (8) Trophies being returned should be in good shape, cleaned, polished and engraved from the previous year. Cost for engraving is the responsibility of the winning county.

#### b) County Team

- (1) A county team will consist of all county exhibitors in a division. Points awarded will be based on the number of entries in the class.
- (a) To qualify for the Dressage Championship, a county must have a minimum of three exhibitors in the division and three classes in the division.
- (b) To qualify for the Driving Championship, a county must have a minimum of one exhibitor in the division in a minimum of one class.
- (c) To qualify for the Games Championship, a county must have a minimum of two exhibitors in the division and (4) classes in the division.
- (d) To qualify for the English or Western Championship, a county must have a minimum of (4) exhibitors in a division, and (8) classes per division.

### **4. Parental Assistance and Coaching**

- a) Parental Assistance - Under NO circumstances is a parent/trainer permitted to:
- (1) Ready the project animal for the show ring by grooming, braiding, banding, or clipping said animal prior to and after arrival on the show grounds.
- (2) School the horse via lunge line or under saddle once the animal is on the show grounds, including Friday evening. The Show Stewards or Show Committee have the authority to eliminate any exhibitor not abiding by these rules.
- b) With regard to safety, parental assistance is acceptable, e.g. holding the horse while the rider changes clothes, checking/tightening girth, equipment, etc. Parent or adult must be wearing hard soled footwear with closed toes at all times when rendering assistance.

- c) Coaching from the rail, show ring and in-gate area by any parent and/or trainer is prohibited at ALL times once the show is in session. ONLY verbal coaching is allowed in the schooling ring, trailer and stabling areas.
- d) Special circumstances should be referred to a show steward. The stewards' decision will be final.

## **5. Protests**

A formal protest may be lodged on behalf of an exhibitor, by the exhibitor, the county coordinator or a registered horse project leader.

- a) The protest must be filed within 10 minutes after the infraction of the rule.
- b) Decisions that may not be protested include but are not limited to:
  - (1) The soundness of a horse, when determined by an official veterinarian of the competition or by a judge.
  - (2) A judge's decision, representing his/her individual preference, may not be protested unless it is alleged to be in violation of the 4-H rules.
- c) All protests must be submitted to the Show Secretary on the official Horse Show Protest Form. The form is available in the horse show office.
- d) The official protest form must be filled out completely, signed and accompanied by a deposit of \$25.00 CASH.
- e) The protest will be directed to the horse show committee at the appropriate time and a decision will be made.
- f) If the protest is upheld, the \$25.00 deposit shall be returned; otherwise it shall be forfeited.
- g) In no case will a protest be considered after the conclusion of the time allotted for the protest to be filed.

## **6. General Class Rules**

- a) A two-minute gate will be enforced. If it is necessary to do a tack change, or if there is a conflict between rings, please notify the in-gate person in advance.
- b) Fall of horse or rider shall eliminate the contestant from the class.
- c) No outside horses (non-4-H project horses or horses not entered in the show) may be brought onto the show grounds for any purpose, including schooling or sale.

- d) For classes where individual work is performed, the individual work shall be performed in a random working order, which will be posted.
- e) When classes need to be split for safety, the cuts will be chosen randomly and will be posted prior to the start of the class.
- f) Riders must enter the ring with the correct number, if rider does not have the correct number or does not have the number given by the show committee the rider will be disqualified**

## **F. EQUINE WELFARE, SPORTSMANSHIP & ETHICS**

### **1. Equine Welfare**

The New Jersey 4-H Horse Project is comprised of a group of youth members, volunteer 4-H Horse Leaders, committed parents and appropriate Rutgers Cooperative Extension personnel. This group of people is dedicated to the humane treatment and care of all horses and promotes any and all improvements in the care, feeding handling and management of every breed of horse.

- a) It is required that horses be treated with the kindness, respect and compassion they deserve and never subjected to mistreatment or unapproved practices in any and all activities within and outside of 4-H.
- b) Cruel or rough handling of horses will not be tolerated and will result in elimination at the decision of the judge and/or show committee.

### **2. Sportsmanship**

All 4-H'ers, parents, leaders, owners and trainers are expected to be polite, sportsmanlike. Any unethical acts of discourtesy, disrespect or disobedience to the judges, show officials, committee members or any other competitor on the part of an exhibitor, owner, parent or trainer SHALL disqualify the horse and rider, and dismiss them from the grounds.

### **3. NJ 4-H Horse Program Ethics Policy/4-H Code of Conduct**

- a) The NJ State 4-H Horse Show Committee and the Rutgers Cooperative Extension 4-H Department Liaison will decide any infractions of ethics or the 4-H Code of Conduct.
- b) The showing of unethically fitted/groomed horses is prohibited. Unethical fitting will be deemed to consist of any method of altering the natural appearance or conformation of any part of the animal's body. Animals showing signs of having been operated upon or tampered with for the purpose of concealing faults in conformation and appearance or with intent to deceive relative to the animal's soundness, manners and way of going will be disqualified. This includes the covering of white skin, false tails (or use of any glued-on false hair or hair-like substances), use of coat paints, hair coloring conditioners, colored show foam, graphite, colored powders, hemp or other similar

substances externally applied and steroids, artificial filling internally or surgical procedures. All animals are subject to the “white towel” test.

- c) Every exhibitor, in consideration of his/her entry being accepted, agrees to submit any animal so entered by him/her to inspection and agrees to have such animal submitted to any tests as may be designated and requested by the Show committee and agrees that the conclusions reached by the committee as to whether such animal is unethically fitted/groomed shall be final, without recourse against the committee and the show.
- d) No one may conspire, contribute to or cooperate with others to violate this code, either by their action or inaction.
- e) Exhibitors, owners, and parents are absolutely responsible for an animal’s condition whether or not they did something in violation themselves or knew of treatment that violates the code.
- f) Exhibitors and parents/guardians signing the 4-H Event Permission Form have verified that they have read, understand and agree to abide by the rules above.
- g) By submitting a show entry, exhibitors verify that they have read and understand the 4-H Code of Conduct, show Ethics Policy, and show rules and regulations, as well as the consequences and penalties for violations. Exhibitors understand that evidence of violation of any state law will be released to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.
- h) Exhibitors submitting a show entry consent to disciplinary action for violation of the 4-H Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy.

## II. CHALLENGED DIVISION

### A. Classes Offered

- Assisted
  - Flat Class-walk, trot, assisted (leader & 1 or 2 side- walkers)
  - Obstacle Course-assisted (leader & 1 or 2 side-walkers) [APPENDIX B]
- Unassisted
  - Flat Class-walk, trot, unassisted (spotter requested)
  - Obstacle-unassisted (spotter requested) [APPENDIX B]

#### 1. Equitation on the Flat

To be judged on the position of the rider, balance, use of the natural and or artificial aids, and control of the mount. Particular attention will be paid to the rider’s ability to safely and independently control the horse through understanding and harmony in movement. Riders will be penalized for any unnecessary assistance by the aides. [See **Appendix B** for score sheet]

#### 2. Obstacle Class

Class will consist of five obstacles and will include changes of direction. Riders will be asked to halt and back up a few steps. This class will be judged on the execution of the obstacles, use of the natural and or artificial aids, control of mount, quietness of mount and pace. Riders will be penalized for any unnecessary assistance by the aides. [See **Appendix B** for score sheet]

*Acceptable Obstacles* - a (10) second time penalty will be assessed for a missed obstacle.

- Walking over poles (optional (2) point for jumping position)
- Circle around barrel
- Weaving in and out of cones
- Picking up object and placing it down
- Halt
- Walking or trotting between obstacles
- Reverse direction

### **B. Attire**

1. An approved ASTM/SEI safety helmet with harness properly fitted and securely fastened is required.
2. All participants are required to wear proper attire while showing. Boots with a heel are a requirement. Riders who must wear other footwear as a result of a physical disability must submit a physician's statement with entry blank.
3. Attire must be suitable to style of riding.

### **C. Equipment**

1. English or Western tack is acceptable. Riders may use adaptive equipment without penalty, but must not be attached to the horse or saddle in any manner.
2. There will be a safety inspection of tack and equipment before horses may enter the ring.

### **D. General Rules**

1. Unauthorized and unnecessary assistance from volunteers will result in penalties to the rider. Leaders must walk behind the horse's nose.
2. Riders may not cross enter into other divisions.
3. This division is open to all registered 4-H'ers who are cognitively or physically challenged, and are enrolled in a qualified therapeutic riding group, N.A.R.H.A., or Special Olympic Program.
4. Riders must be at least (10) years of age but not have reached their 23<sup>rd</sup> birth date as of January 1st of the current project year.

5. No more than (8) riders will be included in one class. Classes may be combined if necessary.
6. Riders and their instructors are responsible for securing the necessary horse-walkers, leader (horse handler) & their own equine partner.
7. A mounting block/ramp is available at the facility.
8. Helpers are divided as follows:

(a) ***Coach/Instructor***

The equestrian coach will develop an individualized training program for each athlete. The program will include fundamental skill instruction, conditioning, and instructions on competition and rules. The instructor is responsible for -

- Ensuring a safe environment for the rider.
- Planning for rider safety and placing rider(s) into appropriate classes
- Evaluating the athletes for injury or incapacity.
- Warning rider of inherent risks in the equine sport.
- Supervising the activity closely
- Knowing emergency procedures and first aid.
- Keeping adequate records on each athlete.
- Equate equine athlete's ability
- Providing or arranging for proper equipment for the athlete and their equine partner.

(b) ***Leaders (Horse Handler)***

Leader maintains the equine partner on lead, (assisted athletes only) at all times. Must walk or trot/jog-on horse behind nose close to shoulder with little contact with the horse unless necessary. The leader will not control the horse unless the rider cannot. Penalty points will be assessed for each time the leader must take over.

(c) ***Side-walker***

The side-walker is responsible for assisting the rider's balance.

**Appendix A**  
**THE DANISH JUDGING SYSTEM**

ALL 4-H qualifying horse shows must use the Danish System, which rates the performance of competitors compared to a standard. Ratings are excellent, very good, good and fair. These ratings are based upon a numerical score:

Excellent	90 - 100	points
Very Good	80 - 89	points
Good	70 - 79	points
Fair	60 - 69	points

Listed below are examples of rating for a variety of classes that can be used to place classes, as well as in conjunction with the Danish System.

**Halter Classes**

Every Halter horse should deserve and receive at least a "good-to-very good" rating. A horse rating "fair-to-good" denotes something drastically wrong with conformation, way of going, and/or turnout. *Judges should remember that 4-Hers who can't afford a top halter horse should not be penalized with "fair" rating if they are doing everything possible with the horse they have.*

**Showmanship and Grooming**

An "excellent" rating should be assigned to exhibitors with well-groomed horses and proper attire and equipment. A horse/rider combination that commits one error deserves a "good-to-very good" rating. Examples of errors include: not trotting, turning in the wrong directions, not setting up the horse properly, not watching the judge, incorrectly adjusted equipment, and poor grooming. An exhibitor who commits a multitude of errors deserves a "fair-to-good" rating, accordingly.

**Equitation/Horsemanship Classes**

A high-quality rider who is capable of taking his/her horse through the class requirements without any major problems deserves an "excellent" rating. A rider/horse combination that makes at least one major or several minor faults deserves a "good-to-very good" rating. An exhibitor, who commits several major faults, would receive a "fair-to-good" rating. Major faults include: wrong leads, reversing incorrectly, improper backing and major faults in rider form. Minor faults include: slow response to a gait transition and lesser faults in rider form.

**Performance Classes**

A high-quality horse that is capable of performing the class requirements without any major problems deserves an "excellent" rating. A horse that exhibits one major or several minor faults deserves a "good-to very good" rating. A horse that commits several major faults deserves a "fair-to-good" rating. Major faults include: wrong leads, improper backing, fighting the bit, and general lack of suitability for the particular class. Minor faults include slow gait transitions and lesser way of going faults.

In Western Riding and Reining classes, in order to receive an excellent or very good, horses should be able to complete the patterns executing the required gaits and movements, such as flying lead changes, sliding stops, roll backs and spins.

In English Performance classes over fences, in order to receive an excellent or very good, the horse/rider should be able to execute a course of 8 fences without a refusal or knockdown.

**Games**

A horse and rider that deserve an "excellent" rating have completed the course without a break in gait. The horse has also been able to compete without being unruly prior to starting the course inside the arena. A "very-good" rating is deserved for only minor deviations from normal behavior. A "good-to-fair" rating is for the horse that does not handle the pre-course pressure and is extremely difficult to handle.

**Driving**

A horse that is responsive to the driver, well mannered, shows no resistance, maintains gaits and executes movements precisely is deserving of an "excellent" rating. A horse/drive that makes at least one major or several minor faults would receive a "fair-to-good" rating. Major faults include: resistance to the bit, lack of suitability to driving, rearing, refusal to go forward, refusal to back, going off course, unsafe equipment. Minor faults may include: holding whip in wrong hand, sitting on wrong side of carriage, not backing in a straight line, inconsistent tempo in gaits, slow response to a gait transition.

**Dressage**

An "excellent" is merited by the horse and rider that complete a test with no major faults such as forgetting a movement or to salute the judge. A "very-good" is given to the rider who has one major or several minor faults. Other major faults include: resistance to bit, unwillingness to move forward, any misbehavior (bucking, rearing, etc.) Minor faults encompass breaks of gait, intermixing of movements, not utilizing entire arena for test movements.

**Appendix B**

4-H CHALLENGED EQUITATION CLASS SCORE SHEET

Rider Number	Control of Mount in Group	Individual Performance	Halt	Consistency of Gait	Rider's Position	Posting & Sitting Trot	Hands	Seat	Legs	Turnout	total
Scoring											
10	Excellent		7	Fairly Good		4	Insufficient		1	Very Bad	
9	Very Good		6	Satisfactory		3	Fairly Bad		0	Not Performed or Fall	
8	Good		5	Sufficient		2	Bad				

**Appendix C**  
***Challenged Rider***  
**PARENT/GUARDIAN RELEASE**

***Horse Park of New Jersey***

***RIDER AUTHORIZATION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT***  
***ATHLETE INFORMATION***

ATHLETE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Middle First

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Athlete's Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Physician's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Ins. Co.: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned parent and/or guardian of the above named applicant (hereinafter referred to as the "Entrant") hereby request permission for the Entrant to participate in the New Jersey State 4-H Horse Show. I also understand and acknowledge the risk or potential for risks of horseback riding, however I feel that the possible benefits to the Entrant are greater than the risks.

I represent and warrant to you that the Entrant is physically and mentally able to participate in the New Jersey State 4-H Horse Show, and I submit herewith a subscribed medical certificate. On behalf of the Entrant and myself, I acknowledge that the Entrant will be using the facilities at his own risk and I, on my own behalf, hereby release, discharge and indemnify the New Jersey State 4-H Horse Show, Horse Park of New Jersey, Rutgers the State University, all persons in their employ, volunteer leaders and worker representing 4-H from all liability for injury to person or damage to property of myself and Entrant. By signing, I agree to abide by the rules and accept risk and responsibilities for myself, my animal and my equipment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature Date

***Medical Information***

I have examined the above Entrant and in my opinion, there is no mental or physical reason why he/she should not participate in the State 4-H Horse Show.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Doctor/Nurse Signature

Special Medication Required: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level Equivalent: \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenged Rider Division Entry Form**

<b>ENTRY NUMBER:</b>
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**Instructions**

For County Show Coordinators

- All information about the horse & rider must be filled in for entry to be considered complete.
- Under the Class List – place an (X) in the box of classes entered as a contestant. Place an (A1) or (A2) to designate first or second alternate for that class.
- Calculate the total number of classes entered. (Do not count classes that rider is an alternate in)
- Calculate the total amount of entry fees due.

For Participants

- **PONY CARD MUST BE ATTACHED**
- Check **ALL** information on the form for accuracy
- Rider and parent/guardian **must** sign the form for entry to be considered complete.

Rider Information			
Name:	County:		
Street:			
Town:	State: NJ Zip:		
Day Phone: ( )	Evening Phone: ( ) Date of Birth:		
Grade as of September 2006:	E-Mail Address:		
Horse/Pony Information			
Name of Horse/Pony (as it appears on Coggins)			
Circle the type of animal: ( Please list height of pony) Horse    Large Pony    Medium Pony    Small Pony	Sex:    Year Foaled    Breed:		
<b>Class #</b>	<b>Class Name</b>	<b>Total Number of Classes Entered</b>	
60	Flat Class – Walk, Trot assisted	# of Classes _____ X \$12 per class= entry fee	
61	Flat Class – Walk, Trot unassisted	Show Fees( \$1 Bathroom + \$15 Manure removal per horse/rider combination)	<b>\$16.00</b>
62	Obstacle Course – assisted	Total Amount Owed for Horse and rider Combination	
63	Obstacle Course – unassisted	<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>	
		<b>Amount Paid</b>	<b>Check #</b> <b>Cash</b>

We (rider and parent/guardian) acknowledge that it is our responsibility to know the rules in the NJ State 4-H Horse Show Rule Book, and to abide by these rules and the 4-H Code of Conduct. I understand that (I am/my child is) entered as a contestant or alternate in the classes listed on the other side of this form. I fully understand that additional classes may not be added after July 21, 2008 and that deletions after this date will constitute a scratch of the entire entry from the show.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
4-H'er's Signature

Parents – Riders will reserve one complimentary of the State Horse Show Program If you would like to purchase more at a cost of \$5 per copy please state in the box how many you would like and initial

# of Copies-	Parents Initials
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