

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



Effective for: 2009-2010

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CHAMPIONSHIP HORSE SHOW
&
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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.

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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).

- 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 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th
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		
9	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
10 or more	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

- (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. WESTERN DIVISION

A. Classes Offered

- Jr. Showmanship & Grooming (Jr. Members) [APPENDIX F-G]
- Sr. Showmanship & Grooming (Sr. Members) [APPENDIX F-G]
- Western Halter Mares (Horses 4 and over)
- Western Halter Geldings (Horses 4 and over)
- **Very Small Equine English and Western Halter**
- Jr. Western Pleasure Horse (Jr. Members)
- Sr. Western Pleasure Horse (Sr. Members)
- Western Pleasure Pony
- Jr. Western Horsemanship (Jr. Members)
- Sr. Western Horsemanship (Sr. Members)
- Jr. Western Riding [APPENDIX C]
- Sr. Western Riding [APPENDIX C]
- Reining [APPENDIX E]
- Jr. Western Trail (Jr. Members) [APPENDIX D]
- Sr. Western Trail (Sr. Members) [APPENDIX D]
- **Very Small Equine in Hand Trail**

B. Attire

1. Clothing

- a) Must be workmanlike and neat. It is mandatory to wear appropriate western attire, including:
 - 1) Shirt with long sleeves and a collar or neckband. Shirtsleeves must be rolled down and buttoned or snapped.
 - 2) Western hat – for in-hand classes only
 - 3) Western boots
- b) Riders utilizing western sidesaddle should be appropriately attired to that style of western saddle.

2. An ASTM/SEI SAFETY HELMET with harness properly fitted and securely fastened must be worn whenever mounted

3. Chaps are optional.

C. Equipment

1. In all western classes, horses will be shown in a western stock saddle consisting of a horn, seat, pommel, cantle, skirt, fenders and western stirrups. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. Bridle may be either a standard plain or silver headstall with browband, shaped ear, or split ear.
 - a. Stirrups shall not be tied to one another or to the saddle in any manner.

2. References to a “Bit” in western performance classes means the use of a curb bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit includes:
 - a. 8 1/2” (21.59 cm) maximum length shank to be measured as indicated in the diagram in Appendix H. Shanks may be fixed or loose.
 - b. Concerning mouthpieces, bars must be round, smooth and unwrapped metal of 5/16” to 3/4” (.79 to 1.90 cm) in diameter, measured 1” (2.54 cm) from the cheek. It may be inlaid, but must be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three piece with a connecting ring of 1 1/4” (3.18 cm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8” to 3/4” (.95 to 1.90 cm) (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2” (60.96 cm), which lies flat in the horse’s mouth is acceptable.
 - c. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2” (8.89 cm) maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, half-breeds, grazing and spades are standard.
 - d. When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required, but must meet the approval of the judge, be at least 1/2” (1.27cm) in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. Curb straps must be free of barbs, wire and/or twists.
 - e. A broken curb strap or chain is not necessarily cause for disqualification
3. A bit cannot be physically or mechanically altered to increase the severity of its use and may be eliminated at the discretion of the judge. Spring-loaded bits are approved as long as they meet all bit specifications outlined in this rulebook. The judge may prohibit the use of bits or equipment he/she may consider severe.
4. Whenever this rulebook refers to a romal, it means an extension of braided material attached to closed reins. This extension may be carried in the free hand with a 16-inch (40.64 cm) spacing between the reining hand and the free hand holding the romal. When using a romal, the rider’s hand shall be around the reins with the wrist kept straight and relaxed, the thumb on top and the fingers closed around the reins. When using the romal, no fingers between the reins are allowed.
5. Whenever the rulebook refers to “Hackamore”, it means the use of a flexible braided rawhide, leather, or rope bosal, the core of which may be either rawhide or flexible cable. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered. This rule does not refer to a so-called mechanical hackamore.
6. Junior horses, (5-years old and younger) competing in western pleasure, horsemanship, western riding, reining or trail may be shown in a snaffle bit, hackamore, curb bit, half-breed or spade bit. Horses that are shown with a hackamore or snaffle bit may be ridden with two hands on the reins.
7. Horses 6-years old and older may only be shown in a curb bit.
8. Slip or gag bits, and donut, prong or flat polo mouthpieces are not acceptable as are any other bits deemed cruel or inappropriate by the judge.
9. Except for junior horses, (5-years old and younger) shown with hackamore/snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the *reins*, and the hand must not be changed. The hand is

to be around the reins; index finger only between split reins is permitted. Violation of this rule is an automatic disqualification.

10. Spurs are optional; however, the rowels must be blunt and turn freely.

11. Prohibited equipment includes:

- a. Wire chinstraps, regardless of how padded or covered.
- b. Martingales, draw reins, nosebands, tie-downs.
- c. Lariats, lead ropes, riatas or any type of coiled decorative ropes.

D. General Rules

1. Halter Classes

a) Western Grooming and Showmanship

Horses and ponies are to be shown in-hand at halter at a walk, jog, and pose. The Show committee will acquire from the day-of-show judge the pattern to be used for the class. Pattern is to be posted at least one-hour prior to the start of the class. **Failure to follow prescribed pattern may result in a severe penalty or disqualification based on the decision of the judge.** The Quarter Method of showing will be used in all showmanship classes. [**Appendix F**] Members must have done their own grooming, banding, training, and conditioning without assistance. To be judged according to the *4-H Horse Project Showmanship and Grooming Scorecard*. [**Appendix G**]

b) Western Halter Mares

Horses in this class must be 4-years of age or older. Mares are to be shown in-hand. To be judged on conformation, soundness, and condition. Each entry will be shown individually at the walk and jog. Horses entered in this class must be either member or family-owned.

c) Western Halter Geldings

Horses in this class must be 4-years of age or older. Geldings are to be shown in-hand. To be judged on conformation, soundness, and condition. Each entry will be shown individually at the walk and jog. Horses entered in this class must be either member or family-owned.

d) Very Small Equine Halter

Horses in this class can be at any age and can not exceed 38" in height. Horses are to be shown in-hand. To be judged on conformation, soundness, and condition and. Each entry will be shown individually at the walk and jog.

Entries will not be allowed to cross enter into any other English or Western halter class. A disqualification will occur if horse has a height in excess of 38 inches tall.

2. Performance Classes

a) Western Pleasure

To be judged on the performance of the horse. Conformation of the horse may be considered at the discretion of the judge. To be shown at a flat-footed four-beat walk; free moving easy riding two-beat jog or intermediate gait; and a three-beat lope both ways of the ring on a reasonably loose rein without undue restraint. The judge may call for extended gaits. **Riders will enter individually at a trot down the center line and find a place on the rail at ring stewards' command.** Wrong leads and excessive speed at the lope will be penalized. Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail). Horses may be required to reverse at the walk, jog or intermediate gait, but not at the lope. Horses may be required to go from one gait to another. Horses should stand quietly. Each horse must be backed. Horses with excessively low head set (poll below the withers) will be penalized.

b) Western Horsemanship

Class is to be judged 40% on rail work, 60% on individual pattern. The judge will ask each rider to work individually first, followed by rail work. These individual works will be any of the maneuvers that the judge feels are necessary to determine the horsemanship ability of the rider. **Failure to follow prescribed pattern may result in a severe penalty or disqualification based on the decision of the judge.** The pattern will be posted at least one-hour prior to the start of the class. The rider only is being judged. The rider will be judged on seat, hands, legs, feet, position, balance and control of mount. Suitability of horse to rider shall be considered. Rider is to show the horse at a walk, jog, and lope both ways of the ring on a reasonably loose rein, without undue restraint.

c) Reining

The NJ 4-H Horse Project has **one** reining pattern that are to be used. They can be found in **Appendix E** of this book. The pattern used at the show will be selected by the judge of the class and performed by all contestants in the class. The pattern will be posted at least one-hour before the start of the class. Each contestant will perform the required pattern individually and separately. To rein a horse is not only to guide it, but also to control its every movement. The best-reined horse should be willfully guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance. Any movement on its own must be considered a lack of control. All deviations (i.e., working beyond or short of cone, oval circles instead of round) from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of, or a temporary loss of control, and therefore faulted according to the severity of the deviation. Credit will be given for smoothness, fitness, attitude, quickness and authority

in performing the various maneuvers while using controlled speed. Two hands may only be used on a 3-, 4- or 5-year old horse wearing a hackamore (bosal) or snaffle bit. A rider may untangle excess rein, where excess rein may prevent the rider from continuing the pattern, where said excess can be straightened without affecting the performance of the horse, during hesitations, or when settling a horse; rider's free hand may be used to hold the romal in a normal fashion. During reining the use of the free hand while holding the romal to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to reining hand is considered to be use of two hands and score of 0 will be applied, with the exception of any place a horse is allowed to be completely stopped during the pattern. While the horse is in motion, the rider's hands shall be clear of the horse and saddle. Scoring will be on the basis of (0 – 100), with (70) denoting an average performance.

(1) The following will result in *no score*:

- Abuse of an animal in the show arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred prior to or during the exhibition of a horse in competition
- Use of illegal equipment
- Use of whips or bats
- Use of any attachment that alters the movement of, or circulation to the tail
- Failure to provide horse and equipment to the appropriate judge for inspection

(2) The following will result in a *score of (0)*:

- Use of more than index or first finger between reins
- Use of two hands (except as noted above), or changing of hands
- Failure to complete pattern as written
- Performing the maneuvers other than in specified order
- The inclusion of maneuvers not specified, including, but not limited to backing more than (2) strides and turning more than (90) degrees
- Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern
- Balking or refusal of command where pattern is delayed
- Running away or failing to guide where it becomes impossible to discern whether the entry is on pattern
- Jogging in excess of (1/2) circle or (1/2) length of the arena
- Over-spins of more than (1/4) turn
- Fall to the ground by horse or rider

(Neither a No Score or (0) are eligible to place in a class.)

(3) The following will result in a *reduction of (5) points*:

- Spurring in front of cinch
- Use of free hand to instill fear
- Holding saddle or touching horse with free hand
- Blatant disobedience including kicking, biting, bucking, rearing

(4) The following will result in a *reduction of (2) points*:

- Failure to go beyond markers on stops or rollbacks
- Break of gait
- Freeze-up in spins or rollbacks
- On walk in patterns, failure to stop or walk before executing a canter departure

- On run in patterns, failure to be in a canter prior to the first marker starting or performing circles or eights out of lead will be judged as follows:
- Each time a horse is out of lead, a judge is required to deduct one point. The penalty for being out of lead is accumulative and the judge will deduct one 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 delayed change of lead by one stride.
- Deduct (1/2) point for starting circle at a jog or exiting rollbacks 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, deduct two points.
- Deduct (1/2) point for over or under spinning up to (1/8) of a turn; deduct one point for over or under spinning from (1/8) to (1/4) turn.
- A (1/2) point penalty deduction will be given for failure to remain a minimum of (20) feet from the wall or fence when approaching a stop and/or rollback.
- Where a change of lead is specified immediately prior to a run to the end of the arena, failure to change leads will be penalized as follows: failure to change leads by one stride – (1/2) point; failure to change leads beyond one stride, but where lead change is completed prior to next maneuver – (1) point; lead is not changed prior to the next maneuver – (2) points; in patterns requiring a run-around, failure to be on the correct lead when rounding the end of the arena will be penalized on point. Failure to be on the correct lead prior to the center point of the arena will be a (2) point penalty.

(5) A judge may require any contestant to repeat his/her performance of any or all of the various parts of the pattern. Faults against the horse to be scored accordingly, but not to cause disqualification:

- Opening mouth excessively when wearing bit
- Excessive jawing, opening mouth or head rising on stop
- Lack of smooth straight stop on haunches - bouncing or sideways stop
- Refusing to change leads
- Anticipating signals
- Stumbling
- Backing sideways
- Knocking over markers

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

- Losing stirrup
- Any unnecessary aid given by the rider such as unnecessary talking, petting, spurring, quirting, jerking of reins, throwing of weight, etc.
- 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 and stops is considered a fault.

b) Trail Class

This class is to be judged on the performance of the horse negotiating obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and attitude. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing carefulness is

not sacrificed. Horses should show 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 shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching the obstacles. Horses with artificial appearance over obstacles should be penalized. Except for (3), (4), and (5) year old horses shown in a hackamore (bosal) or snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins. It is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle. While the horse is in motion, the rider's hands shall be clear of the horse and saddle. Horses will not be required to work on the rail. The course however, must be designed so as to require each horse to show the three gaits (walk, jog/intermediate gait, lope) somewhere between obstacles as part of its work. The gaits will be scored as a maneuver. The course used must be posted at least one- hour prior to the start of the class.

Management, when setting courses, should keep in mind that the idea is not to trap a horse or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind so as to eliminate any accidents. Enough space must be provided for a horse to jog (at least (30) feet) and lope (at least (50) feet) for the judges to evaluate these gaits. If disrupted, the course shall be reset after each horse has worked. At least six obstacles must be used, three of which must be from the mandatory list of obstacles and at least three different others selected from the list of optional obstacles.

(1) Penalty Point system

Obstacle Score: -1 ½ Extremely Poor, -1 Very Poor, 0 Correct, +1/2 Good, +1 Very Good, +1 ½ Excellent

Penalty ½ : Each tick of log, pole, cone, plant or any component of the obstacle.

Penalty 1: Hit or step on; incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less; Both feet in space; Skipping space or falling to step into required space; Split pole in lope over

Penalty 3: Incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or more; out of lead or break of gait to lope; Knockdown; stepping outside of the confines of; jumping off or out of obstacle with one foot, once the foot has entered obstacle; including missing one element obstacle on line of travel with one foot.

Penalty 5: Dropping of slicker or object; First or second cumulative refusal, balk or evade; letting go of gate; Use of hand to instill fear or praise; stepping outside the confines of, jumping off or out of obstacle with more than one foot, once the foot has entered obstacle ; including missing one element of obstacle on line of travel with more than one foot; blatant disobedience

Penalty Score 0: Doing an obstacle differently than described on the pattern; missing or not attempting an obstacle; failure to complete an obstacle; failure to be in the prescribed gait or on the correct lead; using two hands; equipment failure;

excessively touching horse; third cumulative refusal, balk or evade; riding outside boundary marker or arena or course arena.

(2) The following will result in a *no score* on a particular obstacle, but does not mean disqualification from the class:

- Doing an obstacle differently than described on the pattern
- Missing or not attempting an obstacle
- Failure to complete an obstacle
- Failure to be in the prescribed gait or on the correct lead

(3) The following will result in *disqualification* from the class:

- Not doing the obstacles in the prescribed order
- Fall to the ground by horse or rider
- Illegal equipment
- Willful abuse
- More than one finger between reins, except when changing hand to work an obstacle
- Obviously cuing the horse on the neck to lower the head
- Major disobedience - rearing, schooling

(4) Obstacles

(a) Mandatory Obstacles

- Opening, passing through, and closing gate
- Ride over at least four logs or poles [See **Appendix M** for set-up specifications]
Poles can be raised according to height specifications for the particular gait according to chart below.

GAIT	HEIGHT
Walk	12"
Jog	8"
Lope	8"

- Backing obstacle [**Appendix D**]

(b) Optional Obstacles

- Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slick bottom boxes will be used
- Serpentine obstacle at walk or jog/intermediate gait. Spacing to be a minimum of (6') for jog
- Carry object from one part of arena to another
- Ride over wooden bridge. Bridge should be sturdy and safe. Recommended minimum width shall be (36") wide and at least (6') long
- Put on and remove slicker
- Remove and replace materials from mailbox
- Side pass [See **Appendix D**]
- Dismounting
- Rider on foot, leading horse out of arena
- An obstacle consisting of four logs or rails, each (5') to (7') long, laid in a square. Each contestant will enter the square by riding over log or rail as designated. When

all four feet are inside the square, rider should execute a turn, as indicated, and depart

- Any other safe and negotiable obstacle which could reasonably be expected or encountered on a trail ride and meets with the approval of the judge
- A combination of two or more of any obstacle is acceptable

(c) Unacceptable Obstacles

- Tires
- Animals or hides
- PVC pipe
- Rocking or moving bridge
- Water box w/ floating/moving parts
- Flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, etc.
- Logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll
- In-Hand obstacles
- Ground Ties
- Tarps, plastics or anything deemed unsafe for a horse to step on

c) Western Riding

Western Riding is an event where the horse is judged on quality of gaits (walk, jog, lope), lead changes at the lope, and response to the rider, manners, and disposition. The horse should perform with reasonable speed, and be sensible, well-mannered, free and easy moving. Credit shall be given for and emphasis placed on smoothness, even cadence of gaits (i.e., starting and finishing pattern with the same cadence), and the horse's ability to change leads precisely, easily and simultaneously both hind and front at the center point between markers. There commended lead changing point is equal to (1/2) stride length before or after the center point between the markers. The horse should have a relaxed head carriage showing response to the rider's hands, with a moderate flexion at the poll. Horses may be ridden with light contact or on a reasonably loose rein. The horse should cross the log both at the jog and the lope without breaking gait or radically changing stride.

(1) See **Appendix C** for pattern. The small circles surrounding an 'x' on the course pattern represent pylon markers. A uniform measured distance should separate the markers of not less than (30) feet (9 meters) or more than (50) feet (15 meters) on the sides with (5) markers. The markers on the opposite side should be set adjacent to the appropriate markers. A solid log or pole should be used and be a minimum of (8) feet (25 meters) in length.

(2) Scoring will be on a basis of (0 – 100) with (70) denoting an average performance. Scoring guidelines to be considered: points will be added or subtracted from the maneuvers on the following basis, ranging from (+1.5) to (-1.5).

- -1.5 Extremely Poor
- -1.0 Very Poor
- -0.5 Poor
- 0 Average
- + 0.5 Good

- + 1.0 Very Good
- + 1.5 Excellent

(3) A contestant shall be scored accordingly each time the following occurs:

(a) Five (5) point deduction

- Failure to change leads
- Kicking out
- Blatant disobedience

(b) Three (3) points

- Not performing the specific gait (jog or lope) or stopping when called for in the pattern, within (10) feet of the designated area
- Break of gait at the lope
- Simple change of leads
- Failure to change after one stride, but changes before next designated change area
- Additional lead changes anywhere in pattern
- Failure to start the lope within (30) feet after crossing the log at the jog
- Break of gait at walk or jog for two or more strides

(c) One (1) point

- Break of gait at walk or jog up to two strides
- Hitting or rolling log
- Failure to change leads for (1) stride
- Splitting the log (log between the two front and two hind feet) at the lope

(d) One-half (1/2) point

- Tick or light touch of log
- Hind legs skipping or coming together during lead change
- Failure to change leads from (1/2) to (1) stride

(e) Disqualified - 0 score

- Illegal equipment
- Willful abuse
- Off course
- Knocking over markers
- Completely missing log
- Major refusal - stop and back (2) strides or (4) steps with front legs
- Major disobedience - rearing, schooling

(f) Credits

- **Flying change of leads, hind and front simultaneously**
- Changes at designated point
- Accurate and smooth pattern
- Even pace throughout
- Easy to guide and control with rein and leg
- Manners and disposition.

(g)Faults

The following characteristics are considered faults and should be judged accordingly in maneuver scores:

- Opening mouth excessively
- Anticipating signals or early lead changes
- Excessive throwing of head
- Stumbling

d)Very Small Equine In Hand Trail

A) Entries are to be shown over and through obstacles at a walk, jog, and or extended trot on a reasonably loose lead, without undue restraint.

B) Horses are to be judged on performance and way of going with emphasis on manners, suitability and appointments.

C) Trail course must be posted at least one hour prior to class at the regular show.

D) Horses are required to be a minimum of two (2) years of age and older to compete.

E) Categories of Suggested Obstacles:

- 1) Overs: Bridge, Water, Single horizontal pole with maximum height of 8 inches, (5) multiple walk-over poles with 6" maximum individual heights.**
- 2) Unders: Clothesline with clothes hanging up, Light pole suspended at a minimum height of four inches above the back of the tallest Miniature, Canopy**
- 3) Back throughs: Backing through an L. Poles must be at least 12' long, Back around a barrel, a pair of barrels or other visible obstacle.**
- 4) Serpentine: Proceed at requested gait, through a pattern such as in and about of a series of poles or pylons. Any gait may be requested.**
- 5) Jumps: Individual jump not exceeding 18" if animal only is to go over. Exhibitor goes around jump, Multiple jumps should not exceed 12" in height and should be 4' to 6' apart, If both horse and exhibitor are required to go over the single jump, it should not exceed 12" in height. Ground poles are recommended for all jumps.**
- 6) Daily chores**
- 7) Negotiate a gate.**
- 8) Carry an object from one part of the arena to another.**
- 9) Stand horse in circle, ground tie, walk around horse.**
- 10) Brush tail.**
- 11) Lay a saddle pad, blanket or sheet on entry's back.**

- 12) Go through motions of measuring entry's height at the back with a yardstick or tape measurer.
- 13) Load in trailer or chute.
- 14) Control obstacles
- 15) Ground tie and walk around.
- 16) Stand Horse in circle and turn on forehand and/or hindquarters.
- 17) Side pass either or both directions.
- 18) Trail In Hand Dimensions
 - a. Cones: space 40 inches between each cone.
 - b. Walk over poles: space 20 to 22 inches
 - c. Jog over poles: 30 inches between each pole
 - d. Chutes: 24 to 30 inches wide

F) Scoring Trail-In-Hand

- a) Each obstacle should receive an obstacle score and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each obstacle should be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1-1/2 to minus 1-1/2; -1-1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 good, + 1 very good, +1-1/2 excellent. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.
- b) Penalties should be assessed per occurrence as follows:
- c) Off course is a disqualification and is defined as:
 - 1) Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.
 - 2) Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side.
 - 3) Skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge.
 - 4) Negotiating obstacles in wrong sequence.
 - 5) Not following the correct line of travel.
 - 6) Back through or around obstacles.
- d) Disqualification from entire class for:
 - 1) Performing the obstacles other than in specified order.
 - 2) No attempt to perform an obstacle.
 - 3) Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern.
 - 4) Touching the horse on the neck to lower the head or use of free hand to instill fear or praise.
 - 5) Fall to the ground by horse or rider.
 - 6) Riding outside designated boundary marker of the course.
 - 7) Failure to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction.
 - 8) Failure to perform correct line of travel within or between obstacles.

9) Third refusal, balk or attempt to evade an obstacle by shying or backing more than two (2) strides away.

e) One-Half (1/2) Point Penalty for:

1) Each tick of log, pole, cone or obstacle.

f) One (1) Point Penalty for:

- 1) Each hit of or stepping on a log, pole, cone or obstacle.**
- 2) Break of gait at walk or jog for two (2) strides or less.**
- 3) Both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space.**
- 4) Skipping over or failing to step into required space.**
- 5) Split pole in lope-over.**

g) Three (3) Point Penalty for:

- 1) Break of gait at walk or jog for more than two (2) strides.**
- 2) Out of lead or break of gait at lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead).**
- 3) Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel or plant obstacle or severely disturbing an obstacle.**

h) Three (3) to Five (5) Point Penalty (Depending on severity) for:

- 1) Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off an obstacle (back through, bridge, side pass, box, water box) with one foot.**
- 2) Five (5) Point Penalty for:**
 - a) Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course.**
 - b) First refusal, balk or attempt to evade an obstacle by shying or backing more than two (2) strides away.**
 - c) Loss of control or letting go of gate.**
 - d) Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off an obstacle (back through, bridge, sidepass, box, and water box) with more than one (1) foot.**

j) Five (5) or more penalty points for:

- 1) Blatant disobedience (kicking out, biting, rearing, striking).**
- 2) Failure to ever demonstrate correct lead or gait if designated.**
- 3) Failure to complete obstacle.**
- 4) Second refusal, balk or attempt to evade an obstacle by shying or backing more than two (2) strides away.**

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

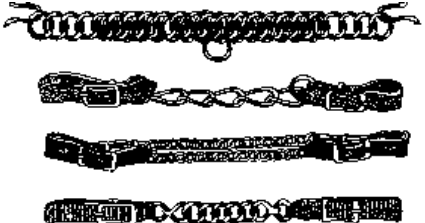

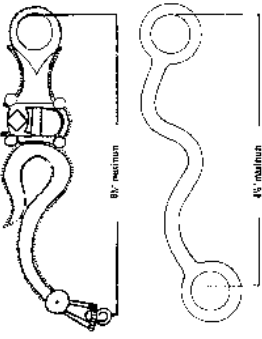
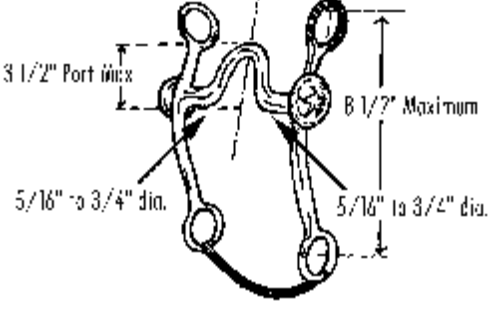
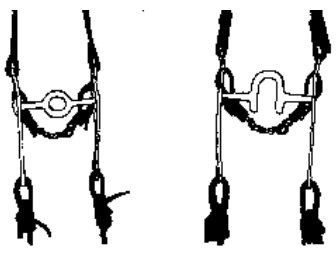
WESTERN BIT SPECIFICATIONS

A. Snaffle Bits

In references to *snaffle bits* in western performance classes means the conventional O-ring, egg-butt or D-ring with a ring not larger than 4". The mouthpiece should be round, smooth & unwrapped metal. It may be inlaid, but smooth or latex-wrapped. The bars must be a minimum of 5/16" in diameter, measured one inch in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, connecting ring of 1 ¼" or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to ¾" (measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 2"), which lies flat in the horse's mouth is acceptable.

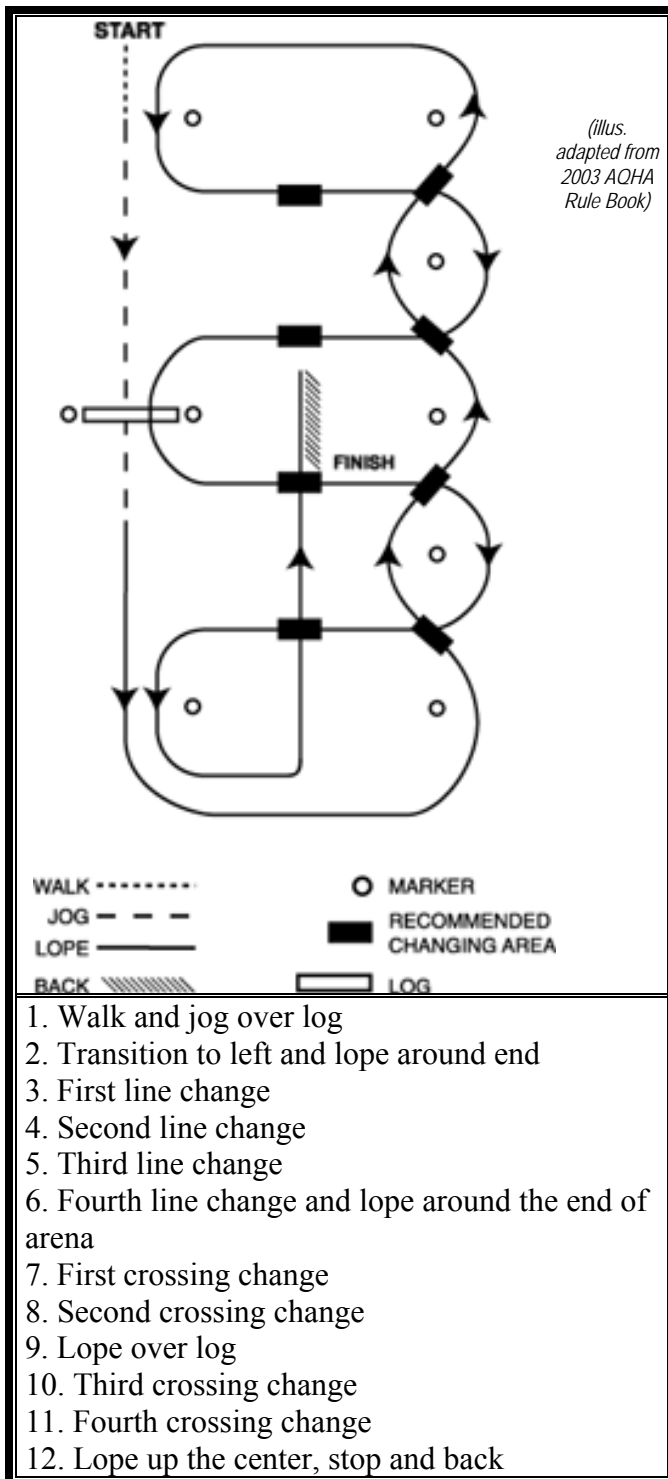
B. Curb Bits

Reference to a bit in western performance classes means the use of a curb bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit. A description of a legal, standard western bit includes: The maximum shank length is 8 ½", to be measure as indicate in this appendix. Shanks may be fixed or loose. The mouthpiece should be round, smooth & unwrapped metal. It may be inlaid, but smooth or latex-wrapped. The bars must be a minimum of 5/16" in diameter, measured one inch in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to center of the snaffle. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, connecting ring of 1 ¼" or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to ¾" (measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 2"), which lies flat in the horse's mouth is acceptable. The port must be no higher than 3 ½" maximum, with rollers & covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, half-breeds & spades are standard. Slip or gag bits, and donut or flat polo mouthpieces are not acceptable.

<p>Acceptable Curb Chains & Chin Straps</p> 	<p>Port Height & Bar Measurement</p> 
<p>Correct method of measuring overall bit length. A vertical line upper most headstall slot ring.</p>  <p>from the part of the rein</p>	 <p>Western Bit Measurement Sites</p>
<p>Illegal Western Bits</p>  <p>Donut Bit Prong Bit</p>	

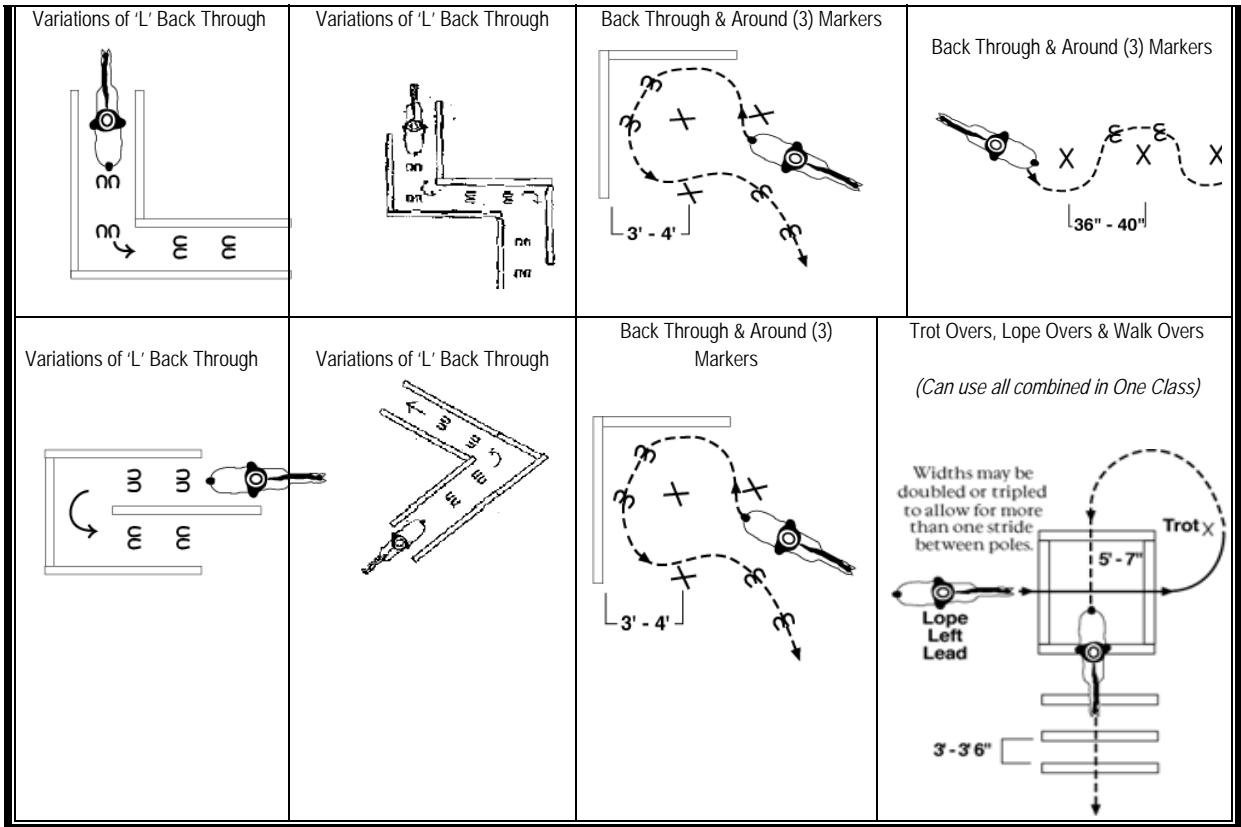
Appendix C

WESTERN RIDING PATTERN #1

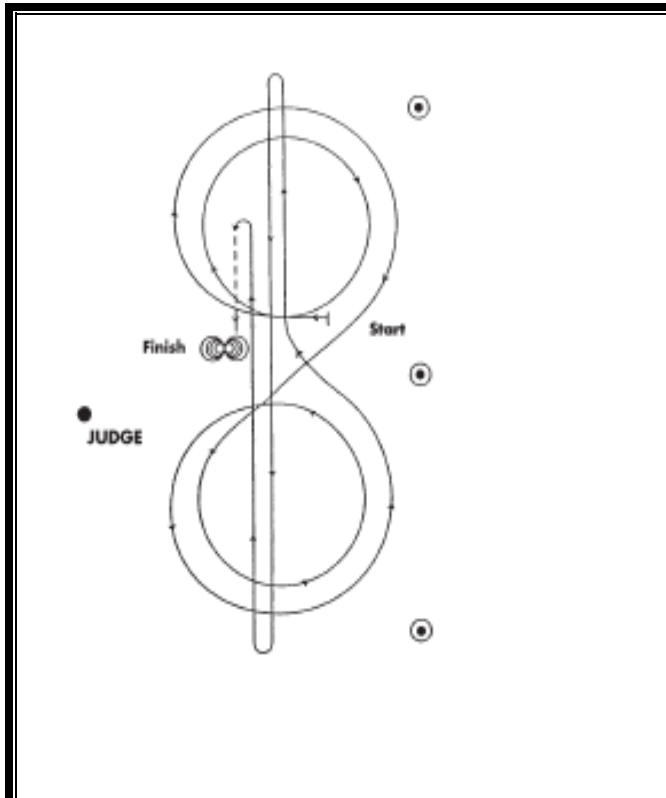


Appendix D

<p>Variations of Side Pass</p> <p>Sidepass right, turn right, sidepass left.</p>	<h1>Trail Obstacles</h1>		<p>Raised object (no more than 12 inches.) Variations of Side Pass</p>
<p>Variations of Side Pass</p> <p>Front feet inside or back feet inside.</p>	<p>Variations of Side Pass</p>	<p>Walk Over</p>	<p>Trot Over</p>
<p>Variations of Side Pass</p>	<p>Variations of Side Pass</p>	<p>Walk Over</p> <p>Pick Way Through</p>	<p>Walk Over</p> <p>Curved</p>
<p>Variations of Side Pass</p>	<p>Variations of Side Pass</p>	<p>Back Through & Around (3) Markers</p>	<p>Lope Over</p>



illus. adapted from 2003 AQHA Rule Book & APHA Rule Book

Appendix E**REINING PATTERN #1**

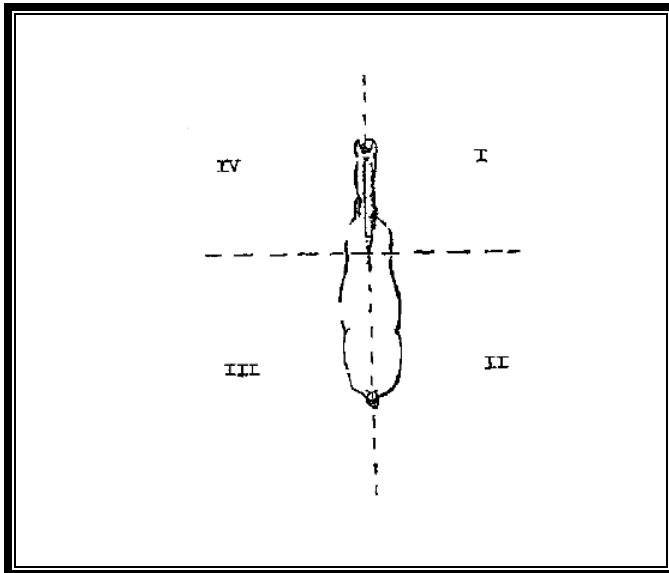
The judge shall indicate with markers on arena fence or wall the length of the pattern. Markers within the area of the pattern are not permitted.

Ride Pattern As Follows:

1. Begin at center of arena. Complete (2) circles to the right. The first circle small & slow, the second circle large & fast.
2. Change leads at the center of the arena.
3. Complete (2) circles to the left. The first circle small & slow, the second circle large & fast.
4. Change leads at the center of the arena.
5. Run to the far end of the arena, past end marker & do a left rollback, no hesitation.
6. Run to the opposite end of the arena, past end marker & do a right rollback, no hesitation.
7. Run past center of arena & do a sliding stop.
8. Back straight to center of the arena. Hesitate
9. Complete (2) spins to the right.
10. Complete (2) spins to the left.
11. Hesitate to demonstrate the completion of the pattern.
12. Walk to judge & stop for inspection until dismissed.
13. The bridle may be dropped at the judge's discretion.

Appendix F**GUIDELINES FOR SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES**

The following suggested guidelines of movement are meant to serve as an illustration of movement around the horse while showing in showmanship at halter & are for the exhibitor's information. Imaginary lines bisect the horse into four equal parts as seen in the figure below. (Note the quadrants will be numbered I, II, III, IV for ease of identification.) One line runs across the horse just behind the wither. The other imaginary line runs from head to tail. When the judge is in I the handler should be in IV. As the judge moves to II, the handler moves to I. When the judge moves to III, the handler moves to IV. As the judge moves up the horse to IV, the handler returns once more to I. This method is based on safety as the handler can keep the horse's hindquarters from swinging toward the judge should the horse become unruly.



Appendix G

SHOWMANSHIP & GROOMING SCORE CARD		
This performance class shall be judged strictly on the contestant's ability to fit and show in a halter class. The horse's conformation is not to be judged.		
Appearance of Horse		40 points
A	Condition & Thriftiness	(15 points)
B	Grooming 1. Hair coat clean, well brushed 2. Mane, tail, foretop & wither tuft free of tangles & clean. It is prohibited to use any ornaments on the aforementioned. Mane, tail, foretop & wither tuft may be English Braided or Western banded. 3. Hoofs trimmed properly. If shod, shoes must fit properly & clinches should be neat	(15 points)
C	Trimming 1. Stock-type horse manes may be roached, but foretop & tuft over wither must be left. 2. Inside ears may be slipped – no penalty for not clipping. 3. Long hair on jaw, legs & pasterns should be clipped.	(5 points)
D	Tack 1. Tack should be neat, clean & in good repair.	(5 points)
Appearance of Exhibitor		10 points
A	Clothes & person – neat & clean	(5 points)
B	Suitable clothes	
Showing Horse in the Ring		50 points
A	Leading 1. Enter ring leading horse at an alert walk in counter clockwise direction unless otherwise directed by the judge. Walk on the animal's left side, holding the lead shank in right hand, near halter. Remaining portion of lead is held neatly & safely in left hand. A tightly coiled or rolled lead shank will be considered a fault. Animals should lead readily at the walk or trot. 2. After the judge has lined up the class, he/she may call on each exhibitor to move individually. When moving the horse, be sure the judge gets a clear, unobstructed view of the horse's action. Allow the horse sufficient lead so it can move freely in a straight line. Lead from the left side of the animal. To turn, stop & turn to the right around the horse.	(15 points)
B	Posing 1. When posing, stand toward the front, facing the horse, but not directly in front, and always in a position where you can see the judge. 2. Pose horse with its feet squarely under the body. Do most of the showing with the lead shank. Never kick a horse's leg into position. 3. Do not crowd the exhibitor next to you when lined up side-by-side or in front of you when head-to-tail. 4. When the judge is observing other horses, let your horse stand if posed reasonably well. 5. Be natural: over-showing, undue fussing & maneuvering are objectionable.	(15 points)
C	Poise, Alertness & Merits 1. Keep alert, & be aware of the judge at all times. Don't be distracted by persons or things outside of the ring .2. Show your horse at all times, not yourself. 3. Respond quickly to requests from the judge & officials. 4. Be courteous & sportsmanlike at all times. 5. Quickly recognize & correct faults of your horse. 6. Keep showing until the entire class has been placed & excused from the ring.	(20 points)