

IDAHO 4-H CENTRAL DISTRICT HORSE PROJECT GUIDELINES

Updated February 2025

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INTRODUCTION

The Central District Horse Council shares general objectives with all county 4-H horse programs. The District Council will host various events to help members achieve the objectives of these programs. These objectives are for young people to develop leadership skills, assume citizenship responsibilities, build character, explore career opportunities, develop skills, knowledge, and attitudes for lifelong use, and share knowledge gained with others.

OBJECTIVES

- To develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, horsemanship, sportsmanship, and other desirable traits of character.
- To experience the pride of owning or leasing a horse or pony and being responsible for its management.
- To develop an appreciation of horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
- To learn skills in horsemanship and understanding of the business of breeding, raising, and training horses.
- To increase knowledge of safety precautions to prevent injury to themselves, others, and their mounts.

- To promote greater love for animals and a humane attitude toward them.
- To be better prepared for citizenship responsibilities through working in groups and supporting community projects and activities.

DISTRICT COUNCIL EQUIPMENT

- Quiz bowl buzzer set- purchased 2006; housed in Gooding Extension Office
- Jumps- purchased half 20XX; housed at Twin Falls County Fairgrounds
- Trail and pole bending set- purchased half 2017; housed at Twin Falls Fairgrounds
- Ribbons for District Horse Show- Purchased in the fall and housed in the Gooding Extension Office

COUNCIL WISH LIST

- Trailer with equipment needed for hosting horse shows and trail rides.

OPTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the required participation to complete the Horse Project, there are other opportunities offered. Not all counties will offer every opportunity.

- Education Night: Event planned for members to learn more about horses. Various topics are presented by local experts.
- Most Improved Member Contest is a two (2) part contest that measures the improvement made by the members during the course of the horse project.
 - Only first and second year members are eligible.
 - Attire and tack requirements are the same as for the horse shows.
 - The same member and horse team will compete at both contests.
 - The same judge will be used for both contests.
 - Classes offered are Showmanship, Horsemanship and Miniature Showmanship.
 - The horsemanship pattern will be walk and jog only. Members may canter at fair.
 - The first part is early in the season, the second part is a couple of weeks before Fair.
 - Members will receive a score with comments at the first contest.
 - At the second contest, the members will repeat the same patterns and again receive a score on their performance.
 - The winners will be the member that made the most improvement in each of the classes.
 - Winners will be announced and awards given at the Fair.
 - The winner of a class is not eligible to participate in that specific class the following year.
- County sponsored Horse shows
- 4-H club sponsored Horse shows.
- Clinics
- Interviews
- District sponsored opportunities:
 - Horse Carnival – Generally held in April.
 - Horse Bowl – Generally held during the Horse Carnival.
 - Horse Judging- CSI Equine hosts a contest April
 - Horse Show – Generally held in September if enough participation.
- State sponsored opportunities.
 - Horse Judging

- Hippology
- Horse Bowl
- Oral Presentations including Demonstrations and Public Speaking

To participate at the state level, contestants will be selected by participation at the district contest. If there is no official district contest then it will be a first come first serve.

Please see the most updated information on the contest Procedures and Rules.

<https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h/programs/contests>

4H HORSE PROJECT REQUIREMENTS AND RULES

Members must meet 4-H requirements for their respective counties.

HORSES

- Members must designate a project horse and/or alternate horse(s) a minimum of 90 days prior to completion of the project.
- All horses to be shown, or may be shown, at Fair must be designated.
- Members must manage, care for and keep records on a horse for a minimum of 90 days prior to Fair.

Project Horse

- Must be shown in Showmanship.
- May be of any age and breed.
- May be a donkey or mule.
- Need not be registered.
- A horse colt may only be shown as a stallion the year it is foaled.
- May be used in all classes offered as long as the horse meets the requirements of the particular class.
- May be shown as:
 - Horse - over 14.2 hands.
 - Pony - 14.1 hands and under.
 - Miniature - 38 inches and under (measured from the last hair in the mane).
- Ponies that measure between 38 and 58 inches may be shown as EITHER in-hand with the miniatures or riding with the horses, NOT both.
- Riding classes will be offered to ponies if there are three or more entries, otherwise ponies will be shown in the horse classes.
- If a pony qualifies for the District horse show and there is not a pony class offered, the pony can go in the horse class.
- Ponies are shown in the Member's age Showmanship class.
- Ponies are shown in a separate quality class.
- Miniature horses, mini donkeys and mini mules will have separate Showmanship and Quality classes.

Alternate Horse

- Alternate horse(s) may be designated as a backup in case the project horse cannot be used to complete the project.
- The alternate horse(s) must be so designated.
- An alternate horse may be designated by more than one (1) Member. Sharing a Horse guidelines will be applied.
- Acceptable reasons for changing to the alternate horse:

- The Project horse proves to be totally unmanageable or dangerous.
- Injury, illness, or death of the Project horse - a signed statement from a veterinarian must be submitted to the County Horse Council.
- If the alternate horse is to be used, the County Horse Council must be notified of the change.
- Use of an alternate horse must be declared prior to the start of the first Showmanship class at the Fair.
- Alternate horse information is not required in the record book.

Optional Focus Horse

- The Project horse or an additional horse may be used in any class other than showmanship.
- Horses must meet the requirements of the optional focus classes.
- Optional focus horse information is not required in the record book.

Sharing A Horse

- An owned and /or leased horse may be managed by two (2) 4-H Members on a 50/50 basis. This includes feeding, grooming, exercise, training, and access to use.
- Both Members will show the horse in Showmanship.
- The horse will NOT be shown by both Members in any other classes. (i.e., Western Pleasure). The Members will be required to choose who will participate in each class. Classes will not be delayed if they coincide.
 - Exceptions can be presented to the County Horse Council for potential approval.

Leasing

- Member ownership of a horse is desirable but not a requirement.
- A non-family-owned horse must be managed by the Member at least 80% of the time during the project.
- A management agreement between owner and member must be submitted at the beginning of the project year. A form is available from the office.

Horse Health

- Horses must be in reasonable health, with a Henneke body score of at least four (4). If less than four (4), the member must have a vet certificate indicating appropriate health care and appropriate use.
- Horse will have no signs of lameness. Lameness is defined as:
 - Marked nodding, hitching or shortened stride, which is consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances.
 - Minimal weight bearing in motion and/or at rest.
 - Inability to move.
- The soundness of a horse, when determined by a veterinarian, cannot be protested.

Training

- No professional training on the Project horse, Alternate Horse, or optional focus horse 90 days prior to the Fair, including day(s) of show.
- The horse should not be at the trainers during the project unless the member is there daily to care for the horse.

4-H HORSE SHOW OPPORTUNITIES

County Fair 4-H Horse Show

- All project requirements must be complete for the member to be eligible to participate in the Fair.
- Members must show their project horse in Showmanship to complete their project and be eligible to show in any additional classes.
- Members will be registered into the approved Fair Class program.
- Members may show only one (1) horse per class, except quality.

County or Club Sponsored Shows

- All classes may not be offered.
- Must follow all safety guidelines outlined.
- Are encouraged to follow all other guidelines.

Central District Horse Show

- 4-H participants must meet county guidelines and have satisfactorily completed a county horse project or projects as described in the current Idaho 4-H Policies and Procedures.
- Members must have qualified in the county class to enter the corresponding District class and will be expected to perform at the maximum ability.
- Members will use the same horse in the District Show as was used at the county show.
- If a class is not held at the county level, no one from that county may compete in that class at the District Show. However, classes that are offered at the county level, but cancelled, will be allowed for petition to the District Council.
- District Show Entries will be sent to their respective counties.
- Eligibility of the classes entered will be verified at the county level.
- All entries will be entered onto the approved spreadsheet by the member's county.
- All original copies of the entries will be forwarded to the hosting county or committee.
- Members with special needs will be accommodated.
- Special circumstances are to be approved by the District Council and may require vet/farrier approval.

HORSE SHOW PROCEDURES

General recommendations to be followed for all 4-H sponsored Horse Shows. Counties may modify these procedures.

- Any person participating in any 4H Horse Show is required to follow these Horse Show Procedures.
- If a class has less than three (3) participants, it may be combined with another class or cancelled.
- Classes with more than 12 participants will be divided.
- If classes need to be divided, they will be subdivided by age divisions or alphabetically.
- There will be 2 calls for a class. Members are expected to be at the gate ready to enter their class. After the second call, the class will proceed.
- Requests to hold a class may be honored within reason.
- No horse will be admitted to the class once the ring steward or gate person notifies the judge the gate is closed.
- No unauthorized person(s) is to be in the arena while classes are being conducted.
- Any concerns or disputes are to be taken to the Ring Steward, show management or

Superintendent, NOT the judge directly. The concern will be presented to the judge at an appropriate time.

- Problems involving policy or questions arising at a show not specifically covered by the rules will be directed to the Show Management or Superintendent.
- Day of show, only members are to ride and/or train horses. Exceptions MUST have prior approval from Show Management or Superintendent.

Safety

- The safety of members, horses and persons attending any event is of utmost importance.
- Members, leaders, and parents/guardians are expected to always maintain safe practices when present at any public show or activity.
- Members must wear proper attire and use proper tack on their horse.
- First year members or members with a new horse may be required to pass a county evaluation checklist, given by a neutral party, to be determined by their county.
- All members (youth and adults) participating in a 4-H sponsored event (i.e., meetings, shows, clinics, trail rides) are required to wear a SEI certified helmet with harness snugly/securely fastened as outlined in the attire section and as per State Policy.
- Anyone handling a horse in any manner will have on closed-toed shoes, preferably boots.
- Horses known to kick
 - Red ribbons should be present in the tail of horses known to kick. This does not, however, reduce the member's responsibility for optimizing the safety of others in respect to their horse's habit of kicking.
 - The members will make every effort to place themselves out of the way whenever possible. When this is not possible, they will verbally remind others that their horse is likely to kick.
 - Other members also have the responsibility of respecting the space of the horse wearing a red ribbon.
- If horse and/or member are seen to be unsafe, Show Management or Superintendent or Judge has the authority to stop the class. A committee of at least 3 Show Representatives, Extension Professional or Judge shall determine if removal from the show is warranted
- A show entry area will be designated for horses and members waiting to enter upcoming classes.
 - Anyone in this area must wear closed toed shoes.
 - No chairs, wagons, strollers or young children are allowed.
 - No motorized or wheeled devices are allowed.

Conduct

- 4-H members should act as young ladies and gentlemen at all times. Good sportsmanship is essential.
- If members, parents, or others closely associated with a specific member exhibit poor sportsmanship/conduct, the situation will be reviewed by the Show Management or Superintendent and may result in dismissal from the event.
- The Show Management will make every effort to secure the best available judges. Verbal abuse of a competition official will not be tolerated. Any interference with the judges, members, officials or any discourteous or unsportsmanlike display will be cause for disqualification of the participant. The judge may dismiss members from further competition for unnecessary roughness or abuse of their horse.
- No coaching from outside of the arena. This can result in the dismissal of the member from the class or further competition.

- Swearing or cursing by members, leaders or parents is not acceptable. Violators will be asked to leave the show area if they are in violation of the Code of Conduct.

Judges

- Horse Show management will make all possible effort to secure the best available judges.
- Judges will be provided a copy of these Guidelines prior to any show. They will be expected to follow the Guidelines to the best of their ability.
- Judges will be provided the arena dimensions and layout for patterns.
- Judge cannot change a pattern once it is posted.
- Members will follow the judge's directions at all times. On request, they will answer questions or demonstrate as indicated by the judge.
- Decisions of the judges are final. Once a class has been judged, it shall not be re-judged.
- It is the responsibility of the show manager to brief the judge on special classes or any changes in the show.

Ring Steward

- Shall be familiar with show procedures.
- Is to help the judge, not advise, argue, or criticize.
- Assembles classes promptly in order to keep judging on schedule and eliminate delays between classes.
- Helps the judge by relieving him/her of unnecessary details.
- Acts as mediator between judge, members, gate person and announcer.

Patterns

- Will follow AQHA and/or USEF guidelines with changes as age appropriate.
- The Central District Horse Program Pattern Book will be used in all pattern classes.
- Degree of difficulty will be highest for senior class and decrease in difficulty for each age division.
- Will be posted at least ½ hour prior to the start of the class.
- May not be changed once posted.
- May be modified to accommodate the arena.
- Will be posted in the same orientation as the arena when possible.
- When appropriate, patterns will be reversed to begin and/or end the pattern facing the judge. This will be indicated on the posted pattern.
- Rail work is not allowed when a pattern is used.
- Patterns for the following classes will be taken from the approved patterns book.

Patterns included:

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| ❖ Showmanship | ❖ Western Reining | ❖ Mini Showmanship |
| ❖ Western Riding | ❖ English Equitation | ❖ Mini Jumping |
| ❖ Western Horsemanship | ❖ Equitation over Fences | |

HORSE SHOW DRESS CODE

- SEI certified helmet with harness fastened is required at all times while mounted or driving.
- Members are to be neatly attired with clean, well fitted, conservative clothes appropriate for the discipline or class according to the style of the present day.
- Miniature Horse/donkey members are required to wear western hats in showmanship and quality classes only.

Western Attire

Required Attire:

- Western hat may be worn for Showmanship or Quality
- Jeans or western slacks.
- Belt.
- A long-sleeved, western shirt or slinky with collar. Shirts must be tucked into the pants when riding. Showmanship tunics may be worn for Showmanship or Quality.
- Slick sole western boots.
- Boots must slip easily from the stirrups. Lace-up boots are not recommended.

Optional Attire:

- Jackets with western shirt underneath.
- Vests.
- Chaps – not allowed in Showmanship.
- Gloves for Miniature Horse Showmanship
- Spurs, dull and rowels free moving – not allowed in Showmanship.

Not Allowed:

- NO: tennis-shoe boots, crop-top blouses, boots with waffle type tread greater than 1/8th inches will not be allowed. (Fat baby boots etc.)

English Attire

Required Attire:

- SEI certified helmet with harness snugly/securely fastened.
- Coats of traditional hunt seat style.
- Breeches (or jodhpurs).
- High English boots or paddock boots (leather or rubber) with half chaps.

Optional Attire:

- Prince of Wales (non-roweled) spurs may be no longer than 1¼ inches.
- Ties and gloves.

TACK

- Tack should be clean and properly adjusted.
- Saddles should be in good serviceable condition and should fit the horse and member properly.
- Proper tack is required at all shows.
- Boots that function in place of shoes for hoof protection may be used in all classes.
- Any discrepancies we will refer to the current AQHA rule book.
- Special circumstances regarding alternate tack may be presented to the Council for approval.

Western Tack

Required:

- Western stock saddles are required. Aussie saddles are optional.
- Stirrups should be appropriate size for members.
- If the saddle has a back cinch, there must be a cinch keeper attached.
- Horses five (5) years and younger may be shown in a snaffle bit, hackamore (also known as western bosal) or western bit.
- All horses six (6) years and older must be ridden in a western bit as detailed below.

Optional:

- Breast collars.
- All forms of hoof protection are allowed.
- Nosebands, tie-downs, roping reins, gag bits and mechanical hackamores are optional only in Barrel Racing and Pole Bending.
- Leg Protection: Skid boots, splint boots, protective boots and bell boots are optional in Western Reining, Freestyle Reining, Ranch Riding, working ranch horse, Barrel Racing and Pole Bending.

Not Allowed

- Mechanical hackamore bits.
- Running martingales.
- Draw reins.
- Bats or whips.
- Metal curb or chin straps.
- Excessive length shank (longer than 8½ inches).
- Twisted wire bits.

Definitions:

- **Western Bit:** References to a western bit means the use of a curb bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. Shanks may be loose or fixed and no longer than 8½ inches in length. Bars must be rounded, smooth, and 5/16-3/4 of an inch in diameter. Such bits include a curb bit, spade bit, or half-breed. Split reins or Romel reins are to be used.
- **Curb Chain:** A curb chain may be used on shank bits but must be at least ½ inch wide or wider and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. No wire, chain, or other metal, or rawhide device may be used in conjunction with, or as part of the flat chin strap.
- **Snaffle Bit:** Defined as having no shanks and no leverage action. The mouthpiece will consist of a jointed, smooth-metal round bar and not less than 5/16 inches measured one (1) inch from the cheek. The rings may be loose or fixed and should not exceed four (4) inches in diameter. The reins attach directly to the rings above the chin strap. Types of snaffle bits include O-ring, D-ring, and Egg-butt. A leather chin strap must be used with all western snaffle bits. Split reins or mecate reins are to be used. Walk-trot only may use a snaffle bit and two hands with any age horse.
- **Hackamore** also known as Western Bosal: The use of a flexible, braided rawhide, or leather, or rope hackamore, the core of which may be rawhide, or flexible cable. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, or over the nose. Mecate reins with tie rein must be used with a hackamore.
- **Mechanical Hackamore-** is a piece of horse tack that is a type of bit-less headgear for horses where the reins connect to shanks placed between a noseband and a curb chain. Mechanical hackamore can ONLY be used for speed events.
- **Split Reins:** When used with a western bit, only one (1) hand is to be used and the hand shall not be changed, except trail. The tails of both reins are to be on the same side of the neck as the hand holding the reins. The index finger only should be held between split reins.
- **Mecate Reins:** Are required with a hackamore and are allowed with snaffle bits.
- **Romel Reins:** The member's hand shall be around the reins with the wrists kept straight and relaxed, the thumb on top and the fingers closed lightly around the reins. The romel should fall out of the top and over the thumb of the reining hand. No fingers between the reins are allowed. Members may hold romel with free hand at least 16 inches from the reining hand. The position of the free hand is optional, but it should be kept free of the horse and saddle and held in a

relaxed manner.

- **Closed Reins:** May be used in Barrel Racing and Pole Bending only with a snaffle or western bit.

English Tack

Required:

- English saddles are required.
- Stirrups should be appropriate size for members.
- English or dressage saddle pads should be white or cream color. to fit size and shape of saddle.
- Bridles: An English snaffle, Kimberwick, Pelham and/or a full bridle (with two (2) reins) with cavesson noseband and plain leather brow band must be used. must be used.
- Snaffle bit ring may be no larger than four (4) inches in diameter.

Optional:

- Crops or bats. Bats are not allowed in English Pleasure.
- Prince of Wales (non-roweled) spurs may be no longer than 1¼ inches.
- English Breastplate.
- Standing martingale
- Protective boots or wraps are allowed only in Equitation Over Fences classes.
- All forms of hoof protection are allowed.

HORSE SHOW DIVISIONS & AWARDS

Classes will be divided into one of the following:

- ❖ Age Division
- ❖ Member's Ability Level Division
- ❖ Walk-trot Division
- ❖ Five and Under Horse Division
- ❖ Mini Horse Division

Age Division

- Members will participate in these classes based on their age as of January 1 of the current year.
- Age divisions are:
 - Junior.....ages 8-10
 - Intermediate..... ages 11-13
 - Senior..... ages 14-18

Member's Ability Level Division

- Members will participate based on their ability in the class. It is the leaders' responsibility to ensure the members are registered in the appropriate level class.

Walk-Trot Division

- Walk-trot classes are open to members of any age, in their first or second year of horse riding in 4-H.
- The 2 year time limit may be extended by request to the council.
- Members showing in Walk-trot classes are not eligible for any loping classes.
- Beginning English members have the option to show at the Walk-Trot level for two (2) years while competing in the loping Western classes. Beginning Western members have the option to show Walk-trot for two (2) years while competing in the cantering English classes.
- Walk-trot members may use 2 hands when using any bit. Use of 1 hand will be given credit. Cross reference bits on page 8.

Five and Under Horse Division

- These classes are offered for members riding young, less experienced horses. The purpose is to show the members' ability to work with and get performance from a young horse.
- Members must be at least 10 years of age and have completed one full year of horse 4-H.
- Horse must be five (5) years old or younger. Each horse's birth date will be considered as January 1.
- Members may show a horse in the Five and Under Horse classes in addition to their project horse in their respective classes.
- Horses shown in Five and Under Horse classes are not eligible to enter member's age division classes, unless that class is not offered for Five and Under Horse division.
- A member may show both a project horse and a Five and Under Horse in a Showmanship class

Miniature Horse Division

- Classes will be divided as per member age divisions.
- A miniature horse may be the member's project horse or an optional focus horse.
- Specific classes are defined in the Mini Horse Division page 23

Classes available in each Division.	Age Division	Member's Ability Level Division	Walk-trot Division	Five & Under Horse Division
Showmanship	X			X
Freestyle Reining	X		X	X
Trail	X		X	X
Bareback Equitation	X			
Western Pleasure	X		X	X
Western Horsemanship	X		X	X
Western Reining	X		X	X
Western Riding - Intermediate & Senior only	X			
Ranch Riding	X		X	X
English Pleasure	X		X	X
English Equitation	X		X	X
Equitation over Fences - *ground poles only		X	X*	X*
Barrels		X	X	
Poles		X	X	

Awards

- All awards will be given at the judge's discretion.
- Ribbons/Rosettes are awarded to the top six (6) in each class.

Danish System

- The class participants will also be judged using the Danish System. The purpose of using the Danish judging system is to give every 4-H member the recognition deserved for the work that was done. It also helps young people recognize the need to improve their skills and to "make the best better."
- One advantage of this system is that everyone whose work fulfills minimum qualification can receive a ribbon. If all entries are judged to be excellent, all receive blue ribbons.
- The member's performance is judged on the basis of the class standard, similar to getting a grade on a test.
- Ribbons are awarded per the following scale:
 - Blue: Score of 90 or higher. Excellent rating.
 - Red: Score of 80 – 89. Good work that will benefit from further improvements.
 - White: Score 79 or lower. Work meets standards but is only fair quality.
- Member who receives a blue premium (Danish) ribbon in their class qualifies for District competition. A member does not have to receive a rosette to qualify.

High Point Calculation

- The number of points given is determined by the number of entries in the class up to six. This may differ from the number that participated in the class, due to scratches.
- First place receives six points, 2nd place 5 points, 3rd place 4 points, 4th place 3 points, 5th place 2 points and 6th place 1 point.
- If there are more than 6 in the class, there are no additional points given. However, if there is less than 6 in the class then the maximum number of points given is the same as the number that entered the class. For example, 3 entered the class 1st place receives 3 points, 2nd place receives 2 points, and 3rd place receives 1 point.
- If members are disqualified (DQ) in a class, they do not receive any placing or points.
- Points are added up from all classes entered within a division, points do not cross divisions.
- The member with the highest number of points receives the award.

HORSE SHOW CLASSES

Quality Halter Classes - Horse, Pony, Mini horses and Mini mules

- Quality classes are judged on the quality of the horse not the performance of the member. Leaders are encouraged to give members guidance on the appropriateness of showing their horse in this class.
- Individual quality classes will be of the same age.
- Ponies may be shown in halter quality classes regardless of age or sex.

Classes offered:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| ❖ Filly of current year | ❖ 2-year-old Filly | ❖ Aged Mare |
| ❖ Colt of current year | ❖ 2-year-old Gelding | ❖ Aged Gelding |
| ❖ Yearling Filly | ❖ 3-year-old Filly | |
| ❖ Yearling Gelding | ❖ 3-year-old Gelding | |

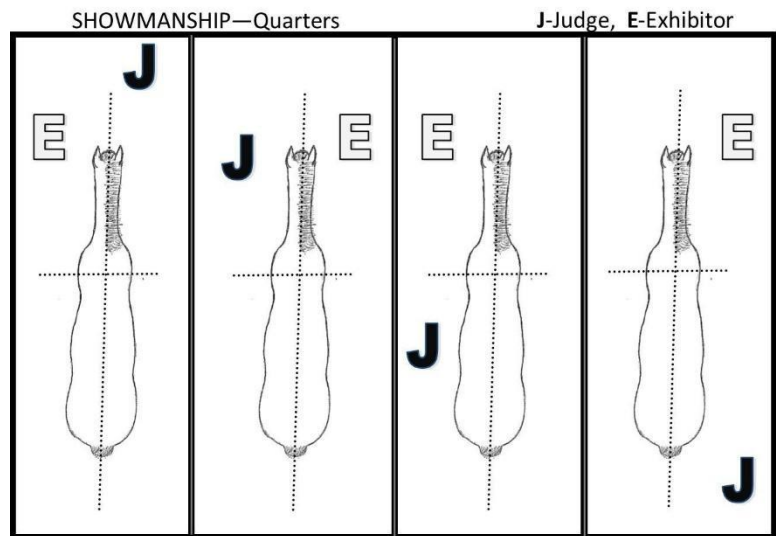
SHOWMANSHIP

Showmanship Attire and Tack

- Members may show in English or Western attire. No chaps or spurs are allowed.
- Halters must be used in western; bridles may be used in English. If a horse requires a special bit for their breed, the bit will be acceptable (i.e., Tennessee Walker, Fox Trotter).
- Halters may be leather, nylon or rope. No knots across the nose are allowed.
- Lead ropes may be leather, cotton or nylon.
- A chain on the lead rope is permitted, but only under the chin.
- Members will be judged on the fitting, grooming, training, and showing of their horses. The horse's conformation is not to be considered in the judging of the class.
- Fitting and Grooming - Hair coat should be clean and well-brushed. Mane, tail and forelock should be clean and tangle-free. Hooves should be properly trimmed or neatly shod.

The Quarter Method

- One line runs across the horse just behind the withers, the other imaginary line runs from head to tail.
- This method is based on safety as the handler can keep the hindquarters from swinging toward the judge should the horse become naughty.
- The picture shows the position of the member (Exhibitor) as the Judge moves around the horse.



HORSE KNOWLEDGE TEST CLASS

- The purpose of this class is to challenge members to become independent in their knowledge and thinking. The test will be given in a proctored location.
- Horse Test Resources
 - District 3 Horse & Pony Guidelines
 - District 3 Skills Checklist
 - University of Idaho Basic Horse Safety Manual • Horse Science Publication
 - Horses and Horsemanship Publication • Ohio 4-H Horse Learning Lab
 - PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide
- Ranch Horse Test Resources
 - District 3 Horse & Pony Guidelines
 - Dist. 3 4-H Ranch Horse Project Competition Guide
 - District 3 Skills Checklist
 - o State 4-H Beef Resource Handbook
 - Horse Science Publication
 - Horses and Horsemanship Publication
 - Ohio 4-H Horse & Beef Learning Lab

PERFORMANCE CLASSES - Western or English

Western or English tack

- ❖ Freestyle reining
- ❖ Bareback Pleasure or Equitation
- ❖ Trail

FREESTYLE REINING

Freestyle reining is offered to allow the members to demonstrate their ability to perform certain maneuvers using their own pattern, requiring good horsemanship and knowledge of their horse's abilities.

- Judging points are awarded on the member's ability to get maximum performance from their horse and completing the pattern in the set time.
- Members must remain on their horse at all times.
- Cones are allowed but only at the edge of the arena. ground props are not allowed.
- The qualifying performance at the county level will be presented at the district level.
- Each member will make up their own pattern, choose their music and style of dress.
- If a costume is used, boots must be worn and attire appropriate **for riding**.
- Members are encouraged to do their pattern to music and with costume, but neither is required.
- The music and costume must be approved in writing by the Leader or County Rep. Any music with inappropriate language, vulgarity or sexual innuendos will be cause for immediate disqualification and stopping the performances.
- Members will provide their own music and method to play it. The device will be held to the microphone to play on the speakers.
- Pattern and music length will be up to 3 ½ minutes, Walk- Trot up to 2 minutes.
- The judge will be provided a score sheet for listing the required elements for each Class.

Required elements for Freestyle Reining

	Walk – Trot	Jr	Int or 5& under	Sr
Walk	X	X	X	X
Jog	X	X	X	X
Lope Left or right lead		X		
Lope- left and right lead			X	X
One 360° spin either direction			X	
Two 360° spins: One each direction				X
Stop	X	X	X	X
Back	X	X	X	X

- Additional maneuvers such as rollbacks, backs, speed variations and non-classical reining maneuvers such as half pass and side pass are appropriate and shall be given appropriate credit.
- If performed in English tack, the required maneuvers will be modified. Walk, trot, canter, and turn on the haunches.

BAREBACK Equitation

- Rail class, identical to Western or English Pleasure, but with no saddle.
- Maneuvers will include walk, jog/trot, lope/canter, stop and back.
- Members may be required to reverse at the walk or jog but will NOT be asked to reverse at the lope.

- Members will be judged on seat, hands, and ability to control and show his/her horse.
- The members' methods of achieving good horse performance are to be considered more important than the performance of the horse.

TRAIL

- Trail will be judged on the performance of the horse and the member with emphasis on manners, response to member and attitude
- The pattern may not have explicit instructions, as part of the judging will be the member's ability to perform the obstacles to the best of their abilities. Example: the pattern may have a gate labeled as obstacle #1. It will be the members' decision to work the gate in a way that will best show their horse and ability.
- Lope or canter, there must be sufficient length to allow at least 6 strides.
- In-hand trail class will use the Walk-Trot class pattern.
- Horses will not be required to work on the rail.
- Members may walk the course on foot before the first class opens.
- Horses are not allowed on the course prior to competition.
- Changing hands is allowed to work with obstacles.
- Members will be allowed two (2) attempts or 20 seconds to complete each obstacle. If the member is having difficulty, it is to their advantage to make one (1) or two (2) quick attempts and then move on. If the judge must call for the member to continue, the member will be penalized for that obstacle.

Requirements:

- The course must be posted at least 1 hour before trail class opens.
- Mandatory Obstacles:
 - Gate: Open, pass through and close. Walk-trot division will open the gate only. Once the gate is touched, the hand should not be removed until the obstacle is complete.
 - Ride over at least three (3) logs or poles.
 - Walk over (20 - 24 inches between logs).
 - Jog over (36 - 42 inches between logs).
 - One backing obstacle.
- Optional Obstacles*:
 - Side pass.
 - Step-down or up.
 - Any natural objects.
 - "S" obstacles at a walk or jog.
 - Carry object from one part of the arena to another.
 - Bridge - at least 36 inches wide, sturdy, and safe.
 - Put on and remove slicker.
 - Remove and replace materials from mailbox.
 - Water obstacle.
 - Straw bales.
 - *Obstacles that simulate conditions normally encountered on a trail
- No tires, animals, animal hides, PVC pipe, dismounting, jumps, rocking or moving bridges, water boxes with floating or moving parts, flames, dry ice, fire extinguishers, logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll, or ground ties. Twine should not be used as a gate. Horse trailers, anything considered unnatural.

WESTERN PERFORMANCE CLASSES

- ❖ Western Pleasure
- ❖ Western Horsemanship
- ❖ Ranch Riding
- ❖ Western Reining
- ❖ Western Riding

WESTERN PLEASURE

- Western Pleasure is a rail class
- Maneuvers will include walk, jog/trot, lope/canter, stop and back.
- Members may be required to reverse at the walk or jog but will NOT be asked to reverse at the lope.
- Members will be judged on seat, hands, and ability to control and show his/her horse.
- The members' methods of achieving good horse performance are to be considered more important than the performance of the horse.
- Horses will be judged on manners, performance, and suitability to give a pleasurable ride.

WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP

Western Horsemanship is an equitation pattern class

- Members will be judged on seat, hands, and ability to control and show his/her horse.
- The member is evaluated on his/her ability to get the maximum performance from his/her horse. The member's methods of achieving good horse performance are to be considered more important than the performance of the horse
- Maneuvers may include walk, jog, lope, stop, side-pass, lead changes, circles, pivots and back.

WESTERN REINING

Members guide the horse through a precise pattern of circles, spins, and stops. Reining requires the horse to be responsive and in tune with its member, whose aids should not be easily seen. The horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely.

- The entire pattern is done at a lope or gallop, except Walk-trot Division is done at the jog.
- Cones will be placed around the perimeter of the arena marking center and edges of the patterns, 30 feet from end rails.
- Patterns include the required elements of reining. Circles, lead changes, straight runs, stops, backs, spins (a minimum of ¼ turn)
- Simple lead changes are allowed, although flying lead changes will be credited.
- Patterns are to be worked as stated, not as drawn.
- Judging begins upon entering the arena or as the pattern indicates. Each Reining pattern will have at the minimum:

	Walk – Trot	Jr	Int. and 5 & under	Sr
stop	X	X	X	X
back	X	X	X	X
1 circle in each direction	X	X		
2 circles in each direction, 1 fast, 1 slow			X	X
1 straight “run”	X	X		
1 straight “run” with rollback,			X	
2 straight “runs” with rollbacks				X
¼ turn spin in each direction.	X			
1/2 turn spin in each direction.		X		
1 full spin in each direction.			X	
2 full spins in each direction.				X

WESTERN RIDING

Intermediate and Senior Members ONLY

Western Riding is an event where the horse is judged on quality of gaits, lead changes, response to the member, manners and disposition. The horse should perform with reasonable speed, and be sensible, well-mannered, free and easy moving.

- Western Riding is a class with challenging maneuvers that should be done smoothly and at precise points in the patterns. Leaders are encouraged to only allow members that can reasonably perform the pattern accurately.
- Patterns with at least 10 cones and one ground pole at least 8 feet in length.
- Distance between the cones will be in accordance with AQHA, at least 30 feet apart along the sides, at least 15 feet from the rail, with 50 – 80 feet between.
- The ground pole will be marked with a cone at each end.
- The majority of the pattern is done at a lope
- Lead changes are to be done at specific points in the pattern.
- Simple lead changes are allowed, although flying lead changes will be credited.

RANCH RIDING

The Ranch Riding horse should reflect the versatility, attitude, forward, working speed and movement of a working horse.

Requirements:

- walk, jog, and lope both directions, extended jog and lope at least one direction, stops, turn to change directions and back. Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, jog, or lope over a pole(s).

TIMED EVENTS

BARREL RACING and POLE BENDING

- Western tack and attire
- There will be four (4) ability groups: Walk-trot, Level 1, 2 and 3.
- Levels are defined as:
 - Level 1: Novice or Beginner. has never done the class and / or is a beginner member
 - Level 2: Intermediate. is familiar with the patterns and has some understanding of the horsemanship involved.
 - Level 3: Advanced. Knows the patterns and understands the horsemanship of achieving a good pattern with speed
 - Classes will be judged on 50% performance/suitability and 50% time.
- The member must begin the pattern inside the gate (no running through the gate to start or complete the pattern). and must come to a complete stop before exiting the arena. Gate will be closed prior to starting run.
- Timing will start and stop when the horse's nose passes the start/finish.
- Failure to follow the course is considered a broken pattern, resulting in a "no time." If the member crosses the timeline before or after completing their pattern, they will have earned a "no time."
- Point System Guidelines: 100 points possible.
 - Suitability of horse and member: 5 points
 - Appointment of horse (fit of tack): 10 points
 - Hands (2 hands are allowed): 20 points
 - Seat and legs (appropriate for speed used): 15 points
 - Performance: 50 points
 - Correct leads (front and hind).
 - Bend and flex of horse.
 - Good line between barrels or poles.
 - Control before, during and after pattern.
 - 5 points will be deducted for each barrel or pole knocked over.

Breakdown of award times:

Barrel Racing:

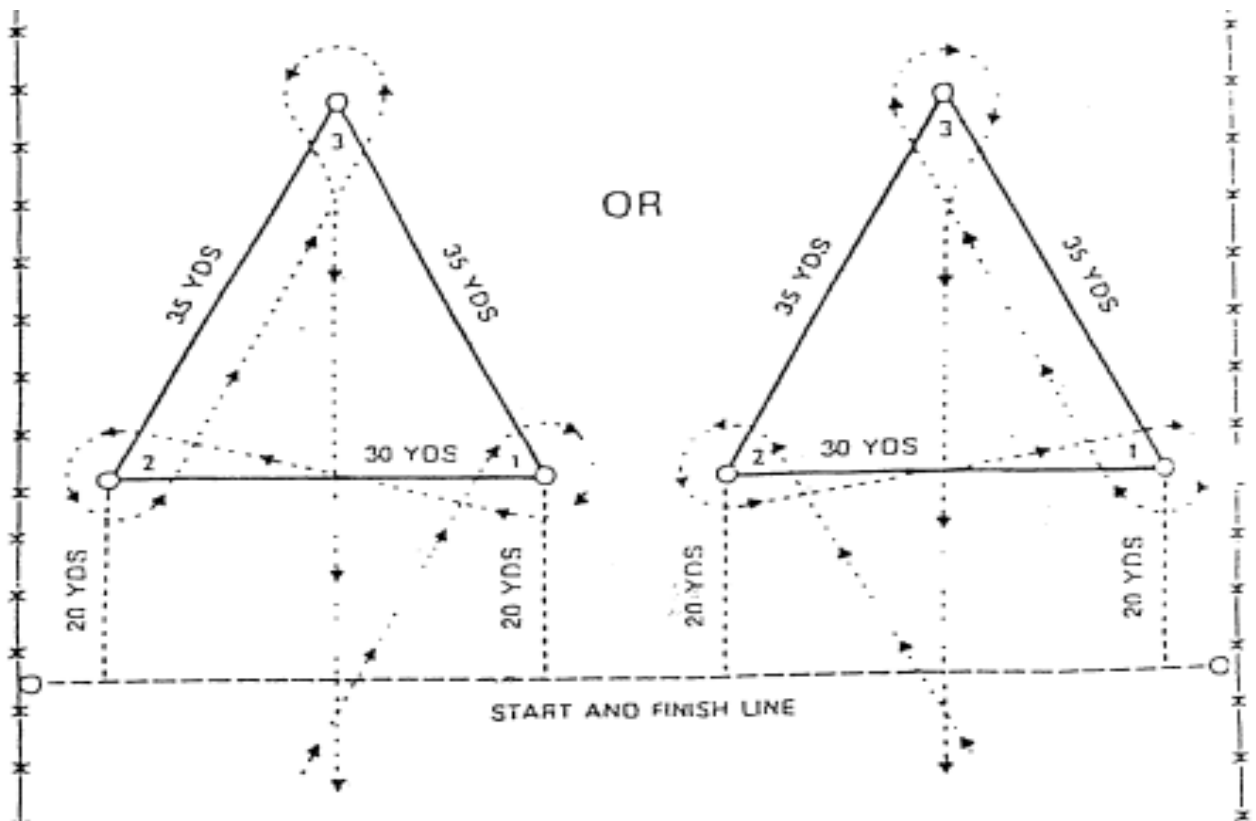
Level	Blue Danish	Red Danish	White Danish
Walk-trot	Less than 60 seconds	to 90 seconds	Over
Level 1	Less than 30 seconds	to 40 seconds	Over
Level 2	Less than 26 seconds	to 36 seconds	Over
Level 3	Less than 24 seconds	to 34 seconds	Over

Pole Bending:

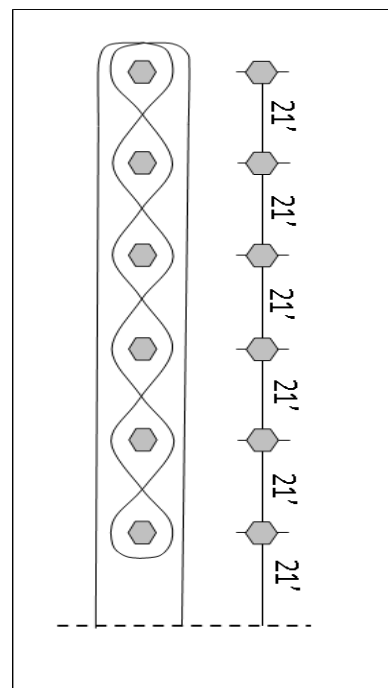
Level	Blue Danish	Red Danish	White Danish
Walk-trot	Less than 90 seconds	to 2 minutes	Over
Level 1	Less than 35 seconds	to 45 seconds	Over
Level 2	Less than 31 seconds	to 43 seconds	Over
Level 3	Less than 29 seconds	to 39 seconds	Over

Barrel Racing Pattern: If the course is too large for the available space, the pattern may be reduced in five (5) yard increments until it fits the arena. The distance between the barrels may be modified to ensure the barrels are at least 10 feet from the fence.

BARREL RACING PATTERN



POLE BENDING PATTERN



ENGLISH PERFORMANCE CLASSES

Members participating in any English classes are encouraged to attend a minimum of two (2) clinics.

ENGLISH PLEASURE

- Horses in the English Pleasure class will be shown at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring, except for Walk-Trot classes.
- The member and horse will be evaluated on appearance of a pleasurable united ride and controllability. Horses will be judged on manners, performance, and suitability for the class.
- Members may be required to reverse at the walk or trot at the discretion of the judge but shall not be asked to reverse at the canter.
- Horses will be asked to back up.

ENGLISH EQUITATION

- English Equitation is an evaluation based on the ability of a member to perform various maneuvers in harmony with his/her horse.
- The member's methods of achieving good horse performance are to be considered more important than the performance of the horse.
- Members will be judged on seat, hands, and the ability to show his/her horse to the best of its ability.
- Maneuvers may include:
 - Walk
 - Trot
 - Canter
 - Halt
 - Extended trot.
 - Change of diagonal
 - Turn on the forehand
 - Flying lead changes
 - Simple lead changes

ENGLISH EQUITATION OVER FENCES

- Must be approved by English Committee or have letter from their English trainer.
- The members will be judged on style over fences, even hunting pace, flat work, manners and way of going.
- Members and horses designated as walk-trot in other English classes may enter Level GP only.
- Age division members may enter any one of the levels.

Class routine

- The course will be posted prior to class.
- All fences are required to have wings and ground rails. A groundline is required for each jump.
- Horses are required to jump up to five (5) fences.
- Jumps do not have to be set on a line.
- If the jumps are set on a line, they must be set 60 feet apart.
- Each competitor must circle once before approaching the first obstacle then proceed around the course, keeping an even pace throughout the run.

- The judge may call members back for rail work.
- The member may jump two (2) consecutive levels: the lower level is for warm-up, while the more advanced level is for competition.

Level	Approach	Jump Height	Jump Type
GP	Walk or Trot	Ground Level	Ground Poles
I	Trot or Canter	18 inches	Both Cross rails
II	Trot or Canter	2 feet	Verticals
III	Canter	2 feet, 3 inches	Verticals
IV	Canter	2 feet, 6 inches	Verticals
V	Canter	2 feet, 9 inches	Verticals

The following will result in disqualification:

- Extra Circle
- Jumping an obstacle before it is reset.
- Bolting from the arena.
- Use of the crop in front of the girth.
- Fall of horse or member.
- A total of three (3) occurrences of disobedience which can include:
 - Refusal.
 - Stop.
 - Run out.

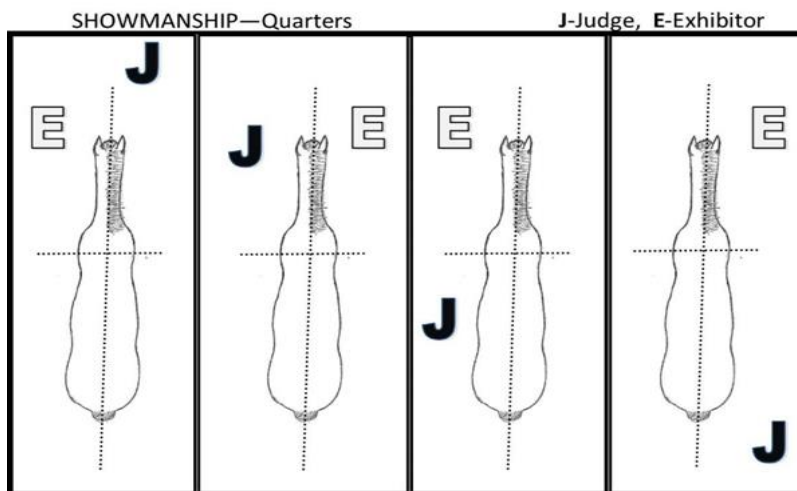
MINI HORSE CLASSES

Showmanship

- Members show in Western attire. Boots or closed-toed shoes are allowed.
- Halters may be leather, nylon or rope.
- Lead ropes may be leather, cotton or nylon.
- A chain on the lead rope is permitted, but only under the chin.
- Members will be judged on the fitting, grooming, training, and showing of their horses. The horse's conformation is not to be considered in the judging of the class.
- Fitting and Grooming - Hair coat should be clean and well-brushed. Mane, tail, and forelock should be clean and tangle-free. Hooves should be properly trimmed.
- Showmanship patterns will be posted half (½) an hour prior to the show.
- The half system will be used in exhibiting your horse.

Description:

- Members must always be on the opposite half of the horse from the Judge



Showmanship will be based on the following:

	Points
Appearance of Member	10
Appearance of Horse	40
Conditioning	15
Grooming of horse	15
Trimming	5
Tack	5
Showing of Horse in Ring	50
Leading	15
Posing	15
Poise, alertness, & merits	20

Jumping

- Courses will be posted 1 hour prior to the scheduled time of class.
- Course diagrams must show with arrows the direction each obstacle must be taken and markers or a line must indicate the start and finish of the course.
- The minimum age for a horse to enter jumper is 3 years old.
- The person showing a jumper cannot jump the course with the horse.
- Jumpers may show with braided manes and tails in the manner of their larger counterparts.
- All jumps used in performance classes must be collapsible.
- All ties will have a jump-off held over the original course. The heights of the jumps shall be increased not less than one inch and not more than six inches in height. The jump off will be timed by a stopwatch and the horse that has the fastest time and the fewest faults in the jump off round will be declared the winner. An elimination in a jump-off does not eliminate the horse from final placing.

Faults:

- Knockdowns, Refusals, and Circling

Disqualifications:

- Three (3) refusals, off course, fall of horse and/or member.

Jumps:

- There will be a minimum of four (4) fences and a maximum of six (6) fences.
- The fences can range in height from twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) inches.
- All jumps must be at least five (5) feet in width, no wider than six (6) feet, with a minimum of twenty (24) feet between jumps, with the exceptions of an in and out.
- All jumps must have a ground pole.
- Jump standards may not be higher than 40".
- In and out Jump is considered one obstacle and scored as such.
- Refusal of one element of an in and out requires the retaking of both elements.
- The distance between the two jumps in an In and Out should be 10-12 feet. In and out should never be the first jump in the course.

Liberty

Liberty demonstrates the natural beauty of the miniature horse. Horses are to be judged on style, grace, animation, gaits, presence, music suitability and ease of catching. Movement, action, carriage, charisma, boldness, enthusiasm, and exuberance will be the basis for judging the class.

- The Liberty class may only be offered at shows where facilities include a closed arena and where the conditions would not be hazardous to horse or member.
- All horses must be at least one year old.
- Only the member and one assistant will be allowed in the arena with the horse.
- Members and assistants should wear appropriate, tasteful attire. A safe costume or theme outfit is allowed for members and assistant only.
- The horse must be shown natural, no costume, no glitter, no ribbons.
- Music is required. The suitability of horse's movement to the chosen music must be evaluated.
- Whips and shaker bottles are allowed but touching the horse with aids or hands is not allowed.
- Timing will begin when the halter is dropped. The performance time is 1.5 minutes, with 1 1/2 minutes for the catch
- Horses should work both directions of the arena, use the entire arena and demonstrate an animated gallop and elevated trot. The duration of either gait is not critical as long as both gaits are well demonstrated.

- Horses which perform without encouragement, other than a signal to change direction, are highly preferred. Point deduction will be given for excessing chasing of horse.
- All horses and people outside the arena are expected to stay at least five (5) feet from the fence.
- No assistance from outside of the arena is allowed.

Disqualifications:

- Horse falls during performance
- Horse leaves the ring during competition or catch time

The standard AMHA scoring sheet should be used for judging Liberty classes.

A total of 100 possible points

	Points
Style and Grace	30
Animation and Presence	30
Gaits	20
Music and Suitability	10
Catch	10

Costume Class

- Costume classes are to be judged 75% on originality of costume and 25% on presentation.
- Horses are to be shown at a walk both ways of the arena and lined up in the middle of the arena for final judging. Costumes must be considered safe.

Obstacle Halter (In-hand trail)

- The pattern must be posted one (1) hour prior to the class.
- Obstacles shall simulate conditions normally encountered on a trail ride.
- There is a 60 second time limit to complete each obstacle. At the time limit, the member will be directed to the next obstacle. Three (3) refusals of the obstacles shall be cause for penalty points.
- A horse can only be shown by one (1) member per level/age group.
- Standard trail obstacles will be spaced 18-20 inches apart.
- Trot overs will be 15-18 inches apart.
- One (1) jump not over twelve (12) inches is permitted. Any obstacle that may be jumped must be spaced at least 20 feet.
- Suggested trail obstacles
 - Bridge.
 - Square.
 - Backing through "L."
 - Back around a barrel.
 - Mailbox.
 - Transfer item from one barrel to another.
 - Place a blanket on horses back.
 - Negotiate a gate.
 - Side pass either or both directions.
 - Put on a slicker

- Off course will result in a penalty. Off course is defined as:
 - Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.
 - Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side.
 - Skipping an obstacle unless given permission by Judge to proceed.
 - Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence.
- No physically moving or coercing the horse by touching.
- Attendants that are Seniors or older, may be allowed in the ring for safety purposes only. Attendants must not interfere with or influence a member's or equine's performance.

Pleasure Driving

- Members new to driving must be approved by the Mini Driving Committee prior to competing in any event.
- Members must have completed their second year in the 4-H Horse Project to participate in obstacle driving.
- For safety reasons miniature horses will stay in designated areas during the pleasure driving event.
- A horse can only be shown by one (1) member per level/age group.
- Horses must be at least three (3) years old for pleasure driving.
- Pleasure driving is to be shown in a two (2) wheel cart only. Bike tires or wooden wheels are permissible.
- Harness in the pleasure divisions must be of the light type. Breast collars or light collars are permissible, but no full harness allowed. Breeching is optional. Side or over-checks are required. Over-checks and side checks should be slightly loose, not snug. When shown the horse must have blinders (round or square) and the check must be hooked. No other appliances may be used on a driving horse other than the harness. Cavessons are allowed.
- Bits in the driving division shall be of the snaffle type. No Liverpool bits, curb chains, or curb straps are allowed. Martingales may or may not be used. Check bits may be used but are not required.
- Driving whips, if used, must be of suitable style and the tip of the lash must not reach past the shoulder of the horse.
- Pleasure driving horses are to enter the ring counterclockwise at a pleasure trot.
- Show both ways of the arena at:
 - Walk: A free, regular, and forward moving four (4) beat gait. The horse should walk energetically, but calmly, with an even and determined gait.
 - Pleasure Trot: A balanced, easy moving, relaxed two (2) beat gait, demonstrating forward movement.
 - Extended Trot: A clear increase in gait and length of stride. The horse should move freely on a taut, but light rein, while maintaining a balanced gait and forward movement.
 - To stand quietly and to rein back.
- Judged:
 - 60% on performance, manners, and way of going.
 - 30% on the conditions, fit and appropriateness of harness and vehicle.
 - 10% on neatness, appropriateness of attire and overall impression.
- The headset should appear natural for the horse.
- Excessive knee action and speed will be penalized.
- Cart must be driven by a single member unless the Council gives an exception.

Obstacle Driving

- Members new to driving must be approved by the Mini Driving Committee prior to competing in any event.
- Members must have completed their second year in the 4-H Horse Project to participate in obstacle driving.
- For safety reasons miniature horses will stay in designated areas during the pleasure driving event.
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- Bits in the driving division shall be of the snaffle type. No Liverpool bits, curb chains, or curb straps are allowed. Martingales may or may not be used. Check bits may be used but are not required.
- Driving whips, if used, must be of suitable style and the tip of the lash must not reach past the shoulder of the horse.
- There is a 60 second time limit to complete each obstacle. At the time limit, the member will be directed to the next obstacle.
- Cantering is penalized in obstacle driving.
- The obstacle course must be posted one (1) hour prior to the class. All obstacles must be numbered on the course in order of sequence.
- Must be a minimum of 5 maximum of 8 obstacles.
- Jumps, tires and stair steps are prohibited.
- Off course will result in penalty. Off course is defined as:
 - Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.
 - Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side.
 - Skipping an obstacle unless given permission by Judge to proceed.
 - Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence.
- Disqualifications
 - Three refusal or three off course
- Attendants that are Seniors and older, may be allowed in the ring for safety purposes only. Attendants must not interfere with or influence a member's or equine's performance.

Barrel Racing and Pole Bending

Barrels and poles are fun and competitive sports that stimulate excitement and a higher activity level amongst 4-H member. Even though they are timed events, emphasis is on safety.

- A separate horse may be used for barrel racing and pole bending.
- Western attire is required. Closed toes shoes are permitted (no slip-ons).
- The member is allowed a running start from inside the arena and must come to a complete stop before exiting the arena.
- Timing will begin as soon as the horse's nose reaches the starting line and will be stopped when the horse's nose passes over the finish line.
- Knocking over a barrel or pole carries a five (5) second penalty per barrel or pole.
- Failure to follow the course will disqualify the member.
- Member will be disqualified if he/she falls.

Award times for Barrel Racing

Junior and Intermediate:

- Blue: Less than 20 seconds.
- Red: 21 - 31 seconds.
- White: Over 31 seconds.

Senior:

- Blue: Less than 18 seconds.
- Red: 19 - 29 seconds.
- White: Over 29 seconds.

Award times for Pole Bending

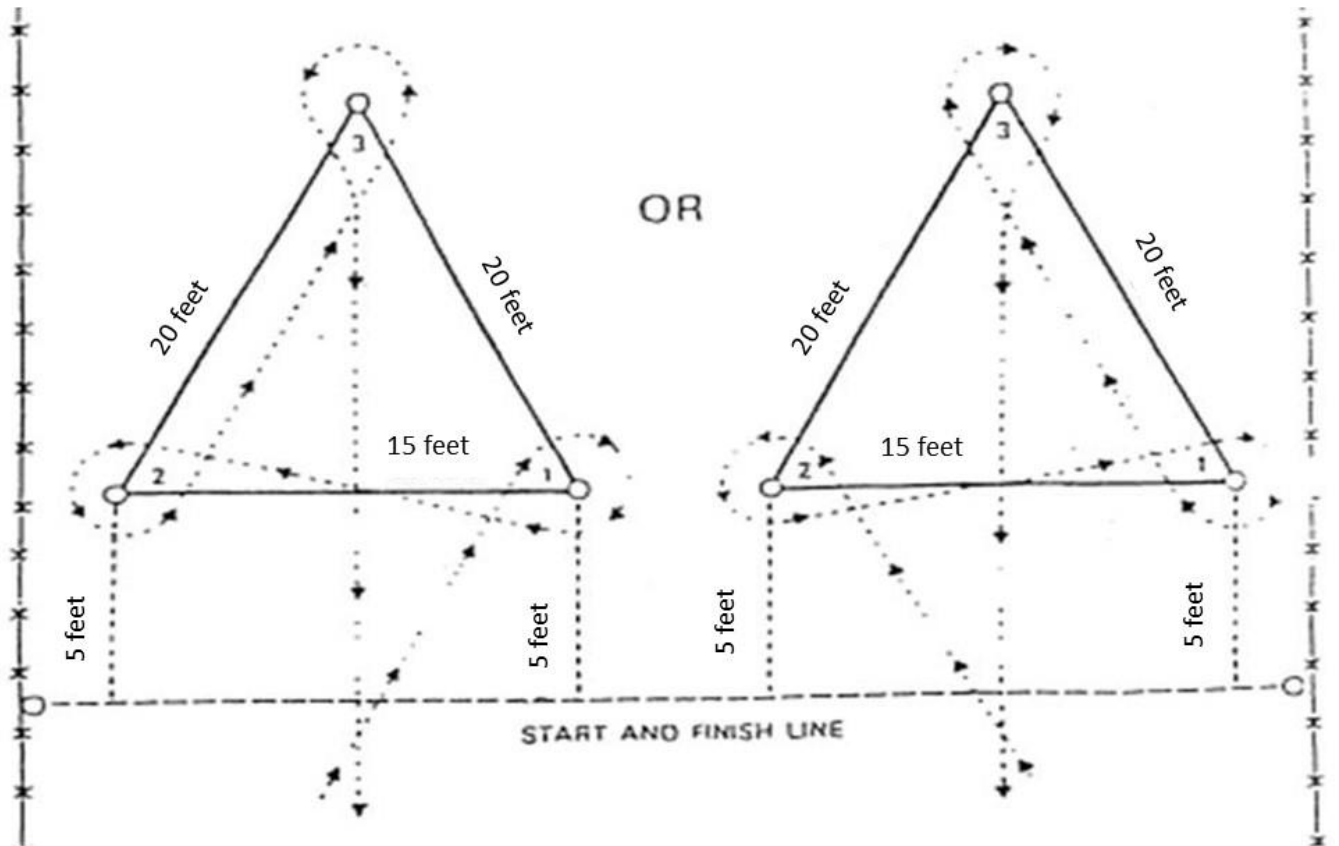
Junior and Intermediate:

- Blue: Less than 35 seconds.
- Red: 36 - 46 seconds.
- White: Over 46 seconds.

Senior:

- Blue: Less than 33 seconds.
- Red: 34-44 seconds.
- White: Over 44 seconds.

Mini Barrel Pattern



Mini Poles Pattern

