

**The Alaska 4-H  
Horse Rules Book  
for Shows and Activities**

This publication was adapted from the \_\_\_\_\_, PNW 574 (<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/PNW574/PNW0574.pdf>) by the Oregon/Washington/Idaho 4-H Horse Curriculum Team 2009 and the

# Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book

The rules contained in this book are 4-H policy for Alaska 4-H horse programs. 4-H events are provided for under the auspices of the state land-grant universities. All members, leaders, parents and judges should be aware of these rules when participating in 4-H activities, and it is expected that these rules be observed.

The \_\_\_\_\_ contains general rules and guidelines for competitive activities and other events in the 4-H horse program. Horse shows and other events help youth measure progress in knowledge and skill in horsemanship. They also provide opportunities to learn social skills and have fun.

Districts are bound by state rules, but they may be more restrictive. Districts should create rules and criteria for “district only” classes not addressed in this guide. This makes it easier for leaders to teach and judges to evaluate a member’s performance.

Failure to abide by rules in the \_\_\_\_\_ may result in dismissal from the show and/or forfeiture of all awards. In addition, any gross abuse of these rules could result in the removal of a 4-H member from the 4-H program.

In addition to this guide and information provided by local show committees, several other support publications are available. 4-H members, leaders and parents are strongly encouraged to read the following 4-H horse manuals before using this rule book to better understand the terminology and context of the information provided here. Additional resources are listed for those interested in related activities and opportunities. If any discrepancies exist between sources, this rule book takes precedence over all other material. For situations not covered in this rule book, current United States Equestrian Foundation (USEF) rules may be used as a reference.

## Additional 4-H Resources

\_\_\_\_\_, PNW 587  
\_\_\_\_\_, PNW 488  
\_\_\_\_\_, PNW 575  
\_\_\_\_\_, PNW 229  
\_\_\_\_\_, 4-H 1303  
PNW 608  
\_\_\_\_\_, EB 1613

## Non-4-H Resources

Members who wish to participate in open or breed shows should check appropriate show rules for tack, dress, and performance requirements.

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# Mission

As part of the 4-H Youth Development program, our mission is to use horses as the vehicle for members to practice life skills while learning about the equine industry and how to safely handle, ride, and manage their 4-H horse project.

4-H Motto: To Make the Best Better

4-H Pledge:

I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking,  
My HEART to greater loyalty,  
My HANDS to larger service,  
And my HEALTH to better living  
For my club, my community, my country, and my world.

# General Rules

1. Only 4-H members may ride, groom, school or handle a horse while on the show grounds. Novices and beginners may have assistance with saddling and bridling if needed. Anyone may have assistance for safety reasons.
2. No one is allowed to coach contestants while the contestants are in the show ring.
3. A horse not under control may be dismissed from the ring.
4. A visibly ill or unsound animal may be dismissed from participation by show personnel or at the judge's discretion.
5. The humane treatment of all animals is required. Exhibitors are expected to treat their animals with respect and to provide for their continuous well-being through proper feeding, handling, disease prevention, sanitation and attention to safety.
6. Horses may not be ridden double at any time.
7. Horses may not be ridden with halters only.
8. Horses may not be raced or run outside the arena and must be ridden at a walk outside the arena or designated practice area.
9. The arena is off-limits to everyone except working show personnel or during an emergency.
10. Approach the judge for information only, not to dispute placings, and only after judging is completed.
11. Show management or the judge reserves the right to dismiss any youth or party from any 4-H class or show for any misconduct, lack of sportsmanship or infractions of the rules. Exhibitors may forfeit all awards received in the class or at the show.

## Show Protocol

1. Members should be courteous and alert and follow instructions given by the judge or ring steward,



## Approaching the Judge

### Exhibitor

Y jkng"vjg"lwf igu" fgekukqp"ku" fpcn."gxgt{"gzjkdqvqt"\*rctgpv"qt"ngc fgt" oc{"dg"rtgugpv+."hqt"gfweckqpcn" purposes, should have an opportunity to approach or ask questions of a judge. The exhibitor should not cr rtqcej"vjg"lwf ig"wpvkn"chvgt"vjg" fpcn"encuu"qh"vjg"fc{"."qt"cu"qvjgt ykug"urgek f gf"d{"vjg"ujqy"eq o o kv- tee. The contestant should provide his or her exhibitor number and any score sheets he or she may have received, but photos or videos are not allowed. He or she should expect discussion or explanation on how to improve.

### Show Committee

It is the show committee's responsibility to provide an opportunity for exhibitors to approach judges.

This information will be relayed to exhibitors during the informational meeting or by other means.

Dghqtg"vjg"dg ikppki"qh"e"encuu"qt"ujqy."swgukqpu"cdqww"urgek f e"encuugu"qt"twngu"pggf"vq"dg"cf ftguugf"vq" CNN"gzjkdqvqtu."pqv"qpg"vq"qpg"Uj qy"eq o o kvvggu"pggf"vq"tg o g o dgt"vjcv"lwf igu" fgekukqpu"ctg" fpcn()

### Judge

Vjg"lwf ig"ujqwnf"eqp fto" ykvj"vjg"ujqy"eq o o kvvgg"qt"uwrgtkpvpgpfgpv" yjgp"swgukqpu" oc{"dg"cumgf"cpf" cpu ygtgf"cpf" yjgp"cp"gzjkdqvqt" oc{"cr rtqcej"vjg"lwf ig"Ukpeg"lwf igu" \_ O

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# Volunteer Policy on Animal Disease Diagnosis and Treatment

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from receiving instruction simultaneously from a professional trainer during that period. A professional trainer may ride a member's horse during the show season, but only if they are showing the member how to complete a maneuver. The riding may only be to train the member, not to train the horse.

## Replacement

If a member's project horse dies or is incapacitated due to injury or illness, a substitute horse may be used. Written approval for the substitute animal must be given by the member's leader or parent and the district agent, and must be approved by show management. A substitute horse may be shown at the district level but will not be allowed to be shown at the state fair or in medals classes. They will also not be eligible for overall or high points awards.

## Horseless Horse Project

A youth may choose to enroll in the Horseless Horse project. Cloverbud members (grades K-2) may also enroll in the Horseless Horse project, but may have NO contact with horses.

## Clothing and Equipment

Members and attendants should be neat, clean and dressed with hard-soled shoes or boots, long-sleeved (above the ankle) leather or leather-like riding shoes with heels. The boot must have an adequate heel to prevent it from moving forward through the stirrup. Exhibitors must be able to slide their boots out and move them freely in the stirrup.

Equipment must be safe, clean, properly adjusted and suitable for the class being shown. An exhibitor's hair must be worn in a net, braid(s) or other means to present a neat appearance and a clear view of the show number.

Variations in clothing and/or tack (including bandages on the horse) are permitted if there is a valid medical reason. However, a letter explaining the need for the variation, signed by the physician and/or veterinarian, must be presented to the show managers prior to the start of the show.

### The 4-H Equestrian Headgear Policy

4-H members participating in any 4-H equestrian activity must wear an approved helmet whenever they are mounted on an equine or are in a vehicle (cart, wagon, buggy, etc.) being pulled by an equine. This applies to all activities conducted under the auspices of a 4-H-sponsored program or activity. The only exception to this is vaulting, where a helmet is not required as long as the vaulting sessions are conducted in accordance with the vaulting rules as set forth in the

. An approved helmet meets the minimum performance standards imposed by the C o g t k e c p " U q e k g v { " h q t " V g u v k p i " O c v g t k e n u \* C U V O + " H 3 3 8 5 " c p f " k p e n w f g u " e g t v k f e c v k q p " c p f " n c d g n k p i " t g - s w k t g f " d { " v j g " U c h g v { " G s w k r o g p v " K p u v k v w v g \* U G K + 0 " V j g " j g n o g v " o w u v " d g " r t q r g t n { " f v g f " y k v j " v j g " j c t p g u u " engaged and properly fastened. It is recommended that 4-H'ers wear their ASTM/SEI helmets any time they are around their horse. The rules in this book, including this helmet policy, apply to all youth and adults while participating in a 4-H-sponsored event or activity.

## Western Clothing and Equipment

Western clothing and equipment is appropriate in western classes including — but not limited to — trail, western equitation, showmanship, ground training, driving and bareback.

- Long-sleeved western shirt with collar or jacket with collar; shirt tucked in; sleeves rolled down
  - Jeans, trousers or western pants
  - Belt, unless loops are covered with another garment (except in games)
  - Western boots
  - ASTM-SEI equestrian-approved helmet
- 
- Vest, jacket, coat, sweater and/or jacket with collar
  - Gloves
  - Ties, pins
  - Chaps (Chaps may not be allowed in bareback equitation at the district's discretion. If disallowed, it must be so stated in the individual district's show rules.)
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- Chaps in showmanship
  - Whips or crops, except for games
  - Spurs in showmanship or driving

## **Saddle and Pad**

Cinch is used, it should be adjusted close to the horse and must be attached to the front cinch with a connecting strap. If the cinch pin is not being used, it should be removed. Any clean saddle pad, blanket preference by the judge. Tapaderos (stirrup covers) are not allowed.

## **Bridle**

The position of the hand not used for reining is optional, but it should be kept free from the horse and saddle and held in a relaxed manner.

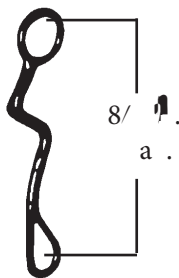
Y jgp"vjg"gpfu"ctg"jgnf"ykvj"urnkv"tgkpu"cpf"cewtd."vjgtg"ctg"pq"İpigtu"cmnqygf"dgvyggp"vjg"tgkpu0"Vjg" ends of the reins are usually held on the rider's thigh with about 16 inches of rein between the two hands as if holding a romal.

Y jgp"cdqucn"qt"upchEg"dkv"ku"wugf."vyq"jcpfu"owuv"dg"wugf0"Urnkv"tgkpu"ujqwnf"dg"jgnf"d{"etquukpi"vjg" reins between hands so that both hands are holding both reins. Closed reins are allowed with a bosal.

To mount with romal reins, double the end in the left hand. After mounting, slide the bight under the rein hand to the opposite side. For a brief dismount, romal reins need not be taken down; the romal part may be looped behind the horn. Both split reins, or the near rein only, may be taken down. Never let go of the reins.

### Bit

Oquv"v{rgu"qh"yguvgt"dkvu"ctg"ceegrvcng0"Ogejcpkecn"jcemc oqtgu."fqwdng"yktg"upchEgu."unkr"cpf"ici" bits are NOT allowed, except in games. Overall bit length, as measured in the picture below, can be no longer than eight and one-half inches. Curb straps must be plain leather or chains at least one half inch ykfg"cpf"owuv"nkg"Ecvc"ickpuv"vjg"lcy0"Tqmgf"ngcvjgt"uvtrru"ctg"wpceegrvcng0"Tghgt"vq"vjg"icogu"ugevkqp" for gaming bit criteria.



**The correct measure of overall bit length is a vertical line from the upper-most part of headstall slot to the center of the rein ring.**

Horses six years of age and older should be ridden in a proper curb bit, unless the rider is exercising the öitggp"jqtug"qrvkqp÷"\*ugg"dgngqy+0"Jqtugu"İxg"{gctu"qh"ci g"cpf"{qwpigt"oc{"dg"tkffgp"kp"c"upchEg"qt"

## Junior Horse Option

Vjku"qr vkqp"ku" hqt o " o g o dgtu" y j q"ctg

"

"



## Bridle and Bit

full double bridle or any other English-type bit appropriate for the seat may be used. Double-twisted wire and gag bits are not allowed.

## Optional Tack and Equipment

Breastplates or breast collars and saddle pads are optional. Martingales and any type of boots are not







Horses may be shown in a halter or show bridle when appropriate to breed and/or attire.

### **Class Procedure**

Enter the arena as directed by the judge, ring steward or announcer. Keep at least one horse length behind the horse in front of you. If necessary, pass on the inside and return to the rail. The exhibitor



vers (or to smooth the mane or forelock). This means you must not touch your horse when asking for a haunch turn or back, nor pet the horse until the class is dismissed.

## Judging Requirements

Horses should be well-groomed, clean and clipped according to breed. The horse should also be well trained to the required routine and well-mannered so that it will stand quietly, but alertly, while in the class.

Exhibitors will be asked to demonstrate their ability to lead, turn, set up, and move their animals as the judge requests. Additional tests may be asked.

The following principles always apply:

- The exhibitor shall not stand directly in front of the horse.
- The quartering system is required.
- Horses may be shown, trimmed and groomed according to breed type.
- The exhibitors shall not touch the horse except when executing a requested test that allows such touch (for example, side pass and turn on the forehand) and to smooth the mane or forelock if the judge's inspection has disturbed the grooming.

## Tests

See Appendix A, page 35.

## Equitation

### Scoring

100 points total

Clothing, equipment, courtesy, poise .....	15%
Seat, posture, head, legs, hands, balance, distribution of weight, aids .....	35%
Uvcpfkpi."uvctvkpi." ycnmkpi."lqi ikpi"qt" rquvkpi"vtqv." ħ i wtg": "qt"gs w kxcngpv"cv"nqrg"qt"ecpvgt" from walk, stopping, turning, backing, general control.....	50%

The horse should do what the rider asks with the least possible effort on the part of the rider and with the least amount of resistance from the horse.

Gaited horses that pace, slow gait, fox trot, singlefoot, rack or perform a running walk may be worked with the class, adjusting their speed to conform to the other horses. When riders are asked to post the trot on the rail or in a pattern, the intermediate gait is acceptable if that is the breed standard. However, if all other aspects of the performance are equal, a rider posting correctly will be given preference.



jump, preferably not a jump on the course or inside the arena or pattern area. The number of times a

The course will consist of 6 to 12 jumps, performed at the canter, with at least one change of direction. The judge may ask the class to do rail work at the walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring.

The rider will be allowed to circle one time before starting the course. A refusal will be called when



tion on how to ride the test and how the test is to be judged can be found in the PNW 608.

Danish ribbons should be awarded based on the following breakdown of ride scores:

65.000% and higher .....	Purple
55.000% – 64.999% .....	Blue
50.000% – 54.999% .....	Red
49.000% and lower .....	White

## **Trail**

The trail class is an under-saddle mounted test of horse control and the rider's ability to guide the horse through a series of obstacles. The course must be safe for horse and rider. The obstacles may be progressively harder for each ability level.

The course should not be spread out over a very large area; obstacle spacing must allow the horse to move easily between obstacles with no wasted time. The course should be designed to be completed in

**Table 2. Mandatory Dimensions of Trail Obstacles**

<b>Walk / trot / lope-overs</b>	Maximum height 16 inches
Single poles	Maximum height 10 inches
Multiple poles	Set 20–24 inches apart for walk-over
	3 to 3.5 feet apart for the jog
	6 to 7 feet apart for the lope/canter
	Spoke style should be set 24 inches apart halfway out from center
	No rolling poles allowed
<b>Back-throughs</b>	
On ground	Minimum of 28 inches wide
Elevated	Minimum of 30 inches wide
Barrels	Minimum of 32 inches wide
	Novices and beginners: straight back only
<b>Sidepass</b>	
Single pole up to 24 inches high	Space between poles, minimum of 24 inches
	Novices and beginners not to sidepass
<b>Serpentines (jog-arounds)</b>	
	Pylons 6 feet apart (base to base) minimum
	Guardrails 3 feet to either side of pylons
	Pylons 3 feet apart (base to base) minimum
	Guardrails 6 to 8 feet to either side of pylons
	If tall standards are used, dimensions can be looser
<b>Gate</b>	
	Latching between 54 and 60 inches
	Minimum of 48 inches wide
	Rope gates allowed ONLY in absence of standard gate
	Novices don't open and close/beginners open but don't close
<b>Bridge or plank</b>	
" "	Minimum of 36 inches wide for a bridge
	Okp o w o "qh"34"kp e j gu" y k f g" hqt" rncpm" rnceg f"Æcv"

## Driving

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pieces of equipment:

- Overcheck or sidecheck
- Running martingale
- Kicking strap (recommended)
- Support boots, quarter boots, splint/brushing boots

## **Whip**

A driving or buggy whip is required and should be carried in the right hand. A longeing type whip is not permitted.

## **Safety**

Any entry the judge feels is unsafe may be dismissed, whether due to turnout or behavior of the animal. Management should permit only the number of entries that can be shown safely at one time for the size

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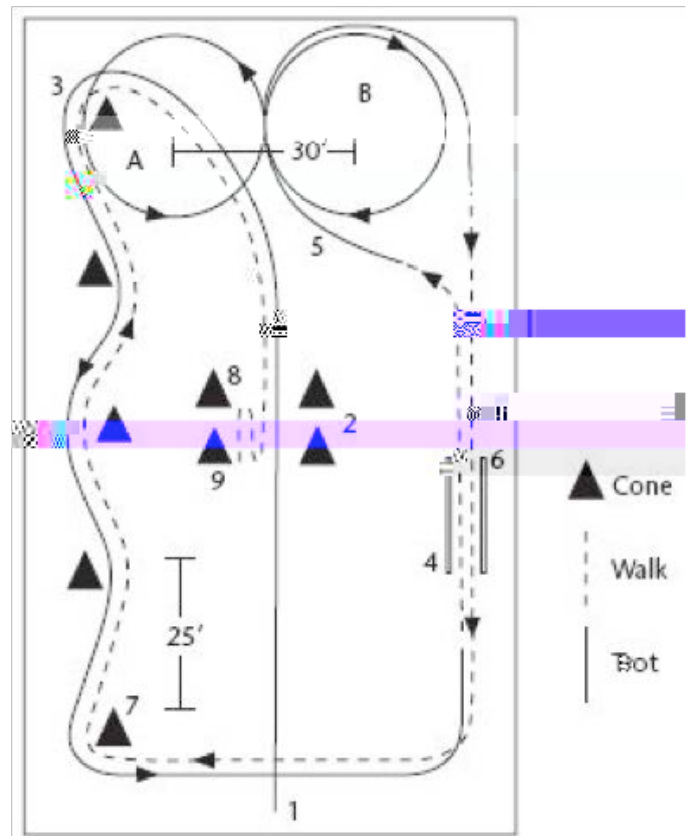
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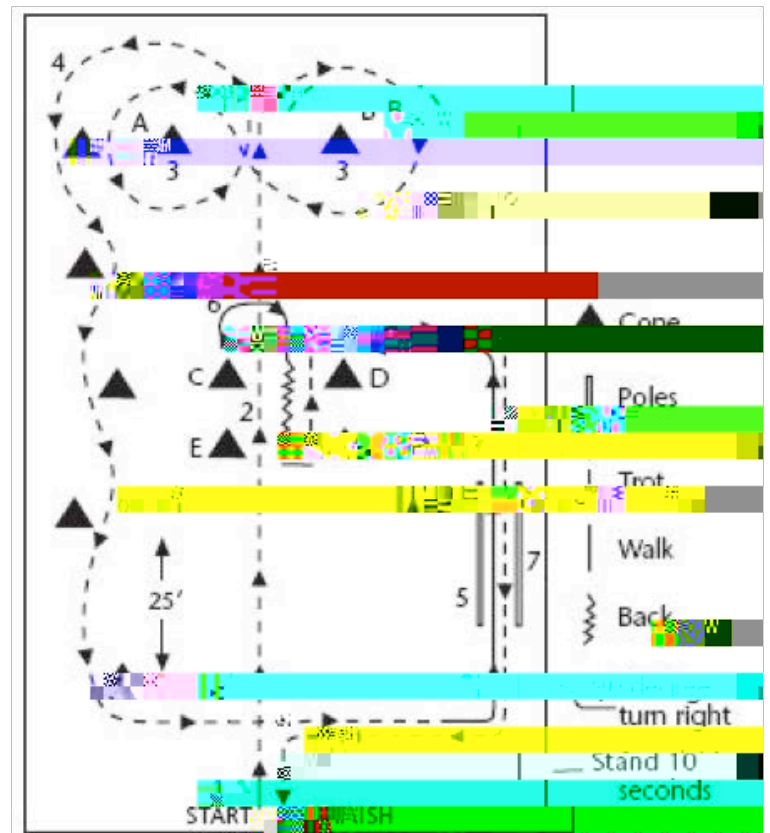


## Precision Driving Courses (Suggestions Only)

1. Enter at a trot.
2. Trot through a 10-foot square (four cones).
- 50" Vtqv" c" ugrgpvkpg" qh" ħ xg" eqpgu" \*47" hggv" apart).
4. Walk with right wheel(s) between poles (6–8 inches apart).
- 70" Vtqv" c" ħ i wtg" : "\*cv" ngcu" 52" hggv" ctqwpf" "C" and B).
6. Walk with left wheel(s) between poles.
7. Walk a serpentine.
8. Walk into square, stop with front wheels between front cones, back up four steps, and return to forward position.
9. Stand quietly until dismissed by the judge or ringmaster.



1. Enter at a trot.
2. Trot through two pairs of cones (CDEF, 10-foot square).
- 50" Vtqv" c" ħ i wtg" : "\*D." v j gp" C+0
- 60" Vtqv" c" ugrgpvkpg" qh" ħ xg" eqpgu" \*47" hggv" apart).
5. Walk with right wheel(s) between poles (6–8 inches apart).
6. Walk to the top of the cone square. Halt with cone C on your left, facing the serpentine. Pivot 90 degrees to the right. Back into the square, between cones C and D, until the cart is between E and F. Halt and stand 10 seconds. Trot back forward through the box.
7. Trot with left wheel(s) between poles and exit.





## General Rules

1. There shall be four (4) divisions of medals classes:

Bronze

Silver

Gold

Supreme

2. Members may ride either horses or ponies. If entries warrant, the divisions may be divided into horse and/or pony.

50" O g f c n u " e n c u u g u " u j c m n " d g " q h h g t g f " k p " y g u v g t p " g s w k v c v k q p . " j w p v " u g c v " g s w k v c v k q p " q p " v j g " E c v . " j w p v " u g c v " g s w k

## Required Scores

To be awarded a medal, the rider must score the following for each medal:

- Bronze: 90% or higher
- Silver: 95% or higher
- Gold: 98% or higher
- Supreme: Perfect ride

To be awarded the supreme medal the rider must ride each of the tests listed below and must make a perfect ride. One mistake is allowed, but it must be either immediately corrected or the rider may choose to continue through the test and reride the mistake at the end of the performance. Two mistakes will dismiss the rider from the class. Time limit is 10 minutes.

## Class Procedure

1. Every medal class must include rail work and individual pattern work. Rail work shall be asked for prior to the individual work. A minimum of once around the arena at each gait in both directions is required.
2. Patterns for each medal class must be designed by the judge. The pattern may include any of the tests listed for that particular medal, but must include the required elements, as listed below.
3. Class patterns shall be posted at least one hour prior to the start of the medal class.
4. Class instructions will be publicly announced.
5. The same pattern shall be required of each participant riding for the same level medal in a show.
6. The judge shall not confer with a rider individually once the patterns have begun.

## Required Elements

The test numbers listed are those listed in Appendix A and Appendix B (pages 35 and 36) of this book for each discipline

<b>Bronze Western Equitation</b> Tests 3-12 Must include tests 7, 8, 9, 11	<b>Bronze Hunt Seat Equitation on the Flat</b> Tests 3-12 Must include tests 7, 8, 10, 11	<b>Bronze Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences</b> Flat requirements plus complete a Beginner course of 6 fences	<b>Bronze Saddle Seat Equitation</b> Tests 1-7 Must include tests 2, 5, 7	<b>Bronze Showmanship</b> Tests 1-7 Must include tests 1, 4, 7
<b>Silver Western Equitation</b> Tests 3-				

## Ground Training

The intent of ground training is for a 4-H member to demonstrate training techniques and accomplishments with his/her young horse. ALL training is to be done by the 4-H member, although he may receive training advice. Training by others, including other 4-H members, makes the animal ineligible for this class.

Ground training is open to weanlings, yearlings and two-year-olds. Animals over six months of age must

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## General Rules

Standard 4-H western or English clothing and tack are required but must be consistent with style; i.e., a western bridle cannot be used with an English saddle. Belts are optional. Regardless of the style, the shirt being worn must be long-sleeved with buttons or snaps, fastened. Bridles must have a throat latch. Running martingales with rein stops, standing martingales, tie-downs used with breast collars, nosebands, splint boots, bell boots, bandages, mechanical hackamores and gagbits are permitted; whips under 36 inches, bats, quirts, crops and over-and-unders are allowed. Reins must be one piece or knot-vg f0"Ogecvg"tgkpu"ctg"pqv"cnng y g f0"Tkfgtu" y knn"dg"fkuswcnk l g f"kh"v j g"lwf i g"eqpukfgtu"gs wkr o gpv"kpj w o cpg" or dangerous, or if equipment breaks and the rider is unable to safely continue without repairs.

Bats, spurs and over-and-unders will be open to inspection by the judges. Spurs, if worn, must be consistent with equipment style (i.e., western/English) and used properly. Should these items be found to be abusive by nature (such as pronged, weighted or cutting), they shall be banned from use. No warning will be required.

Plastic 55-gallon barrels are recommended. Eight to twelve pounds of water or clean dry sand is tgeq o o gpf g f"cu"cp"cr rtrtkcvg" l nngt" o cvgtkn0"Ogvn"dcttgnu"ctg"uvtqpin{ "fkueqwtc i g f0"Kh"pq"qv j g"cn-ternative exists, metal barrels must have a protective material (a rubber bicycle tire) placed around the upper, outermost portion of the rim where the barrel could come into contact with the rider's lower leg.

Poles will be one to one and one-half inches in diameter and 75–85 inches tall. Poles may be white qt"uvtkr g f."fgrgp f kpi"qp"v j g"gxgpv"cpflqt"ukvwcvkqp0"Uvtkr g f"rqngu"ujqwnf"jcxg"v y q"5/kpej"uvtkr gu<" l tuv"uvtkr g."3"hqqv"htq o "vqr"cpf"v j g"ugeqpf"uvtkr g"3"hqqv"htq o" l tuv"uvtkr g0"Cm"rqngu"o wuv"dg" o c f g"qh" o cvgtkch"





- In all events the ring crew resets downed equipment or repairs lines after a rider has completed the course.
- Raking will be done as needed but must be consistent within each age division.

Eqcej kpi "cu" fg lpgf "d{ "ujqy" o cpc i g o gpv" cpf" cv" vjg" lwf i gùu" fkuetgvkqp" ku" pqv" cmqy g f0" kv" ku" kpcr r tqr tk-  
ate for ring help, announcer, timers, etc., to coach, encourage or comment to or about exhibitors on the  
course.

- When a line is used, it means a white line.
- Districts may choose to use two poles or cones, 30 feet apart (60 feet apart in the case of barrels) to  
fguk i pcvg" vjg" uvctv/ l pku j "nkp g0" C" j qtug" o wuv" r cuu" dg v y ggp" vjgug" r qng u" qt" eqpgu" cv" vjg" uvctv" cpf" l pku j "  
of each event. When a line is used, it will run the width of the arena and be a minimum of 60 feet  
from the end of the arena.
- Course measurement is made from the center of the poles, barrels, containers, or other arena equip-  
ment.

É" V k o gtu" ctg" rncegf" qp" vjg" uvctv/ l pku j "nkp g0

*Rgpcmvkgu" cpf" I gpgt cn" Fkuswcnk t ecvkqpu*

There will be a 5-second penalty for each stake, pole, barrel or small container knocked down.

Passing any obstacle is acceptable as long as the mistake is corrected and the balance of the course is run correctly.

Intentionally righting a pole is allowed with no penalty.

Fkuswcnk t ecvkqpu" kpenwfg" vjg" hqnnqy kpi <

- Failure to enter the arena mounted
- Failure to cross the start line within 60 seconds from the time the gate opens

É" W rugv kpi " vjg" uvctv/ l pku j " o ctmg tu

É" Etquukpi " vjg" uvctv/ l pku j "nkp g" qwvukfg" qh" vjg" uvctv/ l pku j "nkp g" o ctmg tu

- Run-outs

É" Tghwucnu" \*C" dcnm" ku" pqv" eqpukfgtgf" c" tghwucn" kh" vjg" j qtug" l pcm { " l pku j gu" vjg" eqwtug" eqttgevn {0+

- Leaving the course
- Failure to follow the pattern for the event
- Passing any obstacle completely on the wrong side

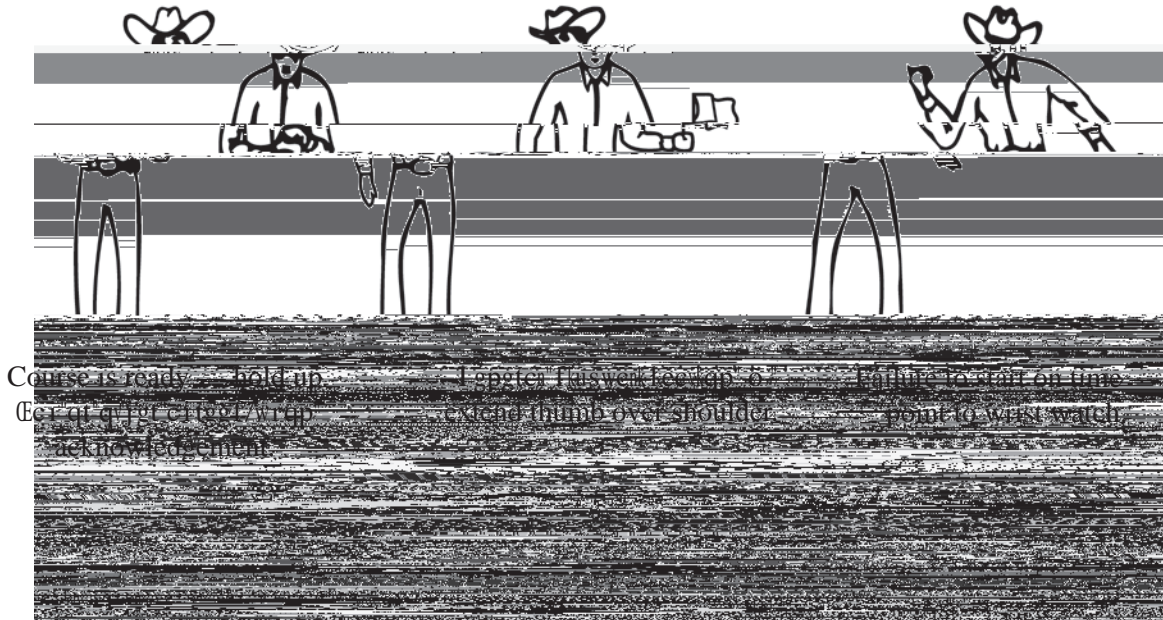
É" Ektenkpi " cp { " qduvceng" y jkng" qp" eqwtug. "gzegr v" Ec i " tcegu" cpf" qv jgt" eqpvckpgt" gxgpvu

- Failure to keep all four feet of the horse from crossing a lane line at the same time.
- Failure to keep all four feet of the horse inside the run-out box
- Unruly or out-of-control horse
- Spurring or striking the horse in front of the cinch
- Striking the horse with arena equipment
- Failure to acknowledge the judge before and after the run

Show management or the judge may disqualify a rider for unsportsmanlike conduct, profanity, unnecessary roughness, abusing the horse and disorderly conduct of any kind. The judge may also disqualify an unmanageable horse for reasons of safety or the exhibitor's inability to handle or control the horse.

## Hand Signals for Judging

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Striking ahead of cinch — jab  
 thumb into side.

Leaving the course —  
 make horizontal circular  
 motion.

Striking the horse with arena  
 equipment — slap thigh.

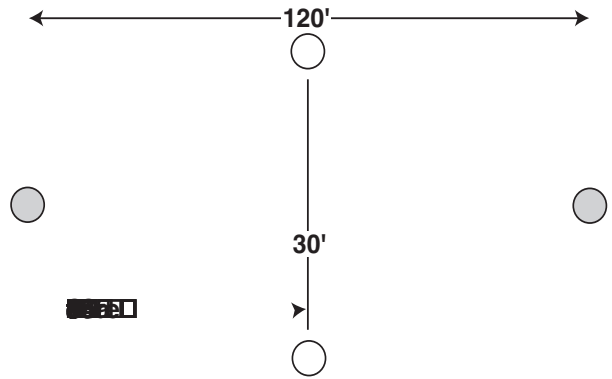
Five-second penalty — raise  
 jcpf"ykvj"ixg"ipigtugzvgpfgf0"  
 Repeat to show 10, 15 or more  
 seconds.

Safe or clean run — extend  
 both hands palms down and  
 arm's length in front and make  
 a back and forth motion.

Unnecessary roughness or  
 abusing the horse — point  
 both thumbs to the ribs.

### Figure 8 Stake Race

Four poles are to be used: two set 120 feet apart at opposite ends of the course, and two center poles set 30 feet apart at a point halfway between the two end poles. These two center poles y kmn" o ctm" v j g" uvctv" cpf" ħ pku j " nkpgu0" Tkfgt" v j gp" uvctvu" dgvy ggp" v y q" egpvgt" r qngu" cpf" twpu" c" ħ i wtg" : "ctqwpf" v j g" v y q" gpf" r qngu" y kv j " v j g" ħ tuv" vwtp" being optional. Riders may start from either end of the course but may NOT turn a pole on the course before crossing the start line. There is a 5-second penalty for knocking down a pole.



## Key Race

---

Four white poles, striped or covered with a 48-inch red sleeve, are  
rncegf"7"hggy"crctv"cv"vjg"

## Keyhole Race

---

The rider crosses the starting line, travels 100 feet into a 20-foot-diameter circle marked with white line marker, turns the horse and returns across the starting line. All four of the horse's feet must stay within the circle.



# Herdsmanship

When Stabling is Available

# Appendix A

## Showmanship Tests from Which the Judge May Choose

	Test	Ability Level
1.	Back horse. To be executed without touching horse and without changing hands	All levels
2.	Lead at the walk or trot	All levels
	----- From either side	Int/Adv
3.	Pick up the feet front	All levels
	----- Pick up the feet back	Int/Adv
4.	Stop and set up, square and balanced, or according to breed standard. Do not change hands to set up	All levels
5.	Answer questions from project materials on parts of the horse, the use of grooming tools, or other horse-related subjects	All levels
6.	Cpu ygt"urgek 1e"swgukqpu"qp"itqq okpi "cpf"ujqykpi "qh"urgek 1e" breeds of horses	All levels
7.	Perform a circle at walk	Nov/Beg
	----- Perfrm a circle at trot	Int/Adv
8.	Sidepass. Exhibitor may touch horse	Int/Adv
9.	Turn on haunches (forward motion preferred)	Int/Adv
10.	Turn on forehand (forward motion preferred). Exhibitor may touch horse	Int/Adv
11.	Change horses. This may be used only after the exhibitor has demonstrated the same test with his/her own horse.	Adv

# Appendix B

## Equitation Tests from Which the Judge May Choose

Test	Stock Seat				Hunt Seat				Saddle Seat		
	Nov	Beg	Int	Adv	Nov	Beg	Int	Adv	Beg	Int	Adv
1. Address (pick up) reins									X	X	X
2. Feet disengaged from stirrups, feet engaged (in lineup only)										X	X
3. Walk, trot/jog, halt	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4. Back a designated number of steps	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5. Figure 8 at trot/jog, demonstrating correct change of diagonals when appropriate	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
6. Answer questions from project materials	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7. Serpentine at trot/jog, demonstrating correct change of diagonals when appropriate		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
8. Figure 8 at lope/canter with simple change of lead at change of direction			X	X			X	X		X	X
9. Balanced stop from a canter/lope			X	X			X	X		X	X
10. Change diagonals down center of ring or on the rail							X	X		X	X
11. Ride without stirrups/irons and drop and pick up stirrups/irons			X	X			X	X			X
12. Mount/dismount			X	X			X	X			
13. Serpentine at lope/canter, showing simple change of lead at each change of direction			X	X			X	X			X
14. Demonstrate extended gaits											



# Appendix C

## District Option Classes

Fkvtkevu" jcxg"vjg"qrvkqp"qh"cf fkp i "encuugu"vq" 1 v"vjg"pggfu"qh"tkfgtu"kp"vjgkt"fkvtkevu0"Twngu"hqt"vjgug" classes should be included in the entry information for the show. Sources for rules may be found in the current USEF or breed association rule books.

In addition to the classes listed below, other classes may include working hunter, bridle path hack, lead-line, costume, versatility, freestyle, adult/parent class, jumping and western dressage. Pleasure classes

Commands used must be appropriate for the ability level of the riders being judged. All assistants and the judge should agree on an established procedure for calling faults, such as the number of steps or strides permitted in transitions, the number of feet which move at a halt, etc. Tack and appointments may be either western or English. See the appropriate sections for details.

## **Western Pleasure**

This class will be judged on the performance of the horse. Horses are shown at a walk, jog and lope on a reasonably loose rein without undue restraint. Horses must work both ways of the ring at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability with different leads. Horses may be required to reverse at the walk or jog and may be required to go from any gait to any other gait at the discretion of the judge. For the safety of the contestants, a reverse at the lope shall not be called. An extended lope will not be called. Horses may

## Western Riding

This class is a competition in the performance of a sensible, well-mannered, free-and-easy-moving ranch horse, which can get its rider around on the usual ranch chores and over the trails, and will give a quiet, comfortable and pleasant ride in open country over obstacles. Special emphasis shall be given to the rider's methods used in obtaining the horse's performance. The horse will be judged on riding quality and smoothness of gaits, changes of leads, response to rider, manners, disposition and intelligence. Scoring will be based on performance and on conformation. Entrants shall follow the exact pattern as illus-

1. Run at speed to the far end of the arena past end marker and do a left rollback, no hesitation.
2. Run to opposite end of the arena past end marker and do a right rollback, no hesitation.
3. Run past center of the arena, do a sliding stop, back straight to the center of the arena. Hesitate.
4. In the center of the arena, complete four spins to the right.
5. Complete four and a quarter spins to the left so that the horse is facing the wall or the fence. Hesitate.
6. Begin on left lead and complete two circles to the left:  
 v j g" 1 tuv"ekteng"u o cmm"cpf"unq y."v j g"ugeqpf"ekteng"nct i g"  
 and fast.
7. Change leads at the center of the arena.  
 :0" Eq o r n g v g"v y q"ektengu"v q"v j g"tk i j v<"v j g" 1 tuv"ekteng"u o cmm"  
 and slow, the second circle large and fast.
- 9.

# Appendix D

## Information for Show Management

### **Show Management**

It is the show management's responsibility to operate 4-H horse shows. Show management will be selected at the district level for district and local shows. In statewide events, show management will be selected by the Cooperative Extension Service with recommendations from the State Horse Development Committee.

When management must choose between equitation classes and pleasure classes, equitation classes should take priority over pleasure classes. For example: Western equitation and bareback equitation must be offered before western pleasure. Saddle seat equitation or hunter seat equitation must be offered before English pleasure.

Times for over fence (O/F) practices shall be posted and offered at each show where O/F classes are included. This will be the only time that O/F practices will be allowed on show days.

It is recommended that all shows, if entries warrant, offer at least two equitation classes and one showmanship class.

Shows must carry liability/accident insurance. Information about accident and liability insurance can be

### **Class Divisions**

It is recommended that no more than 9 to 12 exhibitors should be in any one equitation class. Larger classes should be divided. Showmanship classes may be larger, but age and attention span should be taken into consideration when determining class sizes. Classes having two or fewer participants may be combined with other classes or canceled with concurrence of exhibitors at show management's discretion. In combined classes, exhibitors would still be judged at their appropriate level.

### **General Rules for a Good Horse Show**

Start on time.

- " Ocmg"uwtg"vjg"ujqy"qrgtcvgu"cpf"uvctu"qp"vk o g"cpf"twpu"gh f ekgpvn {0  
Smile and have a grand time.  
Make sure that show management is knowledgeable of the rules.  
Remember to thank your volunteers.

## Grievances and Protests

Kh"c"ukvwcvkqp"ecppqv"dg"fgekfgf"ko o gfkcvgn{"d{"vjg"ujqy"uvgyctf."c"i tkgxcpeg" o c {"dg"Ingf"kp"y tkvki "  
within 12 hours of the protest cause. The protest shall be acted upon by the rules committee. Any person connected with the show, including exhibitors, parents, leaders and volunteers, may protest any aspect of the show that is perceived to be a violation of the rules.

A judge's decision represents his or her individual preference and is not protestable unless it is alleged to be in violation of the rules.

At no time shall anyone assisting with the show be interrupted or interfered with in any manner. Show management shall refer all questions and/or protests to the show steward. Dismissal of a horse or rider from the show shall be referred to the rules committee.

It is recommended that, if possible, the rules committee settle questions immediately to 1) foster the

6. Inform participants ahead of time of any special show requirements.
7. Work with show secretaries to keep accurate record of points gained by youth for calculation of high point awards, medals eligibility and other special awards.
8. Stand behind show personnel in the administration of their duties.
9. Refer any problems and protests to the show steward.
10. Secure ribbons and trophies well ahead of the show date.
11. Start on time, keep the show moving, allow for adequate breaks and quit at a reasonable time.
12. Be courteous and “keep your cool.”
13. Have documentation available for future planning meetings. This documentation should include:
  - a. Number of youth at each level participating in each event.
  - b. Ribbon colors handed out at each event.
  - c. A budget summary with income and costs.
  - d. Receipts for reimbursement.
  - e. Comments and recommendations.
14. Send thank you notes to all the volunteers who helped.
15. Insure that the show is fun, safe and educational and that it is for the kids.

### Care of volunteers

C"y gnm/twp"ujqy"tgs wktgu" ocp{"j c p f u 0"V j g"q p n{"

## Announcer

: The announcer keeps the show running smoothly. He helps remind the participants of all the activities necessary to keep the show operating on time, changes of schedules and other events as necessary. It is best if there are at least two announcers who can spell each other. If possible it would be good to have the announcer read the results — it all depends how quickly they are available.

An announcer should:

1. Check all PA equipment.
2. Get class list from the show secretary and make any necessary changes as advised by show secre-



## Gatekeeper (Paddock Master)

: The gatekeeper is responsible for a prompt, smooth-running, continuous show that will maintain spectator interest. There needs to be two or more people who can spell each other at the in gate and a person at the out gate. This is not a job for kids due to potential safety issues — adults only. A schedule should be posted near the gate for riders to check but the gatekeeper will also have a schedule on a clipboard with instructions on when to have people check in (two classes or sections in advance). The gatekeeper will line up riders to enter the arena when the riders are called and close the gate once they are in the arena, then let the judge know that this is the class. Gatekeeper must not let in any more once the gate is closed. Gatekeeper must also check to see that equipment and attire is safe (correct attire is up to the leader and is not your job); maintain radio contact with announcer's booth; and provide communication as needed from the riders at the gate to show management in the announcer's booth.

A gatekeeper should:

1. Arrive an hour before the show starts to check the program with the show manager and secretary to see if there have been changes in the scheduled program or major changes in the size of any class.
2. Check radios to see if/how they work.
3. Check equipment and tack for safety and notify the ring steward (on behalf of rider) of any delays that may be necessary for tack changes, etc.
4. Open the gate when the class is called by the ring steward.
5. Keep a copy of the \_\_\_\_\_ available should questions arise.
6. Notify the announcer when everyone has checked in at the gate prior to the class, and have the announcer call for any rider by number who has not shown up 5 minutes prior to the start of each class.
7. Have practical experience or a good working knowledge of judging methods and procedures.
8. Check to see that the ring is properly prepared prior to the show. If necessary, the ring should be watered and dragged.

: Class list with numbers and names, clipboard, pen, radio, rule book for equipment list, hat, chair, water bottle, leather gloves, boots.

: Split job with several others so everyone gets a break. More than 3 hours at the gate can be exhausting!

*Fkh t ewnvkgu" gpeqw pvgtgf" y jkn g" f qkp i" lqd:* May need an extra helper during large classes to help check equipment, line up riders and/or help with gate opening and closing.

: Fun but busy, requiring a lot of focus and attention to what is going on. Job can be somewhat dangerous with possibility of being stepped on or backed over by horse in the gate area. Volunteer should wear hard-toed boots.

### **Additional notes on gate-keeping:**

Your job as gatekeeper is to check in, line up and let kids in the arena for classes and shut the gate afterward. There should be someone at an out gate as well, so kids and horses are not going both directions through one gate. Before the class, check the participants for obvious safety problems. You should deny entry into a class for safety reasons only. Ask kids to check their girths to make sure they are tight. **DO NOT TIGHTEN THE GIRTH YOURSELF** — you could be liable. Have the youth see his/her parent or leader. Improper tack is for the judge to note and mark down — do not refuse kids into the arena for improper gear such as the wrong bit. You may only refuse entry if they are at risk due to things such as:

- A

If you need back up, call show management for assistance. If you notice that someone has the wrong tack, attire, etc., it is not your job to deal with it. This should be handled by the parent or leader; it is not your responsibility. If you choose to say something about tack or attire that you know is improper, use the proper protocol. In those cases, you should check with show management to see if the horse is indeed green. Let the scribe/judge know via radio that the horse entering the arena is green.

Have kids check English saddles to make sure the stirrup locks are down (where the leathers hook onto the front cinch).

It is up to the judge to decide when to close the gate. You could say to her, “This is your class, may I close the gate?” or “There is one more rider not here yet; do you want to wait?” and then leave the gate open, or close it — whatever she says. She is the boss! **ONCE THE GATE IS CLOSED, DO NOT OPEN IT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.** Call for backup if you need to. If someone misses a class, he should check with show management to see if he can go in the next section or class. Show management, the show steward and possibly the rules committee need to decide on policy if a child misses a class. In past cases, an intermediate rider can show in a beginner class if she misses her previous one, but she will drop down a ribbon (and the same for other levels).

Wear hard-toed boots and leather gloves. If you end up having to hold leads or walk horses in, etc., gloves will prevent rope/nylon burns. **DO NOT PUT YOURSELF IN AN UNSAFE POSITION.**

Refer to the [show manual](#) for questions about proper tack and attire.

## Herdsmanship Judge

**Responsibilities:** Critique cleanliness of stalls, determine frequency of stall checks, visually inspect each stall for safety, care of horse and cleanliness, record point deductions and comments on each stall scorecard, determine highpoints for individuals and clubs

**Supplies:** Clipboard, scorecards, placing ribbons, point sheet with deductions, pens/pencils, calculator

- Stall check and tallying 2.5 hours
-



Show etiquette requires that parents should not scribe when they have kids in that class. The judge will ask for a new scribe if that happens. DO NOT talk about the kids and/or horses to the judge. DO NOT make observations to the judge. The only time you may offer any information to the judge is if you see an extremely unsafe situation (horse bucking out of control) and you need to call attention to it for the safety of the judge or yourself. DO NOT leave the arena and share what the judge said to anyone. Con-

You may ask the judge to repeat, slow down, clarify, etc. — just be polite and courteous at all times. You may not get word for word what the judge says, but strive to get the gist and use common sense. DO NOT INTERPRET. Leave your thoughts/opinions outside of the arena. Do not ask “why” or “how come” — that is not your job.

Stay with the judge as he walks around, but do not put yourself in an unsafe position and do not block Stay at the front of each horse as the judge makes his pass around it.

she feels comfortable with the outcome. When done, walk the clipboard to the booth and pick up a new one with fresh sheets for the next class.

For more experience, go to open shows and offer to scribe if needed. Information on scribing for dressage classes may be found at \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

## Lodging/ Camping Supervisor

lined up, camping rules are established and overnight forms are accounted for.

< : Length of show.

*Fkh*: May need to settle disputes between clubs.

: Requires someone who can work well with people and has good communication and organizational skills. Good job for parents who do not feel comfortable with “horsey” jobs.

## Medic

: Assist with medical evaluations and triage during show. Must know how to assist in medical emergencies.

: First aid kit, cooler with ice (keep in announcers booth).

<

*Fkh*

Photographer

## Ring Steward (Ringmaster, Ring Secretary)

: Direct class participants during classes at the direction of judge. Responsibilities include all show ring activities dealing with showing horses, as well as assisting the judge and giving direction and assistance to the exhibitors without partiality. Conducts classes in such a way as to give each exhibitor the opportunity to present her horse to the best advantage.

A ring steward should:

1. Have a thorough knowledge of the show rules and know the customs, procedures and traditions of the show ring.
2. Present themselves in a neat, clean and well-groomed fashion.
3. Not smoke or chew gum in the ring.
4. Be at the show 15–30 minutes before the start of the show, get instructions from show manager, review show schedule and check with judge to clarify how the judge prefers to work the classes. Coordinate with scribes.
5. Discuss hand signals with the announcer (as a back up in case radio does not work).
8. Never visit with the judge during judging.
8. Stay out of the judge's line of vision.
10. Take directions from the judge and relay this information to the announcer and riders.
11. Keep a copy of the show rules available for the judge's reference.
13. Assist the judge with class sheets and see that they are turned in to the announcer.
14. Keep the ring safe at all times. Remove any objects from the ring (hats, paper, etc.).
15. Watch young and inexperienced riders. Immediately stop all horses if an accident happens.
16. Keep classes moving.

34. Copy of show rules, radio, clipboard.

: Copy of

, radio, clipboard.

: Entire length of show.

Getting things set up ahead of time.

: Make sure you understand exactly what the judge wants and

give the same instructions to each participant. Ring steward may share duties with scribes (see notes on scribing, since many of the same issues apply in this job).

## Rules Committee

: This committee resolves situations (if the show steward is unable to do so) by balancing common sense, the show rules and circumstances. The rules committee will act on grievances of the question referred to them by the show steward.

:

and knowledge of rules and show ethics.

## Show Manager/ Superintendent(s)

: Oversees organization and operation of show; attends show planning meetings and shares work to other volunteers; acts as point of contact with judge and coordinates volunteers; is responsible for recognizing volunteers and community with thank-you notes (hand written are best), a piece in the 4-H monthly newsletter and recognition through the district's awards program.

: Must be familiar with the and other 4-H rules.

: A year-long commitment is best, but is not necessary. Needs to sit on show planning committee, present updates at horse council meetings, be present at mandatory meetings and always be available during the show.

*Fkh tewnvgu"gpqwpvgtf" y jkg"fqpi"lqd:* Can be an overwhelming job, but can be successfully shared between co-managers.





## Supplies

Announcers booth

/" Hkng"dqzgu" ykvj " rctvkekrcpv" tngu"cpf"pw o dgtu

- Master lists for classes, clubs, gate

- Scorecards, patterns

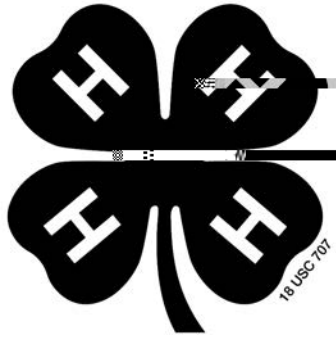
/" Qh f eg" uwr rnkgu" \* rgpu." rgpeknu." o ctmg tu." uvc r ngt" ykvj " uvc r ngu." ueqvej "vcrg." fwev"vcrg." o cknkpi "vcrg."

paper clips, 3x5 cards, clip boards, scissors, sheet protectors, assorted blank labels, lined pads, blank paper, calculator)

-







### **When I Compete**

I have a performance goal...never a “to only beat some one else” goal.

I respect and learn from other competitors more skilled than myself.

K" fqpùv"etkvkek |g"qv jgt"eq o rgvkvqtu."qh f ekcu."qt"lw f i gu0

I do my best today.

I have fun.

I stay home if I can't follow the above rules.

Adapted from a presentation by Doug Householder PH.D., Extension Horse Specialist  
Texas A&M University at the 1997 National Youth Horse Council Meeting.

### **4-H Pledge**

I pledge my head to clearer thinking,

My heart to greater loyalty,

My hands to larger service,

And my health to better living,

For my club, my community, my country, and my world.

### **4-H Motto**

To Make the Best Better

### **4-H Slogan**

Learn by Doing