



WISCONSIN 4-H HORSE PROJECT

EQUESTRIAN GUIDELINES (Revised 1/06)

**These guidelines shall serve as the official rules for the State 4-H Horse Expo.
THE PRIORITY IS ALWAYS GIVEN TO SAFETY, EDUCATION, AND FUN.
ATTIRE AND TACK SHOULD NOT BE JUDGED AHEAD OF ABILITY.**

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All riding and showmanship classes will be conducted according to existing 4-H rules. *Equal consideration will be given to members showing gaited horses (Paso Fino, Tennessee Walker, Kentucky Mountain Horse, etc.) This shall include call for appropriate gaits, standard equipment and appropriate dress for showing the specific breed.* The Executive Secretary should be given notice that a member is showing a gaited horse at the time State Expo entries are sent in. Exhibitor must indicate any "special considerations" (name of gaits, special equipment used, etc.) required for showing the breed.

Two (2) minute gate rule will be enforced. Clock will start when the first horse enters the ring and the gate will be closed two (2) minutes after first horse enters.

These pages outline the recommendations, proper attire and equipment for each performance class. Before coming to the show, read these pages thoroughly and make sure you are well prepared. Note: Proper safety equipment is strongly recommended. **SEI approved helmets, with harness fastened, MUST BE WORN at all times when MOUNTED OR DRIVING on show grounds.**

No horse may be left unattended when out of the stall.

No stallion born prior to January first of the current year allowed on the show grounds.

Any act of discourtesy to judge or show officials by an exhibitor or any other attendant will be grounds for disqualification and forfeiture of fees.

Horses/PONIES must be serviceably sound and must not show evidence of broken wind or impairment of vision in both eyes.

Cruelty or abuse of a horse will not be tolerated.

GENERAL GUIDELINES - ALL DISCIPLINES

GENERAL SAFETY ATTIRE:

1. SEI approved helmets, with harness fastened, must be worn when mounted or driving on show grounds.
2. Sleeve to cover the arm.
3. Long pants (see exceptions under driving).
4. Boots with a cut-out heel.
5. Exhibitor must wear one of the issued exhibitor numbers, in the middle of his/her back at all times when on the show grounds. NOTE: It is permissible to wear the exhibitor numbers on both sides of the saddle pad or back of the cart when the exhibitor is in the holding area or the show arena.

GENERAL SAFETY TACK:

1. Saddle which fits horse and rider with stirrups, girth or cinch properly attached.
2. Bridle with reins and bit. Junior horse is 5 years and under. (See Gymkhana and Western Pleasure for exceptions).
3. Adjustments to tack and attire for valid reasons are permitted, provided the show management is notified, and approves, prior to class.

GENERAL CONDUCT:

1. Be on time when the class is called.
2. Enter the ring at the gait indicated and watch the ring steward for instruction on where to go.
3. Be alert for a posted pattern, verbal instruction or cue from either the ring steward or judge.
4. Be aware you are being judged from the time you enter the ring until you depart from the ring (unless otherwise specified by the judge).
5. Do not try to show a horse until you are sure you can control him.
6. The exhibitor may be asked pertinent questions about horses and equipment.
7. You and your horse should work as a team. The horse should respond to the slightest signals.
8. Work calmly and quietly.
9. Your actions should not draw the judge's attention away from your horse.
10. Manners and action in handling the horse reflects time spent working with your horse.
11. Hand jerking on the reins not only looks bad, but could injure the horse's mouth.
12. Keep your horse showing to the best advantage.
13. Over showing is objectionable.
14. When holding horse in hand, make turns to the right when more than ninety degrees. (If you turned to the left, there is a greater possibility of the horse stepping on you.)

JUDGING EMPHASIS

SHOWMANSHIP:

A Showmanship class will be judged on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show the horse at halter, the horse is merely a prop to show the ability and preparation of the exhibitor. The ideal showmanship performance consists of a poised, confident, neatly attired exhibitor, leading a well groomed and conditioned horse. The horse should quickly and efficiently perform the requested patterns with smoothness and precision. SHOWMANSHIP IS NOT A HALTER CLASS AND SHOULD NOT BE JUDGED AS SUCH.

CLASS PROCEDURE:

Leading:

1. The exhibitor leads from the equine's left side with the right hand controlling the animal. The right hand must not hold the chain portion of the lead (or the bit if showing with a bridle). The excess lead or rein is held in the left hand in a loose coil, or completely uncoiled. At NO TIME is the lead or rein to be wrapped around the hand or held in a tight coil. (If a whip is carried the whip is held in the left hand.)
2. When leading, be in position on the near (left) side of the horse between the horse's head and shoulders. A properly prepared horse will move readily and freely at a walk or trot with a minimum of urging.
3. You will be asked to show your horse in action (way of going) at a walk, jog, trot or intermediate gait.
4. When asked to show your horse in movement, allow the judge an unobstructed view of the horse's action.
5. When asked to move your horse from one position to another, lead your horse forward, turn to the right, lead back through the spot just vacated, and enter your new position from the rear. Do not turn your horse in line — this crowds other horses and can create a safety hazard.

Posing:

1. Your horse should set up quickly, stand quietly and move forward or backward freely. (Set up should be according to Breed Standards.)
2. Horses are trained to pose by the use of the reins or lead and soft commands. Touching a horse into position will be penalized. A good showman will train his horse to pose so the signals/he gives are unnoticed by others.
3. In showmanship classes, horses are to be shown according to breed standards. (See Saddleseat showmanship.) Whips are permissible according to breed standards. Only one person may show the horse in a showmanship class.
4. Your Equine should stand as straight as possible with weight distributed on all four legs. (Leg position will vary according to breed standards.)
5. For safety and courtesy, always allow yourself and your neighbor plenty of room. Leave at least one horse/pony length between animals, both in circling the ring and in line-up.

EQUITATION:

Equitation is the skill of the rider, using the correct form and aids (hands, legs, seat, weight, and voice) to produce the maximum performance of the horse. Suitability of animal, tack, and attire may affect the overall picture, however, the actions of the animal are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining the correct action called for by the rider.

CLASS PROCEDURE:

Refer to Saddle Seat, Stock Seat, and Hunter Seat Equitation.

PLEASURE:

The emphasis in judging is on the Equine. The Equine is shown at the requested gaits both ways of the ring. Equines should be obedient, alert, responsive and move freely. Entries shall be penalized for being on the wrong lead. Contestants may be required to back in a straight line. Class is to be judged on the Equine's manners, performance and suitability of the Equine as a pleasure mount.

CLASS PROCEDURE:

Refer to Saddle Seat Pleasure, Stock Seat Pleasure, and Hunter Under Saddle (Pleasure).

HUNTER SEAT EQUITATION

NOTE: Refer also to General Guidelines.

Mounting and dismounting: To mount, take up reins in left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand and insert left foot in stirrup and mount. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration.

Hands: Hands should be over and in front of horse's withers, knuckles 30 degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from horse's mouth to rider's elbow. Method of holding reins is optional and bight of reins may fall on either side. However, all reins must be picked up at the same time.

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

Position in motion: At the walk and sitting trot body should be vertical. At a posting trot, galloping and jumping, body inclined slightly forward. At a canter, body halfway between posting trot and walk.

Appointments - Personal: Exhibitors and judges should bear in mind that at all times entries are being judged on ability rather than on personal attire. Rider should wear coat of traditional Hunter Seat style and breeches (or jodhpurs) of conservative colors, English boots or jodhpur shoes with a cut out heel. Spurs of the unroweled type, crops or bats and gloves are optional. Hair should be neat and confined. Judges may penalize contestants who do not conform.

Tack: Regulation snaffles, Pelham and full bridles, all with cavesson nose bands. A judge at his own discretion can penalize a horse with non-conventional types of bits or nose bands (Kimberwickes are permitted). Boots and conservative colored bandages are permitted.(equitation only) Saddle must be a hunter or forward seat style, with or without knee rolls or padding. Any change of equipment during a class can be penalized at the discretion of the judge. Martingales, tie downs and flash nosebands are prohibited.

Class routine: Competitors shall enter ring and proceed at least once around ring at each gait and, on command, reverse and repeat. The order to reverse may be executed by turning toward or away from the rail. Light contact with horse's mouth is required. Entries then line up on command. All riders will perform pattern work as specified by the judge. Judges are encouraged to call for at least two tests of the top contestants. Tests from which judges may choose may be performed either individually or collectively. Instructions should be publicly announced or posted.

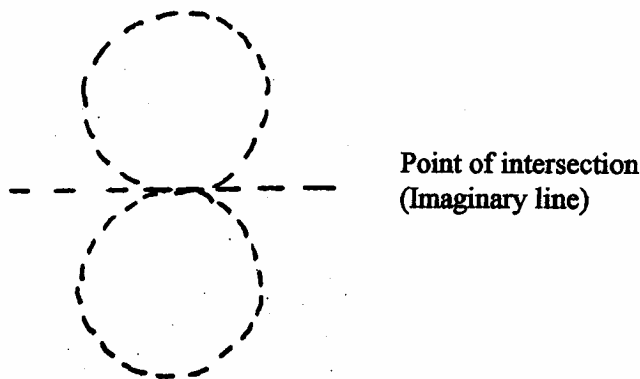
Tests from which judges may choose:

1. Back
2. Drop and pick up stirrups in motion.
3. Figure eight at trot, demonstrating change of diagonals.

4. Figure eight at canter on correct lead demonstrating simple change of lead. (This is a change whereby the horse is brought back into a walk or trot and restarted into a canter on the opposite lead.)
5. Ride without stirrups.
6. Turn on forehand and/or turn on haunches.
7. Figure eight at canter on correct lead, demonstrating flying change of lead.
8. Change leads down center of ring demonstrating simple change of lead.
9. Execute a serpentine at a trot and/or canter on correct lead. Demonstrate riding a series of left and right half circles off center of imaginary line where correct diagonal or lead change (designated simple or flying) must be shown.
10. Canter on counter lead.

GENERAL:

A figure eight is not ridden as you would draw the letter eight, but is two circles of the same size.



Example:

- a. Rider “finds” the middle line of figure 8 which runs through the center point of intersection (see diagram)
- b. Rider rides down imaginary line at a slow sitting trot. Just before the intersection begin a posting trot on the left diagonal.
- c. Trot a complete circle to the right.
- d. Recross the point of intersection, change diagonals and trot a same size circle to the left.
- e. Stop your horse exactly at the point of intersection.

Examples of faults:

1. Exaggerated shifting of the rider’s weight.
2. Moving of lower legs or excessive kicking or spurring.
3. Losing contact with stirrups (unless asked by judge to ride with feet removed from stirrups).
4. Failing to follow instructions of judge or ring steward.
5. Failure to post on correct diagonal.
6. Being on the wrong lead.
7. Hands not showing sympathy, adaptability and control.

NOTE: Time limits, determined and announced at show, will be enforced for all equitation patterns.

NOTE: Refer also to General Guidelines.

HUNTER UNDER SADDLE (PLEASURE)

In a hunter under saddle classes, the equine should show a long, ground covering stride. The order to reverse may be executed by turning toward or away from the rail. Light contact with the equine's mouth is required. Equine should be obedient, alert, responsive, and move freely. They should not be eliminated for slight errors. Judges may ask horses to hand gallop collectively, one way of the ring. No more than eight will be asked to hand gallop at one time. (Riders in grades 8 and under should not be asked to hand gallop.)

Some faults are:

1. Excessive speed.
2. Quick, short or vertical strides.
3. Being on the wrong lead.

Appointments and tack: Follow the guidelines listed under Hunter Seat Equitation. (Boots, wraps, and bandages are prohibited.)

NOTE: Refer also to General Guidelines.

HUNTER SHOWMANSHIP

Tack: The animal is to be shown in a hunter style bridle with a plain leather browband and a regular cavesson noseband. The bit may be a snaffle (no shanks), a Pelham (two sets of reins), or a full bridle (two sets of reins, separate bits and cheek pieces). Curb chains must be at least one-half inch wide and lay flat against the animal's jaw. If using a Pelham or full bridle, the snaffle rein is across the withers and the animal is led with the curb rein.

Appointments: Follow guidelines under Hunter Seat Equitation. SEI approved safety helmets are not required during showmanship, however, a hunt helmet is required. Note - spurs are prohibited in showmanship classes.

NOTE: Refer also to General Guidelines.

SADDLE SEAT EQUITATION

Mounting and dismounting: To mount, take up reins in left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand and insert left foot in stirrup and mount. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration.

Hands: The height of the rider's hands depends upon how and where the horse carries his head. Hands should exhibit control, sympathy, and ease of commands from the rider to the horse. The hands should be above the horse's withers, with a definite bend in the rider's elbow. The fingers are closed around the reins, with the rider's little finger between the snaffle and curb reins. Both hands must be used and both snaffle and curb reins must be held in each hand at all times. The bight of reins should be on the off (right) side.

Basic position: A rider should sit comfortably in the middle of the saddle, with a slight bend at the knee. A rider's upper body should be erect, but not stiff. A rider should maintain thigh and knee contact with the saddle at all times. This contact is established by turning the knee slightly in towards the horse's shoulder. Proper stirrup length can be determined by taking the foot out of the stirrup and adjusting the stirrup leather so that the height of the bottom of the stirrup equals the ankle joint. Position the ball of the foot across the center of the stirrup iron. The heel should be slightly lower than the toe. The heel should also be positioned directly below the hip.

Position in motion: Walk - the rider should maintain contact with the horse's mouth while exhibiting slight motion and flexibility in the saddle. Trot - the rider should post during the trot (rise up and down with the horse's motion). Correct diagonals are of importance while posting. A correct diagonal occurs when a rider rises and falls at the same time his horse's front rail leg rises up and down. Canter - the rider should maintain a balanced and quiet seat and upper body while cantering. The rider's hands at the canter should be collecting the horse in order to obtain a moderately slow and rolling gait. At the canter, a rider's legs are used to urge the horse's hindquarters up and underneath the horse, while the hands should be lifting and collecting the horse's head and neck.

Appointments: Exhibitors and judges should bear in mind that at all times entries are being judged on ability. However, neatness is the first requisite regarding a rider's attire and the following requirements are based on traditional and general present-day customs.

Attire: Saddleseat styled riding coat, jodhpurs (fitted pant with flared pant leg), dress shirt (white or pastel colored, pinstriped), neck tie, jodhpur boots (ankle high), vest and gloves. Accessories may add interest to your attire such as tie bar or tack, lapel pin or boutonniere, hair bow or net. Note: A riding suit, "equitation suit", "matched suit" refer to a riding coat and jodhpurs having the same color and material. The color is a conservative solid (black, blue, grey, green, beige or brown) or a subtle pattern (combination of colors that appear as one when viewed from a distance). The shape of the coat lapel, the type of closure and the color of the vest or the lining of the coat is or personal preference. A riding suit (coat and jodhpurs or the same color and materials is customary attire for all saddleseat equitation classes. The term day coat (customarily worn in pleasure classes) refers to a riding coat having a different but co-coordinated color (unifying the total attire of the rider), or similar color but not matching the material and color of the jodhpurs. **SEI approved helmets, with harness securely fastened** are required.

Tack: The bridle is to consist of a headstall with a browband, cavesson, and buckled or stitched together reins. If using a full bridle, the curb rein is to be narrower in width than the snaffle rein. The style of saddle is flat, with or without a cutback. Miscellaneous: The rider may wear spurs (roweled or blunt) and carry a riding whip. Martingales or similar tie-downs are prohibited.

Class routine: Competitors shall enter ring and proceed at least once around ring at each gait and, on command, reverse and repeat. The order to reverse is carried out by the rider stopping his horse and changing his whip to his other hand (the whip is always carried in a rider's inside hand). Then the rider turns his horse's wither toward or away from the rail. The customary direction is to turn the horse toward the rail, but either way is acceptable. Entries then line up on command. All riders will perform pattern work as specified by the judge. Judges are encouraged to call for at least two tests of the top contestants. Tests from which judges may choose may be performed either individually or collectively. Instructions should be publicly announced or posted.

1. Address the reins.
2. Back your horse.
3. Performance along the rail (trot down and back, canter down and back).
4. Additional performance around ring (walk, trot, and/or canter)
5. Figure eight at the trot (demonstrating a change of diagonal).
6. Figure eight at the canter (demonstrating a change of lead).
7. Serpentine at the trot or canter.
8. Change leads down the center of the ring.
9. Dismount and mount.
10. Ride without stirrups.

NOTE: Time limits, determined and announced at show will be enforced for all equitation patterns.

NOTE: Refer also to General Guidelines.

SADDLE SEAT PLEASURE

The pleasure horse should exhibit quality, style, presence, and suitable conformation. Prompt, comfortable gaits, giving the distinct impression it is an agreeable mount to ride. Easy, ground covering action is desired. Manners and suitability as a pleasure mount are paramount. Special emphasis is placed on a true, flat walk. Transitions from one gait to another should be smooth and effortless. To be penalized: Laboring action, tossing head, going sideways and tail-switching.

Appointments and tack: Follow the guidelines listed under Saddle Seat Equitation.

NOTE: Refer also to General Guidelines.

SADDLE SEAT SHOWMANSHIP (IN HAND)

Class Routine: It is permitted to change hands if more convenient when putting the horse in position or while showing to the judge.

Tack: The tack used will depend upon what is traditional/customary for the breed of horse being shown. The following are acceptable choices of tack (use of a curb bit on weanling or yearlings is prohibited):

1. Leather show halter with throat latch and matching lead.
2. Full bridle including a snaffle bit, curb bit, browband, cavesson, throat latch, and two pair of reins. The snaffle rein should be placed over the horse's withers and the handler should use the curb rein to lead his horse.
3. Snaffle bridle with one or two pair of reins. This is used mainly for handling young horses (four years of age or younger). Bridle must include a throat latch, browband, cavesson, and either one or two pair of reins. If using two pair of reins, both reins are attached to the snaffle bit.
4. Bridle with curb bit and single rein.
5. You may choose to show your animal in tack that is customary or traditional for your breed of horse.

Attire: Follow guidelines under Saddle Seat Equitation. Note: spurs are prohibited in showmanship.

NOTE: Refer also to General Guidelines.

STOCK SEAT EQUITATION

Mounting and dismounting: To mount take up reins in left hand and place hand on horse's neck in front of the withers and with romel or end of the reins on the reining hand side. Grasp stirrup with right hand, place left foot in stirrup, then grasp saddle horn with right hand and mount. Inspecting the curb strap or chain and/or cinch shall not be considered mandatory. If a romel is used, it should be moved to the off side of the horse after mounting. End of split reins should remain on the same side as the reining hand at all times. It is optional with the rider whether the right rein be left up or taken down when dismounting. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration.

Hands: In repose, arms are in a straight line with the body, the one holding reins bent at elbow. Only one hand is to be used for reining and hands shall not be changed. Hand to be around reins. When ends of split reins fall on reining hand side, one finger between reins permitted. When using romel, no finger between reins is allowed. The position of the hand not being used for reining is optional but it should be kept free of the horse and equipment and held in a relaxed manner with the rider's body straight at all times. Rider can hold romel to adjust the position of the reins, provided it is held at least 16 inches from the reining hand. Hand to be above horn and as near to it as possible. Riders hands should show sympathy, adaptability and control. In cases where a junior horse or pony (5 years and under) is shown with snaffle bit (no shanks) or bosal, the animal must be shown with both hands on reins. The rider's hands should be carried near the pommel and not further than 4" out on either side.

Basic position: The rider should sit the saddle with knees slightly bent so that shoulder, hip and heel form a straight line. The stirrup should be just short enough to allow heels to be lower than toes. Body always should appear comfortable, relaxed and flexible. Feet should be placed in the stirrups with weight on the ball of the foot. Consideration, however, should be given to the width of the stirrups, which vary on Western saddles. If stirrups are wide, the foot may have the appearance of being "home" when, in reality, the weight is properly carried on the ball of the foot.

Position in motion: Rider should sit to jog and not post. At the lope, rider should be close to saddle. All movements of horse should be governed by the use of subtle aids.

Appointments - Personal: Spurs, chaps, sweaters, coats and vests are optional. Hair must be neat and securely fastened if long, so as not to cover rider's number. Judges may penalize contestants who do not conform.

Tack: The saddle should fit the rider. It may be slick or swelled fork, have a high or low cantle but must definitely be sized to the rider. Nothing that would prevent the stirrups from hanging freely shall be added or deleted from a standard western saddle.

There shall be no discrimination against any standard western bit. Horses or ponies, 5 and under, may use a snaffle bit (no shanks) or bosal (twisted wire snaffles are PROHIBITED).

Curb chains may be used but must be at least ½" in width and lie flat against the jaws of the horse. No wire, metal or rawhide device is permissible in conjunction with or as a part of the leather chin strap which must be at least ½" wide. Mechanical hackamore, tie-downs, running martingales and draw reins are prohibited. If closed reins are used, hobbles must be carried attached below cantle on near side of saddle. Cavesson-type nosebands are prohibited. If a lariat or reata is carried, it must be attached to the fork of the saddle. Silver equipment may be used but shall not be given preference over good working equipment. The use of shoes, other than standard horse shoes, is discouraged and may be penalized by the judge.

Class routine: As directed, the rider may be called to enter the ring at a walk or jog and are judged at a flat-footed four beat walk, two beat jog and a three beat lope. They may be worked both ways of the ring and must always be on the correct lead. The order to reverse must be executed by turning away from the rail. All riders will perform pattern work as specified by the judge. Due to the difficulty of properly fitting tack, riders shall not be asked to change horses.

Tests from which judges may choose, may be performed either individually or collectively.

1. Back.
2. Figure eight at the jog.
3. Lope and stop.
4. Figure eight at the lope on correct lead, demonstrating simple change of leads. (This is a change whereby the horse is brought back into a walk or jog and restarted into a lope on the opposite lead).
5. Ride without stirrups.
6. Figure eight at lope on correct lead, demonstrating a flying change of lead.
7. Change leads down center of ring, demonstrating simple change of leads.
8. 360 degree turn.

NOTE: Time limits, determined and announced at show, will be enforced for all equitation patterns.

NOTE: Refer also to General Guidelines.

WESTERN PLEASURE

Appointments and tack: Follow the guidelines listed under Stock Seat Equitation.

NOTE: Refer also to General Guidelines.

WESTERN SHOWMANSHIP

Tack: The show halter should be clean, properly adjusted, fitted and suitable for breed standards.

Attire: See Stock Seat Equitation - note: spurs are prohibited in showmanship classes.

NOTE: Refer also to General Guidelines.

GENERAL DRIVING GUIDELINES - applies to all driving classes.

The horse/pony must be attended at all times. Driver must be on the seat with lines in hand or a header must be holding the horse/pony.

Harness: (see class descriptions for additional requirements.)

Harness must be clean, properly fitted, in good repair and suitable to the vehicle. A full collar or breast collar harness, bridle with blinkers, throat latch, and a bit (snaffle/ Liverpool, Buxton, elbow or other standard driving bit) is required. If a curb chain is used, the chain must be at least ½" in width and lay flat against the jaw. Over check or side check (with or without a check bit) is optional. Bridles should fit snugly to prevent catching on a vehicle or other pieces of harness. Hand hold on the reins are NOT permitted. **Under no conditions shall a bridle and/or reins be removed from the horse while it is put to the cart/vehicle.** Breeching or thimbles (or other accepted means of braking) is required. Exhibitors should be aware of the proper and safe procedure when putting a horse to vehicle.

Personal Attire and Appointments:

Required: Clothing for drivers and headers/grooms must be conservative, neat and clean. Correctly fitted SEI approved safety helmet, with harness securely fastened, must be worn (optional for headers/grooms). Dress should conform to the type of vehicle, (casual or sporty attire for a sport or natural finish vehicle, formal attire for a more formal vehicle). Gentlemen shall be attired in a dress shirt with slacks/khakis or suit. Ladies shall be attired in long-sleeved blouse with high neckline, slack suit, dress suit, long skirt, or appropriate dress (with high neckline and hem below the knee when at a seated position). Drivers must wear boots or shoes with a distinguishable heel (no higher than two inches).

Optional: Gloves (should match turn out), tie, apron/lap robe. Coats or jackets for Gentlemen.

Prohibited: Period costumes, short sleeves, short skirts or dresses, bare shoulders, exposed midriff or low -cut shirts, sweatshirts, open toed shoes, sandals, tennis shoes, clogs.

Adjustments to tack and attire are permitted for medical reasons, provided the show management is notified prior to the class.

Use of Whip: An appropriate driving whip shall be carried in the driver's hand at all times in the ring. The thong on the whip must be long enough to reach the shoulder of the horse/pony. The whip is held in the right hand within the frame of the vehicle, at the most comfortable balance. The whip is only a method of communication with the horse/pony. At no time should it interfere with another driver. Use of reins as a whip is prohibited. A person who is unable to carry a whip may obtain special permission from show management. The whip salute is used to acknowledge the judge at the start and finish of an individual test. The whip salute is performed in one of the following ways:

- a. Move the whip, held in the right hand, to a vertical position, the butt end even with the face.
- b. Move the whip, held in the right hand, to a position parallel with the ground, the handle before the face.

Header/Groom: A header/groom is permitted in the ring during the line up, but must be properly attired, including a hat or helmet (see Personal Attire and Appointments). Those not conforming may be placed accordingly. The header/groom is permitted to stand two-three paces in front of the horse/pony and can give assistance to ensure driver safety. The header/groom should step back as the judge approaches.

Description of Gaits:

Walk: A free, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate extension is ideal. The horse should walk energetically, but calmly, with even and determined pace. The walk is a four beat gait.

Slow Trot: The horse should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. It is a slower and more collected trot. However, the horse should show a willingness to be driven on the bit while maintaining a steady cadence.

Working Trot: This is the pace between the strong and the slow trot, exhibiting more roundness than the strong trot. The horse goes forward freely. And straight; engaging the hind legs with good hock action; on a taut but light rein; the position being balanced and unconstrained. The steps should be as even as possible. The hind feet touch the ground in the footprints of the fore feet. The degree of energy and impulsion displayed denotes clearly the degree of suppleness and balance of the horse.

Strong Trot: This is a clear, but not excessive, increase in pace and lengthening of stride while remaining well balanced and showing appropriate lateral flexion on turns. Light contact to be maintained. Excessive speed will be penalized.

Halt: Horse and vehicle should be brought to a complete square stop without abruptness or veering. At the halt, horse should remain attentive, motionless and straight with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs and be ready to move off at the slightest indication from the driver.

Rein Back: Backward movement in which the legs are raised and set down simultaneously in diagonal pairs with the hind legs remaining well in line. To be performed in two parts: A) Horse must move backward at least four steps in an unhurried manner with the head flexed and straight, pushing the vehicle back evenly in a straight line. The driver should use quiet aids and light contact. B) Move forward willingly to former position using the same quiet aids.

It is permissible to talk to the horse/pony in a subdued tone of voice. Clucks for starting, "walk", "trot" and "whoa" are acceptable terms. Driver is not permitted to shout, whistle or talk loudly to the horse/pony.

DRAFT TYPE HORSE OR PONY - PLEASURE DRIVING

See General Driving Guidelines for additional information.

Emphasis of judging is to be on horse's manners, way of going, presence, and quality.

Harness: Horse/pony may be shown with either breeching or cart harness with crupper.

Vehicle: Vehicle should be a two wheeled cart suitable for a draft type horse/pony. The exhibitor is the only person permitted in the cart (except for approved medical reasons).

Class Routine: Enter the ring to the right at a slow trot. To be exhibited both ways of the ring at a walk, slow trot, and working trot. (See description of gaits under General Driving Guidelines.)

DRAFT TYPE HORSE OR PONY SHOWMANSHIP

Horses are to be clipped and fitted according to breed standards.

Tack: The horse should be shown in a leather show halter, rope show halter or a clean halter and lead. A show stick, approximately 3/4 to 1" in diameter and 14" long, used for a setting up the horse is optional. No whip or whip person is allowed.

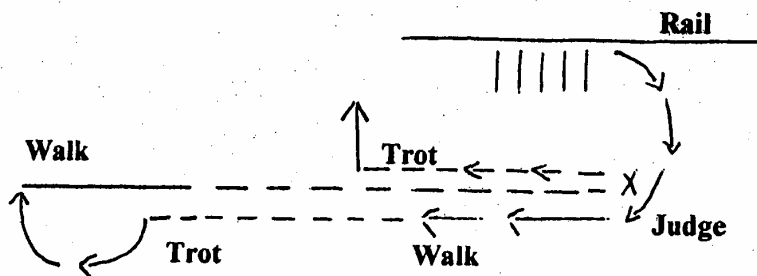
Attire: Clothing must be clean and neat. Dress shirt and slacks with a belt is preferred. Hard soled boots or shoes must be worn. Hair should be neat and contained. Hats, gloves, tiw and coats are optional. (Shorts, skirts, sleeveless shirts or tank tops, farm names or personal exhibitor identification are not allowed.)

Posing:

1. Draft showmanship participants do not switch sides of horse as judge moves around them, but they should be aware of the judge at all times.
2. When posing the horse, switch lead to the left hand (this allows the exhibitor to use a show stick or the right hand to set up the horse).
3. Your horse should set up quickly and stand properly.
4. After the horse is set up the handler remains at the horse's shoulder, never turning their back to the horse.

Patterns: One pattern is used. Walk from the line up towards the judge, continue walking in a straight line away from the judge a few steps, pick up the trot. Walk a small circle, walk a few steps toward the judge, trot back to the judge. Stop and pose your horse for inspection. Followiing inspection trot away from the judge and return to the line up.

Diagram of Draft Horse Showmanship Competition



NOTE: Refer also to General Guidelines.

PLEASURE DRIVING - LIGHT HORSE/PONY

See General Driving Guidelines for additional information.

Horse/pony to be shown according to breed standards. To be judged 70% on performance, manners and way of going, 20% on condition and fit of harness, 10% on neatness of attire. The horse/pony should be well broke, with an easy-going pleasurable way.

Exhibitors should strive to present an “appropriate” (balanced and pleasing appearance of the combination of horse/pony and vehicle) turnout. Factors determining “appropriate” include compatible size, type and weight of horse/pony and vehicle. The way of going may also effect overall appearance: that is, a high-action horse/pony is more suitable to a formal vehicle, the low-going, ground covering horse/pony is more suitable to a road or country type vehicle.

Harness: A noseband or cavesson is required. (See also General Driving Guidelines: Harness)

Vehicle: To be shown in a two or four-wheeled, one horse/pony pleasure type vehicle, with seating for one or two people. The exhibitor is the only person permitted in the vehicle (except for valid medical reason). No stirrup type carts, chariots, buggies or sulkies allowed.

Class Routine: Enter the ring to the right at a working trot. Horse/pony may be exhibited both ways of the ring at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. (See description of gaits under General Driving Guidelines.)

REINSMANSHIP:

See General Driving Guidelines for additional information.

The emphasis in judging is to show the exhibitor's skill and expertise in handling the driving animal. To be judged 75% on handling of reins and whip, control, posture, and overall appearance of driver, 25% on condition of harness and vehicle and neatness of attire. This class is comparable to an equitation riding class.

Harness and Vehicle: Follow guidelines listed under Pleasure Driving - Light Horse/Pony or Draft Horse/Pony.

Class routine: Enter the ring to the right at a working trot. To be exhibited both ways of the ring, at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. (See description of gaits under General Driving Guidelines.) Drivers shall be required to rein back. Drivers may be asked to execute a figure eight; two exact circles of equal size, joined at the center of the eight with the horse/pony straightening an instant before changing direction at the center of the figure (see diagram listed under Hunt Seat Equitation, page 5) and perform any other appropriate tests called for by the judge. The driver should be seated comfortably on the seat, so as to be relaxed and effective. Either one or two-handed method of driving is acceptable. The elbows and arms should be close to the body, with a steady hand enabling a consistent “feel” with the horse/pony’s mouth.

OBSTACLE DRIVING - DRIVER’S CHOICE

See General Driving Guidelines for additional information.

The emphasis in judging is to show the exhibitor's skill and expertise in handling the driving animal through a variety of obstacles.

Class Routine: The course will consist of unnumbered obstacles, each carrying a specific point value based on degree of difficulty. Each driver will have a 2 (two) minute time limit to negotiate as many obstacles as possible. Each driver attempts to obtain the highest score within the time allotted.

Personal Attire and Appointments, Harness, Vehicle, Use of Whip and Header/Groom:

Follow guidelines listed under Pleasure Driving - Light Horse/Pony or Draft Horse/Pony Guidelines. Drivers must dress appropriately when competing in a ny driving class, including obstacles.

Class routine: When the starting signal is given the driver will have one minute to pass through the start markers. (Drivers who do not wait for the start signal or do not pass through the start markers within the one minute time will be disqualified.) After passing through the starting line the driver may drive through the obstacles in any order, from any direction. Each obstacle may be driven twice, but not in succession. (If driven a third time no points will be awarded.) No obstacle may be re-driven once it has been disturbed, with the exception of obstacles which are designed to be knocked down. No points will be given for an incorrectly completed obstacle. (If the obstacle is incorrectly driven, but not disturbed, it may be attempted again.)

The circle rule does not apply if the horse should refuse an obstacle, or run out, without disturbing it. The driver may elect not to attempt it and may drive to another obstacle without penalty. The obstacle may be attempted later, and if correctly driven, the appropriate points will be awarded.

A signal will sound at the end of allowed time and the driver must exit through the finish markers. When the driver passes through the finish markers the total time on the course will be recorded. **In case of a point tie the finish time will be used to break the tie.** If the signal sounds when the competitor is committed to an obstacle the competitor may complete the obstacle and receive the appropriate points, then proceed through the finish markers. (Whether or not the competitor was committed to the last obstacle at the signal will be left to the judge's discretion.)

Placings are determined on a high score basis. Finish time will be used to break a tie. If a tie occurs in both points and time, the winner will be decided by a drive off.

Penalties:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Knocking over start or finish markers | 5 seconds |
| 2. Break to Canter: | |
| First Break | 5 seconds |
| Second Break | 5 seconds |
| Third Break | 5 seconds |
| Fourth Break | 5 seconds |
| Prolonged Canter | Elimination |

Note: If a tack failure occurs exhibitor must fix it if a safety issue is involved (time does not stop). Other tack failures will result in elimination.

Obstacle Driving - Driver's Choice Approved Obstacles

STAR OBSTACLE

There are two ways to drive this obstacle. In competition the competitor may choose either the fast route or the short route. Under both circumstances the dimensions are the same.

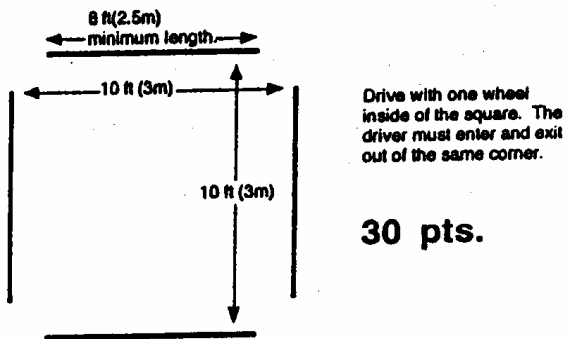
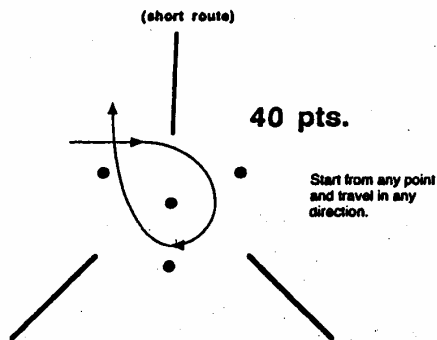
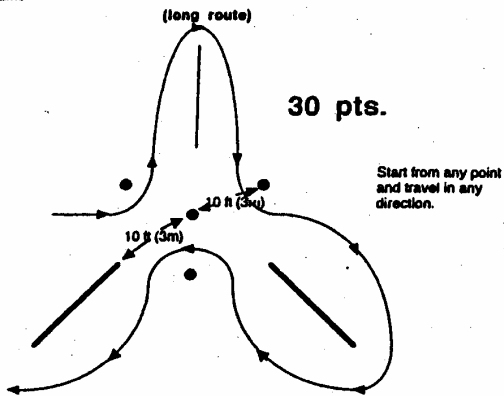
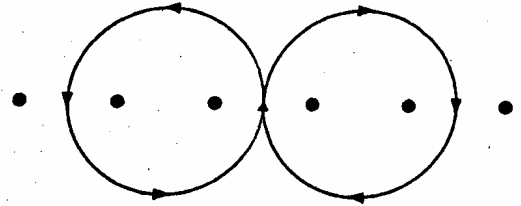


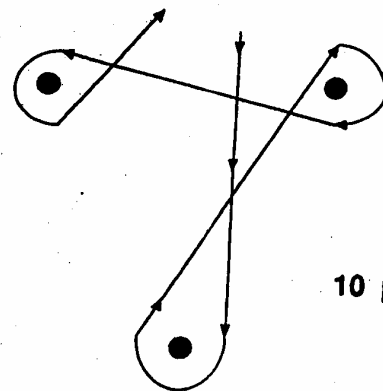
FIGURE "8"



10 pts.

Can be entered at any point from any direction as long as full figure "8" is completed.

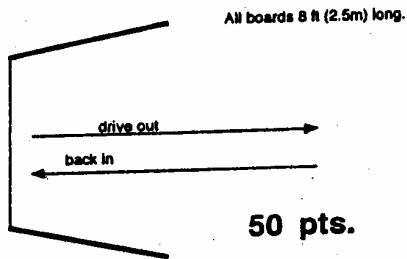
CLOVER LEAF



10 pts.

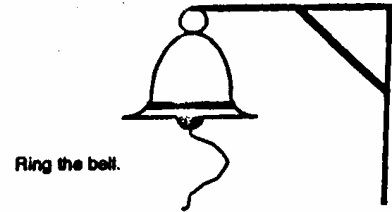
Obstacle Driving - Driver's Choice Approved Obstacles

BACK IN - KNOCK DOWN

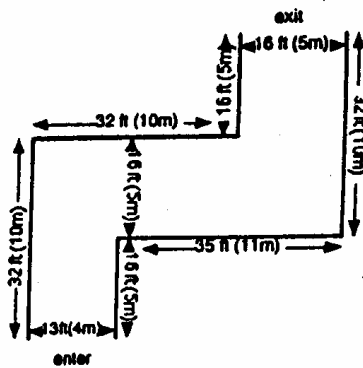


Bell

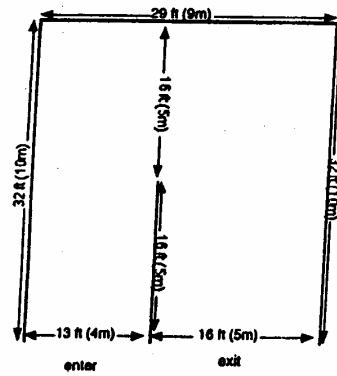
10 pts.



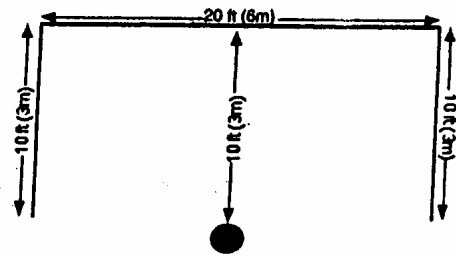
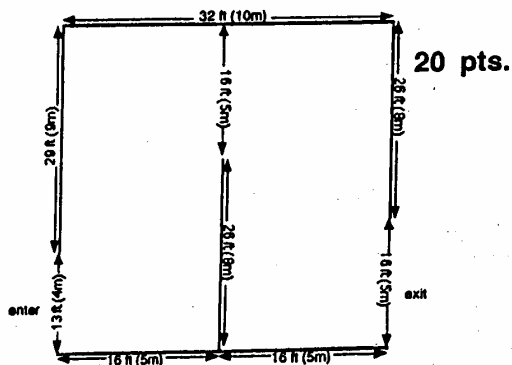
DOUBLE "L" OBSTACLE



"U" OBSTACLES



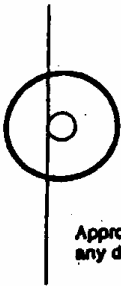
BOX OBSTACLE



Obstacle Driving - Driver's Choice Approved Obstacles

SPINNER

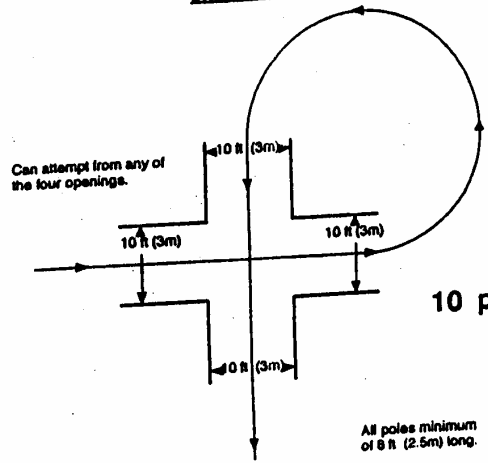
Drive in circle with one wheel, spin 360 degrees and drive out. The circle is made of lime and is 3 ft to 4 ft in diameter.



40 pts.

Approachable from any direction.

CRISS-CROSS

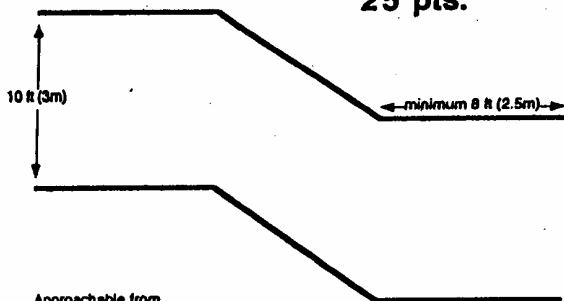


10 pts.

All poles minimum of 6 ft (2.5m) long.

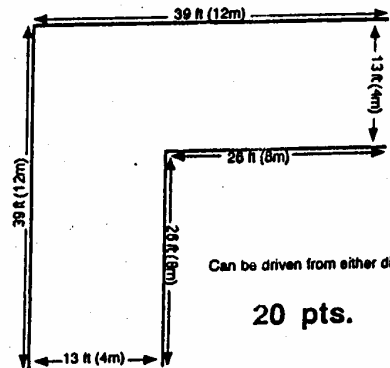
ZIG-ZAG

25 pts.



Approachable from either direction.

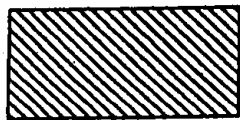
"L" OBSTACLE



Can be driven from either direction.

20 pts.

BRIDGE

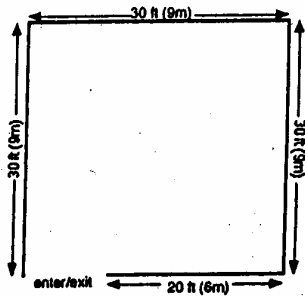


Sheet of plywood.

20 pts.

Obstacle Driving - Driver's Choice Approved Obstacles

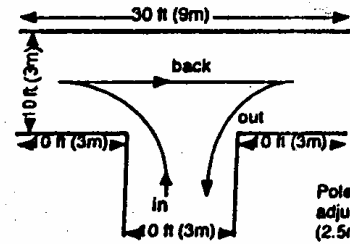
DRIVE-IN DRIVE-OUT



Drive into the box, turn around, and drive out of the box.

30 pts.

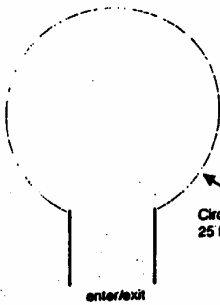
"T" OBSTACLE



40 pts.

Pole length adjustable 8 ft (2.5m) minimum

KEY-HOLE



Drive into the key-hole, drive around the inside of the key-hole, and drive out.

30 pts.

Circle made of lime and is 25 ft (8m) in diameter.

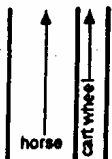
SERPENTINE



All cones 25 ft (8 m) apart.

10 pts.

PARALLEL RAILS (2 options)



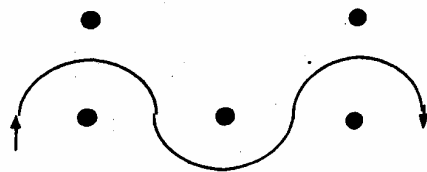
Three-Pole

30 pts.



Two-pole

OFF-SET CONES



20 pts.

Sets of cones 36 ft (11m) apart

TRAIL CLASS

This class is open to Western, Hunter, or Saddle Seat style of riding. You must ride your horse in accordance with specific discipline (English riders must post to the trot, Western riders using a curb **(leverage/shank)** bit are not allowed to use two hands on the reins, etc.). Exhibitor may show either horse or pony.

Attire/tack: The attire and tack must be appropriate per style of riding. SEI approved safety helmet, with chin strap fastened **MUST** be worn in trail class. (Follow recommendations listed under Hunter Seat Equitation, Saddle Seat Equitation or Stock Seat Equitation.)

Class Routine: Each exhibitor will individually execute course. A course diagram will be posted at least one hour before class is to begin. The diagram will indicate obstacles, path to be ridden, and the gait the horse will take between obstacles. No horse may enter the trail course area until the course and judge are ready. However, riders may be permitted to inspect the course on foot prior to the commencement of the class at management's discretion.

Course Requirements: Course to include a minimum of six obstacles separately or combined. Care in preparing the course should be exercised to prevent a direct advantage to either a small or large horse. Course should include a jog and a lope of suitable duration to determine the way of going. Horses to be penalized for any unnecessary delay when approaching an obstacle.

Judges are encouraged to advance on to next obstacle, any horse taking excessive time at an obstacle. After enough horses have completed the course for the ribbons being awarded, any horse with a major fault may be eliminated at the judge's discretion.

The following will result in a no score on a particular obstacle, but does not mean disqualification from the class: Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.

Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side.

Skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge.

Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence.

Recommended Obstacles:

1. Opening , passing through, and closing gate
2. Ride over at least four logs, poles, or simulated brush. These can be in a straight line, curved, zigzagged, or raised.
3. Backing obstacles to be spaced a minimum of 28". (If elevated, 30" spacing is required.)

Optional Obstacles:

1. PVC pipe or wood poles.
2. Ride over a bridge (with any obstacle on or under the bridge). Suggested minimum width 36" and at least 6' long.
3. Carry an object from one part of the arena to another (slicker, pail, halter, etc.).
4. Riding through water.
5. Running down into a ditch without lunging or jumping.
6. Side passing.
7. Mounting and dismounting from either side.
8. Jumping (not to exceed 12").
9. Ground ties.
10. Any other safe and reasonable conditions encountered along the trail.

- Unacceptable Obstacles:**
1. Tires
 2. Animals
 3. Hides
 4. Rocking or moving bridges
 5. Water box with floating or moving parts
 6. Flames, dry ice, fire extinguishers, etc.
 7. Logs or poles elevated in such a manner that they would be permitted to roll

Guide to Spacing Obstacles:

1. Walk-over poles: 18, 20, 22, or 24 inches apart. (OR distance between poles can be staggered, such as 12, 24, 22 inches.)
2. Trot or jog over poles: 2'6" or 3'6" apart.
3. Canter or lope over poles: 6, 7, or 8 feet apart.
4. In and out jump at the lope: 12 feet between jumps.
5. Spread jump: 2'6" wide and no higher than 24". Also make a spread jump by laying 4 or 5 poles on the ground and spacing them 12 inches apart, thus making a 4' or 5' spread jump.
6. Back-through L: 28 to 30 inches wide.
7. Trot or jog through L: 3'6" to 4' wide.
8. Back-through L: 28 to 30 inches wide.

OBSTACLES

Examples	Good	Minor Faults	Major Faults	Elimination
CONTROL				
-gates -back thru position -side-responsive passes -turns on forehand & quarters -serpentine	-smooth -good -wide positions -slow response to aids	-slight touches -slant side passes elements -stepping out of -poor head position	-knock down of elevated confining elements -losing gate -fussiness and extreme tension -Refusals	-off course -cuing horse in front of cinch
AGILITY				
-jumps -walk overs -trot or lope -cavalettis -bridge	-attentive -careful -willing -low poll -failure to stay on center lines	-slight touches -poor jumping form -too hesitant -off side of bridge	-knock downs -refusals -failure to maintain gaits cinch	-off course -cuing horse in front of
CALMNESS				
-water -plastic -brush -plants -carrying objects -dally and drag with rope	-steady going -alert -careful but willing -low poll	-tense over or through obstacle -nervous when carrying objects or working rope -losing rope -refusals	-jumping over or stampeding through obstacles -spooking when carrying objects or rope or carried object	-off course -cuing in front of cinch -running off with

THERAPEUTIC TRAIL CLASS

This class is open to Western, Hunter, or Saddle Seat style of riding. You must ride your horse in accordance with specific discipline. Exhibitor may show either a horse or pony.

Purpose: The purpose of this class is to utilize equine oriented activities to contribute positively to the cognitive, physical, emotional and social well being of young people with disabilities, while adding to their involvement with their counties, district and state 4-H Horse or Horseless Horse programs. Equine activities can be adapted so people with physical, mental and psychological impairments can participate in sports activities with the horse.

General: Horses used for the therapeutic classes are not required to be owned, leased or managed by the exhibitor. Therapeutic riding horses may be used by more than one exhibitor for the same class.

Eligibility Requirements: Each competitor shall be an enrolled 4-H Horse or Horseless Horse member in good standing and in grades 6 through 13. Exhibitor must have shown in a Therapeutic Trail class at their county qualifying show. Each competitor shall provide, at the time entry form is submitted, the following: (1) a doctor's signature stating the rider is allowed to participate in equine activities; (2) a statement from the therapeutic riding instructor or physical therapist the rider has worked with, indicating the lead length and number of side walkers required; and (3) written permission from the parent/guardian for participation in the show.

Attire/tack: Appropriate attire will include long pants, proper riding boots, a gait belt, an SEI and ASTM safety certified helmet and any other special equipment required to meet the needs of a disability. Each rider/horse team shall have a halter under the bridle, with a mandatory leader working with either a short lead (6 to 8 feet) or a long lead (12 to 20 foot lunge line), with one or two side walkers.

Class Routine: The judge will be given a copy of the statement identifying the member's disability or meet with the member and leader before their event begins. No more than one horse/rider/side walker team may be in the show arena at any one time. Trail horses are required to work over, around and through different obstacles, at a walk or trot, as designated by the trail pattern submitted for the obstacle, unless it is necessary to adapt the gait to the ability of the 4-H member. A course diagram will be posted at least one hour before class is to begin. The diagram will indicate obstacles, path/direction to be ridden, and the gait the horse will take between obstacles. No horse may enter the trail course area until the course and judge are ready, however, riders may be permitted to inspect the course with their helpers prior to the start of the class at management's discretion.

Course Requirements: The class will be judged with a score sheet, with time to finish the course being used in the case of a tie. The course will include a minimum of four obstacles. Course design should keep in mind the use of a leader and side walker(s). Sequence and direction must be followed as the course diagram states with no obstacle being skipped unless the judge directs the rider to do so. (Judges are encouraged to advance on to next obstacle, any horse taking excessive time at an obstacle.)

The following will result in a no score on a particular obstacle, but does not mean disqualification from the class: Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.

Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side.

Skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge.

Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence.

Awards: A grand and reserve award will be presented. All other exhibitors will receive a top ten ribbon.

Notice: All paperwork **MUST** be submitted with county entries (within 7 days of qualifying show).

Possible Obstacles: Obstacles may include, but are not limited to:

1. Ride over at least four logs or poles. These can be in a straight line, curved. The space between the logs is measured and the path the horse is to take should be the measuring point. The space for the walkovers should be 18"-24". Trot-overs 2'6"-3'6".
2. Straight back through. Back through should be spaced 28" - 30" wide.
3. Flat bridge. Suggested minimum width 36" and at least 6' long.
4. Carry an object (such as a lead rope/lariat, halter, canteen or a letter to be mailed) from one obstacle to another.
5. 360 degree turn.
6. Mailbox.
7. Horse hugs
8. Serpentine.

Unacceptable Obstacles:

1. Tires
2. Animals
3. Hides
4. Rocking or moving bridges
5. Water box with floating or moving parts
6. Flames, dry ice, fire extinguishers, etc.
7. Elevated logs or poles.
8. Gates
9. Sidepass
10. Water or Tarp

	OBSTACLES			
Examples	Good	Minor Faults	Major Faults	Elimination
CONTROL				
-mailbox	-smooth	-slight touches	-excessive coaching	-off course
-back thru	-good position	-slow response	by leader or side walker	-separation of horse and rider
-360 turns	-horse & rider working as a team	-wide positions	-refusals	
-serpentine		-coaching by leader or side walker	-stepping out of confining elements	
			-fussiness and extreme tension	
AGILITY				
-bridge	-attentive	-slight touches	-excessive coaching	-off course
-walk overs	-careful	-coaching by leader or side walker	by leader or side walker	-separation of horse and rider
-trot	-willing	-too hesitant	-failure to maintain gaits	
-cavalettis	-horse & rider working as a team	-failure to stay on center lines	-off side of bridge	
			-refusals	
CALMNESS				
-brush	-steady going	-tense over or through obstacle	-rushing or charging through obstacles	-off course
-plants	-alert	-nervous when carrying objects or working rope	-losing object	-separation of horse and rider
-carrying objects	-careful but willing	-coaching by leader or side walker	-spooking when carrying objects	-running off with carried object
	-horse & rider working as a team		-excessive coaching by leader of side walker	
			-refusals	

THERAPEUTIC WALK TROT CLASS

This class is open to Western, Hunter, or Saddle Seat style of riding. You must ride your horse in accordance with specific discipline. Exhibitor may show either a horse or a pony.

Purpose: The purpose of this class is to utilize equine oriented activities to contribute positively to the cognitive, physical, emotional and social well being of young people with disabilities, while adding to their involvement with their counties, district and state 4-H Horse or Horseless programs. Equine activities can be adapted so people with physical, mental and psychological impairments can participate in sports activities with the horse.

General: Horses used for the therapeutic classes are not required to be owned, leased or managed by the exhibitor. Therapeutic riding horses may be used by more than one exhibitor for the same class.

Eligibility Requirements: Each competitor shall be an enrolled 4-H Horse or Horseless Horse member in good standing and in grades 6 through 13. Exhibitor must have shown in a Therapeutic Walk Trot class at their county qualifying show. Each competitor shall provide, at the time entry form is submitted, the following: (1) a doctor's signature stating the rider is allowed to participate in equine activities; (2) a statement from the therapeutic riding instructor or physical therapist the rider has worked with, indicating the lead length and number of side walkers required; and (3) written permission from the parent/guardian for participation in the show.

Attire/tack: Appropriate attire will include long pants, proper riding boots, a gait belt, an SEI and ASTM safety certified helmet and any other special equipment required to meet the needs of a disability. Each rider/horse team shall have a halter under the bridle, with a mandatory leader working with either a short lead (6 to 8 feet) or a long lead (12 to 20 foot lunge line), with one or two side walkers.

Class Routine: The judge will be given a copy of the statement identifying the member's disability or meet with the member and leader before their event begins. No more than one horse/rider/side walker team may be in the show arena at any one time. Cones will be used to designate the location for a change of gait, reverse, halt and back. (The ring steward will announce appropriate directions as each rider is competing. Leader may give visual cues to the hearing impaired.) Horses will enter the arena at a walk. Horses are shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring. When reversing horses may turn into or away from the rail. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Horses should be obedient, alert, responsive and move freely. Horses will be required to back and should respond willingly.

Class Requirements: This class is to show the therapeutic horse and rider working together as a team. The emphasis in judging is on the total effort of horse and rider to communicate and work together. The judge will be looking for a horse that exhibits good manners, gives a pleasurable ride, is readily responsive to all of the riders cues and a rider that exhibits good communication with the horse by the use of aids (voice, hands, legs, seat, weight and artificial aids as appropriate for each individual.)

Awards: A grand and reserve award will be presented. All other exhibitors will receive a top ten ribbon.

Notice: All paperwork **MUST** be submitted with county entries (within 7 days of qualifying show).

PONY MEASUREMENT AND PROCEDURE

1. A hard level surface must be selected.
2. Lower the pony's head to determine the high point of the withers.
3. Stand the pony square with weight on all four feet —not stretched or bunched.
4. The neck should be natural and cannot be lower than the horizontal at the time of measurement.
5. If wearing shoes, measure the shoe. Deduct actual height of shoe from measurement.
6. A measurement must be obtained from both sides and the pony must measure 56" or under, based on average of both measurements.
7. If a pony measures over 56" by one inspector, the exhibitor has the right to get the pony measured by two (2) more inspectors designated by the show committee. The results of two out of three inspectors determines the height of the pony for that show.
8. The measuring stick must be rigid and have a measurement scale with a level.
9. The measuring inspectors will be designated by the show committee prior to the show. The results of two out of three inspectors are final.
10. As a show where there is pre-registration (i.e. the State 4-H Horse Show), if a pony measures over 56", that animal can enter an appropriate horse class or there will be a refund of entry fees.

All animals entered in pony classes must be measured prior to receiving exhibitor number.

NOTE: POA Ponies holding a permanent pony measurement card may show the card and registration papers to office staff in lieu of being measured at the show.