RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

18 U.S.C. 707



NEW JERSEY STATE 4-H HORSE PROGRAM

2023 CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW RULEBOOK

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Boards of County Commissioners. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

Developed By:
The New Jersey 4-H Horse Program Advisory Council
Rule Book Committee

Volunteer Members:
Stella Almeida, Angel Brown, Jen DeGenova, Cheryl Johnson, Ken Lehberger, Mary Lehberger, Mark Redrow, and Lori Wunderlich

RCE Staff:
Patty Burns, Cyndy Hetzell, Tammy Suydam, Brittany S. Rigg, and Emily Wunderlich-Vail

Prepared By:
Brittany S. Rigg
State 4-H Horse Program Coordinator
Rutgers Cooperative Extension

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

For additional information contact your County 4-H Staff Member

OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW JERSEY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM

A. Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, public speaking abilities, sportsmanship, and other desirable characteristics.
B. Experience the pride of owning, leasing, or working with a horse or pony and being responsible for its management.
C. Develop and appreciate horseback riding, driving, equine education, and care as healthy wholesome forms of recreation.
D. Learn skills in horsemanship and equine education and to have an understanding of the business aspects of raising and/or training horses.
E. Increase the knowledge of safety precautions to prevent injury to self, others, and the horse.
F. Promote a greater love for equines and a humane attitude towards them.
G. To be better prepared for citizenship and leadership responsibilities through working in groups and supporting horse projects and activities.
H. To provide opportunities to 4-H members within the equine industry and community beyond the county and state 4-H levels.

Table of Contents

GENERAL RULES & REQUIREMENTS 4
- A. County Qualifying Shows 4
- B. Qualifying In Another County 4
- C. County Entries for the New Jersey 4-H State Championship Horse Show 5
- D. Entry/Horse Changes 6
- E. Alternate changes at the show 6
- F. Member Eligibility 7
- G. Animal Eligibility 7
- H. Definition of "Project Horse" 8
- I. Animal Measurement 9
- J. Safety Precautions 9
- K. Show Management 10
- L. Show Committee 10
- M. Teams & Championships 11
- N. Parental Assistance and Coaching 11
- O. Protests 12
- P. General Class Rules 12
- Q. Equine Welfare, Sportsmanship & Ethics 13

DRESSAGE DIVISION 15
- A. General Rules – Horses must be 4 years of age for this division. 15
- B. The Arena 15
- C. Classes Offered 16
- D. English Dressage Attire and Equipment 16
- E. Western Dressage Attire and Equipment 17
- F. Dressage Seat Equitation Classes 18

ENGLISH DIVISION 19
- A. General Rules 19
- B. Classes Offered 19
- C. Attire and Equipment 19
- D. Class Specifications 20

GAMES DIVISION 23
- A. General Rules 23
- B. Classes Offered 24
- C. Attire and Equipment 24
- D. Equipment 24
- E. Class Specifications 25

WESTERN AND RANCH DIVISION 26
- A. General Rules 26
- B. Classes Offered 26
- C. Attire and Equipment 26
- D. Western Equipment 27
- E. Ranch Class Attire and Equipment: 28
- F. Class Specifications 28

VERY SMALL EQUINE DIVISION 40
- A. General Rules 40
- B. Classes Offered 40
- C. Attire and Equipment 41
- D. Class Specifications 41

DRIVING DIVISION 47
A. General Rules 47
B. Classes Offered 48
C. Attire and Equipment 48
D. Class Specifications 50

APPENDIX A – THE DANISH JUDGING SYSTEM 52
APPENDIX B – DRESSAGE BITS 53
APPENDIX C – DRESSAGE AND WESTERN DRESSAGE ARENA 57
APPENDIX D – DRESSAGE FAULTS / ANALYZING JUDGE'S COMMENTS 58
APPENDIX E – WESTERN DRESSAGE BIT SPECIFICATIONS 59
APPENDIX F – ENGLISH BIT SPECIFICATIONS 61
APPENDIX G – QUARTER HORSE METHOD 62
APPENDIX H – SHOWMANSHIP & GROOMING SCORE CARD 63
APPENDIX I – WESTERN BIT SPECIFICATIONS 64
APPENDIX J – GAME PATTERNS 65
APPENDIX K – TRAIL OBSTACLES 66
APPENDIX L – TRAIL PENALTY CHART 67
APPENDIX M – VERY SMALL EQUINE JUMPER/HUNTER IN HAND 68
APPENDIX N – VSE IN HAND JUMPER PENALTY CHART 68
APPENDIX O – VSE GUIDELINES FOR SHOWMANSHIP CLASS 69
APPENDIX P – IN HAND TRAIL PENALTY CHART 70
APPENDIX Q – VSE SHOWMANSHIP SCORE CARD 71
APPENDIX R – VSE SHOWMANSHIP PATTERN 72

GENERAL RULES & REQUIREMENTS

A. County Qualifying Shows

a. These rules shall apply to the New Jersey State 4-H Championship Horse Show and ALL SHOWS THAT INCLUDE COUNTY 4-H QUALIFYING CLASSES. In this manner uniformity can be established and the riders will be better prepared for the New Jersey 4-H State Championship Horse Show.

b. Counties may hold their own County Qualifying Shows provided they use ONLY qualified judges approved by the State Horse Show Committee.

   i. One or more counties may hold regional qualifying shows provided those shows are sanctioned by the State Horse Show Committee.

c. In order to qualify to ride at the New Jersey State Championship Horse Show a member must qualify at a county qualifying show/shows and must be a "member in good standing" in the county in which they are enrolled as of January 1 in 4HOnline (see description of "Member in Good Standing" under Member Eligibility).

d. A county MUST use the Danish System (excellent, very good, good, and fair) in combination with a straight placing system (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.).

   i. To qualify, rider must achieve a MINIMUM Danish rating of a Very Good (see Appendix for Danish System criteria).

e. All Dressage Test Score and Danish Scores used to qualify for the New Jersey State Championship Horse Show must be from the current CALENDAR year.

f. In order to qualify and participate at the county qualifying shows and the New Jersey State 4-H Championship Horse Show, each registered 4-H member must provide the County 4-H Staff Member or county qualifying show committee:

   i. Proof of negative Coggins Test from an approved laboratory within twelve (12) months of the date of the show. The original copy of the Coggins (hard paper copy or digital copy) MUST be in possession of the member, parent, or guardian at the county AND New Jersey 4-H State Championship Horse Show. It is a New Jersey State Law that any person transporting a horse anywhere in the state must have in their possession a Current Negative Coggins test in the vehicle and at the show office.

   ii. Proof (hard paper copy or digital copy) of Eastern and Western Encephalitis, Tetanus, West Nile Virus, and Rabies vaccinations within 1 year of the date of the show; AND in conjunction with USEF rules, the Equine Herpes Virus, and Equine Influenza vaccinations will be required to be within 6 months of the first day of the show. Strangles vaccination is also strongly recommended but not required by the State 4-H Horse Show Committee.

g. The New Jersey State Division of Animal Health may conduct a random drug test at any horse show at any time.

B. Qualifying In Another County

a. Arrangements for a member to qualify in another county MUST be made through the county extension office 4-H staff member responsible for the 4-H Horse Project BEFORE THE SHOW and the approval sent to the State 4-H Department Horse Liaison. This may be done for the following reasons:

i. In the case of limited entries for certain classes in a county, a county may not offer those classes and instead send their members to qualify at another designated show with the permission of the host county.

ii. Members may also qualify in another county if their horse is lame (needs a vet certification) or extenuating circumstances occur which the member had no control over. Those determinations will be made by the County 4-H Staff.

iii. Counties may not have enough 4-H members to hold a qualifying show to cover the costs associated with the show. Counties may combine efforts and host qualifying shows together. County 4-H Staff or Qualifying Show Coordinators must contact the State 4-H Department Horse Liaison to make arrangements for such shows.

b. To participate in another county qualifying show members will need to fill out an "Out of County Qualifying Form." This form must be signed by County 4-H Staff and a copy must be sent to the county the member intends to qualify in and must be sent to the State 4-H Department Horse Liaison. [See Appendix for sample form.]

C. County Entries for the New Jersey 4-H State Championship Horse Show

a. The County 4-H Staff person responsible for the 4-H Equine Program in that county shall provide a database list of the qualified individuals and alternates for the show to the State Horse Show Committee. Entries close approximately five (5) weeks prior to the show. Only those members entered will be allowed to exhibit.

b. The number of riders per class will be limited to three (3) juniors and three (3) seniors for each County, with up to three (3) alternates if they all have a qualifying score. Classes without enough juniors or seniors to split will be combined by the SHS committee. Classes without AT LEAST three (3) entries may be cancelled or combined at the discretion of the SHS Committee.

i. Classes that are combined will be ridden together, however placings will be pinned separately for each class. For example: If Western Pleasure Jr/Sr is combined, the Jr members will be pinned and then the Sr members will be pinned.

ii. Any combined classes will be announced the morning of the show.

c. All members must meet the "Member in Good Standing" requirements and project horses must have been registered by April 1. This rule is for all divisions of the show.

d. Each county must have a county coordinator for each division. This coordinator must be named and submitted with all the entries for that county.

i. Each county shall have a mandatory pre-show meeting.

ii. At that meeting contestants will be introduced to their specific coordinator for each division, they will be given the information about the show and rules for those classes to which they qualified.

e. NO REFUNDS of entry, stabling or camper fees will be made after entries close for any reason.

f. Upon arrival at the show grounds, contestants must register <u>in person</u> at the show office to receive their show number and present to the show secretary the following documents:

i. An original valid Coggins (electronic or hard copy) and Proof of Rabies (both must be within 1 year of date of the show). In the state of New Jersey only a licensed Veterinarian can give a rabies vaccine.

ii. Proof of up-to-date vaccinations within the time specified listed under the section titled “County Qualifying Shows”. Proof must be validated by the New Jersey 4-H Horse Health Form download at: nj4h.rutgers.edu/horses (Signed by the veterinarian) OR a bill from the vet on letterhead with dates on it. Proof of self-administered vaccines must follow USEF Rule GR845.

iii. A completed 4-H Event Permission Form (If one has not already been sent with the entry form.)

g. **4-H’ers who arrive at the show with expired or invalid vaccinations/Coggins test will not be allowed to compete and the animals must leave the show grounds. There will be no exceptions!**

D. Entry/Horse Changes

a. Members must show the same horse(s) at the county qualifying horse show(s) and the New Jersey State 4-H Championship Horse Show. If the horse, after completion of the last county qualifying show, is injured or cannot compete at the New Jersey State 4-H Championship Horse Show, the next highest placing alternate who qualified in the class at the county qualifying show(s) shall be eligible for the state show. There are only TWO (2) exceptions to this rule:

b. If a 4-H member’s horse dies after the last county 4-H qualifying horse show, the member may substitute another currently enrolled 4-H project horse from their county. A copy of the veterinarian’s certificate of the death must be filed with the county 4-H staff and the original given to the show secretary the day of the show. This arrangement must also be verified by the County 4-H Office staff member.

i. In case of permanent injury (with veterinarian documentation) or loss of animal due to circumstances beyond the 4-H members control (owner sells a leased animal with documentation of proof of sale) between April 1 of the current project year and that county’s first Qualifying Show an individual member may substitute an already registered project animal from their county at their county qualifying show(s). This arrangement must also be verified by the County 4-H Office staff member.

ii. The member may substitute another registered project animal from their county ONLY in these classes: Dressage Seat Equitation, English Equitation on the Flat, English Equitation over Fences, Western Horsemanship, Grooming and Showmanship (VSE, English or Western.)

E. Alternate changes at the show

a. All alternate changes must be given to the Show Secretary. Alternate changes can be made the day of the state show by the county coordinator. Once the alternate substitution is made, the change remains final.

b. If a contestant must scratch any state show class due to an injury or unsoundness that occurred after the NJ State 4-H Horse Show entry deadline, the 4-H member must submit written justification signed by a veterinarian in order to show that project animal in any subsequent classes (such as Halter classes etc.).

c. If a contestant decides to scratch a class, for a reason other than injury or unsoundness of the animal, the county coordinator may substitute an alternate, however, the original contestant will be scratched from the remainder of the show and cannot decide to

participate in any subsequent classes. **FOR EXAMPLE:** If a horse/rider combination is scratched Saturday, that combination **CAN NOT** compete Sunday.)

d. If a contestant is unable to participate in a particular class because of a problem (i.e., heat stress, thrown shoe, etc.) occurring during the State 4-H Horse Show, certifiable by the farrier, veterinarian, show steward, judge or medical technician, then an alternate may be substituted by the county coordinator for that class only. The contestant will be permitted to participate in his/her remaining classes pending certification by said farrier, or veterinarian or medical technician, provided the horse is then deemed sound to perform again.

F. Member Eligibility

a. General Eligibility - To be eligible to participate in the NJ State 4-H Championship Horse Show, a 4-H member MUST:

   i. Have been enrolled in Grade 4 or higher; the last year of participation is the year in which the member is enrolled in grade 13 (or the equivalent - one-year past grade 12). The grade of members shall be determined by the grade enrolled in school the September prior to the State 4-H Championship Horse Show.

      1. Junior Members: 4-H'ers enrolled in Grades 4-8 as of the September prior to the state show.

      2. Senior Members: 4-H'ers enrolled in Grades 9- 13 as of the September prior to the state show.

b. Meet the following "Member in Good Standing" requirements during the current project year. This is to be verified by the club leader and or county 4-H Staff on the state entry form.

   i. Be a registered 4-H Horse Project member in the county they will represent by January 1 of the current year in the New Jersey 4-H Online system and have attended at least 70% of regular club meetings.

   ii. Given a state, county or club 4-H presentation following the State 4-H or Equine Presentations Contest guidelines.

   iii. Been responsible for the physical care and training of the animal to the fullest extent possible.

   iv. Complete a 4-H Horse Project Record Book including the members' entire horse project animal(s) up to the date of the show entries.

   v. Participate in a 4-H Community Service Activity within the current project year.

G. Animal Eligibility

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

   i. All horse/pony/very small equine projects should have a minimum body condition score of at least three (3). See Appendix for body conditioning score chart.

b. Age of Horses- A horse (regardless of breed) becomes a year older on January 1st of the current year, not on its actual birthday.

   i. Showmanship and Grooming and Halter animals may be any age.

   ii. Dressage-All animals must be 4 years of age or older for this division.

iii. English- Animals must be 3 years of age or older except for over fences classes where they must be 4 or older.

iv. Western- Animals must be 3 years or older.

v. Games- Animals must be 4 years of age or older for all classes.

vi. VSE- Animals must be 3 years old for in hand jumping, Hunter and in hand trail. Younger animals may participate in Grooming and Showmanship and Halter ONLY.

vii. Stallions are ineligible to compete in any 4-H horse show, with the exception of a Mare and Foal class.

viii. A project pony or horse is eligible to be shown in all divisions except VSE. VSE's may only be shown in VSE classes.

ix. A rider is permitted to show more than one horse per class in individual performance classes. Classes are as follows and DO NOT include individual equitation classes:

1. Trail
2. Dressage
3. Games

x. Unruly and unsound horses will be excused from the ring.

1. Determination of unruliness will be left to the judge and/or show committee.
2. Determination of unsoundness will be left to the show veterinarian and/or judge at the time of the class. Unsound horses shall be excused from the class.

H. Definition of "Project Horse"

a. To be eligible to participate in the NJ State 4-H Championship Horse Show, the horse, pony, mule, or donkey must adhere to the following:

i. Be the 4-H member's project animal duly registered in the county 4-H office by April 1. A 4-H member may have more than one project animal. A project horse may be shared by no more than two (2) 4-H members regardless of the type of ownership status. Those members may not exhibit the horse in the same class.

ii. Have a completed 4-H Horse Registration form for each animal turned in to the county 4-H office and dated no later than April 1st of the current year. A copy of the 4-H Horse Registration Form can be found on the State 4-H Web site; nj4h.rutgers.edu/horses. **The horse's name on the Project Registration Form must be exactly the same as the name on the Coggins Certificate, the Horse Health Form and the State Show entry form.**

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

iv. Project animals must fit into one of the following categories to be eligible for use:

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

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

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

I. Animal Measurement

a. It shall be the responsibility of the County 4-H Staff person or county qualifying show committee to issue proof of animal measurement at their qualifying show(s). All animals, 14.2 hands and under, must be measured at the county qualifying show on a yearly basis up to and including their sixth (6th) year of age. Permanent cards will be given at the age of seven (7.) For a sample of the height measurement card see Appendix.

b. Exhibitors must bring county measurement cards to the New Jersey State 4-H Championship Horse Show. No other measurement cards will be accepted.

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

d. A horse or pony over seven years (7) of age may not have its height protested provided it has a permanent 4-H card.

e. Horses are defined as exceeding 14.2 hands in height, regardless of breed or discipline.

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

    i. In the English Division, regardless of breed, the size of the ponies is defined as:

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

        2. Medium Ponies - shall be over 12.2 and not to exceed 13.2 hands.

        3. Small Ponies - shall not exceed 12.2 hands.

g. All Very Small Equines (VSE) project animals will follow the same criteria for horses and ponies and will need to be measured yearly until they reach seven (7) years of age and receive their permanent measurement card. VSE's must be thirty-nine (39") inches or less and may only enter designated VSE classes.

J. Safety Precautions

a. Members should wear a properly fastened protective headgear which meets or exceeds current ASTM (American Society for Testing Materials) / SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag. Headgear must be properly fitted with harness secured and is required while riding or driving anywhere on the event grounds (including the warm-up arenas) and in all classes except for Grooming and Showmanship, Western Halter, and VSE in hand classes.

b. Properly fitted and secured riding boots with heels are REQUIRED whenever a rider is mounted AND for anyone working with a Horse in the warm- up ring, lounging ring or walking to and from and in the wash rack.

    i. Parent or adult must always be wearing hard soled footwear with closed toes when rendering assistance with a member or members.

c. If helmet, boots or attire becomes unsecured during a class, the rider is disqualified.

d. NO DOGS ARE PERMITTED DURING THE NEW JERSEY STATE 4-H CHAMPIONSHIP HORSE SHOW. DOGS LEFT IN CARS OR VEHICLES WILL BE REPORTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

K. Show Management

a. Judges/Show Officials

i. Judges for all County Qualifying shows shall be competent, well-qualified individuals **approved by the state horse show committee** and able to reach a definitive decision based on sound judgment and have the confidence to stand by decisions without being defensive.

ii. Good judging depends upon the correct observation of horses and/or riders against a standard commonly accepted as the ideal according to the conditions of the class being judged. The judge must place each class in accordance with the rules and class specifications as outlined in this handbook, and evaluate and rank riders and horses, as they appear THAT DAY. They should never pin horses or riders based on their previous show records. It is essential that judges are not partial to any particular breed or be excessively critical.

iii. Decisions of the judge and show officials are final. Exhibitors and/or spectators do not have the right to inspect the judge's card or visit with the judge without permission of the show steward. However, an exhibitor may request, through the show steward, the reason for a decision and, at a proper time and place, the show steward may request the judge to give his/her reason for the decision. Any questions from such individuals must be channeled through the show steward and show committee.

b. In cases where a determination cannot be made from the 4-H Rules the following rulebooks will be sourced:

i. Dressage (both Dressage and Western Dressage)- United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Rulebook

ii. English – USEF Rulebook

iii. Games- American Quarter Horse Association Rulebook (AQHA)

iv. Western- American Quarter Horse Association Rulebook (AQHA)

v. Very Small Equine- American Miniature Horse Association (AMHA)

vi. National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

L. Show Committee

a. It is the responsibility of the Show Committee to plan and implement the New Jersey State 4-H Championship Horse Show.

b. The decisions of the Show Committee are final and may supersede the decision of a Show Official or Judge when deemed by the Committee, to be in the best interest of the Show.

c. The Employee Liaison of Rutgers Cooperative Extension may overrule any decision of a Show Official or Show Committee if their decision conflicts with the policies or mission of Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the Department of 4-H Youth Development.

M. Teams & Championships

a. County Championships will be announced in the following divisions to the county team with the highest number of points in that division: Dressage, English, Games, Western, and VSE.

   i. County Team -- A county team will consist of all county exhibitors in a division. Points awarded will be based on the number of entries in the class.

b. Points accumulated in each division will only count towards the championship in that division.

c. Calculation of championship points will be determined in the following manner:

   i. Only the score (points) of the highest placing person from each county in a class will be tabulated into the county team score.

d. Points shall be earned according to the number of horses shown and judged in a particular class as follows.

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

e. Combined classes will count for points for the day on which the class is being held.

N. Parental Assistance and Coaching

a. Parental Assistance - Under NO circumstances is a parent/trainer permitted to:

   i. Ready the project animal for the show ring by grooming, braiding, banding, or clipping said animal prior to and after arrival on the show grounds. Assistance may come from other 4-Hers but not from parents, guardians, trainers, leaders, or other adults.

   ii. On all shows days of the New Jersey State 4-H Championship Horse Show, schooling of any horse, the Show Stewards or Show Committee has the authority to eliminate any exhibitor not abiding by these rules.

   iii. With regard to safety, parental assistance is acceptable, e.g. holding the horse while the rider changes clothes, checking/tightening girth, equipment, etc. Parent or adult must be wearing hard soled footwear with closed toes at all times when rendering assistance.

   iv. Coaching from the rail, show ring and in-gate area by any parent and/or trainer is prohibited at ALL times once the show is in session. ONLY verbal coaching is allowed in the schooling ring, jump practice, trailer and stabling areas.

   v. There shall be no wearing of electronic devices including but not limited to GoPro Cameras, Apple Watches, cell phones, earpieces, etc. during competition except

for medical devices. The use of magnets or any aid to help a rider hold their riding position shall be prohibited. If a rider is using such devices, they will be eliminated from competing in the duration of the New Jersey State 4-H Championship Horse Show and may forfeit any winnings from the Championship Show Weekend.

vi. Special circumstances should be referred to a show steward. The stewards' decision will be final.

O. Protests

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

   i. The protest must be filed within one (1) hour after the infraction of the rule.

   ii. Decisions that may not be protested include but are not limited to:

      1. The soundness of a horse, when determined by an official veterinarian of the competition or by a judge.
      2. A judge's decision, representing their individual preference, may not be protested unless it is alleged to be in violation of the 4-H rules.

b. All protests must be submitted to the Show Secretary on the official Horse Show Protest Form. The form is available in the horse show office.

c. The official protest form must be filled out completely, signed and accompanied by a deposit of $50.00 CASH. For a sample of the protest form see Appendix.

d. The protest will be directed to the horse show committee at the appropriate time and a decision will be made.

   i. If the protest is upheld, the $50.00 deposit shall be returned; otherwise it shall be forfeited.

   ii. In no case will a protest be considered after the conclusion of the time allotted for the protest to be filed.

P. General Class Rules

a. Classes without AT LEAST three (3) entries may be cancelled or combined at the discretion of the SHS Committee.

   i. Classes that are combined will be ridden together, however placings will be pinned separately for each class. For example: If Western Pleasure Jr/Sr is combined, the Jr members will be pinned and then the Sr members will be pinned.

   ii. Any combined classes will be announced the morning of the show.

b. A two-minute gate will be enforced. If it is necessary to do a tack change, or if there is a conflict between rings, please notify the in-gate person in advance.

c. Fall of horse or rider shall eliminate the contestant from the class.

d. No outside horses (non-4-H project horses or horses not entered in the show) may be brought onto the show grounds for any purpose, including schooling or sale.

e. For classes where individual work is performed, the individual work shall be performed in a random working order, which will be posted.

f. When classes need to be split for safety, the cuts will be chosen randomly and will be posted prior to the start of the class.

g. Riders must enter the ring with the correct number, if rider does not have the correct number or does not have the number given by the show committee the rider will be disqualified.

h. All English and Western classes that have rail work may canter up to twenty-five (25) riders at a time, at the judges' discretion.

Q. Equine Welfare, Sportsmanship & Ethics

a. Equine Welfare

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

ii. It is required that horses be treated with the kindness, respect and compassion they deserve and never subjected to mistreatment or unapproved practices in any and all activities within and outside of 4-H.

iii. Cruel or rough handling of horses will not be tolerated and will result in elimination at the decision of the judge and/or show committee.

b. Sportsmanship

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

ii. Any parents, guardians, trainers, leaders, or guests displaying discourtesy, disrespect, or disobedience to the judges, show officials, committee members or any other competitors will be dismissed from the show grounds.

c. NJ 4-H Horse Program Ethics Policy/4-H Code of Conduct

i. The NJ State 4-H Horse Show Committee and the Rutgers Cooperative Extension 4-H Department Liaison will decide any infractions of ethics or the 4-H Code of Conduct.

ii. The showing of unethically fitted/groomed horses is prohibited. Unethical fitting will be deemed to consist of any method of altering the natural appearance or conformation of any part of the animal's body. Animals showing signs of having been operated upon or tampered with for the purpose of concealing faults in conformation and appearance or with intent to deceive relative to the animal's soundness, manners and way of going will be disqualified. This includes:

1. The covering of white skin
2. Use of coat paints
3. Hair coloring conditioners
4. Colored show foam
5. Graphite
6. Colored powders

7. Hemp
8. Other similar substances externally applied
9. Steroids
10. Artificial filling internally or surgical procedures

All animals are subject to the "white towel" test.

iii. The use of chemical stimulants, depressants, and caustics agents are prohibited any competitor found using such agents will be disqualified.

iv. Every exhibitor, in consideration of their entry being accepted, agrees to submit any animal so entered by him/her to inspection and agrees to have such animal submitted to any tests as may be designated and requested by the Show committee and agrees that the conclusions reached by the Committee as to whether such animal is unethically fitted/groomed shall be final, without recourse against the committee and the show.

v. No one may conspire, contribute to or cooperate with others to violate this code, either by their action or inaction. Exhibitors, owners, and parents are absolutely responsible for an animal's condition whether or not they did something in violation themselves or knew of treatment that violates the code.

vi. Exhibitors and parents/guardians signing the 4-H Event Permission Form have verified that they have read, understand and agree to abide by the rules above.

vii. By submitting a show entry, exhibitors verify that they have read and understand the 4-H Code of Conduct, show Ethics Policy, and show rules and regulations, as well as the consequences and penalties for violations. Exhibitors understand that evidence of violation of any state law will be released to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

viii. Exhibitors submitting a show entry consent to disciplinary action for violation of the 4-H Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy.

DRESSAGE DIVISION

A. General Rules – Horses must be 4 years of age for this division.

a. A horse/rider combination must earn a minimum score of 60% on a test judged by a qualified dressage judge, to qualify to ride that test at the state show. A copy of the test must accompany the entry form.

b. A county may send three (3) junior and three (3) senior entries per division in dressage provided the entries meet the minimum test score requirements.

c. A horse/rider combination may not compete more than once in the same class (level/test). A rider is permitted to ride a different horse in the same class (level/test).

d. There is a maximum of 2 (two) horses per rider and a maximum of 2 (two) tests per horse/rider combination. A horse/rider combination may ride 2 tests and Dressage Seat Equitation.

e. If a horse is shared by two riders, it may compete twice in the same class if qualified with each rider or may show in different classes if so qualified.

f. If a horse/ rider combination scores a seventy (70%) or above at the New Jersey State 4-H Championship Horse Show, the horse/rider combination must move to the next level/test the following year.

i. Once a horse/rider combination has won a dressage test at the state show, they must move up to the next test or level in subsequent years.

g. Exhibitors riding tests A or B or Western Dressage Intro 1 or 2 cannot ride tests C or above or Western Basic 1 or 2.

i. Riders riding in tests A or B are only eligible for the Walk/Trot Dressage Seat Equitation Class and may not enter in the Walk/Trot/Canter Dressage Seat Equitation Class.

h. A scribe shall be provided for the judge, whose sole duty shall be to record the judge's scores and comments on the individual score card.

i. Each competitor will have an individual score sheet with his/her name and competitor number specified.

j. Tests may be read during the state 4-H Horse Show competition.

i. If tests are called, it is the responsibility of the competitor to arrange for a person to read the test. Lateness and errors in announcing the ride will not relieve the rider from "error penalties".

ii. Readers must read the movement exactly as it is written in the test only once. However, the repetition of reading of a movement is acceptable if there is reason to doubt that the rider heard the original call.

iii. Riders must furnish their own copy of the test for readers.

B. The Arena

a. There are 2 (two) different sizes of Dressage arenas.

i. Small Arena: 20 meters X 40 meters.
ii. Standard: 20 meters X 60 meters

b. Introduction and training level may be ridden in either arena at the option of the show committee. First Level and above are required to use the standard arena.

c. The letters (A,F,B,M,C,H,E,K) (RSVP may be required with “Test of Choice”) are to be placed around the outside of the arena (0.5) meters from the boundary of the arena and clearly marked.

d. It is permissible to decorate the letters with flowers or greenery to enhance the appearance of the arena.

i. The footing may be grass, or all-weather footing such as sand or stone dust.

ii. The Judge is placed (5) meters from the end of the arena behind the letter C.

C. Classes Offered

- USDF Intro. Level Test A (2023)
- USDF Intro. Level Test B (2023)
- USDF Intro. Level (Test C (2023)
- USEF Training Level Test 1 (2023)
- USEF Training Level Test 2 (2023)
- USEF Training Level Test 3 (2023)
- USEF First Level Test 1 (2023)
- Test of Choice – Level 2 and above, including Musical Freestyle and any Western Dressage tests First Level and above.
- Dressage Seat Equitation Walk Trot (2023)
- Dressage Seat Equitation Walk Trot Canter (2023)
- USEF Western Dressage Introductory Level Test 1 (2022)
- USEF Western Dressage Introductory Level Test 2 (2022)
- USEF Western Dressage Basic Level Test 1 (2022)
- USEF Western Dressage Basic Level Test 2 (2022)

NOTE: USDF and USEF Dressage tests are copy-righted by law.

- Link to the current Introductory through Forth Level, and Dressage Equitation tests.
- Link to the current Western Dressage Tests.
- Junior and Senior will be split if more than 25 riders per class.

D. English Dressage Attire and Equipment

a. Attire

i. Riders should wear the following:

a. English style hunt coat or dressage coat of a conservative color.
b. Shirt – white or light colored with Stock tie, choker, or tie.
c. Britches or jodhpurs should be white or a conservative color
d. English style tall boots or paddock boots with Half Chaps (paddock boots and half chaps must be the same color and boots must have a heel).
e. Gloves - black or white in color
f. Properly fitted ASTM/SEI safety helmet with harness properly fitted and securely fastened.
g. *If helmet, boots or attire become unsecured during a class, the rider is disqualified.

b. Equipment

i. Saddle - an English-type saddle with stirrups. A dressage saddle is not necessary.

ii. Bridle – an approved bit and a regular headstall with a cavesson, dropped noseband, flash noseband (a combination of a cavesson noseband and a dropped noseband attachment), crescent noseband or a crossed noseband can be used. Except for the crescent noseband and the buckles of the noseband must be made entirely of leather or leather-like material.

iii. Bits- See Appendix B for examples of acceptable bits.

1. Any bit with a port, twist, wire, or more than one rolling part is prohibited.
2. Any bit that works on leverage with a curb strap or chain is prohibited (unless showing 3rd Level and above).

iv. Whips no longer than 120 cm (47.2 inches) including the lash may be carried.

v. Spurs are permissible. If rowels are used then they must be blunt/smooth and free to rotate.

vi. Fly hoods made of a thin (single, unpadded) layer of material, are permitted for competitions held in open-sided covered rings or outdoor rings in order to protect horses from insects. The fly hoods should be discreet and should not cover the horse's eyes. After completion of the test, the rider or his representative is responsible for removing the fly hood to present to the designated ring steward for inspection to ensure that nothing prohibited has been added to or is covered by the fly hoods to protect from sound.

vii. Prohibited Equipment - includes but is not limited to: Martingales, Bit guards, Nose Covers, Hoods, Seat Covers, Any form of blinkers, Earmuffs or earplugs, Bandages; including tail bandage

viii. All competitors are required to report for an equipment check prior to entering the ring for their test. A second equipment check may be conducted following the test at the discretion of the steward and/or judge

E. Western Dressage Attire and Equipment

a. Attire and Equipment (Western Dressage Only)

i. Properly fitted ASTM/SEI safety helmet with harness properly fitted and securely fastened.

ii. Properly fitted and secured Western style riding boots with heels and riding attire.

iii. Shirt with long sleeves and a collar or neckband. Shirtsleeves MUST be rolled down and buttoned or snapped.

iv. Neckties, kerchief, bolo tie or pin are optional

v. A vest, jacket, coat and/ or sweater free of any writing are optional.

vi. Chaps are optional.

If helmet, boots or attire become unsecured during a class, the rider is disqualified.

b. Equipment (Western Dressage Only)

i. Saddle – a western saddle ONLY.

ii. Bridle – Any western type headstall must be used. A western cavesson (pencil bosal, braided or plain) is allowed. A hackamore is permitted on a horse of any age at any level. Bitless bridles of Western style made of leather or leather-like materials. The Western Two Rein bridle is permitted, Romal reins are appropriate only with a curb bit and the rider must use one hand with the romal reins. A rider can ride with two hands with only split reins, connected reins, or mecate type reins.

c. Bits

i. Snaffle, Hackamores (bosal) and curb bits are permitted.

ii. Please refer to USEF Western Dressage Rule book, rule number WD120 for specific questions.

iii. Riders are allowed to ride one or two handed with curb bits.

d. Whips no longer than 120 cm (47.2 inches) including the lash may be carried.

e. Spurs Western type with or without blunt tines. English type also allowed.

f. Prohibited Equipment includes but is not limited to:

i. Martingales

ii. Bit guards

iii. Nose Covers

iv. Hoods

v. Seat Covers

vi. Any form of blinkers

vii. Earmuffs or earplugs

viii. Bandages; including tail bandage.

g. All competitors are required to report for an equipment check prior to entering the ring for their test.

h. A second equipment check may be conducted following the test at the discretion of the steward and/or judge.

F. Dressage Seat Equitation Classes

a. Dressage Seat Equitation (Walk Trot Canter)

i. To be judged both ways of the ring at the walk, trot, and canter. The Rider only is being judged. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, legs, feet, position, balance and control of mount. Suitability of horse to rider shall be considered.

ii. No more than 25 riders may be asked to canter at a time, at the discretion of the judge.

b. Walk Trot Dressage Seat Equitation

i. To be judged both ways of the ring at the walk, and trot. The Rider only is being judged. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, legs, feet, position, balance and control of mount. Suitability of horse to rider shall be considered.

ii. Exhibitors are prohibited to enter any dressage class that will be asked to canter.

ENGLISH DIVISION

A. General Rules

a. Animals must be 3 years of age or older except for over fences classes where they must be 4 or older.

b. Animals of any age may enter into Showmanship and Grooming and Halter.

B. Classes Offered

Classes below which are split junior and senior may be combined if entries warrant

- Jr. Showmanship & Grooming
- Sr. Showmanship & Grooming
- English Halter
- Jr. Hunter Under Saddle Horse- Hunter Type horse
- Sr. Hunter Under Saddle Horse- Hunter Type Horse
- Jr. Hunter Under Saddle - Stock Type Horse
- Sr. Hunter Under Saddle- Stock Type Horse
- Jr. English Pleasure Horse
- Sr. English Pleasure Horse
- Hunter Under Saddle Pony-Jr. and Sr. Members Combined
- English Pleasure Pony- Jr. and Sr. Members Combined
- Jr. Equitation on the Flat
- Sr. Equitation on the Flat
- Jr. Equitation Over Fences
- Sr. Equitation Over Fences
- Handy Working Hunter Horse
- Handy Working Hunter Pony
- Working Hunter Horse
- Working Hunter Pony
- Hunter Hack Horse
- Hunter Hack Pony

C. Attire and Equipment

a. Attire

i. ASTM/SEI safety helmet with harness properly fitted and securely fastened.

ii. Properly fitted and secured English style riding boots with heels and riding attire.

iii. If helmet, boots or attire become unsecured during a class, the rider is disqualified.

iv. Riders in forward seat, all purpose or hunt type saddles should wear hunt coats, breeches (or jodhpurs) and boots/paddock boots.

v. Riders in cut back saddles should wear saddle seat attire.

vi. Riders utilizing English type sidesaddles should be appropriately attired to the style of the sidesaddle.

b. Equipment

i. Saddles must be of traditional color and style of hunt seat, forward seat type or Saddleseat type; they may be made of leather, suede or synthetic materials. Either leather, web, cord, neoprene or linen girths are permitted.

ii. Saddle pads should fit size and shape of saddle, except when necessary to accommodate numbers on both sides for which a square pad or suitable attachment maybe used. Saddle pads and attachments shall be white or natural color without ornament.

iii. In all English classes, an English snaffle (no shank - conventional O-ring, egg-butt, D-ring or full cheek snaffle with bit keepers), kimberwick, pelham and/or a double bridle consisting of two bits - a curb or weymouth and a snaffle or bradoon (all with two reins, no converter strap), all with cavesson nosebands and plain leather brow bands must be used. The inside circumference of the ring shall be no smaller than 2″ (5.08 cm) and no larger than 4″ (10.16 cm). On all snaffle bits, the inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments which would provide leverage.

iv. In reference to mouthpieces, nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar) such as extensions or prongs. Mouthpieces may be two or three pieces. On broken mouthpieces only, connecting rings of 1 1/4″ (3.17 cm) or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar 3/8″ to 3/4″ (.95 to 1.9 cm) (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2″ (5.08cm)) which lie flat in the horse's mouth are acceptable. All mouthpieces must be a minimum of 5/16″ (.79 cm) in diameter with snaffles to be measured 1″ (2.54 cm) in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. Mouthpiece may be inlaid, but smooth or latex wrapped. Smooth, round, oval or egg-shaped, slow twist, corkscrew, single twisted wire, double twisted wire mouthpieces and straight bar or solid mouthpieces with a maximum port no higher than 1 1/2″ (3.81 cm) are allowed. When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required, but must meet the approval of the judge, be at least 1/2″ (1.27 cm) width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. [See Appendix]

v. A bit or noseband cannot be physically or mechanically altered to increase the severity of its use and may be eliminated at the discretion of the judge. Spring-loaded bits are approved, as long as they meet all bit specifications outlined in this handbook. The judge may prohibit the use of bits or equipment he/she may consider severe.

vi. Martingales or tie-downs are prohibited in all classes except Working Hunter, Handy Working Hunter, and Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences. Running Martingales are not allowed in any class.

vii. Leg protection - bell boots and other protective leg gear are not allowed in any class, except for Hunt Seat Equitation over Fences.

viii. Spurs of the roweled type are NOT permissible. Only blunt spurs are permissible.

D. Class Specifications

a. Halter Classes

i. English Grooming and Showmanship- Animals may be any age.

1. Horses and ponies are to be shown in-hand at halter or bridle at a walk, trot, and pose.

2. Failure to follow prescribed pattern may result in a severe penalty or disqualification based on the decision of the judge.

3. The “Quarter Method” of showing [See Appendix] will be used in all Showmanship classes.
4. The pattern will be posted at the state show.
5. Members must have done their own grooming, braiding, training and conditioning without assistance. To be judged according to the “4-H Horse Project Showmanship & Grooming Score Card” [See Appendix].

b. English Halter
   i. Horses in this class may be of any age.
   ii. Mares and geldings are to be shown in-hand in a halter or bridle.
   iii. To be judged on conformation, soundness, and condition.
   iv. Each entry will be shown individually at the walk and trot.
   v. Very Small Equines are not allowed to enter this class.

c. Hunter Under Saddle – Hunter Type (Both Horse and Pony)
   i. ENTRIES IN THE HUNTER UNDER SADDLE Hunter type class CAN NOT CROSS ENTER in Hunter Under Saddle Stock Type class.
   ii. Emphasis is on movement, type, conformation and way of going while maintaining direct contact with the horse's mouth.
   iii. Required to perform at the walk, trot and canter both directions of the arena.
   iv. A hand gallop may be asked in only one direction of the arena with safety precautions in mind.
   v. No more than 25 riders may be asked to canter at a time, at the discretion of the judge.

d. Hunter Under Saddle – Stock Type – (Both Horse and Pony)
   i. ENTRIES IN THE HUNTER UNDER SADDLE Stock type class CAN NOT CROSS ENTER in Hunter Under Saddle - Hunter Type.
   ii. Emphasis is on movement, type, conformation and way of going while maintaining direct contact with the horse's mouth.
   iii. Required to perform at the walk, trot and canter both directions of the arena.
   iv. A hand gallop may be asked in only one direction of the arena with safety precautions in mind.
   v. No more than 25 riders may be asked to canter at a time, at the discretion of the judge.

e. English Pleasure- Both Horse and Pony
   i. Ride should be suitable to purpose and pleasurable.
   ii. Animal should be obedient, alert and responsive to the rider.
   iii. A quick, short stride should be penalized, as should horses which move in an artificial frame are over flexed or behind the bit.
   iv. Judges should emphasize free movement, manners, and consistency of gait.
   v. Horses are to be shown at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring.

vi. At the Judge's discretion horses will be asked to extend their gaits i.e.: Walk with forward motion, extended trot, and canter with forward motion.

vii. No more than 25 riders may be asked to canter at a time, at the discretion of the judge.

f. Equitation Classes

i. English Equitation on the Flat-Class is to be judged both ways of the ring at a walk trot and canter, after completion of rail work the judge may ask individuals to test work if necessary.

ii. No more than 25 riders may be asked to canter at a time, at the discretion of the judge.

iii. Riders will enter individually at a trot down the center line and find a place on the rail at ring steward's command.

iv. The rider only is being judged. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, legs, feet, position, balance and control of mount. Suitability of horse to rider shall be considered.

g. Over Fences Classes

i. English Equitation Over Fences-

1. The rider only is being judged.
2. The rider will be judged on seat, hands, legs, feet, position, balance and control of the mount.
3. Suitability of horse to rider shall be considered.
4. Individual performance shall consist of riding over a prescribed course of at least eight fences.
5. Fence heights according to size of project animal

Size	Max Fence Height	In and Out
Small Pony	2'0"	20'
Medium Pony	2'3"	22'
Large Pony	2'6"	24'
Horse	2'6"	25'

ii. Handy Working Hunter

1. To be shown over a course of eight jumps.
2. Fences shall simulate those found in trappy hunting country.
3. Horses/ponies are required to trot over one fence toward the end of the course and may be asked to lead over a cross rail not to exceed (2') in height.
4. Fence heights according to size of project animal

Size	Max Fence Height	In and Out
Small Pony	2'0"	20'
Medium Pony	2'3"	22'
Large Pony	2'6"	24'
Horse	2'6"	24'

iii. Working Hunter

1. To be shown over a course of eight jumps.
2. Fences shall simulate those found in the hunting field.
3. Fence heights according to size of project animal

Size	Max Fence Height	In and Out
Small Pony	2'0"	20'
Medium Pony	2'3"	22'
Large Pony	2'6"	24'
Horse	2'6"	24'

iv. Hunter Hack

1. To be judged 50% on flat work and 50% over fences.
2. All riders are to first show both ways of the ring at a walk, trot, canter, and to hand gallop at least one way.
3. No more than eight entries to hand gallop at one time.
4. The hand gallop may be asked for after the last fence.
5. All entries will be required to jump two fences. Fences shall consist of a set of standards with two rails and a ground rail set to the height for each size of mount.
6. Riders will proceed directly from line-up to first fence. No courtesy circle before first fence.

Size	Max Fence Height
Small and Medium Pony	2'3"
Large Pony and Horses	2'6"

GAMES DIVISION

A. General Rules

a. Animals in this division must be at least 4 years of age.

b. All of the Games Classes incorporated in the NJ 4-H Horse Project are timed events, with the emphasis on skill.

c. A clearly visible starting line must be provided. Two cones, one on either side of the arena are acceptable. A Line made of Lime is also acceptable.

d. An electric timer should be used when possible, and located against the arena fence, even with the starting markers. If an electric timer is not available, at least two stopwatches shall be used.

e. In any timed event all arena gates **MUST** be fully closed before contestant start.

f. The contestant is allowed a running start from within the arena after the gate is properly and completely closed.

g. Exhibitors **WILL NOT** be allowed to enter or leave the ring if moving at a quick rate of speed.

h. Exhibitors **ARE NOT** allowed to enter the ring until the course has been fully reset and pronounced ready by the judge.

i. **Exhibitors are allowed to be lead to the gate but not through the gate.**

j. If a rider falls off or any part of their body touches the ground before they cross the finish line, they are disqualified.

B. Classes Offered

- Clover Leaf Barrel Race – Horse and Pony- Maximum time to qualify: 40 seconds
- Pole Bending – Horse and Pony- Maximum time to Qualify: 50 seconds
- Bow-Tie Race – Horse and Pony - Maximum time to qualify: 40 seconds
- Plug Race – Horse and Pony - Maximum time to qualify: 20 seconds

C. Attire and Equipment

a. Attire

i. Clothing - Must be workmanlike and neat. It is mandatory to wear appropriate western attire.

ii. Properly fitted ASTM/SEI safety helmet with harness properly fitted and securely fastened.

iii. Properly fitted and secured WESTERN style riding boots with heels and riding attire.

iv. If helmet, boots or attire become unsecured during a class, the rider is disqualified.

v. Shirt with long sleeves and a collar or neckband. Shirtsleeves must be rolled down and buttoned or snapped. Long pants must be worn.

vi. Chaps or chinks are optional. If chaps or chinks are worn, long pants or jeans must be worn under them.

vii. Shorts are NOT permitted to be worn under chaps.

viii. Shin guards are permissible.

D. Equipment

a. Western type equipment must be used.

b. The following equipment is legal, but optional in game classes.

c. Protective boots.

d. Tie-downs, martingales, and nosebands. These cannot have any bare metal in contact with the horse's head.

e. Spurs (rowels must be blunt and turn freely).

f. Crops and bats.

g. For games only, use of a hackamore (including mechanical hackamore) with a covered nosepiece or other type of bridle, gag bit or a shankless snaffle is the optional choice of the contestant.

h. Curb and snaffle bits are acceptable. However, the judge may prohibit the use of bits or equipment he/she may consider severe.

i. The use of a mule bit, chain bit, donut bit, or prong bit is illegal as are any bits deemed cruel or inappropriate by the judge.

j. The use of the reins as a whip is prohibited.

k. Use of bat, crop, rope, reins, spurs, or hands in front of the girth is not permitted.

E. Class Specifications

a. Clover Leaf Barrel Race

i. Three brightly colored (55) gallon steel drums (with the top and bottom of the drum in) must be used.

ii. There shall be no rubber or plastic barrels, or barrel pads used.

iii. The course must be measured exactly according to the diagram and cannot exceed these dimensions. [See Appendix]

iv. However, if the course is too large for the available space, the pattern should be reduced five feet at a time until the pattern fits the arena.

v. Adequate space [minimum (20')] must remain between the barrels and any obstacle/fence.

vi. The rider shall cross the starting line and run to barrel number (1), pass to the left of the barrel, and complete a (360) degree turn around it; then go to barrel number (2), pass to the right of it, and complete a slightly more than (360) degree turn around it; then go to barrel number (3), pass to the right of it, and do another approximately (360) degree turn around it; then sprint to the finish line, passing between barrel number (1) and (2).

vii. The barrel course can also be run to the left.

viii. Knocking over a barrel carries a five second penalty. Touching the barrel with your hand will result in disqualification.

b. Pole Bending

i. The pole-bending pattern is to be run around six poles.

ii. Each pole is to be (21') apart, and the first pole is to be (21') from the starting line. [See Appendix]

iii. Poles shall be set on top of the ground, (6') in height, with a base not to exceed (14") in diameter.

iv. A horse may start either to the right or to the left of the first pole and then run the remainder of the pattern accordingly.

v. Knocking over a pole shall carry a (5) second penalty.

vi. Touching the pole with your hand will result in disqualification.

c. Bow-Tie Race

i. The Bow-Tie Race is to be run around a set of four poles, set in a box, (21') apart on all sides and (126') from the start/finish line.

ii. Poles shall be set on top of the ground. [See Appendix for setup and pattern]

iii. A horse may start either to the right or to the left of the first pole and then run the remainder of the pattern accordingly.

iv. Knocking over a pole shall carry a (5) second penalty.

v. Touching the pole with your hand will result in disqualification.

d. Plug Race

i. Pattern will be set to fit arena, with one barrel used to run at.

ii. Barrel may not be closer than 15' from any fence.

iii. Rider may run left or right.

iv. Horse/pony must go around barrel.

v. Barrel must stay in same place for entire class, or entire class must be rerun, including original no times.

vi. Disqualifications: Contestant is disqualified for knocking barrel over, breaking pattern or separation of rider and horse/pony during the timing period.

WESTERN AND RANCH DIVISION

A. General Rules

a. Western and Ranch- Animals must be 3 years or older in performance classes.
b. Animals of any age may enter Showmanship and Grooming and Halter

B. Classes Offered

- Jr. Showmanship & Grooming
- Sr. Showmanship & Grooming
- Western Halter Mares
- Western Halter Geldings
- Jr. Western Pleasure Horse
- Sr. Western Pleasure Horse
- Western Pleasure Pony
- Jr. Western Horsemanship
- Sr. Western Horsemanship
- Jr. Western Trail (Jr. Members)
- Sr. Western Trail (Sr. Members)
- Ranch Riding (this includes Horse and Pony)
- Ranch Rail Pleasure (this includes Horse and Pony)
- Ranch Horse Trail (this includes Horse and Pony)
- Ranch Conformation (this includes Horse and Pony)

C. Attire and Equipment

a. Western Attire

1. Must be workman like and neat. It is mandatory to wear appropriate western attire.
2. Properly fitted ASTM/SEI safety helmet with harness properly fitted and securely fastened.
3. Properly fitted and secured Western style riding boots with heels and riding attire.
4. If helmet, boots or attire becomes unsecured during a class, the rider is disqualified.
5. Shirt with long sleeves and a collar or neckband. Shirtsleeves must be rolled down and buttoned or snapped.
6. Western hat ***FOR IN-HAND CLASSES ONLY.***

7. Chaps are optional.
8. Riders utilizing western sidesaddle should be appropriately attired to that style of western saddle.

D. Western Equipment

a. In all western classes, horses will be shown in a western stock saddle consisting of a horn, seat, pommel, cantle, skirt, fenders and western stirrups. *Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit.*

b. Bridle may be either a standard plain or silver headstall with brow band, shaped ear, or split ear.

c. Stirrups shall not be tied to one another or to the saddle in any manner.

d. References to a "Bit" in western performance classes means the use of a curb bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit includes: [See Appendix]

   i. 8 1/2″ (21.59 cm) maximum length shanks to be measured as indicated in the diagram in See Appendix. Shanks may be fixed or loose.

   ii. Concerning mouthpieces, bars must be round, smooth and unwrapped metal of 5/16″ to 3/4″ (.79 to 1.90 cm) in diameter, measured 1″ (2.54 cm) from the cheek. It may be inlaid but must be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three piece with a connecting ring of 1 1/4″ (3.18 cm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8″ to 3/4″ (.95 to 1.90 cm) (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2″ (60.96 cm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth is acceptable.

   iii. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2″ (8.89 cm) maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, half-breeds, grazing and spades are standard.

   iv. When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required, but must meet the approval of the judge, be at least 1/2″ (1.27cm) in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. Curb straps must be free of barbs, wire and/or twists.

   v. A broken curb strap or chain is not necessarily cause for disqualification.

   vi. A bit cannot be physically or mechanically altered to increase the severity of its use and may be eliminated at the discretion of the judge. Spring-loaded bits are approved, as long as they meet all bit specifications outlined in this rulebook. The judge may prohibit the use of bits or equipment he/she may consider severe.

e. Whenever this rulebook refers to a romal, it means an extension of braided material attached to closed reins. This extension may be carried in the free hand with a 16-inch (40.64 cm) spacing between the reining hand and the free hand holding the romal. When using a romal, the rider's hand shall be around the reins with the wrist kept straight and relaxed, the thumb on top and the fingers closed around the reins. When using the romal, no fingers between the reins are allowed.

f. Whenever the rulebook refers to "Hackamore", it means the use of a flexible braided rawhide, leather, or rope bosal, the core of which may be either rawhide or flexible cable. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered. This rule does not refer to a so-called mechanical hackamore.

g. Junior horses, (5-years old and younger) competing in western pleasure, horsemanship, or trail may be shown in a Snaffle Bit, Hackamore, Curb Bit, Half Breed or Spade Bit. Horses that are shown with a Hackamore or Snaffle bit may be ridden with two hands on the reins.

h. Horse's 6-years old and older may only be shown in a curb bit.

i. Slip or Gag bits, and Donut, Prong or Flat Polo mouthpieces are not acceptable as are any other bits deemed cruel or inappropriate by the judge.

j. Except for junior horses, (5-years old and younger) shown with hackamore/snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, and the hand **must not** be changed. The hand is to be around the reins; index finger only between split reins is permitted. Violation of this rule is an automatic disqualification.

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

l. Prohibited equipment includes:

    i. Wire chinstraps, regardless of how padded or covered.

    ii. Martingales, draw reins, nosebands, tie-downs.

    iii. Lariats, lead ropes, riatas or any type of coiled decorative ropes.

E. Ranch Class Attire and Equipment:

a. Attire and tack should be clean and presentable. Western working tack is encouraged.

b. Hoof polish is discouraged.

c. No braided or banded manes or tail extensions.

d. Trimming inside ears is discouraged.

e. Trimming bridle path, fetlocks or excessively long facial hair is allowed.

f. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver bridles and saddles are discouraged.

F. Class Specifications

a. Halter Classes

    i. Western Grooming and Showmanship-Animals may be any age for this class.

    ii. Project animals (Horses, Ponies and VSE) are to be shown in-hand at halter at a walk, jog, and pose.

    iii. The Show committee will acquire from the day-of-show judge the pattern to be used for the class.

    iv. Pattern is to be posted at least one-hour prior to the start of the class.

    v. Failure to follow prescribed pattern may result in a severe penalty or disqualification based on the decision of the judge.

    vi. The Quarter Method of showing will be used in all showmanship classes. [See Appendix]

vii. Members must have done their own grooming, banding, training, and conditioning without assistance. To be judged according to the 4-H Horse Project Showmanship and Grooming Scorecard. [See Appendix]

b. Western Halter Mares

i. Horses in this class may be of any age.

ii. Mares are to be shown in-hand.

iii. To be judged on conformation, soundness, and condition.

iv. Each entry will be shown individually at the walk and jog.

c. Western Halter Geldings

i. Horses in this class may be of any age.

ii. Geldings are to be shown in-hand.

iii. To be judged on conformation, soundness, and condition.

iv. Each entry will be shown individually at the walk and jog.

d. Performance Classes

i. Western Pleasure

1. To be judged on the performance of the horse. Conformation of the horse may be considered at the discretion of the judge. To be shown at a flat-footed four-beat walk; free moving easy riding two-beat jog or intermediate gait; and a three-beat lope both ways of the ring on a reasonably loose rein without undue restraint. The judge may call for extended gaits.

2. Riders will enter individually at a trot down the center line and find a place on the rail at ring stewards' command.

3. Wrong leads and excessive speed at the lope will be penalized. Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail).

4. Horses may be required to reverse at the walk, jog or extended trot, but not at the lope.

5. Horses may be required to change from one gait to another.

6. Horses should stand quietly. Each horse must be backed.

7. Horses with excessively low headset (poll below the withers) will be penalized.

e. Western Horsemanship

i. Class is to be judged 40% on rail work, 60% on individual pattern.

ii. The judge will ask each rider to work individually first, followed by rail work.

iii. These individual works will be any of the maneuvers that the judge feels are necessary to determine the horsemanship ability of the rider.

iv. Failure to follow prescribed pattern may result in a severe penalty or disqualification based on the decision of the judge.

v. The pattern will be posted at least one-hour prior to the start of the class.

vi. The rider only is being judged. The rider will be judged on seat, hands, legs, feet, position, balance and control of mount.

vii. Suitability of horse to rider shall be considered.

viii. Rider is to show the horse at a walk, jog, and lope both ways of the ring on a reasonably loose rein, without undue restraint.

f. Western Trail (Based on or excerpted from the AQHA rulebook with permission)

i. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement.

ii. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing correctness is not sacrificed.

iii. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it, and willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles.

iv. Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating the obstacles.

v. Horses with artificial appearance over obstacles should be penalized.

vi. Horses must not be required to work on the rail.

vii. The course must be designed, however, to require each horse to show the three gaits (walk, jog, and lope) somewhere between obstacles as a part of its work, and quality of movement and cadence should be considered as part of the maneuver score.

viii. While on the line of travel between obstacles, the horse shall be balanced, carrying his head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with the poll level with or slightly above the withers.

ix. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance.

x. Gait between obstacles shall be at the discretion of the judge.

xi. The course to be used must be posted at least one hour before scheduled starting time of the class.

xii. When the distances and spaces are measured between all obstacles, the inside base to inside base measurement of each obstacle considering the normal path of the horse should be the measuring point.

xiii. Enough space must be provided for a horse to jog [at least 30 feet (9 meters)] and lope [at least 50 feet (15 meters)] for the judges to evaluate these gaits.

xiv. If disrupted, the course shall be reset. In the case that an obstacle is used in combination, the obstacle cannot be reset until the contestant finishes the entire obstacle.

xv. The judge must walk the course and has the right and duty to alter the course in any manner. The judge may remove or change any obstacle he deems unsafe or non-negotiable. If at any time a trail obstacle is deemed to be unsafe by the judge, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous works for that class.

xvi. At least six obstacles must be used, three of which must be from the mandatory list of obstacles and at least three others selected from the list of optional obstacles.

xvii. Mandatory trail course obstacles include: [See Appendix]

1. Opening, passing through and closing gate. (Losing control of gate is to be penalized.) Use a gate which will not endanger horse or rider. If the gate has a metal, plastic or wooden support bar under the opening, contestants must work the gate moving forward through it.
2. Ride over at least four logs or poles. These can be in a straight line, curved, zigzag or raised. The space between the logs is to be measured and the path the horse is to take should be the measuring point. All elevated elements must be placed in a cup, notched block, or otherwise secured so they cannot roll. The height should be measured from the ground to the top of the element. Spacing for walkovers, trot overs, and lope overs should be as follows or increments thereof.
    a. The spacing for walkovers shall be 20” to 24” (50 - 60 cm) and may be elevated to 12” (30 cm). Elevated walkovers should be set at least 22” (55 cm) apart.
    b. The spacing for trot overs shall be 3’ to 3’3” (90 -100 cm) and may be elevated to 8” (20 cm).
    c. The spacing for lope overs shall be 6’ to 6 1/2’ (1.8 - 2 meters) or increments thereof and may be elevated to 8” (20 cm).
3. Backing obstacle. Backing obstacles to be spaced a minimum of 28” (70 cm). If elevated, 30” (75 cm) spacing is required. Entrants cannot be asked to back over a stationary object such as a wooden pole or metal bar.
4. Back through and around at least three markers.
5. Back through L, V, U, straight or similar-shaped course. May be elevated no more than 24” (60 cm).

xviii. Optional trail course obstacles include but are not limited to:

1. Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slick bottom-boxes will be used.
2. Serpentine obstacles at walk or jog. Spacing to be minimum of 6’ (1.8 meters) for jog.
3. Carry object from one part of arena to another. (Only objects which reasonably might be carried on a trail ride may be used.)
4. Ride over wooden bridge. (Suggested minimum width shall be 36” (90 cm) wide and at least six feet long). Bridge should be sturdy, safe and negotiated at a walk only.
5. Put on and remove slicker.
6. Remove and replace materials from mailbox.
7. Side pass (may be elevated to 12” (30 cm) maximum).
8. An obstacle consisting of four logs or rails, laid in a square. Minimum width of the square should be 6’ (1.8 m). Each contestant will enter the square by riding over log or rail as designated. When all four feet are inside the square, rider should execute a turn, as indicated, and depart.

9. Any other safe and negotiable obstacle which could reasonably be expected to be encountered on a trail ride and meets the approval of the judge may be used.
10. A combination of two or more of any obstacles is acceptable.

xix. Unacceptable trail course obstacles include:

1. Tires
2. Animals
3. Hides
4. PVC pipe (may be used for VSE in hand trail only)
5. Dismounting
6. Jumps
7. Rocking or moving bridges
8. Water box with floating or moving parts.
9. Flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, etc.
10. Logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll.
11. Ground ties

xx. Scoring Trail

1. Scoring will be based on 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance.
2. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted.
3. Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 1/2 to minus 1 1/2:

-1-1/2	Extremely Poor
-1	Very Poor
-1/2	Poor
0	Correct
+1/2	Good
+1	Very Good
+1-1/2	Excellent

4. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.
5. All Penalty Scoring information can be found in See Appendix
6. Scoring sheet can be found on http://www.aqha.com/Resources.aspx

g. Ranch Horse Riding

i. The ranch riding horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward working speed while under control by the rider. Light contact should be rewarded, and horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners, responsiveness of the horse while performing the

maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.

ii. Ranch horse riding is offered for horses three years of age and older.

iii. Class Requirements

1. Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers and scored based on 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.
2. The required maneuvers will include the walk, trot and lope in both directions, the extended trot and extended lope in at least one direction, stops and backs.
3. Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass; turns of 360-degrees or more; a change of lead (simple or flying); walk, trot, or lope over a pole or poles; or some combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.
4. The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.
5. The overall cadence and performance of the gait should be as those described in GAITS, with an emphasis on free-flowing and ground covering forward movement for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.
6. No time limit.
7. One of the suggested patterns may be used; however, a judge may utilize a different pattern as long as all required maneuvers and the three (or more) optional maneuvers are included. Should a judge use one of his or her own patterns, it is recommended to not have the stop following an extended lope.
8. The use of natural logs is encouraged.
9. Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.
10. Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.
11. Only one hand may be used on the reins, except for junior horses shown with an acceptable snaffle bit or hackamore/bosal. Hands must not be changed. Hands to be around reins. One finger between reins permitted when using split reins only. While horse is in motion, hands shall be clear of the horse and saddle except that it is permissible to hold the saddle horn with either hand.
12. Hoof polish is discouraged.
13. No braided or banded manes or tail extensions.
14. Trimming inside ears is discouraged.
15. Trimming bridle path, fetlocks or excessively long facial hair is allowed.
16. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver bridles and saddles are discouraged.

iv. Penalties

1. One (1) point penalty

a. Too slow/ per gait
b. Over-bridled
c. Out of frame
d. Break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less
e. Split log at lope

2. Three (3) point penalties

a. Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides
b. Break of gait at lope
c. Wrong lead or out of lead
d. Draped reins.
e. Out of lead or cross cantering more than 2 strides when changing leads
f. Trotting more than 3 strides when making simple lead change
g. severe disturbance of any obstacle

3. Five (5) point penalties

a. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) for each refusal
b. Use of either hand to instill fear or praise.

4. Placed below horses performing all maneuvers

a. Eliminates maneuver
b. Incomplete maneuver

5. Zero (0) score

a. Illegal equipment (including braided or branded manes or tail extensions)
b. Willful abuse
c. Major disobedience or schooling

6. No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/ hits on logs, but a deduction may be made in the maneuver score.

7. No specific penalties will be incurred for over/ under spins, but a deduction may be made in the maneuver score.

h. Ranch Rail Pleasure

i. Open to horses three years of age and older.

ii. This class is intended as a rail class but individuals working off the rail will not be penalized.

iii. The ranch rail pleasure class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from one ranch task to another and should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse should be well-broke, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint. The horse should be responsive to the rider and make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner. The horse should be soft in the bridle and yield to contact. The ideal ranch rail horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait. In all gaits, movement of the ranch rail pleasure horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the rider. Light contact should be rewarded, and horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall

manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.

iv. The following terminology shall apply:

1. Walk – The walk is a natural, flat footed, four-beat gait. The gait is rhythmic and ground-covering. As in all gaits, the horse should display a level, or slightly above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.
2. Trot – The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.
3. Extended Trot – The extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a definite increase in pace. The horse should be moving in a manner as if it were covering a large area on a ranch with an above level topline.
4. Lope – The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride.
5. Extended Lope – The extended lope is not a run or a race but should be an obvious lengthening of the stride, demonstrating a forward, working speed. The horse should display an above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.

v. Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. A horse may be collected from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is a transition to the seated trot not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that attempt to stop or do stop prior to trotting will be penalized. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discretely and the horse responding correctly could be a credit-earning situation.

vi. To rein a horse is not only to guide him but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control.

vii. Ranch Rail Pleasure Penalties. A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur:

1. Too slow/per gait
    a. Over-bridled
    b. Out of frame
    c. Break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less
    d. Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides
    e. Break of gait at lope
    f. Wrong lead or out of lead
    g. Draped reins.
    h. Out of lead or cross cantering more than two strides
    i. Trotting more than three strides when taking lead
    j. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)
    k. Major disobedience or schooling
    l. Spurring in front of cinch
    m. Use of either hand to instill fear/ praise.

2. Only one hand may be used on the reins, except for junior horses shown with an acceptable snaffle bit or hackamore/bosal. Hands must not be changed. Hands to be around reins. One finger between reins permitted when using split reins only. While horse is in motion, hands shall be clear of the horse and saddle except that it is permissible to hold the saddle horn with either hand.
3. Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.
4. Class shall work both ways of the ring at all requested gaits.

i. Ranch Horse Trail

i. Open to horses three years of age and older.

ii. The ranch trail class should test the horse's ability to cope with situations encountered while being ridden through a pattern of obstacles generally found during the course of everyday ranch work. The horse/rider team is judged on the correctness, efficiency and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated, and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse. Judging emphasis is on identifying the well-broke, responsive and well-mannered horse which can navigate and negotiate the course.

iii. In ranch trail, exhibitors should outfit horse with a breast collar and back cinch for safety.

iv. Horse shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching the obstacles. The horse/rider team should negotiate each obstacle with calmness and patience, moving safety through each obstacle. Horses should show awareness, be attentive and not spook, shy or spin. The horse should not stumble, tick or clip obstacles.

v. A minimum of six (6) obstacles (maximum of twelve (12) obstacles) will be used. It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk, trot and lope during the course.

1. Walk can be part of obstacle score or be scored with the approaching obstacle.
2. Trot must be at least 35 feet and score with approaching obstacle.
3. Lope must be lead-specific, at least 50 feet and score with approaching obstacle.
4. Care must be exercised to avoid setting up any obstacles that may be hazardous to the horse or rider.
5. When setting courses, the management will be mindful that the idea is not to trap a horse/rider team or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult.
6. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind to reduce the risk for accidents.
7. Show committee shall have the option of setting up the trail course to best fit the arena conditions.
8. An outdoor course is recommended if appropriate terrain is available.
9. Each single-performance event can be time consuming, especially with large classes, so it is imperative that time restrictions are placed on this class.

10. The show committee, either through a pilot run or estimation, shall select a course that has a continuous and positive flow that can be negotiated in four minutes or less.
11. Judge must walk the course and have the right and duty to alter the course if it is not in keeping with the intent of the class.
    a. Judges may remove or change any obstacles they deem unsafe, non-negotiable or unnecessarily difficult.
    b. Any time a trail obstacle becomes unsafe during a class, it shall be repaired or removed from the course.
12. If the course cannot be repaired and some horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous draws in that class.
13. The course must be designed using anything from the list of suggested optional obstacles; combining two or more of the obstacles is acceptable.
14. Credit is given to horse/rider teams who negotiate the obstacle correctly and efficiently.
    a. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to obstacles and ability to negotiate through the course when the obstacles warrant it while willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles.
    b. Quality of movement and cadence should be considered part of the maneuver score for obstacles.
    c. Each obstacle should receive an obstacle score and is subject to penalty that should be subtracted.
    d. Each obstacle should be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1½ to minus 1½. Plus 1½ - excellent; Plus 1 – very good; Plus ½ - good; 0 – correct; Minus ½ - poor; Minus 1 – very poor; Minus 1½ - extremely poor.
15. Obstacles scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

vi. Penalties should be assessed as follows:

1. Disqualification (from entire class)
    a. Use of two (2) hands (except Junior horses shown with a snaffle bit or hackamore)
    b. Use of romal other than outlined in western rules.
    c. Performing the obstacles other than in specified order.
    d. No attempt to perform an obstacle.
    e. Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern
    f. Touching the horse on the neck to lower the head.
    g. Fall to the ground by horse or rider.
    h. Riding outside designated boundary marker of the course.
    i. Failure to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction.
    j. Failure to perform correct line of travel within or between obstacles.
    k. Third refusal, balk or attempt to evade an obstacle by shying or backing away more than 2 strides.
2. ½ point penalty - each tick of log, pole, cone or obstacle
3. 1 point penalty

a. Each hit of or stepping on a log, pole, cone or obstacle
b. Break of gait at walk or jog for two strides or less
c. Both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space
d. Skipping over or failing to step into required space.
e. Split pole in lope-over

4. 3 point penalty

    a. Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides
    b. Out of lead or break of gait at lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead)
    c. Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel or plant obstacle or severely disturbing an obstacle.
    d. Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping of an obstacle (back through, bridge, side pass, box, water box) with one foot.

5. 5 point penalty

    a. Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course.
    b. First refusal, balk or attempt to evade an obstacle by shying or backing more than 2 strides away.
    c. Loss of control or letting go of gate.
    d. Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off an obstacle (back through, bridge, side pass, box, water box) with more than one foot
    e. Blatant disobedience (kicking out, biting, rearing, striking)
    f. Failure to ever demonstrate the correct lead or gait if designated.
    g. Failure to complete obstacle
    h. Second refusal, balk or attempt to evade an obstacle by shying away or backing more than 2 strides away.
    i. Use of either hand to instill fear or praise.

6. Only one hand may be used on the reins, except for junior horses shown with an acceptable snaffle bit or hackamore/bosal. Hands must not be changed except that it is permissible to change hands to work with an obstacle. While the horse is in motion, there shall be no changing of hands on the reins. Hands to be around reins. One finger between reins permitted when using split reins only. While horse is in motion, hands shall be clear of the horse and saddle except that it is permissible to hold the saddle horn with either hand.

7. There are no mandatory obstacles. The course is to be set up at the discretion of the show management and/or judges. Obstacles should be constructed of safe material and test the horse and rider's skills. Suggested obstacles include, but are not limited to:

    a. Side pass (over obstacle is optional). May be elevated to 12" (30.48 cm) maximum.
    b. Ride over at least four logs or poles. These can be in a straight line, curved, zigzag, raised or combination. The space between poles/ logs is not required to be measured as obstacles on a trail are random. Care shall be taken to design the course with safety in mind when determining the gait at which the obstacles will be maneuvered.
    c. Ride over wooden bridge. Minimum width shall be 36" (91.44 cm) wide and at least 6 feet (1.83 m) long. Bridges should be sturdy, safe and negotiated at a walk only.

d. Opening, passing through and closing gate. A gate that will not endanger horse or exhibitor must be used. If the gate has a metal, plastic or wooden support bar under the opening, contestants must work the gate moving forward through it. Gate may also be worked on foot from the ground.
e. Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slick bottomed boxes shall be used.
f. Carry object from one part of arena to another. Only objects that might reasonably be carried on a trail may be used.
g. Backing obstacle.
h. Pick up a slicker while mounted, put it on and take it off. Dismount and ground tie. (Hobbles are allowed). May remount with a mounting block.
i. Load into a trailer.
j. Drag an obstacle. Rider may hold rope or dally once, no tying hard and fast. At no time should the rider or horse get tangled in the rope. Horses should stand quietly during the preparation and then pull or drag in control. The exhibitor is strongly recommended to have the rope dallied on the saddle horn (half or full dally) for the duration of the drag.
k. Live animals or objects representing live animals may be used on the course if they are representative of animals which would normally be encountered in an outdoor setting but shall not be used to attempt to spook a horse.
l. Rope a steer head. The object is not to judge the ability of the exhibitor to rope but the patience and willingness of the horse in allowing the rider to complete the task at hand.
m. Remove and replace materials from a mailbox.
n. Trot through cones spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart.
o. Cross natural ditches or ride up embankments.
p. Pick up feet.
q. Walk through brush.
r. Lead at a walk or trot.
s. Rocking or moving bridges are optional if constructed in a safe manner.

8. Prohibited Obstacles are: tarps, water obstacles with slick bottoms, PVC pipe used as a jump or walk over, tires, logs elevated in a manner that permits such to roll in a dangerous manner.

9. Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.

j. Ranch Conformation

i. The purpose of ranch conformation is to select well-mannered individuals that are the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, and movement appropriate for various activities of a working ranch horse.

ii. To be eligible to compete in the ranch conformation class the horse must be shown in at least one of the ranch horse classes offered by that show.

iii. All sexes will be shown together as one class.

iv. Horses are to be shown in a good working halter: rope, braided, nylon or plain leather. No silver allowed on either halter or lead.

v. Horses will walk to the judge one at a time. As the horse approaches, the judge will step aside to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed 50 feet away. At the cone, the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left and trot toward the left wall or fence of the arena. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge.

vi. The judge shall inspect each horse from both sides, front and rear and place the horses in order of preference.

The ranch conformation class must be held after the conclusion of the other ranch horse classes.

VERY SMALL EQUINE DIVISION

A. General Rules

a. Animals Requirement

i. A VSE must not measure more than 39" at the base of the last hair on the mane.

ii. Project animals must be at least 3 years of age or older as of January of the current year for the In-Hand Trail and In-Hand Jumper classes.

iii. Younger animals may only go in grooming and showmanship and halter classes.

b. Measurement of the VSE

i. A permanent measurement card must be issued for all VSE's three years old and older.

ii. A certified measuring stick made of aluminum construction, having a vertical leg and a horizontal bar, through which a moveable calibrated vertical bar, is suspended must be used.

iii. The measuring surface must be level, and under no circumstances should animals be measured on dirt or gravel. A concrete slab or other paved surface is most desirable.

iv. In measuring the VSE, the head is to be in a normal position. Measure the vertical distance from the base of the last hair on the mane to the measuring surface. The crosspiece, arm or bar must have firm contact with the animal, but no additional pressure may be applied.

B. Classes Offered

- Very Small Equine English and Western Halter
- Very Small Equine Showmanship English and Western
- Very Small Equine In-Hand Trail
- Very Small Equine In-Hand Jumper
- Very Small Equine HUNTER in Hand (over fences)

C. Attire and Equipment

a. All Equipment and attire should be suitable to the discipline the exhibitor is showing. Follow the appropriate division's rules. i.e.: Showing Western follow western divisions attire rules.

D. Class Specifications

a. Very Small Equine Halter English and Western

i. Horses are to be shown in-hand.

ii. To be judged on conformation, soundness, and condition.

iii. Each entry will be shown individually at the walk and jog.

iv. Horses may be shown clipped or in full coat.

v. Horses may be shown with or without polished hooves.

1. Scoring Halter

2. Priority in judging shall be in this order:

a. Soundness
b. Balance, and conformity to the standard of perfection
c. Head: In proportion to the body; neither excessively long nor short. The eyes should be large, alert, and prominent with no discrimination in color. The ears open toward the front and carried erect. The teeth should show no signs of parrot mouth or undershot jaw.
d. Body: Well-muscled with good bone and substance, will sprung ribs, level top line, as nearly as possible of height in wither and rump, fore and hind quarters well angulated, so that the horse in movement shows a smooth gait.
e. Neck: Strong and muscular, proportionate to body and type of horse represented.
f. Legs: Straight clean and sound
g. Hooves: Round and compact and in good condition.
h. Color: Any color eye color and or marking pattern is equally acceptable.
i. Throatlatch: Cleaned and will define, allowing ample flexion at the poll.
j. Shoulder: Long sloping and well angulated, allowing free-swinging stride and alert head/ neck carriage. Well-muscled forearm.
k. Hindquarters: Long well-muscled hip, thigh and gaskin. Highest point of croup to be same height as withers. Tail set neither excessively high nor low, but smoothly rounding of rump.

3. Horse must be serviceably sound, in good condition, and well groomed. Transmissible weakness and unsoundness to be penalized.

4. Disqualification: Height in excess of 39 inches

b. Very Small Equine Showmanship English and Western Showmanship classes will be judged as follows:

i. Exhibitors are to show to Judge only.

ii. Only the handler is judged.

iii. The VSE is merely a prop to show the showmanship ability of the handler.

iv. Management will post the showmanship patterns no less than 2 hours prior to the start of VSE classes. Patterns can be found in Appendix

v. The half system will be used in exhibiting your horse. Exhibitor must be on the opposite half of the VSE from the judge. When Judge is in the front right of the VSE then exhibitor should be on the front left of the VSE, when Judge is on the rear right of the VSE then exhibitor should be on the front left of the horse, etc. (See Appendix for further explanation.)

vi. Classes will be judged on the following point system:

<table>
<tr><th>Max Points to be awarded</th><th>Description</th></tr>
<tr><td>10 Points</td><td>Appearance of Exhibitor: Clothes and person neat and clean
Suitable clothes: hats, boots, long sleeve shirts and gloves are required.</td></tr>
<tr><td>40 Points</td><td>Appearance of VSE: Conformation not to be a factor

<table><tr><td>15 Points</td><td>Conditioning</td></tr><tr><td>15 Points</td><td>Grooming</td></tr><tr><td>5 Points</td><td>Trimming</td></tr><tr><td>5 Points</td><td>Tack</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>50 Points</td><td>Showing VSE in the ring: the judge will use one of the following approved ring patterns in judging this class.<table><tr><td>15 Points</td><td>Leading: Exhibitors must lead on the animal’s left side positioned between the eye and the mid- point of the neck, holding lead shank in the right hand near the hater with the tail if the lead loosely coiled in the left coiled rolled or folded. When moving the VSE, be sure that the judge gets a clear unobstructed view of the VSE’s actions. Exhibitors should preform pattern as described on the posted pattern.</td></tr><tr><td>15 Points</td><td>Posing: VSE’s should stand with his or her feet squarely under him. Do most of the showing with the lead strap, never touch or kick VSE’s feet into position. Handler should be positioned towards the front facing the VSE, but in a position where the exhibitor can maintain eye contact. Do not crowd other exhibitors when lined up head to tail. VSE’s should stand in a natural manner when being judged in line up. Over showing or undue fussing and maneuvering are objectionable.</td></tr><tr><td>30 Points</td><td>Poise, Alertness, and Merits: Show animals at all time be aware of the position of the Judge at all times. Be courteous and sportsmanlike at all times. Recognize and respond quickly to correct faults of your VSE, requests from the Judge and other ring officials. A Judge may ask an exhibitor questions at their discretion. A judge may as exhibitors for an additional test after the completions of the set pattern.</td></tr></table></td></tr>
</table>

c. Very Small Equine In Hand Trail

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

2. VSE's are to be judged on performance and way of going with emphasis on manners, suitability and appointments.
3. Trail course must be posted at least one hour prior to class at the regular show.
4. Categories of Suggested Obstacles:
    a. Overs: Bridge, Water, Single horizontal pole with maximum height of 8 inches, (5) multiple walk-over poles with maximum individual heights.
    b. Unders: Clothesline with clothes hanging up, Light pole suspended at a minimum height of four inches above the back of the tallest Miniature, Canopy.
    c. Back throughs: Backing through an L. Poles must be at least 12' long, Back around a barrel, a pair of barrels or other visible obstacle.
    d. Serpentines: Proceed at requested gait, through a pattern such as in and about of a series of poles or pylons. Any gait may be requested.
    e. Jumps:
        i. Individual jump not exceeding 18" if animal only is to go over.
        ii. Combination Jumps should not exceed 12" in height and should be 4' to 6' apart if exhibitor is to go around the Jump.
        iii. If both horse and exhibitor are required to go over the single jump, it should not exceed 12" in height.
        iv. Ground poles are recommended for all jumps.
    f. Daily chores.
    g. Negotiate a gate.
    h. Carry an object from one part of the arena to another.
    i. Stand horse in circle, ground tie, and walk around horse.
    j. Brush tail.
    k. Lay a saddle pad, blanket or sheet on entry's back.
    l. Go through motions of measuring entry's height at the back with a yardstick or tape measurer.
    m. Load in trailer or chute.
    n. Control obstacles
    o. Ground tie and walk around.
    p. Stand Horse in circle and turn on forehand and/or hindquarters.
    q. Sidepass either or both directions.
5. Trail In Hand Dimensions
    a. Cones: space 40 inches between each cone.
    b. Walk over poles: space 20 to 22 inches
    c. Jog over poles: 30 inches between each pole
    d. Chutes: 24 to 30 inches wide
6. Scoring Trail-In-Hand
    a. Each obstacle should receive an obstacle score and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted.
    b. Each obstacle should be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1-1⁄2 to minus 1-1⁄2:

-1-1/2	Extremely Poor
-1	Very Poor
-1/2	Poor
0	Correct
+1/2	Good
+1	Very Good
+1-1/2	Excellent

c. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

d. Penalties should be assessed per Appendix.

d. VSE In Hand Jumper

i. All courses for jumping classes must be posted at least 1 hour prior to the scheduled time of the class. See Appendix.

ii. Judge(s) shall walk Hunter/Jumper course with designer and exhibitors. Horses (exhibitors optional) must cross the line in the proper direction to start and complete the course.

iii. Horses must stay within the course boundaries as outlined by the start and finish cone.

iv. The start and/or finish cones outline the portion of the course in the immediate areas of the starting (first) and finishing (last) obstacles only, not the entire course.

v. Baiting of horses to encourage an animal to perform any of the jumps is not allowed, and will be cause for disqualification.

vi. Exhibitors can NOT go over jumps with horse.

vii. Course Design for Jumpers In Hand

1. Course diagrams must show with arrows the direction each obstacle must be taken.

2. A start and finish line must be established at least twenty-four (24) feet from the first and last obstacle if possible, indicated by two (2) markers at least four (4) feet apart.

3. In and outs should be set approximately twelve (12) feet apart.

4. In-and-out must never be placed at the beginning of the course.

5. Courses should be tried out so as not to make turns too sharp for an exhibitor or Miniature.

6. Courses should be attractive, varied, and appropriate to their setting.

7. Jumps could include brush, triple bar, water, and similar jumps.

8. Brush jump must have a visible bar on top or beyond.

viii. Jumps for Jumpers

1. Will be made of 1-1 ½" schedule 40 PVC piping or other suitable lightweight material with jump cups, not to include pegs, nails, bolts, etc.

2. The cross bar must be at least five (5) feet in length.

3. All post and rail jumps must have a ground pole.

4. Any decorations or jump wings must not protrude more than twenty-four (24) inches from the uprights.

5. Minimum height for jumps must be eighteen (18) inches and maximum height twenty-eight (28) inches for first jumping round.

6. Courses should be attractive, varied, and appropriate to their setting. Jumps could include brush, triple bar, water, and similar jumps.

7. Brush jump must have a visible bar on top or beyond.
8. There will be a minimum of four (4) obstacles, with horses to jump a minimum of six (6) jumps and a maximum of eight (8) jumps.
9. Two (2) markers at least four (4) feet apart and a minimum fifteen (15) feet before the first jump and after the last jump shall indicate the start line and the finish line.
10. Hunter jumps must simulate those found in the hunting field, such as brush, stonewall, gate, white fence, chicken coop, over, and in and out. In and out is considered one obstacle and scored as such.

ix. Jumpers are scored mathematically, based on faults incurred between the starting line and the finishing line.

1. Whips are permitted but may not touch the horse. Front leg wraps and/or boots are optional.
2. Circling once upon entering the ring and once upon leaving the ring is permissible, but not after crossing starting line.

x. Jump-Offs.

1. Jump-offs are for Jumpers only.
2. The Jump-off will be timed by a stop watch and the horse that has the fastest time and the fewest faults in the Jump off round will be declared the winner.
3. Elimination in a jump-off does not eliminate the horse from final placing.
4. Jump-offs are to occur for 1st & 2nd place only. All other placing's will be determined by judge's discretion.
5. The jump-offs will be held over the original course.
    a. The number and location of the jumps are to remain the same as well as the path of the course to be taken by the horse (pattern).
    b. No jumps are to be eliminated or lowered.
    c. Individual jumps will be increased not less than one inch and not more than six (6) inches in height for each jump-off.
    d. Number of jumps to be raised is at the discretion of the judge.
    e. After the maximum height has been reached with all jumps in a jump-off, any required final tie breaking will be timed on the course and those times used to determine the placing if there are ties in the number of faults.
6. The horse with the fewest faults will be declared the winner.

xi. Scoring Jumping In-Hand

1. In scoring jumpers, an in and out is to be considered as one jump.
2. Jumpers are to be scored on a mathematical basis and penalty faults and eliminations can be found in Appendix.

e. VSE Hunter In Hand (AMHR)

i. General – this is an over fences class to be judged on style, manners, and way of going.

ii. Preference given to those horses that cover the course at an even pace, with free-flowing strides, such as a brisk trot or canter, must maintain same gait throughout the entire course.

iii. Very Small Equine must be three years old or older.

iv. Circling once upon entering the ring and once upon leaving the ring is permissible.

v. Charging fences or not maintaining the same gait throughout the entire class should be penalized.

vi. Whip may not be carried.

vii. Very Small Equine must be serviceably sound and are to be jogged back for soundness check past the Judge(s) before final placings are awarded.

viii. Course Design – the course design for hunters should follow the same requirements as the course for jumpers.

ix. Causes for elimination in Hunter classes:

1. Three (3) refusals
2. Off Course
3. Crossing your own path (as in circling between fences, not as in retaking a fence from a refusal or when following a course design)
4. Fall of Very Small Equine or exhibitor
5. Jumping of obstacle by exhibitor
6. Carrying a whip
7. An unsound Very Small Equine

x. Accumulated Refusals
1. 1st refusal = 3 faults
2. 2nd refusal = 6 faults
3. 3rd refusal = Elimination

xi. Faults

1. The following faults are scored by the judge depending on severity and may be considered minor or major faults:

a. Circling while on course
b. Backing
c. Light touches against an obstacle
d. Kicking
e. Spooking or shying
f. Knockdown of any part of an obstacle
g. Pulling up on course
h. Dangerous jumping

2. Major faults to be scored

a. Knockdowns
b. Touches
c. Refusals
d. Bucking or Kicking
e. Spooking or shying
f. Wringing of tail
g. Showing an obstacle to Very Small Equine
h. Not maintaining an even pace.

DRIVING DIVISION

A. General Rules

a. The Driver

i. Junior drivers (grades 5-8) must be accompanied by a knowledgeable horseman (21 or over) in the vehicle at all times, including outside of the ring. The adult shall be referred to as the “groom.” The groom must be neatly attired as described in the attire section.

ii. When the competitor is not driving in the show or warm-up ring, an adult (21 or over) must be standing at the horse’s head at all times (For Jr. drivers, Grades 5-8, this “header” is in addition to the adult seated in the vehicle).

iii. When the horse is being driven the only person to handle the reins and whip is the driver. Outside assistance will result in elimination.

iv. The driver should be seated on the right side of the vehicle.

v. Either the one or two-handed method of driving is acceptable. Drivers will not be penalized or rewarded for using one style over another.

b. The Groom

i. In reference to the driving classes, assistance from a knowledgeable horseman over 21 is REQUIRED as follows:

1. When putting a horse to a vehicle.
2. At the horses head when standing outside of the ring.
3. In the vehicle at all times inside/outside of the ring with a junior exhibitor. Adult must be properly attired, including soled footwear with closed toes. In junior classes, the header who must also be properly attired will be asked to come into the ring during the class line-up.
4. A groom is optional for a single horse turnout. (Junior drivers, grades 5-8, must have a groom with them at all times.)
5. Where grooms or passengers are required, at least one groom is required to be capable of rendering assistance at all times, failure to comply could incur elimination at the discretion of the judge.

c. Safety

i. The driver must have the horse/pony in full control at all times.

ii. Judges, Stewards, the Technical Delegate and the show organizers have the right to excuse any horse/pony that is unruly during competition and /or poses a safety hazard to other competitors in the ring.

iii. Under no circumstances shall a bridle be removed from a horse/pony while it is still put to a vehicle. Failure to comply will incur elimination.

iv. The horse must never be left unattended or tied to anything while hooked to a vehicle. Failure to comply will incur elimination. Drivers should strive to maintain a safe distance from other vehicles during

competition and in warm-up, stable and parking areas.

v. No more than (12) entries will be permitted in the ring at one time for the Working Pleasure and Reinsmanship classes.

vi. All drivers, passengers, grooms, etc. should keep safety foremost in their minds. To have the horse under control at all times is a safeguard for the driver and passengers, and for everyone on the grounds.

d. Eligibility of Horses/Ponies/VSE

i. The minimum age for a horse/pony/VSE to compete in harness is 4 years old.

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

e. Equipment Check

i. 15 minute warning will be given for an equipment check to take place prior to the first class in the driving division.

ii. The judge and driving division chair shall conduct an equipment check for all participants in this division.

iii. 4-H participant/driver and groom are to remain in the cart and maintain control of the cart and animal during this equipment check.

iv. The judge and division chair will discuss with the driver and groom any violations they see so they may be corrected prior to entering the class.

v. Participants may not enter the classes in this division until any violations are corrected.

B. Classes Offered

- Jr. Reinsmanship (horse, pony or VSE)
- Sr. Reinsmanship (horse pony or VSE)
- Working Pleasure Driving – Horse
- Working Pleasure Driving–Pony or VSE

C. Attire and Equipment

a. Driver Attire options:

i. Properly fitted Coat or Jacket
   1. Tie
   2. Dress slacks or khakis, no blue jeans
   3. Driving Apron
   4. Brown Gloves
   5. All people (including grooms) in a vehicle are required to wear properly fitted ASTM/SEI safety helmet with harness properly fitted and securely fastened.
   6. Properly fitted and secured boots with heels and attire.
   7. If helmet, boots or attire become unsecured during a class, the Driver is disqualified.

ii. Properly Fitted Conservative long sleeved dress or suit
   1. Slacks and long sleeved shirt or blouse

2. No heels over 1 ¼ inch
3. Driving Apron
4. Brown Gloves
5. All people (including grooms) in a vehicle are required to wear properly fitted ASTM/SEI safety helmet with harness properly fitted and securely fastened.
6. Properly fitted and secured boots with heels and attire.
7. If helmet, boots or attire become unsecured during a class, the Driver is disqualified.

b. Groom Attire

i. Dress similar to or complementing driver's attire.

1. Leather gloves
2. Dark hard soled shoes (jodhpur or paddock shoes)
3. White shirt
4. Dark tie
5. Conservative jacket
6. Jodhpurs or khaki trousers
7. All people (including grooms) in a vehicle are required to wear properly fitted ASTM/SEI safety helmet with harness properly fitted and securely fastened.
8. Properly fitted and secured boots with heels and attire.
9. If helmet, boots or attire become unsecured during a class, the Driver is disqualified.

c. Equipment

i. Harness

1. It is the driver's responsibility to see that the harness is in good condition, clean and fits properly. The metal fittings should be uniform, secure and polished.
2. The bridle should be of traditional driving style and should be adjusted to fit snugly to prevent catching on the vehicle or other piece of harness. A throatlatch and a noseband or cavesson is mandatory.
3. An overcheck, side-checks, and running martingale are permissible. An animal without a martingale or overcheck should have a good natural head carriage, with the poll no lower than the withers.
4. Snaffle bits and other types of traditional driving bits (for example - Liverpool, buxton, and elbow) are allowed. Bits may be covered with rubber or leather. Burr, gag, twisted wire or chain bits of any type are not permitted. Thimbles or breeching is required on the harness.

ii. The Vehicle

1. The vehicle may be two wheeled or four wheeled. The shafts of the vehicle must have a footman or other suitable place for attaching the breeching strap if breeching is used.
2. Vehicles used by junior drivers must be able to carry two people (one adult) on the seat/front seat. This includes vehicles pulled by Very Small Equines.
3. The vehicle must be in good repair, structurally sound and clean.
4. Wire-wheeled vehicles are permitted.
5. It is the driver's responsibility to see that the vehicle is in good repair and is structurally sound and clean.

iii. The Whip
    1. A driving whip HELD IN HAND AT ALL TIMES WHILE DRIVING IS MANDATORY. Noncompliance shall be severely penalized.
    2. The lash of the whip must be long enough to reach the shoulder of the horse.

D. Class Specifications

a. Reinsmanship (open to Horse Pony and VSE)

i. This class is judged primarily on the ability and skill of the driver. To be judged:
    1. 75% handling of reins and whip, control, posture, and overall appearance of the driver.
    2. 25% on the condition of the harness and vehicle on neatness of attire.

ii. To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, slow trot or intermediate gait, working trot or intermediate gait and strong trot or intermediate gait.

iii. Drivers shall be required to rein back.

iv. All drivers chosen for a workout may be worked at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute a figure of eight and/or perform other appropriate tests. Tests may include any one of, or a combination of the following:
    1. a figure eight
    2. 10-second halt
    3. back (3) steps
    4. reverse on the rail

v. The driver should be seated comfortably on the right side of the box (seat) so as to be relaxed and effective.

vi. Either the one or two-handed method of driving is acceptable.

vii. Common to both methods, the elbows and arms should be close to the body with an allowing but steady hand enabling a consistent “feel” with the horse’s mouth.

viii. Drivers should not be penalized or rewarded for using one general style over another.

ix. To be judged
    1. 75% on handling of reins and whip, control, posture, and overall appearance of driver.
    2. 25% on Neatness of attire, condition of harness and vehicle

x. The Whip Salute
    1. An appropriate driving whip should be held in hand at all times while driving. The lash of the whip must be long enough to reach the shoulder of the horse. Noncompliance shall be penalized.
    2. The Whip salute is used to acknowledge the judge at the started and finish of the individual test, the whip salute is performed in one of the following ways.
    3. By moving the whip, held in the right hand, to a vertical position, the butt end even with the face.
    4. By moving the whip, held in the right hand, to a position parallel with the ground, the handle before the face.
    5. If wearing a hat, the driver may place the whip in their left hand and remove their hat.

b. Working Pleasure

i. This is a pleasure class. The entries are judged primarily on the suitability of the horse to provide a pleasant, responsive drive for the 4-H Member.

ii. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot or intermediate gait, working trot or intermediate gait and strong trot or intermediate gait.

iii. To stand quietly, both on the rail and while lined up, and to rein back.

iv. All entries chosen for a workout may be worked both ways of the ring at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute a figure eight.

v. Horses and Ponies/VSE's are to be judged as two separate classes unless they are less than (3) in number, the show committee may combine horses and ponies into one Pleasure Class at their discretion.

vi. Gaits

1. The walk should be free, regular and unconstrained, of moderate extension. The horse should walk energetically, but calmly, with even and determined pace.

2. The slow trot/ intermediate gait the horse should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. The trot or intermediate gait is slow and collected. The horse should indicate willingness to be driven on the bit while maintaining a steady cadence.

3. The working trot/intermediate gait is the pace between the strong and the slow trot/intermediate gait and more round than the strong trot. The horse should go forward freely and straight; engaging the hind legs with good hock action; on a taunt, 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 foot prints of the fore-feet. The degree of energy and impulsion displayed at the working trot denotes clearly the degree of suppleness and balance of the horse.

4. The strong trot/intermediate gait 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.

5. For the halt, horses and vehicles should be brought to a complete square stop without abruptness or veering. At the halt, horses should stand 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.

6. Rein back is defined as a 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:

7. The horse must move backward at least three steps in an unhurried manner with the head flexed and straight, pushing the carriage back evenly in a straight line. The driver should use quiet aids and light contact.

8. Move forward willingly to former position using same quiet aids.

APPENDIX A – THE DANISH JUDGING SYSTEM

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

Excellent	90-100 Points
Very Good	80-89 points
Good	70-79 points
Fair	60 points or below

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

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

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

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

Performance Classes
A high-quality horse that is capable of performing the class requirements without any major problems deserves an "excellent" rating. A horse that exhibits one major or several minor faults deserves a "good-to very good" rating. A horse that commits several major faults deserves a "fair-to-good" rating. Major faults include: wrong leads, improper backing, fighting the bit, and general lack of suitability for the particular class. Minor faults include slow gait transitions and lesser way of going faults.
In Western Riding and Reining classes, in order to receive an excellent or very good, horses should be able to complete the patterns executing the required gaits and movements, such as flying lead changes, sliding stops, roll backs and spins.
In English Performance classes over fences, in order to receive an excellent or very good, the horse/rider should be able to execute a course of 8 fences without a refusal or knockdown.

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

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

APPENDIX B – DRESSAGE BITS

LINK TO USEF DRESSAGE BIT ANNEX A: https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/96D17ISsaCo/annex---bits-saddlery-equipment

Only those bits listed in Figure 121.1, Figure 121.3, Figure 121.4, and Annex A (linked above) are permitted. Bits must be used in a conventional manner and attached only as illustrated in the diagrams. The type of bit should not vary from those pictured below except where specified.

All bits must be smooth with a solid surface. Twisted bits, bits with "bumps", bits with uncovered wire or cable, and bits that place mechanical restraint upon the tongue are prohibited. Joints that could trap or pinch the oral tissues are not permitted.

A. Snaffle bits - a snaffle is a non-leverage bit with the rein attached at the level of the mouthpiece. The rein and cheekpiece attach to the same ring and can rotate freely around that ring. Exception: hanging cheek snaffles.

    a. A snaffle bit may be a combination of any mouthpiece and any cheekpiece pictured in Figure 121.1 and should be attached only as shown.

    b. The mouthpiece of a snaffle bit must be made of metal, flexible rubber, or synthetic material. A metal mouthpiece may have a covering of rubber or plastic (in manufactured state), but the bit cannot be modified by adding latex or other material. Leather or leather covered bits are prohibited. The contours of the bit must conform to those of the bits pictured in Figure 121.1. When joint(s) are present in the mouthpiece, they may lock.

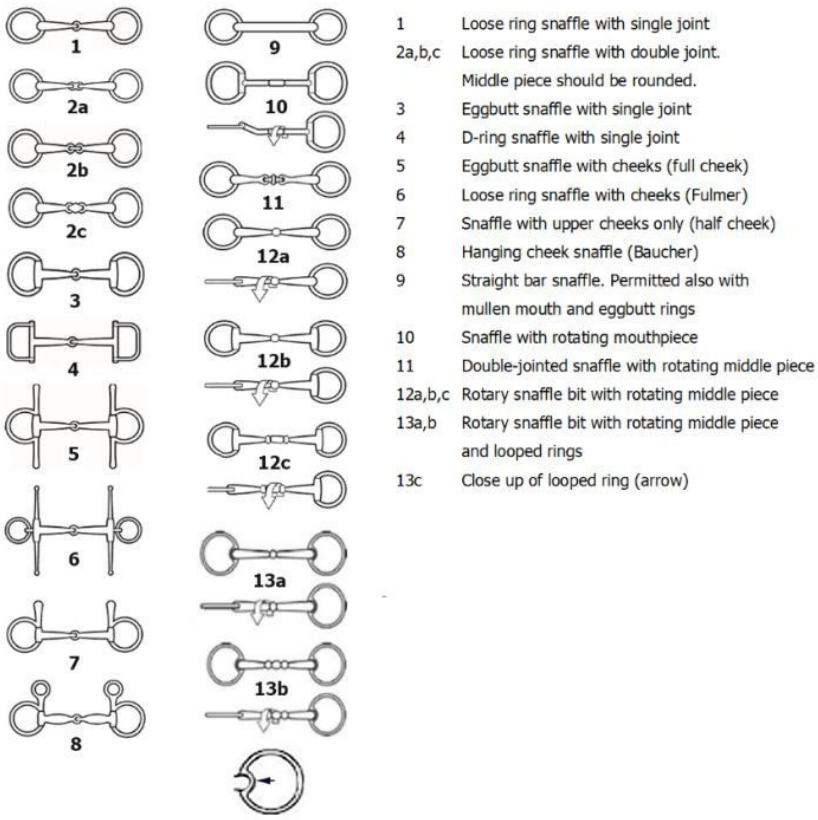
    c. The snaffle mouthpiece must have a minimum diameter of 10 mm where it meets the rings or cheeks. Snaffles used in Young Horse and Children's classes must have a minimum diameter of 12 mm. Exception: for ponies, the diameter may be less than 10 mm for riders of any age.

    d. A snaffle bit may be unjointed, single-jointed, or double-jointed. The center link in a double-jointed snaffle must be smooth and curved on all surfaces as in a lozenge-shaped link. It may not have the effect of a tongue plate. Dr. Bristol and French link bits are not allowed. The center joint or link may be tilted in a different orientation from the mouthpiece and may have a bushing, barrel, coupling, or ball joints. The surface of the center piece must be solid or have only one rolling part in the center of the mouthpiece, as pictured in Figure 121.1.

    e. The mouthpiece of a jointed or unjointed snaffle may be shaped to allow tongue relief. The maximum height of the deviation is 30 mm from the lowest part of tongue side to the highest part of the deviation. The widest part of the deviation must be where the mouthpiece contacts the tongue and must have a minimum width of 30 mm (Figure 121.2). Ported snaffles that do not meet these specifications are prohibited.

    f. The upper cheek of a hanging cheek (baucher) snaffle (measured from the top of the mouthpiece to the top of the upper cheek) may not exceed five centimeters.

SNAFFLE BITS



1	Loose ring snaffle with single joint
2a,b,c	Loose ring snaffle with double joint. Middle piece should be rounded.
3	Eggbutt snaffle with single joint
4	D-ring snaffle with single joint
5	Eggbutt snaffle with cheeks (full cheek)
6	Loose ring snaffle with cheeks (Fulmer)
7	Snaffle with upper cheeks only (half cheek)
8	Hanging cheek snaffle (Baucher)
9	Straight bar snaffle. Permitted also with mullen mouth and eggbutt rings
10	Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece
11	Double-jointed snaffle with rotating middle piece
12a,b,c	Rotary snaffle bit with rotating middle piece
13a,b	Rotary snaffle bit with rotating middle piece and looped rings
13c	Close up of looped ring (arrow)

Figure 121.1: Permitted snaffle bits. The snaffles pictured and described here are permitted at any level in which it is permitted to use a snaffle. However, keepers are only permitted in national level tests for full cheek, half cheek, and fulmer snaffles pictured above (bits numbered 5, 6 and 7) See also Annex A posted on the Federation website for additional information on permitted and prohibited snaffle bits.

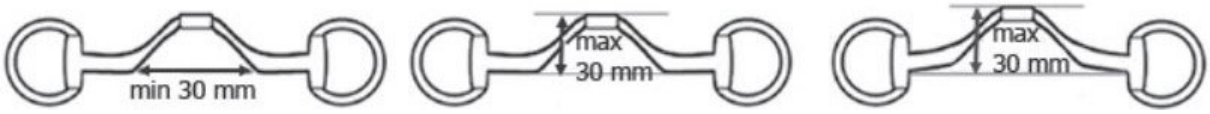
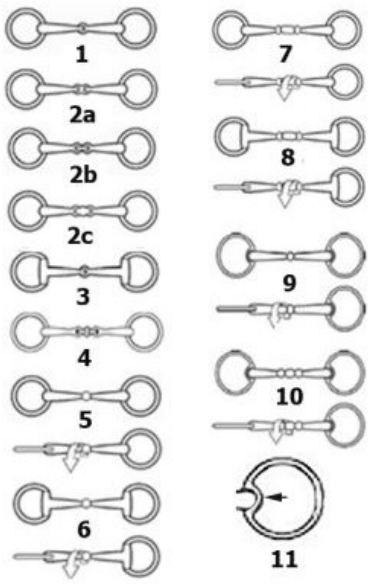


Figure 121.2: Measurement of tongue relief for a snaffle bit. The widest part of the deviation must be where the mouthpiece contacts the tongue and must have a minimum width of 30 mm (left). The maximum height of the deviation is 30mm from the lowest part of tongue side to the highest part of the deviation (center and right).

B. Bridoon bits - a bridoon is defined as a snaffle bit used together with a curb bit to form a double bridle. A bridoon is a non-leverage bit with the rein attached at the level of the mouthpiece. The rein and cheekpiece attach to the same ring and can rotate freely around that ring. Any of the bridoon mouth pieces shown in Figure 121.3 may be combined with a loose ring or eggbutt ring. However, D rings, full cheeks, half cheeks and hanging cheeks are prohibited on bridoon bits.
    a. A bridoon bit must be made of metal or durable plastic, flexible rubber or synthetic material and may be covered with rubber (in manufactured state).
    b. The bridoon mouthpiece must have a minimum diameter of 10 mm where it meets the rings.
    c. The mouthpiece of a bridoon must have one or two joints and conform to Figure 121.3. In a double-jointed bridoon the center link must be smooth and curved on all surfaces as in a lozenge-shaped

link. It should not have the effect of a tongue plate. Dr. Bristol, French link, and D-ring bridoons are not allowed. A bushing, barrel, coupling, or ball joint is permitted as the center link in a double-jointed bridoon. Only one rolling part is permitted and when present the rolling part must be in the center of the mouthpiece as pictured in Figure 121.3. The center link may be tilted in a different orientation from the mouthpiece. Bridoons in which the joints of the center link can lock and have the effect of a mullen-mouth snaffle, are prohibited.

BRIDOON BITS



1	Loose ring bridoon with single joint
2a,b,c	Loose ring bridoon with double joint. Middle piece should be rounded.
3	Eggbutt bridoon with single joint
4	Loose ring bridoon with rotating middle piece
5	Loose ring bridoon rotary bit with rotating middle piece
6	Eggbutt bridoon rotary bit with rotating middle piece
7	Loose ring, double-jointed bridoon rotary bit with rotating middle piece
8	Eggbutt, double-jointed bridoon rotary bit with rotating middle piece
9	Loose ring bridoon rotary bit with rotating middle piece and looped rings
10	Loose ring, double-jointed bridoon rotary bit with rotating middle piece and looped rings
11	Close up of looped ring (arrow)

Figure 121.3: Permitted bridoon bits. Bridoon bits are used in combination with a curb bit to form a double bridle which is permitted only at Third Level and above. See also Annex A posted on the Federation website for additional information on permitted and prohibited bits.

C. Curb Bits - a curb bit is an unjointed leverage bit used together with a bridoon in a double bridle. It must conform to Figure 121.4.

   a. A curb bit must be made of metal or durable plastic, flexible rubber or synthetic material and may be covered with rubber (in manufactured state).

   b. The curb mouthpiece must have a minimum diameter of 12 mm where it meets the cheeks.

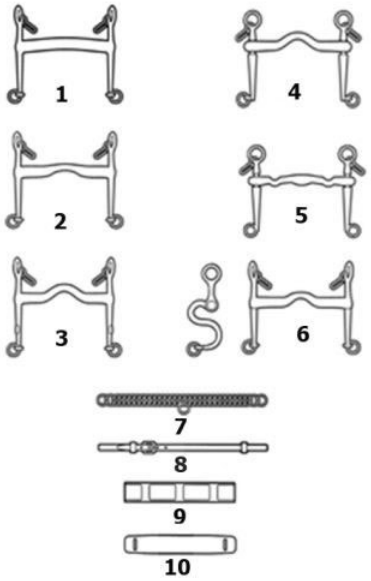
   c. A curb mouthpiece has no moveable pieces or joints but it may be shaped to allow tongue relief.

   d. Leverage is achieved by having cheeks extend above and below the mouthpiece to which the cheek piece and the rein, respectively, are attached. Bits in which the mouthpiece attaches to the same ring as either the cheek piece or the rein are not permitted as curb bits. The cheeks may be straight or S- shaped.

   e. The mouthpiece may be attached rigidly to the cheeks, may rotate, or slide vertically relative to the cheeks. The lever arm of the curb bit, determined by the length of the cheek below the mouthpiece, shall be no more than 10 cm (3.9 inches). The upper cheek must not exceed five centimeters.

The method of correct measurement of the upper and lower cheeks is shown in Figure 121.5.

CURB BITS



1	Half-moon curb bit
2,3	Curb bits with straight cheeks and port
4	Curb bit with port and sliding mouthpiece
5	Curb bit with shaped, sliding mouthpiece
6	Curb bit with S-shaped cheeks
7	Curb chain (metal or leather or a combination)
8	Lip strap
9	Leather cover for curb chain
10	Rubber or leather or sheepskin cover for curb chain

* Curb chain hooks can be fixed or not fixed

Figure 121.4: Permitted curb bits. Curb bits are used in combination with a bridoon bit to form a double bridle which is permitted only at Third Level and above. See also Annex A posted on the Federation website for additional information on permitted and prohibited bits.

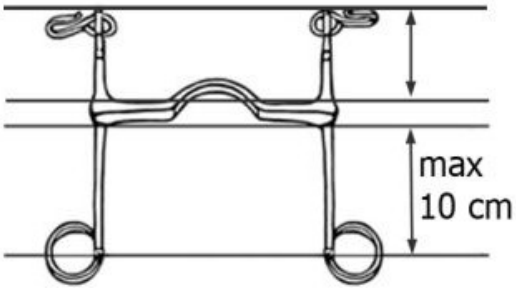
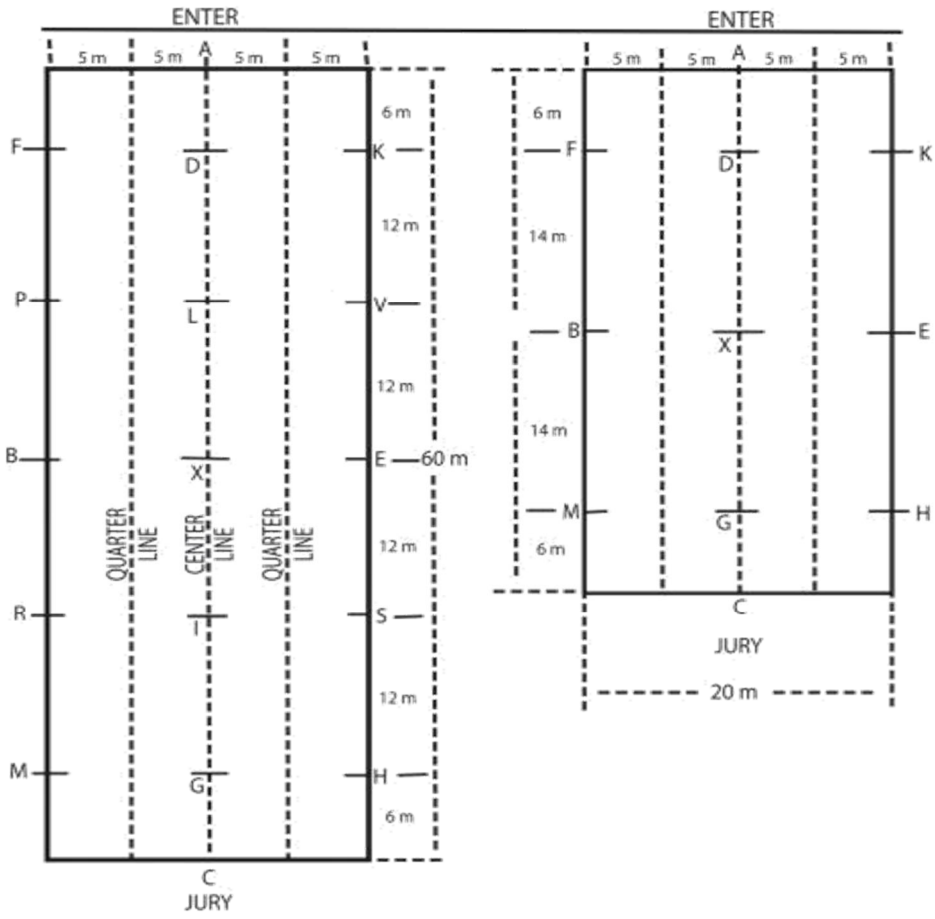


Figure 121.5: Measurement of lengths of the cheeks of a curb bit. The lower cheek, which acts as the lever arm, must not exceed 10 cm in length measured from the underside of the mouthpiece. If the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the length of the lower cheek is measured with the mouthpiece in its uppermost position. The upper cheek must not exceed the length of the lower cheek measured from the upper side of the mouthpiece to the top of the ring to which the cheek piece attaches as shown in the diagram. If the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the length of the upper cheek is measured with the mouthpiece in its lowest position.

APPENDIX C – DRESSAGE AND WESTERN DRESSAGE ARENA

A. The arena should be on as flat and as level ground as possible. It is recommended that the difference in elevation across the diagonal or along the length of the arena shall not exceed 0.60 meters. It is recommended that the difference in elevation along the short side of the arena shall not exceed 0.20 meters.
B. The Standard Arena is 60 meters long and 20 meters wide. The Small Arena is 40 meters long and 20 meters wide. Arena measurements are for the interior of the enclosure.
C. The enclosure itself must consist of a low fence about 0.3 meters high and must be completely enclosed, except for the entrance at “A”. The width of the entrance must be at least two meters.
D. The fence should be such to prevent the horse’s hooves from becoming entangled and arena stakes, if used, must be covered with a ball or similar object so as to prevent injury. Rope, concrete or unbreakable chain fencing is not allowed.
E. The part of the fence at A should be easy to remove to let the competitors in and out of the arena in a suitable way. The part of the fence at A can remain open except each Federation/USDF Regional Championship may elect to close the gate for championship classes. Decisions to either close the gate or leave it open must be consistent for all championship classes in that competition.
F. Except for the letter “A”, the letters outside the enclosure should be placed about 0.5 meters from the fence and clearly marked. So that the judges can note the exact point on the track opposite each letter, it is compulsory to place a marker on the fence itself, level with and in addition to the letter concerned. It is not permitted to place the letters on the arena fence, however, one-sided (flat) letters may be placed on the wall of an indoor arena when such an arena is permitted. The letter A should be placed at least five meters away from the arena.



APPENDIX D – DRESSAGE FAULTS / ANALYZING JUDGE'S COMMENTS

- Crooked – this will usually be qualified, e.g. quarters left, or weight on right shoulder.
- Halt Not Square – means that the horse has left a leg back in halt. It can be either a foreleg or a hand leg, usually the judge will way which. Timing & engagement in the transitions is the way to correct this.
- Above the Bit/Outline Not Round Enough – refers to the whole horse, not just the head & neck. The horse will be above the bit because it is not working from the hind legs through a supple back into the rein.
- Over Bent – the front of the horse's face is behind the vertical & it has dropped the bit. The horse is not genuinely taking the rein.
- Falling In/Wrong Bend/Cutting Corner – instead of keeping the correct bend around the rider's inside leg, the horse puts its weight on the inside shoulder going round the corner/circle like a motor bike, making it impossible to ride into the corners or ride correctly shaped figures.
- Tilting Head – shows that the horse is not even in the rein contact & puts its nose to one side, indicating some stiffness.
- Leaning On Forehand – horse gives the impression of pulling itself along, heavy in the rider's hands.
- Short in the Neck – does not refer to conformation but to the horse drawing back from the rider's hands, tightening the muscles in front of the withers. It also indicates that there is some stiffness & hollowing of the back.
- Running – the horse loses its balance & cadence resulting in short, hurried steps.
- Pacing/Irregular Walk – this means that the horse is not walking in a correct our-time rhythm. It will be severely penalized.

All movements and certain transitions from one to another which have to be marked by the judge(s) are numbered on the judge's sheets. They are marked 0 to 10, 0 being the lowest mark and 10 being the highest.

A. The scale of marks is as follows:

10	Excellent	4	Insufficient
9	Very Good	3	Fairly Bad
8	Good	2	Bad
7	Fairly Good	1	Very Bad
6	Satisfactory	0	Not executed
5	Marginal		

All half marks from 0.5-9.5 may also be used both for movements and collective marks, at the discretion of the judge, and scores given must be recorded with a decimal (i.e., as 6.0 instead of 6).

"Not executed" means that practically nothing of the required movement has been performed. Freestyle tests, half marks may be used for technical mark and .1 decimals may be used for the artistic marks. In tests for Young Horses, decimals to .1 may be used. In tests for seven (7) year old Horses decimals to .1 may be used in the marking sheet for quality of paces. In tests for Children decimals to .1 may be used in the marking sheet for quality of riding.

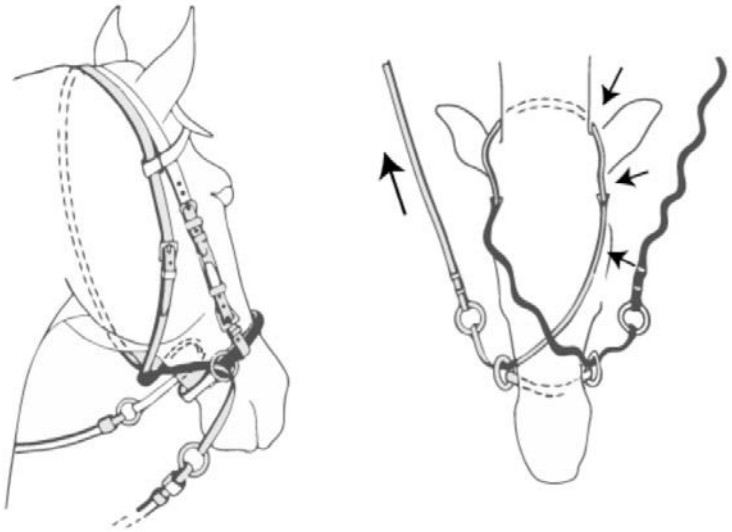
B. Collective marks are awarded (from 0 to 10) after the competitor has finished their performance for USEF, USDF, and FEI Dressage Tests. The collective marks as well as certain difficult and/or infrequently repeated movements can be given a co-efficient which is fixed by the USDF, the Federation (USEF) Dressage Sport Committee or the Bureau of the FEI for their respective tests.

APPENDIX E – WESTERN DRESSAGE BIT SPECIFICATIONS

A. Snaffle Bit:
   a. A snaffle bit may be used on a horse of any age being ridden at any level.
   b. A snaffle offers no leverage or curb action.
   c. A Western Dee bit.
   d. A standard snaffle is a conventional O-Ring, Egg Butt, Full Cheek (keepers optional) or D-Ring, all with rings having an outside diameter no smaller than 2 inches (50.8 mm), nor larger than 4 inches (101.6 mm). The inside of the circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments that would provide leverage.
      i. Bars: Bars of the mouthpiece must be round, oval or egg shaped, smooth and unwrapped, except with latex; and no less than 5/16 inch (7.9 mm) to ¾ inch (19.05 mm) in diameter measured one inch (25 mm) from the cheek and may be inlaid, if smooth.
      ii. Three-Piece Mouthpiece: If a mouthpiece is three pieces, a connecting ring must be no larger than 1 ¼ inches (31.75 mm) in diameter, or a connecting piece must be no longer than 2 inches (50.8 mm) and 3/8 inch (9.5 mm) to ¾ inch (19.05 mm), measured top-to-bottom.
   e. Any solid mouthpiece or barrel mouthpiece may be used.
   f. If a bit hobble is used on a ring snaffle it must be attached below the reins.
   g. No flat, sharp, slow twist, twisted, or pointed edges on mouthpieces are allowed.

B. Curb Bit: There is no discrimination against any standard Western bit.
   a. A standard Western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8 1/2" (215.9 mm). The mouthpiece will consist of a metal bar 5/16" (7.9 mm) to 3/4" 19.05 mm) in diameter as measured one inch in from the shank. The bars may be inlaid but must be smooth or latex wrapped. (The bars may be encased in smooth 5/16" (7.9 mm) to 3/4" (19.05 mm) in diameter tubular barrels that rotate around the bars). Nothing may protrude above or below the mouthpiece (bar) such as extensions, prongs or rivets designed to intimidate the horse. Rollers attached to the center of the bit are acceptable, and may extend below the bar. Jointed mouthpieces are acceptable and may consist of two or three pieces and may have one or two joints. A three-piece mouthpiece may include a connecting ring of 1 ¼ inch (31.75 mm) or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of 3/8 to ¾ inch (9.5mm – 19.05 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lies flat in the mouth, or a roller or port as described herein. The port must be no higher than 3 ½ inches (88.9 mm) maximum with roller(s) and covers acceptable. Jointed mouthpieces, half-breeds and spade bits are standard. Wire on the braces (above the bars and attaching to the spade) of a traditional spade bit is acceptable.
   b. Reins must be attached to each shank.
   c. Curb chains or straps are required with curb bits.
      i. Must be flat and must be at least 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse.
      ii. Curb chain may have leather or nylon adjustable straps connecting the buckle to the chain.
      iii. No wire, rawhide, metal or other substance can be used in conjunction with or as part of the flat leather chin strap or curb chain.
      iv. Round, rolled, braided or rawhide curb straps are prohibited.
   d. A slobber guard on a curb bit is permitted. Rein chains with a spade bit are allowed.

C. Bitless Bridles:
   a. A bitless bridle is permitted on a horse of any age at any level.
   b. All bitless bridles must be of Western style made of flat leather or leather like materials.
   c. Cross under bitless bridle - a simple and subtle two loop system, one over the poll and one over the nose that embraces the whole of the head, see figure a. and b. No other variations are permissible.



Prohibited Equipment and Bits:

1. All curb bits must be free of mechanical devices. Nothing such as extensions, rivets or prongs, may protrude below the mouthpiece (bars). Prohibited bits may include but are not limited to:
   a. Slip or gag bits, half cheeks, snaffle bits with hooks and slots, donut or flat polo mouthpieces and kimberwicks.
   b. Roping bits with reins attached to a single ring at the center of a cross bar.
   c. Any rein design or other devices which increase the effective length and thereby the leverage of the shank of a standard western bit.
   d. Round, rolled, braided or rawhide curb straps are prohibited.
2. Anything that alters the intended use of equipment as provided for in the description of appointments for a given class/test.
3. Use of martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running, balancing reins, nasal strips, tongue tied down, etc.), any kind of boots (including “easy-boots” splint boots, hock boots, bell boots, etc.), tail bandages, any form of blinkers, and nose covers are cause for elimination. Protective “polo” style leg wraps are permitted, either white or a color closely matching the natural color of the horse as much as possible. Bright colors should be avoided.
4. Rein additions or attachments which create additional leverage are not allowed.
5. Any decoration of the horse with extravagant items, such as ribbons or flowers, etc. in the mane, tail, etc. Exception: Costumed freestyle.
6. Costumed Freestyle - Any accessories that may frighten other horses and/or threaten the safety of riders in the warm up area may be prohibited in the warm up area, at the discretion of competition management. Horses must wear bridles in all classes.
7. Garrocha poles are prohibited in all classes.
8. Flash, figure eight or dropped nose bands.
9. Mechanical Hackamores.
10. Bitless bridles with sidepulls.

APPENDIX F – ENGLISH BIT SPECIFICATIONS

A. In all English classes, an English snaffle (no shank - conventional O-ring, egg-butt, D-ring or full cheek snaffle with bit keepers), kimberwick, pelham and/or a double bridle consisting of two bits - a curb or weymouth and a snaffle or bradoon (all with two reins, no convertor strap), all with cavesson nosebands and plain leather brow bands must be used. The inside circumference of the ring shall be no smaller than 2″(5.08 cm) and no larger than 4″(10.16 cm). On all snaffle bits, the inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or head- stall attachments which would provide leverage.

B. In reference to mouthpieces, nothing may protrude above or below the mouthpiece (bar) such as extensions or prongs (See Unacceptable Bits). Mouthpieces may be two or three pieces. On broken mouth- pieces only, connecting rings of 1 1⁄4″(3.17 cm) or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar 3/8″to 3⁄4″(.95 to 1.9 cm) (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2″(5.08 cm)) which lie flat in the horse's mouth are acceptable. All mouthpieces must be a minimum of 5/16″(.79 cm) in diameter with snaffles to be measured 1″(2.54 cm) in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. Mouth- piece may be inlaid, but smooth or latex wrapped. Smooth, round, oval or egg-shaped, slow twist, corkscrew, single twisted wire, double twisted wire mouthpieces and straight bar or solid mouthpieces with a maximum port no higher than 1 1⁄2″(3.81 cm) are allowed.
    a. When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required, but must meet the approval of the judge, be at least 1⁄2″(1.27 cm) width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse.

C. In jumping classes only, mechanical hackamores are allowed.

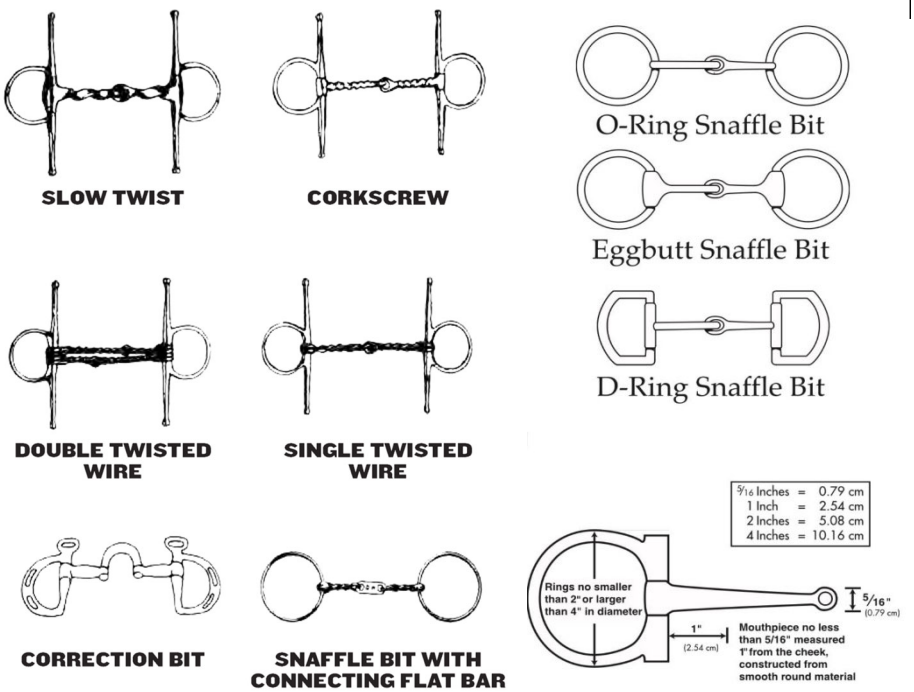
D. Bits of any style (pelham, snaffle, kimberwick) featuring cathedral, fishback or donut mouthpieces; prongs, edges or rough, sharp material shall be cause for elimination.

E. A bit cannot be physically or mechanically altered to increase the severity of its use and may be eliminated at the discretion of the judge. Spring-loaded bits are approved as long as they meet all bit specifications outlined in this handbook.

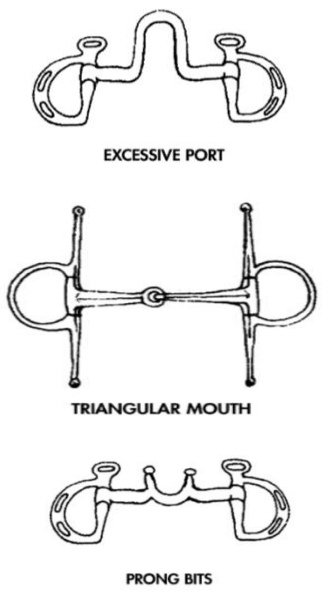
F. A dropped noseband is prohibited in all English classes except jumping. A dropped noseband shall be interpreted as a cavesson and/or noseband which is fastened below the bit or mouthpiece.

G. An exhibitor may be required by the judge to remove or alter any piece of equipment which, in his opinion, would tend to give a horse or exhibitor an unfair advantage.

EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE ENGLISH BITS



EXAMPLES OF UNACCEPTABLE ENGLISH BITS



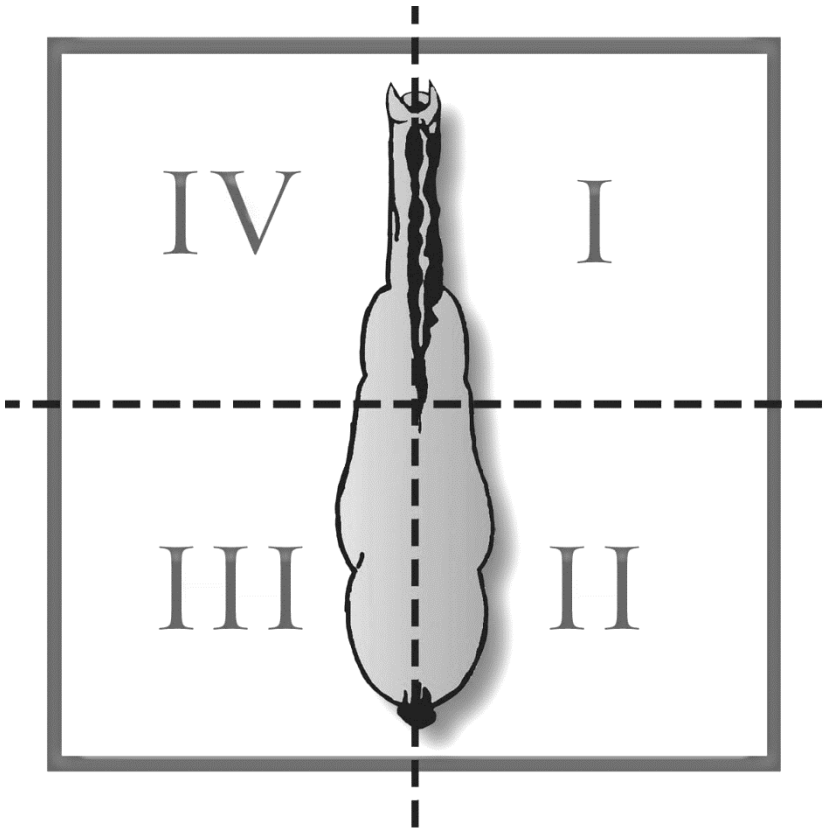
APPENDIX G – QUARTER HORSE METHOD

GUIDELINES FOR SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES

The following suggested guidelines of movement are meant to serve as an illustration of movement around the horse while showing in showmanship at halter & are for the exhibitor's information.

- Imaginary lines bisect the horse into four equal parts as seen in the figure below. (Note the quadrants will be numbered I, II, III, IV for ease of identification.)
- One line runs across the horse just behind the wither. The other imaginary line runs from head to tail.
- When the judge is in I the handler should be in IV. As the judge moves to II, the handler moves to I.
- When the judge moves to III, the handler moves to IV. As the judge moves up the horse to IV, the handler returns once more to I.

This method is based on safety as the handler can keep the horse's hindquarters from swinging toward the judge should the horse become unruly.



APPENDIX H – SHOWMANSHIP & GROOMING SCORE CARD

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

APPENDIX I – WESTERN BIT SPECIFICATIONS

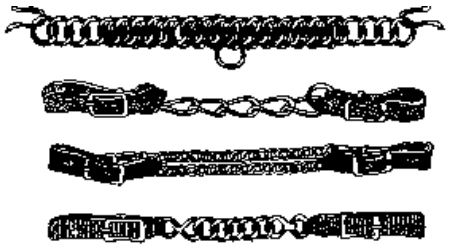
A. Snaffle Bits

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

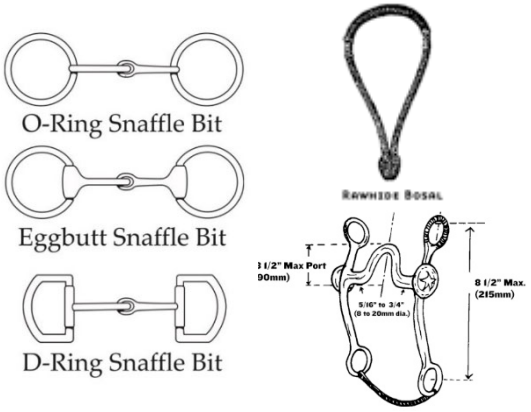
B. Curb Bits

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

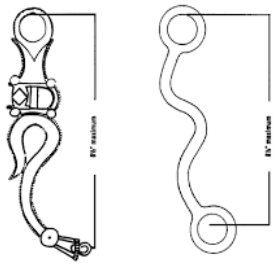
ACCEPTABLE CURB CHAINS & CHIN STRAPS



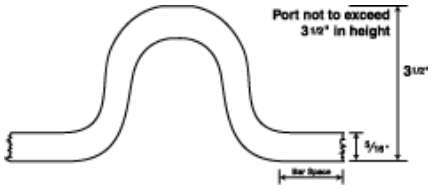
EXAMPLES OF LEGAL WESTERN BITS AND BOSAL



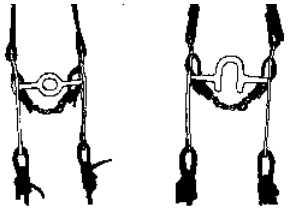
CORRECT METHOD OF MEASURING OVERALL BIT LENGTH - A VERTICAL LINE FROM THE UPPER MOST PART OF THE HEADSTALL SLOT TO THE REIN RING.



PORT HEIGHT & MEASUREMENT



EXAMPLES OF ILLEGAL WESTERN BITS



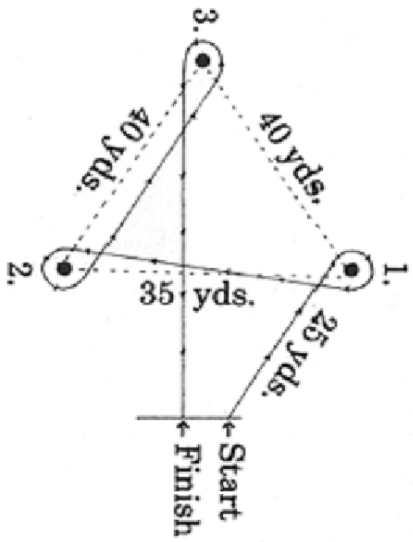
Donut Bit **Prong Bit**

UNACCEPTABLE GAG BITS FOR GAMES



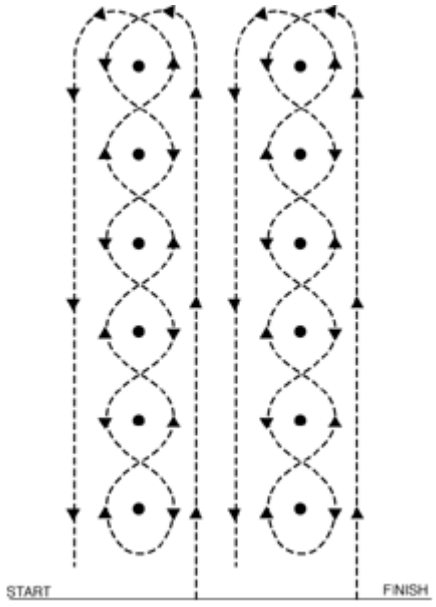
APPENDIX J – GAME PATTERNS

Barrel Racing



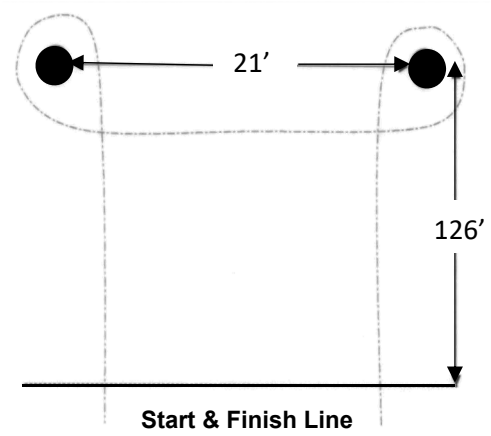
*Pattern can be run in either direction

Pole Bending



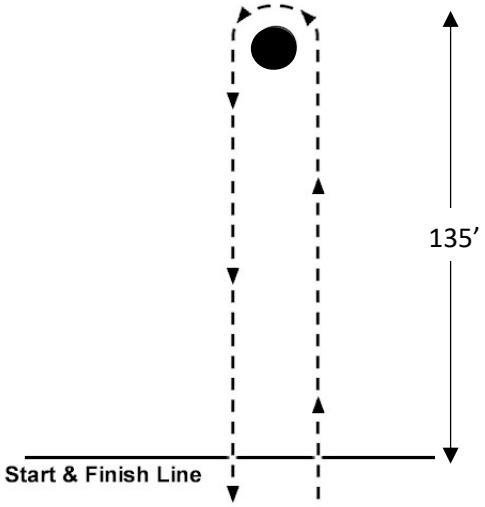
*Poles are set at a distance of 21’ apart and 21’ between the first pole and start/finish line

Bow Tie Race



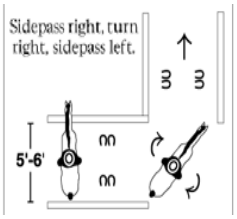
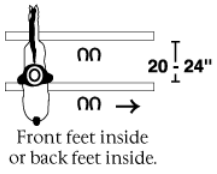
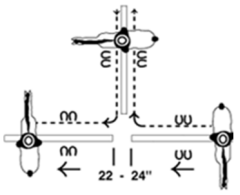
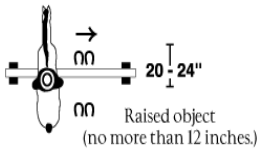
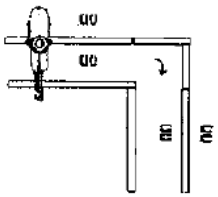
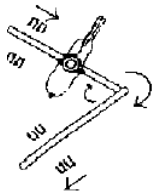
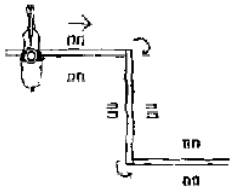
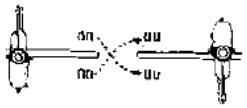
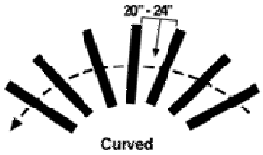
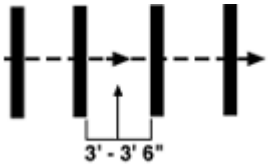
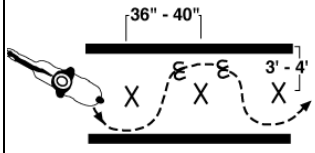
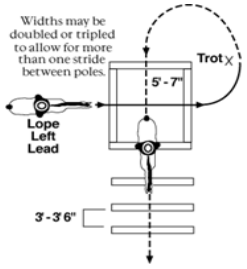
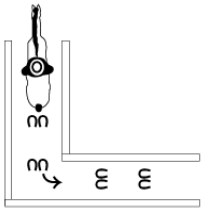
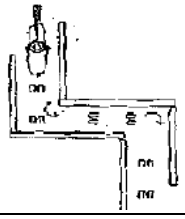
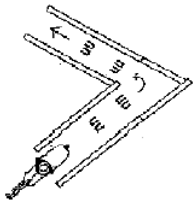
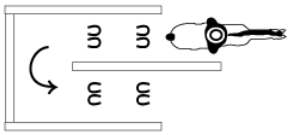
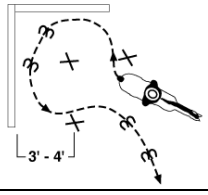
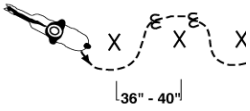
*Pattern can be run in either direction

Plug Race



*Pattern can be run in either direction

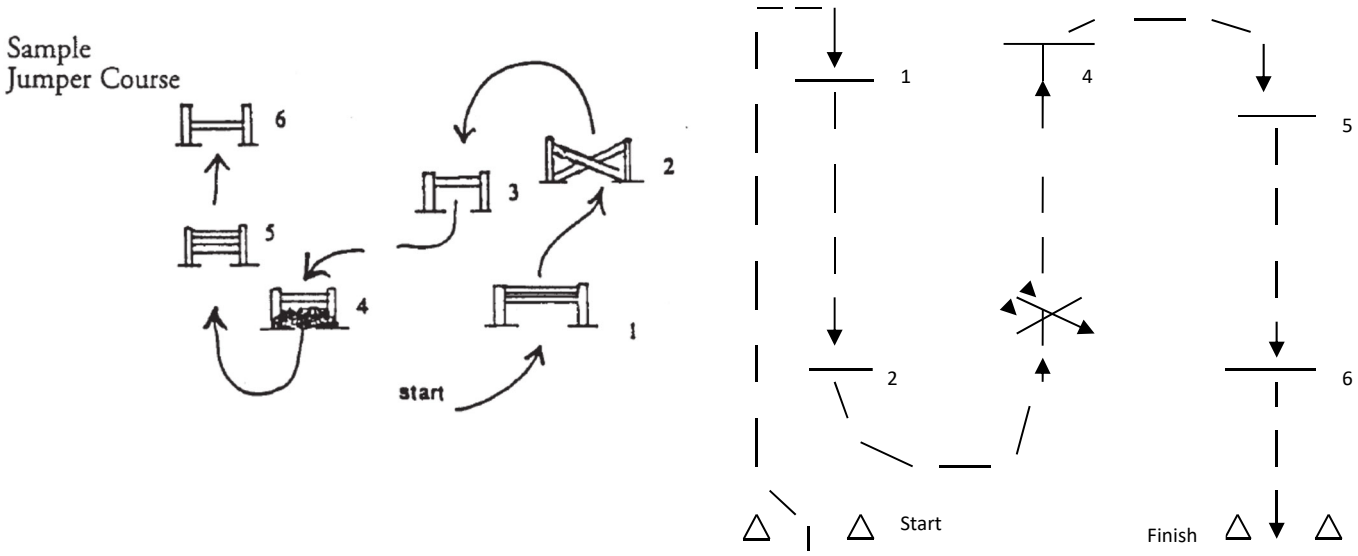
APPENDIX K – TRAIL OBSTACLES

<table>
<tr>
<td>Variations of Side Pass
</td>
<td>Variations of Side Pass
</td>
<td>Variations of Side Pass
</td>
<td>Variations of Side Pass
</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variations of Side Pass
</td>
<td>Variations of Side Pass
</td>
<td>Variations of Side Pass
</td>
<td>Variations of Side Pass
</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk Over
</td>
<td>Walk Over
</td>
<td>Walk Over
</td>
<td>Trot Over
</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back Through & Around (3) Markers
</td>
<td>Lope Over
</td>
<td colspan="2">Trot Overs, Lope Overs & Walk Overs
(Can use all combined in One Class)
</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variations of ‘L’ Back Through
</td>
<td>Variations of ‘L’ Back Through
</td>
<td>Variations of ‘L’ Back Through
</td>
<td>Variations of ‘L’ Back Through
</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back Through & Around (3) Markers
</td>
<td>Back Through & Around (3) Markers
(Empty Box)
</td>
<td colspan="2">Illustrations adapted from 2003 AQHA Rule Book & APHA Rule Book</td>
</tr>
</table>

APPENDIX L – TRAIL PENALTY CHART

Penalty	Cause
One Half (1/2) Point	• each tick or contact of a log, pole, cone, plant, or any component of an obstacle
One (1) Point	• each hit, bite, or stepping on a log, cone, plant or any component of the obstacle • incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for two strides or less • both front or hind feet in a single-strided slot or space at a walk or jog • skipping over or failing to step into required space • split pole in lope-over • incorrect number of strides, if specified
Three (3) Points	• incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for more than two strides • out of lead or break of gait at lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead) • knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant, obstacle, or severely disturbing an obstacle • falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or a water box with one foot once the horse has got onto or into that obstacle • stepping outside of the confines of an obstacle with designated boundaries (i.e. back through, 360 degree box, side pass) with one foot once the horse has entered the obstacle. • missing or evading a pole that is a part of a series of an obstacle with one foot
Five (5) Points	• dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course • first or second cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing • letting go of gate or dropping rope gate • use of either hand to instill fear or praise • falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or a water box with more than one foot once the horse has got onto or into that obstacle stepping outside of the confines of an obstacle with designated boundaries (i.e. back through, 360 degree box, side pass) with more than one foot once the horse has entered the obstacle. • missing or evading a pole that is a part of a series of an obstacle with more than one foot • blatant disobedience (including kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking) • holding saddle with either hand
Disqualified 0-Score	• use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore classes designated for two hands) or changing hands on reins; except for junior horses shown with hackamore or snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, except that it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle as outlined in EQUIPMENT, or to straighten reins when stopped. • use of romal other than as outlined in EQUIPMENT • performing the obstacle incorrectly or other than in specified order • no attempt to perform an obstacle • equipment failure that delays completion of pattern • excessively or repeatedly touching the horse on the neck to lower the head • entering or exiting an obstacle from the incorrect side or direction • working obstacle the incorrect direction; including overturns of more than 1/4 turn • riding outside designated boundary marker of the arena or course area • third cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing • failure to ever demonstrate correct lead and/or gait as designated • failure to follow the correct line of travel between obstacles • excessive schooling, pulling, turning, stepping or backing anywhere on course
Faults scored according to severity which occur on the line of travel between obstacles	• head carried too high • head carried too low (tip of ear below the withers) • over-flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical • excessive nosing out • opening mouth excessively

APPENDIX M – VERY SMALL EQUINE JUMPER/HUNTER IN HAND



APPENDIX N – VSE IN HAND JUMPER PENALTY CHART

Faults	Cause
4 Faults	• **Knockdowns**- when in jumping an obstacle, a horse or handler, by contact, lowers the established height of the fence in anyway.
3 Faults	• **Refusals**- Stopping at an obstacle without knocking it down and without backing away, followed by jumping from a standstill. The jumping from a standstill is not penalized. However, if the halt continues or if the horse backs even a single step, side steps, or circles to retake the fence, a refusal is incurred. • **Circling after crossing the starting line-** Any form of circle or circles whereby the horse crosses its original track between two (2) consecutive obstacles or stops advancing toward or turns away from the next fence except to retake an obstacle after disobedience. • **Crossing your own path**- as in circling between fences, not as in retaking a fence from a refusal. A horse that has been penalized for circling cannot then be penalized again for crossing its own path at the same obstacle
1 Fault	• Touching od obstacle with any portion of the **horses body in front of the stifle** • Touching of obstacle with any portion of the **Handlers body**
½ fault	• Touching of obstacle with any portion of the horses body behind the stifle
Elimination	• Three (3) Refusals • Off Course • Fall of horse and or exhibitor

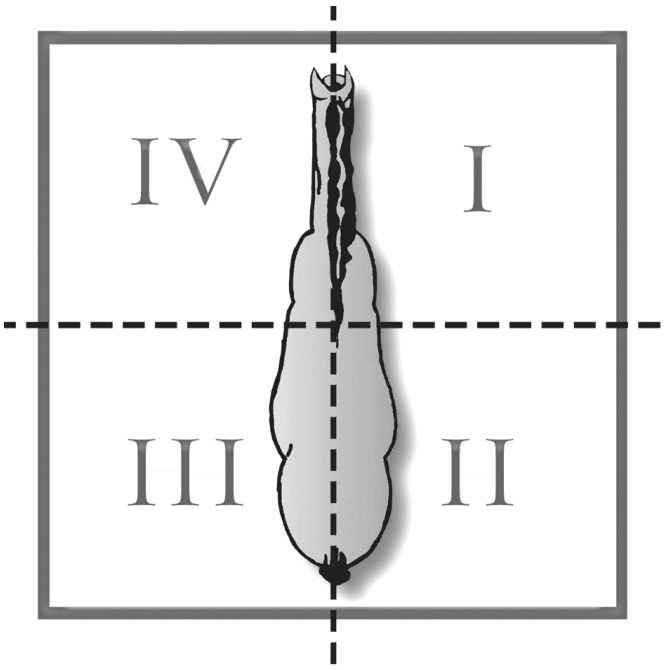
APPENDIX O – VSE GUIDELINES FOR SHOWMANSHIP CLASS

The Half Method

The following suggested guidelines of movement are meant to serve as an illustration of movement around the VSE while showing in showmanship at halter & are for the exhibitor's information.

- Imaginary lines bisect the horse into four equal parts as seen in the figure below. (Note the quadrants will be numbered I, II, III, IV for ease of identification.)
- One line runs across the horse just behind the withers. The other imaginary line runs from head to tail. When the judge is in I the handler should be in IV. As the judge moves to II, the handler stays in IV.
- When the judge moves to III, the handler moves to I. As the judge moves up the horse to IV, the handler stays in I..

The handler should never stop directly in front of the VSE as that is an unsafe location.



APPENDIX P – IN HAND TRAIL PENALTY CHART

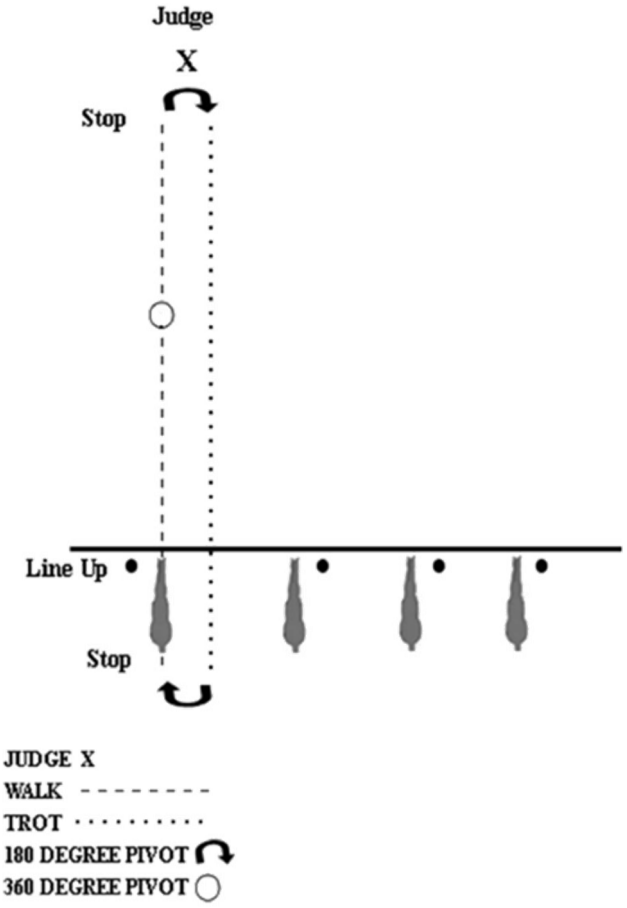
Penalties	Cause
One-Half (1⁄2) Point Penalty	• Each tick of log, pole, cone or obstacle.
One (1) Point Penalty	• Each hit of or stepping on a log, pole, cone or obstacle. • Break of gait at walk or jog for two (2) strides or less. • Both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space. • Skipping over or failing to step into required space. • Split pole in lope-over.
Three (3) Point Penalty	• Break of gait at walk or jog for more than two (2) strides. • Out of lead or break of gait at lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead). • Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel or plant obstacle or severely disturbing an obstacle.
Three (3) to Five (5) Point Penalty (Depending on severity)	• Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off an obstacle (back through, bridge, side pass, box, water box) with one foot.
Five (5) Point Penalty	• Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course. • First refusal, balk or attempt to evade an obstacle by shying or backing more than two (2) strides away. • Loss of control or letting go of gate. • Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off an obstacle (back through, bridge, sidepass, box, and water box) with more than one (1) foot.
Five (5) or more penalty points	• Blatant disobedience (kicking out, biting, rearing, striking). • Failure to ever demonstrate correct lead or gait if designated. • Failure to complete obstacle. • Second refusal, balk or attempt to evade an obstacle by shying or backing more than two (2) strides away.
Off Course-Disqualification	• 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 wrong sequence. • Not following the correct line of travel. • Back through or around obstacles.
Disqualification from entire class	• Performing the obstacles other than in specified order. • No attempt to perform an obstacle. • Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern. • Touching the horse on the neck to lower the head or use of free hand to instill fear or praise. • Fall to the ground by horse or rider. • Riding outside designated boundary marker of the course. • Failure to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction. • Failure to perform correct line of travel within or between obstacles. • Third refusal, balk or attempt to evade an obstacle by shying or backing more than two (2) strides away.

APPENDIX Q – VSE SHOWMANSHIP SCORE CARD

SHOWMANSHIP & GROOMING SCORE CARD **This performance class shall be judged strictly on the contestant's ability to fit and show in a halter class. The horse's conformation is not to be judged.**		
Appearance of VSE		**40 points**
A	Condition &Thriftiness	(15 points)
B	Grooming 1. Hair coat clean, well brushed 2. Mane, tail, foretop free of tangles & clean. 3. Hoofs trimmed properly and clean	(15 points)
C	Trimming If showing Miniature in full coat, inside of ears, long hairs on jaw, legs, and pasterns should be clipped	(5 points)
D	Tack 1. Tack should be neat, clean & in good repair.	(5 points)
Appearance of Exhibitor		**10 points**
A	Clothes & person – neat & clean	(5 points)
B	Suitable clothes	
Showing Horse in the Ring		**50 points**
A	Leading 1. Enter ring leading VSE at an alert walk in counter clockwise direction unless otherwise directed by the judge. Walk on the animal's left side, holding the lead shank in right hand, near halter. Remaining portion of lead is held neatly & safely in left hand. A tightly coiled, rolled or folded lead shank will be considered a fault. Animals should lead readily at the walk or trot. 2. After the judge has lined up the class, he/she may call on each exhibitor to move individually. When moving the VSE, be sure the judge gets a clear, unobstructed view of the VSE's action. Allow the VSE sufficient lead so it can move freely in a straight line. Lead from the left side of the animal. To turn, stop & turn to the right around the VSE.	(15 points)
B	Posing 1. When posing, stand toward the front, facing the VSE, but not directly in front, and always in a position where you can see the judge. 2. Pose VSE with its feet squarely under the body. Do most of the showing with the lead shank. Never kick a VSE's leg into position. 3. Do not crowd the exhibitor next to you when lined up side-by-side or in front of you when head-to-tail. 4. When the judge is observing other VSE's, let your VSE stand if posed reasonably well. 5. Be natural; over-showing, undue fussing & maneuvering are objectionable.	(15 points)
C	Poise, Alertness & Merits **1. Keep alert & be aware of the judge at all times. Don't be distracted by persons or things outside of the ring** **2. Show your VSE at all times, not yourself.** **3. Respond quickly to requests from the judge & officials.** **4. Be courteous & sportsmanlike at all times.** **5. Quickly recognize & correct faults of your horse.** **6. Keep showing until the entire class has been placed & excused from the ring.**	(20 points)

APPENDIX R – VSE SHOWMANSHIP PATTERN

Walk toward the Judge in a straight line. Stop ½ way between the line-up and the Judge, and do a 360 degree pivot, and stop. All pivots are to be to the right. Continue at a walk (in a straight line) toward the Judge. Stop and set up your pony/horse. Upon acknowledgement from the Judge, do a 180 degree pivot. Trot in a straight line, past the line-up and stop. Do a 180 degree turn. Walk pony/horse forward to the exact spot in the line-up (where you were when you started the pattern) and set up pony/horse.



Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Boards of County Commissioners. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.