

# **Riverside County 4-H Horse Show Rules Handbook**



Riverside County 4-H Equine Committee  
February 2017

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## **INFORMATION AND RULES**

The following rules and information were revised and adopted by the Riverside 4-H Horse Advisory Council on September 8, 2003 and apply to all 4-H Horse Shows in Riverside County. These rules must be observed by all 4-H Members, 4-H Horse Project Leaders, Parents, Show Committee Members, Judges, and any other person in any way connected with an approved Riverside County 4-H Horse Show.

In order to have consistent rules in effect that are fair to all exhibitors and provide a definitive system which gives all exhibitors proper recognition, these rules, stated herein, shall take precedence over any other rules. Presentation of a signed entry form shall be deemed as recognition and acceptance of these rules, and in the event of failure to sign the entry form, entry into the show ring as an exhibitor shall be deemed to be acceptance of said rules.

### Updates:

- February 2005: changes voted by the Horse Advisory Council from August 2004 to November 2004, include return check fees, green horse, project id signatures and new horse rules.
- October 2005: changes voted by the Horse Advisory Council from December 2004 to October 2005, including year-end points and jumping classes.
- October 2014 Riverside County 4-H Management Board bylaws changed the name of the Riverside County 4-H Horse Advisory Council to the Riverside County 4-H Equine Committee.

## **LETTER TO LEADERS AND MEMBERS**

The Riverside County 4-H Horse Show Rules Handbook is designed to help 4-H members who are new to the 4-H Horse showing world and to give additional information to those who have been with us for a while.

**To ensure that 4-H Horse Shows are safe, it is important that all 4-H Horse Project Leaders, Parent/Guardians and 4-H Members read this handbook. It is the responsibility of all 4-H Horse Project Members to study, understand and comply with all of the rules.**

In developing show rules, the intent of the Riverside County 4-H Equine Committee is to leave as many options as possible and yet strive for consistency, brevity, and understanding of the rules throughout Riverside County. Following these rules is necessary as we would not like to have members unable to participate because they have not adhered to the rules.

It is important that the terminology, classes, points, etc. contained in this booklet be followed at each show so that members will have a positive, more effective learning experience. When changes or additions are desired in classes, points, etc., they shall be clearly stated on all show information including entries, premium lists, classes, awards, etc. so that participants, leaders, and members fully understand what is involved.

For all Riverside County Shows, the Chairperson must present a show premium and entry form to the Riverside County 4-H Equine Committee.

Riverside County 4-H Equine Committee appreciates the cooperation of its many 4-H members, their families, and their project leaders. You have all been instrumental in making our Horse Program in Riverside County successful. Thank you for your continued participation, cooperation, and assistance in making our horse shows a fun and educational experience.

**HAVE FUN AND ENJOY THE COMPETITION!**

## 4-H SAFETY RULES AND PRECAUTIONS

This section outlines safety precautions intended to help prevent accidents to our 4-H members and families. No attempt has been made to cover every eventuality. The extent to which a 4-H member may expose him/herself or others to danger depends largely on his/her training, experience, mental attitude, and existing conditions.

### *THINK BEFORE ACTING IS THE PRIME REQUISITE FOR SAFETY*

Accidents are frequently the result of hurried, unconsidered acts, or decisions not based on a thorough knowledge of the horse and its potential hazards.

4-H members, leaders and parents/guardians are expected to use all knowledge of horse safety for their protection and that of their fellow 4-H members. They must not take any chances that might result in injury to horses, riders, or spectators.

4-H Horse Project Leaders should observe all members and their riding habits, make corrections, and give instructions, which will help to reduce the possibility of accidents.

The following are important aids, which teach 4-H members the concepts of good horsemanship.

1. Walk the horse around the arena and trailer parking area, no trotting or cantering.
2. Do not crowd around the gates of the arena.
3. Tie a RED RIBBON on the tail of a kicking horse or pony.
4. No eating while mounted. Riders may drink while mounted only when a leader, parent, or senior member is holding their horse, and the rider must keep one hand on the reins and both feet in the stirrups.
5. Boots or appropriate closed toe shoes must be worn while riding or working around horses. **Sandals or bare feet are prohibited.**
6. Riders must wear an approved (SEI/ASTM) helmet at all times when mounted, or if otherwise required by the show manager. The helmet harness must be fastened prior to mounting or entering the arena on foot.
7. Horses must not be tied to fences or rails or any place that would constitute a hazard. Members and parents will be held responsible for their unattended horse or pony.
8. All dogs must be on a leash and restrained at all times around the horse show grounds and during horse project activities.
9. Check girth/cinch for proper tightness before mounting and/or entering the arena.
10. **All entrants must attend a Mandatory Safety orientation.** Attendance by Leaders and parents/guardians is recommended; but regardless of attendance, all are expected to comply with these precautions.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

1. There will be a minimum of five scheduled circuit horse shows per year. Additional horse shows may be scheduled at the discretion of the Riverside County 4-H Equine Committee. All Riverside County 4-H shows will count for year-end awards.
2. An exhibitor must participate in a minimum of three horse shows in a specific point class in order to qualify for a year-end award.
3. If a class is canceled, the entry fee will be returned or credited if so desired.
4. All checks are to be made out to the Riverside County 4-H Management Board. There will be a \$25.00 returned check fee. Offenders will not be able to compete at future events until all fees are paid.
5. At the Show Committee's discretion, shows running late may cancel non-point classes.
6. If there are less than five entries in a non-point class, it may be combined with the other age groups at the Show Committee's discretion.
7. Classes with 20 or more entries may, at the discretion of the Judge and/or the Show Committee, be divided. The top exhibitors from each division will return to compete for the final judging and the placing selected from this group.
8. A class in the schedule will close one class prior (i.e., to make a change in class five, the change must be completed prior to completion of class three). No changes or additions will be accepted after that time. An exhibitor may withdraw at any time. No refunds on scratched classes are given without a veterinarian certificate.
9. In the event of illness, injury or death of a horse or pony, the exhibitor may request return of the entry fee or credit towards the next show when accompanied with a written verification from a veterinarian. The member may substitute the entered horse with another currently ID'd horse at the Horse Project Leader's discretion. Verification will be presented to the Horse Advisory and forwarded to the appropriate chairperson, for example, the ID Chairperson and the Show Committee.
10. The Riverside County 4-H Equine Committee Judge/Arena Coordinator will maintain an updated resource list of judges and available arenas. All judges must be oriented to the Riverside County 4-H Rules and Policy. Judges will be hired by the Judge Coordinator, who is appointed by the Riverside County 4-H Equine Committee. All efforts will be made to use a Judge only once during a calendar year.
11. The use of intoxicating substances and/or the attendance by anyone under the influence of such substances is prohibited. He/she will be asked to leave the premises in accordance with the 4-H Code of Conduct and Show Rules.
12. For safety reasons, there will be no spectators sitting, standing or leaning **on** the rail.
13. Age divisions are as follows as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current 4-H year:
  - 9 to 13 years – Junior
  - 14 to 19 years – Senior
14. All shows shall be judged on the American System of judging.

## **HORSE SHOW RULES**

1. 4-H Horse Shows are open to all 4-H members enrolled in the horse project in California. Members must be in “Good Standing” to participate. Good Standing means that the member has complied with all enrollment policies and are meeting the requirements set by their Project Leader.
2. It is the 4-H member’s responsibility to ID their mount 60 days prior to the show and 120 days prior to a County Fair Show (Indio). The 60 or 120 days will be taken from the postmark on the date given by the ID Chairperson. A Horse ID must be on file with:
  - 4-H Office
  - Riverside County 4-H Equine Committee ID Chairperson
  - Horse Project Leader

The 4-H member should keep a copy for their records. An ID must be on file for each horse to be ridden as part of the member’s 4-H Horse Project. Only a Horse Project Leader, or the Horse Project Assistant Leader, if the Horse Project Leader is unavailable, can sign a Horse ID or Lease Agreement.
3. It is the responsibility of the 4-H member to submit a signed “Release Waiver” to the 4-H Office. This Waiver must be on file in the 4-H Office before the member can participate in any project meetings and activities for the Horse Project. Members failing to submit a signed “Release Waiver” and to ID their project Horse(s) shall not participate in any 4-H activity until one is submitted.
4. Out of County 4-H Horse Project Members may ride at any show but are not eligible to participate in Riverside County Year End Awards. If a 4-H member moves out of county during the show year, he/she may finish the show year started, providing he/she continues enrollment in the Horse Project.
5. All entries must have the signature of the 4-H member, parent/guardian, and the 4-H Horse Project Leader.
6. Any and all decisions of the judge and show management are final.
7. Pony heights are 14.1 7/8 hands and under. An additional one-quarter inch is allowed when the pony is wearing shoes. Horse heights are 14.2 hands and over. A horse/pony 14.2 hands and under may compete as a horse but must remain in that division throughout the year, i.e., may not compete as a horse in one show and a pony in another show.
8. All horses or ponies may be shown according to their breed specifications.
9. Stallions of any age are prohibited.
10. Any cruelty, abuse, or inhumane treatment of a horse by any person, before, during, or after an event (such as whipping, use of a severe bit causing bleeding of the mouth, excessive jerking of the reins, or excessive spurring, etc.) will result in disqualification of the participant.
11. Any exhibitor wishing to leave the arena for any reason must go to the center of the ring and must be excused by the Judge. If an exhibitor voluntarily removes a horse

from the ring without the permission of the Judge, the exhibitor and all animals of the exhibitor can be disqualified from all further classes at the show by the Show Committee and shall forfeit all awards and entry fees for the entire show. An exhibitor leaving the arena for any reason cannot come back into that class.

12. Class descriptions for Western, English, Over Fences, and Gymkhana classes will follow current Riverside County 4-H Horse Show Rules, in conjunction with State 4-H Classic Rules, the United States Equestrian Association, and California Gymkhana Association rules. However, Riverside County rules have precedence.
13. As in all other livestock projects, only the 4-H member (NO ADULT) may groom, saddle, bridle, lead, warm-up, or otherwise get the horse ready for showing unless safety to a 4-H member is apparent (i.e., small child- large horse). 4-H Horse Project leaders and members may assist if needed. If the participant cannot handle his/her horse, the horse is to be removed from the show. For the duration of the show all horses or ponies to be shown are to be ridden by exhibitors only. No adult, 4-H member not enrolled in the Horse Project, or non-4-H member may ride or otherwise handle the member's horse/pony.
14. No horse shall be shown in any class at a show if it has been administered, in any manner, any forbidden substance. A forbidden substance is any stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer, or local anesthetic, which might affect the performance of the horse. Also prohibited are any drugs, regardless of how harmless or innocuous they may be, which might interfere with the detection of the aforementioned prohibited drugs.
15. Violation of Horse Show and Safety Rules and the 4-H Code of Conduct by exhibitors, Leaders, and or Parent/Guardians will result in the issuance of the following warnings:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offense – verbal warning by the show committee
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> offense – child excused from class
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> offense – child excused from show grounds
16. Coaching from the rail is not permitted by anyone while the class is in the arena.
17. Any unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of parents, leaders, or members will result in removal from the premises for the remainder of the show.
18. No rider will show two horses in the same class.
19. Fall of horse/pony or rider. A rider will be considered fallen when he is separated from the horse/pony and remounting is required. A horse/pony will be considered fallen when the shoulders and the haunches on the same side touch the ground. Should either of these occur, the rider will not be placed in the class. However, finishing the class will be encouraged.
20. All points for daily and year-end high point will accrue on the same horse and rider combination. In the event of illness, injury or death of a horse or pony, another horse can be substituted. Points will continue to accrue only if the rider provides a veterinary report as to the reason for substituting with a new horse.
21. Novice Division is limited to 4-H members in their first or second year of showing. However, once an exhibitor competes at the State 4-H Classic in this division, the exhibitor may no longer compete in novice walk/trot classes in subsequent shows. Once

the exhibitor has participated in any class requiring the lope or canter, the exhibitor may no longer compete in the Novice Division. Exceptions for the two-year limit for Novice Riders may be given in circumstance of physical or mental handicaps, only with the approval of the Riverside County 4-H Equine Committee. Exceptions must be reviewed yearly to be continued. Novice riders may not participate in Country Pleasure classes.

22. Green Division: The horse is limited in this Division to first or second year of showing. However, once the horse is shown at the State 4-H Classic, it may not compete in the green division in subsequent shows. A green horse cannot have cantered or loped at a horse show, event, or competition. The horse is to be ridden by an experienced 4-H member. Exceptions for the two-year limit for Green Horses may be given in very limited circumstances only with the approval of the Riverside County 4-H Equine Committee. Exceptions must be reviewed yearly to be continued.

If the green horse is five years of age or under and is being shown Western it may be shown with two hands in a snaffle or any legal Western Bit as described in the bits section of the USEF Rulebook.

23. For Novice Riders or Green Horses: The first time an exhibitor participates in any 4-H show will count as the first year of that exhibitor's showing experience. The show year runs from July 1 to June 30. For example, if a green horse or novice rider shows in their first show in June, that counts as one full year of showing.

24. Awards are to be as follows: Awards to 1<sup>st</sup> (if available), ribbons 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>.

25. Points are awarded in each class as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> – 11 pts	6 <sup>th</sup> – 5 pts
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 9 pts	7 <sup>th</sup> – 4 pts
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 8 pts	8 <sup>th</sup> – 3 pts
4 <sup>th</sup> – 7 pts	9 <sup>th</sup> – 2 pts
5 <sup>th</sup> – 6 pts	10 <sup>th</sup> – 1 pt

26. Daily High Point Divisions and Awards are determined by the 4-H Club hosting the show. Classes qualifying for Daily High Point will be listed on the show premium. A tie will be broken by the higher number of firsts. If the score remains tied, then the exhibitor with the higher place(s) in equitation will be awarded high point.
27. Not all classes will be offered at all County Shows. Every effort will be made to offer all classes, including over fences and gymkhana classes at least three times per year in order for members to qualify for year-end awards and the 4-H Classic.
28. These rules may be revised by the Riverside County 4-H Equine Committee as needed. All Horse Project Leaders and members will be advised of the revisions.

## **YEAR-END AWARDS**

1. Out of County 4-H Horse Project Members are not eligible to participate in Riverside County Year End Awards.
2. Points are accrued throughout the year at the designated Riverside County 4-H Horse Shows. minimum of five shows each year will be held.
3. Awards at year-end are earned on a per class basis. For example, Basic Showmanship High Point, Junior Western Pleasure High Point, and Senior Dressage Suitability High Point. The class must be held at a minimum of three shows during the 4-H calendar year to qualify for an award.
4. A combined Over Fences High Point Award will be awarded to the Basic, Pony, Junior, and Senior individual earning the most points in Equitation Over Fences, Working Hunters, and Jumpers. This award will only be offered if the classes are offered at a minimum of three shows.
5. A combined Gymkhana High Point Award to the Basic, Pony, Junior, and Senior individual earning the most points in CA Speed Barrels, Single Stake Race, Pole Bending, or other gymkhana classes. This award will only be offered if the classes are offered at a minimum of three shows.
6. The Caressa Hill Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the 4-H exhibitor with the most accumulated points for all circuit shows in the designated showmanship class. The exhibitor can be a Basic, Junior, or Senior.

# **TACK, ATTIRE, AND STANDARD DISQUALIFICATIONS**

## **SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES**

### **Tack**

- For Western, a halter and lead rope, preferably with a chain shank.
- For English, an English bridle or plain halter and lead with chain shank.
- For Breed Type, tack acceptable for that breed.

### **Attire**

- For Western, white, tan, black or dark green pants, long sleeved white shirt, belt, 4-H hat (or ATSM certified helmet if required for that show), and 4-H kerchief or tie.
- For English, as above, or breeches and dress or field boots, jodhpurs and jodhpur boots, belt, 4-H hat (or ATSM certified helmet if required for that show) and kerchief or tie.

### **Standard Disqualifications**

- Whips or crops are not allowed in any showmanship class, and the offending exhibitor will be asked to leave the show arena.

## **ENGLISH DIVISIONS**

### **Tack**

- The bridle should be English show type and must include a cavesson noseband. Dropped or figure eight nosebands are prohibited.
- Bits will be one of the following: English snaffle, Kimberwick, or Pelham. A Weymouth bit may be used in combination with a snaffle bit in a double bridle.
- A snaffle bit with shanks, except for a Pelham bit, is considered a Western bit and may not be used.
- No twisted wire snaffles are permitted.
- Single or double reins may be used, as appropriate for the specific bit being used.
- Martingales of any type are prohibited, except for the “Jumpers” class.
- Saddle Seat tack may be used, except in jumping classes, unless prohibited in a certain class. Saddle Seat tack consists of a full bridle (curb and snaffle) with double reins. Mixing Saddle Seat and Hunt Seat tack and attire on the same rider/horse combination may be penalized.
- Any permissible or prohibited tack concerning a specific class will be listed with that class and will take precedence over the above.

### **Attire**

- Complete 4-H or Hunt Seat Attire with appropriate hunt coat.
- If wearing breeches, dress or field boots are required.
- If wearing jodhpurs, jodhpur boots and garters are required.
- For girls, a choker, with pin is required. For boys, a tie with pin is required.
- Exhibitors showing in Saddle Seat attire shall be of the informal type consisting of conservative solid colors with matching pants and jodhpur boots.

- An ASTM certified helmet is required.
- Long hair must be constrained in a net or braid.

### **Standard Disqualifications**

- Use of prohibited appointments, martingales, tie-downs or draw reins. Boots of any description for use on the horse are prohibited. Artificial appliances are prohibited.
- Lack of required attire, appointments, or equipment.
- Fall of horse or rider.
- Failure of tack or equipment used on the horse or exhibitor during any class causes disqualification if the failure prevents successful completion of the class. This does not apply to failure of arena equipment used for the class.
- Any permissible or prohibited tack covering a specific class will be listed with the class and tack precedence.

## **WESTERN DIVISIONS**

### **Tack**

- Silver appointments on saddles or bridles will not count over a good working outfit.
- Tapedaros are prohibited.
- No wire curb straps, regardless of how padded or taped are permitted.
- Twisted wire bits and excessively severe bits are prohibited.
- Leather curb straps are permissible.
- Chain curbs or chin straps are permissible but must be at least one-half inch in width lying flat against the jaw of the horse.
- No nose bands allowed even with snaffle bits.
- Snaffle bits or bosal hackamores are allowed only for horses 5 years and younger as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the show year.
- When romel reins are used, the riata (or tail) should be moved to the side opposite the rein hand. The riata may be held in the free hand.
- When split reins are used, the ends should remain on the same side as the hand holding the reins. One finger is allowed between the reins.
- Any permissible or prohibited tack covering a specific class will be listed with the class and tack precedence.

### **Attire**

- Long sleeve shirt or blouse, long pants, belt, boots, and an ASTM certified helmet are required. Western show outfits or 4-H uniform are permitted.
- Chaps and gloves are optional.

### **Standard Disqualifications**

- Use of prohibited appointments: mechanical hackamore, cavesson-type noseband, martingales, draw reins, tie downs, choke ropes, and tapederos.
- A bosal hackamore or non-leverage snaffle bit on horses older than five years.
- Fall of horse or rider.
- Use of spurs, split reins, or romel in front of the cinch.

- Failure of tack or equipment used on the horse or exhibitor during any class causes disqualification if the failure prevents successful completion of the class. This does not apply to failure of arena equipment used for the class.

## **GYMKHANA DIVISIONS**

### **Tack**

- English or Western tack may be used.
- A saddle is required unless specified.
- Mechanical hackamores are permitted.
- Any permissible or prohibited tack or attire covering a specific class will be listed with that class and take precedence over these listed.

### **Attire**

- Long sleeve shirt or blouse, long pants, belt, boots, and an ASTM certified helmet is required.
- Chaps, spurs, bats, and whips are optional.
- Complete 4-H uniform, English or Western attire is optional.

### **Standard Disqualifications**

- Any exhibitor striking or hitting the horse or pony forward of the cinch or girth with any object (other than hand pats).
- Breaking of the course pattern.
- Loss of forward motion.
- Fall of horse or rider.
- Taking excessive time to begin pattern.

# CLASSES

## SHOWMANSHIP

To be judged on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show a horse or pony at halter.

- Conformation of the horse shall not count.
- Silver shall not count over non-silver tack.
- Set the horse up with all four feet basically square or according to breed or type.
- Lead horse at a brisk walk or trot as the Judge directs, with horse's head carried at a height appropriate to the type or use of the horse. When turning or pivoting, always turn to the right.
- No whips are allowed in this class.

### **Procedure**

The pattern to be followed will be posted or verbally provided by the judge or show management prior to the beginning of the class. Exhibitors are to enter the arena and stand at the location selected by the Judge and follow the pattern as requested.

### **Examples of Faults against the Exhibitor:**

- a. Failure to recognize and correct faults of the horse's position.
- b. Visiting or conversing with other exhibitors in the arena during the judging of the Showmanship class.
- c. Kicking the horse's leg into position (actual contact with the horse's leg).
- d. Failure of the horse to lead properly.
- e. Failure to stop before turning when showing at the walk or trot.
- f. Failure to back the horse when necessary.
- g. Loud voice commands to the horse.
- h. Over showing through unnecessary actions.
- i. Blocking the Judge's view of the horse.
- j. Turning the horse in the wrong direction.
- k. Improperly fitting equipment.
- l. Failure to execute pattern correctly.

## ENGLISH EQUITATION

To be judged on the rider's position and balance and use of seat, legs and hands.

- Light contact with horse's mouth is required.
- It is the Judge's option to require an exhibitor to perform the sitting or posting trot, with or without stirrups.

### **Procedure**

To be shown at the walk, trot, and canter in both directions of the arena. Backing may be required. The Judge may also require individual work.

### **Disqualifications**

- a. See Standard Disqualifications, English.

## **ENGLISH PLEASURE**

To be judged mainly on the performance and manners of the horse, and less on appointments, neatness and general appearance of horse and rider.

- It is the Judge's option to require an exhibitor to extend any gait.
- Exhibitors may be required to reverse at the walk or trot at the discretion of the Judge, but shall not be asked to reverse at the canter or hand gallop.
- Light contact with the horse's mouth is recommended.
- The Judge may ask the group to "Halt" from any gait and stand quietly on a free rein.
- Emphasis to be placed on suitability to purpose.

### **Procedure**

To be shown at the walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring. Backing and hand gallop may be required.

### **Disqualifications**

See Standard Disqualifications, English.

## **DRESSAGE SUITABILITY**

To be judged on the on the rider's position, seat, and, specifically, the correct use and effect of the aids required by the Training Level Dressage tests and the horse's potential to become a Dressage mount.

- Horses to be shown in a plain snaffle. Twisted wire and roller bits, Pelhams, flexible rubber bits and kimberwicks are prohibited.
- Medium walk, working trot, and canter both ways of the ring must be performed.
- Sitting trot may be requested.
- The extended trot may be requested.
- The horse should be collected to the level of it's training as requested.
- Contact with the horse's mouth is required.
- Change of direction across the diagonal, down the centerline, across the arena, and/or by making a half-circle at the walk or trot may be requested.

### **Procedure**

To be shown at the walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring.

### **Disqualifications**

- a. See Standard Disqualifications, English.
- b. Use of any other bit other than a plain snaffle.

## **ENGLISH COUNTRY PLEASURE**

To be judged on the performance, manners, and suitability of the horse. The horse is shown at the walk and preferred or "favorite gait" of the rider's choosing.

- Favorite gait can include the trot, extended trot, canter, extended canter, hand-gallop, or any type of gait used by gaited breeds. Same gait must be used both directions.
- To be shown with light contact with the horse's mouth.
- The horse should demonstrate responsiveness, smoothness, and consistency at both gaits.

- Novice Riders and Green horses are allowed to participate in this class. They both must be shown at the jog/trot or extended jog/extended trot when asked for their “Favorite Gait”. Novice Riders and Green horses must not Lope or Canter.

**Procedure**

To be judged on the walk and favorite gait in both directions. Backing may be required.

**Disqualifications**

See Standard Disqualifications, English.

**HUNTER HACK**

To be judged on manners, way of going, style over fences, evenness of pace, and flat work. Seventy percent will be judged on manner, way of going, style, and pace over the fences with the remaining thirty percent judged on the flat work.

- It is the Judge’s decision on the number of strides between the two fences.
- The Judge has the option to request a hand-gallop as part of the over fences portion or during the flatwork portion of the class.
- The Judge may request that the horse back as part of the over fences portion of the class.

**Procedure**

Exhibitors should enter the arena and stand in the area directed by the Judge. Each horse will then complete the two fences and any additional instruction provided by the Judge. After all the exhibitors have completed this portion, the class will begin the flat work portion as directed. This will include the walk, trot, and canter in both directions. Backing may be required. The judge may choose to do the flat work prior to the over fences portion.

**Disqualifications**

See Standard Disqualifications, English.

**EQUITATION OVER FENCES, EQUITATION MEDAL OVER FENCES**

To be judged on rider’s position and use of seat, legs and hands. This includes the rider’s presentation of the horse to the fence, path to the fence, and use of collection and/or extension in order to maintain correct strides.

- Except for refusals, jumping faults of the horse are not to be considered unless it is the result of the rider’s ability. Each exhibitor may circle once before approaching the first obstacle.
- The exhibitor then proceeds around the course keeping an even pace throughout.
- If a refusal occurs in a double or a triple, the exhibitor must re-jump all obstacles in the combination.
- Any or all the exhibitors can be called back to perform at a walk, trot, and canter or to execute any appropriate tests requested.
- Major faults include a refusal, loss of stirrup, trotting while on course (when not part of a test), and loss of reins.
- An eliminated rider may make one attempt to jump an additional single obstacle, but may not continue thereafter.

### **Fence Heights**

Pony: 2'

Cross-Rail: (Green Horse and/or Rider only and limited to the walk and trot) 12" cross rails.

Beginners: 2' – 2'3"

Intermediate: 2'3" – 2'6"

Advanced (Equitation Medal Over Fences – Clover Medal): 2'9" – 3'.0"

### **Procedure**

The course will be posted prior to the beginning of the class. When the exhibitor's number is called, the exhibitor is to enter the arena, acknowledge the Judge, and when approved, begin the course. Upon completion, the exhibitor is to trot or canter (depending on level) a circle and proceed to the exit gate.

### **Disqualifications**

- a. See Standard Disqualifications, English.
- b. Three Refusals, run outs, or bolting on course.
- c. Going off course.

### **SHORT/LONG STIRRUP, LOW HUNTERS and CHILDREN'S HUNTERS**

To be judged on manners, way of going, style over fences, evenness of pace, and a workman like manner.

- When equipment availability allows, the course shall consist of eight jumps over at least four different types of fences that simulate obstacles found in the hunting field with at least one change of direction (this may be a simple change at the discretion of the Judge or Show Committee – to be posted on the course design).
- There must be a ground line placed at each fence.
- Circling once upon entering the ring and once upon leaving is permissible.

### **Fence Heights**

Pony: 2'

Cross-Rail: (Green Horse and/or Rider only and limited to the walk and trot) 12" cross rails.

Short/Long Stirrup (Beginners): 2' – 2'3"

Low Hunters (Intermediate): 2'3" – 2'6"

Children's Hunters (Advanced): 2'9" – 3.0"

### **Procedure**

The course will be posted prior to the beginning of the class. When the exhibitor's number is called, the exhibitor is to enter the arena, acknowledge the Judge, and when approved, begin the course. Upon completion, the exhibitor is to trot to the exit gate.

### **Faults**

- The Judge may consider touches, and knockdowns when judging this class.
- Disobedience (refusal, runout, bolting) is a major fault.

### **Disqualifications**

- a. See Standard Disqualifications, English.
- b. Third refusal, runout, or bolt on course.
- c. Jumping an obstacle before it is re-set.

- d. Going off course.
- e. Loss of headgear anywhere on course results in disqualification, and the rider must dismount and stop the course immediately.

## **JUMPERS**

To be judged only on the faults made by the horse and rider team. The lowest faults to win.

- The course shall consist of a minimum of eight jumps over at least four different type fences. There should be at least one change of direction.
- Striding between fences may not be even. Horse and rider teams may be asked to extend or collect in order to meet the next fence properly.
- Tight turns may be required.
- Exhibitors are allowed to walk the course as a group, prior to proceeding.
- Circling once upon entering the ring and once upon leaving is permissible.
- Martingales are allowed.

### **Fence Heights**

Pony: 2'

Beginners: 2' – 2'3"

Intermediate: 2'3" – 2'6"

Advanced (including Gambler's Choice): 2'9" – 3'6"

### **Procedure**

The course will be posted prior to the beginning of the class. When the exhibitor's number is called, the exhibitor is to enter the arena, acknowledge the Judge, and when approved, begin the course. Upon completion, the exhibitor is to trot to the exit gate. All exhibitors going clear will be asked to return for a jump-off with faults and time to count for the score.

### **Faults**

Knock downs – An obstacle is considered knocked down when its fence height is lowered:

- With any part of the horse's body – four faults.
- Knock down of standard or wing in jumping the obstacle with any part of the horse, rider, or equipment – eight faults.
- Touching of a wing or post shall count as a knock down – four faults.
- Placing any foot in the Liverpool, ditch, or water – 4 faults.
- When a horse touches an obstacle, causing a rail of an adjoining panel or wing to fall, it shall not be construed as a knock-down.

### **Disobedience**

- 1st refusal (run-out) – 4 faults.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> refusal (run out) – 8 faults.

### **Disqualifications**

- a. See Standard Disqualifications, English.
- b. Third Refusal.
- c. Jumping an obstacle before it is re-set.
- d. Going off course.
- e. Loss of headgear anywhere on course results in disqualification, and the rider must dismount and stop the course immediately.

## **WESTERN EQUITATION**

To be judged mainly on the rider's seat, hands, and response to the aids, and less so on the appointments of horse and suitability of horse to rider.

- Results as shown by the performance of the horse are NOT to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them. Good hands and seat are paramount. Strong or excessive cues will be penalized.
- Reins shall be held in one hand and cannot be changed during the class. (Two hands allowed with horses 5 years old or younger using snaffle bits or bosal hackamores.)
- The position of the hand not holding the reins is optional, but shall be clear of the horse and saddle.

### **Procedure**

To be judged at the walk, jog, and lope in both directions. Gait extensions, backing and individual work may be required.

### **Disqualifications**

See Standard Disqualifications, Western.

## **WESTERN PLEASURE**

To be judged on the performance, manners, and suitability of the horse.

- To be shown on a reasonably loose rein.
- Reins shall be held in one hand and cannot be changed during the class. (Two hands allowed with horses 5 years old or younger using snaffle bits or bosal hackamores.)
- If using split reins, one finger between the reins is permitted.
- The position of the hand not holding the reins is optional, but shall be clear of the horse and saddle.

### **Procedure**

Exhibitors will enter the arena to the right at the walk. To be judged at the walk, jog and lope in both directions. Backing may be required.

### **Disqualifications**

See Standard Disqualifications, Western.

## **HORSEMANSHIP**

To be judged on performance of both horse and rider in completing the pattern in a smooth and fluid delivery.

- To be shown in Western attire and tack.
- The exhibitor is to use only one hand on the reins and may not switch hands during the class. (Two hands allowed with horses 5 years old or younger using snaffle bits or bosal hackamores.)
- The exhibitor's hands shall be clear of the horse and saddle while the horse is in motion.
- The horse should be able to work at reasonable speed and still be under control of the rider.

### **Procedure**

The pattern to be used will be posted or verbally provided by the judge or show management prior to the beginning of the class. When the exhibitor's number is called,

the exhibitor is to enter the arena, acknowledge the Judge, and when approved, begin the pattern. Elements may include, but are not limited to, walk, jog, extended jog, lope, lead change, pivot, and back. Upon completion, the exhibitor will exit the arena or move to the designated line up. (Patterns for Novice and Green divisions will be limited to walk/jog elements.)

### **Disqualifications**

- a. See Standard Disqualifications, Western
- b. Running the pattern incorrectly.
- c. The use of two hands on the reins (exceptions stated above).

## **WESTERN COUNTRY PLEASURE**

To be judged on the performance, manners and suitability of the horse. The horse is shown at the walk and preferred or “favorite gait” of the rider’s choosing.

- Favorite gait can include the jog, extended jog, lope, extended lope, hand-gallop, or any type of gait used by gaited breeds.
- To be shown on a reasonably loose rein.
- The horse should demonstrate responsiveness, smoothness, and consistency at both gaits.
- **Novice Riders may not participate in this class.**

### **Procedure**

Exhibitors will enter the arena to the right at the walk. To be judged on the walk and favorite gait in both directions. Backing may be required.

### **Disqualifications**

See Standard Disqualifications, Western.

## **OBEDIENCE**

To be judged on the ability of the rider and horse to perform the required elements while demonstrating communication between rider and horse, and the responsiveness of the horse.

- This class is judged through a process of elimination. The Judge will ask for specific gaits or movements. If a horse or rider is unable to perform the required element, they will be excused to the middle of the arena.
- Required elements may include, but are not limited to, any standard gait, counter canter, flying lead change, halt, side pass, pivot, backing, dismount and remount on either side, or dropping the reins or stirrups while performing the elements.
- The riders will be eliminated until the Judge is able to place the class.
- The Judge may not require all riders be eliminated before placing the class, but may instead judge the performance of the final riders.
- Participants may show either English or Western.

### **Procedure**

Horses are to enter the ring at a walk and follow the requests of the Judge. Exhibitors shall be worked both ways of the ring.

### **Disqualifications**

- a. See Standard Disqualifications, Western.
- b. See Standard Disqualifications, English.

### **NOVICE RIDER – ENGLISH CLASSES**

See ENGLISH CLASS DESCRIPTIONS for judging standards, procedures and disqualifications, except:

- Open to all 4-H exhibitors with no age restriction.
- Limited to performance at the walk and trot.
- Limited to 4-H members in their first or second year of showing. However, once an exhibitor competes at the State 4-H Classic in this division, the exhibitor may no longer compete in novice walk/trot classes in subsequent shows.
- Once the exhibitor has participated in any class requiring the canter, the exhibitor may no longer compete in the Novice Division.

### **NOVICE RIDER – WESTERN CLASSES**

See WESTERN CLASS DESCRIPTIONS for judging standards, procedures and disqualifications, except:

- Open to all 4-H exhibitors with no age restriction.
- Limited to performance at the walk and jog.
- Limited to 4-H members in their first or second year of showing. However, once an exhibitor competes at the State 4-H Classic in this division, the exhibitor may no longer compete in novice walk/jog classes in subsequent shows.
- Once the exhibitor has participated in any class requiring the lope, the exhibitor may no longer compete in the Novice Division.

### **GREEN HORSE – ENGLISH CLASSES**

See ENGLISH CLASS DESCRIPTIONS for judging standards, procedures and disqualifications, except:

- Open to all 4-H exhibitors with no age restriction.
- Limited to performance at the walk and trot.
- The horse is limited in this Division to first or second year of showing. However, once the horse is shown at the State 4-H Classic, it may not compete in the green division in subsequent shows.
- Once the horse has participated in any class requiring the canter, the horse may no longer compete in the Green Division.
- To be ridden by an experienced 4-H member.

### **GREEN HORSE – WESTERN CLASSES**

See WESTERN CLASS DESCRIPTIONS for judging standards, procedures and disqualifications, except:

- Open to all 4-H exhibitors with no age restriction.
- Limited to performance at the walk and jog.
- The horse is limited in this Division to first or second year of showing. However, once the horse is shown at the State 4-H Classic, it may not compete in the green division in subsequent shows.
- Once the horse has participated in any class requiring the lope, the horse may no longer compete in the Green Division.
- To be ridden by an experienced 4-H member.

## **TRAIL**

To be judged mainly on performance and manners while negotiating obstacles. Less emphasis on condition and grooming, tack and attire.

- The trail class may be run at a separate location and concurrently with other classes.
- Horses will be required to perform a minimum of six obstacles. These may include, but are not limited to, opening and closing a gate, walking over logs, crossing a bridge, backing between obstacles, standing while the rider puts on and takes off a raincoat, or any other obstacle chosen by the show committee.
- Horses are penalized on the number of balks and refusals to go through or over obstacles, according to the discretion of the Judge.
- Exhibitors may ride English or Western, although Western style is customary.
- Novice and Green patterns will include only walk/trot or walk/jog elements.

### **Procedure**

The course will be posted prior to the beginning of the class. The exhibitor should advise the ring steward and/or judge of their show number prior to entry. Upon entering the arena, acknowledging the Judge, and receiving approval to begin, the exhibitor should follow the trail course. The rider will exit the trail course when completed. If a rider cannot complete an obstacle after a reasonable period of time, the judge may require the exhibitor to continue the course.

### **Disqualifications**

- a. See Standard Disqualifications, Western.
- b. See Standard Disqualifications, English.

## **BAREBACK EQUITATION**

To be judged on the rider's ability to ride and control a horse properly without the use of saddle. A rider shall be judged on his basic position, including leg position, seat position and back position.

- The class will use the walk and jog/trot only.
- Exhibitors may ride English or Western.
- English riders are expected to post the trot.

### **Procedure**

To be shown at the walk and jog/trot only, both ways of the ring. Backing may be required.

### **Disqualifications**

- a. See Standard Disqualifications, Western.
- b. See Standard Disqualifications, English.

## **GYMKHANA**

To be judged on the completion of the course in the fastest time possible.

- The arena gate must be closed and latched before the rider begins. It shall remain closed for the entire ride.
- The class will be timed by at least two stopwatches and the middle time will be the official time.

- The rider is timed from the time the horse's nose crosses the starting line until it crosses the finish line upon returning.
- The patterns to be used will be posted or demonstrated prior to the start of the class.
- Distances and patterns will follow the California Gymkhana Association rules.
- Patterns will include, but are not limited to, Single Stake, Pole Bending, California Speed Barrels, Quad-Rangle Stake, Bi-Rangle Stake, and Cloverleaf Barrels.
- Pattern specifications are available from the California Gymkhana Association.

**Procedure**

Exhibitors shall enter the ring and wait for the Timer's signal. After the Timer signals ready, the exhibitor has one minute to begin the run. The exhibitor will then complete the requested pattern. The gate will remain closed until the horse comes to a complete stop and is under control.

**Disqualifications**

- a. See Standard Disqualifications, Gymkhana.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The following resources were used to design the Riverside County 4-H Horse Show Handbook:

- American Quarter Horse Association Handbook
- Pony of America Handbook
- United States Equestrian Federation Rules
- California Gymkhana Association

For more information on the Riverside County 4-H Horse and Pony Project and activities offered, contact the 4-H Office at 951.683.6491x229. If you are a 4-H member or Leader in this project, you are also a member of the Riverside County 4-H Equine Committee, and we encourage you to attend the monthly meetings held at the University of California Cooperative Extension Office at 21150 Box Springs Road, Suite 202, Moreno Valley, CA. The date and time of the meetings are are on the Riverside County 4-H calendar: <http://ceriverside.ucanr.edu/4-H Program/Calendar-Events/>.

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