

# 4-H Horse Council Rules

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## Important Information to Remember

**Horse registration forms must be received by the Extension Office by May 1<sup>st</sup>. All equine class forms and the Jumping Consent form must be received at the Extension Office and/or the Fair Office by June 15<sup>th</sup>. One equine showmanship class must be submitted on the fair premium form. This form is also due June 15<sup>th</sup> to the Extension Office and/or the Fair Office.**

4-H/fair age is determined as January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

These horse rules and the rules in the 4-H Horse and Pony Project Show Rules and Regulations book (formerly 1145), will be the rules followed for the fair. All Leadline and Pee Wee exhibitors are required to wear an approved ASTM/ASTI/SEI helmet.

These rules supersede all previous rules. Revised in 2012.

All patterns are in the 4-H Horse and Pony Project Show Rules and Regulations book (formerly 1145). It is the exhibitors' responsibility to get and learn these patterns if they are in any pattern classes.

### A. Important Rules

1. Any animal that measures 56" will have the choice to show as a pony or horse but will be required to remain in that classification as long as they are shown by that exhibitor. A ½" allowance will be made for animals with shoes. Any exhibitor that is 14 years or older may not ride a pony 50" and under in equitation or pleasure classes. ALL ponies that come thru vet check must be measured. It does not matter if they have been to fair prior. It does not matter if they have a POA height card since we are under merit of 4-H rules and if they attend State, the POA card could not be used.

Ponies will be measured when entering fairground with vet check.

2. All exhibit horses/ponies, shall be entered and stabled on Sunday, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM and remain on exhibit until the following Sunday at 6:00 AM. If any youth or equine exhibit leaves the fairgrounds before the official release time (except for medical reasons or as per the rules) the earned equine premium money, all rewards and state show privileges will be forfeited by the exhibitor.
3. Class corrections shall be made by Monday of fair week by noon. Classes cannot be added.
4. Any request for a change of horse must be accompanied by a vet certificate, if it is for a health reason. If the change is for safety reasons, the leader and exhibitor may request a change. If a change is after June 15<sup>th</sup>, they will not receive points or be eligible for sweepstakes.
5. The mandatory meeting and helmet check will be held Sunday at 5:00 PM. On the Saturday of fair week at 3:00 PM the Awards meeting will be held.
6. Open youth exhibitor definition: any youth not affiliated with an organized 4-H club or FFA chapter by April 1, of this year or any youth 6-8 years of age. These exhibitors are not eligible for State Show or High Point trophies; they are eligible for the Special Memorial Awards.
7. Unsportsmanlike conduct, unfavorable attitude and other objectionable behavior of exhibitors will result in the loss of all points, loss of State Show selection, loss of class trophies, and any media attention. The judge and/or horse show superintendent will have the option to have the exhibitor removed for the day. The present executive members of the Horse Council and the Fairboard representative directors will meet to decide if the exhibitor should be removed for the rest of the fair week. The exhibitor has the option to attend this meeting.
8. Cruelty to any equine, including the use of illegal tack, by an exhibitor will be handled as stated in rule 7 for unsportsmanlike conduct.
9. Cruelty to any equine inflicted by any other individual will be cause for removal from the Horse Complex by any Horse Council member and will be addressed with the horse representative of the Fairboard.
10. Do not damage or deface any structures or plantings on the fairgrounds.
11. All commercial and personal advertising will be placed in the designated area with the approval of the barn superintendents.
12. Definition of an adult: a person 18 years and older who is not an exhibitor. If you are an exhibitor and 19 years old, you are not an adult this week.
13. An exhibitor who does not show in their respective showmanship class will not be allowed to show in any further horse classes for the remainder of that fair week and will not receive a premium. The horse will remain on the fairgrounds until 6:00 AM Sunday and proper care and exercising will continue throughout the week. We will willingly work with any exhibitor that is showing another species to make every effort to keep them in their showmanship class.
14. In the horse complex, exhibitors handling their horse, including when they are in the stalls, must be wearing boots.

15. As a courtesy, any individual receiving a trophy will be asked to fill out a thank you note upon receiving their trophy. Thank you notes can be picked up from a barn superintendent.
16. Appropriate clothing will be worn by exhibitors while at the horse complex.

### **B. Horse Council/Fairboard Rules**

1. The Horse Council meetings are the first Wednesday of every month, except Spring Break and possibly Christmas Break. Please check with the Extension Office to verify the date/place for these meetings.
2. The Fairboard meetings are the first Monday of every month. Call the extension office for the location and the time. (269) 657-8213.
3. The Fairboard has a policy to cover rules and deadlines for specialty trophies.
4. No rule changes will be made during fair week. Anyone wishing to implement new rules must come to the Horse Council meeting. Any suggestions or complaints are to be submitted in writing and can be given to the Horse Council. Horse Council will review and will recommend suggestions to be presented to the Fairboard. The Fairboard has final approval on all decisions regarding the Van Buren Youth Fair.
5. All bills for horse related activities or expenses will be submitted for Horse Council approval. It is also recommended that alternative funding should be sought before submission.
6. At the March meeting, each club representative will get a copy of the general rules
7. Each club must present the names of the club representative and alternate representative at or by the December Horse Council meeting each year. Each club must also present the names, addresses, and phone numbers of their current year horse leader(s) at or before the December Horse Council meeting each year.

### **C. Cleaning Rules**

1. The Michigan Department of Agriculture Health and Sanitation requirements must be met by all horse/pony exhibitors. Please refer to the Health Regulations located in the back of the current year's premium fair book.
2. Wheelbarrows should not be left (empty or full) by the spreaders or between the barns. Let's not make unsightly obstacles. Manure must be cleaned up around the spreaders at all times. Please: No twine in the spreaders.
3. When an exhibitor's horse/pony is out of its stall in the barn area, each exhibitor is responsible for cleaning up any manure deposit left by his/her animal. This rule also applies to the wash rack area and the areas around the barns.
4. Exhibitors must help clean barns during fair week. All club members are encouraged to attend the cleanup at the fairgrounds the Tuesday after fair at 6:00 PM. to clean. All state show exhibitors must attend the cleanup.

### **D. Barn Rules**

1. Boots are mandatory for exhibitors. See Important Rules #14.
2. No electric grooming equipment will be allowed.
3. No horse/pony is allowed in the aisle of the barns. The aisles must be passable at all times, for safety purposes. No tack allowed in the aisles at any time.
4. Horses are to be led & walked at all times near the barns. No trotting.
5. Exhibitor's horse/pony can only be tied at the wash rack.
6. No nails or screws allowed into the supporting wood (6 X 6' of the barn.)
7. For security reasons, one approved adult person shall stay overnight at each barn, it is encouraged that each club work together to provide an adult each night per barn. The list of names of these adults shall be provided to the superintendent on staff on Sunday. Changes to the list of names will need to be submitted to the Superintendent on staff on the day of the change. The superintendent will provide the Fairboard with a copy of the list of names for each night.
8. A bulletin board (2 X 3) should be furnished by each 4-H club to be used in the horse barns during fair week.
9. Water barrels (painted red) are located in each horse shelter and are to be used for fire safety purposes only. 4-H leaders are requested to check them periodically during the week to make certain they are full of water and free from debris.

#### **E. Horse Rules**

1. An exhibitor with a mare and foal must choose which he/she will show. A stallion may be exhibited only during the year in which he is foaled. As a safety factor, proof of gelding may be requested by the superintendent.
2. No tranquilizer shall be administered to any horse/pony during fair week except by a vet. A tranquilizer is defined as: a mind-altering drug designed to calm or otherwise change the disposition of the horse/pony.
3. If any horse/pony is to receive any medication or vitamins during fair week, it must be reported on the emergency sheet. The barn superintendent must approve all non-prescription medications.
4. All horses/ponies exhibited at the fair must have an original EIA test (Coggins test) with negative results which is valid thru fair week.

#### **F. Exercising**

1. Exhibitors of horses/ponies creating a biting or kicking problem will be asked to voluntarily take their animal home. Premiums earned will be paid. Fairboard decision will be final.
2. No practicing gymkhana during regular practice hours. See barn superintendents to schedule a separate time.
3. Exhibitor must remain straddling the horse and facing forward.

4. Exercise time will be from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM daily as space allows. No horses out of the barns after 10:00 PM. Pee Wee and Novice exhibitors with permission may use the North arena for exercise during the week of fair. Adult and/or parental supervision is required during any exercise time. Any exhibitors in the North ring without supervision will be asked to leave.
5. Lunging may only be done between the hours of 6:00 AM and 9:00 PM in the designated areas. Under normal circumstances only the exhibitor may lunge his/her own animal.
6. No riding double or bareback except in the fun show.
7. Exhibitors only shall ride their exhibit horses/ponies. No one other than the exhibitor may ride an exhibitor's horse/pony at any time during fair week; the exception to this rule would be a Posse horse and the Horse Council shall be notified at or by the April Horse Council meeting.
8. A parent or responsible adult must accompany the Pee Wee and remain with him/her during their exercise time and lunging. (See rule # 4 above)
9. English or Western boots must be worn when riding, with the exception of the costume class.
10. Monday there will be exercise in the main arena. This will be supervised and it is stressed that there is no riding on the grass. Other times will be designated by the barn superintendents.

#### **G. Class Sign-Up Rules**

1. All exhibitors must show in only one showmanship class. Please note rule A.13 for further clarification regarding this requirement. An exhibitor who fails to comply with this rule will not receive any horse/pony premium money, or State Show Privileges for the following year
2. Age Divisions are as follows; all ages determined as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of current year
  - HRH 6-26 years old
  - Pee Wee Lead-line Exhibitors: 6 - 8 years old
  - Pee Wee Exhibitors: 6 - 9 years old
  - Young Exhibitors: 10-12 years old
  - Junior Exhibitors: 13-14 years old
  - Senior I Exhibitors: 15-16 years old
  - Senior II Exhibitors: 17-19 years old
  - Novice Exhibitors: 10-19 years old
  - Performance Exhibitors: 10-19 years old
  - Pony Exhibitors – 10 – 19 years old
3. Performance horse/pony definition: a horse/pony that as a result of training for gymkhana events

and/or because of its way of going is not eligible for regular Western Horsemanship and Pleasure classes. Performance horses may go in any English Classes, but points will not be awarded toward the English High Point trophy. They must show in Performance showmanship, Performance Horsemanship, Performance Pleasure. They must show in at least four of these six classes: reining pattern, western riding, and a minimum of 3 of the 4 Gymkhana classes.

4. Lead-line definition: A lead-line is required. Exhibitors may not go into championship classes and they do not receive any points. The only classes that the lead-line exhibitors may participate in are showmanship, lead-line equitation and lead line pleasure.
5. Novice exhibitor's definition: First year horse/pony exhibitors, ages 10-19 years old may show as a novice exhibitor. Exhibitors are only eligible to show as a novice their first year at the Van Buren Youth Fair, unless they have shown at a youth fair in the State of Michigan, even if they switch horses/ponies. Novice exhibitors may ride either English or Western. Novice exhibitors will not receive any points. They may not enter any championship classes. Novice exhibitors may show in Novice classes, trail, and the four Gymkhana classes.
6. Classes of over 18 participants will be split for safety.
7. Classes that do not receive any points or count towards State Show selection and high point trophies: Pee Wee Lead Line, Novice Classes, and Versatility.
8. An exhibitor with a horse/pony three years old and over must show in an equitation/horsemanship class. An exhibitor who fails to comply with this rule may not receive any horse/pony premium money or State Show privileges the following year. If this criterion is not met the exhibitor will not be allowed to show in any further horse classes for the remainder of the week. The horse will remain on the fairgrounds until 6:00 am Sunday and proper care and exercising will continue throughout the week.
9. Dressage: Exhibitors may choose their entry level. However, you may not start in Level II or higher. A score of 60% or higher or if you have done the same level after two (2) years must move to the next level. A score of 50-59% may choose to stay or move up a level. You must ride dressage in hunt seat appointments. See Horse and pony guidelines for full appointments. Exhibitors should check with the show superintendents to determine their level before signing up on May 1<sup>st</sup> starting in 2012.
10. All championship classes are optional. Pee Wee may not go in any championship classes.
11. Pee Wee may enter the trail classes at the discretion of their parents. However exhibitor must be 9 years old to enter gymkhana
12. A limit of two exhibitors sharing a horse is permitted, as long as it does not conflict with classes. Both exhibitors may enter individually run classes, common courtesy would suggest that the exhibitors request changes in the order of go if a tack change is required.

#### **H. Gymkhana, Versatility, and Trail Rules**

1. Trail will be a timed event. Pee Wee will be 5 min. JR. & SR. will be 3 min. A shared horse must compete in Pee Wee trail before JR. & SR. trail. Jr/Sr. Trail class will start at 8:30 AM. Pee Wee

trail will also start at 8:30 AM and will be held at the East end of the arena.

2. Gymkhana classes start with a mandatory inspection following pattern classes. The mandatory helmet check will be on Sunday afternoon following the mandatory meeting; an inspection ID will be affixed to the helmet. This helmet will be the only one allowed for the exhibitor in gymkhana and hunter classes. We will also inspect helmets prior to gymkhana starting on Friday, should there be a need. All exhibitors and their horse/pony should be in the make-up area as soon as the inspection is complete or noon whichever comes first. Appointments shall not be changed after the inspection is complete. Any and all questions will be addressed with the Judge thru the show committee. The Judge's decision is final.
3. Versatility will be done as an individual event; the classes will consist of one English class, one Western class, one Gymkhana class and one Showmanship class. Each class will carry equal weight in determining the overall placements. The judge will place each class and the show superintendent or their appointee will then determine overall placement. There will be a determined effort by the judge to differentiate between true English and Western skills, but there will still be many similarities in these two classes when compared to Gymkhana. For this reason the Gymkhana placing will be used in the event of a tie.

#### **I. Horse Show Rules:**

1. Judges may not judge more than two years in a row regardless of the day.
2. Adults are to lead in the lead-line and costume classes. Only one adult and 1 exhibitor will be allowed in the costume class. (The costume class is now a Fun Show activity.)
3. All horse shows will run rain or shine. In the event of lightning there will be a delay of 15 minutes after last lightning strike before returning to the arena.
4. No disruptive behavior along or on the rail will be tolerated during classes. No horses may be between the rail and the announcer's stand.
5. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to be in his/her classes on time. Once the gate is closed he/she may not enter the class.
6. There will be a meeting on Saturday of fair week with all available elected Executive Horse Council members and the Horse Show Superintendent and Assistants at the announcer's booth. This meeting will be to verify all point totals and trophy winners.
7. Order of go for the pattern classes will be first come first serve.

#### **J. Jumping & Hunter Hack**

1. A parent and leader (knowledgeable in jumping) must sign the jumping release form.

This form states that this horse and rider combination has either:

- A. Been seen jumping by the leader
- B. had previous schooling in jumping.

2. Exhibitors with an approved horse change after May 1<sup>st</sup> may enter jumping classes with the approved paperwork.
3. After 2 years with the same horse exhibitors cannot do Green as Grass

**K. Point System**

1. Showmanship classes (You will receive points 1-10 Placing)  
 (Ribbons will be placed 1-5 per fair book)  
 (With sponsorship funding 6<sup>th</sup> place ribbons will be awarded.)

A. Six or more entries:

1 <sup>st</sup> place- 20	6 <sup>th</sup> place- 15
2 <sup>nd</sup> place- 19	7 <sup>th</sup> place- 14
3 <sup>rd</sup> place- 18	8 <sup>th</sup> place- 13
4 <sup>th</sup> place- 17	9 <sup>th</sup> place- 12
5 <sup>th</sup> place- 16	10 <sup>th</sup> place- 11

If there are 5 or less entries ½ point value will be given in the same descending order, i.e., 10, 9, etc. (see 3 B below)

Only “A” Rating may receive rosettes, an “A” award may exceed placing.

2. Championship Showmanship 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> places

Champion – 5 points
Reserve Champion- 4 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> place - 3 points
4 <sup>th</sup> place - 2 points
5 <sup>th</sup> place - 1 point

3. Equitation, Pleasure, Performance classes, Trail, Reining, Riding, Jumping, Horsemanship and Gymkhana receive (1-5 placing) Subject to funding 1-6<sup>th</sup> placing.

A. Six entries or more:

1 <sup>st</sup> place -12 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> place -11 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> place -10 points

B. Five entries or less:

1 <sup>st</sup> place -5 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> place -4 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> place -3 points



4<sup>th</sup> place -9 points

4<sup>th</sup> place -2 points

5<sup>th</sup> place -8 points

5<sup>th</sup> place -1 point

6<sup>th</sup> place -7 points

4. Championship equitation, horsemanship, pleasure and performance classes (1-5 placing)

1<sup>st</sup> place- 5 points

4<sup>th</sup> place- 2 points

2<sup>nd</sup> place- 4 points

5<sup>th</sup> place- 1 points

3<sup>rd</sup> place- 3 points

5. Grand Championship classes (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places)

A. Showmanship, Horsemanship, Equitation and Pleasure classes (all have the same point values)

Grand Champion- 2 points

Reserve Grand Champion- 1 point

6. Sixth place ribbons will be determined on funding by sponsorships.

Special circumstances concerning an exhibitor changing horses during fair week will result in the exhibitor going into remaining classes as exhibition only. Back number will be worn upside down. No points received.

### Horse Contests and Special Awards

**L. Showmanship Sweepstakes** See livestock contest rules in premium fair book of current year.

### M. State Show Rules

1. To qualify for the state 4-H show, a 4-H exhibitor must reach the age of 13 as of Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. A member's eligibility continues through the calendar year during which the member attains the age of 19. For participation consideration for the State Show we will require a class sheet, as well as an essay (2 pages, hand written) (Topic and work dates will be announced at the March horse council meeting), from all exhibitors wishing to go to State Show. Bring rain gear and be prepared to work rain or shine. These work day requirements will be fulfilled before the qualifier show which will be announced at the March meeting. One work day is defined as a minimum of 4 hours. The minimum requirement will be one day. There is a \$20.00 non refundable application fee due on May 1<sup>st</sup> along with the horse registration form. The \$20.00 non refundable fee will be put towards helping to defray the cost. If you sign up for jumping but don't get the paperwork in by the June 15<sup>th</sup> deadline you will not be able to participate in Hunter Hack at the State Show Qualifier.
2. Each exhibitor may enter only one horse in the State Show. This horse must be in the continual care of the 4-H member and designated as a project animal by the date specified in the member's county. Send registrations to the extension office by May 1<sup>st</sup>. This means that any member changing a project horse after the deadline for any reason (such as sickness, accident, etc.) may not show at the state 4-H show even though a county committee may approve a change in horses after the deadline

for their own fair or show.

3. In the case of a “tie”: highest points in- A. Showmanship (then to) B. Horsemanship/Equitation
4. All selected exhibitors are required to attend a state 4-H horse show orientation meeting and fairgrounds clean up following the fair. If they change their minds after this time, unless due to the horse’s illness or injury (with a vet slip), or personal illness (with a Dr.’s slip) the exhibitor will forfeit his/her next year of eligibility. If the exhibitor does not attend this meeting, or call the State Show coordinator to be excused, their slot will be filled with the next exhibitor.
5. After the selection of the initial state qualifiers there will be an alternate chosen and registered. The alternate will not pay a registration fee. The initial qualifiers are required to pay all fees. It is strongly recommended that the alternate should reimburse the initial qualifier for expenses. Anyone requesting reimbursement from the Van Buren County 4-H Horse Council for the State Show must fill out the application form and return it 30 days prior to the date of the event.
6. Alternates will need to plan ahead to be available on extremely short notice should an exhibitor need to cancel. Alternates will be notified of their status as soon as there is an opening.
7. It will be the responsibility of the individual who is canceling their attendance at the State Show to contact the State Show coordinator two weeks prior to the State Show so that the alternate can be contacted. Any exhibitor not showing up at the State Show will forfeit any future State Show considerations.
8. All state 4-H horse show participants must participate in the annual fairgrounds clean up the Tuesday after the fair or forfeit their spot. State Show participants that do not participate in the clean up will lose their right to apply for Horse Council money for State Show expenses. Any scheduling conflicts must be resolved on the last day of the fair. State Show participants must have a COPY of their Coggins to send in with the State Show paperwork.
9. The State Show fee will be due after the state qualifying show is completed. Cash is the preferred method of payment; checks need to be made out to MSU. Any checks that do not clear will disqualify the exhibitor from the State Show for the current calendar year.
10. Any vandalism or defacing of property during Fair or at State Show will result in forfeiture of following years eligibility.

#### **N. 4-H High Point Trophies**

1. All championships are included.
2. To be eligible to compete for high point trophies, an exhibitor must belong to a 4-H club and show as a 4-H member at the fair.
3. In the case of a “tie”: highest points in- A. Showmanship (then to) B. Horsemanship/Equitation (then to) C. Pleasure (then to) D. Showmanship championship classes, etc.

**High Point Revolving All Around Horse Trophy-** The total points that the exhibitor earned will count toward this trophy.

**High Point Revolving Gymkhana Trophy-** All points earned and the exhibitor must have met the minimum requirements under the Gymkhana/Performance horse rules. No English points, no trail points.

Gymkhana Exhibitors will not be eligible for any of the high point trophies below. Gymkhana Exhibitors will be eligible for the High Point all around trophy.

Trail class points will be added to the Exhibitors total score, not as either English or Western, only as “points earned”.

**High Point Revolving English Horse Trophy-** English points only English showmanship, English day classes only - No Gymkhana or Trail points

**High Point Revolving Western Horse Trophy-** Western points only. Western showmanship, Western day classes only & reining - No Gymkhana or Trail points

**High Point Revolving English Pony Trophy-** English points only. English showmanship, English day classes only - No Gymkhana or Trail points

**O. The Following Special Memorial Awards Are Available To both 4-H and Open Exhibitors**

**Abbey Baker Memorial Revolving High Point Western Pony Trophy-** Western points only. Western showmanship, Western day classes only & reining – No Gymkhana or Trail points

**Stephanie Tucker Memorial Revolving Pee Wee Trophy-** Showmanship, highest Horsemanship/Equitation and highest Pleasure. Tie to be decided with Showmanship class, then the Horsemanship/Equitation, then Pleasure. This trophy is the only revolving trophy that Pee Wees are entitled to earn.

**Afton Newton Memorial All Round Pony Revolving Trophy-** The total points that the exhibitor earned while showing a pony will count toward this trophy. Jumping points will not count towards this trophy.

***All Trophies must be returned at the MAY 4-H Horse Council meeting!!!!***