

# NORTHWEST REGIONAL 4-H HORSE SHOW RULES      March 2009

## A. General Rules

1. All exhibitors are subject to the rules and regulations of the Northwest Regional Horse Show Committee.
2. Exhibitors must be members in good standing in their own 4-H club, with this to be declared by leaders on show entry forms.
3. In order to be a club in good standing, clubs must have representation at 70% of Northwest Regional Horse Council meetings.
4. The exhibitor's horse must be his/her own project horse, with this to be declared by leaders on show entry forms.
5. For Northwest Regional Show, entries may consist of one or more registered project horses per member. For the Young Horse Showmanship class and Young Horse Pleasure class, the horse may not be entered in any other classes. A Junior Horse is to be 5 years and under as of January 1 of the current year (horses have their birthday on January 1 of the calendar year foaled so a horse born in 2000 would be 6 on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006, and no longer qualify as a Junior Horse).
6. Project horse replacement is allowed anytime with a vet certificate due to illness, lameness, death or unsuitability (to be determined by club leaders).
7. Stallions and yearling stud colts are not allowed.
8. The judge may ask for an individual performance, and may also ask questions concerning horsemanship, anatomy, tack, etc.
9. The Judge or Ring Steward shall have the authority to request the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment etc, which in his or her opinion would give a horse an unfair advantage, or which he believes is inhumane.
10. Unsoundness shall not penalize a rider unless it is sufficiently severe to impair the required performance.
11. All class patterns will be posted one hour prior to the start of the class.
12. The show committee will address any point not covered.
13. Members may ride with proper rider attire and tack and exercise due diligence when outside the arena.

## B. Levels

1. Classes are compiled based on horse-mounted levels completed, and split by age of contestants in that level. The Show committee will determine class size. Level 1 classes will not be combined with higher levels. All other classes with less than 6 members may be combined with higher levels. (Example level 6 and 7 could be combined).
2. Riders must compete in the same horsemanship level for all Western, English, Trail, Showmanship & Gymkhana classes.
3. Riders must move up to the next level once they have completed their current level.
4. Once a rider has established a riding/skill level and has participated at a 4-H Regional Show at that level, the rider may not drop to a lower level at future shows. An exception MAY be considered if submitted in writing

with the entry form and supported by the general leader of the club in which the member is registered and a leader of another horse club.

5. Level 1 members will not be asked to lope/canter.
6. Jumping, Dressage, and Reining classes will be offered for Levels 4 to 7 only.

## C. Show Entries

1. Payment of entry fees must be made at the time of entries. It shall be each club's responsibility to collect all fees and submit one (1) cheque payable to the host by the deadline date.
2. In the case of N.S.F. cheques, the Committee will notify the club after notification from the bank. Unless payment is made within 1 month's time after being notified, no further entries will be accepted until payment of fees and bank charges have been made.
3. Misrepresentation of any information on any entry form, unless notice is given to the Show Committee prior to the show, will result in forfeiture of fees and prizes. It is the club's responsibility to check entry forms and ascertain that all information is correct.
4. Entry fees will NOT be refunded for any reason. At the discretion of the show committee, the substitution of a project horse or rider may be permitted.
5. POST ENTRIES ARE NOT ACCEPTED.
6. Horses must be deemed show fit. This is to be at the discretion of the show committee.

## D. Conduct and Behavior

1. Any act of discourtesy or disobedience to a judge or official by the exhibitor or his family may, at the committee's discretion, expel the exhibitor from the show, with no refund of fees.
2. Abuse or inhumane treatment of a horse by an exhibitor, his family, or 4-H leader will not be tolerated. The exhibitor will be excused from the show with no refund of fees, at the discretion of the Show Committee.
3. Parents, leaders, adults or non-4-H members are not allowed to ride any project horse at any time at the Regional Show.
4. The judge's decision is final in respect to any horse in competition (placings, soundness, etc.)
5. The judge will excuse any unruly horse or one whose actions endanger other exhibitors or their horses.
6. No one shall approach a judge with regard to a decision; however a question may be directed to the Show Chairperson who will then direct the question to the judge and relay the judge's response to the questioner.
7. An exhibitor must be correctly attired for the class in question. The Show Committee or its representatives, may, at their discretion, ban any entry from entering the ring if not suitably presented.
8. Exhibitor numbers are to be worn on the exhibitors back or visible on both sides of the saddle pad.
9. Any exhibitor late for a class (regardless of reason) may be denied entrance to the class.

10. Any exhibitor acting contrary to the rules and regulations or in any manner deemed improper, dishonest or unsportsmanlike will be excused from the show without refund of fees, at the discretion of the Show Committee.
11. All protests and complaints will be submitted in writing with a \$50.00 fee to the Committee Chairman and will be dealt with at the Committee's next meeting.

#### **E. Committees**

1. The Northwest Regional Horse Show committee is responsible for compiling the show schedule, the classes and for recording class results at the Regional show.
2. The Northwest Regional Horse Show Committee and the judges sub-committees will decide on fees paid for judges, mileage, etc., for the Regional Show.

#### **F. Awards**

1. First place through to sixth place receive a ribbon/print.
2. All clubs will get one vote for which club has acted the most Sportsmanlike for the trophy.
3. Stall decorating contest split into small, medium and large clubs.(omit)

#### **G. Drugs and Testing**

1. Any drug or medication, which has a stimulant or depressant effect on the central nervous system, is prohibited. Local anesthetics are also prohibited.
2. The use of pain killers (i.e. Bute) will be looked on unfavourably by the Committee, which maintains the right to excuse a horse from competition.
3. An exhibitor, if asked, must submit his horse to a drug test or be expelled from the show without a fee refund.
4. Drug testing is done at the exhibitor's expense if the drug test is positive. If the test is negative, the complainant will pay the expense.
5. Any horse found to be under the influence of a prohibited drug will be expelled from the show without refund of fees.

#### **H. General Safety**

##### **1. Warm Up Arena Rules**

- i. Absolutely NO riding without adult supervision.
- ii. Saddles, bridles, and boots with heels are mandatory.
- iii. Only 4-H members may ride in warm up ring.
- iv. Lunging is only permitted when no riders are in the ring. Only 2 horses lunging at a time. Riders have priority.
- v. No more than 25 riders in the ring at one time.
- vi. No stopping on the rail
- vii. Riding side by side is allowed if deemed safe
- viii. Only one rider per horse (no doubling)
- ix. A red ribbon must be tied in the tail of any horse that kicks.
- x. It is strongly recommended, but not mandatory, that all riders wear safety helmets when riding. ASTM approved Helmets must be worn when riding English.

#### **2. Barns and Hitching Rings**

- i. All clubs are responsible for bringing their own forks, shovels, muck tubs, wheelbarrows to keep their alleys clean and clutter free. (areas clean)
- ii. Members are responsible for bringing feed and water buckets with clips and feeding and watering their horse(s). Horses must have water at all times!
- iii. If not mounted, English stirrup irons must be up.
- iv. Stall doors are not to be left open, with ropes across the doorway, with the horse left unattended.
- v. A halter should be available hanging on the outside of every occupied stall.
- vi. All dogs to be kept on a leash, away from horses.
- vii. NO SMOKING IN THE BARNs.
- viii. No bikes, skateboards, rollerblades or low wheeled children's toys allowed.

#### **3. Washrack Safety**

- i. A leader or parent MUST SUPERVISE all club members under 16 while at the washrack.
- ii. Members are encouraged to wash their own horse. Assistance is allowed for younger or inexperienced members or members with excited horses.
- iii. Appropriate footwear is required by all members, leaders and parents at the washrack, at all times.
- iv. No piling of manure in the washrack area. It must be removed and placed in the manure bin immediately.
- v. Any non-compliance may be subject to disciplinary action by the Show Committee.

#### **I. Showmanship**

1. Showmanship shall be judged strictly on the contestant's ability to fit and show his horse.
2. A halter must be used by a contestant in Western attire. The end of the lead shank must be coiled with a finger between coils, or held in a figure 8. If using a chain, it must either go through the left side of the nose, under the chin, through the right side of the nose and attach to the right side below the ear or go through the bottom of the halter and clip back to itself.
3. An English bridle must be used if contestant is dressed in English attire with one finger placed between the reins.
4. Chaps and spurs are not allowed.
5. Patterns will be posted 1 hour prior to class start.

#### **J. English**

1. **PERSONAL APPOINTMENTS:** Black, Navy, Green, Brown or any other dark conservative colored Jacket (a solid colored V-neck sweater is acceptable in exchange for Jacket) jodhpurs or breeches, tall English boots (either leather or rubber) or paddock boots with half chaps and an ASTM approved helmet complete with harness. Light colored shirt or blouse complete with tie, stock, pin or choker with a pin must be worn. English spurs (unrowelled type) are optional. Riders must be neat and

clean. Contestant's hair should be neat and contained inside helmet or tight above collar.

2. **TACK:** Tack is to be clean, neat and in good working order. Saddle must be of an English type. Bridles are to be conservative brown or black leather, have nosebands, brow bands, throatlatches and joined leather reins. White shaped saddle pads are preferred, but conservative colored shaped or square will be permitted.

**Allowable equipment includes:**

- snaffles with a smooth, egg shaped, round or oval mouthpiece, with a minimum 5/16" diameter, measured 1" in from cheek piece.
- Pelhams with two reins (no converters level 4-7).
- Full bridles.
- Kimberwicks.
- Breastplates

**Equipment not allowed:**

- Rubber or cloth reins
- Coloured or decorated brow bands.
- Chin straps.
- Western bits.
- Twisted wire snaffles.
- Flashes, figure 8 or drop nosebands.
- Leg wraps or splint boots, except in Jumpers.
- Whips.
- Crops, except in Hunter or Jumper classes and must not exceed 75cm in length.
- Martingales, except in Hunter or Jumper classes.

3. **ENGLISH EQUITATION:** To be shown at a flat-footed walk, ordinary trot, collected (sitting trot), extended trot and easy canter. Hand gallop at the judge's discretion. Light contact is to be maintained. Riders may be asked to do individual tasks within their rider level abilities. Horses will be worked both ways of the arena at all gaits. The class is judged on the rider and his or her effect on the horse.

4. **ENGLISH PLEASURE:** The horse and rider are judged. Members will work on the rail in both directions at a walk, trot, canter and hand gallop. The order of gaits is not specified and may vary. Horses are to stand quietly and back readily. In judging, emphasis will be placed on the horse's performance, manners and way of going.

5. **POLES AND CAVALETTIES:** Open to all rider levels, is a walk/trot class only. Horses may not cross enter another jumper class.

6. **HUNTER Classes:** Horsemanship level 4 is a pre-requisite to entering hunter classes. Patterns will be posted. There are three divisions: 18", 2', & 2'6". A member may only compete in one division and must be registered in the jumping project. There is 1 round per division. Courses will consist of 8 jumps. Leg wraps and/or splint boots are not allowed. Crops, not to exceed 75cm in length, and martingales are permitted. A hard hat with full harness is required. The class will be judged on form over fences, even pace, a smooth, quiet and willing performance and manners. Faults include wrong leads, excessive speed or slowness, balking, refusing, opening

the mouth or being out of control. Jumping too high, too soon or too late will be penalized. For safety reasons 2 refusals during warm-up or on course will result in dismissal from all remaining hunter or jumper classes. Level 1-3 riders will not be allowed to enter Hunter classes. For further clarification on Attire & Tack, see Section J paragraph 1 & 2.

7. **JUMPER Classes:** Pattern will be posted. There is only one class to a maximum of 2'6". This is a time and fault class. As a pre-requisite to this class, you must also enter and have a clear round (no rails lowered or refusals) in the 2'6" hunter division. Protective leg wraps, rubber reins, colored brow bands and saddle pads are permitted for this class. For safety reasons 2 refusals during warm-up (held before hunter classes) or on course will result in dismissal from the class. (Will not be offered in 2006.)

**K. Dressage**

1. Horsemanship level 4 is a pre-requisite to entering.
2. Rules in English Section apply except that riders may only use a snaffle bit and are permitted to use a flash noseband.
3. Riders must either memorize their test or provide their own reader.

**L. Western**

1. **PERSONAL APPOINTMENTS:** Clothes must be clean, neat and workmanlike. Riders must wear a cowboy hat or approved equestrian helmet, long sleeved shirt with collar, belt and cowboy boots. Pull on boots are preferred. Horseshoe runners are NOT permitted. Shirt must tuck in. Slinky shirts are permissible. Shirts with cut outs are not acceptable. Shirts with turn down collars must be closed with a tie or pin except those that are already adorned with a decorative design or button at the closing. Mandarin and tuxedo collars are allowed. Shirts that are open at the collar must have a tie around the neck. Hair should be tied back neatly and not cover up riders number. The wearing of blue jeans is acceptable, providing they are clean and in new condition and fit over boot. Chaps and spurs are optional. Spurs must be humane and of the western type.
2. **TACK:** Horses must be shown with a western saddle without tapaderos on stirrups. If using a back cinch, it must be hobbled to front cinch. Any western pad or blanket. A western bridle with a brow band or split ear must have a throatlatch. A one or two ear bridle with a leverage bit does not have to have a throatlatch, but is mandatory when using with a snaffle bit. Any suitable humane western bit, as described below, is acceptable:
  - It must have a maximum overall length of 8 1/2" (measured from the inside of the top ring to the pull point of the bottom ring).
  - Mouthpieces must be a minimum of 5/16" measured 1" in from the cheek and may be 1, 2, or 3 pieces and should be smooth, egg shaped, round or oval.
  - The port of a curb bit must not exceed 3 1/2".

- Curb straps on a leverage bit may be either leather or chain but must be at least ½" wide and lay flat. This applies to each portion of the chinstrap, combined width.
- Snaffle bits and bosals are acceptable on Junior horses (age 5 and under) or level 1-3 riders only. A legal leather chinstrap must be used on snaffle bits.

**Equipment not allowed includes:**

- Nosebands, english reins, draw reins, martingales, tie downs, barrel/roper reins, leg wraps, splint or skid boots
- Twisted wire, wire wrapped or chain mouthpieces, gag bits, donuts and prong bits.
- Chain chinstraps on a snaffle bit

**Reins must be attached to each shank.**

If split reins are used:

- One finger is permitted between the reins and the end of the reins must fall on the same side as the rein hand. Level 1-3 riders may ride in two hands, with reins crossed over neck or bridged.

When using romal reins:

- the rider's hand shall be around the reins with the thumb on top and the fingers closed lightly around the reins. No fingers between the reins are allowed.
- The extension may be carried in the free hand with 16" spacing between the reining hand and the free hand holding the romal.
- The requirements for hobbles to be on a saddle when one-piece reins are used will NOT be enforced.

Silver equipment shall not be given preference over good working equipment. Tack is to be clean & in good repair.

3. **WESTERN PLEASURE:** Horses are to be shown at a walk, jog and lope in both directions of the ring. Horses will be required to back easily and stand on a loose rein. Extension of any gait may be asked for. In Western Pleasure, the horse is judged more than the rider and will be judged on performance, manners and way of going.
4. **WESTERN EQUITATION:** Horses are to be shown at a walk, jog and lope and may be asked to back up. Participants may be required to perform an individual pattern based on their rider level requirements and may also be asked questions regarding horsemanship, anatomy, tack, etc. In Western Equitation, the rider will be judged more than the horse, and will be judged on seat, hands and the ability to control and show the horse. Cues and aids should not be noticed. Riders should display a precise ride in total unison with their horse, exhibiting poise and confidence. Patterns (if required) will be posted one hour prior to class.
5. Members in Levels 3 and under may ride with one or two hands in western classes, regardless of age of horse in a curb (leverage) bit. If riding in a snaffle bit or bosal, 2 hands must be used on the reins. This applies to Equitation, Pleasure and Trail Classes, but not gymkhana.
6. Members in Levels 4-7 must ride with one hand and a leverage bit with the exception of Junior horses, 5 and under (in 2006, any horse born in 2001-2004 would be considered a Junior Horse), which may be ridden with

two hands ONLY if using a snaffle bit or bosal. This applies to Pleasure, Equitation, Trail and Reining Classes, but not gymkhana.

**M. Trail Horse Class**

1. Rules for Western Attire and Tack as described in section L paragraph 1 & 2 must be used for trail horse classes.
2. A horse must work over and through obstacles as directed by a predetermined course. Obstacles will not be dangerous or hazardous to a horse
3. Once the trail class has been set, there will be no practicing.
4. Mandatory obstacles include a gate, ride over logs or poles at a walk, jog or lope, and backing through markers, logs, rails etc.
5. Acceptable obstacles include the following: Slickers, bridge, mailbox, side passing, carrying an obstacle and any combination of the above items.
6. Prohibited obstacles include the following: tires, animals, hides, jumps, ground tie, moving bridges, plastic tarps, dismounting, water box with floating moving objects, flames and dry ice.

**N. Reining Class**

1. Horsemanship level 4 is a pre-requisite to entering.
2. Rules in Western Section apply except that splint and/or skid boots are permitted and riders may use 2 hands on any bit on any aged horse.

**O. General Rules for Gymkhana**

1. Whips, bats or quirts, not to exceed 75cm in length, may be used in moderation behind the cinch.
2. Western tack and clothing must be used (refer to clothing rules in section L). Helmets or hard hats are highly recommended. Pins and neckties are not required. Baseball hats, T- Shirts, tank tops and horseshoe runners are not permitted.
3. Bits are the option of the competitor but must be humane and headstalls must have a throatlatch. Legal leather chinstraps are required on all snaffle bits.
4. Tie downs, running martingales, mechanical hackamores, barrel/roper reins, splint and skid boots are acceptable in game events only.
5. No bare wire on equipment will be allowed.
6. Humane spurs are optional.
7. Excessive use of a whip, striking a horse in front of the front cinch, or excessively rough hands will result in disqualification.
8. Use of any equipment that the judge considers too severe will result in immediate elimination.
9. Riders may use 2 hands and may hold onto saddle.
10. Running starts are not permitted.
11. Horses will be timed on the nose to start and finish.
12. In events where (2) contestants are being run at the same time, members cannot cross the arena centerline.
13. Reruns are not allowed unless there is timer difficulty or substantial interference from another competing horse. (This is to be determined by the judge)

14. Contestants will be penalized 1 second for losing their hat.
15. A break in pattern will result in a no time.
16. Knocking over a barrel or pole will result in a no time.