

Calgary Regional 4-H Horse Show Rules

Revised Oct 2006

A. General Rules

1. All exhibitors are subject to the rules and regulations of the Calgary Regional Horse Show Committee. Exhibitors must be members in good standing in their own 4-H club, with this to be declared by club leaders on show entry forms.
2. In order to be a club in good standing, clubs must have representation at 70% of Horse and 4-H on Parade meetings. (Refer to Calgary Regional Horse Constitution dated October 15, 2002, for further clarification.)
3. The exhibitor's horse must be his/her own project horse, with this to be declared by leaders on show entry forms.
4. For 4-H on Parade and the Calgary Regional Show, entries will consist of ONE project horse per member. For the Young Horse Showmanship class, the horse must be no older than 2 years of age and not able to be ridden in any other classes. A Mini Horse must be 38" and under at the withers and a Junior Horse is to be 5 years and under as of January 1 of the current year.
5. Members are to use a 4-H project horse declared for the current 4-H year, for both 4-H on Parade and the Regional Show. Members are not allowed to change project horses during the summer in order to bring a different horse to the August Regional Show (except for reasons listed in A.7). However, if a member has more than one project horse registered at the beginning of the club year, and completes a record book on that other project, the member may substitute that other project horse for either Show.
6. Project horse replacement is allowed anytime due to illness, lameness or death, supported by one of the following documents (1) Veterinarian certificate (2) receipt from a Veterinarian or (3) a letter from the Club Leader. Replacement of a horse, which is not suitable, can be made no later than 30 days prior to a show. This is to be at the discretion of the club leader and club, followed by approval of the Show Committee.
7. Stallions are not allowed.
8. The judge may ask for an individual performance, and may also ask questions concerning horsemanship, anatomy, tack, etc.
9. A rider will not be asked to perform on someone else's horse or asked to remove a piece of equipment for the purpose of placing the class.
10. The judge shall have the authority to request the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment etc, which in his opinion would give a horse an unfair advantage, or which he believes is inhumane.
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.

B. Levels

1. Classes are compiled based on the mounted level that the members are currently working on and 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 4 members may be combined with higher levels. (Example level 2 and 3 could be combined).
2. Once members accumulate 6 or more 1st and 2nd place ribbons within their level at regional horse shows, they will advance to the next level. This applies to 4-H on Parade and the Calgary Regional Shows. Riders must move up to the next level once they have completed their current level.
3. 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. This rule will also apply to members who choose a different project mount that may be younger or less experienced.
4. Level 1 members will not be asked to lope/canter their horses.
5. Hunter Hack classes will be offered for Levels 2 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 Calgary Regional Horse Committee. Club entry deadline for 4-H on Parade entries is April 1.
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 only be refunded with a veterinarian's certificate, a doctor's note, or at the discretion of the Show Committee.
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 Behaviour

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 any Regional Show.
4. The judge's decision is final in respect to any horse in competition (i.e. 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 only.
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
11. manner deemed improper, dishonest or unsportsmanlike will be excused from the show without refund of fees, at the discretion of the Show Committee.
12. All protests and complaints will be submitted in writing with a \$25.00 fee to the Committee Chairman and will be dealt with at the Committee's next meeting.

E. Committees

1. The Calgary Regional Horse committee is responsible for compiling the show schedule, the classes and for recording class results at 4-H on Parade and the summer Regional show. 4-H on Parade results are to be forwarded to the Regional 4-H office in electronic form. Results will be forwarded to club leaders after the shows.
2. The Calgary Regional Horse Committee and the judges sub-committees will decide on fees paid for judges, mileage, etc., for both 4-H on Parade and the Regional Show. This also applies to judges for multi judging and trail.

F. Awards

1. Points computed for individual high point awards will be as follows:

1st -	8 points
2nd	- 6 points
3rd	- 5 points
4th	- 4 points
5th	- 3 points
6th	- 2 points

Points for club high point award are given on the basis of one point for each member entered and actually participating in a class in addition to any points awarded to a member of a club for placings, divided by the number of participating members from that club. Clubs with less than 4 members participating at the regional shows will not be eligible for club high point award.

All scratches must be given to the 4-H office prior to one (1) week from the date of the show. Scratches after this date will be noted, but the numbers of participating members per club will not be altered after this date, which will in turn affect club high point calculations.

2. All classes are eligible for high point awards.
3. First place through to sixth place receive a ribbon. A small prize will accompany first place as decided on by the Awards Sub-Committee and Calgary Regional Horse Committee.

4. The awards sub-committee and the Calgary Regional Horse Committee will decide on 4-H High Point and Reserve High Point awards.
5. Stall award winner(s) for 4-H on Parade will have their name(s) and date added to the Calgary Regional traveling plaque in addition to receiving a banner.
6. High Point Club for the Horse Show will have their name and year added to the traveling plaque in addition to receiving a banner.
7. Any club that removes it's livestock and/or decorations before the release time at 4-H on Parade without the permission from both the barn boss and show committee will not be eligible for the club high-point and individual awards, at the discretion of the show committee.

G. Drugs and Testing

1. Any drug or medication which has a stimulant or depressant effect on the central nervous system is prohibited. Local anaesthetics 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 refund of fees.
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 would be expelled from the show without refund of fees.

H. Showmanship

1. Showmanship shall be judged strictly on the contestant's ability to fit and show his horse.
2. A halter must be used for a contestant in Western attire (see Section
3. J. Western, 1. Personal Appointments). The end of the lead shank must be coiled with a finger between coils, or held in a figure 8.
4. An English bridle must be used if contestant is dressed in English attire (see Section I. English, 1. Personal Appointments) with one finger placed between the reins.
5. Chaps and spurs are not allowed.
6. Patterns will be posted one hour prior to class start.

I. English

1. **PERSONAL APPOINTMENTS:** Jacket (A solid colored sweater is acceptable in exchange for Jacket) jodhpurs or breeches, English boots and helmet or other approved Equestrian headgear complete with chinstrap. 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.
2. **TACK:** Tack is to be clean, neat and in good working order. The saddles must be of an English type. All bridles are to have nosebands, browbands and joined reins. English snaffles do not have a chinstrap.

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).
- Full bridles.
- Kimberwicks.

Equipment not allowed:

- Western bits.
- Twisted wire snaffles.
- Figure "8"s, flashes or drop nosebands.
- Leg wraps or splint boots.
- Whips.
- Crops, except in Hunter Hack and must not exceed 30" in length.

(For further clarification, refer to attached summary of English Bits - Addendum #1 & 2.)

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, (8 riders or less). Light contact is to be maintained. Riders may be asked to do individual tasks. Contestants may be asked to rein back (back-up). 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 (8 riders or less). 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. **HUNTER HACK:** Pattern will be posted. Maximum height of jumps is to be 2'6". Double bridle (full bridles) leg wraps and/or splint boots are not allowed. Crops, not to exceed 30" in length, 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, manners and rail work. 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. Usually horses will be required to canter over at least one jump (see pattern before the class). Level 1 riders will not be allowed to enter Hunter Hack. For further clarification on Attire & Tack, see I. English, Sections 1 & 2.

J. Western

1. **PERSONAL APPOINTMENTS:** Clothes must be clean, neat and workmanlike. Riders must wear a cowboy hat or approved equestrian helmet, long sleeved shirt, belt and cowboy boots. Pull on boots is preferred. 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. The wearing of blue jeans is acceptable, providing they are clean and in new condition. 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. 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.
- Mouthpiece may be one, two or three pieces and should be smooth, egg shaped, round or oval.
- The port of a curb bit must not exceed 3 1/2".

Equipment not allowed includes:

- Nosebands, cross 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.

Snaffle bits and bosals are acceptable for Junior horses only.

Chinstraps are required with a snaffle bit in a western bridle.

Curb straps may be either leather or chain but must be at least 1/2" wide and lay flat. This applies to each portion of the curb strap, combined width. (Refer to attached summary of Western Bits - Addendum #3 & 4.)

Reins must be attached to each shank.

If split reins are used:

- One finger is permitted between the reins.
- The end of the reins must fall on the same side as the rein hand.

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.

Horses over the age of five (Senior horses) must be shown in a shanked bit.

Silver equipment shall not be given preference over good working equipment. Tack is to be clean and 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 and may 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 two hands in western classes, regardless of age of horse. However, senior horses must still be ridden with a shanked bit. This applies to both Equitation and Pleasure Classes.

6. Members in Levels 4-7 must ride with one hand with the exception of junior horses 5 and under, which may be ridden with two hands if using a snaffle bit or bosal. This applies to both Western Pleasure and Equitation Classes.

K. Junior Horse

1. The age of a horse shall be reckoned as beginning on January 1 in the year, which it was foaled. A Junior Horse must be five (5) years of age or under on January 1st.
2. A Junior Horse may be shown in either a snaffle bit or bosal with two hands, or a shanked bit with one hand. An acceptable bit is defined as any humane western bit having a smooth egg shaped, round or oval mouthpiece being a minimum of 5/16" in diameter, measured 1" in from the cheek. An acceptable snaffle bit will be the same, but without shanks. Chinstraps are required with a snaffle bit in a western bridle. Twisted wire, wire wrapped or chain mouthpieces, gag bits, donuts and prong bits are not acceptable. Mechanical hackamores are not acceptable and bosals with metal in the noseband are not permitted.

L. Trail Horse Class

1. A horse must work over and through obstacles as directed by a predetermined course. Obstacles will not be dangerous or hazardous to a horse
2. Horses will be allowed 2 refusals or 30 seconds to attempt an obstacle and will then be asked to move on.
3. Horses may be required to do rail work, or may be asked to display 3 basic gaits between obstacles.
4. Once the trail class has been set, there will be no practicing.
5. Classes will consist of a minimum of 6 obstacles.
6. Mandatory obstacles include a gate, ride over logs or poles at a walk, jog or lope, and backing through markers, logs, rails etc.
7. Acceptable obstacles include the following: Slickers, bridge, mailbox, side passing, carrying an obstacle and any combination of the above items.
8. 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.

M. Obstacle Course (Miniature Horses)

1. Suggested obstacles include the following: back through or out of obstacle, slicker, walk through narrow passage, pick up a letter or obstacle, bridge, walk over poles, logs etc, walk through pattern created using markers, pylons etc, side pass and walk under obstacle. Jumps cannot exceed 12" in height.
2. Obstacle courses will contain 6 items.
3. Patterns to be posted one hour prior to start of class.
4. Obstacle course to be judged as per trail class.

N. General Rules for Gymkhana

1. Whips, bats or quirts, not to exceed 30" in length, may be used in moderation behind the cinch.

2. Western or English tack and clothing can be used (refer to clothing rules in sections I and J). Helmets or hard hats are highly recommended. Pins and neckties are not required. Baseball hats, T- Shirts and tank tops are not permitted.
3. Bits are the option of the competitor but must be humane and fall under the description of acceptable bits as described in sections I. (2) and
4. J. (2) above – English & Western Tack. The bit should be mounted in a matching headstall. Acceptable snaffle bits may be used on horses over 5 years of age if the rider is able to demonstrate control of the horse with that snaffle bit.
5. Tie downs, running martingales, mechanical hackamores, barrel/roper reins, splint and skid boots are acceptable in game events only.
6. No bare wire on equipment will be allowed.
7. Humane spurs are optional.
8. Excessive use of a whip, striking a horse in front of the front cinch, or excessively rough hands will result in disqualification.
9. Use of any equipment that the judge considers too severe will result in immediate elimination.
10. Riders may use 2 hands and may hold onto saddle.
11. Running starts are not permitted.
12. Horses will be timed on the nose to start and finish.
13. In events where (2) contestants are being run at the same time, members cannot cross the arena centre line. In stakes, members will be asked to all start their patterns with a right turn first. In Poles, contestants will start on the right side of the poles.
14. Reruns are not allowed unless there is timer difficulty or substantial interference from another competing horse. (This is to be determined by the judge)
15. Contestants will be penalized 1 second for losing their hat.

FOR ALL OTHER CLARIFICATIONS FOR GYMKHANA EVENTS, REFER TO CALGARY REGION 4-H RODEO RULES (new in 2005).