

NORTHEAST 4-H REGION

Light Horse Show Regulations

Revised January 2005

In the horse industry, the age of a horse is determined by the calendar year of its birth. For example, a foal born January 1, of 1998 and a foal born December 31, 1998 are both yearlings on January 1, 1999. They both become 2 year olds on January 1, 2000 and they both become 3 year olds on January 1, 2001.

The 4-H Light Horse Program is becoming more diverse, creating a need to have some regulations. The Equine Canada Rule Book is the most adequate outline for rules and regulations and along with the 4-H light horse manuals, will provide all the information needed by 4-H.

At the Regional level, rules as stated in the E.C. General Rule Book will be followed. At the club level these can be guidelines only, and flexibility should be allowed. Changes, however, should be explained to any show judge. The member should clearly understand that as he/she enters more complex and competitive shows, the rules will be much more closely adhered to.

The task, for all involved, is to be aware of the rules and how to apply them at each level within the 4-H Program. This will require co-operation and understanding among parents, members, leaders and judges. This task should not be difficult to achieve if a little effort is applied.

REGIONAL LIGHT HORSE SHOW

A Regional Show can be defined as a show open to any 4-H Light Horse members in the Northeast Region.

The main focus of a Regional Show is to provide the opportunity for the 4-H members to meet new friends, learn more about horses, themselves, and others, and have fun. The degree to which these are achieved will depend upon the organization of the show.

At a Regional Show, the 4-H member must ride his/her project horse. If points are to be accumulated, and if a member has two project horses, the member may ride both horses at the show but points will be given to a combination of one horse and rider. Horse and rider combination must be declared at registration. The member will be required to produce a record book for each horse attending the show at the request of the show committee.

SHOW COMMITTEE

A regional Light Horse Show Committee will be established at the annual meeting in January. This committee's duties will be to organize, promote and manage the regional show.

The Show Committee has the right to disqualify an unsafe, unsuitable horse. The Show Committee also has the right to suggest a tack change or adjustment and the member must comply.

CLASSES

A Regional Light Horse Show includes the following classes:

Western Equitation	Conformation Judging
Western Pleasure	Showmanship
English Equitation	Grooming
English Pleasure	Poles
Trail	Barrels

Other classes will be offered at the discretion of the Show Committee. The Show Committee is encouraged to offer new classes for new projects and members in the region. Check with Regional Specialist for a breakdown of the number of members registered in each horse project.

AWARDS

Team Awards will be presented.

Points toward the Team Awards will be counted from the four compulsory classes, plus the highest points from any other four classes. (Taken from the original ten classes)

The four compulsory classes are:

- One (1) Equitation or Horsemanship –
(English or Western)
- Conformation Judging
- Showmanship
- Grooming

AGE GROUPING

Classes will be grouped into provincial equine levels. Within the levels, it is up to the discretion of the Show Committee to further divide the groups by age.

Example: Showmanship

Level 1 – ages 9 – 11 or Junior

Level 1 – ages 12 – 15 or Intermediate

Level 1 – ages 15 – 21 or Senior

HORSE OWNERSHIP and REPLACEMENT

Members are required to bring their project horse and

a completed record book for each horse. It is recommended that members own their horse, but exceptions will always be necessary. It seems reasonable to expect that the member can be responsible for care and training of the horse, however, and this should be strongly emphasized.

There will also be situations arising when it will be necessary for a member to replace a horse during the year. It is difficult to have hard and fast rules for this. Please refer to the Provincial Equine Policy.

If a horse is medically unfit, a veterinary certificate must be presented.

Approval for a replacement horse at a Regional Show must be obtained from the show committee.

No stallions are permitted at the show.

ARENA ETIQUETTE

Enter ring and travel counter-clockwise, unless otherwise directed.

Keep to the rail as close as possible.

Always pass to inside of arena. Don't try to squeeze through between a rider and the rail. When passing, allow enough room in front and back of horse you are passing. Do not cut off sharply in front of other horses or travel close in behind.

Always reverse direction by turning into arena, not by turning into rail.

Always be aware of where the other riders are in the ring and try to keep proper spacing and not interfere.

All gates to ring should be kept closed for safety reasons.

Do not have equipment, clothing, etc. hanging along fence railing for safety reasons.

Kindly respect the ringman, hitching ring and tack steward officials.

SHOWMANSHIP

This class should be judged strictly on the contestants' ability to fit and show a horse. The horse is merely a prop to show the ability of the showman. Enter the ring, leading horse at an alert walk in a counter-clockwise direction, unless otherwise directed by the judge or ringmaster.

Walk at horse's left side, holding lead shank in right hand, 30-40 cm (12-15") from halter. The remaining portion of lead should be carried neatly and safely in left hand. A tightly coiled or rolled lead shank will

be considered a fault. Loosely coiled or in a figure eight is acceptable. Holding lead shank snap is unacceptable.

Horse must lead willingly and not drag. Must be responsive to cues. Avoid loud verbal cues.

When turning, horse should be turned on the haunches to the right - away from the handler, unless otherwise directed by the judge.

Pose horse with feet squarely under it. It is not permissible to touch the horse while setting up. Setting up must be done with the halter shank. When posing horse, stand beside horse, head facing horse, but not directly in front of horse and always position where you can see the judge.

Refer to 4-H Manual for showing procedure.

Correct horse promptly, but quietly. If judge messes mane, correct it.

If member is unsure of pattern asked to perform, he/she should ask at the beginning of the class before anyone has started.

Do not crowd exhibitor in front or back of you when walking or lining up head to tail or side by side.

Stay alert, even if the judge is not looking at you. Talking to your neighbour in class will be heavily penalized.

No whips are allowed.

Horses shown with a chain: must be properly fitted with chain attached on offside ring by the horse's eye down through the lower ring on cheek piece then under the chin, and up through lower left cheek piece ring.

Handler will be penalized for holding onto any part of chin or snap. Handler must only hold lead.

SHOWMANSHIP - ATTIRE

Clothes and person must be neat and clean.

Attire must be appropriate to the manner in which the horse is shown (English, Hunt or Western).

Boots, belt, long sleeved shirt or blouse and tie, pin or scarf are mandatory. Gloves are optional.

SHOWMANSHIP - GROOMING

Hair coat must be clean, well brushed. Mane and tail must be free of tangles and clean.

Hooves must be trimmed properly and clean. If shod, shoes must fit properly and clinches should be neat.

Artificial hoof dressings and polish may be used but will not receive extra points.

Mane may be roached, but foretop and tuft over withers must be left. No ribbons allowed in mane or tail unless the horse kicks. In that case, an exhibitor is expected to put a red ribbon in the tail.

Inside of ear may be trimmed or the longer hair protruding from ear slightly trimmed.

Long hair on jaws, legs, muzzle and pasterns should be clipped.

Bridle path must be trimmed.

Horse shall be shown with well fitting, clean halter and lead, which is safe and practical.

No points will be given for silver or coloured trim.

Chain leads must be properly adjusted

WESTERN

All junior horses 5 years of age and under are allowed to be shown 2 handed with a snaffle bit in any class.

WESTERN – ATTIRE

Clothing must fit properly and be clean and neat.

Riders must wear Western boots, Western hat *or* CSA Approved riding helmet, long-sleeved shirt and a neck tie, pin, kerchief or bolo tie, Western pants or boot cut jeans with a belt. (Jeans must not be rolled up, frayed or tattered.) Chaps, gloves and spurs are optional.

Club uniforms are encouraged.

Long hair must be contained and off collar.

WESTERN - TACK

All equipment must be clean, tidy, well fitting and in good repair. No extra points will be given for silver or coloured trim.

A suitable Western saddle with standard rigging must be used. Breast collar and back cinch are optional.

In any level 4-7 performance class, where a horse is over five (5) years of age, a curb bit is mandatory. A curb bit is defined as a bit with broken or solid mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. Riders Level 1-3 may ride with 2 hands (or properly with one hand).

A curb strap or chain cannot be narrower than 1.25 cm (1/2") and must lie flat against jaw of horse.

It must be loose enough to insert two fingers between strap and jaw. A curb strap *must* be used with a snaffle bit. Reins are to be attached above strap.

Bosals and snaffle bits will be permitted on junior horses (5 years of age & under). A snaffle bit is defined as a non-leverage bit. The three acceptable bits are the O-ring, D-ring and Egg Butt.

When riding with a snaffle bit, two hands are used to hold the reins.

Mechanical Hackamores, nosebands, tie downs, running martingales and draw reins are prohibited. Split or romel reins must be used in all performance classes.

When using split reins, the reins are brought through the top of the hand holding the reins and out the bottom. The index finger is permitted to be held between the reins. The ends of split reins must fall to the same side of the horse as the hand holding the reins.

When using romel reins, the romel is brought up through the bottom of the hand and out the top. The tail of the romel is held in the free hand no closer than 40 cm (16") from the reining hand. A finger between the reins is not permitted with romel reins, and the romel may not be coiled in any manner in the free hand. The romel cannot be used forward of the cinch or act as a whip. When using romel reins, hobbles must be carried on the saddle.

Riders can ride with either hand. The free hand (whether using romel or split reins) must never touch horse or saddle to hold on or to grab reins and use two hands.

A rope or slicker is not required but may be necessary in the Trail or Stock Horse Class.

*Whips are prohibited.

Protective boots, splint boots, bell boots, skid boots, leg wraps are prohibited in all classes except reining, western riding, stock horse, working cow horse or speed events.

Numbers should be worn where they are clearly visible and all participants should wear them in the same position.

WESTERN – HORSEMANSHIP / EQUITATION

In a Horsemanship or Equitation Class, it is the riding skill of the rider being judged (seat, hand and position).

Basic Position:

Rider should sit in saddle with the shoulder, points of

hip and back of heel in vertical straight line. Stirrup should be just short enough to allow heels to be lower than toes.

Body should appear comfortable, relaxed and flexible.

Hands and arms held in a relaxed and easy manner, with upper arms to be in a straight line with body, the one holding reins bent at elbow. Off hand should be almost closed and held near belt, or resting on thigh, or held loosely at side. Excessive pumping of arm will be penalized.

Only one hand is to be used for reining and hand shall not be changed for mature horse (*6 years plus*).

*Exception level 1-3

Position in motion:

Rider should sit to jog and not post. At the lope, seat should be close to saddle.

All movements of horse should be governed by the use of imperceptible aids.

Exaggerated shifting of rider's weight is not desirable, and will be penalized.

Proper leads and recognition of leads are desirable and failure to do so will be penalized.

Rider may be asked to do individual pattern.

Rider may be asked to dismount and mount.

When doing a figure eight pattern, always start and finish in middle or centre of figure 8 unless otherwise directed.

Accuracy is desired, so start transitions exactly at posted markers.

If rider or horse should fall, it does not necessarily mean elimination, but may be penalized at judge's discretion.

If unsure of pattern, ask for clarification before anyone has started the pattern.

WESTERN - PLEASURE

In this class the horse is judged on smoothness of ride, alertness and responsiveness to cues.

Must work both ways of the ring at all three gaits on a reasonably loose rein.

Must pick up correct leads. Excessive speed or slowness to be penalized.

REINING

Rules for bits and reins are the same as Western

Pleasure but protective leg boots, wraps and skid boots are allowed.

Whips are prohibited.

One hand on reins at all times. No changing hands or grabbing with two hands allowed.

Touching horse or saddle is prohibited.

Spurring or using romel forward of cinch is prohibited.

Wrong leads, breaking gait, delayed lead changes, and failure to go past markers will be penalized.

Going off pattern, incomplete pattern, incorrect order, added manoeuvre, balking, running away, and refusals will be grounds for disqualification.

WESTERN RIDING

Rules are similar to Reining.

STOCK / WORKING COW HORSE

For additional rules, see E.C. Rule Book.

TRAIL

English or Western attire is permitted.

This class is judged on the manner of the horse over obstacles, responsiveness to rider, intelligence and manner of moving at the walk, jog and lope.

Level 1-3 and English are allowed 2 hands.

Carrying a rope and slicker is optional.

One handed riders:

Reins shall be held in one hand and not changed, with one exception. It is permissible to change hands prior to, but not during negotiating an obstacle. Ex: when negotiating an obstacle, it is acceptable to use the near hand to open, lift or hold an object.

In a Trail Class, the gate, bridge, and stepovers are mandatory.

1) Gate: The gate must be set so rider can open from the right or left side. There are several ways to open the gate properly: pushing it away, opening it toward the rider, or backing through it. Riders should be aware of the various methods.

The rider may not change hands or lose control of the gate while passing through.

Rider may change hands on reins prior to opening gate and then change back after gate has been negotiated.

A rope is not an acceptable gate.

2) Bridge: With a wooden floor not to exceed 30 cm (12") in height, and with or without side walls, not less than 75 cm (30") apart. It is acceptable as long as it does not shift during passage of horse over it. Suggested minimum length of bridge is 150 cm (60"). Bridge to be safe as by discretion of the judge.

3) Stepovers: At least 4 smooth logs placed at least 45-60 cm (18-24") apart. Must be at least 1.20 m or 4 ft in length.

Other obstacles may include:

a) Ground tie

b) Carrying object: Any object with reasonable weight except animal or fowl. (Any object required to be picked up must be done with one hand always on the reins at any given time)

c) Back through L-shaped logs or through 3 barrels set in a zigzag.

d) Barricades: An obstacle not less than 35 cm (24") high may be used for horses to be ridden or led over. If a jump is used as an obstacle, it is not to exceed 2 ft in height and a 45 gallon drum is not to be used as a jump. Riders may hold onto saddle when jumping.

e) Mailbox

f) Sidepass: unsafe objects such as a bale of hay should not be used.

g) Turn around box or square: made with 4 logs at least 1.6 m (5 ft)

The following obstacles may be raised up to 30 cm (12") above the ground: bridge, logs, back, sidepass, square.

SPEED EVENTS (Barrels, Poles, Flags)

May use tie downs, martingales, etc. A halter is not considered a tie down and may not be used as such.

Choice of bits and reins is open to rider's preference.

Protective leg boots or wraps are also allowed.

Rider may use both hands for reining and is allowed to touch saddle.

Bats and spurs are allowed but only behind the cinch, with reasonable use.

Rider must wear a hat or *CSA Approved* helmet or be disqualified. Helmets are strongly recommended and

are not penalized. There is no penalty for losing hat during ride, but judge may disqualify if rider flips hat off deliberately after crossing starting line. Hat chin straps are permitted.

In the event a rider drops a piece of equipment or clothing, he/she will not remain in ring to retrieve article. A show official will return dropped article to rider outside the ring.

Going off pattern or riding pattern incorrectly will result in disqualification.

All speed events are run with a closed gate. Absolutely no run ins. Ring stewards or gate officials may request a left hand turn at end of pattern.

ENGLISH

In E.C. Rule Book, English rules are listed under the Hack Division and Equitation.

ENGLISH - ATTIRE

Jacket: Tweed or conservative dark colour (brown, green, navy, etc.). Black is allowed, but at higher levels of competition it is reserved for more formal or evening performances or dressage.

Jodhpurs or breeches: Neutral colours such as buff, grey, tan, or rust. White is allowed but, again, at higher levels of competition it is reserved for formal or evening performances and dressage.

English shirt. Tie, stock or choker may be worn.

Cap: Dark colour hunting cap with secure harness and chinstrap is mandatory in classes over fences. In a jumping class, if harness comes undone or cap falls off, rider must correct it before continuing course or taking next jump. Helmets must be secure in all classes. A dark colour hunting cap or derby with chinstrap is mandatory in flat classes.

Boots: High top dark English riding boots (leather or rubber).

Hair: Must be contained in a bun, braid or hairnet (off collar).

Gloves: Optional

Spurs: Optional, but must be the unrowelled type.
Crop or whip: Optional, but must not exceed 75 cm (30").

Saddle Seat Suits: Long jackets and matching pants are prohibited except in Saddle Seat Classes.

ENGLISH - TACK

Must be neat and clean.

Saddle: Plain English, dressage or modified jumping. Extreme forward seat and rolls beneath flaps are not recommended. Flat saddle seat prohibited.

Saddle Pads: Must be an acceptable English pad.

Bridles: May be double, pelham, kimberwick or snaffle. Must have a cavesson noseband and a browband. (Dropped nosebands are prohibited except in jumping.) Browbands must be leather, but not solid white, coloured or sequined. White edging, not exceeding 0.63 cm (1/4") is permissible.

Girths: Leather, string or web.

Tie-downs, drawreins and sidereins prohibited. Martingales, breastplates, boots or leg wraps are prohibited except in classes over jumps.

Braiding mane and tail optional. Elastics or yarn are permissible, but ribbons are not.

ENGLISH –HORSEMANSHIP / EQUITATION

In Equitation or Horsemanship Class, it is the riding skills of the rider being judged (seat, hands and position). Rider not having sufficient control of horse may be excused from the ring by the judge.

Entry may be eliminated by any fall of horse or rider.

No rider shall be asked to perform a test on another mount before he/she has performed same test on his/her own.

If unsure of pattern, ask for clarification before anyone has started the pattern.

Position:

Legs should hang naturally with slight bend at knee.

Stirrup should hit just below ankle bone.

Toes straight forward and heels down, calf of leg in contact with horse and slightly behind girth.

Eyes should be up, shoulders back, body upright, arms and hands relaxed, seat firmly in deepest part of saddle.

Hands should be over and in front of horse's withers, slightly apart and making a straight line from horse's mouth to rider's elbows.

Hold reins in 2 hands. When a double bridle is used, one snaffle and one curb rein shall be held in each hand, separately by optional fingers to allow for proper action of snaffle and curb.

Position In Motion:

At walk, body should be vertical, posting trot inclined forward, canter halfway between posting trot and walk.

ENGLISH PLEASURE:

The horse must give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride and display a pleasurable attitude. To this end, all gaits must be performed with willingness and obvious ease, cadence, balance and smoothness.

Horse is judged on a flat-footed walk, normal trot (posting) and easy canter. Horse must pick up correct lead.

Medium to light contact to be maintained with all reins at all gaits.

If asked to DROP IRONS, rider must ride without stirrups.

When asked to TROT, always post unless told to sit.

Must always be posting on the proper diagonals (travelling to the left on the right diagonal; travelling right on the left diagonal).

May be asked to EXTEND GAITS, which means to lengthen stride.

May be asked to HAND GALLOP, which means to cover more ground and lengthen stride, but always in control.

See E.C. Rule Book for additional rules in these and other English Classes.

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