



Utah 4-H State Horse Judge's Training 2021

General Rules Overview

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WESTERN RULE BOOK HIGHLIGHTS

If you only read part of this book I encourage you to read the first 16 pages and then the pages that relate to the events of the current year.

- Showmanship
- Horsemanship
- Bareback Equitation
- Two-Handed Trail
- Two-Handed Horsemanship
- Two-Handed Equitation



WESTERN RULE BOOK HIGHLIGHTS

New This Year!

- In-Hand Classes!
 - Showmanship
 - Longe-line
 - In-Hand Trail



AGE GROUPS

Junior (8 – 10 years old)

Intermediate (11 to 13 years old)

Senior (14 to 18 years old)

The 4-H year begins on September 1st. They must be in 3rd grade, and they can join 4-H as soon as they turn 8.





GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

A primary objective of the 4-H Horse Program is for youth to learn horsemanship and to do their own training. If a horse needs to be taken to a professional trainer for special purposes, the youth should be trained with the horse.

Disqualifications

Poor Sportsmanship or Abuse

- Good sportsmanship shall prevail at all times. No physical or verbal abuse of animals or people will be permitted by a 4-H youth, any family member, or associate. Abusive behavior of this kind will be cause for disqualification of the 4-H member from further competition in the event or show at the discretion of the show committee.

Harassment or Confronting Judge

- It is highly inappropriate to approach a judge about a class or score after they have left the ring and turned in their score sheets. Confronting a judge will result in disqualification.
- The proper way to dispute a placing is to turn in a grievance to the show committee

Poor behavior will not be tolerated! We expect our judges to report bad sportsmanship to the show committee.

Disqualifications

Adult Riders

- After arrival at the show grounds, the 4-H exhibitor will be the only individual that rides the horse until all events are complete. Violators will be disqualified from the show in its entirety.

Unsafe Behavior

- Behavior that could endanger youth and their horses may be cause for disqualification:
 - Double riding
 - Riding without a bridle or hackamore
 - “Horse play” on or around horses

Disqualifications

Rider Falling From Horse

- Any exhibitor falling from the horse during any judged event, or within the pattern of a timed event, will receive an orange ribbon and disqualification, but no re-ride.

Equipment Failure

- Any equipment (tack) failure in any event resulting in the riders' inability to complete the event shall receive an orange ribbon and disqualification, but no re-ride.



EQUIPMENT

It is important as judges that you know what is legal as far as tack is concerned.

- Bits
- Reins
- Two-handed versus Regular

Legal Bits

Regular

- Shank bits (8.5" maximum length)
- Split Reins
- Romal reins



Two-Handed

- Snaffle Bits with split reins or Mecate reins
- Bosal with Mecate reins



Snaffle bits in the Regular division result in a ribbon drop, regardless of hand position on reins!

Western Performance

Appropriate

- Any well fitting western saddle and bridle

Results in Ribbon Drop

- Non-standard show equipment
 - Gag bits
 - Mechanical hackamores
 - Tie downs
 - Running martingales
 - Horse boots



Key Class Rules



SHOWMANSHIP

CHANGE FOR 2019-4-H members will show their horses in Showmanship at Halter as stock horses or as the breed style dictates as long as they do not disturb others in the class. Whips are NOT allowed in a 4-H Showmanship class.

Exhibitors do NOT have to look over their shoulder as they trot away.

Spurs worn is a drop in ribbon.

Any serviceable halter is allowed, but bridles are not

Chains may be over nose or under chin, but exhibitor should not be holding the chain. For In-Hand rules, the chain should **ONLY** be under the chin.



WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP

Rail class with 8+ riders in the ring

Exhibitors do not have to look back over shoulder before backing in the class, but will not be penalized if they do.

Entering the ring without the 4-H patch and both numbers (one on each side of saddle pad) is a ribbon drop



BAREBACK EQUITATION

No bareback pads or blankets will be allowed

Grabbing the mane or touching the horse will be a ribbon drop.

Participants judged on Control, Seat, Hands, Legs, Appointment (clothing and tack, grooming), and Suitability (compatibility between horse and rider)

Numbers should be worn on the exhibitors back.



TWO-HANDED TRAIL

New Obstacles added!

Only two-attempts/refusals per obstacle (if horse does not complete obstacle on second attempt, the judge must announce “move on”)

Note that skipping an obstacle or taking an obstacle out of turn is considered a “broken pattern” but attempting and moving on (with judge’s acknowledgement) is not.

Entering the ring without the 4-H patch and both numbers (one on each side of saddle pad) is a ribbon drop

TWO-HANDED HORSEMANSHIP

Recently voted in to replace “two-handed pleasure”

Snaffle bits or Bosal headstalls

Entering the ring without the 4-H patch and both numbers (one on each side of saddle pad) is a ribbon drop





TWO-HANDED EQUITATION

Simple Lead changes are not penalized as long as they are 3 jog steps or less

Correct flying lead changes may be given bonus points, but incorrect flying lead changes should be scored the same as an incorrect simple lead change

Entering the ring without the 4-H patch and both numbers (one on each side of saddle pad) is a ribbon drop

THANK YOU

<https://utah4h.org/projects/ag/horse/>



Utah State 4-H Office



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Utah 4-H Horse Programs Group

