



Virtual 4-H

CONTEST INVITATIONAL

January 7 - 9th, 2021

4-H Horse Judging Contest Rules

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Horse Judging contest provides an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H horse projects to demonstrate deductive reasoning and public speaking skills as they evaluate quality horses and explain their decisions. Horse judging contests are an excellent tool for youth to prepare to get their judging certification for local horse shows. This competitive contest allows youth to learn and grow in a setting where friendliness and fairness prevail.

TEAMS

1. A team consists of three (3) or four (4) contestants. The top three contestant scores will be counted towards the team totals.

CONTEST RULES

1. Contestants shall wear no clothing, accessories or other marks of identification that may reveal their identity or the state or club represented.
2. While the contest is in progress, there shall be no conferring between the contestants and anyone else except as directed by the Contest Superintendents or their representatives.
3. No cell phones or other mobile electronic devices should be used other than directed by Contest Superintendents.
4. Contestants are responsible for their own writing instruments and notepads for the purpose of taking notes for reasons classes. There will be no prohibition against contestant use of pre-printed materials during the contest, including but not limited to rule books, judging manuals, and score sheets. The officials will utilize the current years' rule book that best fits each class.
5. Contest officials will prepare 8 to 10 classes as they deem fit for each contest, and will include at least one (1) halter/conformation class and at least two (2) performance classes. All horses will be judged as sound.

CONTEST PROCEDURES

1. Contestants will be given 10 minutes to evaluate halter classes. Participants will watch the video of the horse's movement and then proceed to evaluate the accompanying still photos of the horse's front, rear, and side views. Judging time on performance classes will vary. Adequate time to watch the entirety of the videos will be given but contestants will not be allowed to watch any portion of the video

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again. Contestants will need to submit their placing within the given period.

2. Each contestant shall submit his or her placing within the given time-frame of the class. Placings should be entered in order of preference and use numerical characters. For example 1234 or 1-2-3-4 are both acceptable. Once a placing has been submitted, it will not be changed for any reason. Failure to turn in their placing, incorrectly entering their placing, multiple placings marked shall result in a score of 0 for that class.
3. Four (4) sets of oral reasons will be given by contestants and must be no longer than 2 minutes and no notes or printed materials will be permitted. Doing so will result in a major point deduction. Reason classes will be announced prior to the contest. Note this is different than a regular contest. No printed materials will be allowed in the reasons room. Also no cell phones or electronic devices are allowed throughout the contest outside of the official platforms for contestants to view classes and place classes.
4. The horses/riders/handlers will be designated by numbers 1-2-3-4.

JUDGES

1. Classes will be placed in accordance with the rules of the respective breed association rules.
2. Officials with prior judging contest experiences will be utilized to officiate this contest. Classes will be officiated in accordance with the rules of the American Quarter Horse Association or USEF as appropriate, except that all halter horses will be judged as sound, and all tack and attire will be considered legal so long as it is being used correctly. In performance classes horses will be judged as they go. Western pleasure will be judge by novice rules.
3. The official will not announce the score to the participant when they have finished reasons.

DESCRIPTION OF CUTS

Cuts, as specified in the NHJTCA Handbook:

1. Horses are extremely similar; no obvious reason why one should be placed over the other; or, both horses have numerous faults and none supersedes the others; placing is strictly a matter of personal preference; placing varies among official judges.
2. Horses are very close, but one horse has one or two qualitative or quantitative advantages; the majority of official judges would not switch the pair, but half of the contestants could logically switch the pair.
3. Horses are of unequal quality, but there is a logical placing in favor of one horse; either one horse has several faults or several advantages; all official judges would agree on the placing; no more than one third of contestants would be expected to

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switch the pair.

- 4 Horses are not of similar quality; one horse has several decided advantages based on many points; all experts would quickly see the placing; no guesswork or personal preference required to make placing; no more than 10% of contestants would be expected to switch the pair.
- 5 Large number of extreme differences between the horses; placing is obvious to everyone on first, quick observation; careful study not required for the placing; pair consists of an inferior horse vs. a consistent winner; only very inexperienced, uninformed contestants would switch the pair.
- 6 Horse not even comparable; differences reflective of a champion quality horse or performance vs. a horse or performance that is not of show quality.
- 7 Largest cut; differences reflective of a world-class halter horse vs. an extremely poor quality or lame horse; or a world-class performance vs. a disqualified performance.

DETERMINATION OF RATINGS

1. Fifty (50) points shall constitute a perfect mark on placing and 50 points shall constitute a perfect mark on reasons.
2. Priority order for breaking ties:
 - a. If tied for a division award in Halter or Performance, the contestant or team having the highest reason score in that division will be listed first.
 - b. If tied for an award in reasons, the contestant or team having the lowest placing score on the reasons classes will be listed first.
 - c. If tied for individual or team overall award, the contestant or team having the highest overall reason score shall be listed first.
 - d. If still tied for either (a) or (c) above, the contestant or team having the highest score in placing reason classes shall be listed first.
 - e. If still tied, the contestant or team with the highest overall placing score will be listed first.
 - f. If still tied, the contestant or team with the highest single class reasons score will be listed first.
 - g. If contestants are still tied from above, the youngest contestant or team shall be listed first.