



Idaho 4-H Horse Judging Procedures and Rules (Effective: October 1, 2021)

This publication is designed to provide a consistent protocol in conducting club, county district and state horse judging events throughout Idaho.

OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of the 4-H Horse Judging Contest is to teach youth the principles of horse selection and performance evaluation as related to equine recreational activities and provide an opportunity for youth to demonstrate their knowledge of the program. All contestants must be current members of the 4-H program.

1. A team may have three (3) or four (4) members; when four (4) are entered, the three (3) highest overall scores will make up the team totals. At the club, county and district level, individual participation is permitted at the discretion of that contest's management in order to help form teams.
2. All contestants will report to the contest site where they will receive full instructions and be given placing cards. All contestants will remain with their assigned group throughout the contest. Reasons and official placings will be given at a location to be announced.
3. 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.
4. No cell phones or other mobile electronic devices will be permitted into the judging contest or reasons contest areas.
5. Hats may be worn at the discretion of the contest officials when judging in an outdoor setting; hats may not be worn when judging indoors or while giving oral reasons.
6. Contestants are responsible for their own conduct and behavior.

7. Up to four halter classes ~~will~~ be judged. Halter classes may include, but are not limited to: American Saddlebred, Quarter Horse, Appaloosa, Arabian, Paint, Morgan, Draft Breeds and Miniature Horses. Contestants ~~will~~ give oral reasons on one halter class. All halter classes ~~will~~ be judged as sound of limb, ~~eye~~, ~~and~~, mouth and reproduction.
8. Up to four performance classes ~~will~~ be judged. Performance classes may include, but are not limited to: Western Pleasure, Western Equitation, English Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunt Seat Equitation, Saddle Seat Equitation, Western Riding, Reining, Western Horsemanship, Hunter Hack and driving. Oral reasons ~~will~~ be given on one performance class. Performance horses ~~will~~ be judged as seen (unsoundness to be penalized according ~~ly~~).
9. The animals and showmen ~~will~~ be designated by numbers 1 -2-3-4.
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3	Horses of similar quality but there is some logical placing in favor of one horse; either one horse has several advantages or one has several faults; all official judges would agree on the placing; no more than one third of contestants would be expected to split the pair
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