

Idaho 4-H Horse Judging Procedures and Rules

(Effective: October 1, 2024)

This publication was 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 to be

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st of **the** current year. Wherever individual age divisions are referenced: Juniors = 8 to 13, Seniors = 14 to 18. Age divisions for teams shall consist of Junior (8 to 13) and Senior (14 to 18). Mixed age teams are permitted; however, the age of the oldest team member will determine in which division the team competes.

At the club, county, and district levels ONLY, individual participation is permitted at the discretion of that contest's management in order to form teams. Individual participation

ORAL REASONS

Perhaps one of the most important skills youth gain through horse judging contests is the ability to verbally share with contest officials the rationale for their respective class placings.

1. Prior to the contest, oral reasons orders may be assigned. If oral reasons orders are assigned, oral reasons orders will be available at the check-in area.
2. Contestants will be given at least 20 (twenty) minutes to prepare oral reasons between the last judging class and the first oral reasons presentations.
3. Two (2) minutes will be allowed for each contestant to give oral reasons to the judge. For Idaho 4-H horse judging contests, contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant at the discretion of the judges.
4. In keeping with national horse judging contest protocols, SENIOR COMPETITORS ONLY may have up to 25 (twenty-five) points deducted for the use of notes during the presentation of oral reasons. If this protocol is to be enforced, it will be announced by the contest officials during orientation.
5. No contestant that gives oral reasons on any class may receive oral reasons score of zero (0).
6. *To help guide a more objective process for evaluating oral reasons, a scorecard was developed and can be found on the last page of this publication.*

JUDGES

