

# McLean County 4-H Horse Program

## Guidelines



## **Halter Classes**

Halter classes are designed to evaluate conformation of the horse. Halter classes are divided by age and sex. Horses are shown with a halter/bridle (depending upon discipline) and are traveled before the Judge so that lameness and quality of movement can be evaluated. Horses are judged on balance, structural correctness, breed and sex characteristics and degree of muscling.

Halter classes are not categorized as Western or English disciplines. They are classified as STOCK or NON-STOCK. Exhibitors may show their animals in the discipline/attire of their choice. Ex. A Quarter Horse may be shown in Hunt Seat attire, an Arabian may be shown in Western attire.

## **Showmanship Classes**

Showmanship classes ARE classified as Western or English disciplines and exhibitors must comply with guidelines for tack and attire.



## **WESTERN DIVISION**

### **Showmanship Classes**

A class designed to judge the showmanship skills of the exhibitors. Judges evaluate the grooming and fitting of the horse, and expertise of the exhibitor in presenting the horse. Each exhibitor is required to perform a pattern designed by the judge with emphasis on preciseness of pattern and degree of confidence exhibited by the showman.

### **Western Pleasure Classes**

Exhibitors compete simultaneously, traveling the perimeter of the arena, and at the discretion of the judge, are asked to walk, jog, lope and reverse the direction of the horse. Horses are evaluated on quality of movement while staying quiet and calm, traveling on a loose to light contact rein according to breed specifications.

### **Ranch Horse Pleasure Classes**

A horse will be shown at three gaits - the walk, jog and lope. He will also be asked to reverse away from the rail, to stop and to back. The turn around may be requested as a roll back or turn around on the hindquarters. The judge may also request a side pass during the line up. The judge may ask for an extended walk or jog. Extended jog may be ridden by sitting in the saddle, posting or standing in the stirrups. A superior ranch riding horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length on keeping with his conformation and covering a reasonable amount of ground with little effort. Ideally, he should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits with proper cadence and rhythm. The quality of the movement and consistency of the gaits is a major consideration. Exhibitor should not be penalized for picking up reins or moving horse's body if horse is soft, willing and free of resistance but should receive credit.. Horse should be credited for softness when picking up through transitions, departures, stops, and back-ups. (This should not be confused with constant pulling and jerking around the arena as this shall be faulted according to severity). A willing horse will not ring their tail, or be blatantly disobedient to the rider's cues or demands. The horse should drive off his hindquarters using it as a driving force for his body. Horse should not carry his head behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving the appearance of resistance. He should have a bright expression with his ears alert. He should be shown on a reasonable loose rein, but with light contact and control. He should be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions

when called for. When asked to extend, he should move out with the same flowing motion. Horse's expression should be alert, mannerly without the appearance of a dull, sullen lethargic drawn or overly tired attitude. Maximum credit should be to flowing, balanced and willing horse that gives the appearance of being fit, alert and a pleasure to ride and a horse that processes great athletic ability and being agile.

### **Western Walk-trot Classes**

Exhibitors compete simultaneously, traveling the perimeter of the arena, and at the discretion of the judge, are asked to walk, jog and reverse the direction of the horse. Horses are evaluated on quality of movement while staying quiet and calm for the beginner rider, traveling on a loose to light contact rein according to breed specifications. These classes are also designed to test the horsemanship abilities of the beginner exhibitor in safer manner, thus eliminating the canter. Headers and spotters acceptable in line-up.

### **Western Horsemanship Classes**

Designed to test the horsemanship abilities of the exhibitor. Divided into two sections, riders first follow a prescribed pattern of maneuvers at a walk, trot, and lope. Exhibitors then ride as a group around the perimeter of the arena. Judging focuses on the rider's body position, seat in the saddle and ability to control the horse.

### **Trail Classes**

The trail class tests the maneuverability of the horse and rider team through an obstacle course. Scoring is based on the horse's willingness, ease and grace in negotiating the course. One trail class per exhibitor.

### **Reining Classes**

Judges the horse on movements, mastery of a prescribed maneuver and attitude as he is guided through a reining pattern. The horse is required to perform a number of stops, spins, rollbacks, lead changes and circles at a lope. The horse should be willing to be guided with little or resistance.

### **Pattern Riding Classes**

Judges the abilities of the horse to change leads precisely, easily and simultaneously, using both hind and front legs. Following a pattern consisting of a log and a series of pylons, the horse and rider must change gaits- from a walk to a jog or a lope - throughout the course. Reward is given to the horse that changes fluidly and precisely between the middle of the pylons within the pattern.

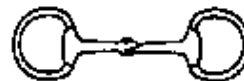
## WESTERN TACK & ATTIRE

### Halter & Showmanship Classes

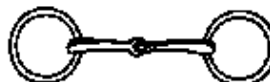
The animal is to be shown in a halter of leather, nylon, or rope, adjusted to fit properly. A lead strap or rope with or without a chain is to be used. The chain may NOT be run through the animal's mouth. Silver tack may be used but is not to be given preference over clean working equipment. Clean tack and clothing are a necessity. Long sleeved shirt w/collar, western hat, long pants, belt, and western boots required. **Prohibited:** A whip or crop of any kind, a bridle or hackamore, or an English type show halter, chaps and spurs.

### Riding Classes (Western)

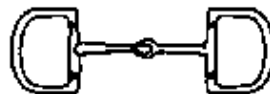
Animals under six years of age may be shown in a snaffle bit or bosal (braided rawhide or leather) and rider may ride with two hands. Romal reins may be used with a shanked bit (held in one hand, with hand around reins and no finger permitted between reins). Walk-Trot and Novice exhibitors may elect to show holding the reins with two hands (regardless of the age of the horse), provided a legal snaffle bit is used. Clean western tack and clothing are a necessity. Long sleeved shirt w/collar, helmet, long pants, belt, and western boots required. Chaps, gloves, vests, jackets and spurs are optional. **Prohibited:** Whips or bats, protective leg wraps or boots (exception- reining and speed events), draw reins, tie-downs, any type of martingale, or cavesson noseband. Any equipment or bit that the judge, the show steward, or the show officials consider to be unduly severe or unsafe will also be prohibited. Mechanical hackamores are permitted only in speed and game events.



EGGBUTT SNAFFLE BIT



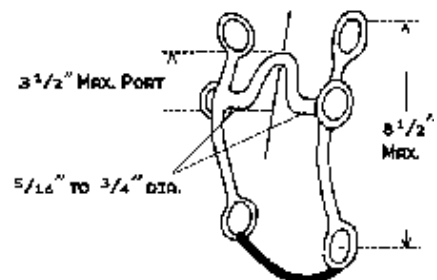
Q-RING SNAFFLE BIT



D-RING SNAFFLE BIT



RAWHIDE BOSAL



## **ENGLISH/DRESSAGE/JUMP DIVISION**

### **Showmanship Classes**

A class designed to judge the showmanship skills of the exhibitors.

Judges evaluate the grooming and fitting of the horse, and expertise of the exhibitor in presenting the horse.

Each exhibitor is required to perform a pattern designed by the judge with emphasis on preciseness of pattern and degree of confidence exhibited by the showman.

### **Equitation Classes**

Equitation classes provide an opportunity for the exhibitor to display ability as a rider, that is, the seat, hand, and leg positions and the ability to control and show the mount are judged. Equitation is to be evaluated as the combined performance of the rider and the equine. The class shall be worked both directions of the ring at a walk, trot, and canter, and may, at the judge's discretion, be asked to extend normal gaits, to mount and dismount, or to back.

### **Walk-trot Classes**

Exhibitors compete simultaneously, traveling the perimeter of the arena, and at the discretion of the judge, are asked to walk, trot and reverse the direction of the horse. Horses are evaluated on quality of movement while staying quiet and calm for the beginner rider, traveling on a light contact rein according to breed specifications. These classes are also designed to test the horsemanship abilities of the beginner exhibitor in safer manner, thus eliminating the canter. Headers and spotters acceptable in line-up.

### **Hunt Seat Pleasure Classes**

The animal should be suitable to purpose. The animal should move in a long, low frame and be able to lengthen or shorten the stride and cover ground as in a hunt field. The animal should be sensible and well-mannered. The class shall be worked both directions of the ring at a walk, trot, and canter, and may, at the judge's discretion, be asked to back.

### **Saddle Seat Pleasure Classes**

The animal is a well-mannered, free-moving, animated individual that provides a pleasant ride. The class shall be worked both directions of the ring at a walk, trot (or equivalent breed gait), and canter, and may at the judge's discretion, be asked to back.

## **Specialty Classes**

### **Gaited Horse Walk/Favorite Gait - (Optional tack)**

Horse may not be used for other pleasure classes; walk and favorite gait other than lope, canter, or trot.

## **Dressage Classes**

Dressage is a system of skilled horsemanship that draws its foundation from the basic communication and execution between the rider and his or her mount. Dressage provides a method in which the junior exhibitor teaches a horse to be obedient, willing, supple, and responsive. Tests to be used: Introductory level test A & B (walk-trot only), and Training level test 1, 2, 3, & 4. Readers for tests are acceptable and shall read from designated area. No horse under 36 months of age may compete.

### **ONLY 1 ENTRY PER RIDER**

**Introductory Level A and B - (Walk-Trot no Canter)**-those that enter these classes may enter English classes Walk-Trot and Hunter and Equitation over Fences classes 12" - 18" or Western Walk-Trot and Walk-Trot Games. Those that are entered into any canter classes may not enter Introductory Level (Walk-Trot) Dressage classes.

- If you are at Walk Trot LEVEL in English flat classes, you must enter Introductory Tests A or B.
- If you are at Novice LEVEL in English flat classes, you must enter Intro Level Test C or Training Level Test 1.
- If you are at Horseman/Horsemaster LEVEL in English flat classes, you must enter Training Level Test 2 or 3.
- If you have won a Test TWO TIMES, you must move to the NEXT Test.

## **Jumping Classes**

Hunter over fences classes are designed to test the animal and rider over a course of obstacles such as found in the hunt field. The judge will consider manners, way of going, and style of jumping. The animal is judged on its ability to move smoothly through a course of jumps with even striding. Judges will emphasize safe jumping and will fault any breaks in the rhythm of striding caused by jump-ing from a spot too close or too far away from the fence, or by jumping too high. Equitation over fences provides an opportunity for the rider to be judged on the ability to maneuver the equine through the course. Causes of elimination: a) 3

refusals, b) fall of horse or rider, c) off course. Major faults that can be the cause of elimination: a) a refusal, b) loss of stirrup, c) trotting while on course when not part of test, d) loss of reins.

**Hunter and Equitation Classes over Fences** - There will be scheduled schooling over jumps before these classes begin only. No schooling over course during competition.

**Walk-Trot Over Fences** - There will be a maximum of 2 possible classes. All will be for Walk-Trot entries only - anyone entered into a canter class may not enter these classes. Any one entered into these classes may not enter any canter class in any division or games. These classes are for new jumpers to gain experience working over jumps in a show setting and may or may not conform to specifications required in the USA Equestrian Rule Book for Green Riders. Class must be ridden at a TROT.

**Canter Classes - Hunter and Equitation Over Fences** - Those that enter these classes may not enter any class that is designated for Walk-Trot. These classes will be a mix of single rails, oxer, panels, and will include turns are required by USA Equestrian Rules. There will be a standard Hunter Hack class for this level. There will be a maximum of 3 possible classes.

### **Hunter Hack Classes**

In the Hunter Hack class, the animal should be sensible and well mannered, providing a quiet, comfortable ride both on the flat and over two fences (maximum of 2 feet). Placing in the class is determined by allowing the maximum of 30 percent for work on the flat. Horses may be asked to jump before doing flat work.

### **Novice Horse Division -**

Novice horse jumping classes are for a new horse in its first two years of jumping (exhibited by Horseman/ Horsemaster ONLY). This will allow for the Horsemaster/ Horseman exhibitor to show the horse in an appropriate beginning jumping height for the horse. This is a two year maximum for the horse/rider combination, and they are not allowed to show in any other jumping classes.)





## ENGLISH/DRESSAGE/JUMP TACK & ATTIRE

### Hunt Seat Halter & Showmanship

The animal is to be shown in either a halter or hunt bridle, adjusted to fit properly. Braided mane and tail optional. Clean tack and clothing are a necessity. Knee-high hunt boots or jodpur shoes, hunt breeches in traditional shades of buff, grey, rust or canary, long or short sleeve shirt, helmet and hunt coat are required. Hair should be neat and contained in braid or hairnet. Gloves are optional. **Prohibited:** *Decorated English or Arabian type show halter; braided tail without braided mane.*

### SaddleSeat Halter & Showmanship

The animal is to be shown in a bridle which may be decorated or show halter. Colts under age two may be shown in a halter (plain or breed specialized). The bridle must be a pelham, a full bridle, or a Walking Horse bridle. Clean tack and clothing are a necessity. Tailored long pants, a long or short sleeve shirt, jodpur boots, tie, hat and coat (riding habit or day coat) are required. Hair should be neat and contained in braid or hairnet. Gloves are optional. **Prohibited:** *Spurs.*

### Hunt Seat Riding

The animal is to be shown in a hunt bridle and hunt saddle, adjusted to fit properly. Braided mane and tail optional. Clean tack and clothing are a necessity. Knee-high hunt boots or jodpur shoes, hunt breeches in traditional shades of buff, grey, rust or canary, long or short sleeve shirt, helmet and hunt coat are required. Hair should be neat and contained in braid or hairnet. Gloves, riding crop, hunter type breast plate, standing or running martingale in any class over fences is optional. **Prohibited:** *Dropped or figure-eight cavesson noseband; any equipment or bit that the judge, or show officials consider unduly severe or unsafe; braided tail without braided mane.*

### Saddle Seat Riding

The animal is to be shown in a English type bridle with plain or decorative browband and regular cavesson and flat English style or cutback saddle. The bridle must be a pelham, a full bridle, or a Walking Horse bridle. Clean tack and clothing are a necessity. Tailored long pants, a long or short sleeve shirt, jodpur boots, tie, helmet and coat (riding habit or day coat) are required. Hair should be neat and contained in braid or hairnet. Gloves and whip are optional. **Prohibited:** *Martingale, tie-down, dropped noseband, and leg chains.*

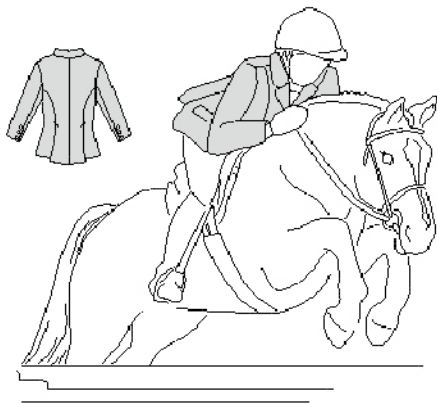
## Dressage

For proper attire see also hunt seat tack & attire or formal dressage attire. Riders must wear a tie, a choker or ratcatcher, or a stock tie. Hunt seat tack or dressage tack acceptable. A plain snaffle bridle and regular cavesson noseband, a dropped-noseband, or a flash noseband is acceptable. In any dressage only competition, dressage whips are permitted during the competition (no longer than 4 feet). Bits will be checked before entering arena. **Prohibited:** *Any type of martingale, ti-edown, draw reins, bit guards; any kind of boots or bandages; bits with copper, rollers, or twisted wire.*

## Jumping

Attire should be either hunt seat or saddle seat.

### Hunt Seat Attire



### Saddle Seat Attire



## GAMES/COSTUME DIVISION

### Costume Classes

Criteria for judging will be: originality, creativeness, effort and presentation. The amount of time and effort put into the exhibitors costume will be a major consideration.

### Game Classes

All exhibitors are to wear their helmets. Show attire required. Club T-shirts are acceptable.