OBJECTIVES

4-H Horse shows in Missouri are designed for the development of the individual, therefore it is intended that they provide opportunities for 4-H members to:

1. Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship and other desirable character traits.
2. Have fun and enjoy the recreation provided by riding and showing horses.
3. Learn skills in horsemanship.
4. Achieve knowledge of breeding, feeding, training, and management of horses.
5. Develop an ability to judge horses.
6. Increase awareness of safety precautions to prevent injury to themselves, others, and their mounts.

ELIGIBILITY

Membership

1. Each exhibitor must be enrolled by December 31st of the current year, in a local 4-H horsemanship project and be in good standing within his or her local club, including attendance at a majority of project meetings held to date of show.

Age:

2. 4-H exhibitors must have passed his or her eighth birthday and not have passed his or her nineteenth birthday before December 31st of the current year. FFA members must not have exceeded their 21st birthday by date of show.

Ownership or Management:

3. Exhibitors must manage all horses shown beginning not later than May 1st of the current program year. Each member must have all project horses enrolled with the project leader of their club and the county extension center by May 1st of the current program year. Although ownership is desired, it is not required. Management is defined as the animal being under the complete care of the 4-H member for the time they are enrolled in the project. Horses which are not owned by the 4-H member must have a lease agreement on file (on the back of the Project Horse Enrollment form). A leased horse must be under the control and management of the project member and meet all other requirements of the horse project. Horses shall not receive professional training, showing, and handling after May 1st of the current year.

4. A project horse may be shown by more than one 4-H member in the same family, but only once in each class per age group, as long as that horse is enrolled as a project horse for each member. *Example*: Horsemanship/Showmanship class only once in each type of game class. Participants can only show in one showmanship and horsemanship class. One horse, one rider, one class.

5. The 4-H project leader has the responsibility of certifying that the membership, age and management requirements are met.

6. Any accidents or injuries should be reported immediately to the horse show committee management.

7. Unless superseded by these rules, American Quarter Horse Show Association rules will apply for Hunt and Saddle Seat classes. American Quarter Horse Association rules will apply for Stock and Western classes. Unless superseded by these rules, the 2014 Missouri 4-H Horse Show guidelines will govern all other rules not clearly defined.

8. Stud colts must not have passed January of the first year of their birth to be eligible for show. Weanlings eligible.

9. Exhibitor age requirement for all classes will be 12 years of age and under and 13 years of age and older based upon December 31st of the current program year.
10. Danish system of placing will be used on the showmanship and horsemanship classes.

11. No chains except as stated in rule number 13. Irritants, sedatives, or stimulants will not be allowed in any class.

12. Use of mechanical hackamore is not permitted in horsemanship, western riding pattern, or reining. Bosal is permitted. Use of hackamore or other types of bridle is the optional choice of the contestant in timed events; however, the judge or horse show management may prohibit the use of bits or equipment that they may consider severe. Cable core bosals and humane hackamore bits are allowed in timed events only. There must be no bare metal over the nose or under the chin, except standard curb chains are allowed. Bosal recommended for 2-4 year old horses only.

13. Chain curbs of the standard flat variety are permissible if not twisted. Standard lead chains are permissible in halter classes either under the chin or over the nose.

14. No nosebands permitted in Western classes.

15. Nose tie-downs will be permitted in game classes only. Tie-downs above the eyes are prohibited.

16. Saddles are required for all game classes and all other riding classes except bareback classes; saddle type riding pads are prohibited.

17. No hitting in front of the girth. Humane bats, whips, etc. may be used only behind the girth in timed classes. This includes all ages.

18. Humane spurs are permitted in all riding classes. Spurs with locked rowels, sharp points or sharp edges are prohibited.

19. Two hands may be used when riding a junior horse (5 years and under) in a bosal or "D" ring snaffle.

20. Horsemanship and Equitation classes are open to horses of any breed or combination of breeds.
   (A) In western horsemanship classes, western saddle and equipment are required. Proper western attire (Hat, may be optional in severe wind conditions, option will be announced at show time). Boots and long sleeved shirt are also required.

21. All exhibitors must wear their number on their back or left side of pad. Numbers must be picked up 30 minutes before show starts. Classes to be dropped must be done at this time. No classes added less than 15 minutes prior to show time.

22. To show in Game Classes an exhibitor must have shown in a prior showmanship or horsemanship class. Long sleeved shirts may be optional for game classes. Protective riding helmets are required for the speed and game events and are optional for all other events.

23. Exhibitors should report to the gate at the start of the class preceding theirs. Contestant must run when they are called to the gate.

24. Horse may be shown as quarter type or saddle type but not as both.

25. The arena gate should remain closed after a speed-event contestant enters the arena. Riders may not run into or out of the gate.

26. Show management and ringmaster have ultimate authority in classing horses and enforcing show rules.

27. Loud yelling of instructions by a participant or non-participant into the show arena is prohibited. The use of obscene language and unconstructive comments or criticism is prohibited.

28. Classes #23, 26 & 29 are designed for novice riders only. If a member shows in a loping class, they are not allowed to show in classes #23, 26 or 29.

29. Long sleeved western attire (jeans, boots, western hat, or helmet) required for all judged classes. Game class attire must be approved by the judge.

Reviewed: 03/11/2015 - No change from 2014 Knox County 4-H Open Horse Show Rules & Regulations