

Massachusetts 4-H Addendum to the New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Guidelines

Program Content/presentation - page 5

No tobacco, cannabis, alcohol, or illegal drugs are allowed on the grounds of any 4-H horse show.

The 4-H Show - page 5

All 4-H Fitting & Showmanship classes, held at either a 4-H or Open show must be offered for free.

Rider/Age Divisions - page 10

Cloverbud - 5 to 7 years of age.

Leadline - 5 to 7 years of age.

Juniors - 8 to 13 years of age.

Eligibility of Members and Animals for 4-H Shows - page 10

NO horse approval form (aka horse verification form) is needed, except if attending Eastern States 4-H Horse Show.

Pony and Horse classes shall be designated according to the following - page 11

Miniature Horses must be 38 inches or under (measured at the last hair of the mane).

General Rules - page 11

Shared projects are allowed all divisions and can cross enter divisions. No equine may be entered in more than 10 riding/performance classes per day (excluding Fitting & Showmanship).

Safety Precautions - page 13

Tongue tying may be done by a knowledgeable adult or a senior 4-H member but should be supervised by an adult.

For Fitting & Showmanship using the Uniform Scorecard - page 14

Whether using the 1 Judge or 2 Judge system all Fitting & Showmanship classes should be scored using: One Judge Scoring

Blue = 90 - 100

Red = 80 - 89

White = 0 -79

Costume Class - page 55

Costumes should follow the dress code found on page 5.



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Driving Division Personal Attire & Appointments - page 59

Gloves are optional for all styles of driving.

Small Equine Division Personal Attire & Appointments - page 76

1. Approved protective helmets (ASTM/SEI) are required for all occupants when in a hitched vehicle or involved in a timed event. They are optional for in hand classes.
2. Closed-toe athletic shoes or boots may be worn in timed events.

Small Equine Division General Specifications - page 77

Miniature Horses must be 38 inches or under (measured at the last hair of the mane).

Small Equine Division In Hand Obstacles - page 77

D. Shared projects are allowed.

Small Equine Division Jumps for In Hand Hunters and In Hand Jumpers - page 79

Jumping blocks are an acceptable substitute for jump standards.

Gymkhana Division Appointments - page 84

Mixed tack and attire is acceptable in this division only.

Walk-Trot Division

Limited to 4-Hers ages 8 and up, who are beginner riders. The safety of all walk-trot exhibitors is the primary concern in all classes.

A. Appointments

1. Rider: ASTM/SEI helmets and hard sole boots with a heel are required.
2. Rider: Clothing must be appropriate to the style of tack, either Hunt Seat, Saddle Seat, or Western.
3. Tack: See tack requirements for Hunt Seat, Saddle Seat, and Western divisions.

B. Class Routine

1. Exhibitors should enter the ring counter-clockwise, at the walk.
2. Horses or ponies should be shown both directions of the ring at the walk and trot or jog only.
3. Exhibitors may reverse their mount by turning away from or in towards the rail, as appropriate to their seat.
4. Exhibitors should line up as directed and may be asked to back while in the line-up.



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C. Judging

1. Equitation shall be judged on the rider's form and ability to direct their mount at the walk and trot or jog as well as the English rider's use of correct diagonals. The only test that may be given is to ask riders to back their horses.
2. Pleasure shall be judged on the horse's or pony's appearance of being a safe and suitable mount.

D. General Rules

1. Riders must have never shown in any class requiring a canter or lope on any mount and may not participate in any class requiring a canter or lope.
2. Exhibitors may not canter or lope on the show grounds at any time, whether performing in a class, an exhibition, or competition of any other type.
3. In timed events, exhibitors will be disqualified after three continuous strides of cantering or loping.
4. For safety reasons, green horses are not allowed.
5. 4-H exhibitors must participate in a Fitting & Showmanship class.
6. The walk-trot division may include, but are not limited to, classes such as: equitation, pleasure, discipline rail, and trail.
7. Walk-trot classes may be divided by age, seat, or ability at the discretion of the show's management.



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