

# Recommendations for Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program *and* 2010 State 4-H Horse Show Rule Changes

## 4-H Horse Program Advisory Committee April 21, 2008

### Please note:

- \* These are **PROPOSALS ONLY**.
- \* Wording of proposed rules **IS NOT FINAL**. Proposals may be changed, accepted, or rejected after review by Advisory and Development Committees.
- \* **IF approved by the PA 4-H Horse Program Development Committee, rules will become effective in 2010. Rulebook supplements will NOT be printed in 2009 and beyond, unless there is an extenuating circumstance or safety issue.**
- \* Item in parenthesis indicates the district or committee proposing rule change.  
DC = Development Committee; YPCC = Youth Program Coordinating Council

### **General Horse Program Concerns**

1. Develop recreational activities/project to include riding recognition/saddlelog program, trail riding, non-show activities, etc. Report from committee. (DC)
2. Horsemanship Skills Program updates and revisions. Hold clinics for leaders and youth so they know what the examiners are looking for (Level 1-2 and Level 3-4). Make a video or DVD of the skills? Consider revision of skills in levels. Add therapeutic and driving skills (DC discussion from previous year)
3. Consider revisions to strategic plan. May need to add or delete some items to reflect recent program changes and plans and addition of new 4-H extension associates, program fee, etc. (DC)
4. Consider revision of current calendar of 4-H horse events to change dates of county, district and state shows to earlier in the year. This would allow more time for state show, program planning, curriculum development, and planning for events in subsequent calendar years. Also consider various options for qualification for state show. (DC from previous years)
5. Incorporate an online rating system of the 4-H Horse Show judges based on district evaluations. (IV)
6. Revise the dress code to state that all 4-Hers be required to wear hard soled shoes when working with a horse either in hand or riding at all times at all 4-H events. (IX)
7. Change the state show class quota to minimum 1, maximum 5. (X)
8. Mandatory split of "group" classes, notably during the canter/lope portion of the classes. Safety issue-suggested split at over 20 exhibitors? This decision should not be left up to the judge, and should be decided by the program as it is a safety issue. (III)
9. Please send information in a format other than pdf so that counties can change deadlines, etc. to meet county program needs. (X)

### **General Rules**

1. Consider use of a Danish system *in addition to* standard placing. 4-H members must receive a blue ribbon to advance to the next show regardless of what placing they receive. (DC from previous years)
2. Consider use of Danish system in classes with 4 or fewer horses. In classes with 4 or fewer horses the judge will place the class, but must ALSO assign a Danish rating to each entry. In order to advance to the next show, the entry MUST receive an Excellent (Blue) or Very Good (Red) rating. (Good is Yellow ribbon; Needs Improvement/Does Not Meet Acceptable Standard is White ribbon) (suggestion to DC; previous years)
3. Page 4 Rule 14; Eliminate the EIA/Coggins Test requirement since it is no longer required for many of the county fairs. (IX)

### **General Rules (cont.)**

4. Pages 5 & 6, Rule 24; Change rule to: Protective Headgear is required in all classes when riding, driving, or showing in-hand. Project animals being shown in hand can be just as dangerous as the participant being on its back. (I)
5. Pages 5 & 6, Rule 24; Require junior exhibitors to wear helmets in Production classes. (IV)
6. Page 7, Rule 27 Clarify rule. Add following last sentence: If the initial horse exhibiting poor mannerisms (i.e. rearing, backing, falling into others, etc.) causes other exhibitor(s) to lose their horse(s), *only* the initiating horse will be disqualified and excused.
7. Rearrange and renumber General Rules to group rules in a more logical order. Change all other rule cross references accordingly. (DC)

### **Production Rules**

1. Page 14, Rule 13; Add “long ears” division/classes for donkeys and mules. (suggestion to DC)

### **Performance Rules**

1. Page 20, Rule 16; Change to allow riders to enter both western and English divisions. (IV)
2. Page 20, Rule 18; Change to allow hunter riders to enter both equitation classes (over fences and flat). (IV)
3. Page 20, Rule 19; Change to allow hunter riders to enter both hunter hack and working hunter. (IV)
4. Page 20, Rule 24 and 25. Clarify “it must be ridden with one hand” by adding the phrase “with the exception of Novice Reining”. Refer to Novice Reining rule #1. (IX)
5. Stock Seat Equitation, Hunt Seat Equitation on the Flat and Saddle Seat Equitation- for classes where patterns may be or are called for, patterns should be done by all participants in the class. Dismissing all but the required number of placings does not allow for possible mistakes/eliminations being made by the horse/rider during the pattern. (I)
6. Require pattern for equitation classes. (IV)
7. Consider 3 age divisions for all showmanship and equitation classes. (DC)

### **Open Division**

1. Page 21-24, Classes 1-4; Page 22, B. Showmanship item d; Change to: Pattern required for all showmanship classes. (IV)
2. Page 21-24, Classes 1-4; Review all rules for these classes for consistency with industry standards. (DC)
3. Page 24-29 Classes 5, 6 and 7, Open Trail; Implement required minimum scores for advancement to next level; possibly with a minimum of 60 points (10 obstacles or similar % thereof) to proceed to the next level. (I)
4. Page 25. Classes 5, 6 and 7, Open Trail, Recommended Obstacles, Item 1.C: Clarify/change to read: “Lope or Canter Over – should be 5’ to 6’ for ponies and 6’ to 7’ for horses.” (*correction of typo*)
5. Page 26. Classes 5, 6 and 7, Open Trail, Recommended Obstacles, Item 3 (top of page); Clarify/add period following “Rope gate may be used”. (*correction of typo*)
6. Add a Miniature Horse Trail class.(IV, X) (see attached rules)
7. Page 32, Classes 9 and 10, Pleasure Pairs; Increase pleasure pair quota to 2 pair per class per discipline. (IV)
8. Page 30, Class 8: Split County Team into two classes-one English and one western. (IX)
9. Should Pleasure Pairs and County Team classes be eliminated? Are these classes meeting their intended purpose? Safety and class quality are concerns. (DC)

### **Western Division**

1. Pages 34 and 35, Classes 11 and 12, Stock Seat Equitation; If exhibitors in Stock Seat Equitation are asked to do a pattern, they should only be asked to do rail work one way of the rail. (X)

## **Contest Classes**

1. Open Contest classes to English riders. (IV, IX))
2. Add Cutback class. District 9 will supply the rules and pattern so it can eventually be included in the 2010 rulebook with the expectation that eventually cutback would become a state show class similar to the process Novice Reining advanced to the state level (IX)
3. Page 49, Classes 24 and 25. Clarify keyhole penalty rule to address situations when a cone is flipped over and ends up in an upright position. (A judge decided that because the rule book states “knocked over” not moved, in regard to the entrance cones, the rider would not be penalized.) Recommend removing the words “knocked over” and replace with “moved” to eliminate confusion. (XI)
4. Add a Four Corner Stakes class. (X)

## **English Division – Saddle Seat**

1. Pages 50 and 51, Classes 28 and 29, Saddle Seat Pleasure, Junior and Senior Rider; Change classes to Saddle Seat Pleasure (trotting breeds/types) and Saddle Seat Pleasure (non-trotting breeds/types). This would allow judging of similar breeds and types within a class. Do not divide pleasure classes by junior and senior rider until participant numbers warrant splitting the class. This may help to encourage participation of youth with non-trotting breeds without adding additional classes to the show. Equipment requirements to change accordingly. (suggestion to DC)

## **English Division - Hunt Seat**

1. Pages 52-53, Classes 30 and 31, Hunt Seat Equitation (not to jump); Eliminate pattern work from Hunt Seat equitation on the flat. (X)
2. Pages 53-55, Classes 32 and 33, Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences; Have different jump heights for horses in equitation over fences and working hunter. (Ex. 14.2-15.1 at 2’6”, 15.2-16.1h at 2’9” and 16.2 and over at 3’). (IV)
3. Pages 59 and 60, Classes 40 and 41. Drop Hunter Hack and add a low hunter jumping class with fence heights being 2’, 2’3”, 2’6”. This would allow those riders not ready to jump the higher fences a chance to ride a regular course instead of just two jumps. (I)
4. Pages 59 and 60, Classes 40 and 41. Hunter Hack: Change judging emphasis to 70% jumping and 30% flat work. (IV)
5. Pages 60, Classes 40 and 41. Hunter Hack: second paragraph, first sentence; Clarify/change “The” to “All” exhibitors will then be asked to jump two fences. (DC)
6. Pages 60, Classes 40 and 41. Hunter Hack: second paragraph; Add following first sentence: The judge may refuse to allow an exhibitor(s) to jump if he/she determines that it is unsafe for the exhibitor(s)/horse(s). (suggestion to DC from judge)
7. Pages 53-60. All over fences classes: Jumps should be lowered by 6” (VII)

## **Driving Division**

1. Page 65, Class 42, Pleasure Pony Driving; Clarify rule to permit draft type animals to be shown with equipment according to the draft horse driving rules. (XI)
2. Page 67, Class 45, Miniature Horse Driving; Change to state that drivers of mini horses 12 years of age or older not be required to have an attendant. (IX)
3. Page 65, Classes 42 and 43, Pleasure Driving and Page 69, Class 45, Miniature Horse Driving; Tack and Equipment, Prohibited; Allow a twisted wire bit, which is not as severe as a Liverpool. (XI)
4. Page 65, Class 44, Draft Horse Driving; Change definition of draft horse to: Open to horses meeting specifications of one of the accepted draft breeds, Percheron, Belgian, Clydesdale, Suffolk, Spotted Draft, American Creme Draft or any cross of those breeds with expected mature weight greater than 1500 pounds. (suggestion to DC)

## **Driving Division (cont.)**

5. Consider holding state show Draft Horse Driving classes at KILE allowing all 4-H exhibitors from all counties to attend and eliminate draft horse driving at the district level. Alternately create 4-H Draft Horse Driving classes at KILE and encourage all 4-H draft driving participants to participate in the show and related educational clinics. (suggestion to DC)
6. Create a list of volunteers from PA Percheron Association and PA Draft Horse and Mule Association who would be willing to judge district draft horse driving classes free of charge. (suggestion to DC).
7. Add a Draft Pony Driving Class. (XI)
8. Add Obstacle (trail) Driving to state horse show. (IV)

## **Therapeutic Riding Division**

1. Page 70, General Rules, item h; The side walkers must be with the maximum assistance riders. It is a safety factor and aides should be near the rider. If they don't require side walkers, they should be in the minimum assistance classes. (VII)

## **General State Show Concerns**

1. Propose that all ribbons at the State Show be tri-colored champion ribbons (which wouldn't cost the show anymore than regular ribbons through 10<sup>th</sup> place). The winning placements in these classes designate these riders/handlers/horses as State Champions. These ribbons would stand out on their displays at home. (I)
2. Use orange colored participant ribbons rather than pink.(suggestion to DC)
3. Can the cost of stalls be reduced if the 4-H member cleans before leaving (change in our contract)? (IV)
4. Stalls were too close and the walkways were really tight. (VIII)
5. P.A. system needs to be managed better. It if doesn't work from one area to another, need to be sure to have the other ring announcing what is going in and out of the other ring. (VII)
6. There was difficulty hearing what was going on in the ring. There was also trouble hearing in the barns and practice ring. (VIII)
7. No parking around electric poles if you are not planning to plug in. (V)
8. Dogs in building (VI)
9. There is not enough lunging area. There wasn't anyone supervising and limiting the time in the pen. Had to wait 45 minutes to an hour or more. Should be 15 minute time limit (VII)
10. The lunging area was too small for bigger horses. In addition, there needs to be people policing that area at all times. (VIII)
11. There is a need for more lunging pens. (IX)
12. Size of the lunging pens need to be larger or larger areas need to be designated for lunging. Larger animals, circles too small and leg injuries are a major risk factor. (III)
13. Exhibitors have numbers on at all times while in exercise rings. (IV)
14. Let the show committee know that we thank them for all the supervised practice time in the indoor arena. This was a great improvement over the year before and was considered much safer for all exhibitors. (IX)
15. People who requested tack change had to recheck and found out that it was not marked down. Need to be more careful to see that this is done. (VII)
16. Eliminate starting times during middle of show (ex. 11 am, 5 pm) to allow show to continue to run if earlier than expected. (IV)
17. Run gaming and jumping classes at the same time (take about the same time and there shouldn't be many horse usage conflicts). (IV)
18. Stagger classes at the state show so that they are not running at the same time. Rotate the western and English show schedule. (X)

19. Need to alternate show days so games are not always on Friday. (VII)
20. It was felt that it would be nice to switch the show order of the western and English classes just once. (VIII)
21. Why can't we use the large arena on Sundays? (VIII)
22. Consider moving large hunter classes to the larger arena or split classes (23 too many participants for the small arena). (IX)
23. Have all Production classes on one day, perhaps using Large Arena on Sunday or have all in hand (including grooming and showmanship) on Friday. Perhaps utilize a Thursday evening session. (IV)
24. Some of the production horses, especially 2 year olds, were not well behaved at all and should have been dismissed. The weanlings and yearlings were better behaved than the older ones. It was suggested that having horses under control should be emphasized more, as well as safety, and kids should be excused sooner when having difficulty. It should also be stressed that kids handle the production horses more before showing. (VIII)
25. It was suggested that during the production classes with the split arena, if the horses were to be lined up close to the rail instead of the center of the ring there would be a larger buffer zone between the classes and it would be less likely that the antics of a horse would affect the horses in the other class. (IX)
26. Have a designated volunteer(s) for each discipline for set-up (ex. Trail) to help volunteers in ring who may not know rules/set-up. (IV)
27. Bridge in trail course- horses falling off bridge stepping into mums-keep pots away from bridge.(VI)
28. Jump widths need to be checked (VI)
29. Driving bits-illegal bits – need to relook at list (VI)
30. For all classes that are split, judges should be required to view both sections before announcing who will return for the final workout. (V)
31. Recommend that 2 more than the placings be pulled by the judge when pulling participants for further judging. (IX)
32. Recommend two judges per class at the State Show. (VI)
33. Need to work more than top 10 people in the Equitation patterns in case the horses and riders not being able to do patterns. (VII)
34. During the Western Equitation Senior Class this year, entries entered the ring one at a time and then left the arena at the end of their pattern. They then had to walk all through the barns and crowd to get back to the entry gate again. This caused a lot of confusion. It was also a safety hazard. Examine a better way to assemble contestants after their individual performances. (V)
35. It was suggested that during the games classes to have horses exit from another gate. (IX)
36. Recommend two sets of timers and a hand timer for gaming classes at the State Show. (VI)
37. Better control needs to be maintained at the in-gate of the old arena. Too many people, which spooks animals in the ring as they round that corner. Participants, 1 trainer and the ring crew are the only people who should be authorized to occupy that area. Whatever happened to the chute and/or the steps? (III)
38. It was a huge improvement to have grooming and showmanship kids go in the ring, do their pattern and leave instead of standing in the ring. (VIII)
39. It was observed that the saddle seat classes are getting very small and it was questioned if it is realistic to continue to have a separate judge for these classes.(VIII)
40. There were shorter lines for photographs this year! (VI)
41. Jumps were beautiful! (VI)
42. Bright in new arena and new footing. (VI)
43. Positive help from division supervisors—very much appreciated (VI)

## **Mini Trail - *Draft Rules* from District X 4-H**

Should be shown at a walk, jog or trot and lope or canter on reasonably loose lead without undue restraint. Prohibited equipment included any type of chain either over or under face or attached to the lead. Special emphasis shall be placed on the walk. Entries shall be judged on performance.

Performance shall be over and/or through obstacles such as opening, passing through, and closing gate without losing control of horse or gate; leading through water, over logs, bridge, or simulated brush; carrying objects from one part of the ring to another; backing into or leading into a dead end stall and either leading or backing out; opening and closing mailbox; and negotiating any of many natural obstacles that may be encountered along a trail. Loss of control of gate (i.e. removing hand from the gate before it is latched) will result in a penalty.

If an entry fails to completely negotiate an obstacle in approximately one minute, only partial points will be awarded, unless the nature of the obstacle requires a longer time, i.e.: complex back-up obstacles. Failure to begin to negotiate an obstacle within 30 seconds of arrival at the obstacle, or three refusals, regardless of the length of time, will result in a zero at that obstacle. Failure to follow the prescribed order of obstacles will result in disqualification. No obstacle may be passed without the permission of the judge.

Management, when setting course, should keep in mind that the idea is not to trap a horse, or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind so as to eliminate any accident. Enough space must be provided for a horse to jog/trot (at least 20 feet) and lope (at least 30 feet) for the judge to evaluate these gaits.

When logs or poles are used as obstacles that the horse must cross over, they can be used in a straight line, curved, zigzag. The space between the logs is to be measured and the path the horse is to take should be the measuring point. The space between walkovers shall be 10" to 14" and jog/trot overs 20" to 26" there are to be no lope/canter overs. Lope/canter circle should be 20' in diameter and marked by cones or similar safe objects. No evaluated poles are permitted. Distance between logs in backing obstacles is a minimum of 24".

Handler's cues that are acceptable are: voice or mouth commands, soft shaking of lead rope, twirling end of lead rope, and body language. Unacceptable cues are baiting to encourage an animal to perform the obstacle is not permitted. Handlers will be penalized for physically pushing horse in any direction, stepping on or in an obstacle with the horse (i.e. walk on the bridge or step into poles) – exception- walk into square, walk/trot over poles, or by direction of the judge.