

**Recommendations for Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program and
2010 State 4-H Horse Show Rule Changes**
(Includes some actions of Rules Committee since 2008 meeting)

**4-H Horse Program Advisory Committee
April 27, 2009**

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; AC = Advisory Committee; RD = Regional Directors

General Horse Program Concerns

1. Change the name of the rulebook to the “Pennsylvania Horse Program Rulebook” or “Competitive Activities Rule Book” (V)
2. Continue to hold the state show in the fall (IX)
3. Develop recreational activities/project to include riding recognition/saddlelog program, trail riding, non-show activities, etc. Report from committee. (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 program planning, curriculum development, and planning for events in subsequent calendar years. Also consider various options for qualification for state show. (DC)
5. Continue work to further develop endowment funds to support the program for the future and fund new positions to work with 4-H Horse Program. (DC)

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 is considering) Northampton, Clearfield and Franklin Counties may pilot test with some classes. Other counties?
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)
3. Do not implement the Danish system to advance to upper levels (IX)
4. Page 2, Rule 6: Add new paragraph. Counties *may* require earlier deadlines for show entries and related paperwork than noted in these rules. County deadlines and requirements will apply as appropriate. (Clarification by Rules Committee)
5. Page 3 and 4, Rules 13, 14 and 15. Revise these rules to be consistent with current PA Department of Agriculture (PDA) regulations as appropriate. Add prior to rule 13 and replace current rule 15: All current federal, state, and or Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) health regulations will apply as appropriate and will/may supersede Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Show rules. (Rules Committee)
6. Page 4, Rule 14: Eliminate the Coggins test. (IX)

General Rules (cont.)

7. Page 5, Rule 21. Add new paragraph: This rule applies at all times during any 4-H horse event, activity or show. (Clarification; Rules Committee)
8. Page 5, Rule 23: Revise to read: No judge may be approached or contacted by an exhibitor, parent, coach, 4-H leader or anyone acting on behalf of an exhibitor without first obtaining the permission of the Steward or the Show Committee. (DC Clarification)
9. Page 7, Rule 27: Previously referred to Rules Committee; Committee decided to leave rule as stated.
10. Page 7 Rule 33: Clarify rule by adding the following sentence: “Allowing or prohibiting dogs or other pet animals at other 4-H shows is at the discretion of the individual show committee in accordance with the rules for the grounds used” (I)
11. Page 18-19 rule 10a-10d: Use official pony club card measurements as legal measurements for 4-H shows. (VI)

Production Rules

1. Pages 11-12, Rule 1: Rewrite the rule to state that 4-H members under age 12 *riding* in the production horse show futurity classes be required to pass the entire horsemanship skills level 1 test – not just the handling skills part of the test. (IX)
2. Add donkeys and mules division/type for production. Rules committee is reviewing.
3. Pages 12, 13, Rule 5: Change last sentence to: Project animals do not necessarily have to be shown each calendar year to complete project requirements. *See Rule 6 for eligibility for showing.* (Rules committee upon approval of AC and DC)
4. Page 13, Rule 6: Change first sentence/paragraph to: In order to show in the current calendar year, project animal(s) must be enrolled in the production project and designated as the member’s project animal by June 1 of the same year. Animals 3 years of age and older must be enrolled *annually* to maintain eligibility for showing, even if they are not shown each year. (Rules committee upon approval of AC and DC)
5. Page 15, Rule 19. Delete last sentence and add: *See Rule 6 for eligibility for showing.* (Rules committee upon approval of AC and DC)
6. Page 15, Rule 20. Change third sentence to: If the number of entries so warrant, separate classes will be offered for three, four and five year olds: otherwise they may be combined at show management’s discretion. (Rules committee; clarification of existing rule)

Performance Rules

1. Page 17, Rule 3: Add to current rule: All members to be eligible to compete at county, district and state shows must have completed appropriate project requirements as determined by each county. (Rules committee; clarification of existing General Rule)
2. Page 18, Rule 9. Clarify/modify rule to address the addition of miniature trail horse. (Rules Committee is addressing.) If the mini trail class is added, please make a rule change that would reflect that the second animal would be a mini, and not have to be a driving animal. (X)
3. Add Rule: No two year olds may be shown in any performance riding/driving class. (Question to DC)
4. Page 19, Rule 11; Change to: No colts or stallions will be allowed to compete in any performance class. (DC)
5. Page 20, Change Rule 17: A 4-H member may not show the *same* animal in *both* pony and horse classes, *and/or* in *both* miniature and pony classes. (Question to DC)
6. 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. (Rules committee is addressing.)
7. All exhibitors in all equitation classes on the flat will be asked for a pattern. (Approved Rules Com.)
8. Riders in all equitation classes will be asked to perform one of the patterns as published in the 4-H Horse Show Rulebook (I)
9. In English or western equitation, if a pattern is required by the judge, all exhibitors will be required to do the pattern. (IX)
10. Add more classes for all draft animals such as Showmanship & Riding – split English & western (V)

Open Division

1. Page 21-24, Classes 1-4, Grooming and Showmanship; Review all rules for these classes for consistency with industry standards. (Rules Committee is addressing upon approval of AC and DC.)
2. Propose to split showmanship and equitation into three age division due to the development age of the riders. (X)
3. Page 24-29 Classes 5, 6 and 7, Open Trail; Consider required minimum scores for advancement to district and state shows; Revise/clarify scoring of trail class to address concern that exhibitor not attempting an obstacle may score higher than an exhibitor that attempted all obstacles. (Rules committee is addressing; Revised score sheet to be distributed.)
4. Class 8, County Team and Classes 9 &10, Pleasure Pairs will be eliminated. Safety, class quality are concerns; More opportunities to add classes that better serve program and more youth. (DC)
5. Eliminate county team. (IX)
6. Don't do away with the pair's class. Go back to one big (English/western) class, two pairs from each district move on to states. (IV) Retain pairs class (IX)
7. Page 32 Classes 9 and 10: Pleasure Pairs: Clarify that only one rider per pair may change discipline (Both riders cannot change from English to western) (IX)
8. Do not drop pleasure pairs and county team classes from the state show (VI)
9. Add trail classes for mini horses (VIII) Approved Miniature Horse Trail Class for 2010; See proposed rules attached.
10. Add novice/share a horse classes (VIII)
11. Add a drill team class (I)

Western Division

1. Page 35-40 Class 17, Western Riding: Cones used in western riding should be made a standardized size. (IX)

Contest Classes

1. Open Contest Classes 20-25 to all disciplines. (IV, IX)
2. Add cutback class. (IX)
3. Page 49, Class 24 and 25. Raised Box Keyhole. Clarification needed on the type of cones to be used so that the counties can stay consistent with the State 4-H Horse Show. Should all cones used in this event be the standard 28" traffic cones? (IX)
4. Page 49, Class 24 and 25. Raised Box Keyhole: Clarify where and how measurements should be made. (Rules committee addressing question to DC.)

English Division (Saddle Seat)

1. Pages 50 and 51, Classes 28 and 29, Saddle Seat Pleasure, Ponies and Horses; Change classes to Saddle Seat Pleasure (trotting breeds/types) and Saddle Seat Pleasure (non-trotting breeds/types). Approved for 2010. Rules committee to provide class descriptions, class rules and equipment requirements for new classes.

English Division (Hunter Seat)

1. Add classes for "Stock Type" Hunter Under Saddle and "Hunter Type" Hunter Under Saddle; Class names and class specifications to be determined (DC)
2. Page 60, Classes 40 and 41, Hunter Hack: Change to allow hunt seat exhibitors to cross enter the working hunter and hunter hack classes (IX)
3. Review scoring system for over fences classes and the penalties; are unrealistic for 4-H members. (VIII, IX) (Rules Committee and ad hoc hunter over fences committee have reviewed and clarified; Revised score sheet to be distributed.)

English Division (Hunt Seat cont.)

4. Add a low hunter class. (I)
5. Add a Green Working Hunter class, with the heights the same as hunter hack – A very large majority of members are not ready to jump 3 foot fences their first couple of years, but can safely navigate courses that are set at slightly lower heights. This would allow for increased safety, plus encourage riders to make a transitional move from hunter hack to working hunter. (IX)

Driving Division

1. Page 65 Class 42, Pleasure Pony Driving: Change equipment rule to allow use of overcheck with full collar harness or draft type harness, or add Draft Pony Driving class. (Question to DC; Rules Committee is reviewing.)
2. Page 65, Class 42, Pleasure Pony Driving: Change the class requirements to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, collected trot, and working trot. (I; suggestion to DC)
3. Split present draft driving classes into Junior and Senior divisions. (V)
4. Consider a draft team driving class (V)
5. Add a reinsmanship class – This would be the “equitation class” for this division (V)
6. Add obstacle driving as a class. (I, IV)

Therapeutic Riding Division

1. Why were there only 11 riders in the therapeutic walk trot equitation (minimum assistance) at state show? Our district had 6 riders in our class and only 2 qualified for state show. 11 or 12 is a bad number because you place 10 riders. Minimum number at state should be 14-16 if possible in maximum assistance classes. (VI)

General State Show Concerns

1. Concern about the traffic patterns in the Expo building. Wider walkways would have made for a safer environment. (I)
2. Need a designated passage way behind the vendors – it was difficult for those stalled in that area to a) keep their areas neat with all the extra traffic and b) made it difficult to prep animals because of all the extra traffic. (III)
3. There is no loud speaker at the far end of the new arena. Entries could not hear who was going into the ring next. (V)
4. Couldn't hear the sound system in the back barn. (VI)
5. Need to announce no clapping (VI)
6. Arena maintenance should not be completed during classes. (Hosing down seats during driving classes) (V)
7. Have western classes first instead of always going last. (VIII)
8. Have grooming and showmanship classes the first of the show. (VIII)
9. The youth classes schedule at Congress conflicts with the State Horse Show dates (VIII)
10. Change the dance to Saturday night because the kids participating in games cannot make it to the dance on Friday night. (VIII)
11. Show management is reviewing exercise session management and considering methods to address safety and rider identification. (DC)
12. Concern for schooling. Since many of the classes are not broken down into time slots anymore, the schooling is a free for all and got very dangerous this year with way too many people in the ring. (I)
13. Practice areas were over crowded (VI)
14. Not enough time allotted for practice sessions, and there were too many in the session. There is a big safety issue the way it is being run now. (X)
15. Larger lunging areas are needed to help accommodate the larger breed horses. (I)
16. In the hunter classes entries should know ahead of time if judge wants them to move their numbers to the side. Not all entries were using strings. (V)

General State Show Concerns (cont.)

17. Open the arena for supervised schooling over fences prior to over fences classes—jumping indoors is a different situation than jumping outside, and the horse and riders in the over fences classes never get a chance to school over a fences in the ring in which they are showing. The amount of riders in these schooling sessions would need to be limited to a small number (10?) per session. (I)
18. Let riders school over fences in the ring early morning the day of class. (IV)
19. Encourage show management to allow advance schooling over the hunter courses at all levels as is done at hunter shows. (IX)
20. Having reining horses and jumping horses warming up in the outside area at the same time was a safety issue. (V)
21. Is there a possibility of having separate warm up time for reining and western riding to allow for adequate room when practicing? (IX)
22. The holding pen on Saturday afternoon was filled w/members not competing at that time which caused a lot of congestion. Would it be wise to limit the holding area to only those showing? (IX)
23. All members or other people exercising horses or ponies should be required to wear their numbers. People controlling exercise sessions would then have some way to identify them if need be. (V)
24. The jump courses were beautiful, but some of the fences were too wide for small ponies to jump (V)
25. The oxer jump was wider than height (VI)
26. The barrel pattern was too short and some of the poles were not reset properly when they were knocked down. The poles were leaning. (V)
27. Need back up timers (VI)
28. At this year's show, an exhibitor was allowed a re-ride due to time malfunction, was permitted her re-ride immediately following her go, which contradicts the rule stating that the exhibitor will be moved to the end of the working order (IX)
29. Need to drop ropes to set up poles and barrels (VI)
30. Do not trot into the ring to start the class. (I)
31. If there are more than 13 horses or ponies in a class, split them for the canter portion. (I)
32. There were too many horses in the production in hand class. (VI)
33. Reining: Judges were not on the correct side of the ring – The committee that this was sent from was not sure as to the basis of this concern (IX)
34. Lack of sufficient outlets behind the vendor area (III)
35. The stewards seemed to be a bit too chatty with the judges and they definitely should not have access to use the “show” program while they are in the ring with the judge. Whether or not there was anything going on, the connotation was there. (III)
36. Thurs. AM – entry and unloading areas were unclear and the security guards seemed unclear about where the counties should go – perhaps that information needs to get out to them sooner. Later on, things seemed to be pretty efficient. (III)
37. There needs to be more attention to all levels for enforcement of rules. There were attendants in the driving classes wearing blue jeans. Required whip length was not enforced. Attendants in driving classes were holding horses heads and still placed. (IX)
38. Use a driving judge/draft driving judge – 2 judges for driving to help with more accurate scoring. (IV)
39. Use an ADS judge for driving classes instead of a saddle seat judge unless they have that type of judging experience. (V)
40. To allow the Keystone Miniature Horse Club (KMHC) to provide a judge, at no cost, for the State 4-H Horse Show. This judge would be used for the miniature horse driving class on Friday and the miniature horse production classes on Saturday. (VI)
41. Use AMHA or AMHR judge for miniature horse production classes. (Suggestion to DC.)

General State Show Concerns (cont.)

42. To allow breed associations to have a table display at the 4-H show in the display area. The associations could pay a fee or give a donation to the 4-H for having a display. If breed association tables are allowed and the judge provided by the KMHC is approved, it would be a nice gesture to give KMHC complementary table space for providing a judge. (VI)
43. Guidelines for breed and industry organization clinics, displays at the state show have been updated and are available. (See attached.)
44. Ad hoc committee chaired by Donna Zang is planning special activities for the 50th State 4-H Horse Show this year. Breed/industry clinics, displays, etc. will be considered but may be limited this year due to 50th anniversary activities.
45. Safety issue regarding dogs (VI)
46. Safety issue with people riding bareback (VI)
47. Photographers could use some organization to help things go smoother (VI)
48. Silent auction should be done again. (VIII)
49. Volunteers at the State 4-H Horse show were very friendly and helpful (IX)
50. Vendor/food prices at the State 4-H Horse show were reasonable and the food was good (IX)