

### **Dress Code for all classes**

Western classes, showmanship and yearlings at halter:

- Long sleeved, western type shirt
- Western type pants
- Western boots- vests, sweaters, jackets, ties, gloves, and chaps are optional.
- Spurs are optional unless otherwise prohibited.
- Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid while showing the project or showmanship classes
- Protective headgear, meeting ASTM and SEI standards is required in all 4-H classes by the State Horse Show Committee unless a signed waiver is provided.

English: Hunt Type:

- Hunt coat (red, pink, scarlet coats are prohibited unless exhibitor has earned them as a member of a recognized hunt.
- Breeches
- English style blouse or shirt
- Hunt boots
- Hard hat meeting ASTM and SEI standards. With harness that is hooked properly
- Stocks, chokers, or ties are required
- Gloves, unrowelled spurs and crop or bat are optional
- Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid

English: Saddle seat

- Solid color jacket and jodhpurs are required
- Derby, soft hat, or top hat
- Jodphur boots
- Gloves, stock, chockers or ties are required
- Unrowelled spurs and crop are optional
- Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid

Bareback equitation

- Western or English attire is allowed
- Prohibited attire are the following: chaps, spurs, crops, and bats

### **Judging criteria for showmanship classes 1, 2, and 3:**

**Criteria:**

- |                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| • Showing the horse       | 50% |
| • Appearance of the horse | 40% |
| • The exhibitor           | 10% |

**Exhibitor:** The member must be neat and clean in appearance and appropriately dressed in western attire or English attire.

**Equipment:** All horses will be shown with a properly adjusted halter. Lead shanks with chains may be used but the use of the chain over the nose or under the jaw or in any way having contact with the horse will be prohibited. Whips or bridles will not be allowed.

**Appearance of the horse:** The hair coat should be clean, well brushed, and free of dust dandruff, manure stains, and bots (fly eggs). The hair coat should have a natural luster so excessive oils contracted from spray cans and other market products will be counted down. Trimming should accentuate quality about the heads and legs. Breed standards for exhibition should be followed. The hooves should be clean and properly trimmed or shod. No preference will be shown for hoof dressing or coloring. Tack should be neat, clean, and properly dressed and adjusted. Tack should compliment, not detract from the horse.

**Showing the horse:** All exhibitors will be asked to perform a pattern. The pattern will be posted at least one hour before class time. The exhibitor may be asked to perform the following maneuvers in the pattern: Walk, trot, back, hindquarter pivots, set up squarely, move forward and backward freely. The showman may be asked to pick up any or all feet of his/her horse and know the parts of their horse. The exhibitor should perform the pattern briskly and in a businesslike manner.

The exhibitor must never obstruct the judge's view of the horse. This means the exhibitor must position his body either to the front left or front right of the horse, using the quarter system. The exhibitor should lead from the left side of the horse with the lead shank held in the right hand about 4 to 8 inches from the halter. Hold the excess shank, coiled in a figure 8 with the left hand. The horse should move readily and freely with the exhibitor at the near side of the horse's neck and in front of the shoulder. The horse should neither be ahead of the exhibitor nor should he/she be dragged along. At the judge's discretion, the finalists in each class may be called back into the arena for further work.

### **Colt to Maturity Yearling Project:**

The Colt to maturity yearling project requirement to be met will consist of the following.

- Exhibitor must be a minimum of 12 years old during the project year and must have completed Horsemanship Level 3
- Exhibitor may only show one horse
- Refer to manual "Training Horses- yearling to five year olds"

#### **Criteria:**

- |                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| • Performance and Manners           | 50% |
| • Confirmation and condition        | 25% |
| • Appearance of Horse and Exhibitor | 15% |
| • Project Knowledge                 | 10% |

**Intent:** is to show handling, willingness, control, and training demonstrated in the showmanship pattern.

### **Colt to Maturity Performance-Western**

#### **Criteria:**

- |                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| • Performance and manners of horse | 55% |
| • Horsemanship                     | 20% |
| • Appearance                       | 10% |
| • Project knowledge                | 15% |

#### **Walk:**

- **Good:** ground covering, flat footed, good attitude
- **Minor faults:** too slow, too fast
- **Major faults:** nervous, jiggling, not walking

#### **Jog:**

- **Good:** easy riding, good motion, consistent, steady
- **Minor faults:** too slow, too fast
- **Major faults:** not performing a two beat jog, failing to jog both front and back, hard or rough riding, constant breaking

#### **Lope: (cannot extend)**

- **Good:** easy riding, good motion, consistent, steady
- **Minor Faults:** too slow, too fast
- **Major Faults:** wrong lead, pulling, jogging behind, hard or rough riding, not under control

**Extended Jog:**

- **Good:** easy riding, good motion, smooth, consistent
- **Minor faults:** inconsistent speed
- **Major faults:** breaking gaits, pulling, hard or rough riding, and no increase in stride.

**Back:**

- **Good:** proper flexion, readily responsive, back in straight line
- **Minor faults:** hesitant, not backing straight
- **Major faults:** throwing head, gaping, pulling, not backing, rearing

**General**

- **Good:** smooth, steady easy riding, proper flexion and balance, good attitude
- **Minor faults:** over or under flexion, sour ears, tail switching, inconsistent speed, out of balance, poll to high or too low to throw horse out of balance, improper or incomplete appointments.
- **Major faults:** throwing head, bad mouth, constantly bumping the bit, gaping, evidence of altered tail carriage, obvious schooling, breaking pattern.

**Classes 4, 14, 15, 16 and 17** are for 4-H members enrolled in the 4-H Colt to Maturity Training project. Skid and splint boots and bell boots are optional for these classes.

**Two Year Old Under Saddle-Western**

Open only to two year old fillies and geldings, animal will show with a ring snaffle bit or a rawhide hackamore (bosal). The use of a running martingale or German Olympic martingale is permissible, but not mandatory. Other martingales, tie downs, and bits are not permitted. Any shank bit is not permitted. For other equipment, refer to "Western Horsemanship Class".

It is suggested that any time a martingale is used with a snaffle bit, martingale stops should be used.

Horses will be judged at walk, jog, and lope both directions on the rail. Gait changes will be progressive. Horses will be direct reined only (rein in each hand). Other tasks the contestant may be asked to perform are:

- **Halt (not a sliding stop) from the walk**
- **Dismount and mount**
- **Back while mounted**
- **Perform individual tasks**

**Three Year Old Under Saddle- Western**

Open only to three year old mares and gelding. You may use the same bit as the two year old horses. Horses can be indirect reined ( neck reined) with a curb bit using one hand on the reins or direct reined with a snaffle bit using two hands on reins. Either method is acceptable: no additional credit will be given for neck reining. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may also be judged on the rail. Pattern will be posted at the arena prior to class time. Spurs cannot be used forward of the cinch.

Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may be judged at the walk, jog and lope on the rail both directions and lengthen and reduce each gait as directed by the judge. Riders must sit the jog and extended jog.

### **Four Year Old Under Saddle- Western**

Open to four year old mares and geldings. If a contestant desires to use a curb bit, one hand must be used. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may also be judged on the rail. Pattern will be posted at the arena prior to class time.

The use of a German Olympic martingale or running martingale may be used when using a ring snaffle only, but it is not mandatory. However, other martingales and tie downs are not permitted. For other equipment, refer to "Western Horsemanship Classes".

It is suggested that any time a martingale is used with a snaffle bit, martingale stops should be used.

Horses may be neck reined or direct reined when using a snaffle bit. Both methods are acceptable and no additional credit will be given for neck reining. Horses will be judge on performance of the required pattern and may be judged at the walk, jog and lope on the rail both directions and lengthen and reduce each gait as directed by the judge. Riders must sit the jog and extended jog.

### **Five Year Old Under saddle- Western**

Open to five year old mares and geldings. Horses must be neck reined and shown in a curb bit only, using one hand. Skid boots are optional. For other equipment, refer to "Western Horsemanship Classes".

Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may be judged at the walk, jog and lope on the rail both directions and lengthen and reduce each gait as directed by the judge. Riders must sit the jog and extended jog.

### **Western Horsemanship Classes**

**General Requirements:** A horse entered in Western Horsemanship, can be shown in only one level per family member. Horses may not be cross-entered in colt-to-maturity or green horse classes.

Horses must be shown in a stock saddle. Tie-downs, martingales and mechanical hackamores of any type are prohibited unless otherwise indicated in the class description. Split or Romal reins are permissible, but roping reins are not allowed. Splint boots, bell boots and skid boots are optional.

Spurs are optional except in bareback where they are not permitted. Spurs should not be used forward of the cinch. In all classes the judge has the option of requesting one or all contestants to perform individually.

Horses under four (4) years of age in Horsemanship and Trail Classes may be ridden with curb bits, snaffles or bosals. Snaffle bits and bosals must be ridden two handed except opening and closing gates. It is mandatory that horses five (5) and over be ridden in a curb bit. Curb or shank bits must be ridden one handed. Flat chain curb straps or flat leather curb straps ½ inch or wider are required with a curb or shank bit of any kind. To be acceptable bits must meet these requirements.

### **Snaffle Bit:**

A standard snaffle bit is defined as a center jointed single, rounded, unwrapped smooth mouthpiece of 3/8" to 3/4" diameter metal. Non-jointed bar type snaffle bits are not recommended. The rings may be from 2" to 4" outside diameter of either the loose type, egg-butt, "D" ring or centered mounted without cheeks. If an optional leather strap is used it must be attached below the reins.

### **Curb Bit:**

A curb bit is one that may have a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical devices and should be considered a standard Western bit. A standard western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8 ½ inches. Shanks may be fixed or loose. The mouthpiece will consist of a smooth round metal bar 3/8" to ¾" in diameter. They may be inlaid, but smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs on solid mouthpieces. The port must be no higher than 3" maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, half-breeds, and spades are standard. Slip or gag bits and donut and flat polo mouthpieces are prohibited. Roping bits with both reins connected to a single ring at the center of cross bar shall not be used. Reins must be attached to each shank. A curb strap must be used with a curb bit.

### **Braided rawhide or leather bosal:**

A bosal may be used in lieu of a snaffle bit; the gap may be no larger than ¾" diameter between the bosal and nose: absolutely no metal under the jaw or on the noseband in connection with the bosal. The bosal should be properly fitted relative to the horse's size and conformation.

Horses shall not be shown with artificial appliances that would tend to alter their performance.

### **Criteria:**

- Horsemanship 40%
- Performance of pattern 40%
- Appearance 10%
- Project knowledge 10%

### **Rider position:**

**General:** Rider will be judged on seat and hands and performance of horse. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them. Breaking of the pattern is considered a major fault.

**Basic position:** Rider should be seated so that from the side view a vertical line could be drawn from the center of his/her head down through his/her shoulder and seat to the back of his/her heel. The eyes should be up and shoulders back. The stirrup should be just short enough to allow heels to be lower than toes. Body always should appear comfortable, relaxed and flexible. Feet should be placed in the stirrups with weight on the ball of the foot.

Arms are in a straight line with the body, the one holding the reins bent at the elbow. When a curb bit is used only one hand is to be used for reining and hands shall not be changed. Hand is to be around reins if use a romal and one finger between the reins is permitted only with split reins which fall on the near side.

When using romal reins, no finger between the reins is allowed. The hand holding the romal reins should be above the horn and as near to it as possible. Bracing against the horn is penalized. The end of the romal reins should be held in the opposite hand at least 16 inches away from the reining hand that hand can be placed on the leg, or the arm held in a straight position.

**Position in Motion:** Rider should sit to jog and not post. At the lope, the rider should be close to the saddle. All movements of horse should be governed by the use of subtle aids and the shifting of rider's weight is not desirable.

**Mounting and Dismounting:** To mount, take reins in left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand and insert left foot in stirrup. Toe should be pointed toward girth and mount. To dismount, rider may step down or slide down. The size of rider must be taken into consideration.

## **Western Horsemanship Level-1**

### **Required mounted abilities:**

- Demonstrate how to check tack before mounting and explain reasons for checking tack.
- Safely mount; safely dismount.
- Sit in saddle and hold reins.
- Walk in a straight line, halt, turn right about and return in a straight line, halt, turn left about and return in a straight line.
- Move from a walk to a jog, both directions of the arena.
- Slow from a jog to a walk, than halt.
- Walk or jog a figure 8. Back horse from the ground.

## **Western Horsemanship Level-2**

### **Required mounted abilities:**

- Move from a walk to a jog to a lope, back to a jog, than walk both directions of the arena.
- While riding at a lope, identify what lead the horse is in.
- Jog in straight line, halt, turn right about and return at a jog, halt, turn left about and return at a jog.
- Back up horse while mounted, six steps.
- Lope in a small circle, both directions.
- Demonstrate direct reining.
- Demonstrate indirect reining.

## **Western Horsemanship Level-3**

### **Required mounted abilities:**

- Move from a walk, to a jog to a lope, back to a jog, then to a walk, both directions of the arena. When moving the horse to a lope, the rider should cue the horse to take the correct lead; rider should slow horse to a jog and attempt to get correct lead.
- Jog horse in straight line, turn around a pylon and return in a straight line.
- Lope horse in a straight line, turn around pylon without breaking gait and return in a straight line.
- Back up horse, while mounted, ten steps.
- Demonstrate what one would do if his/her horse were running away.

## **Western Horsemanship Level-4**

### **Required mounted abilities:**

- Execute a proper lead in a left circle; execute a proper right lead in a right circle.
- Demonstrate a drop to jog lead change while riding a figure 8 pattern.
- Execute right and left turn on hindquarters (90 degrees).
- Recognize and execute proper diagonals while mounted
- Demonstrate proper leg yielding in place (90 degree turns, left and right on the forehand.)
- Ride and execute a pattern consisting of above maneuvers.

## **Western Horsemanship Level-5**

### **Required mounted abilities:**

- Execute a proper left lead in a left circle; execute a proper right lead in a right circle.
- Demonstrate a lead change in a straight line (drop to a trot change.)
- Execute right and left 180 degree hindquarter turns.
- Execute proper leg yielding in place (180 degree turns left and right on the forehand.)
- Demonstrate how to change diagonals using a serpentine pattern.
- Drop stirrups and ride as instructed.
- Execute a side pass a minimum of 10 feet both to the left and to the right.
- Demonstrate how to extend the jog.
- Demonstrate a half halt.
- Ride and execute a pattern consisting of above maneuvers.
- Demonstrate skills required Level-4

## **Western Horsemanship Level-6**

### **Required mounted abilities:**

- Demonstrate a lope from a stop with designated leads.
- Explain and demonstrate how to lengthen a stride.
- Execute a 360-degree spin.
- Ride and demonstrate a hand gallop.
- Demonstrate how to counter canter.
- Demonstrate left and right two-track/half pass at the jog.
- Execute a flying lead change.
- Demonstrate skills required in levels 4 and 5.
- Ride and execute a pattern consisting of above maneuvers.

## **Western Horsemanship Level-7**

### **Required mounted abilities:**

- Rider to execute the pattern using skills from required mounted abilities from Level 6.
- **Pattern to be developed by rider and submitted with registration and entry.**
- It will be provided to judge before the class begins.
- Pattern may be choreographed to music.
- Single exhibitor and horse to perform pattern
- Setup time, performance of pattern, and tear down time not to exceed 4 minutes. Time limit will be enforced.
- Western and English must have appropriate tack as listed on page 10 under Dress Code  
For all classes
- Costumes are permitted but are not required.

### **Western equitation:**

Classes to be judged at a walk, trot, and lope/canter both ways of the ring. One or more contestants may be asked to back and/or perform individual patterns at the judge's discretion. Riders will be judged on seat, legs, hands and the ability to control the horse and on the performance of the horse. Chaps and spurs will be allowed. Members 14 and older may be asked to dismount and mount. Proper western attire must be worn. These classes will be entered according to age.

### **Trail Class:**

- All trail class horses will have opportunity to complete their class.
- All trail classes will be entered by the age of your 4-H year and your enrollment at your county.
- The trail classes will be judged by another judge and separately from the other classes.
- There will be separate courses for each trail class.
- Exhibitors will go through their trail class course according to the posted schedule when they have a break in other classes.
- This class will be judged on the performance of the horse in maneuvering the obstacles.
- The horse should work with a reasonable loose rein without undue restraint.
- Six or more obstacles will be used, of which three will be mandatory and others selected from an approved list.
- The distance between obstacles shall be at the discretion of the judge.

### **Mandatory Obstacles:**

- **Opening, passing through and closing gate.** A rider losing control of gate will be penalized. A gate will be used which will not endanger horse or rider. If the gate has a metal, plastic or wooden support bar under the opening, contestants must work the gate moving forward through it.
- **Ride over at least four logs or poles.** These can be a straight line, curved, zigzag or raised. The space between the logs is to be measured and the path the horse is to take should be the measuring point. Trot-overs and lopeovers cannot be elevated in novice classes. All elevated elements must be placed in a cup, notched block or otherwise secured so they cannot roll. The height should be measured from the ground to the top of the element. Spacing for walkovers, trot-overs and lopeovers should be as follows or increments thereof.
  1. The spacing for walkovers should be 20" to 24" (40cm to 60cm) and may be elevated to 12" (30 cm). Elevated walkovers should be set at least 22" (55cm) apart.
  2. The spacing for trot overs shall be 3' to 3'6" (90cm-105cm) and may be elevated to 8" (20cm).
  3. The spacing for lopeovers shall be 6' to 7' (1.8-2.1 meters) or increments thereof, and may be elevated to 8" (20 cm).

**Back obstacle:** Backing obstacles to be spaced a minimum of 28" (70 cm). If elevated, 30" (75 cm) spacing is required. Entrants cannot be asked to back over a stationary object such as a wooden pole or metal bar.

1. Back through and around at least three (3) markers.
2. Back through "L," "V," "U," straight or similar shaped course. May be elevated no more than 24" (60 cm).

### **Optional Obstacles, but not limited to:**

- Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slick bottom boxes will be used.
- Serpentine obstacles at walk or jog. Spacing to be minimum of 6' (1.8 meters) for jog.
- Carry object from one part of arena to another. (only objects, which might reasonably, be carried on a trail ride may be used.)
- Ride over wooden bridge. (Suggested minimum width shall be 36" (90 cm) wide and at least six feet long.) Bridge should be sturdy, safe and negotiated at a walk only.
- Put on and remove a slicker.
- Side pass (may be elevated to 12" (30cm) maximum).
- An obstacle consisting of four logs or rails, each 5 to 7 feet long (1.5 to 2 meters) long, laid in a square. Each contestant will enter the square by riding over the log or rail as designated. When all four feet are inside the square, the rider will execute a turn and depart.
- Any other safe and negotiable obstacle, which could reasonably be expected to be encountered on a trail ride and meets the approval of the judge, may be used.
- A combination of two or more of any obstacles is acceptable.

### **Unacceptable obstacles:**

**Animals**

**Jumps**

**Logs or poles** elevated in a manner permitting them to roll.

**Hides**

**Rocking or moving bridges**

**PVC pipe**

**Fire extinguishers**

**Ground ties**

**Water box** with floating or moving parts.

## **Yearling Trail:**

### **Required abilities:**

- This class will be judged on the performance of the horse at halter, in maneuvering the obstacles.
- A trail course to be set may include 4 trot-overs, bridge, gate, mailbox, back
- Obstacles will not be raised (trot-overs and bridge)

### **Criteria:**

Conditioning and conformation	20%
Handling/ Course Completion	80%

## **Western Games:**

Games offered at the state show are clover leaf barrel racing junior and senior and pole bending junior and senior. All events are timed. Time starts when the horse's nose crosses the start line and ends when the nose crosses back. **YOU MUST START RUN AFTER INSIDE OF ARENA AND GATE IS CLOSED. (NO RUN IN'S) AND YOU MUST BE STOPPED AND UNDER CONTROL BEFORE EXITING.** Barrels may be started on left or right side and poles may be started on left or right side. If horses are considered unsafe by the show committee or judge they may be asked to stop and exit the arena immediately. No rider may be tied to the horse or saddle in any way. No wires, chains allowed. Horse's mouth may not be tied shut in anyway. Rider must use specific project horse, and colt to maturity horses can not be used for western games.

### **Equipment:**

- Western saddle with horn.
- Approved snaffle, curb or hackamore bit. Includes approved mechanical hackamores. Gag bits **are not** allowed.
- Curb and hackamore bits must have an approved flat chain or leather chin strap.

If have a question if your equipment is legal please contact show committee.

Show committee and judge have the discretion to decide if equipment is unsafe or unnecessary.

### **Optional Equipment:**

- Martingales, tie downs, splint boots, bell and skid boots, over and under or bat.

### **Rider attire:**

- Boots
- Approved helmet or cowboy hat (must sign and have turned into office a wavier release to wear a cowboy hat.)

### **Optional attire:**

- Shin guards
- Gloves
- Chaps
- Spurs

## **Colt to Maturity Performance-English:**

### **Criteria:**

- Performance 55%
- Horsemanship 20%
- Appearance 10%
- Project knowledge 15%

### **Walk**

**Good:** brisk, flat-footed good attitude

**Minor faults:** slow, disinterested, not attentive

**Major faults:** nervous, jiggling, not walking

### **Trot**

**Good:** balanced, free moving, consistent, steady

**Minor faults:** too slow, too fast

**Major faults:** not performing a trot, failing to trot both front and back, hard or rough riding, constant breaking.

### **Canter**

**Good:** smooth, unhurried, consistent, steady

**Minor faults:** too slow, too fast

**Major faults:** wrong lead, pulling, trotting behind, hard or rough riding, not riding under control.

### **Extended trot/canter**

**Good:** strong, ground covering, smooth, consistent

**Minor faults:** inconsistent speed

**Major faults:** breaking gaits, pulling, hard or rough riding, uncontrolled, no increase in stride.

### **Back**

**Good:** proper flexion, readily responsive, back in straight line

**Minor faults:** hesitant, not backing straight

**Major faults:** throwing head, gaping, pulling, not backing, rearing

### **General**

**Good:** smooth, steady, proper flexion and balance, good attitude

**Minor faults:** over or under flexion, sour ears, switching tail, inconsistent speed, or out of balance. Poll to high or to low to throw horse out of balance, improper or incomplete appointments.

**Major faults:** throwing head, bad mouth, constant bumping the bit, gaping, evidence of altered tail carriage, obvious schooling, breaking of pattern.

## **Two Year Old Under Saddle- English**

Open only to two year old fillies and geldings. Animal will show with a D or O ring snaffle bit. The use of running martingale or German Olympic martingale is permissible, but not mandatory. Other martingales, tie downs, and bits are not permitted. (Shank bits are not permitted.) For other equipment, refer to "English Horsemanship Classes". Horses will be judged at walk, trot and canter both directions on the rail. Change of gait will be progressive. Horses will be direct reined only (rein in each hand). Other tasks the contestant may be asked to perform are:

- Halt (not a sliding stop) from the walk
- Dismount and mount
- Back while mounted
- Perform individual task

### **Three Year Old Under Saddle- English**

Open only to three year old mares and geldings. Horses will be shown in a D or O ring snaffle bit. Use of German martingale or running martingale may be used when using a ring snaffle only, but it is not mandatory. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may also be judged on the rail. Pattern will be designed by the judge and posted at the arena prior to class time. Spurs cannot be used forward of the cinch.

### **Four Year Old Under Saddle- English**

Open to four year old mares and geldings. Horses will be shown in a D or O ring snaffle bit or Kimberwick. Use of a German martingale or running martingale may be used when using a ring snaffle only, bit is not mandatory. However, other martingales and tie downs are not permitted. For other equipment, refer to "English Horsemanship classes"

Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may also be judged on the rail. Pattern will be designated by the judge and posted at the arena prior to class time.

### **Five Year Old Under Saddle- English**

Open to five year old mares and geldings. Horses will be shown in a Pelham, Weymouth, or Kimberwick bit or English snaffle. For other equipment refer to "English Horsemanship Classes".

Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may be judged at the walk, trot, canter, on the rail in both directions, and lengthen and shorten each gait as directed by the judge. Pattern will be designated by the judge and posted at the arena prior to class time.

### **English Horsemanship Classes**

A horse entered in English Horsemanship, can be shown in only one level per family member. Horses may not be cross-entered in English Colt to Maturity Project Classes/ Green horse.

Entries must be shown hunt or saddle seat. Spurs and crops are optional.

When riding hunt seat only regulation snaffles, Pelhams, Kimberwicks, and full bridles, all with cavesson nosebands are allowed.

In saddle seat classes, entries must be shown in snaffles, Pelhams, or full bridles curb or snaffle. Bit converters are allowed.

#### **Snaffle bit:**

Smooth snaffle bit with broken mouthpiece (conventional- O ring, egg-butt or D ring) with ring not longer than 4" and no smaller than 2". From the cheek to one inch in front, the cheek must be a minimum of 3/8" diameter with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle.

#### **Criteria:**

- Horsemanship 40%
- Performance of pattern 40%
- Appearance 10%
- Project knowledge 10%

## **Hunter Type Position**

### **General:**

Rider should have workmanlike appearance, seat and hands light and supple, conveying the impression of complete control should any emergency arise. Breaking of pattern is considered a major fault.

### **Hands:**

Hands should be over and in front of horse's withers, knuckles thirty degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from the horse's mouth to the rider's elbow. Method of holding reins is optional and bite of the reins may fall on either side. However, all reins must be picked up at the same time.

### **Basic Position:**

The eyes should be up and shoulders back. Toes should be at an angle best suited to rider's conformation: ankles flexed in, heels down, calf of leg in contact with horse and slightly behind girth. Iron should be on the ball of the foot and must not be tied to the girth.

### **Position in Motion:**

At the walk, sitting trot and canter, body should be a couple degrees in front of the vertical: rising trot, inclined forward: galloping and jumping, same inclination as the rising trot.

### **Mounting and dismounting:**

To mount, take up reins in left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand and insert left foot in stirrup, toe pointed towards girth and mount. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration.

### **Saddle Seat Position:**

**General:** Judges should note that the required Equitation Seat should in no way be exaggerated but thoroughly efficient and most comfortable for riding the type of horse called for at any gait and for any length of time. When riding saddle seat in the Horsemanship classes, riders should convey impression of effective and easy control. To show a horse well, he/she should show themselves to the best advantage. Breaking a pattern is considered a major fault.

### **Hands:**

Hands should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle and should show adaptability and control. The height the hands are held above the horse's withers is a matter of how and where the horse carries his head. The method of holding the reins is optional: however, both hands must be used and all reins must be picked up at one time. The bite of the reins should fall on the right side.

### **Basic Position:**

The eyes should be up and shoulders back. To obtain the proper position, rider should place himself/herself comfortably in the saddle and find his/her center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knees but without the use of irons. While at this position adjust leathers to fit. Irons should be placed under ball of foot with even pressure on entire width of sole and center of iron. Foot position should be natural.

**Position in Motion:**

- **Walk:** slight motion in saddle
- **Trot:** slight elevation in saddle rising, hips under body not mechanical up and down or swinging forward and backward.
- **Canter:** close seat, going with the horse

**Mounting and Dismounting:**

To mount, take up reins if left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand and insert left foot in stirrup, toe pointed towards girth and mount. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of rider must be taken into consideration. **For required mounted abilities, for each English Horsemanship Class, please refer to the corresponding Western Horsemanship Class.**

**English Equitation:**

Classes to be judged at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. One or all of the contestants may be asked to back and perform individual patterns at the discretion of the judge. Riders will be judged on seat, feet, hands and the ability to control the horse and on the performance of the horse. Spurs without rowels and riding crops will be allowed. Members 14 and older may be asked to dismount and mount. Proper English attire will be required. These classes will be entered according to age.

**Bareback Equitation Classes:**

Classes to be judged at a walk, trot, and lope/canter both ways of the ring. One or all contestants may be asked to back and perform individual pattern at discretion of the judge.

Riders will be judged on seat, feet, hands and the ability to control the horse. No chaps and spurs are allowed. Members 14 and over may be asked to dismount and mount, English and Western attire may be worn.

These classes will be entered by your age at the 4-H year.

**Ranch Horse Level 1-4**

To enter this class, you will select the same level currently enrolled in for your county.

The pattern may consist of a basic reining pattern, trail obstacles, roping a dummy steer head while dismounted, and demonstrating ranch jobs such as vaccinating, etc. Ranch Tool ID may be included. The judge may ask questions pertaining to the project. Cattle will be used. You will be required to move, sort and hold cattle.

**Required equipment for all ranch horse levels:**

Slicker tied to saddle, lariat rope, hobbles, and halter or other available tie up gear.

**Freestyle Reining:**

1. Riders perform the following maneuvers to music, which allows them to show the athletic ability of the horse in a crowd appealing way.
2. NRHA rules will apply except when the following or 4-H rules pre-empt the same.
3. Required maneuvers will be defined as follows:
  - a) A minimum of 4 consecutive spins to the right.
  - b) A minimum of 4 consecutive spins to the left.
  - c) A minimum of 3 stops.
  - d) A minimum of 1 lead change at the canter from right to left.
  - e) A minimum of 1 lead change at the canter from left to right.
4. Additional maneuvers such as rollbacks, backups, speed variations and non-classical maneuvers such as a half pass and side pass are appropriate in freestyle and shall be given appropriate credit.

5. Exhibitors will only be judged astride.
6. Exhibitors are allowed to use two hands (as well as one or no hands) and any bit approved by the 4-H hand book.
7. Costumes and props are permitted but not required. Emphasis is placed on performing the reining maneuvers to music.
8. A maximum of 4 minutes will be allowed to present the performance.
  
9. Breaking pattern is considered a fault, not a disqualification.
10. Bridles and saddles are mandatory.
11. Music must be turned into the show office and marked appropriately by 1:00 pm the Saturday of the show.
12. A pre-chosen pattern will be used for the 10 and under short stirrup reining. Participants 10 and under may choose to either ride short stirrup or 13 and under reining.
13. There is a \$10.00 entry fee for all reining classes.
14. Be creative and have fun!