

STANISLAUS COUNTY 4-H
HORSE SHOW, GYMKHANA, AND EXHIBITING RULES
(REVISED: June 2009)

I. GENERAL RULES:

- A. 4-H, USAE, CGA (gymkhana), AQHA (showmanship) rules will apply to all competitive horse shows, trail rides, parades, team penning and sorting, or any other horse related events governed by rules.
- B. Stanislaus County Fair rules, and State rules for Division of Fairs and Expositions apply when the County Horse Show is held in conjunction with the Stanislaus County Fair. (In addition to rules in Section I A)
- C. Show management or sponsoring club reserves the right to amend rules, providing exceptions are printed on their entry form and keeping in mind the safety of our youth. All exceptions must be brought before the Stanislaus County 4-H Horse Leaders at any regular meeting, for approval.
- D. Should an exhibitor wish to file a protest regarding any approved 4-H horse show: **AN OFFICIAL PROTEST MUST be filed within 24 hours of the show, in writing, to the horse show manager. A \$25 filing fee must also be included with the written protest, which will be forfeited should a negative decision be reached.**
Note: Judge's decision cannot be protested.
- E. Grievances are to be brought before the Stanislaus County Horse Leaders' Meeting, which are usually held the first Thursday of the month at the County Ag Center. A grievance committee will be established to handle formal written protests. Said committee is to consist of the 4-H Horse Chairperson and two Horse Leaders. A third Horse Leader will be selected as an alternate. Should any committee member need to excuse him/herself from the committee, the alternate will take his/her place.

II. 4-H RULES (for any 4-H event):

- A. Safety precautions must be practiced at all times and supersedes all other rules. Good sportsmanship and conduct befitting a 4-H member is expected. Lack of control of self or horse may be grounds for dismissal from a class or event.
 - 1. Stallions, mares with foals, riding double, riding with a halter, and warming up horses outside of the practice arena is prohibited.
 - 2. (Section VI covers attire in more detail)
Boys and girls must wear long sleeved shirts. Sleeves must be rolled down with any fasteners secured. A tie, bolo, or scarf is optional, but strongly recommended. Long pants, and boots are required when exhibiting horses. A belt is required if pants have belt loops. Long pants and boots are required at all times when riding at an event, whether during competition, warming up, or pleasure riding.
 - 3. "Heels Down" type riding shoes are allowed at all 4-H Horse Events with the exception of Horse Shows and Achievement Day, subject to the discretion of the event chairperson. "Heels Down" type shoes **SHOULD NOT** replace boots, every member should have a pair of riding boots available to them.
 - 4. **PROTECTIVE HELMETS** are required of ALL riders. ALL riders are required to wear ATSM approved helmets whenever mounted.
 - 5. Only 4-H members shall participate in 4-H events. Qualified FFA members may participate at the discretion of event management.
- B. Two (2) riders may use the same horse, but only one (1) rider per discipline may compete. (Rev. 10/03)
- C. NO COACHING will be allowed while participants are being judged at a 4-H Horse show.

STANISLAUS COUNTY 4-H
HORSE SHOW, GYMKHANA, AND EXHIBITING RULES
(REVISED: June 2009)

- D. **Only 4-H members can school horses at any 4-H events. NOTE: Fair requires that only the exhibitor school his or her own horse.** No parent or adult 4-H leader may school project animals at any 4-H sponsored event. The 4-H member shall groom and care for his/her horse. Adult help is **only** permissible when the safety of the child is involved. Teen/Junior Leaders should be used to help the younger child, leaving the parent free to observe at shows/events.
- E. **VERIFICATION FORMS:** It is required that project animals have a verification form filed at the county 4-H by the March Horse Leaders' Meeting.
All project animals must be owned or leased at least 120 days before the fair.
1. A non-owner is a member who has no horse available to lease nor care for, but is registered in a horse project.
 2. All members, with the exception of the non-owner members, must have a verification form in their name for at least one horse.
 3. Leased animals are considered the same as owned and must have a verification form on file.
 4. A member may have more than one project animal registered with a verification form. Each horse must have a separate verification form on file.
 5. If the members project involves sharing a horse, both members must have a verification form on file. (10/03)
 6. Substitution of a horse without a verification form must have the approval of the county 4-H Horse Leaders Group Grievance Committee prior to the event. Any substitutions for County Fair Horse Show MUST be approved before July 1st.

III. EXHIBITOR ELIGIBILITY

- A. Exhibitor's age is the age of the child as of the previous January 1st.
- B. Exhibitors must be valid Stanislaus County 4-H Horse Project Members.
 1. **Project levels I through IV must consist of a minimum of 6 hours of book instruction and 8 hours of riding instruction to complete the horse project.** Members must attend 80% of horse project meetings, and 80% of the community club meetings.
 2. Members must maintain a horse project report. Said report must be up to date and available at all times. (10/03)
 3. Signature of Horse Project Leader is required on entry forms. This signature verifies that the entry is correct and valid and that the member is qualified for the classes that he/she has entered.
 4. Members must have a horse verification form on file for each project horse.
 5. Each exhibitor must have a responsible adult with them at any horse event.

IV. PROJECT ANIMAL

- A. Conformation of horse/pony shall not penalize the rider unless it impairs the performance of the horse. The horse/pony should be of adequate size for the rider.
- B. All participating horses should have current vaccinations. No animal with evidence of communicable disease, unsightly condition, improper hoof care, or poor health shall be allowed at 4-H events. It is recommended that the shoeing/trimming, worming, feeding, and grooming practices listed in CHA Horsemanship Manual, Horse Science, and Horse & Horsemanship books be followed.
- C. **Lameness** can be cause of dismissal from events.

V. WALK-TROT RIDERS

- A. Walk-Trot is intended for those riders who are not accomplished enough to be in a walk-trot-lope class.
- B. Members are limited to 2 years in walk-trot classes. All exceptions need

STANISLAUS COUNTY 4-H
HORSE SHOW, GYMKHANA, AND EXHIBITING RULES
(REVISED: June 2009)

to be brought before the County 4-H Horse Leaders' Meeting for discussion by the January meeting.

- C. All walk-trot riders are to be declared by their 4-H Horse Project Leader by the December Horse Leaders' Meeting. (10/03)
- D. Walk-trot riders may not lope **at any time**, this includes the warm-up arena and the parking lot. (Exception – Horse project meetings)
- E. If a walk-trot rider competes in the Level 2 , and passes, at Achievement Day, he/she is no longer eligible for walk-trot classes.

VI. TACK AND EQUIPMENT

****Special Note:** The following is Stanislaus County 4H rules only. Please refer to each county's specific rules if showing out of county. Open shows also have specific rules that are different than what is set forth in this document.

- A. 4-H uniforms (white long sleeved shirt, tie/scarf, 4-H cap, white pants, belt and boots) are recommended for showmanship, and are acceptable in Western, Gymkhana, and English classes.
- B. All Exhibitors in mounted classes must wear an approved helmet (see II A.3)
- C. Outfits must be either All English or All Western- NOT MIXED. English clothing must be worn for English classes and Western clothing must be worn for Western classes. Gymkhana may be either one or the other but not mixed.

Acceptable Western Attire:

Shirts: Long sleeved shirt with sleeves rolled down and any fasteners secured. If shirt is buttoned to top, a tie, bolo, or scarf is optional, but strongly recommended. Slinky tops are allowed with an optional tie or broach. Western V-Neck tops are allowed with an optional western style necklace.

Pants: Long pants, belt is required if the pants have belt loops.

Boots: Western style boots

Acceptable English Attire:

Shirts: Rat-catcher blouse must be long-sleeved if worn without a jacket. Short-sleeved rat-catcher blouses allowed only with a jacket. Broach is optional. Gentleman must wear a tie with English attire.

Pants: English riding pants, jodphurs, or breeches are required.

Boots: Long tall English boots, or Short English zip or lace up boot that covers the ankle) must be worn with knee-straps, or half-chaps.

- D. All tack should be clean, serviceable and safe.
- E. English and Western tack cannot be mixed while showing.
 - 1. MECHANICAL HACKAMORES may be used only in Gymkhana obstacle classes. They may NOT be used in Gymkhana Equitation classes. English Hackamores may be used only in jumper classes, NOT hunter classes.
 - 2. **Inhumane equipment is not allowed. (See USEF rule book)**
 - 3. Western horses, of any age, may show in snaffles with two hands on the reins in Stanislaus County.
 - 4. Western horses, **under the age of 5**, may show in Bosals. (NO Pencil Bosals.)
 - 5. In Western classes, with performances being equal, one hand on reins will out place two hands on reins, when using a snaffle or bosal.

**** See USEF Rule book for further details on showing, tack and equipment.**

VII. ACCIDENT/LOSS

- A. The Cooperative Extension, University of California, the 4-H Club Council and the 4-H Horse Project Leaders shall **NOT** be responsible for accidents or loss that may occur to any of the exhibitors, their family members, friends or animals at the events. The exhibitors, their parents or friends, shall hold harmless and indemnify the above against any legal proceedings arising from such accident or loss.
- B. 4-H members and leaders are covered by group 4-H accident insurance.

STANISLAUS COUNTY 4-H
HORSE SHOW, GYMKHANA, AND EXHIBITING RULES
(REVISED: June 2009)

VIII. CLUB AND COUNTY EVENTS

- A. Clubs should follow Stanislaus County 4-H Rules. All exceptions need County Horse Leaders approval and should be noted on entry form or premium list.
- B. All date of shows or events should be submitted at the monthly 4-H Horse Leaders' Meetings for approval. Please notify the County Office of all club activities.
- C. The judge's decisions are final.
- D. Whenever possible, it is recommended that pony classes be offered. Ponies must be under 14.2 Hands and be of a pony breed. Ponies cannot be cross-entered in horse classes, unless pony classes are not offered.
- E. Sharing of equipment is not recommended if such sharing will hold up the event and cause unnecessary delays.
- F. Any problems should be brought to the event chairperson's attention to insure a safe and equitable show.
- G. Events should be constructed with safety and age/ability of group taken into consideration.
- H. It is recommended that events will be to prove the rider's ability as opposed to judging the horse's ability to perform. Use equitation classes whenever possible.
- I. The first blue ribbon won at the County English/Western/Gymkhana show and Outstanding Exhibitor constitutes a County Winner. Only one medal per division will be awarded. The Outstanding Exhibitor award and when offered, High Point awards also constitute a County Winner.
- J. Clean Barn Cash Awards: \$50 for 1st place, \$35 for 2nd place, \$25 for 3rd place Paid for from Horse Project Leaders funds.
- K. Versatility Class Tack Change: Only 2 helpers are allowed in the arena during the tack/attire change.
Approved September 6, 2007

IX. ACHIEVEMENT DAY

- A. Achievement Day is usually held on a Saturday in April.
- B. The Levels shall be as follows: Entry Level, Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4. These levels were originally designed for members to take two years to pass. Entry Level and Level 1 can be skipped, however this decision is at the Horse Project Leaders discretion. Once a level is attempted, the level must be passed before a member can advance to the next level.
- C. For more information on the various levels of Achievement Day, please see the Achievement Day packet available from your 4-H Horse Leader.
- D. To pass a level, members must pass with at least a 80% score in each category: Demonstrations, Riding, and Written Test.
- E. An overall score of 95% or better will be awarded a medal and will be a County Medalist.
- F. Only one level may be attempted per year.

STANISLAUS COUNTY 4-H
HORSE SHOW, GYMKHANA, AND EXHIBITING RULES
(REVISED: June 2009)

BASIC SHOWMANSHIP GUIDELINES
(added to Horse Show Rules 1/04)

The showmanship class shall be judged strictly on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show a horse. The horse is merely a prop to demonstrate the ability and preparation of the exhibitor. Any horse, regardless of conformation, can be used and judges should not penalize exhibitors for horses that are less than desirably conformed. Note: Horse shown in showmanship must be owned (or leased) by the exhibitor and entered by the exhibitor in an appropriate performance class (As stated in *State Rules For California Fairs* rule book under Rule VII #30).

The only equipment required for the showmanship class is a halter and lead. Leg wraps and protective boots are not allowed. The halter may be made of leather or nylon and may be adorned with silver. The lead may contain a chain. The halter should be adjusted to fit snugly. A properly adjusted halter enhances the appearance of the horse's head. All buckles and straps should be run through keepers for safety and also to provide a neat appearance,. If a chain is used on the lead, it is preferable to run the chain under the jaw. The chain should be adjusted so that the excess protrudes about two to six inches from the halter. The exhibitor must lead the horse on the horse's left side holding the lead shank in the right hand near the halter with the tail of the lead loosely coiled in the left hand (**lead shank should never be tightly coiled around hand**). It is preferable that the exhibitor's hand not be on the snap or chain portion of the lead continuously. Tack should be neat, clean and in good repair.

The horse should be clean, well brushed and in good condition. The mane may be banded for Western or braided for English. The length of the mane and tail may vary as long as they are neat, clean and free of tangles. Hooves should be properly maintained. The bridle path, eyebrows, and long hair on the head and legs may be clipped.

Exhibitor should be neat, clean and dressed in the appropriate attire -- Western, English or 4-H whites (**required at some shows**). All exhibitors are required to wear a correct number that is clearly visible on their back.

The judge is required to post patterns(s) at least one hour prior to the start of the showmanship class. The following maneuvers are considered acceptable: lead the horse at a walk, jog, trot or extended trot, or back in a straight or curved line, or a combination of straight and curved lines; stop; turn 90 (1/4), 180 (1/2) 270 (3/4), 360 (full turn) degrees or any combination or multiple of these turns. The judge must have exhibitors set the horse up squarely for inspection sometime during the class.

Patterns should be designed to test the showman's ability to effectively present a horse to the judge. The age group and ability of the exhibitors should determine pattern

STANISLAUS COUNTY 4-H
HORSE SHOW, GYMKHANA, AND EXHIBITING RULES
(REVISED: June 2009)

difficulty. For example, a pattern for Advanced Exhibitors should be more difficult than a pattern for Beginning Exhibitors.

The judge may bring all exhibitors into the ring and then ask for individual works or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate. When the exhibitors are worked from the gate, a working order is required. The exhibitors should be instructed to either stay in the arena and fall into line with the other exhibitors or be excused from the arena after their work.

More information on Showmanship may be obtained from the American Quarter Horse Association official handbook (pages 207 through 212).