

# Montana State 4-H Horse Show Rule Book



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## Purposes of the 4-H Horse Program

The purposes of the Montana 4-H horse program are to help members to:

1. Develop life skills
  - Foster a positive self-image
  - Learn decision making abilities and responsibility for choices
  - Develop an inquiring mind
  - Relate to yourself and others
  - Acquire a concern for local and global communities
2. Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship and other desirable character traits.
3. Experience the pride and responsibility of having a horse and receive additional education in horse care, feeding, management and expenses.
4. Appreciate horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
5. Obtain skills in horsemanship and handling of horses.
6. Utilize safety precautions that prevent injury to the horse, rider and others.
7. Nurture greater love for animals and develop a humane attitude toward them.
8. Prepare for citizenship responsibilities by working together in groups and supporting community horse projects and activities.
9. Promote 4-H.
10. Promote the state 4-H horse project and program.
11. Promote uniformity among county horse projects.
12. Promote goals of the 4-H horse project.
13. Promote excellence in horsemanship.
14. Encourage individuals to perform to the best of their abilities.
15. Encourage and recognize horsemanship ability.
16. Set and achieve goals to the best of member's ability.
17. Provide uniformity for the horse project.

## Policies of the State 4-H Horse Show

Following are the policies and rules of the State 4-H Horse Show. Individual counties may have differing policies and rules, but the policies and rules outlined in this booklet will be followed to implement the State 4-H Horse Show.

### Definition of a Project Horse

A project horse is any horse registered with the county extension office with a completed identification card on file by the county deadline and enrolled in any established state 4-H horse project (Western/English Horsemanship, Colt to Maturity, Green Horse, or Ranch Horse project).

The horse must be assessed in the current year in the declared project(s). **Assessment** is the evaluation to keep participants progressing and ensures that it is an educational project.

**Intent:** To allow a system of easy access to identify horses, projects and other vital information for all concerned. (i.e. agents, secretaries, and leaders)

### Protective Headgear

**State 4-H Horse Helmet Policy will be enforced.** An ASTM certified/SEI approved equestrian helmet with safety harness fastened in place is required in over fence classes, gymkhana events, activities and practice sessions. Gymkhana refers to horseback speed events (timed and untimed) that do not use livestock. *Helmet use is encouraged in all 4-H activities any time a 4-H member is around a horse.*

## **Clarification of project requirements for entry into the State Horse Show:**

When entering the State 4-H Horse Show, the 4-H member must have shown their project horse in that **same** 4-H horse project class at the county level if the class is offered.

A colt in the fifth year of the Colt to Maturity may cross enter to Horsemanship Level 7 if a member has been assessed out of Horsemanship Level 6.

Stallions may not be shown in any class at the State Horse Show. A stallion is defined as a male horse of any age that has not been castrated.

The 4-H name and emblem are copyrighted, so 4-H classes are limited to Montana 4-H horse project members and must have Extension Service approval.

The State 4-H Horse Show has the approval of the Montana 4-H Center for Youth Development.

For the purposes of exhibition at the State 4-H Horse Show, horses shall be defined as light, draft, and miniature horses, ponies, mules and donkeys.

Entries are to be signed by the member's extension agent, indicating that the member is a bona fide 4-H member and the named 4-H member's horse(s) is (are) a part of the 4-H member's project work for the current year and they have been assessed into the current level.

The host county's show committee reserves the right to make changes, split classes or reassign arenas to facilitate judging. They reserve the right to cancel or combine classes.

Neither the Host County nor 4-H Center for Youth Development is liable for any accident, damage or loss of personal property, livestock, or person including travel to and from the show.

Travel to and from the show is the responsibility of the exhibitor. Exhibitors are strongly encouraged to obtain their own accident insurance for both themselves and their horses.

**Intent:** To reduce the possibility of injury to other horses, exhibitors and spectators. To give all exhibitors any equal chance of showcasing their horses and skills.

## **Vaccinations**

To help ensure healthy horses attend the State Horse Show and to reduce the chances of horse being infected by contact with other horses at the show.

- The state veterinarian recommends all horses receive WEST NILE, rhino and strangles VACCINATIONS.
- The state veterinarian recommends all horses are current on their 4 way vaccinations.

## **Judges**

Judge(s) will be selected by the Host Show Committee using the following criteria:

- Familiarity with the 4-H horse program.
- Youth orientated show experience.
- Willingness to observe State 4-H Horse Show procedures.

An alternate judge should be available in case of an emergency. Intent: To help ensure that the horse show is an educational experience for the member and helps to further develop the life skills of the member.

A separate judge may be used when more than one class is judged at a specific time. Intent: To keep the horse show's length reasonable.

Judges are to arrive prior to the show meet and review the show book at a specified time with all committee members, ring steward(s), clerks and announcers. **Intent:** To help eliminate misunderstandings, and to ensure that all understand the expectations of the state show committee.

All judging in the State 4-H Horse Show is based on the member's ability to show his/her horse. The judge is encouraged to give constructive criticism and suggestions for improvement as well as point out superior performance to exhibitors whenever possible. Placings will be posted; scores and judging sheets will be available at the show office. **Intent:** To communicate to the members where they placed within the class compared to the scores of others.

### **Equipment Stewards**

The show may have stewards who will interpret and clarify rules regarding equipment and dress. If used, stewards will be identifiable. Show management may assign all equipment and appointment eligibility to the official judge. **Intent:** To ensure that participants' equipment and clothing are within the limits prescribed by the rules and those contestants do not have unfair advantage over other contestants. To ensure that equipment is not abusive to the animals.

### **Ring Steward**

The person assisting the judge in the ring is referred to as the ring steward. Any exhibitor wishing to discuss any matter with the judge must first contact the ring steward who will then arrange such an appointment if approved by the judge. **Intent:** To provide a process whereby a member may discuss their performance with a judge.

### **4-H Ownership Policy**

All 4-H horse project animals shown by 4-H members in 4-H classes must be owned by the member or in a partnership with his or her immediate family, or the member must have access to the horse. A 4-H member must be responsible for the care of their project horse from June 1 through the State 4-H Horse Show. **Intent:** To give all members a specific time line in which to maximize their horsemanship skills with their horse(s) and to be in complete control of the project animal.

All horses in the Colt to Maturity project must be owned by the member or the member's immediate family, or the member must have access to the horse and the horse must be in continual care of the member from June 1 of the yearling year through the completion of the five-year project. **Intent:** To give all members a timeline in which to acquire their project horse. To maximize the training opportunities for the member throughout the entire five-year period. To encourage the member to do all the training of the horse(s).

**Once the horse becomes a project animal it may not receive professional training unless the member participates in that training.** **Intent:** To allow the member to gain every skill possible in all levels of "Horsemanship" and "Colt to Maturity Project" through "learning by doing." To encourage the member to assume sole responsibility for training the Colt to Maturity animal. To encourage the member to go to trainers for advice when needed, and to encourage trainers to conduct clinics for all members in a county, to further either horsemanship or training skills, and to discourage the use of trainers actually riding the project horse, except in a case where the trainer deems the safety of the member is threatened.

A horse carried as a 4-H project may be shown by more than one member of the immediate family in any one year at the State 4-H State Horse Show providing that neither the horse nor the member compete against himself or herself. If there is a conflict in schedules, for any reason, the exhibitor will have to determine in which class to participate and scratch the other. **Intent:** To recognize that the best experience is for each member to own and care for their own horse. To further recognize that there are families with more than one child that cannot afford more than one horse. To allow immediate family members the opportunity to be included in the county and state horse shows if the family cannot financially justify another horse.

## Grievance Committee

Grievance committee shall consist of: two (2) host committee members, a minimum of three (3) other State 4-H Horse Committee members and one (1) ex-officio member from the Montana 4-H center for Youth Development who will review protests. **A fee of \$25 will accompany any and all protest.**

**The exhibitor must submit all grievances in writing within 1 hour of the end of the class** or of the decision affecting the exhibitor having been made.

**Intent:** To provide an equitable process for resolving differences related to the horse show procedures. The grievance committee will supersede all other decisions. To determine authority over differences related to the horse show.

## Awards

Ribbons will be awarded to the top 8 places of the class depending on number in the class. Show management reserves the right to cancel or combine classes if less than ten (10) exhibitors are entered in a particular class.

## Fees

Registration fees, wood shavings and stall fees will be charged and specified with show registration information. All fees **must be paid** when the registration form is sent in prior to the show. Refunds will be allowed in full up to the entry deadline of the show. Refunds will be considered after the deadline based on case by case basis.

## Drugs

The State 4-H Horse Committee does not permit the use of drugs (herbal, natural or pharmaceutical) or surgical procedures which affect an animal's conformation, appearance, natural color or behavior except for treating a recognized disease or injury. **For the purpose of this code, "drug"** shall mean any substance commonly used by the medical or veterinary professions that affect the **circulatory, respiratory or central nervous systems** of an animal. Only those drugs approved and labeled for use on species-specific animals can be administered. Horses requiring any medications should be identified upon arrival at the 4-H show office. Exhibitors should be prepared to present a valid prescription or a written explanation, either or both to be signed by the animal's licensed veterinarian. If the horse requires medication or treatment after arrival at the show, any medication used to protect the health and welfare of the animal must be prescribed by a licensed veterinarian and approved at the State Horse Events Committee meeting during the state show. Administration of all medications must at all times be done in accordance with the specification and/or instructions given with the prescription. Liability for the correct administration of the prescribed drug is the responsibility of the exhibitor and exhibitor's parent or legal guardian.

## Brand Inspection

Either an annual or a lifetime brand inspection certificate, available from local State Brand Inspectors, must accompany every horse crossing county lines and be available for inspection at the State 4-H Horse Show.

## Certificate of Health Inspection

Each horse will have to be inspected by a veterinarian within 72 hours of the show. There will not be a vet on grounds at time of check in for make-up vet checks. There will be a list of veterinarians in the area at the office. Members must turn in the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection located towards the end of the exhibitor's handbook at time of check in and before they are allowed to unload.

## General Rules

Rules and policies are intended to reflect the purposes and tradition of the Montana 4-H program. Show management reserves the right to interpret the rules as necessary for issues not clearly defined herein.

1. **All horses must be exhibited in their basic project class (Western/English Horsemanship, Colt to Maturity, Green Horse, Ranch Horse project) at the State 4-H Horse Show if the class is offered. If a horse is entered in multiple classes at the State 4-H Show and the member withdraws from their basic project class, then the member forfeits all awards and premiums.**
2. Members must show in the same 4-H Horse project level at the State 4-H Show that they showed in at their county fair.
3. The judge and or ring steward will dismiss from the ring any entry that is unruly or not in sufficient control to ensure the safety of the handler and other exhibitors.
4. No person other than the exhibitors and show officials will be allowed in the ring while the show is in progress.
5. The age of the 4-H member is determined as of October 1<sup>st</sup> of the current program year. As per MSU Extension Service 4-H Youth Program Policy, eligible 4-H members included youth at the age of nine (9) during the 4-H year and less than the age of nineteen (19) as of the current program year. Showmanship, Bareback Equitation, Western and English Equitation, and Trail are to be entered according to your age.
6. Members may ride at only one level English Horsemanship and one level Western Horsemanship. If riding both Western and English, levels ridden can be the same level or only one level above or below.
7. Colt to Maturity and Green horse projects cannot cross enter in English or Western Horsemanship 1-7 projects. The exception to this rule is that Colt to Maturity 5<sup>th</sup> year may enter in English or Western Level 7, provided the member has been assessed out of Horsemanship Level 6.
8. For the purpose of determining eligibility for competition, the age of the horse shall be computed by the calendar year starting January 1 of the year foaled. (Example: a horse foaled anytime in 2011 will be termed one-year-old on January 1, 2012, two years old on January 1, 2013, etc.)
9. Members can exhibit only **one (1) horse per Class.**
10. Exhibitor's number(s) must be clearly visible.
11. Unsportsmanlike conduct, abusive language or actions and or abuse of any animal on the part of any 4-H exhibitor, parent, family member, or leader may result in penalization by forfeiture of any award received and or elimination from further competition of the 4-H member or those at fault.
12. The judge's decision in all lots shall be final.
13. Exhibitors will be listed randomly within classes. Show management or judge reserves the right to change the order of the go.
14. Exhibitors are expected to clean their own stalls. Only one horse per stall is allowed.
15. **Breaking pattern is considered a fault and not disqualification.**
16. Adults are not to ride 4-H project horses in warming up or training at any time. The member is responsible for grooming of the horse with safety being the primary concern. Violators may cause disqualification of the exhibitor.
17. Safety: Violations of these safety rules may result in disqualification.
  - Boots must be worn when riding.
  - All horses must be ridden with bridles, not halters.
  - Riding double is prohibited.
  - State helmet policy will be enforced.
  - All horses must enter the arena in a controlled manner.
  - Run irons on English Saddles.
  - Horses must be walked in all areas other than warm-up areas.
  - Riders may not pony another horse for warm up.
18. No late entries will be allowed in arena after gate is closed. A gate hold may be requested. Judge's decision is final.
19. Judges will penalize for unsoundness. The severity of penalty is at the judge's discretion.

## 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. Spurs must be worn properly.
- Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid while showing the project or showmanship classes
- Protective headgear is encouraged in all 4-H horse activities. **State helmet policy will be enforced.**

### 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. Spurs must be worn properly.
- 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

**For ALL riding classes: Unless otherwise specified, curb bits must be ridden with one hand and snaffle bits must be direct reined with two hands. See your specific levels to determine allowable bits. In classes where spurs are allowed, they must be worn and used properly. Equipment steward or judge may prohibit use of any equipment deemed severe or inhumane.**

## Judging Criteria

**All patterns will be posted at registration and arenas at least one hour prior to class time.**

### Showmanship Classes

Showmanship will be entered according to age of contestant. Classes may also be offered for Colt to Maturity/Green Horse levels. A horse may be shown in only one Showmanship Class. (For example, you may show your 4 year old Colt to Maturity horse in either Showmanship for exhibitors 14 and older or in the Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Showmanship class but not both. If that same member has another project horse, the other horse may be shown in another Showmanship class. For example, if that same member also has a Western Horsemanship Level 5 horse, that member may exhibit their Horsemanship horse in Showmanship for exhibitors 14 and older and exhibit their 4 year old Colt to Maturity horse in the Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Showmanship class.)



**Criteria:**

- |                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| 1. Showing the horse       | 50% |
| 2. Appearance of the horse | 40% |
| 3. 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 complement, not detract from the horse.

**Showing the horse:** All exhibitors will be asked to perform a pattern. 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 behind. Changing hands to back the horse is optional. 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 requirements to be met will consist of the following:

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

**Criteria:**

- |                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Performance and Manners           | 50% |
| 2. Confirmation and condition        | 25% |
| 3. Appearance of Horse and Exhibitor | 15% |
| 4. Project Knowledge                 | 10% |

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

**Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Performance Western**

Skid, splint and bell boot are optional for these classes. Use of a running martingale is optional for two, three, and four-year-olds when using a ring snaffle only. Other martingales or tie-downs are not permitted. It is suggested that martingale stops are used anytime a martingale is used with a snaffle bit. Spurs cannot be used forward of the cinch. For acceptable bits, reference the Montana State Horseshow Bit Guide. For other equipment, reference Western Horsemanship Classes.

**Criteria:**

- |                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Performance and manners of horse | 55% |
| 2. Horsemanship                     | 20% |
| 3. Appearance                       | 10% |
| 4. Project knowledge                | 15% |

**Walk:**

1. Good: ground covering, flat footed, good attitude
2. Minor faults: too slow, too fast
3. Major faults: nervous, jiggling, not walking

**Jog:**

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

**Lope: (cannot extend)**

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

**Extended Jog:**

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

**Back:**

1. Good: proper flexion, readily responsive, back in straight line
2. Minor faults: hesitant, not backing straight
3. Major faults: throwing head, gaping, pulling, not backing, rearing

**General**

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

**Two-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 1-Western**

Open to two-year-old fillies and geldings enrolled in the 2-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 1. Animal will show with a ring snaffle bit or a rawhide hackamore (bosal). Any shank bit is not permitted. 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:

1. Halt (not a sliding stop) from the walk
2. Dismount and mount
3. Back while mounted
4. Perform individual tasks

**Three-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 2- Western**

Open to three-year-old mares and geldings enrolled in the 3-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 2. You may use the same bit as the 2-Year-Old/Green Horse 1 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 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 Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 3- Western**

Open to four-year-old mares and geldings enrolled in the 4-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 3. If a contestant desires to use a curb bit, one hand must 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 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.

#### **Five-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 4- Western**

Open to five-year-old mares and geldings enrolled in the 5-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 4. Horses must be neck reined and shown in a curb bit only, using one hand. 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.

#### **Two Year Old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 1- Western**

##### **Required Abilities:**

- Demonstrate proper bridling and unbridling.
- Demonstrate proper saddling and unsaddling.
- Back horse at least one horse length while mounted, exhibiting control and proper horse response.
- Demonstrate proper mounting and dismounting with horse standing still.
- Ride your horse at a walk, jog and lope with recognition of proper leads.
- Transition from a walk to a jog to a lope back to a trot to a walk to a stop.
- Demonstrate an extended walk while mounted.
- Ride pattern as determined by show committee.
- Maintained equipment in good working condition.
- Demonstrates knowledge of basic nutrition, management, horse anatomy and equipment.

#### **Three Year Old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 2- Western**

##### **Required Abilities:**

- Ride your horse at a walk, jog, lope, and stop on the rail with correct leads.
- Stop horse from a walk, jog, and lope.
- Back horse with balance and control.
- Demonstrate simple lead changes both directions.
- Perform forehand turns to the left and right (180 degrees).
- Perform turn to the left and right on the hindquarter (180 degrees).
- Demonstrate an extended jog while mounted.
- Ride pattern as determined by show committee.
- Demonstrates knowledge of basic nutrition, management, horse anatomy and equipment.

#### **Four Year Old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 3- Western**

##### **Required Abilities:**

- Side-pass horse to left and right at a walk for at least 6 feet.
- Back horse in a "L" with balance and control.
- Exhibit a complete controlled stop from lope.
- Lope horse in designated correct lead starting from a standstill.
- Perform forehand turns to the left and right (360 degrees).
- Perform turn to the left and right on the hindquarter (360 degrees).
- Demonstrate simple lead changes in both directions.
- Demonstrate an extended lope while mounted.
- Ride pattern as determined by show committee.
- Continue to grow and demonstrate knowledge of equipment, management, nutrition and anatomy.

#### **Five Year Old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 4- Western**

##### **Required Abilities:**

- Explain and demonstrate a proper flying lead change both directions.

- Demonstrate smooth and fluid neck reining at a walk, jog, and lope.
- Describe how to execute a smooth roll back in progression and then demonstrate.
- Execute a smooth, balanced stop at a walk, jog, and lope.
- Demonstrate two consecutive 360 degree spins both directions demonstrating correctness.
- Demonstrate an extended walk, jog, and lope while mounted.
- Ride a designated pattern that comprises all maneuvers in the assessments.
- Continue to grow and demonstrate knowledge of equipment, management, nutrition and anatomy.

## **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 (See exception in General Rules #7).

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. Touching your reins with your free hand will be a deduction. Flat chain curb straps or flat leather curb straps ½ inch or wider are required with a curb or shank bit of any kind. See Montana State Horseshow bit guide at the end of this book for bit requirements. Horses shall not be shown with artificial appliances that would tend to alter their performance.

### **Criteria:**

- |                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. Horsemanship           | 40% |
| 2. Performance of pattern | 40% |
| 3. Appearance             | 10% |
| 4. Project knowledge      | 10% |

**Rider position:** 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 abilities:**

- Catch and properly fit a halter on a horse.
- Explain and demonstrate how to safely and properly lead a horse.
- Safely back the horse from the ground.
- Demonstrate where and how to tie a horse safely. Give some examples of what are unsuitable (unsafe) places or objects to tie a horse to.
- Demonstrate a pre-riding grooming and explain why it is important to always groom your horse before saddling him/her.
- Help safely bridle and unbridle a horse (members may need assistance).
- Help safely saddle and unsaddle a horse (members may need assistance).
- Show how to check the tack before mounting and explain the reasons for doing so.
- Safely mount and dismount (some members may need assistance).
- Explain and show proper body position when riding.
- Show how to correctly hold the reins.
- Show turns to the left and to the right while your horse is walking.
- Show turns to the left and to the right while your horse is trotting.
- Back your horse while mounted, 5 steps.
- While guiding your horse around the arena move from a walk to a trot and back to the walk. Demonstrate both directions of the arena.
- Stop your horse from a walk.
- Stop your horse from the trot.
- Ride your horse in a figure 8 pattern at the walk.
- Ride your horse in a figure 8 pattern at the trot.
- Explain and demonstrate what you would do if your horse were running away with you.
- While watching a horse being ridden at the trot, identify whether the rider is posting (rising) the trot or sitting the trot.
- While watching a horse at a lope, identify which lead it is in.

### **Western Horsemanship Level 2**

#### **Required abilities:**

- Explain and demonstrate the proper riding position while sitting on your horse and at the walk.
- While guiding your horse around the arena move from a walk to a trot and to a lope (canter), back to a trot than a walk. Demonstrate both directions of the arena.
- Demonstrate a posting (rising) trot, showing the posting rhythm, both directions of the arena.
- Describe and demonstrate how to correctly cue for a lope on the left lead.
- Describe and demonstrate how to correctly cue for a lope on the right lead.
- Lope a circle to the left, without breaking gait. (Horse may be on either lead.)
- Lope a circle to the right, without breaking gait. (Horse may be on either lead.)
- Show a balanced stop from a walk.
- Stop from a jog/trot.
- Stop from a lope. (Rider may need to trot a couple steps when stopping.)
- Back 6 steps while mounted.
- Turn 90 degrees to the left on the hindquarter.
- Turn 90 degrees to the right on the hindquarter.
- Turn 90 degrees to the left on the forehand.
- Turn 90 degrees to the right on the forehand.
- Demonstrate how properly to neck rein your horse to the left and to the right.

- Demonstrate how to pick up the front feet on a horse.
- Demonstrate how to tie a quick release knot.

### **Western Horsemanship Level 3**

#### **Required abilities:**

- Demonstrate proper riding position at the walk and trot.
- While guiding your horse around the arena demonstrate the difference between a jog and a trot.
- At the jog/trot ride your horse in a straight line, turn left around a marker and return in a straight line, without breaking gait.
- At the jog/trot ride your horse in a straight line, turn right around a marker and return in a straight line, without breaking gait.
- While guiding your horse at the trot in a circle to the left, demonstrate a posting (rising) right diagonal.
- While guiding your horse at the trot in a circle to the right, demonstrate a posting (rising) left diagonal.
- Demonstrate how to correctly cue your horse to lope on the left lead. While maintaining roundness of the circle, lope 2 circles to the left on the left lead, without breaking gait.
- Demonstrate how to correctly cue your horse to lope on the right lead. While maintaining roundness of the circle, lope 2 circles to the right on the right lead, without breaking gait.
- Lope a figure 8 pattern showing a drop to trot lead change in the center of the pattern.
- From a trot demonstrate a balanced stop.
- While mounted, back your horse in a straight line for 10 steps.
- Turn 180 degrees to the left on the hindquarter.
- Turn 180 degrees to the right on the hindquarter.
- Turn 180 degrees to the left on the forehand.
- Turn 180 degrees to the right on the forehand.
- Sidepass to the left 6 steps (or three crossovers).
- Sidepass to the right 6 steps (or three crossovers). Demonstrate how to pick-up the hind feet of a horse.
- Demonstrate how to pick-up the hind feet of a horse.
- Explain how to tell if a horse needs to have its feet trimmed.

### **Western Horsemanship Level 4**

#### **Required abilities:**

- Demonstrate how to lunge your horse in a controlled manner in each gait.
- Demonstrate how to measure the seat of your Western saddle.
- Measure your horse and tell how tall he/she is and determine the average weight.
- Demonstrate giving at the poll.
- Demonstrate proper riding position in a walk, jog and lope.
- While mounted, back your horse in a square.
- Demonstrate how to extend your horse's stride at a walk.
- Demonstrate how to collect your horse's stride at a walk.
- Walk to marker A, lope a straight a line to B and stop.
- From a lope, perform a balanced stop.
- While riding a serpentine, change diagonals with the emphasis on recognition of the correct diagonal in the right place.
- Demonstrate loping a left lead, rollback to the right and lope off in the correct lead.
- Turn 360 degrees to the right on the hindquarter.
- Turn 360 degrees to the left on the hindquarter.
- Turn 360 degrees to the right on the forehand.
- Turn 360 degrees to the left on the forehand.
- Teach a younger member a new skill. What was the new skill?

### **Western Horsemanship Level 5**

#### **Required abilities:**

- Demonstrate how to properly fit your Western saddle to your horse.
- Demonstrate a drop to jog lead change in a straight line.

- Drop stirrups and ride as instructed on the rail.
- While walking a circle, demonstrate hip in going both directions.
- While walking a circle, demonstrate hip out going both directions.
- Demonstrate two consecutive 360 degree spins to the left.
- Demonstrate two consecutive 360 degree spins to the right.
- Demonstrate how to extend your horse's stride at a jog.
- Demonstrate how to collect your horse's stride at a jog.
- Counter canter a left circle. Counter canter a right circle.
- From marker A demonstrate a lead departure on a straight line from a stop.
- Name five moving parts of the horse and demonstrate how to move each part.
- Teach a younger member a new skill. What was the new skill?

### **Western Horsemanship Level 6**

#### **Required abilities:**

- Explain and show the different types teeth of your horse; molars, incisors, canines and wolf teeth if present or approximate location.
- While mounted, back a balanced 10 ft. circle.
- Demonstrate how to extend your horse's stride at a lope.
- Demonstrate how to collect your horse's stride at a lope.
- Demonstrate four consecutive spins with correctness to the left.
- Demonstrate four consecutive spins with correctness to the right.
- With stirrups dropped, lope a left circle demonstrating a balanced position.
- With stirrups dropped, lope a right circle demonstrating a balanced position.
- Demonstrate a gallop and explain the difference between it and a lope.
- Ride a figure eight executing a flying lead change to the left.
- Ride a figure eight executing a flying lead change to the right.
- Teach a younger member a new skill. What was the new skill?

### **Western Horsemanship Level 7**

Exhibitors in Level 7 will demonstrate their riding ability with a pattern they design. Patterns are to be mailed in with State Horse Show registration. Patterns will be scored by the judge and awarded points based on legibility, neatness, and ability to be executed. Below are requirements needed to be included in a pattern that the exhibitor designs. Other additional maneuvers may be added. This pattern may consist of costumes for exhibitor and horse and may be choreographed to music and may use props. Set up time, performance of pattern, and tear down time not to exceed 5 minutes. The intent is to show the knowledge and horsemanship abilities that you have gained by completing all 6 levels. **Western patterns should follow a horsemanship-style pattern.**

#### **Required maneuvers:**

- Flying lead change performed in both directions
- 4 consecutive spins to the right and left
- Counter canter both directions
- Rollback each direction
- Backing
- Demonstrate how to extend your horses stride in the jog and lope
- Lead departure from a stop

## **Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Performance-English**

Use of a running martingale or German Olympic martingale is optional for two, three, and four-year-olds when using a ring snaffle only, but are not mandatory. Other martingales or tie-downs are not permitted. It is suggested that martingale stops are used anytime a martingale is used with a snaffle bit. Spurs cannot be used forward of the cinch. For acceptable bits, reference the Montana State Horseshow Bit Guide. For other equipment, reference English Horsemanship Classes.

### **Criteria:**

- |                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Performance       | 55% |
| 2. Horsemanship      | 20% |
| 3. Appearance        | 10% |
| 4. 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 too high or too low to throw horse out of balance, improper or incomplete appointments.

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

## **Two-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 1- English**

Open to two-year-old fillies and geldings enrolled in the 2-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or to horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 1. Animal will show with a D or O ring snaffle bit (Shank bits are not permitted). 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:

1. Halt (not a sliding stop) from the walk
2. Dismount and mount
3. Back while mounted
4. Perform individual task

## **Three-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 2- English**

Open only to three year old mares and geldings enrolled in the 3 Year Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or to horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 2. Horses will be shown in a D or O ring snaffle bit. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may also be judged on the rail.



### **Four-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 3- English**

Open to four-year-old mares and geldings enrolled in the 4-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or to horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 3. Horses will be shown in a D or O ring snaffle bit or Kimberwick. Bit converters are acceptable equipment. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may also be judged on the rail.

### **Five-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 4- English**

Open to five-year-old mares and geldings enrolled in the 5-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or to horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 4. Horses will be shown in a Pelham, Weymouth, or Kimberwick bit or English snaffle. 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.

### **Two Year Old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 1- English**

#### **Required Abilities:**

- Demonstrate proper bridling and unbridling.
- Demonstrate proper saddling and unsaddling.
- Back horse at least one horse length while mounted, exhibiting control and proper horse response.
- Demonstrate proper mounting and dismounting with horse standing still.
- Ride your horse at a walk, trot and canter with recognition of proper leads.
- Transition from a walk to a trot to a canter back to a trot to a walk to a halt.
- Demonstrate an extended walk while mounted.
- Ride pattern as determined by show committee.
- Maintained equipment in good working condition.
- Demonstrates knowledge of basic nutrition, management, horse anatomy and equipment.

### **Three Year Old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 2- English**

#### **Required Abilities:**

- Ride your horse at a walk, trot, canter, and halt on the rail with correct leads.
- Halt horse from a walk, trot, and canter.
- Back horse with balance and control.
- Demonstrate simple lead changes both directions.
- Perform forehand turns to the left and right (180 degrees).
- Perform turn to the left and right on the hindquarter (180 degrees).
- Demonstrate an extended trot while mounted.
- Ride pattern as determined by show committee.
- Demonstrates knowledge of basic nutrition, management, horse anatomy and equipment.

### **Four Year Old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 3- English**

#### **Required Abilities:**

- Half-pass horse to left and right at a walk for at least 6 feet.
- Back horse in a "L" with balance and control.
- Exhibit a complete controlled halt from canter.
- Canter horse in designated correct lead starting from a standstill.
- Perform forehand turns to the left and right (360 degrees).
- Perform turn to the left and right on the hindquarter (360 degrees).
- Demonstrate simple lead changes in both directions.
- Demonstrate a hand gallop while mounted.
- Ride pattern as determined by show committee.
- Continue to grow and demonstrate knowledge of equipment, management, nutrition and anatomy.

## **Five Year Old Under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 4- English**

### **Required Abilities:**

- Explain and demonstrate a proper flying lead change both directions.
- Demonstrate and explain two point position at a trot.
- Execute a smooth, balanced halt from a walk, trot, and canter.
- Demonstrate two consecutive 360 degree hind quarter turns both directions demonstrating correctness.
- Demonstrate an extended walk, trot, and canter while mounted.
- Ride a designated pattern that comprises all maneuvers in the assessments.
- Continue to grow and demonstrate knowledge of equipment, management, nutrition and anatomy.

### **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 (See exception under General Rules #7).

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. See Montana State Horseshow bit guide at the end of this book for bit requirements.

#### **Criteria:**

- |                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. Horsemanship           | 40% |
| 2. Performance of pattern | 40% |
| 3. Appearance             | 10% |
| 4. Project knowledge      | 10% |

**Hunter Type Position:** 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:** 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 the 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:**

1. **Walk:** slight motion in saddle
2. **Trot:** slight elevation in saddle rising, hips under body not mechanical up and down or swinging forward and backward.
3. **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.

**English Horsemanship Level 1**

**Required abilities:**

- Catch and properly fit a halter on a horse.
- Explain and demonstrate how to safely and properly lead a horse.
- Safely back the horse from the ground.
- Demonstrate where and how to tie a horse safely. Give some examples of what are unsuitable (unsafe) places or objects to tie a horse to.
- Demonstrate a pre-riding grooming and explain why it is important to always groom your horse before saddling him/her.
- Help safely bridle and unbridle a horse (members may need assistance).
- Help safely saddle and unsaddle a horse (members may need assistance).
- Show how to check the tack before mounting and explain the reasons for doing so.
- Safely mount and dismount (some members may need assistance).
- Explain and show proper body position when riding.
- Show how to correctly hold the reins.
- Show turns to the left and to the right while your horse is walking.
- Show turns to the left and to the right while your horse is trotting.
- Back your horse while mounted, 5 steps.
- While guiding your horse around the arena move from a walk to a trot and back to the walk. Demonstrate both directions of the arena.
- Stop your horse from a walk and stop your horse from the trot.
- Ride your horse in a figure 8 pattern at the walk.
- Ride your horse in a figure 8 pattern at the trot.
- Explain and demonstrate what you would do if your horse were running away with you.
- While watching a horse being ridden at the trot, identify whether the rider is posting (rising) the trot or sitting the trot.
- While watching a horse at a canter, identify which lead it is in.

**English Horsemanship Level 2**

**Required abilities:**

- Explain and demonstrate the proper riding position while sitting on your horse and at the walk.
- While guiding your horse around the arena move from a walk to a trot and to a canter, back to a trot than a walk. Demonstrate both directions of the arena.
- Demonstrate a posting (rising) trot, showing the posting rhythm, both directions of the arena.
- Describe and demonstrate how to correctly cue for a canter on the left lead.
- Describe and demonstrate how to correctly cue for a canter on the right lead.
- Canter a circle to the left, without breaking gait. (Horse may be on either lead.)
- Canter a circle to the right, without breaking gait. (Horse may be on either lead.)

- Show a balanced stop from a walk.
- Stop from a jog/trot.
- Stop from a canter. (Rider may need to trot a couple steps when stopping.)
- Back 6 steps while mounted.
- Turn 90 degrees to the left on the hindquarter.
- Turn 90 degrees to the right on the hindquarter.
- Turn 90 degrees to the left on the forehand.
- Turn 90 degrees to the right on the forehand.
- Demonstrate how properly to neck rein your horse to the left and to the right.
- Demonstrate how to pick up the front feet on a horse.
- Demonstrate how to tie a quick release knot.

### **English Horsemanship Level 3**

#### **Required abilities:**

- Demonstrate proper riding position at the walk and trot.
- While guiding your horse around the arena demonstrate the difference between a jog and a trot.
- At the jog/trot ride your horse in a straight line, turn left around a marker and return in a straight line, without breaking gait.
- At the jog/trot ride your horse in a straight line, turn right around a marker and return in a straight line, without breaking gait.
- While guiding your horse at the trot in a circle to the left, demonstrate a posting (rising) right diagonal.
- While guiding your horse at the trot in a circle to the right, demonstrate a posting (rising) left diagonal.
- Demonstrate how to correctly cue your horse to canter on the left lead. While maintaining roundness of the circle, canter 2 circles to the left on the left lead, without breaking gait.
- Demonstrate how to correctly cue your horse to canter on the right lead. While maintaining roundness of the circle, canter 2 circles to the right on the right lead, without breaking gait.
- Canter a figure 8 pattern showing a drop to trot lead change in the center of the pattern.
- From a trot demonstrate a balanced stop.
- While mounted, back your horse in a straight line for 10 steps.
- Turn 180 degrees to the left on the hindquarter.
- Turn 180 degrees to the right on the hindquarter.
- Turn 180 degrees to the left on the forehand.
- Turn 180 degrees to the right on the forehand.
- Sidepass to the left 6 steps (or three crossovers) and Sidepass to the right 6 steps (or three crossovers).
- Demonstrate how to pick-up the hind feet of a horse.
- Explain how to tell if a horse needs to have its feet trimmed.

### **English Horsemanship Level 4**

#### **Required abilities:**

- Demonstrate how to lunge your horse in a controlled manner in each gait.
- Demonstrate how to measure the seat of your English saddle.
- Measure your horse and tell how tall he/she is and determine the average weight.
- Demonstrate proper riding position in a walk, trot and canter.
- While mounted, back your horse in a square.
- Demonstrate giving at the poll.
- While riding a serpentine, change diagonals with emphasis on the recognition of the correct diagonal in the right place.
- Walk to marker A, canter a straight a line to B, and halt.
- From a canter, demonstrate a balanced halt.
- Demonstrate leg yield to the left.
- Demonstrate leg yield to the right.
- Demonstrate how to extend your horse's stride at a walk.
- Demonstrate how to collect your horse's stride at a walk.

- Turn 360 degrees to the right on the hindquarter.
- Turn 360 degrees to the left on the hindquarter.
- Turn 360 degrees to the right on the forehand.
- Turn 360 degrees to the left on the forehand.
- Demonstrate and explain a free walk and its importance.
- Teach a younger member a new skill. What was the new skill?

### **English Horsemanship Level 5**

#### **Required abilities:**

- Demonstrate how to properly fit your English saddle to your horse.
- Demonstrate a drop to trot lead change in a straight line.
- Drop irons and ride as instructed on the rail.
- Counter canter a left circle. Counter canter a right circle.
- Demonstrate how to extend your horse's stride at a working trot.
- Demonstrate how to collect your horse's stride at a working trot.
- Demonstrate haunches in.
- Demonstrate and explain a half halt.
- With dropped irons, demonstrate a sitting trot with a basic balanced position.
- From marker A demonstrate a lead departure on a straight line from a halt.
- Demonstrate a two track at a walk across the arena.
- Name five moving parts of the horse and demonstrate how to move each part.
- Teach a younger member a new skill. What was the new skill?

### **English Horsemanship Level 6**

#### **Required abilities:**

- Explain and show the different types teeth of your horse; molars, incisors, canines and wolf teeth if present or approximate location.
- While mounted, back a balanced 10 ft. circle.
- Demonstrate how to extend your horse's stride at a canter.
- Demonstrate how to collect your horse's stride at a canter.
- With irons dropped, demonstrate a rising trot in a right circle.
- With irons dropped, demonstrate a rising trot in a left circle.
- With irons dropped, canter a left round circle.
- With irons dropped, canter a right round circle.
- Demonstrate and explain a two-point position at a trot.
- Demonstrate a hand gallop and explain the difference between it and a canter.
- Ride your horse in a figure eight executing a flying lead change to the left.
- Ride your horse in a figure eight executing a flying lead change to the right.
- Teach a younger member a new skill. What was the new skill?

### **English Horsemanship Level 7**

Exhibitors in Level 7 will demonstrate their riding ability with a pattern they design. Patterns are to be mailed in with State Horse Show registration. Patterns will be scored by the judge and awarded points based on legibility, neatness, and ability to be executed. Below are requirements needed to be included in exhibitor's pattern design, other additional maneuvers may be added. This pattern may consist of costumes for exhibitor and horse, and may be choreographed to music and use props. Set up time, performance of pattern, and tear down time not to exceed 5 minutes. The intent is to show the knowledge and horsemanship abilities gained by completing all 6 levels. **English patterns should follow a dressage-style test.**

#### **Required maneuvers:**

- Flying lead change performed in both directions
- Demonstrate how to extend your horses stride in the trot and canter
- Backing

- Counter canter both directions
- Leg yield
- Demonstrate knowledge of the correct diagonal
- Hand gallop

### **Ranch Horse Levels 1-4**

Ranch Horse classes may take place during the State 4-H Horse Show or at a separate State 4-H Ranch Horse event. To enter these classes, you will select the same level you showed in at your county fair and that you are assessed. Exhibitors must use only one horse for all sections of Ranch Horse Competition. Working Ranch Horse will follow the Montana State Horse Project Bit Rules. Romel, roping and split reins are legal. Martingales and tie-downs are not allowed. Saddles must be of western type and have a horn. Mule hide, latigo, elk hide or basic leather or rubber are suggestions for horn coverings. Leather gives better when dallied than rubber, and is suggested more for younger members learning how to rope cows. Rubber bites harder on rope and gives a better grip when dragging cows.

### **Attire**

- The 4-H Working Ranch Horse Program is a western event and participants should dress accordingly.
- Boots - Boots should be of western type with a heel, and should not have thick rubber soles that could cause a foot to stick in the stirrup.
- Jeans and shirts - Jeans and shirts should be of western style. Shirts should be button down with a collar and long sleeves. Jeans should be made of denim and of an appropriate color.
- Hats - Hats must be western. No ball caps.
- Accessories - Neck rags, vests, chaps, chinks or other appropriate accessories are acceptable.

Refer to the Working Ranch Horse project book for more information.

### **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 age of contestant.

### **Western Equitation**

Classes to be judged at a walk, trot, and lope both ways of the ring. Walk-Trot Equitation class will be judged at a walk and trot only 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. The loping classes will be entered according to age of contestant. Walk-Trot is open to Horsemanship 1 members only, regardless of age. Contestants in Walk-Trot may not cross enter into loping classes. Classes may also be offered for Colt to Maturity/Green Horse levels. A horse may be shown in only one Western Equitation Class. (For example, you may show your 4 year old Colt to Maturity horse in either Western Equitation for exhibitors 14 and older or in the Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Equitation class but not both. If that same member has another project horse, the other horse may be shown in another Western Equitation class. For example, if that same member also has a Western Horsemanship Level 5 horse, that member may exhibit their Horsemanship horse in Western Equitation for exhibitors 14 and older and exhibit their 4 year old Colt to Maturity horse in the Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Equitation class.)

## **English Equitation**

Classes to be judged at a walk trot and canter both ways of the ring. Walk-Trot Equitation will be judged at a walk and trot only 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. Canter classes will be entered according to age of contestant. Walk-Trot is open to Horsemanship 1 members only, regardless of age. Walk-Trot contestants may not cross-enter into cantering classes. Classes may also be offered for Colt to Maturity/Green Horse levels. A horse may be shown in only one English Equitation Class. (For example, you may show your 4 year old Colt to Maturity horse in either English Equitation for exhibitors 14 and older or in the Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Equitation class but not both. If that same member has another project horse, the other horse may be shown in another English Equitation class. For example, if that same member also has a English Horsemanship Level 5 horse, that member may exhibit their Horsemanship horse in English Equitation for exhibitors 14 and older and exhibit their 4 year old Colt to Maturity horse in the Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Equitation class.)

## **Trail Class**

1. All trail class horses will have opportunity to complete their class.
2. All trail classes will be entered by the age of your 4-H year and your enrollment at your county.
3. There will be separate courses for each trail class.
4. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse in maneuvering the obstacles.
5. The horse should work with a reasonable loose rein without undue restraint.
6. Six or more obstacles will be used, of which three will be mandatory and others selected from an approved list.
7. The distance between obstacles shall be at the discretion of the judge.
8. English or Western tack and attire may be used.

## **Mandatory Obstacles:**

1. **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.
2. **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 lope-overs 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 lope-overs should be as follows or increments thereof:
  - A. 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.
  - B. The spacing for trot overs shall be 3' to 3'6" (90cm-105cm) and may be elevated to 8" (20cm).
  - C. The spacing for lope-overs shall be 6' to 7' (1.8-2.1 meters) or increments thereof, and may be elevated to 8" (20 cm).
3. **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.
  - A. Back through and around at least three (3) markers.
  - B. Back through "L," "V," "U," straight or similar shaped course. May be elevated no more than 24".

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

1. Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slick bottom boxes will be used.
2. Serpentine obstacles at walk or jog. Spacing to be a minimum of 6' (1.8 meters) for jog.
3. Carry object from one part of arena to another. (only objects which might reasonably be carried on a trail ride may be used.)
4. 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.

5. Put on and remove a slicker.
6. Side pass (may be elevated to 12" (30cm) maximum).
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. A combination of two or more of any obstacles is acceptable.

### **Unacceptable obstacles**

1. Animals
2. Jumps
3. Logs or poles elevated in a manner permitting them to roll.
4. Hides
5. Rocking or moving bridges
6. PVC pipe
7. Fire extinguishers
8. Ground ties
9. 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, and backing element.

Obstacles will not be raised (trot-overs and bridge).

#### **Criteria:**

- |                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Conditioning and conformation | 20% |
| 2. Handling/ Course Completion   | 80% |

### **Western Games: Riders must be entered in Horsemanship Level 3 or above to enter this class.**

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.

**RIDERS MUST START RUN AFTER INSIDE OF ARENA AND GATE IS CLOSED. (NO RUN INS) AND 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 or chains are allowed. Horse's mouth may not be tied shut in anyway. Rider must use specific project horse, and colt to maturity horses 4 and under cannot be used for western games or Green Horse Level 3 and under.

### **Equipment:**

1. Western saddle with horn.
2. Bits will follow the Montana State bit guide.

If participants have questions on if 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:**

1. Boots.
2. Approved helmet.

### **Optional attire:**



1. Shin
2. Gloves
3. Chaps and Spurs

### **Hunter Hack Class**

The class is ridden English style. **Level 1 members cannot enter.** The rider will need to demonstrate the following:

1. Rail work
2. Back the horse up
3. Have light contact with horse's mouth
4. Stand quietly on free rein
5. The horse should have free movement and manners
6. May be asked to hand gallop
7. May be asked to drop irons
8. Horse and rider should demonstrate style over fence
9. Horse should have an even hunting pace
10. Horse should jump fences without interrupting rhythm
11. Horse should jump at the center of the fence.
12. Cavaletties are used for correct stride
13. The jump height for Juniors should be within the range of 16-20 inches, with a recommended height of 18 inches. The jump height for Seniors should be within the range of 22-30 inches, with a recommended height of 24 inches.

### **Freestyle Reining: For those exhibitors in Horsemanship Level 4 and up.**

1. Riders must perform the following maneuvers to music, which allows them to show the athletic ability of the horse while showing reining control and style in a crowd appealing way.
2. Failure to perform required maneuvers or failure to complete the performance within the time limit will result in an appropriate point deduction.
3. Exhibitors are allowed to use two hands as well as one or no hands at any time during the class without any penalty to the rider.
4. Riders need to include the **minimum** required pattern maneuvers below:
  - 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 the right to left.
  - e. A minimum of **1** lead change at the canter from the left to right.
  - f. A minimum of **1** backup.
5. Additional maneuvers such as rollbacks, speed variations and non-Classical maneuvers such as a half pass and side pass are appropriate in the freestyle and shall be given appropriate credit.
6. Exhibitors will only be judged astride.
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. **4-H approved bridles and saddles are mandatory.**
10. Music must be turned into the show office and marked appropriately by 9:00 A.M. Saturday morning. Format must be in MP3 or on a CD. **It is the Exhibitor's responsibility to pick up their music from the announcer's stand immediately following the class.**
11. Show management will reserve the right to rule on music or dress, which may be inappropriate or offensive to the spirit and nature of the show.

### **Short stirrup reining: Horsemanship Level 2 & 3**

**There will be one Short Stirrup Reining class offered for exhibitors in Horsemanship Level 2 & 3 combined.**

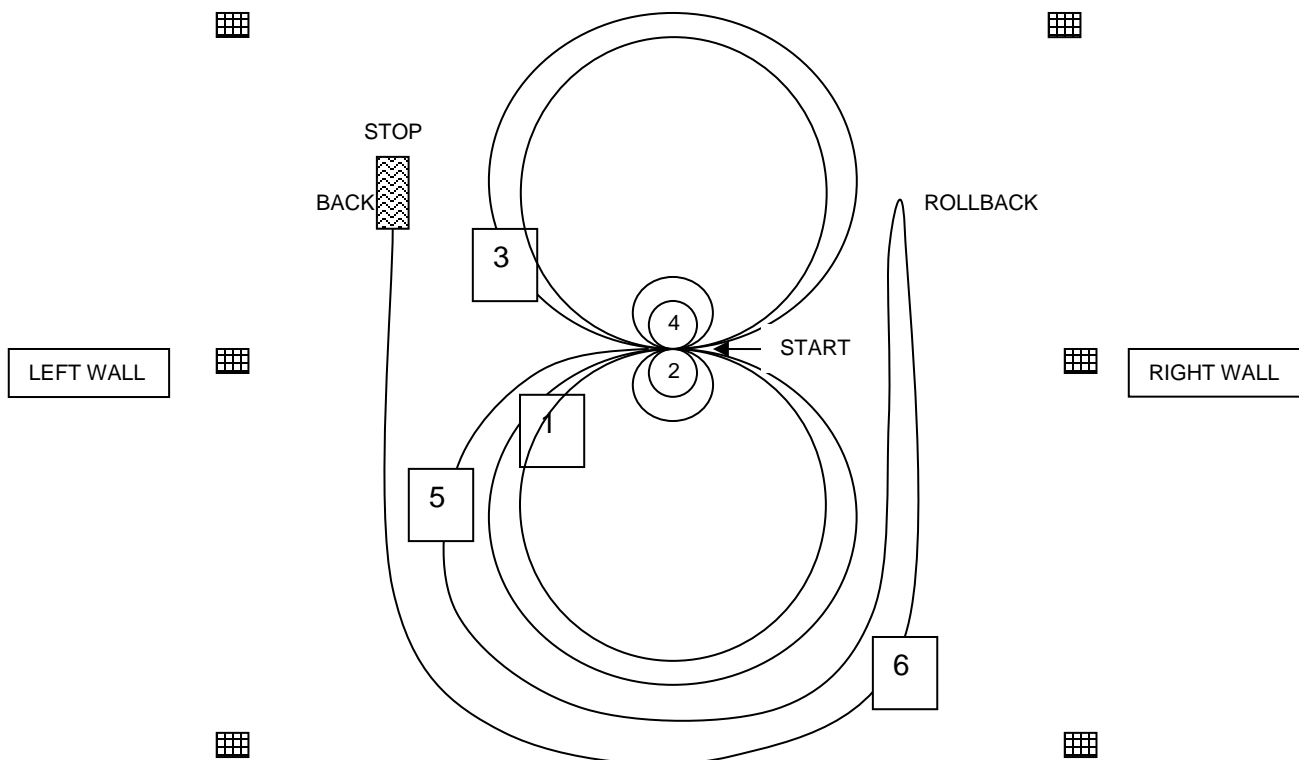
1. Riders will perform a pre-chosen pattern.
2. Exhibitors are allowed to use one or two hands and can change hands at any time during the class without any penalty to the rider.
3. Failure to perform required maneuvers or failure to complete the performance will result in an appropriate point deduction.
4. Exhibitors will only be judged astride
5. Costumes and props are permitted but not required.
6. **4-H approved bridles and saddles are mandatory.**
7. Music must be turned into the show office and marked appropriately by 12:00 p.m. on Friday. Format must be in MP3 or on a CD.
8. Show management will reserve the right to rule on music or dress, which may be inappropriate or offensive to the spirit and nature of the show.
9. A maximum of 3 minutes will be allowed to present the performance.

### **Short Stirrup Reining Pattern: Horsemanship Level 2 & 3**

*Exhibitors can choose to perform with music and/or costume, or without.*

Horses may walk or trot to center. Horses must stop or walk before starting pattern, beginning at the center of the arena facing the left wall or fence.

1. Beginning to the left, complete one slow circle to the right at a lope, then one faster circle. Stop at center.
2. Complete 2 spins to the left.
3. Beginning to the right, complete one slow circle to the right at a lope, then one faster circle. Stop at center.
4. Complete 2 spins to the right.
5. Beginning to the left, go around the end of the arena at a lope. Lope down the right side of the arena past the center marker, stop and roll back.
6. Continue around the end of the arena, lope down the left side past the center marker.
7. Stop.
8. Back up.



# MONTANA STATE HORSE PROJECT BIT RULE EXAMPLES

The following pages are guidelines of the rules stated in the **Montana State Horse Show rule book**. The pictures show examples of bits that are acceptable (✓), are not allowed (⊘), or may or may not be acceptable (?) depending on a measurement that cannot be judged by the picture. Understand that this supplement gives only some *examples* of legal and unacceptable bits. **In no way does it try to include every bit that is allowed or not allowed.**

## WESTERN DIVISION

### WESTERN AND SPEED EVENT BITS

References to hackamore mean the use of a non-mechanical, flexible, braided rawhide or leather, or rope bosal, the core of which may be either rawhide or flexible cable. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered.



Rawhide bosal



Easy/Fast Stop



Fast Stop



Mechanical Hackamore

Rigid material under Not flexible material



Would have to measure  $\geq 5/16"$



Connect bar should meet measurements described.



Not smooth



Not smooth



Not smooth



Connective bar would have to meet measurements described.



Wire wrapped; not smooth.

Reference to snaffle bits in western performance classes mean the conventional O-ring, egg-butt or D-ring with ring no larger than 4". The mouthpiece should be round, oval, or egg-shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal. It may be inlaid, but must be smooth. The bars must be a minimum of 5/16" diameter, measured one inch in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to center of the snaffle. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, loose connecting ring of 3/4" or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 2"), which lies flat in the horse's mouth is acceptable.



O-ring



Egg-butt



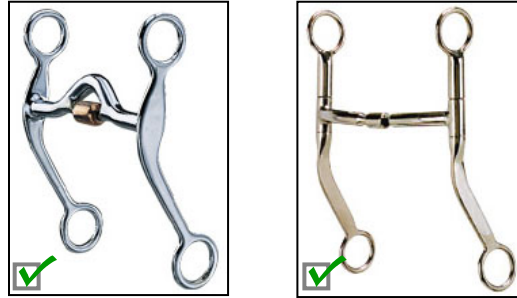
Offset D-ring

*Mouthpiece not smooth*

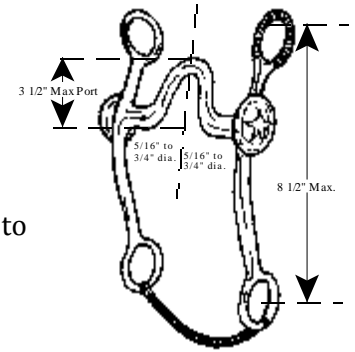


Offset D-ring, with slow twist

References to a bit in western performance classes mean the use of a curb bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit. A description of a legal, standard western bit includes:



- 8.5" maximum length shank to be measured as indicated in the diagram illustrating legal bit. Shanks may be fixed or loose.
- Port would have to measure  $\leq 2.5$ " high and shanks  $\leq 8.5$ " long.
- Curb bit mouthpieces must be round, smooth, and unwrapped metal of  $5/16$ " to  $3/4$ " in diameter, measured one inch from the cheek. They may be inlaid, but must be smooth. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs on solid mouthpieces. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, loose connecting ring of  $3/4$ " or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of  $3/8$  to  $3/4$ " (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2"), which lies flat in the horse's mouth is acceptable.
- The port on a bit must not be higher than  $2\ 1/2$ " maximum (picture incorrect), with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, half-breeds and spades, are standard.
- Slip or gag bits, and donut and flat polo mouthpieces are not acceptable.



Legal Bit



✓ Half-breed



Gag action AND not smooth

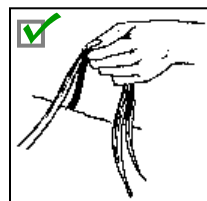


Donut mouthpiece



Flat polo mouthpiece

Except for hackamore/snaffle bit classes, speed event classes, or junior horses shown with hackamore/snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, and hand must not be changed. The hand is to be around the reins; index finger only between split reins is permitted. Touching the reins with a free hand may be considered a deduction.



Correct split reins



Correct split reins

References to a romal means an extension of braided material attached to closed reins. This extension may be carried in the free hand with a 16 inch spacing between the reining hand and the free hand holding the romal. The rider's hand shall be around the reins with the fingers closed, thumb on top, and no fingers between the reins.

The romal shall not be used forward of the cinch or to signal or cue the horse in any way. Any infraction of this rule shall be penalized severely by the judge.



Correct Romal Reins



Incorrect Romal Reins

Junior horses (4 years old and under) competing in junior western pleasure, western horsemanship, reining, western riding, and trail that are shown with a hackamore or snaffle bit will be ridden with two hands on the reins.



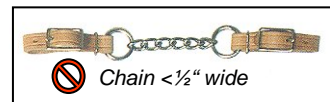
Correct Snaffle Reins



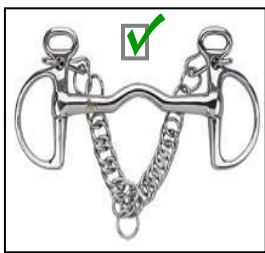
Incorrect Snaffle Reins

Horses four-years old and younger may be shown in a snaffle bit, hackamore, curb bit, half-breed, or spade bit. Horses five-years old and older may only be shown in a curb bit, half-breed, or spade bit. In the speed events only, horses of any age may be shown with a snaffle bit.

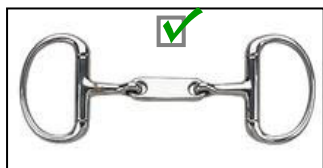
Chain curb straps are permissible, but must meet the approval of the judge, be at least 1/2" inch in width, and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered.



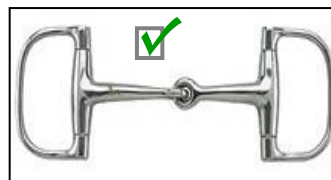
## ENGLISH DIVISION



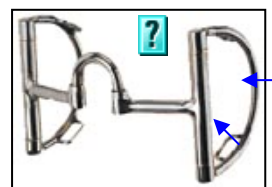
Kimberwick, low port, smooth, 1-piece mouthpiece



Dr. Bristol, smooth, 1-piece mouthpiece



Egg-butt D-ring, smooth, 2-piece mouthpiece



As long as mouthpiece measures  $\geq 3/8"$ . Either rein attachment location is acceptable.

## HUNTER CLASS BITS

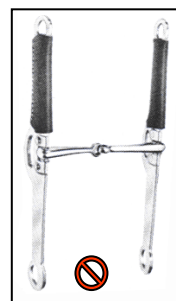
Bits used in hunter classes must be at least  $3/8"$  or larger in diameter. The mouthpiece may consist of one, two, or three pieces and must be smooth. Waterford bits are permitted. Smooth full cheek snaffles are permitted. Any port may not be taller than  $1\frac{1}{2}"$ . Slow or fast twist, corkscrew, twisted wire, double twisted wire, and triangle (knife edge) bits are not allowed. If a bit is used that requires two reins, it may be used with a converter. True gag action and elevator bits are not allowed.



Gag bit  
*True gag action*



Pelham w/ converter acceptable



Elevator Bit



Full cheek with fast twist, Mouthpiece not smooth



Full cheek with slow twist. Mouthpiece not smooth.



European Elevator Bit



O-ring snaffle, mouthpiece would have to measure  $\geq 3/8"$



O-ring w/ twisted wire, mouthpiece not smooth



**BRIDOON BITS  
SADDLE SEAT AND HUNTER**

Design of the bridoon mouthpiece must conform to that of an acceptable snaffle described in above bits. However, smaller dimensions of the mouthpiece are permissible.



Bridoon with 3 piece mouth



Bridoon with twisted mouthpiece not smooth



Bridoon with jointed mouth

**SPEED EVENTS DIVISION**



Wonder Bit



Gag action, Mouthpiece is also not smooth



Mechanical Hackamore



Stop & Turn, Rigid material under jaw

**TACK:** Western-type saddles will be used. A mechanical hackamore or other type bridles may not be used. Use of two hands on the reins is allowed in speed events. Judge or appointed equipment official may prohibit the use of bits or equipment deemed too severe. Use of martingales, tie-downs and nosebands is permitted in these classes. Draw reins are not allowed in speed events. Horses of any age may be ridden in a snaffle.

**BITS:** Will follow the same rules as the Western Division.

**SADDLE SEAT DIVISION**

**TACK:** Flat English type saddles are required for trotting horses; hunter, forward seat, and dressage type saddles are prohibited. Dressage or breed specific saddles are required for non-trotting horses. Horses must be shown in full bridles (curb and snaffle) or pelham with two reins, standard walking horse bit, or bit appropriate for breed.

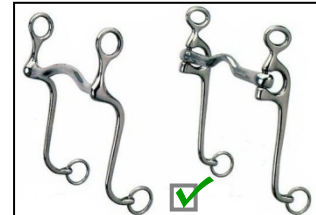
No figure 8, flash, or drop nose bands are allowed in Saddle Seat classes. Snaffle bridles will only be allowed in Saddle Seat Pleasure, Showmanship, and Conformation classes. Bits with shanks over 8" in length not permitted. Draw reins, martingales, hackamore, and similar equipment are all prohibited. (Pasos may show in hackamores as approved by PFHA for Pleasure classes.) Set tails, boots and/or artificial appliances including chains and rollers (pertaining to legs) are prohibited.



Pelhams



Weymouth bit with bridoon



Walking Horse Bits, OK if shanks measure ≤ 8"