



IOWA 4-H STATE HORSE JUDGING RULES & REGULATIONS

Saturday, November 5, 2011

Ellsworth Community College, Iowa Falls, IA

Registration at 8:00 a.m. Contest begins at 9:00 a.m.

NOTE: The judging contest is a learning experience, which takes a minimum of three hours without giving reasons, and up to six hours with reasons.

OBJECTIVES

1. To train future leaders for Iowa's growing horse industry.
2. To provide youth a chance to develop decision-making skills by observing and evaluating horses.
3. To develop communication skills through oral reasons.
4. To give recognition to those youth who excel in this activity.
5. To provide youth an opportunity for personal growth and development in an activity beyond the county.
6. To give youth an opportunity to develop and/or improve their ability to picture the ideal and recognize undesirable traits associated with judging horses.
7. To provide an educational opportunity for youth to demonstrate their ability to effectively defend the placing of a class.

IOWA CONTEST RULES

1. Contestants must have completed 4th grade. Junior contestants are 4th–8th grade. Senior individuals are 9th–12th grade. **SPECIAL NOTE:** National Contest Eligibility: Western National Roundup (Denver, CO) - Participants from the winning senior team must be 14 years of age as of January 1 of the current year. Ohio Quarter Horse Congress – Participants from the second place senior team (or subsequent placing senior team) must be 9 years of age as of January 1 of the current year. A contestant who has participated at the Western National Roundup (Denver) is not eligible to participate as a team member, but may participate any number of times as an individual at the state contest in future years.
2. **TEAMS:** Each county may enter junior and senior teams. A team may have three or four members; when four are entered, the three highest overall scores will make up the team totals. (Youth entering the contest as a team member are automatically entered as individuals as well).
3. In hardship cases, juniors may be part of the senior team, but seniors may not participate on junior teams. If multiple junior members make up a senior team, then that's the only senior team that county may enter. For example, a county may enter a senior team consisting of two junior members and one senior member, but could not then enter another senior team of three senior members. Junior members cannot participate on both the junior and senior teams in the same event in the same year.
4. **For 4-H teams only:** Counties may, with prior approval, combine 4-H members to form teams. This option is designed to allow additional 4-H members to participate, not to form an "all-star" team. This would be used in case a county may have two 4-H'ers who are

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interested, and have recruited two other interested 4-H'ers from an adjoining county. Team members may be combined from non-adjoining counties on a case by case basis with prior approval (before March 1) of State 4-H Staff and Equine Specialist.

5. INDIVIDUALS: Each county may enter individuals in the junior or senior division.
6. JUNIOR INDIVIDUALS (Not on a team): Junior contestants have the option of answering five questions on one halter and one performance class or giving oral reasons. Juniors will be allowed to use their notes while answering questions, but the horses will not be in the arena.
7. SENIOR INDIVIDUALS, SENIOR TEAMS AND JUNIOR TEAMS: At least 2 sets of oral reasons will be required for specific classes. Two minutes will be allowed contestants to give oral reasons to the judge. Contestants are not permitted to use notes while giving reasons.
8. Contestants shall wear no clothing, accessories or other marks of identification which may reveal his/her identity or the club represented.
9. While the contest is in progress, there shall be no conferring between the contestants or between contestants and anyone else except as directed by a Horse Judging official. If an individual talks to others during the contest, their cards will be pulled immediately. Absolutely NO cellular phones will be allowed.
10. Halter, performance and equitation classes may be judged by each individual.
11. Any recognized breed may be represented in the conformation classes. All conformation classes will be judged as sound of limb, eye, wind and mouth.
12. The performance or equitation classes may be chosen from the following: Western pleasure, English pleasure, Hunter under saddle, Hunter hack, Western riding, Reining, Pleasure driving, Horsemanship, Hunt seat equitation, Saddleseat equitation and Trail. Oral reasons will be required on at least one performance class. Performance classes will be judged as seen (unsoundness to be penalized accordingly). All tack and attire is considered legal.
13. The animals will be designated 1-2-3-4 by the handler/rider.
14. Fifteen (15) minutes will be allowed to the contestants to judge non-reason classes and seventeen (17) minutes will be given to the contestants during reasons classes to make their observations, take notes, and fill out their placing cards.

Class No. _____ Class _____

Contestant's Name _____

Team No. _____ Contestant's No. _____

Directions – Below are all the possible placing for a ring of 4 individuals.

Draw a circle around the placing you consider correct for the ring you are judging.

A = 1-2-3-4

G = 2-1-3-4

M = 3-1-2-4

S = 4-1-2-3

B = 1-2-4-3

H = 2-1-4-3

N = 3-1-4-2

T = 4-1-3-2

C = 1-3-2-4

I = 2-3-1-4

O = 3-2-1-4

U = 4-2-1-3

D = 1-3-4-2

J = 2-3-4-1

P = 3-2-4-1

V = 4-2-3-1

E = 1-4-2-3

K = 2-4-1-3

Q = 3-4-1-2

W = 4-3-1-2

F = 1-4-3-2

L = 2-4-3-1

R = 3-4-2-1

X = 4-3-2-1

14. Classes will be judged in accordance with rules of the American Horse Show Association or the respective breed association rules, if applicable.
15. No printed reference material will be permitted in the arena.

DETERMINATION OF RATINGS

1. Fifty (50) points shall constitute a perfect mark on placing and fifty (50) points shall constitute a perfect mark on reasons or questions.
2. Priority order for breaking ties:
 - a. If tied for a division awards in Halter or Performance, the contestant or team having the highest reason score in that division will be listed first.
 - b. If tied for an award in reasons, the contestant or team having the highest placing score on the reasons classes will be listed first.
 - c. If tied for individual or team overall award, the contestant or team having the highest overall reason score shall be listed first.
 - d. If still tied for either (a) or (c) above, the contestant or team having the highest score in placing reason classes shall be listed first.
 - e. If still tied, the contestant or team with the highest overall placing score will be listed first.
 - f. If still tied, the contestant or team with the highest single class reasons score will be listed first.
 - g. If contestants are still tied from above, the youngest contestant or team shall be listed first.

AWARDS

1. Senior and junior teams and individuals are scored with reasons. Junior individuals not giving reasons are scored with questions.
2. Awards will be presented to top ten senior and junior individuals in placings, reasons and overall.
3. Awards will be presented to the top five senior and junior teams in placings, reasons and overall.
4. Grand and reserve teams in the senior division may be eligible to represent Iowa at national contests. Limited funding from the 4-H Foundation may be provided.