

## Scoring Procedures

### ***Quick Facts...***

- Fifty (50) points are considered the maximum score for a placing class in a judging contest.
- Cuts are the point difference between each of the pairs in a class. (See below.)
- The total of the three cuts for a class of four animals shall not exceed 15 or a negative score may result.

Fifty (50) points are considered the maximum score for a placing class in a judging contest. Official placings are assigned to the class by an official or team of officials with experience and knowledge of evaluation. The official makes the decisions as to the correct placing (24 possible placings on a class of four animals) and cuts for each class. Cuts are the point difference between each of the pairs in a class. Close pairs or difficult decisions will receive small cuts (one to three points), moderately difficult decisions will receive reasonable cuts (four to five points), and very easy decisions will receive large cuts (six to eight points). The total of the three cuts for a class of four animals shall not exceed 15 or a negative score may result. The middle cut may never exceed five (5) points when the cuts add to 15 or exceed eight (8) points when the cuts add to 14 or a negative score may result. An understanding of how placings are tabulated should benefit the youth judge, coach, parent, 4-H leader, teacher, volunteer, and Extension agent.

### ***Description of Cuts...***

- 1 point: The pair of animals is very similar and could easily be switched in the placing. Official judges may not agree.
- 2 points: The animals are very similar but one has a slight advantage. This switch within the pair could be very logical. Most judges agree but half contestants may switch.
- 3 points: The animals are similar, but there is a clear advantage to one of the pair. Most judges agree but only 1/3 of contestants should miss.
- 4 points: The animals are not of similar quality with one animal showing definite advantage. This is should be an obvious placing. All judges agree – about 10% contestants will miss.
- 5 points: Extreme differences; one is clearly better than the other. The placing is obvious after short deliberation.
- 6 points: The animals are not even comparable. Champion vs. non-show quality.
- 7 points: Reflects a superior animal compared to an inferior one.

## Examples

**Official placing:** 1 - 2 - 3 - 4

**With cuts of:** 2 5 3

(This means there is a 2 point cut in the first pair, a 5 point cut in the second, and a 3 point cut for the third pair.)

The amount of the cut is the number of points lost if the placings are switched in that pair. Compare your placing to the official placing and ask a series of questions about if you put one animal over another as the official did.

**Your placing:** 1 - 3 - 2 - 4 (a simple pair switch)

Did I place 1 over 2? Yes -0 points

Did I place 1 over 3? Yes -0 points

Did I place 1 over 4? Yes -0 points

Did I place 2 over 3? No -5 points

Did I place 2 over 4? Yes -0 points

Did I place 3 over 4? Yes -0 points

-5 point total penalty = **45 points**

All classes start with a perfect score of 50. Minus the 5 points for missing the middle pair makes a total of 45 points as the score for this placing.
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**Official placing:** 1 - 2 - 3 - 4

**With cuts of:** 2 5 3

**Your placing:** 1 - 4 - 3 - 2 (a "bust")

Did I place 1 over 2? Yes -0 points

Did I place 1 over 3? Yes -0 points

Did I place 1 over 4? Yes -0 points

Did I place 2 over 3? No -5 points

Did I place 2 over 4? No -8 points (subtract the total amount of cuts between #2 and #4; 5 + 3 = 8)

Did I place 3 over 4? No -3 points

-16 point total penalty = **34 points**