Area & State 4-H Horse Shows
Class & Rule Changes for 2014

Class List/Division Changes

The following class list changes were approved by the Board for implementation.

1. Split Ranch Trail into Jr/Int and Sr classes.

2. Add Ranch Roping & Working Cow Horse classes (not split by age). Will need to add a “cattle charge” for these classes. These two classes are NOT required at the Area Show. If an Area Show does hold these two classes, there may be an opportunity for any youth from any county to exhibit in those two classes simply for the practice (scored but no points or placing award).

3. Create a Ranch Division. Ranch Riding, Ranch Trail, Ranch Roping, Working Cow Horse, and Ranch Showmanship/Ground Handling would be in this Division.

4. Add Ground Handling class. An in-hand class that emphasizes ground handling abilities was developed for the Ranch and Speed Events divisions. This class would be considered the ‘Showmanship’ class for the Ranch & Speed Events Divisions.

5. Combine the Saddle Seat Trotting and Gaited Non-Trotting classes.

Rule Changes (key change from previous year is noted with highlight)

The following rule changes were approved by the Board for implementation. Page numbers and rule number references are from the 2013 rulebook.

1. Pg 2, #4: The maximum number of classes a contestant may enter is six. If entering six classes, one must be showmanship, otherwise the maximum number of classes is five. Contestent may enter only one halter class and one showmanship class.

2. Pg 8, #11: First sentence, after the comma, change “only a” to “any”. Remove second sentence completely.

3. Pg 9, #26A: The suggested maximum number is 20 horses per heat.

4. Pg 11: Add this picture to “Acceptable Chain Chin Straps”

5. Details of Saddle Seat Division bits and curb chains will be expanded so they are as thorough as those for Western & Hunter.
6. Pg 13, Hunter Division Bits: In all Hunter Division classes (excluding Dressage classes), an English snaffle (no shank), kimberwick, pelham and/or full bridle (with two reins), all with cavesson nosebands and plain leather brow bands must be used. If a bit is used that requires two reins, it may not be used with a converter.

- In reference to mouthpieces, nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar). Solid and broken mouthpieces must be between 5/16” to 3/4” in diameter, measured 1” from the cheek and may have a port no higher than 1 1/2”. They may be smooth inlaid, synthetic wrapped, including rubber or plastic or incased. On broken mouthpieces only, connecting rings of 1 1/4” or less in diameter or connecting flat bar of 3/8” to 3/4” measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2”, which lie flat in the horse's mouth, are acceptable. Snaffle bit rings may be no larger than 4” in diameter. Any bit having a fixed rein requires use of a curb chain. Curb chain must be at least ½” and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. Smooth round, oval or egg-shaped, slow twist, corkscrew, single twisted wire mouthpieces and straight bar or solid mouthpieces are allowed. Waterford bits are allowed. True gag action and elevator bits are not allowed.

7. Pg 58, HUNTER DIVISION APPOINTMENTS/PERSONAL: Add to spur definition…. and must be no longer than one inch.

8. Pg 58, HUNTER DIVISION APPOINTMENTS/TACK: Add “The use of stirrups which have entirely black branches is not permitted.”

   Test for Jr/Int and Sr. riders: Demonstrate up to a half turn on the forehand and/or half turn on the haunches from a walk, not the halt.
   Test for Sr. riders only: Demonstrate up to a full turn on the forehand and/or full turn on the haunches from a walk, not the halt.

10. Pg 65, #2. An exhibitor may enter one Training Level class and one First Level class. Note that tests will stay the same.

11. Pg 65, # 6 (Dressage tie-breaker): In case of equality of points, the competitor with the highest marks received under Collective Marks shall be declared the winner. Errors on a test may not be used to break ties. If this procedure does not break the tie, then the tie is broken by the judge.

12. Adopt 4-H Regionals rules for scoring over fences hunter classes.

13. For Hunt Seat Eq on The Flat and Western Horsemanship: Finalists are required to work on the rail in at least one direction.

14. Four more Ranch Riding patterns will be added (will be the AQHA Ranch Pleasure patterns).

15. Utilize a 70 +/- scoring system for Ranch Riding.
**State Show Schedule Changes**

For the State Show: In an effort to get every class under cover and limit the number of days a judge must serve, a new schedule is proposed. The **2014 State Show will began on Wednesday afternoon with Dressage & Western Trail, then continue Thursday through Saturday with all classes running in the two covered arenas.** The linked draft schedule is not final and is still subject to modifications. Note that there will be a Ranch Judge and a separate Western Judge. The Ranch Judge will judge the Ranch Division classes and the Speed Events Division classes. The Western Judge will judge the Western Division classes.

**State Horse Show Procedures**

**Bit Checks**

Hunter and Western Division classes will be randomly selected for bit checks by having the finalists drop bits in the line-up prior to placing the class. Youth can be assisted in this endeavor by a trainer, coach, or parent. This procedure needs to be announced at the beginning of each show day so that everyone is forewarned. This procedure will add some weight to the bit rules.

**Posting Scores**

No score cards will be posted at the show.

Dressage tests will be given to exhibitors after dressage class is placed and announced.

Judge’s score cards will be posted online after the show.

**Displaying Pattern Scores**

Pattern scores will be displayed by flip chart or some other media for showmanship, horsemanship and equitation PRELIMS following each entrant’s pattern. It will then be possible to announce the score cut off for call backs throughout the class to trim down the number of entrants waiting around for the call backs for the final round.

**Possible procedure for enforcing show protocols that are not necessarily in the rulebook:**

- The person who is in non-compliance needs to be asked by Show Management or an Advisory member to modify their behavior or dress to comply with our rules.
- Infractions will be reported to the show office and documented and the violator will be told that this occurrence of a rule infraction is being reported to Show Management.
- Multiple violations will be cause for action by Show Management at their discretion.

This procedure could apply to dress code violations by youth, code of conduct violations by youth or adults, coaching from the rail, dogs not on a leash, etc.