This handbook of rules is intended to establish uniform regulations and procedures for qualifying participants in the State 4-H Horse Show Program. These rules will govern the Florida Area and State 4-H Horse Shows. It is suggested that 4-H county shows adopt this rule book to govern the operation of their shows.

Only the horsemanship phase of the 4-H program is affected by these rules and only classes that fit the large majority of 4-H members are offered. Counties are encouraged to develop 4-H horse programs according to local needs and situations, and to include a wide range of educational activities.

These rules are in effect for the 2012 4-H show season. Failure to comply with the rules, regulations and procedures in this book may result in disqualification and/or disciplinary action. Be sure to check for changes each year.

1. Contestants may show in only their home area show.

2. No post-entries will be accepted. No refunds will be granted for scratches received more than one week after the entry deadline with the exception that a partial refund may be made upon receipt of a doctor’s or veterinarian’s excuse.

3. It is the responsibility of the 4-H'er, parents, leader and county agent to check horse show entries to assure they are correctly filled out, especially the names and numbers of the classes entered. No class may be added and no class changes will be allowed. (The exception will be to allow horses that do not fit within the required height limitations to be moved to the proper class.)

4. The maximum number of classes a contestant may enter is five. If entering five classes one must be showmanship; otherwise the maximum number of classes is four. Contestant may enter only one halter class and one showmanship class.

5. A single horse (whether owned or leased) may be shown by a maximum of three 4-H members at the Area and State horse shows. In the case where a horse is shown by more than one 4-H member, the maximum number of classes a horse may enter is six. A horse is allowed to enter a single class only once.

6. A contestant can show only one horse at area or state shows. However, counties may allow contestants to enter more than one horse in county shows. But under no circumstances should a contestant be allowed to enter the same class twice on the same horse.

7. Contestants must show the same horse at the state show as they qualified on at the area show.

8. Stallions are not allowed to be shown at area and state shows. If numbers warrant, counties may provide a class for foals or colts to encourage breeding projects. Showing uncastrated males past December 31 of the year of his birth is prohibited.

9. All horses should be properly immunized under the supervision of a veterinarian before coming to a 4-H show. Vaccines should be administered far enough in advance for adequate immunity to be
developed (approximately 30 or more days for most vaccines). Horses should be vaccinated against Equine Encephalomyelitis (Eastern, E.E.E. and Western, W.E.E.), tetanus, influenza, west nile, and in some cases rhinopneumonitis. Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins) test must be negative and current (within the past 12 months) at the time of the show. Papers must be presented along with horse to personnel inspecting same before horse will be allowed to compete or possibly enter show grounds. Horse’s name on both Coggins papers and entry form, as well as registration papers if applicable, must be the same. Coggins paper may be original or a photocopy.

10. The P.A. system is used to help the show move as smoothly as possible, but is only a courtesy. It is the responsibility of the contestants to know when they are required to be in the make-up area or arena. Not hearing or understanding gate calls, etc. is NOT an excuse for missing one’s order of work, heat, or class.

ELIGIBILITY OF PARTICIPANTS AND HORSES

1. Participant must be an active and current 4-H club member, meeting all the membership requirements established by the club and county program.

2. Participant must manage at least one horse of any age or breed as a 4-H horsemanship project. The horse must be owned or leased by the 4-H member, the member’s parents, brother, sister, or legal guardian and certified as a 4-H project by January 1 of the current 4-H year.

3. Per horse industry standard, a horse’s birth date will be considered January 1 of its foaling year, regardless of its actual foaling date. Therefore, age of a horse is as of January 1 of the calendar year in which the show is held.

4. Counties may allow for replacement of a project horse or pony prior to the area show if the project horse or pony is certified unsound by a veterinarian, and approved by the County Extension Agent and the 4-H Horse Club leaders. Substituted horse must meet all 4-H project horse criteria other than the January 1 ownership and certification date. Only those horses qualified at area show may be shown at state. If shown they must be shown by the same exhibitor that qualified them at the area show.

5. Provisional qualifications for state show participation may be granted for extenuating circumstances to individuals in their final year of eligibility. Issues relative to the project animal (lameness, colic, death, etc.) will not be considered extenuating circumstances. Also, “extenuating circumstances” does not apply to social events such as prom, grad night, etc. To make application the potential exhibitor must contact the State Extension Horse Specialist prior to the date the area show is held in which they would normally compete.

Additionally, provisional qualifications may be granted by the State Extension Horse Specialist wherein normal rules and procedures do not serve in a fair and just manner.

6. Leasing will be permitted with the approval of the county agent and/or advisory committee. A notarized lease form 4H HSF 01 must be on file at the County Extension Office by January 1 for the horse to be eligible to participate in area or state shows in the Florida 4-H Horse Program. A maximum of three 4-H members may lease and show a single horse.
7. The 4-H member must keep and submit to the county agent a horse record book (4H HSR 02) on project horses to be eligible to compete in area and state shows. Agents are advised that it is their responsibility to certify that a youngster has an up to date project book and has met the requirements to compete above county level.

**CURRENT STATE 4-H AGE REQUIREMENT**

Each contestant must be eight years of age by September 1 of the current 4-H year and must not have passed his or her nineteenth birthday prior to September 1 of the current 4-H year.

**JUNIOR AND SENIOR DIVISIONS**

Juniors/Intermediates are 13 or under as of September 1 of the current 4-H year. Seniors must be 14 years old on or before September 1 of the current 4-H year. Juniors/Intermediates will not be permitted to participate in competition beyond state level.

**CERTIFICATION**

A County Extension Agent must certify the eligibility of the 4-H member as having met minimum project requirements and ownership, age, sex, and registration status of each horse. This information must be on file at the respective County Extension Offices.

**QUALIFYING PROCEDURE AT AREA SHOWS FOR STATE**

Number of qualifiers to progress from area to state show will be determined by State Extension Horse Specialist. Number to progress to state show from each area may vary from year to year. This number will be determined by a formula developed by state office and based on the past 3 years attendance at the area shows.

Points will be tabulated for each individual based on the following system:

**AREA POINT SYSTEM**

1. Each of the first six horses in a class will be given one point for each horse placing below it, plus one point. Points not to exceed six for first place.
   
   Each area has the option of using a sliding scale to allow more points to be added for large classes.

2. Horses not placing in the top six in a class will not receive points for that class unless a sliding scale is used.

3. The number of horses in a class will be determined by the number actually shown.

4. Under no circumstances shall a disqualified contestant receive points; however, all horses brought into the ring will constitute an entry and will be counted.
STATE POINT SYSTEM

1. For classes with 25 or less contestants, each of the first ten horses placed in a class will be given one point for each horse placing below it, plus one point.

   (Example: 1st place = 10 points, 2nd place = 9 points, etc.)

2. In classes with greater than 25 contestants the following chart applies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Entries in Class</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26 to 35</td>
<td>1 additional point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 to 45</td>
<td>2 additional points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 to 55</td>
<td>3 additional points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 to 65</td>
<td>4 additional points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66 to 75</td>
<td>5 additional points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76 to 85</td>
<td>6 additional points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86 and over</td>
<td>7 additional points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   For example, a horse placing first in a class of 68 would receive 15 points. The tenth place horse would receive 6 points, and 15th place would receive 1 point. Up to ten horses will be placed regardless of number in class.

3. In the event of additional points awarded in a class, points will be awarded beyond 10th place to a sufficient number of horses so the last horse receiving points will receive one point.

4. The number of horses in a class will be determined by the number actually shown.

5. Under no circumstances shall a disqualified contestant receive points; however, all horses brought into the ring will constitute an entry and be counted.
TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES

CLASS TIES: Ties for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in judged events will be worked off. Ties for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in timed events will be run off. In the event of a tie in a timed class, the contestant declared the winner in a runoff must run the pattern in not more than two seconds over the original time or the runoff must be held again. Ties below 3rd place in any class will be broken at discretion of judge and show committee. For ties not broken by judge or run off, any points involved will be evenly split between contestants.

HIGH POINT AWARDS:

In a case of ties, the following priority order will be used:

1. Most points earned in performance classes.
   (Performance classes include all mounted classes and Showmanships.)

2. Most points earned in the greatest number of five possible classes.
   (Ex. Rider A earns 38 points while placing in 4 classes, and Rider B earns 38 points while riding in 5 classes. Rider B wins the tie breaker for placing in more classes.)

3. Total number of horses beaten in any one class.
   (Ex. The most horses Rider X beat in one class was 42 in Hunter Under Saddle. The most horses Rider Y beat in one class was 39 in Hunt Seat Equitation. Rider X wins the tie breaker for beating more horses in one class.)

4. The horse with the highest placings.
   (Ex. Rider C had placings of 1st, 2nd, 2nd, and 5th. Rider D had placings of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. When comparing their placings top to bottom, they each got a 1st, they each got a 2nd, but Rider C won another 2nd while Rider D won a 3rd. Therefore Rider C wins the tiebreaker. The lower placings are not compared once the tie was broken with Rider C having a greater number of higher placings.)