

## FRESNO COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROJECT POLICY

1. Approved, properly fitting helmets will be worn by 4-H members and leaders when mounted on a horse during a 4-H activity. In a showmanship or halter class, a Western hat, 4-H hat or a helmet must be worn.
2. During a 4-H activity no member or leader may participate in an event where there is direct contact competition with an animal, (i.e. goat tying.)
3. During a 4-H activity no event will include mounting and dismounting during a competitive speed event.
4. 4-H horse members or leaders are the only persons allowed to ride at a 4-H activity. Non-horse members or parents who are not enrolled as 4-H leaders cannot ride a horse on the same grounds where the 4-H activity is being held. If this rule is not upheld, there will be immediate loss of entries and fees for that horse.
5. Horses will only be ridden with the use of a bridle or Bozal, (no halters.)
6. No riding double on a horse at any 4-H activity. All riders must sit astride in a forward position.
7. **First Year/Novice Level Member Limitations - Riding Component**  
Level will be determined by leader and parent. Limited to walk-trot only while on the grounds at any competition; includes gymkhana classes. Gymkhana classes will not be allowed to break out of trot into canter intentionally. First level riders may use any type of bridle. First level members will not jump. Member cannot be in first level more than two years. Once you advance to second level, you cannot go back to first level. No Green Horses. State Classic limit of two years as First Yr/Novice rider.
8. **Second Year and Above Level Member Limitations - Riding Component**  
Level will be determined by leader and parent. Riders shall be entered into either junior or senior classes according to the members age. Snaffle bits will be allowed on Western horses five years of age and under only.
9. **Green Horse: 3-gaited division (walk/trot/canter): Based on the horse, first and second calendar year of showing in any discipline ridden by experienced 4-H members. Once having shown at State Classic, they are no longer eligible for this division. Thus, a second year green horse who competed at the State Classic the previous year would not be eligible to compete at the State Classic for a second year in the same division.** The Horse Resource Leader will make the determination if the rider is qualified to show a Green Horse and if the horse shall be considered "Green."
10. **English Classes**  
Three refusals on jumps is a disqualification. Fall of horse or rider is a disqualification. Jump height must be specified on entry. English riders are welcome to participate in western classes if no English class is offered at the event. No western saddles in jumping events.
11. **Gymkhana Classes**  
Rider must stop forward motion after entering and before leaving the arena. Rider will be disqualified when:
  - a. off course
  - b. hitting or spurring forward of cinch occurs
  - c. rider mounts or dismounts in the arena
  - d. horse may be led through gate, not beyond established fault line in arena.

Penalty: Barrel down, 2 seconds; Pole down, 2 seconds

Any type of bridle or aids is allowed in gymkhana classes. If you choose to use a Tie down, it must be a tie down NOT a lead rope or any other make shift tack. The tie down must be long enough to allow horse to lift head above withers.
12. **Proper 4-H Horse Show Attire**
  - Long or short sleeve, button-front white shirt with collar
  - White, blue or black jeans or English breeches
  - Green 4-H tie or scarf (collar) with emblem
  - Helmet (approved and properly fitting)
  - Belt

- Riding boots (no athletic shoes)
- No western chaps, English jackets, or vests (protective vests are acceptable)
- 4-H horse show attire is required in all classes unless otherwise specified

Member will not be allowed to compete if they do not have on the proper attire.

13. **Riders must ride unassisted once they have entered the arena. NO COACHING FROM RAIL.**

14. **All Horse Show Entry Forms Will Include:**

- Helmet wearing statement (penalty for not wearing helmet is immediate loss of entries and fees).
- Leader signature
- Leader designation of member's level
- Parent or legal guardian signature (guardian must turn in medical release with entries.)
- If members are from out of the county, they must show a letter of proof that a horse project waiver has been submitted to their county office.

15. No stallions or stud colts of any age will be allowed.

16. Pony class measurement will be 14.2 hands and under.

17. Lead rope or shank shall not be coiled around the handler's hand at any time. This includes showmanship and halter classes.

18. In order to be considered a member-in-good standing of Fresno County, **4-H horse projects members must participate in 75% of project meetings. Must participate in Horse Achievement Day at year end and at least one additional Fresno County 4-H Horse event during the year.** Eligible events for current year include:

*Any County-wide 4-H Horse Clinic-Workshop*

*Fresno County Horse 4-H Fair*

*Fresno County Horse Judging Day*

*Presentation Day*

*Any State Horse Educational Event –i.e. State Field Day, State Educational Classic contest (Classic the previous year).*

**Any exceptions MUST be cleared by horse resource leader and County 4-H office.**

*At Horse Achievement Day members may participate as a judge if previously completed all five levels. Non-riding members of the horse project may take the written test only unless a shared/borrowed horse is available and arranged in advance of event. (not guaranteed) Riding members must take written and riding portions at Achievement Day.*

Horse project members must be a member-in-good standing to participate in any 4-H horse competitions inside the county and outside of Fresno County, including but not limited to: other county horse shows, 4-H State Classic Horse Show, 4-H State Fair Horse Show, 4-H State Horse Classic Educational Events and the National 4-H Horse Classic.

19. **Club Horse Show Management**

Show Manager

Oversees the operation and management of the 4-H Club Horse Show.

Manager has authority for final decision on any question relating to the Show.

Their decisions will be respected.

The Manager can excuse anyone from the Show.

The Manager will document the incident and turn into the 4-H Office by the following week.

Designated Club Horse Project Leader

Each club participating at a Show must designate one Club Horse Project Leader.

This Leader will check in with the Manager at start of show and introduce self.

The Designated Club Horse Project Leader is the only leader that can sign the entries for their club for that show.

If there is no Designated Club Horse Project Leader at the Show from a club, members from that club will not show.

The Designated Club Horse Project Leader is the only person from the club that can talk to the Show Manager.

Parents, members, and other leaders are not to talk to the Manager.

They should talk with their Designated Club Horse Project Leader.

Judge

No one approaches the Judge with comments or problems.

Show Procedures

The 4-H Community Club will designate the Show Manager for their Club Horse Show.

The Club must post a copy of the County Horse Project Policy at the registration desk and have members and parents sign on their entry form that they have read and agree to follow these stated policies to be able to show.

**Addendum to Horse Project Policy**

1. The policy, in regard to a professional in the field in which they are volunteering their time and service as a project leader is: Whenever acting as a 4-H leader, you may not charge for services (4-H meetings, clinics, shows, 4-H related lessons, and activities) and the Horse Project is "open to all."
2. State fair qualifying horse shows, any state qualifying horse shows, state horse shows and fair horse shows require the rider to own or lease their animal for a minimum of 120 days before the show. A certificate of ownership or proof of lease must be on file at the county 4-H Office. Local play days, trail trials, and club sponsored horse shows do not fall within these requirements. Each horse project leader is responsible for the members of their club to follow this requirement.
3. Within the "local play days, trail trials, and club sponsored horse shows," it is the individual club's show management's decision as to whether they will permit more than one rider to a horse. This rule **must be stated in writing**. You can mention it in the guidelines and it **must be on the show premium**. If you fail to have it in writing, it will not be allowed. The horse may not be used in a way that would be characterized as cruel to the horse.
4. Each horse project leader must be aware and make sure their members are aware that horse lessons are NOT included in their record book APR, annual project report. Horse lessons, dance lessons, music lessons, etc. belong in the Record Book's PDR under "Healthy Lifestyle Activities".
5. Member participation in riding skills/competition may differ from level of Horse Achievement written and skills portion. All members should start in Level 1 of Horse Achievement and advance annually regardless of division riding in horse shows. Riding level is determined by project leader and parent.

I agree to follow and be responsible to the above policies,

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Member Exhibiting

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent of 4-H Member Exhibiting

\_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Club Horse Show

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