

# 2021 Payne County Horse Show Rules

## GENERAL RULES FOR ALL CLASSES

1. Horses entering district and state 4-H horse shows must have a current negative Coggins certificate (dated within 12 months of the respective show days) in order to be eligible to show. Coggins certificates will be checked upon arrival to show. Any horse not accompanied with current, negative Coggins certificate will not be allowed to show or be stalled on the show grounds.
2. Stallions are not to be shown
3. Unsportsmanlike, irresponsible or misconduct, i.e. illegal, indecent, intimidating, threatening, profane or abusive, by an exhibitor or associated parties at any time during the show on any location on the show grounds are grounds for exhibitor disqualification, suspension from further exhibition and for immediate dismissal of exhibitor and associated parties from the show grounds.
4. If you show in a walk-trot class, you CANNOT show in the corresponding walk-trot lope class.
5. Any youth exhibitor (8 & under) that is led or assisted by an adult CANNOT be placed above an unassisted exhibitor.
6. Trailer check-in will be on the north side of the horse barn. DO NOT unload your horse(s) until the ORIGINAL coggins papers and your horse have been checked by a superintendent. If you do not have coggins papers, you will not be able to show.
7. Stall assignments will be made upon entry.
8. Emergencies: In the event your horse needs any help when you aren't at the fairgrounds, please leave a card on your stall with a number where you can be reached.
9. Tack and Equipment:
  - a. Legal equipment is described in rules governing specific classes. If a qualified person is appointed by the show management, contestants with incorrect equipment should be stopped before competing, as the judge will disqualify contestants with illegal equipment. It is the responsibility of the contestant to check with show officials regarding questionable equipment prior to the start of the class.
  - b. An exhibitor will be excused from the class if there is a tack or equipment breakage that the judge feels is a safety hazard. The exhibitor will NOT be allowed a rerun if affected by equipment failure or accident to horse or rider.
  - c. The judge or designated show officials have the authority to require the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment which, in his/their opinion is unsafe, tends to give unfair advantage or is deemed inhumane.

d. Notice of need for aids for special need youth, including actions needed by assistants, should be provided by the contestant as part of his/her entry material prior to the start of the show. Request for use of aids for special need youth should be accompanied with a medical doctor's statement indicating the need related for use in such activities. Show management should inform the judge and exhibitor as to conditions of use for any such requested aids.

e. Use of communication devices, i.e. electronic or radio devices, other than those approved for use by special needs youth, is considered a method to obtain unfair advantage, and can be penalized or result in disqualification at the discretion of the judge.

10. The exhibitor will be disqualified for a performance class if their horse falls (shoulder and haunches on same side on ground) and/or if the rider is dismounted from the horse prior to completion of the performance, i.e. judge's placing turned into show management or completion of speed event run.

11. The judge or designated show official has the authority to excuse from competition any horse deemed unsafe and/or out of control. This includes any area or any time while on the show grounds, including times when the entrant is in line-ups or preparation areas for entering the arena for exhibition.

## 12. Attire:

It is the objective of the 4-H program for exhibitors to be dressed cleanly and neatly. Protective headgear use is encouraged and may be worn in any class without judging discrimination. ASTM/SEI approved safety helmets are strongly recommended for all classes, especially in all speed events. Correct exhibitor number must be visibly worn on the exhibitor or saddle pad in all classes, or exhibitor may be disqualified for that class. Alterations in acceptable attire for special needs youth should be requested by the exhibitor at time of entry, and should be accompanied by a statement from a medical doctor indicated needed for use for such activities. Show management should inform the judge and exhibitor as to conditions of use for any such requested alterations.

### a. Western Judged and Timed Event Classes.

i.) A western (cowboy) hat or protective headgear (ASTM/SEI approved safety helmets are strongly recommended), which must be on exhibitor's head when exhibitor enters arena. Exception: Show management may make use of a hat optional in speed events. If hat use is declared as optional in speed events, a five second penalty may be assessed if the hat or helmet is not on the exhibitor's person during the time the exhibitor is in the arena. Public announcement of this policy should be made prior to start of speed events.

ii.) Exhibitor number visibly worn by exhibitor or on the saddle pad.

iii.) A shirt with long sleeves, a collar (band, standup, tuxedo, etc.), and shirt tail to be tucked in pants in all classes. (Variations such as short sleeves are permitted if covered with a long sleeve jacket).

iv.) Long pants.

v.) Cowboy boots.

vi.) Spurs or chaps are optional. Exception: Not allowed in halter or showmanship classes.

vii.) Gloves are optional in all classes.

viii.) Ball caps, tanks tops, T-shirts or jersey-type shirts are not to be worn.

ix.) See individual division and class rules for exceptions where class specifications indicate otherwise.

x.) Any change from the stated requirements (i - viii above) must be agreed upon by the judges and show superintendent, and announced to contestants prior to start of the class. It is the contestant's responsibility to bring questionable attire to the attention of show management prior to wearing it in any competition, as judge or official may penalize or disqualify contestants who do not conform.

#### b. Hunter Classes Attire

i.) Hunt coats of traditional hunt seat style and colors such as navy, dark green, grey, black or brown. Maroon and red are improper.

ii.) Breeches or jodphurs of traditional shades of buff, khaki, canary, light gray, or rust.

iii.) High English boots or paddock (jodphur) boots of black or brown.

iv.) Safety helmet of traditional colors (black, navy blue or brown). ASTM/SEI approved safety helmets are strongly recommended. Exhibitors must wear a safety helmet with harness when schooling or exhibiting over fences while on the show grounds.

v.) Hair must be neat and contained (as in a net or braid).

vi.) Correct exhibitor number must be visibly displayed on exhibitor or on saddle pad.

vii.) Gloves, spurs (unrowelled type that are blunt, round or include a smooth rolling rubber ball) and crops or bats are optional. Exception: Spurs, crops or bats are not allowed in halter or showmanship classes.

viii.) Any changes from the stated requirements (i-vii above) must be agreed upon by the judges and show superintendent, and announced to contestants prior to class. It is the contestant's responsibility to bring questionable attire to the attention of show management prior to wearing it in any competition, as judge or official may penalize or disqualify contestants who do not conform.

**13. No exhibitor may be tied, buckled or fastened in or on any part of the saddle in any manner or by any means while on show grounds. This includes but is not limited to string, rope, Velcro, rubber bands of any size or strength.** Contestants exhibiting with such should be disqualified from the class. Safe, humane animal handling and riding practices are to be prioritized and followed at all times and all places on the show grounds.

**\*\*Specific questions/requirements about tack, classes, attire etc. can be found in the Rules for Oklahoma 4-H Horse Shows publication that is available online at [www.4h.okstate.edu](http://www.4h.okstate.edu)**

# TRAIL

## 1. General Rules

- a. Refer to Western Judged Division General Rules for acceptable tack, attire and equipment. Unless riding a five year old or younger in a snaffle or hackamore, only one hand may be used on reins and hands must not be changed. Except for horses shown with a hackamore or snaffle, only one hand may be used on the reins, except that it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle. While horse is in motion, rider's hands shall be clear of horse and saddle.
- b. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over the obstacles with emphasis on manners, response to the rider, and quality of movement. Credit will be given to those horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing correctness is not sacrificed. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it, and willingly responding to rider's cues on more difficult obstacles.
- c. Horse shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or working an obstacle. Horses with artificial appearance over obstacles should be penalized.
- d. Horses must not be required to work on the rail. The course should be designed to require each horse to show the three gaits (walk, jog, lope) somewhere between obstacles as part of its work, and quality of movement and cadence should be considered as part of the maneuver score. Enough space must be provided for a horse to jog (at least 30 feet) and lope (at least 50 feet) for judges to evaluate these gaits. While on the line of travel between obstacles, the horse shall be balanced, carrying his head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with the poll level with or slightly above the withers. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance.
- e. **At least six obstacles will be used;** at least three of which will be mandatory and three others selected from the approved list. The gait between obstacles shall be at the discretion of the judge. No flying lead changes are allowed.
- f. The course to be used must be posted or distributed to exhibitors at least one hour before scheduled time of the class.
- g. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind so as to eliminate any accidents. Courses for younger age group (9-11) should be less difficult than courses for older youth. When the distances and spaces are measured between all obstacles, the inside base to inside base measurement of each obstacle considering the normal path of the horse, should be the measuring point.
- h. If disrupted, the course shall be reset after each horse has worked. In the case that a combination of obstacles is used, the course cannot be reset until the contestant finishes the entire course regardless of where any disruption occurs.
- i. If undue delay occurs after the horse enters or begins working an obstacle or safety of rider is of concern, the judge may motion rider to next obstacle (Rider to receive all incurred penalties, allowed to work other obstacles, and will receive score for pattern).

## **2. Mandatory obstacles are:**

- a. Opening, passing through and closing gate. (Losing control of gate is to be penalized.) Use a gate that will not endanger horse or rider. If the gate has a metal, plastic or wooden support bar under the opening, contestants must work the gate moving forward through it. Gate work can be specified as to which hand and side of horse is on the gate, and if gate is to be pulled toward the horse upon opening or the gate is pushed so that the gate is worked as the rider moves through the gate opening. A left hand pull instruction would mean the rider's left hand is on the gate, the right hand on the reins, and the horse is positioned so the gate is on the left side of the horse, and the rider is to pull the gate toward the direction of the horse to open it.
- b. Ride over at least four logs or poles. These can be in a straight line, curved, zigzag or raised. The space between the logs is to be measured and the path the horse is to take should be the measuring point. The space for walk-overs shall be 20-24 inches; trot-overs 3' to 3'6", and lope-overs 6' to 7'. Walkovers may be elevated to 12 inches and should be a minimum of 22 inches apart. Trot-overs and lope-overs can be elevated a maximum of 8 inches. All elevated obstacles must be placed in a cup, notched block or otherwise secured so they cannot roll. Measure the height from the ground to the top of the element.
- c. Backing obstacle. The backing obstacle is to be spaced a minimum of 28 inches; if elevated, 30 inches minimum space. Entrants cannot be asked to back over a stationary object such as a wooden pole or metal bar.
  - i. Back through and around at least three markers.
  - ii. Back through L, V, U, straight or similar shaped course. May be elevated no more than 24 inches.

## **3. Optional obstacles, but not limited to:**

- a. Ride over wooden bridge. (Suggested minimum width shall be 36 inches wide and at least six feet long.) Bridge should be safe, sturdy and negotiated at a walk.
- b. Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slick bottom boxes will be used.
- c. Serpentine obstacles at walk or jog or trot. Spacing is to be a minimum of 6 feet for the jog or trot.
- d. Carry object from part of arena to another. (Only objects which reasonably might be carried on a trail ride may used.)
- e. Put on and remove slicker.
- f. Remove and replace materials from mailbox.
- g. Side pass (may be elevated to 12 inches maximum).
- h. An obstacle consisting of four logs or rails, each 5 to 7 feet long, laid in a square. Each contestant will enter the square by riding over log or rail as designated. When all four feet are inside the square, rider should execute a turn as indicated and depart.
  - i. Log drag (15 – 19 age group only) Horse must be willing to drag a log for a short distance, either in a straight line or around a set pattern. Rope should be dallyed around the saddle horn and not tied hard and fast.
- j. Crossing obstacle – While mounted the horse would walk over obstacle no more than 18" in height.
- k. Stationary steer (12 – 14 and 15 – 19 age groups only). Horse to stand quietly while the rider makes a swing(s) and throw (rope) at the stationary steer. Missing the steer will not be penalized.

**l.** Use of any other safe and negotiable obstacle that could reasonably be expected to be encountered on a trail ride, providing the obstacle meets the judge's approval.

**m.** A combination of two or more of any obstacle is acceptable. Obstacles that should not be used include tires, animals, hides, PVC pipe, elevated obstacles above the height of maximum allowable heights for walk, trot or lope overs (jumps), rocking or moving bridges, water box with floating or moving parts, flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, etc. logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll, dismounting or ground ties.

**n.** The judge has the right and duty to alter the course in any manner or remove any obstacle he deems unsafe or nonnegotiable. If at any time a trail obstacle is deemed to be unsafe by the judge, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous works for that class.