



WISCONSIN 4-H HORSE PROJECT

EQUESTRIAN GUIDELINES

(Revised 2026)

**THE PRIORITY IS ALWAYS GIVEN TO SAFETY, EDUCATION, AND FUN.
ATTIRE AND TACK WILL NOT BE JUDGED AHEAD OF ABILITY.**

INDEX

Topics	Page
General Rules and Guidelines.....	2
Warm Up Ring Etiquette.....	3
Showmanship.....	3
Hunt Showmanship.....	4
Saddle Seat Showmanship.....	4
Western Showmanship.....	5
Draft Type Horse or Pony Showmanship.....	5
Pleasure.....	6
Hunter Seat Pleasure.....	6
Saddle Seat Pleasure.....	6
Western Pleasure.....	6
Equitation.....	7
Hunt Seat Equitation.....	8
Saddle Seat Equitation.....	8
Stock Seat Equitation.....	9
General Driving Guidelines.....	10
Draft Type (Horse or Pony) - Pleasure Driving.....	12
Pleasure Driving - Light Horse/Pony.....	12
Reinsmanship – Draft (Horse or Pony).....	13
Reinsmanship – Light Horse/Pony.....	13
Driving - Trot Cones.....	14
Trail Class.....	16
Trail Scoring.....	17
In Hand Trail.....	19
In Hand Trail Scoring.....	20
Western Riding.....	22
Pony Measurement.....	25

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements.

GENERAL RULES

- All riding and showmanship classes will be conducted according to existing 4-H rules.
- Neither exhibitor nor horse may show against itself in any class.
- Horses are to be shown according to breed standards.
- Equal consideration will be given to members showing gaited horses (Paso Fino, Tennessee Walker, Kentucky Mountain Horse, etc.) This shall include call for appropriate gaits, standard equipment and appropriate dress for showing the specific breed. The Executive Secretary should be given notice that a member is showing a gaited horse at the time State Expo entries are sent in. Exhibitors must indicate any "special considerations" (name of gaits, special equipment used, etc.) required for showing the breed.
- The two (2) minute gate rule will be enforced. Clock will start when the first horse enters the ring and the gate will be closed two (2) minutes after the first horse enters
- No horse may be left unattended when out of the stall.
- No riding or driving in the horse stall barns. Riders may only be mounted or in the cart in the designated areas (IE: practice arena, waiting areas, and show rings)
- No stallions may be shown.
- Horse and rider combo can not cross enter walk/trot and walk/trot/canter classes.

The following rules are grounds for disqualification and forfeiture of fees.

- Any act of discourtesy to judge or show officials by an exhibitor or any other attendant.
- Cruelty or abuse of a horse.

GENERAL GUIDELINES - ALL DISCIPLINES

Adjustments to tack and attire are permitted for religious or medical reasons, provided the show management is notified prior to the class.

GENERAL SAFETY ATTIRE:

- SEI approved helmets, with harness fastened, must be worn when mounted or driving on show grounds.
- Long pants (see exceptions under driving).
- Boots with a cut-out heel.
- Exhibitors must wear one of their issued exhibitor numbers at all times when on the show grounds. NOTE: It is recommended to wear the exhibitor numbers on BOTH sides of the saddle pad or back of the cart when the exhibitor is in the holding area or the show arena.

GENERAL SAFETY TACK:

- Saddle which fits horse and rider with stirrups, girth or cinch properly attached.
- Bridle with reins and a bit. Exceptions for Junior horses (5 years and under). (See Gymkhana and Western Pleasure for exceptions).
- Adjustments to tack and attire for valid medical or veterinary reasons are permitted, provided the show management is notified, and approves, prior to class.
- Boots, wraps, and bandages are prohibited in the show ring at Expo. Exceptions: Gymkhana; Hunt/Dressage Show; and boots and conservative colored bandages are permitted in the show ring for hunt seat equitation at Expo.

GENERAL CONDUCT:

- Be on time when the class is called.
- Enter the ring at the gait indicated and watch the ring steward for instruction.
- Be alert for posted patterns, verbal instruction, and cues from either the ring steward or judge.

- Be aware you are being judged from the time you enter the ring until you depart from the ring (unless otherwise specified by the judge).
- The exhibitor may be asked pertinent questions about horses and equipment.
- You and your horse should work as a team. The horse should respond to the slightest signals.
- Work calmly and quietly.
- Your actions should not draw the judge's attention away from your horse.
- Manners and action in handling the horse reflects time spent working with your horse.
- When handling a horse in hand, make turns to the right when more than ninety degrees. (If you turn to the left, there is a greater possibility of the horse stepping on you.

WARM UP RING ETIQUETTE:

- A red ribbon in a horse's tail means "this horse kicks," so stay back.
- When riding in opposite directions, pass so that your horse's left shoulder and their left shoulders are on the same side, what is known as "left shoulder to left shoulder."
- To pass horses going in the same direction, always pass to the inside of the ring. Never pass by riding between horses and the rail.
- Horses and riders who are preparing for a class have priority over riders just practicing.
- Proper spacing is 2 horse lengths or more distance from you and the horse in front of you.
- If you must stop for tack adjustment or for the rider's needs, come to the center of the ring to do so.
- Do not mount or congregate in the entrance to the riding area.
- Lunging and performing circles in the ring must be done in the center of the ring.
- If a rider falls off, halt immediately.
- Dismount if a horse is loose.

Per Wisconsin 4-H Horse Association Board of Directors

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

These pages outline the recommendations, proper attire and equipment for each performance class. Before coming to the show, read these pages thoroughly and make sure you are well prepared. Note: Proper safety equipment is strongly recommended.

SHOWMANSHIP

Showmanship class will be judged on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show the horse at halter, the horse is merely a prop to show the ability and preparation of the exhibitor. The ideal showmanship performance consists of a poised, confident, neatly attired exhibitor, leading a well groomed and conditioned horse. The horse should quickly and efficiently perform the requested patterns with smoothness and precision.

CLASS PROCEDURE:

- Showmanship is not a halter class and will not be judged as such.
- Spurs are prohibited in all showmanship classes.
- The exhibitor leads from the horse/pony's left side with the right hand controlling the animal. The right hand must not hold the chain portion of the lead (or the bit if showing with a bridle). The excess lead or rein is to be held in the left hand in a loose coil, or completely uncoiled. At no time is the lead or rein to be wrapped around the hand or held in a tight coil. (If a whip is carried the whip is held in the left hand.)
- When leading, be in position on the near (left) side of the horse between the horse's head and shoulders. A properly prepared horse will move readily and freely at a walk or trot with minimal effort.

- You will be asked to show your horse in action (way of going) at a walk, jog, trot or intermediate gait.
- When asked to move your horse from one position to another in the lineup, lead your horse forward, turn to the right, lead back through the spot just vacated, and enter your new position from the rear. Do not crowd other horses in the lineup.
- Your horse should set up quickly, stand quietly and move forward or backward freely.
- Horses are trained to set up by the use of the reins or lead and soft commands. Touching a horse into position will be penalized. A good showman will train his horse to set up so the signals/he gives are unnoticed by others.
- For safety and courtesy, always allow yourself and your neighbor plenty of room. Leave at least one horse/pony length between animals, both in circling the ring and in line-up.

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines.

HUNTER SHOWMANSHIP

Tack: The animal is to be shown in either a plain halter with a lead or a hunter style bridle with a plain leather browband and a regular cavesson noseband. The bit may be a snaffle (no shanks), a Kimberwick, a Pelham (two sets of reins), or a full bridle (two sets of reins, separate bits and cheek pieces). Twisted wire snaffle bits are PROHIBITED. Curb chains must be at least one-half inch wide and lay flat against the animal's jaw. If using a Pelham or full bridle, the snaffle rein is across the withers and the animal is led with the curb rein.

Attire: Riders should wear a coat of traditional Hunter Seat style and breeches (or jodhpurs) of conservative colors, English boots or jodhpur shoes with a cut out heel. Hair should be neat and confined. Gloves are optional. SEI approved safety helmets are not required during showmanship, however, a hunt helmet is required. Judges may penalize Exhibitors who do not conform.

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines.

SADDLE SEAT SHOWMANSHIP

Class Procedure: It is permitted to change hands if more convenient when putting the horse in position or while showing to the judge.

Tack: The tack used will depend upon what is traditional/customary for the breed of horse being shown. The following are acceptable choices of tack (use of a curb bit on weanling or yearlings is prohibited)

- Leather show halter with throat latch and matching lead.
- Full bridle including a snaffle bit, curb bit, browband, cavesson, throat latch, and two pairs of reins. The snaffle rein should be placed over the horse's withers and the handler should use the curb rein to lead his horse.
- Snaffle bridle with one or two pairs of reins or curb bit and single rein. This is used mainly for handling young horses (four years of age or younger). Bridles must include a throat latch, browband, cavesson, and either one or two pairs of reins. If using two pairs of reins, both reins are attached to the snaffle bit.
- You may choose to show your animal in the tack that is customary or traditional for your breed of horse.

Attire: Saddleseat styled riding coat, jodhpurs (fitted pants with flared pant leg), dress shirt (white or pastel colored, pinstriped), neck tie, jodhpur boots (ankle high), vest and gloves. Accessories may add interest to your attire such as tie bar or tack, lapel pin or boutonniere, hair bow or net.

Note: A riding suit, "equitation suit", "matched suit" refers to a riding coat and jodhpurs having the

same color and material. The color is a conservative solid (black, blue, gray, green, beige or brown) or a subtle pattern (combination of colors that appear as one when viewed from a distance). The shape of the coat lapel, the type of closure and the color of the vest or the lining of the coat is personal preference. A riding suit (coat and jodhpurs or the same color and materials is customary attire for all saddleseat equitation classes. The term day coat (customarily worn in pleasure classes) refers to a riding coat having a different but co-coordinated color (unifying the total attire of the rider), or similar color but not matching the material and color of the jodhpurs.

Helmets are not required in Saddleseat Showmanship.

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines.

WESTERN SHOWMANSHIP

Tack: Horses are to be shown in a show halter or plain halter. The show halter should be clean, properly adjusted, fitted and suitable for breed standards.

Attire: Exhibitors must wear a showmanship outfit that could consist of the following styles: long sleeve western style shirt, long sleeve button-down shirt, sweater, coat or vest with appropriate dress pants, khakis, or jeans. Hair must be neat and securely fastened if long, so as not to cover the exhibitors number. Exhibitors may wear either a helmet or a cowboy hat. Judges may penalize exhibitors who do not conform.

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines.

DRAFT TYPE HORSE OR PONY SHOWMANSHIP

Any horse 54" or above following draft tack/equipment and class rules may enter.

Tack: The horse should be shown in a leather show halter, rope show halter or a clean halter and lead. A show stick, approximately 3/4 to 1" in diameter and 14" long, used for setting up the horse is optional. No whip or whip person is allowed.

Attire: Clothing must be clean and neat. Dress shirt and slacks with a belt is preferred. Hard soled boots or shoes must be worn. Hair should be neat and contained. Hats, gloves, tie and coats are optional. (Shorts, skirts, sleeveless shirts or tank tops, farm names or personal exhibitor identification are not allowed.)

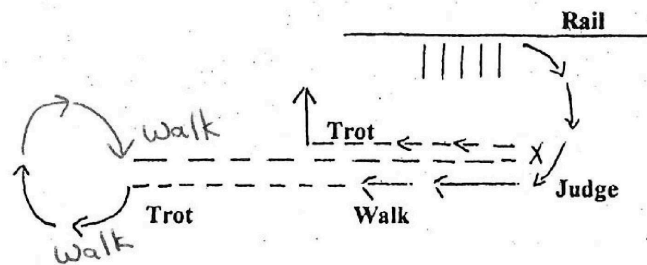
Setup:

- Draft showmanship participants do not switch sides of the horse as the judge moves around them, but they should be aware of the judge at all times.
- When setting up the horse, switch lead to the left hand (this allows the exhibitor to use a show stick or the right hand to set up the horse).
- Your horse should set up quickly and stand properly.
- After the horse is set up the handler remains at the horse's shoulder, never turning their back to the horse.

Patterns: Draft/type horse or pony showmanship uses one pattern, see below. Walk from the line up towards the judge, continue walking in a straight line away from the judge a few steps, pick up the trot. Walk a small circle, walk a few steps toward the judge, trot back to the judge. Stop and pose your horse for inspection. Following inspection trot away from the judge and return to the line up.

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines.

Diagram of Draft Horse Showmanship Competition



PLEASURE

The emphasis in judging is on the horse/pony. The horse/pony is shown at the requested gaits both ways of the ring. Horses/ponies should be obedient, alert, responsive and move freely. Entries shall be penalized for being on the wrong lead. Contestants may be required to back in a straight line. Class is to be judged on the horse/pony's manners, performance and suitability of the horse/pony as a pleasure mount.

HUNTER UNDER SADDLE (PLEASURE)

In a hunter under saddle class, the horse/pony should show a long, ground covering stride. The order to reverse may be executed by turning toward or away from the rail. Light contact with the horse/pony's mouth is required. A Horse/pony should be obedient, alert, responsive, and move freely. They should not be eliminated for slight errors. Judges may ask horses to hand gallop collectively, one way of the ring. No more than eight exhibitors will be asked to hand gallop at one time. (Riders in grades 8 and under will not be asked to hand gallop.)

Attire and tack: Follow the guidelines listed under Hunter Seat Equitation.

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines.

SADDLE SEAT PLEASURE

The pleasure horse should exhibit quality, style, presence, and suitable conformation. Prompt, comfortable gaits, giving the distinct impression it is an agreeable mount to ride. Easy, ground covering action is desired. Transitions from one gait to another should be smooth and effortless.

Attire and tack: Follow the guidelines listed under Saddle Seat Equitation.

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines.

WESTERN PLEASURE

Western pleasure animal a sensible, alert, bright, easy moving, well-mannered mount that can provide a quiet, comfortable and pleasant ride at a walk, jog, and lope.

Attire and tack: Follow the guidelines listed under Stock Seat Equitation.

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines

EQUITATION:

Equitation is the skill of the rider, using the correct form and aids (hands, legs, seat, weight, and voice) to produce the maximum performance of the horse. Suitability of animal, tack, and attire may affect the overall picture, however, the actions of the animal are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining the correct action called for by the rider.

Class routine: All riders will perform pattern work as specified by the judge. Riders may be called back for rail work at the discretion of the judge. Exhibitors shall enter the ring and proceed around the ring at each gait and, on command, reverse and repeat. The order to reverse may be executed by turning toward or away from the rail. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Entries then line up on command. Instructions should be publicly announced or posted.

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines.

MOUNTING AND DISMOUNTING:

To mount, take up reins in the left hand and place hand on withers, Pommel or horn of the saddle. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand and insert left foot in stirrup and mount. To dismount, the rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration. Mounting block or appropriate assistance may be requested (must be provided by the exhibitor).

Tests from which judges may choose:

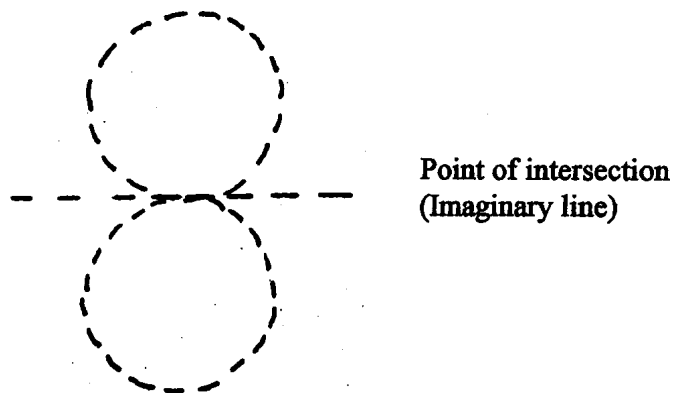
- Gaits: walk, trot/jog, extended trot/jog, canter/lope, hand gallop/extended lope, stop, back.
- Ride without and/or drop and pick up stirrups in motion.
- Turn on the forehand and/or turn on haunches.
- Demonstrate change of diagonals.
- Demonstrate change of leads (simple or flying)
- Address reins
- Serpentine at trot or canter
- Figure 8 at trot or canter

NOTE: Time limits, determined and announced at show, will be enforced for all equitation patterns.

A figure eight is not ridden as you would draw the letter eight, but is two circles of the same size.

Example:

- a. Rider "finds" the middle line of figure 8 which runs through the center point of intersection (see diagram)
- b. Rider rides down an imaginary line. Just before the intersection begin a circle to the right.
- c. Recross the point of intersection, change direction and demonstrate a same size circle to the left.
- d. Stop your horse exactly at the point of intersection.



HUNTER SEAT EQUITATION

Hands: Hands should be over and in front of horse's withers, knuckles 30 degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from horse's mouth to rider's elbow. Method of holding reins is optional and the bight of reins may fall on either side. However, all reins must be picked up at the same time.

Basic position: The eyes should be up and shoulders back. Toes should be at an angle best suited to rider's conformation; ankles flexed in, heels down, calf of leg in contact with horse and slightly behind girth. Stirrups should be on the ball of the foot and must not be tied to the girth.

Position in motion: At the walk and sitting trot body should be vertical. At a posting trot, galloping and jumping, body inclined slightly forward. At a canter, body halfway between posting trot and walk.

Tack: Regulation snaffles, Pelham and full bridles, all with cavesson nosebands. A judge at his/her own discretion can penalize a horse with a non-conventional type of bit or nose band (Kimberwickes are permitted). Twisted wire snaffles are PROHIBITED. Boots and conservative colored bandages are permitted. (equitation only). Saddle must be a hunter or forward seat style, with or without knee rolls or padding. Any change of equipment during a class can be penalized at the discretion of the judge. Martingales, tie downs and flash nosebands are prohibited, except in classes over fences.

Attire: Riders should wear a coat of traditional Hunter Seat style and breeches (or jodhpurs) of conservative colors, English boots or jodhpur shoes with a cut out heel. Spurs of the unroweled type, crops or bats and gloves are optional. Hair should be neat and confined. Judges may penalize exhibitors who do not conform. SEI approved helmets, with harness securely fastened are required.

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines.

SADDLE SEAT EQUITATION

Hands: The height of the rider's hands depends upon how and where the horse carries his head. Hands should exhibit control, sympathy, and ease of commands from the rider to the horse. The hands should be above the horse's withers, with a definite bend in the rider's elbow. The fingers are closed around the reins, with the rider's little finger between the snaffle and curb reins. Both hands must be used and both snaffle and curb reins must be held in each hand at all times. The bight of the reins should be on the off (right) side.

Basic position: A rider should sit comfortably in the middle of the saddle, with a slight bend at the knee. A rider's upper body should be erect, but not stiff. A rider should maintain thigh and knee contact with the saddle at all times. This contact is established by turning the knee slightly in towards the horse's shoulder. Proper stirrup length can be determined by taking the foot out of the stirrup and adjusting the stirrup leather so that the height of the bottom of the stirrup equals the ankle joint. Position the ball of the foot across the center of the stirrup iron. The heel should be slightly lower than the toe. The heel should also be positioned directly below the hip.

Position in motion: Walk - the rider should maintain contact with the horse's mouth while exhibiting slight motion and flexibility in the saddle. Trot - the rider should post during the trot (rise up and down with the horse's motion). Correct diagonals are of importance while posting. A correct diagonal occurs when a rider rises and falls at the same time his horse's front rail leg rises up and down. Canter - the rider should maintain a balanced and quiet seat and upper body while cantering. The rider's hands at the canter should be collecting the horse in order to obtain a moderately slow and rolling gait. At the canter, a rider's legs are used to urge the horse's hindquarters up and underneath the horse, while the hands should be lifting and collecting the horse's head and neck.

Attire: Saddleseat styled riding coat, jodhpurs (fitted pants with flared pant leg), dress shirt (white or pastel colored, pinstriped), neck tie, jodhpur boots (ankle high), vest and gloves. Accessories may add interest to your attire such as tie bar or tack, lapel pin or boutonniere, hair bow or net.

Note: A riding suit, "equitation suit", "matched suit" refers to a riding coat and jodhpurs having the same color and material. The color is a conservative solid (black, blue, gray, green, beige or brown) or a subtle pattern (combination of colors that appear as one when viewed from a distance). The shape of the coat lapel, the type of closure and the color of the vest or the lining of the coat is a personal preference. A riding suit (coat and jodhpurs or the same color and materials) is customary attire for all saddleseat equitation classes. The term day coat (customarily worn in pleasure classes) refers to a riding coat having a different but co-coordinated color (unifying the total attire of the rider), or similar color but not matching the material and color of the jodhpurs. SEI approved helmets, with harness securely fastened are required.

Tack: The bridle is to consist of a headstall with a browband, cavesson, and buckled or stitched together reins. If using a full bridle, the curb rein is to be narrower in width than the snaffle rein. The style of saddle is flat, with or without a cutback. Miscellaneous: The rider may wear spurs (roweled or blunt) and carry a riding whip. Martingales or similar tie-downs are prohibited.

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines.

STOCK SEAT EQUITATION

Hands: In repose, arms are in a straight line with the body, the one holding reins bent at elbow. Only one hand is to be used for reining and hands shall not be changed. Hand to be around reins, above the horn and as near to it as possible. Riders' hands should show sympathy, adaptability and control. In cases where a junior horse or pony (5 years and under) is shown with a snaffle bit (no shanks) or bosal, the animal must be shown with both hands on reins. The rider's hands should be carried near the pommel and not further than 4" out on either side.

Split Reins: When ends of split reins fall on the reining hand side, one finger between reins is permitted. The free hand and arm are to be carried bent at the elbow in a similar position as the hand holding the reins or straight down at the rider's side.

Romel Reins: When using romel, no finger between reins is allowed. The position of the hand not being used for reining is optional but it should be kept free of the horse and equipment and held in a relaxed manner with the rider's body straight at all times. The rider can hold the romel to adjust the position of the reins, provided it is held at least 16 inches from the reining hand.

Basic position: The rider should sit the saddle with knees slightly bent so that shoulder, hip and heel form a straight line. The stirrup should be just short enough to allow heels to be lower than toes. Body should always appear comfortable, relaxed and flexible. Feet should be placed in the stirrups with weight on the ball of the foot.

Position in motion: When at the jog the rider should sit and not post. At the lope, the rider should be close to the saddle. All movements of the horse should be governed by the use of subtle aids.

Attire: Exhibitors must wear pants and sleeves to the wrist. Spurs, chaps, sweaters, coats and vests are optional. Hair must be neat and securely fastened if long, so as not to cover the rider's number. Judges may penalize exhibitors who do not conform. SEI approved helmets, with harness securely fastened are required.

Tack: The standard western saddle should fit the rider. It may be a slick or swelled fork, have a high or low cantle but must definitely be sized to the rider. Nothing that would prevent the stirrups from hanging freely shall be added or deleted from a standard western saddle. Horses or ponies, 5 and under, may use a snaffle bit (no shanks) or bosal (twisted wire snaffles are PROHIBITED). Curb chains may be used but must be at least ½" in width and lie flat against the jaws of the horse. No wire, metal or rawhide device is permissible in conjunction with or as a part of the leather chin strap which must be at least ½" wide. Mechanical hackamore, tie-downs, running martingales and draw reins are prohibited. If closed reins are used, hobbles must be carried below the cantle on the near side of the saddle. Cavesson-type nosebands are prohibited. If a lariat is carried, it must be attached to the fork of the saddle on the opposite side of your reining hand. Silver equipment may be used but shall not be given preference over good working equipment.

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines.

GENERAL DRIVING GUIDELINES

The horse/pony must be attended at all times. Driver must be on the seat with lines in hand or a header must be holding the horse/pony.

Harness: (see class descriptions for additional requirements.)

Harness must be clean, properly fitted, in good repair and suitable to the vehicle. A full collar or breast collar harness, bridle with blinkers, throat latch, and a bit (snaffle/ Liverpool, Buxton, elbow or other standard driving bit) is required. If a curb chain is used, the chain must be at least ½" in width and lay flat against the jaw. Over check or side check (with or without a check bit) is optional. Bridles should fit snugly to prevent catching on a vehicle or other pieces of harness. Hand hold on the lines are NOT permitted. **Under no conditions shall a bridle and/or lines be removed from the horse while it is put to the cart/vehicle.** Breeching or thimbles (or other accepted means of braking, example: shaft stops) is required. Exhibitors should be aware of the proper and safe procedure when putting a horse to a vehicle.

Attire: Clothing for drivers and headers/grooms must be conservative, neat and clean. Correctly fitted SEI approved safety helmet, with harness securely fastened, must be worn (optional for headers/grooms). Dress should conform to the type of vehicle, (casual or sporty attire for a sport or natural finish vehicle, formal attire for a more formal vehicle). Gentlemen shall be attired in a dress shirt with slacks/khakis or suit. Ladies shall be attired in long-sleeved blouse with a high neckline, slack suit, dress suit, long skirt, or appropriate dress (with high neckline and hem below the knee when at a seated position). Drivers must wear boots or shoes with a distinguishable heel (no higher than two inches). Number must be visible and secure. Hair must be neat and securely fastened if long so as not to cover the driver's number. It may be placed on both sides of the cart, back of the cart and/or the exhibitor's back. Gloves (should match turn out), tie, apron/lap robe, coats or jackets for gentlemen are optional.

Use of Whip: An appropriate driving whip shall be carried in the driver's hand at all times in the ring. The thong on the whip must be long enough to reach the shoulder of the horse/pony. Exception to this rule is for a draft horse. The whip is held in the right hand within the frame of the vehicle, at the most comfortable balance. The whip is only a method of communication with the horse/pony. At no time should it interfere with another driver. Use of lines as a whip is prohibited. A person who is unable to carry a whip may obtain special permission from show management. The whip salute is used to acknowledge the judge at the start and finish of an individual test. The whip salute is performed in one of the following ways:

- a. Move the whip, held in the right hand, to a vertical position, the butt end even with the face.
- b. Move the whip, held in the right hand, to a position parallel with the ground, the handle before the face.

Header/Groom: A header/groom is permitted in the ring during the line up, but must be properly attired. Those not conforming may be placed accordingly. The header/groom is permitted to stand two-three paces in front of the horse/pony and can give assistance to ensure driver safety. The header/groom should step back as the judge approaches.

Description of Gaits:

Walk: A free, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate extension is ideal. The horse should walk energetically, but calmly, with even and determined pace. The walk is a four beat gait.

Slow Trot: The horse should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. It is a slower and more collected trot. However, the horse should show a willingness to be driven on the bit while maintaining a steady cadence.

Working Trot: This is the pace between the strong and the slow trot, exhibiting more roundness than the strong trot. The horse goes forward freely and straight; engaging the hind legs with good hock action; on a taut but light rein; the position being balanced and unconstrained. The steps should be as even as possible. The hind feet touch the ground in the footprints of the fore feet. The degree of energy and impulsion displayed denotes clearly the degree of suppleness and balance of the horse.

Strong Trot: This is a clear, but not excessive, increase in pace and lengthening of stride while remaining well balanced and showing appropriate lateral flexion on turns. Light contact to be maintained. Excessive speed will be penalized.

Halt: Horse and vehicle should be brought to a complete square stop without abruptness or veering. At the halt, the horse should remain attentive, motionless and straight with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs and be ready to move off at the slightest indication from the driver.

Rein Back: Backward movement in which the legs are raised and set down simultaneously in diagonal pairs with the hind legs remaining in line. To be performed in two parts: A) Horse must move backward at least four steps in an unhurried manner with the head flexed and straight, pushing the vehicle back evenly in a straight line. The driver should use quiet aids and light contact. B) Move forward willingly to your former position using the same quiet aids.

Class Routine: (See class description for additional requirements). Exhibitors should keep passing to a minimum. If you need to pass, do so with caution. NOTE: NO PASSING ALLOWED IN DRAFT CLASSES. Horses may not circle to obtain position on the rail. The reverse shall be done across the ring on the diagonal as directed by a ring steward. The judge may call for the reverse at a walk or slow trot with safety being the primary concern. Horses are to stand quietly and back readily. Judges must eliminate from competition an unsafe or excessively noisy vehicle or unruly horse. Draft horses will not be required to perform a strong trot.

It is permissible to talk to the horse/pony in a subdued tone of voice. Clucks for starting, "walk", "trot" and "whoa" are acceptable terms. Driver is not permitted to shout, whistle or talk loudly to the horse/pony.

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines.

PLEASURE DRIVING - DRAFT TYPE (horse or pony)

Any horse 54" or above following draft tack/equipment and class rules may enter. See General Driving Guidelines for additional information. Emphasis of judging is to be 70% on horse's performance, manners, and way of going, 20% on condition and fit of harness, 10% on neatness of attire. Horses should be well broken exhibiting an easy-going pleasurable way.

Harness: Horse/pony may be shown with either breeching or cart harness with crupper.

Vehicle: Vehicle should be a two wheeled cart suitable for a draft type horse/pony. The exhibitor is the only person permitted in the cart (except for approved medical reasons).

Class Routine: Enter the ring to the right at a trot. To be exhibited both ways of the ring at a walk, and a working trot. (See description of gaits under General Driving Guidelines.) **NO PASSING ALLOWED.** Horses may not circle to obtain position on the rail. Draft horses will not be required to perform a strong trot.

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines.

PLEASURE DRIVING - LIGHT HORSE/PONY

Horse/pony to be shown according to breed standards. To be judged 70% on performance, manners and way of going, 20% on condition and fit of harness, 10% on neatness of attire. The horse/pony should be well broken, with an easy-going pleasurable way.

Exhibitors should strive to present an "appropriate" (balanced and pleasing appearance of the combination of horse/pony and vehicle) turnout. Factors determining "appropriate" include compatible size, type and weight of horse/pony and vehicle. The way of going may also affect overall appearance: that is, a high-action horse/pony is more suitable to a formal vehicle, the low-going, ground covering horse/pony is more suitable to a road or country type vehicle.

Harness: A noseband or cavesson is required. (See also General Driving Guidelines: Harness)

Vehicle: To be shown in a two or four-wheeled, one horse/pony pleasure type vehicle, with seating for one or two people. The exhibitor is the only person permitted in the vehicle (except for valid medical reasons). No stirrup type carts, chariots, buggies or sulkies allowed.

Class Routine: Enter the ring to the right at a working trot. Horse/pony may be exhibited both ways of the ring at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. (See description of gaits under General Driving Guidelines.) Exhibitors should keep passing to a minimum. If you need to pass, do so with caution. Horses may not circle to obtain position on rail.

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines.

REINSMANSHIP – DRAFT TYPE (horse or pony)

Any horse 54" or above following Draft tack/equipment and class rules may enter. See General Driving Guidelines for additional info.

Emphasis of judging is to show the exhibitor's skill and expertise in handling the driving animal.

Harness and Vehicle: follow the guidelines listed under Draft Type Pleasure Driving.

Class Routine: Enter the ring to the right at a working trot. Class to be exhibited both ways of the ring at a walk and working trot. Drivers shall be required to rein back. Drivers may be asked to execute a figure eight; two exact circles of equal size, joined at the center of the eight with the horse straightening an instant before changing direction at the center of the figure (see diagram listed under Hunt Seat Equitation, page 5) and perform any other appropriate tests called for by the judge. The driver should be seated comfortably on the seat, so as to be relaxed and effective, the elbows and arms should be close to the body, with a steady hand enabling a consistent "feel" with the horse/pony's mouth. Two-handed method of driving is required.

Horses may not circle to obtain position on the rail. No passing allowed.

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines.

REINSMANSHIP – LIGHT HORSE/PONY:

The emphasis in judging is to show the exhibitor's skill and expertise in handling the driving animal. To be judged 75% on handling of reins and whip, control, posture, and overall appearance of the driver, 25% on condition and proper fit of harness and vehicle and neatness of attire. This class is comparable to an equitation riding class.

Harness and Vehicle: Follow guidelines listed under Pleasure Driving - Light Horse/Pony or Draft Horse/Pony.

Class Routine: Enter the ring to the right at a working trot. To be exhibited both ways of the ring, at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. Draft horses will not be required to perform a strong trot. (See description of gaits under General Driving Guidelines.) Drivers shall be required to rein back. Drivers may be asked to execute a figure eight; two exact circles of equal size, joined at the center of the eight with the horse/pony straightening an instant before changing direction at the center of the figure (see diagram listed under Hunt Seat Equitation, page 5) and perform any other appropriate tests called for by the judge. The driver should be seated comfortably on the seat, so as to be relaxed and effective. Either one or two-handed method of driving is acceptable. The elbows and arms should be close to the body, with a steady hand enabling a consistent "feel" with the horse/pony's mouth.

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines.

DRIVING – TROT CONES

The emphasis in judging is to show the exhibitor's skill and expertise in handling the driving animal through a Trot Cones course.

- Clean patterns are placed before exhibitors with penalties.
- Fastest time to finish the course in the correct order, with added penalties determines placing.
- Number must be on our right when entering cones. Must complete in numerical order.
- The clock starts when the horse crosses number 1 and stops when the horse crosses number 8.
- Following the salute, the judge will signal that the driver may begin the course. The driver then has one minute to begin the course.
- When the driver completes the course they must bring the horse back to walk and exit the ring.
- The gates of cones will be set at 6 feet 6 inches apart and are set the same for all entries. The course pattern will be posted. Tennis balls will be placed on top of each cone.
- Walk, trot are allowed gaits.
- The judge's decision is final.
- See general driving guidelines for additional information.

Penalties:

5 seconds - Knocking over start or finish markers

5 seconds per ball - Knocking off a ball

5 seconds per break to Canter up to 4 breaks

Disqualified: (Exhibitor will be excused with no further work on course)

- 5th break OR prolonged canter
- OFF course
- Taking gates out of number sequence OR with number on the wrong side.

TROT CONES – DRIVING PATTERN



TRAIL CLASS

This class is open to Western, Hunter, or Saddle Seat style of riding. You must ride your horse in accordance with specific discipline. Follow recommendations listed under Hunter Seat Equitation, Saddle Seat Equitation, or Stock Seat Equitation. Exhibitors may show either horse or pony.

NOTE: Refer also to General Guidelines.

Attire/tack: The attire and tack must be appropriate per style of riding. SEI approved safety helmet, with chin strap fastened **MUST** be worn in trail class. Exhibitors must adhere to Tack and Attire guidelines listed under Hunter Seat Equitation, Saddle Seat Equitation or Stock Seat Equitation.

Class Routine: Each exhibitor will individually execute the course. A course diagram will be posted on the State 4-H website under the WI 4-H Horse Association Handbook. The diagram will indicate obstacles, path to be ridden, and the gait the horse will take between obstacles. No horse may enter the trail course area until the course and judge are ready. However, riders may be permitted to inspect the course on foot prior to the commencement of the class at management's discretion.

Course Requirements: Course to include a minimum of six obstacles separately or combined. Care in preparing the course should be exercised to prevent a direct advantage to either a small or large horse. Course should include a jog/trot and a lope/canter of suitable duration to determine the way of going.

Any exhibitor taking excessive time at an obstacle will be advanced to the next obstacle per the judge's discretion.

Recommended Obstacles:

1. Opening, passing through, and closing gate
2. Ride over at least four logs, poles, or simulated brush. These can be in a straight line, curved, zigzagged, or raised.
3. Backing obstacles to be spaced a minimum of 28". (If elevated, 30" spacing is required.)

Optional Obstacles:

- Wood poles.
- Ride over a bridge. Suggested minimum width 36" and at least 6' long.
- Carry an object from one part of the arena to another (slicker, pail, halter, etc.).
- Riding through water.
- Side passing.
- Elevated poles or logs (not to exceed 12").
- Any other safe and reasonable conditions encountered along the trail.

Unacceptable Obstacles:

- Tires
- Animals
- Hides
- Rocking or moving bridges
- Water box with floating or moving parts
- Flames, dry ice, fire extinguishers, etc.
- Logs or poles elevated in such a manner that they would be permitted to roll
- PVC poles

Guide to Spacing Obstacles:

- Walk-over poles: 18, 20, 22, or 24 inches apart. (OR distance between poles can be staggered, such as 12, 24, 22 inches.)
- Trot or jog over poles: 2'6" or 3'6" apart.
- Canter or lope over poles: 6 or 7 feet apart.
- Back-through L: 28 to 30 inches wide.
- Trot or jog through L: 3'6" to 4' wide.

TRAIL SCORING

Scoring will be on the basis of 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a **penalty** that should be subtracted.

Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from +1½ to a -1½:

-1½ extremely poor	-1 very poor	-½ poor
0 correct		
+½ good	+1 very good	+1½ excellent

Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

Penalty points should be assessed, per occurrence, as follows:**½ point –**

- Each tick or contact of a log, pole, cone, plant, or any component of an obstacle.

1 point -

- Each hit, bite, or stepping on a log, cone, plant or any component of an obstacle.
- Break of gait at walk or jog for two strides or less.
- Both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space at a walk or jog.
- Skipping over or failing to step into required space.
- Split pole in lope over.
- Incorrect number of strides, if specified.

3 point -

- Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides.
- Out of lead or break of gait at lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead).
- Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant, obstacle, or severely disturbing an obstacle.
- Falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or a water box with one foot once the horse has gotten on or into that obstacle.
- Stepping outside of the confines of an obstacle with designated boundaries (i.e.: back through, 360 box, side pass) with one foot once the horse has entered the obstacle.
- Missing evading a pole that is part of a series of an obstacle with one foot.

5 point -

- Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course.
- First or second cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing.
- Letting go of the gate or dropping rope gate.
- Once inside the obstacle, performing that obstacle incorrectly or in an incorrect direction – including overturn of more than ¼ turn.
- Falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or water box with MORE than one foot once the horse has gotten on or into that obstacle.
- Stepping outside of the confines of an obstacle with designated boundaries (i.e.: back through 360 box, side pass) with more than one foot once the horse has entered the obstacle.
- Missing or evading a pole that is part of a series of obstacles with more than one foot. Blatant disobedience (including kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking).
- Holding the saddle with either hand.
- Failure to complete an obstacle.
- Failure to post the trot – English riders

Disqualified: Exhibitor will be excused with no further work on course when dismissed by the judge or whistle is blown/sounds.

- Western riders two-handing with a curb (leverage/shank) bit.
- Off Course:
 - Performing an obstacle out of specified order.
 - No attempt to perform an obstacle.
 - Entering or exiting an obstacle from the incorrect side or direction.
 - Riding outside the designated boundary marker of the arena or course area.
 - Failure to follow the correct line of travel between or within obstacles.
- Failure to ever demonstrate correct gait as designated.
- Fall to ground (separation of horse and rider)
- Third cumulative refusal (balking, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing)
- Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern.
- Excessive schooling, pulling, turning, stepping or backing anywhere on course.

Faults to be scored according to severity which occur on line of travel between obstacles:

- Head carried too low (tip of ear below the withers)
- Over-flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical.
- Excessive nosing out.
- Opening my mouth excessively.

IN HAND TRAIL CLASS

Tack: Horse/Pony must **ONLY** be shown in a halter with lead. Lead may have a chain, which may be used over the nose, under the chin or through the lead ring on the halter and snapped back to the chain next to the lead strap. Lip chains are strictly forbidden.

Attire: Exhibitors must follow guidelines listed for Western, Hunter or Saddle Seat Showmanship.

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines.

Class Routine: Each exhibitor will individually execute the course. A course pattern will be posted on the State 4-H website in the WI 4-H Horse Assn Handbook. The pattern will indicate obstacles, path to be followed, and the gait the horse will take between obstacles.

No horse/pony may enter the trail course until the course and judge are ready. However, exhibitors may be permitted to inspect the course on foot (without the horse/pony) prior to the commencement of the class at the manager's discretion.

1. Class will be judged on the performance of the horse/pony over obstacles, with emphasis on manners and way of going.
2. Horse/pony is to be led through the course with the exhibitor on the horse/pony's left side. The exhibitor should be positioned between the eye and the midpoint of the neck. An exhibitor may change sides to negotiate obstacles.
3. Horse/pony will be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching the obstacles.

Course Requirements: Course to include a minimum of six obstacles separately or combined. Care in preparing the course should be exercised to prevent a direct advantage to either a small or large horse. Course should include a jog/trot of suitable duration to determine the way of going. Any exhibitor taking excessive time at an obstacle will be advanced to the next obstacle per the judge's discretion.

Recommended Obstacles:

- Gate – When opening or closing the gate only the left hand should be used.
- Ground Poles - Straight Trot Over/Walk Over – Handler can be on the outside of the poles. Half Circle or Fan Trot Over/Walk Over – Handler can work outside the half circle or stand at the apex of the half circle on the inside.
- Backing obstacles: L, U, V shaped or Straight – Handler can stay on the outside of the obstacle.
- Triangular barrels – Handler is allowed to enter the obstacle.
- Serpentine Back Through – Handler is allowed to enter the obstacle.
- V Walk Through – Handler may step on the inside of the obstacle.
- 360 Degree Turn Inside a Box of Poles – Handler is allowed to step inside the box.

Optional Obstacles:

- Wood poles.
- Bridge – Handler should walk beside the bridge.
- Carry an object from one part of the arena to another (slicker, pail, halter, etc.)
- Walking through water.
- Side passing.
- Any other safe and reasonable conditions encountered along the trail.

Unacceptable Obstacles: Refer to Trail Class Guidelines.

Guide to Spacing Obstacles: Refer to Trail Class Guidelines.

IN HAND TRAIL SCORING

Scoring will be on the basis of 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted.

Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from +1 ½ to a -1 ½:

-1 ½ extremely poor	-1 very poor	- ½ poor
0 correct		
+ ½ good	+1 very good	+1 ½ excellent

Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

Credit will be given to horse/pony negotiating the obstacles with style, without hesitancy and willingly responding to the handler's cues. Special credit will be given to handlers who can negotiate obstacles without entering the obstacle or touching the horse/pony.

Penalty points should be assessed, per occurrence, as follows:

½ point –

- Each tick or contact of a log, pole, cone, plant, or any component of an obstacle.

1 point –

- Each hit, bite, or stepping on a log, cone, plant or any component of an obstacle.
- Break of gait at walk or jog for two strides or less.
- Both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space at a walk or jog.
- Skipping over or failing to step into required space.
- Leading horse/pony in front or ahead of him.
- Entering an obstacle with the horse/pony, except serpentine, back through chute, triangular back-through, gate or other obstacles in which the handler must enter to work the obstacle.

3 points -

- Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides.
- Knocking down or severely disturbing an obstacle (pole, cone, barrel, plant).
- Falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or a water box with one foot once the horse has gotten on or into that obstacle.
- Stepping outside of the confines of an obstacle with designated boundaries (i.e.: back through, 360 box, side pass) with one foot once the horse has entered the obstacle.
- Missing evading a pole that is part of a series of an obstacle with one foot.

5 points -

- Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course.
- First or second cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing.
- Touching horse/pony with hand or foot in attempt to cue horse/pony.
- Letting go of the gate or dropping rope gate.
- Once inside the obstacle, performing that obstacle incorrectly or in an incorrect direction – including overturn of more than ¼ turn.

- Falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or water box with MORE than one foot once the horse has gotten on or into that obstacle.
- Stepping outside of the confines of an obstacle with designated boundaries (i.e.: back through 360 box, side pass) with more than one foot once the horse has entered the obstacle.
- Missing or evading a pole that is part of a series in an obstacle with more than one foot.
- Failure to complete an obstacle.

Disqualified: Exhibitor will be excused with no further work on course when dismissed by the judge or whistle is blown/sounds.

Off Course:

- Performing an obstacle out of specified order.
- No attempt to perform an obstacle.
- Entering or exiting an obstacle from the incorrect side or direction.
- Moving outside the designated boundary marker of the arena or course area.
- Failure to follow the correct line of travel between or within obstacles.
- Failure to ever demonstrate correct gait as designated.
- Separation of horse and handler.
- Third cumulative refusal (balking, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing)
- Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern.
- Excessive schooling, pulling, turning, stepping or backing anywhere on course.
- Blatant disobedience (including kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking).
- Illegal equipment.
- Willful abuse.

WISCONSIN 4-H WESTERN RIDING CLASS

Wisconsin 4-H Western Riding is a pattern class that should be ridden in a relaxed, controlled, fluid moving pattern. The horse and rider should work as a team with light cues from the rider and a willing response from the horse.

Attire/tack: Follow guidelines under Stock Seat Equitation.

Class Routine: Each exhibitor shall individually execute the pattern listed. Simple change of leads is permitted, flying lead change is preferred and may result in a higher maneuver score. At the judge's signal the rider shall begin the pattern. Upon completion of the pattern the rider shall exit the arena.

Obstacle Scores:

Excellent +1½ Very good +1 Good +½ Correct 0 Poor –½ Very Poor -1 Extremely Poor –1½

Penalty ½: Tick or light touch of log; Hind legs skipping or coming together during flying lead change; Exceeding one stride while executing simple lead change

Penalty 1: Hitting or rolling the log; Out of lead more than one stride either side of center point and between markers; Break of gait at the walk or jog up to two strides.

Penalty 3: Not performing the specific gait or stopping when called for when in the pattern; Out of lead at or before the marker prior to the designated change area or out of lead at or after the marker after the designated change area; Additional lead changes anywhere in pattern; Failure to start the lope at the designated area after crossing the log at the jog; Break of gait at walk or jog anywhere more than 2 strides; Break of gait at the lope.

Penalty 5: Out of lead beyond the next designated change area; blatant disobedience (including, but not limited to, kicking, biting, bucking, rearing); excessive speed.

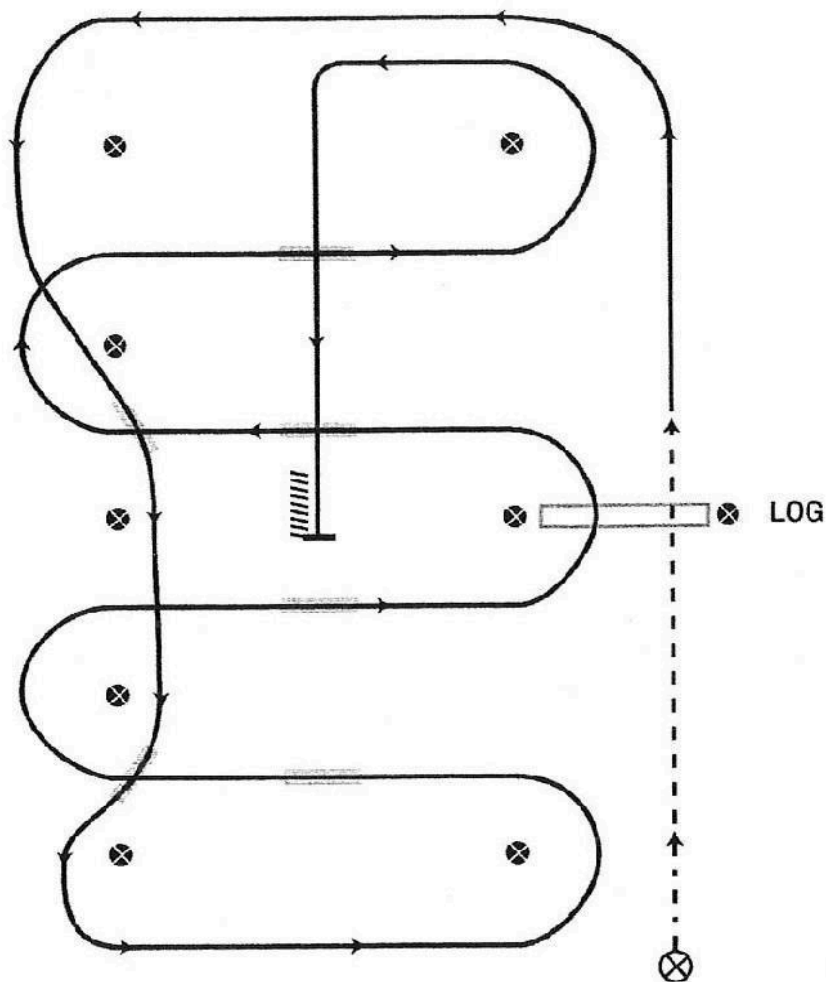
Penalty Score 0 (Disqualification): (Exhibitor will be excused with no further work on course.) Use of more than one finger between reins; Use of 2 hands (unless horse 5 and under riding in bosal or snaffle); Illegal equipment; Willful abuse; Off course; Knocking over marker; Completely missing log; Major refusal; Major disobedience or schooling; Overturn of more than ¼ of turn. Faults, which will be scored according to severity; Head carried too low (tip of ear below withers consistently); Over flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical consistently.

Ties will be broken using the total maneuver score.

Show committee will have the option of putting a wait cone for the next rider inside the show arena

NOTE: Please see General Guidelines.

LEVEL I WESTERN RIDING PATTERN I



⊗ START CONE WALK - - - - - JOG - - - - -
 LEAD CHANGING AREA [hatched] LOPE —————

1. Walk at least 15' & jog over log
2. Transition to left lead & lope around end
3. First line change
4. Second line change lope around the end of arena
5. First crossing change
6. Second crossing change
7. Lope over log
8. Third crossing change
9. Fourth crossing change
10. Lope up the center, stop & back

WESTERN RIDING SCORE SHEET PATTERN V

JUDGE
CLASS
DATE

WORKING ORDER		ENTRY NUMBER	MANEUVER DESCRIPTION	W/J/Log	Trans LL	1L	2L	3L	4L	IX	LOG	2X	3X	4X	STOP/BACK	PENALTY TOTAL	FINAL SCORE
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
			PENALTY														
			MANEUVER SCORE														
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JUDGES SIGNATURE

PONY MEASUREMENT AND PROCEDURE

1. A hard level surface must be selected.
2. Lower the pony's head to determine the high point of the withers.
3. Stand the pony square with weight on all four feet —not stretched or bunched.
4. The neck should be natural and cannot be lower than the horizontal at the time of measurement.
5. If wearing shoes, measure the shoe. Deduct actual height of shoe from measurement.
6. A measurement must be obtained from both sides and the pony must measure 56" or under, based on the average of both measurements.
7. If a pony measures over 56" by one inspector, the exhibitor has the right to get the pony measured by two (2) more inspectors designated by the show committee. The results of two out of three inspectors determine the height of the pony for that show.
8. Once your pony leaves the measuring area, you may not bring your pony back to be re-measured.
9. The measuring stick must be rigid and have a measurement scale with a level.
10. The measuring inspectors will be designated by the show committee prior to the show. The results of two out of three inspectors are final.
11. As a show where there is pre-registration (i.e. the State 4-H Horse Show), if a pony measures over 56", that animal can enter an appropriate horse class or there will be a refund of entry fees.

All animals entered in pony classes must be measured prior to receiving exhibitor number.

NOTE: Pony measure cards from recognized breed associations will be accepted provided the pony is 56" or under. All other horses/ponies entered in pony classes must be measured on site prior to receiving exhibitor number.