

Maryland 4-H Animal Science Program

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Maryland 4-H State Horse Judging Contest Procedures & Regulations

Objectives

The primary objective of Maryland 4-H Horse Judging Contest is to provide an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate their knowledge of equine-related subject matter in a competitive setting where attitudes of friendliness and fairness prevail. These contests should provide an educational experience for both participants and spectators.

General

- 1) Contest date and time: **Saturday, May 6, 2017. Registration (Plant Sciences Building): 8-8:30 a.m. Contest Begins: 9:00 a.m.** Contest location: Plant Sciences Building and Campus Farm University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742. Contest directions can be found at <http://extension.umd.edu/4-h/maryland-4-h-state-horse-judging-contest>.
- 2) This is a contest in which teams and individuals compete. ***There will be a \$10.00 entry fee for each contestant and coach. Lunch will be provided for contestants and coaches who are registered.***
- 3) Each UME County/City Unit may enter a team of four (4) members in each age division (Junior, Intermediate, and Senior). An additional six (6) individual entries may be entered in each of the following divisions: Junior, Intermediate, Intermediate Novice, Senior, and Senior Novice. All members will participate in the contest. Team members and individuals selected for statewide competition must be certified and pre-registered on the Official Entry Form by their 4-H Extension Educator by **Thursday, April 20, 2017.**
 - a) Substitutions: A team member may only be substituted if not present the day of the contest. The substitute will be one of the contestants entered as an Individual. There will not be any substitutions for individual entries and alternates are not allowed.
 - b) The score of the three highest placing team members will determine the team score in the respective age division.
 - c) All contestants (team and individual) will be eligible for the individual awards.
- 4) Statewide competition will be governed by the prescribed procedures and regulations. Additional rules may be promulgated for specific purposes. Contestants not complying with the rules will be disqualified. Coaches and/or spectators not complying with the applicable Procedures and Regulations will be dismissed from the contest area.

Contestants and Eligibility

- 1) Contestants must be bonafide 4-H club members carrying a 4-H Project and approved by the 4-H Extension Educator of their respective UME unit.
- 2) Maryland 4-H members must be between the ages of 8 - 18 as of January 1 of the current year. Juniors are ages 8 - 10; Intermediates are ages 11 - 13; and Seniors are ages 14 - 18.
- 3) The novice division is only open to Intermediate and Senior age 4-Hers who have never competed in the state 4-H Horse Judging Contest.

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- 4) Contestants must not have previously competed in Horse Judging at Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup (Louisville, Kentucky) or Western National 4-H Horse Roundup.
- 5) Senior contestants receiving college or vocational training beyond high school in areas relative to horse judging are restricted from competing in the Maryland 4-H Horse Judging Contest.
- 6) **Attire:** Contestants are strongly discouraged from changing attire between the judging and reasons portions of the contest. Recommended judging attire includes hard-soled, heeled shoes, slacks or jeans, shirt with a collar and a light weight jacket or vest. Articles of clothing that identify the contestant's 4-H county/city may not be worn. Contestants should be prepared for being outdoors in inclement weather.

Judges

- 1) Official judges shall place the class while the contestants are judging, make the official placing, indicate the cuts to be made, and file the official card with the Contest Superintendent.
- 2) When the contestant has concluded their reasons and answered any questions, the judge will write their reason score on the contestants placing card and turn it in for tabulation.

Contest Procedures

- 1) Four to six halter classes will be judged. Breeds represented in the halter classes may include **but are not limited to:** Appaloosa, Arabian, Morgan, Quarter Horse, Thoroughbred, American Saddlebred, Tennessee Walking Horse, Paint and Draft Breeds. All halter classes will be judged as sound of limb, eye, wind and mouth.
- 2) Four to six performance classes will be judged (subject to availability). Performance classes may include **but are not limited to:** Western Pleasure, English Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunter Hack, Western Riding, Reining, Plantation English Pleasure Walking Horse, Saddlebred Three-Gaited, and Hunt Seat, and Saddle Seat Equitation. Performance horses will be judged as seen (Unsoundness to be penalized accordingly). All tack and attire is considered legal.
- 3) Contestants will be allowed twelve (12) minutes to judge non-reasons classes and fifteen (15) minutes to judge reasons classes
- 4) Horses will be designated 1, 2, 3, and 4 at the start of each class.
- 5) Contestants will not be allowed to handle horses at any time, but they will be given an opportunity for close inspection and to observe the horses at a walk and trot. Contestants must conduct themselves according to proper horse safety practices at all times.
- 6) *Contestants shall not talk among themselves or with persons other than officials during the contest. **No cell phones or electronic devices are permitted during any phase of the contest.*** Contestants will be under the direct supervision of the group leader at all times.
- 7) All contestants may use a clipboard and/or notepad. Contestants are permitted to have notes and other horse judging information during the judging phase and while preparing oral reasons.
- 8) Lunch will be served to contestants prior to contestants giving reasons.
- 9) **Oral Reasons:**
 - a) Each presentation should be 1-2 minutes in length.
 - b) Use of notes while giving reasons will result in a penalty and reduce your score.
 - c) **Juniors** will present **one set** of oral reasons (one halter class) and *will judge all classes*.
 - d) **Intermediates** will present **two sets** of oral reasons (one halter and one performance class).
 - e) **Intermediate Novices** will present **one set** of oral reasons (one halter class) and will receive feedback.
 - f) **Seniors** will present **four sets** of oral reasons (usually either two halter and two performance classes or three halter classes and one performance class).
 - g) **Senior Novices** will present **two sets** of oral reasons (one halter and one performance class) and will receive feedback.

- 10) An official placing of the classes and an awards ceremony will take place shortly after the completion of the contest.

Scoring

- 1) Scores for placing, reasons, and the breaking of ties were taken from the Eastern Nationals 4-H Horse Roundup Horse Judging SOP.
- 2) Fifty (50) points shall constitute a perfect score on placing a class and fifty (50) points shall constitute a perfect score on reasons.
- 3) **Individual overall** ties will be broken in the following order:
 - a) Highest overall reasons score, if still tied; then,
 - b) Lowest placing in reasons classes, if still tied; then,
 - c) Highest placing score for all non-reason classes, if still tied; then,
 - d) Highest reasons score in performance division, if still tied then...
 - e) Lowest placing in performance reasons classes.
- 4) **Individual** ties for halter classes will be broken in the following order:
 - a) Highest reasons score in halter division
 - b) Lowest placing scores for halter reasons classes
 - c) Highest performance total score
 - d) Highest reasons score in performance division
 - e) Lowest placing scores for performance reasons classes
- 5) **Individual** ties for performance classes will be broken in the following order:
 - a) Highest reasons score in performance division
 - b) Lowest placing scores for performance reasons classes
 - c) Highest halter total score
 - d) Highest reasons score in halter division
 - e) Lowest placing scores for halter reasons classes
- 6) **Individual** ties for reasons will be broken in the following order:
 - a) Lowest placing in all reasons classes
 - b) Highest placing score for all non-reasons classes
 - c) Highest reasons score in performance division
 - d) Lowest placing in performance reasons classes
- 7) **Team scores overall** will be calculated by dropping the team member with the lowest score overall.
- 8) **Team overall** ties will be broken in the following order:
 - a) Highest overall reasons scores
 - b) Lowest placing in reasons classes
 - c) Highest placing score for all non-reasons classes
 - d) Highest reasons score in performance division
 - e) Lowest placing in performance reasons classes

Awards

- 1) Team and Individual awards for will be presented in all age divisions.
- 2) The top 10 individual seniors at the Maryland 4-H State Horse Judging Contest automatically are invited to practice with the state horse judging coach in an effort to be selected for the State 4-H Horse Judging Team. Contestants in the Senior Novice division are not eligible. More information about the selection process is below.
 - In the event that one or more of the top 10 decline to practice, additional candidates from the list may be chosen to fill their spot. Selection of additional candidates must be done in order of the candidates final placing at the state contest (i.e. 11th, then 12th, etc).

- Practices: Each individual is expected to attend all practices held by the state team coach. If practices are held on week nights during the school year, 4-Hers should be home no later than 10:00pm, keeping in mind their commute time. The 4-Hers participation in practices is absolutely crucial to the learning process and to overall team building. 4-Hers should come to practices prepared to work and follow the 4-H Code of Conduct.
- Making the Team: Individuals will be scored based on their 1) State Horse Judging Contest Overall Score, 2) Practice Judging Class Scores and 3) Practice Reasons Scores. Points will be awarded as follows:
 - State Horse Judging Overall Score – Final overall contest scores will be used.
 - Practice Judging Class Scores – Each 4-H member can earn a maximum of 50 points for each class judged. A minimum of 10 class scores will be added to the final score. The two lowest scores will be dropped.
 - Practice Reasons Scores – Each 4-H member can earn a maximum of 50 points for each set of reasons given. A minimum of 8 reasons scores will be added to the final score. The lowest score will be dropped.
- In the event of an overall tie, the tie will be broken using the individuals overall reasons score.
- The 4-H State Horse Judging Team will be chosen by June 1st of the contest year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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