



JEFFERSON COUNTY 4-H HORSE RULE BOOK

Edited 1/12/2026



[DATE]
[COMPANY NAME]
[Company address]

JEFFERSON COUNTY 4-H HORSE RULES

To Make the Best Better.

SHOW AND FAIR RULES by Horse Committee

1. 4-H fair classes open ONLY to Jefferson County 4-H members enrolled in horse projects. Member is responsible for the care and up-keep of their project animal. Be courteous and respect the rights of other exhibitors.
2. All members/parents must have active enrollment in 4-H online including signed the code of conduct and photo release.
3. Be a good sport: win without bragging and lose without complaining.
4. No cell phones, I-pods, or electronics while riding or working with your horse. Medically required devices are allowed.
5. Any horse shown MUST be the members' own 4-H project. No stallions may be shown except weanling colts. Member borrowing horse must have a lease agreement filed with Horse Certificate and on file.
6. Rules are in this rulebook and PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide. Support manuals are Horse project PNW587, Judging PNW 875, Hunt Seat PNW488, Driving PNW229, Dressage PNW 608, Groom Squad C1114E and State Fair rules, per state publications.
7. Boots and ASTM SEI approved helmet must be worn when riding - all shows, all classes, all workdays, all ages. Boots must have a flat sole with a heel stop. Leaders must check members' helmet to verify they are ASTM SEI APPROVED and date manufactured.
8. To be eligible to show at 4-H Fair or Pre-Fair Show, every member must participate with the horse/s they will show at fair in a show in all the classes they intend to ride, i.e. Equitation, Dressage, Games events, Trail, Showmanship with each animal. Members must know the class and the rules. IF A BACK-UP HORSE/or grievance horse will be used; the same requirements must be met. Superintendent has the final say about members' eligibility to show at fair.
9. Show management reserves the right to dismiss any youth or party from a class or show for any misconduct or lack of sportsmanship, infractions of the rules in 4-H Contest Guide and Jefferson County Horse Rules. Exhibitor may forfeit all awards received at the show. Acting, inciting, or permitting another to act in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike, intemperate, or prejudicial to the best interests of 4-H IS NOT

ALLOWED. A persons' miss-behavior or inappropriate actions and the physical or verbal mistreatment of competitors, adults, leaders, and/or animals WILL NOT BE ALLOWED. This is reason for dismissal from the show or grounds, and loss of ribbons and premiums. An animals' misbehavior is also reason for dismissal.

10. Cruelty is:

- A. Striking ahead of the cinch area.
- B. Excessive jerking on the bridle or lead shank.
- C. Excessive use of whip or spurs
- D. Failure to properly exercise and feed your horse at fair.

Consequences could be any or all of the following:

- A. Loss of premiums and ribbons.
- B. Asked to leave show or function.
- C. Loss of Intent to State
- D. Severe cases- Loss of 4-H membership for one year.
- E. NOT to participate in 4-H activities.

11. NO Coaching from rail, grandstands or arena. Any type of coaching (giving instructions- wrong lead, sit, acknowledge the judge) and/or type of disturbance (annoying to the competitors or adults/leaders) or any unsportsmanlike conduct shall be cause for event management to take appropriate action. Exhibitors' ribbon placing will be lowered. Safety is most important.

12. Members must be appropriately dressed for each class. Exhibitor going in the arena with a minor rule infraction will be given one warning for that infraction. A repeat of the same infraction will result in disqualification.

13. Walk/trot classes can have no cross entry, may not lope in any class. Riding ANY WALK/TROT CLASS DISQUALIFIES you from qualifying for state fair in any division. Walk/Trot performance class entries can enter "Gymkhana" but none of the Western Games events.

14. Classes may be added or dropped from Premium Book as needed, yearly.

15. Juniors will not show or ride junior horses without parents permission and leader's OK.

16. Limit of two exhibitors using the same horse in any project. Same horse may be shown by two exhibitors in different age groups except in Pleasure classes. Only one may show in pleasure class. Only one may show in championship class.

17. Exhibitor may scratch any class. If you scratch, you may not reenter that class.

18. Members may show only one horse/pony in any project/division.

19. All horses and ponies will be serviceable and sound. Soundness of a horse will be up to the vet, judge and/or leaders.

20. Riders will be divided into three age divisions based on age as of Oct. 1 of 4H year:

A. Juniors: 8-10

B. Intermediates: 11-13

C. Seniors: 14-18

21. Exhibitors and judges shall bear in mind that entries are being judged on ABILITY and not on personal attire/silver but should still meet rules outlined for classes entered.

22. Any rider not having his mount under sufficient control may be dismissed/disqualified from class at judge's discretion.

23. The fall off any horse and rider MAY result in disqualification at Judges discretion.

24. Judges decision is final.

25. Parents, leaders, or trainers MAY NOT RIDE/WORK member's horse at any time on the fairgrounds during a 4-H Show(fair also) .

26. At all times, we encourage members to ask other members for help. Safety is the number one factor. Parents may help the 4-Her when safety is the issue. I.E. Cinch needs tightening, or horse out of control.

27. Members having burros, mules or donkeys will show separately. Gaited horses may be shown separately at judge's discretion. Leg wraps on gaited horses are permitted during a class.

28. Mare and Foal class: A 4-Her must lead the other animal.

29. GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE: Horse Committee Chair calls grievance meeting. Must have all club representatives present. Each club has one vote. To change horses--Horse MUST be seriously injured, deemed unsafe by 4H leader, or lame (4-Her gets a Vets letter for injured horse, they give this to Club leader. The leader states concerns or their opinion (if

they agree or not), then gives all the papers to the Horse Committee Chair. All interested may come and speak. Non-voting parties will leave. The committee, one leader per club present, will discuss and vote. The Horse Committee Chair will notify club leader of decision. No grievance will be heard after the Aug horse committee meeting. Grievance horse must be signed off by the weekend before fair. A grievance horse is not eligible for STATE.

30. In the case of abuse of horse (showing a lame horse), or protest/problem during a show, the show will be stopped and a grievance committee meeting called. All clubs present at the show will be notified of the meeting. All clubs present will discuss to decide action to take. This meeting will follow grievance guidelines.

31. State intents page 1 are due 90 days before Pre-Fair show. Page 2 is due to the superintendent by Aug 1.

32. Miniatures are 38” and under. They may not jump until three years of age. Jumps are 12” to 18” Ground driving reins must be long enough for you to stand 3 feet behind your horse. Minis are divided in beginner and advanced/or by age divisions. Miniatures will not be ridden. No cross entries.

Requirements to exhibit an equine at Jefferson County Fair:

1. Attend Pre-Fair Show, hosted by the Fairgrounds
2. Attend 40% of club meetings from time of enrollment into the 4-H program
3. Complete Step 1 of 4-H Horse Advancement Program
4. Submit a County Intent to show form by March 1
5. Horse Certificate turned in by March 1

SHOW & FAIR RULES by Superintendent

1. You as well as your horse are on display. BE NEAT, CLEAN AND COURTEOUS at all times. Exhibitors should be talking to the public.

2. All horses must be inspected by the Fair Veterinarian before leaving the horse trailer parking area and entering show grounds or stabling. All horses must have influenza, tetanus, and rhino shots for current year. Please have documentation for leaders. Leaders will verify for superintendent before fair. Leaders will check all members’ helmets for ASTM approval and verify for SUPER.

3. Each exhibitor and club is responsible for the feeding, watering, and keeping of his/her stall. Exhibitor not doing this will be sent home with their horse.

4. White ribbon in herdsmanship means all premiums are pulled in that species/project.
5. All equipment and attire will be clean, in good condition, and appropriate for the class.
6. Each club must have their own wheelbarrows, rakes and shovels, with name of club on same. They must be kept in proper places. Each exhibitor must have a halter and lead rope by door of their stall.
7. Each club/exhibitor is responsible for having a member on herdsmanship duty while barns are open to the public. Each club/exhibitor is responsible for having an adult on duty to supervise their club.
8. Stalls should be set up prior to moving horses in, Superintendent will assign stabling
9. Exhibitor may show/stall only one horse in any division/project. Superintendent may make exceptions due to enrollment. Superintendent is in charge of stalls.
10. Each club/exhibitor needs to decorate their barn area for the public.
11. Horse exhibits may be removed at 6PM Sunday. PREMIUMS WILL BE WITHHELD IF ANIMALS or Exhibits ARE REMOVED BEFORE 6PM.
12. Displays may be removed BEGINNING at 6PM. Clubs may leave displays overnight, but do so on their own responsibility. Stalls must be stripped at the end of fair, and will be checked off the following Monday at 6pm. Before barn superintendent can sign off for premiums, stalls must be cleaned to dirt floors and shavings dumped into manure pile. Failure to be checked off could result in losing premium points.
13. Blankets may be put on horses registered for Fitting and Showing at 9PM the night before that class and left on until their class the next morning. Blankets and leg wraps left on during this time must be in good repair and clean. All other times, blankets and wraps must be removed before 9AM and not put on until after barn closes.
14. Leaders are responsible for members once they arrive at the fair. Exhibitors going home must check out with leaders before leaving fair grounds. Exhibitors staying overnight must be in campsites with chaperones by 10:00pm. All exhibitors staying overnight must have a responsible adult staying with them, if not they will be sent home. Fair curfew is 10:00pm.
15. Clipping is to be done in your horses stall with the horse tied or held. No hoof blacking on concrete or in aisle ways. May be done in stall.
16. No horse or pony will be ridden on the grounds except in the arenas, or walking from warm-up to show arena. Penalty will be dismissal from fair and loss of ribbons and premiums.

17. Horses are not allowed in the camping area. They must stay in the barn areas.
18. Stalls will be cleaned appropriately and refilled with shavings by 9AM.
19. Each night by 9 PM horses will be watered, fed, and bedded.
20. Please keep a list of the classes you enter. You must scratch any class you decide not to ride, or you may lose premiums.
21. You must do Showmanship and herdsmanship. You may do Showmanship for each project you are showing in.
22. If you scratch all of your riding classes, you will forfeit your Showmanship ribbon and Premiums earned in that project.
23. Galloping/running in the arenas is not allowed.
24. An ADULT MUST BE WITH YOU FOR YOU TO RIDE/WORK IN ANY ARENA ANYTIME.
25. Limit of four riders in warm-up arena during free time.
26. No lunging in warm up arena except by permission of Superintendent. Maximum of two horses may lunge in horse arena. All horses must be kept on a lunge line. No lunging outside of an arena.
27. Round pen is available for lunging before 9am and after 7pm. Only one horse in the round pen at a time, and must be on a line at all times with adult supervision.
28. No horses loose in arenas or on grounds.
29. No riding Bareback during fair hours in warm-up arena except just prior to your bareback class.
30. When one class is in the arena, horses for the next class should be saddled and in the paddock. The next class may be in the warm up arena. All other horses should be in the barns.
31. Horses must be in barn at all times except during cleaning, exercise, and classes.
32. No horses allowed outside barns after 9PM. If an emergency occurs, making it necessary for a horse to be outside after 9PM, Barn Superintendent must be notified.
33. Horses ready for next class may be saddled and tied in stall.
34. Only exhibitors may ride, groom, saddle, school, or handle horses.

35. Any exhibitor in violation of these rules is subject to removal from barn/fairgrounds and loss of premiums.
36. No coaching allowed from the rail or grandstands by anyone.
37. Trainers are spectators at fair. Their job is over until after fair. They can not give private lessons at fair or during any 4-H times.
38. FFA classes will be judged separate from 4-H, although may be combined. FFA must follow 4-H rules.
39. Leaders meeting each morning at 9am in show office with Superintendents.
40. Costume Class to be judged on: SAFETY, ORIGINALITY, CROWD PLEASER, HORSE INVOLVEMENT Talking and noise are allowed. Required of all entered: closed toe boots, helmets if mounted, shoulders covered. Shorts and bareback are ok.
41. No painting or permanent changes in any barn.

FAIR BARN RULES

1. Each exhibitor must be dressed neatly & appropriately (boots are required). No shorts or halter tops are allowed. No eating on barn duty. No cell phones or I-pods, or electronics.
2. Exhibitor should talk to the public while doing herdsmanship.
3. No loitering in the aisles, shouting, or running in the barns. No eating in the barns. No bad language. No smoking in or around barns.
4. Every club is responsible for outside barn duty at appointed times. Every club/exhibitor will have an exhibitor and a parent on barn duty from 10 AM to until barn closes.
5. If your horse messes in the aisle, or while outside, you must clean it up.
6. Do not tie and leave horses at wash rack unattended, and do not tie to arena rails or panels. Do not tie to hitching rail outside warm-up arena during fair hours.
7. Keep aisle clear of tack, feed, and clothing during fair hours.
8. No saddling of horses in the aisle or doorways. While in stall if saddled, horse must be tied with halter and leadrope.
9. Keep fire lanes in campground open.
10. Do not leave wheelbarrows half full of manure around or in the barn

11. All horses to stay in designated horse areas.
12. Stall doors must be closed and latched at all times. If you wish to share your horse with the public your horse must have a halter and lead rope on and you must be holding it at your stall door.
13. Only exhibitors are allowed in the stalls. Except for safety issues.
14. Wash rack is closed to all during fair hours.
15. When entering or exiting barns, call "HORSE COMING THROUGH" then allow time for the public to move before you enter the aisle way, be sure the public has moved aside first. If your horse is nervous or has a tendency to kick you must have someone walk at the back and to the side of your horse on the way out to prevent the public from coming up to the back of your horse.
16. Halter and lead must be at each stall.
17. You must have an adult with you when you ride (no cell phones, iPods) in the arena. Horses are not allowed in the camping area.
18. No dogs or companion pets, bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, illicit drugs or alcoholic beverages are allowed on the fairgrounds.

Any exhibitor in violation of these rules is subject to removal from fairgrounds and loss of premiums.

STATE FAIR 4-H information

1. Guidelines for the WA State 4-H Fair Horse Exhibit are available each year.
2. State is limited to Intermediate and Senior members with horses.
3. Exhibitor may show in multiple divisions, performance, games, dressage. According to State.
5. The horse shown at State must be the same as you qualified with at County. You must have possession of the horse by March 1 for all shows to qualify, no show will count until you have had possession for 90 days. You must qualify at county qualifying show/s for all classes you ride at state fair. You must show at county fair.
6. State intent (pg 1) is due 90 days before first qualifying show, signed by 4-Her, parent and leader. Pg 2 must be turned in by Aug 1. You must declare class for state fair qualification on Pg 1. You must attend mandatory state meeting (member & parent/ adult representative) when it is offered.

7. Qualifying for state will be selected on state requirements and county points. Participants will be selected on points following states requirements for eligibility.

- Blue Showmanship/Blue in declared riding event
- Blue Showmanship/Red in declared riding event
- Red Showmanship/Blue in declared riding event
- Blue in showmanship/ Blue in non-declared riding event at fair
- Blue in Showmanship/ Red in non-declared riding event at fair
- Red in Showmanship/ Blue in non-declared riding event at fair
- Red in showmanship and red in riding does NOT qualify for state.
- White does NOT qualify. White in herds does not qualify. Only showmanship score and declared class will be kept from all shows prior to fair for points purposes, eligibility will be based on all qualifying shows for state allowed riding classes.

10. You must ride the class at County fair to qualify for the class at state fair. You may not ride any class at state fair in which you received only whites in qualifying shows. Riding any class at state that you are not eligible for would make you ineligible for state next year.

12. Each exhibitor must participate in herdsmanship. White ribbons at county do not qualify for state. Herdsmanship at state is the same as our county. Member must be on duty with an adult. Any exceptions to these rules will be handled by grievance committee.

County Fair Intent Form

Due to Superintendent by March 1

NAME _____ Horse _____

Phone # _____ Club _____

I wish to state my intention to take my horse and complete at Jefferson County Fair in August. I must furnish transportation for my horse and myself. I must provide a suitable adult chaperone. I MUST BE ACTIVE IN A 4-H Club (Not carrying an independent project).

1. I intend to attend Pre-Fair Show, hosted by the Fairgrounds
2. I have attended 40% of club meetings from time of enrollment into the 4-H program
3. I have completed Step 1 of 4-H Horse Advancement Program, signed off by my club leader
4. I have turned in my Horse Certificate in by March 1 and have had possession of each horse I am using for Fair intent since March 1 of this year.

I have read the above and I agree to the 4-H rules and requirements.

Signature 4-H Member _____

Signature Parent _____

State Fair Intent Form

Page 2 of State Intent due Aug 1st

Circle Choices: Perf, Dressage/Eq over Fences, Games INTER SENIOR

NAME _____ CELL PHONE _____

CLUB _____ HORSE _____

- Attended Pre-Fair
 - Leader initial _____
- Completed Step 1 of 4-H Horse Advancement Program
 - Leader initial _____
- Record Book UP TO DATE
 - Leader initial _____

P-Performance Declared Class _____

G- Games Declared Class _____

D- Dressage _____

Member is active, attended at least 40% of meetings and workdays, record book is up to date. If they have not met these and your club requirements, do not sign.

Leader _____

The 4-H Horse Advancement Checklist Step 1

Name of 4-H Member: _____

Age Division: ___ Junior ___ Intermediate ___ Senior

Number of Years in 4-H Horse Project: _____

4-H Knowledge	Date Passed	Approved By
1. Learn and recite the 4-H Pledge and Motto		
2. Describe the 4-H clover and what the colors (green and white) represent		
3. Explain why it is mandatory to wear an approved helmet and boots while riding or driving during 4-H		

Horsemanship	Date Passed	Approved By
1. Demonstrate how to safely approach and halter your horse		
2. Demonstrate and explain how to safely hold the lead rope		
3. Demonstrate how to safely tie your horse, using a quick release knot		
4. Demonstrate how to safely move around your horse		
5. Demonstrate the correct method to lead your horse at the walk and jog/trot		
6. Demonstrate a controlled stop while leading your horse		
7. Demonstrate the correct and safe method to groom a horse		
8. Demonstrate how to turn a horse when turning more than a ¼ of a turn while leading		
9. Demonstrate that your horse can stand quietly in a "set up" position for three minutes		
10. Explain and demonstrate safety precautions for saddling a horse		
11. Demonstrate how to safely and correctly bridle a horse		
12. Demonstrate how to safely mount and dismount a horse		
13. Demonstrate, with a correct riding position, how to safely walk and jog/trot your horse		
14. Describe what light/soft hands means and why it is important while riding a horse		

Selecting and Judging	Date Passed	Approved By
1. Locate and name at least five parts of the horse		
2. Identify and describe the breed or breed type of your horse		
3. Identify and describe the color and markings of your horse		
4. Name six horse breeds and six horse colors		
5. Give an example of an oral reason while judging your horse		

Equine Science	Date Passed	Approved By
1. Share three tips on encouraging a horse to drink more water		
2. Weigh and record your horse's feed for one week		
3. Describe four senses that the horse has and how that relates to how they react		

Please note your Personal Development and Leadership Skills on the highest Step completed for the year. See Appendix A for list of Skills.

Personal Development:

Item: _____

Leadership:

Item: _____

4-H member has attended at least 6 club/ride meetings for the 4-H program year ___ yes ___ no

Step #1 Completed: _____ Date: _____

Approved by 4-H Club Leader or Authorized Leader for the County Advancement Program.