



# **RULE BOOK**

**2019 Edition**

[www.loupvalleyhorseconference.org](http://www.loupvalleyhorseconference.org)

## **LOUP VALLEY 4-H HORSE CONFERENCE DISCLAIMER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY**

Neither the Loup Valley 4-H Horse Conference Club (LVHC) nor any show committee or equine facility hosting an LVHC event will be responsible for accidents or injuries. Under Nebraska Law an equine activity event sponsor or professional shall not be liable for an injury to, or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, pursuant to Sections 25-21, 249 to 25-21, 253 N.R.S.



Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University Nebraska – Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the non-discrimination policies of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

**This set of rules supplements the  
NEBRASKA 4-H HORSE SHOW AND JUDGING GUIDE**

**GENERAL 4-H SHOW RULES & INFORMATION**

- **SHOW START TIME**—All shows start at 9 AM.
- **SHOW COMMITTEE**—The show committee consists of LVHC Senior Officers of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and the individual(s) hosting a show.

**RUNNING OF SHOW**—Delegation of responsibility and general management considerations in “Nebraska 4-H Horse Show and Judging Guide” should be followed.

- Two or three people should check entries at each show to speed up process.
  - Every show should have a good ring man.
  - Each show, after the first, should be able to replace lost exhibitor numbers.
  - The Loup Valley 4-H Horse Conference club board will assist in setting up rules and regulations for the conference shows and will act in advisory capacity to the individual shows unless other plans are made in advance. The major responsibilities should go to the parents and leaders of the counties in the 10 County Conference Club.
  - The gate man and ring steward will have the authority to refuse any contestant to enter the ring if not in proper attire as listed in the “Nebraska 4-H Horse Show and Judging Guide.” (4-H373).
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- **ELIGIBILITY**—In order to show in the Loup Valley 4-H Horse Conference Club 4-H Horse shows, each contestant must have completed the following prior to showing:
    - Enrolled as a 4-H member in his or her respective Nebraska county by the county 4-H enrollment deadline,
    - Be a member in good standing enrolled in the Nebraska 4-H Light Horse Project
    - Pay yearly \$20.00 membership dues to the Loup Valley 4-H Horse Conference Club
    - Signed an Entry & Liability waiver form.
  - **IDENTIFICATION**—Conference 4-H members may identify any number of horses for conference competition. The Nebraska identification deadline and requirements will be followed. Horse ID’s must be presented at the first show attended and will allow

participation at any Loup Valley 4-H Horse Conference Club Show.

- **ENTRIES**—No pre-registration will be required to participate in the Loup Valley 4-H Horse Conference Club shows. Liability waiver form and club membership dues may be completed/paid at the first show attended. Each 4-Her who has met identification and eligibility requirements may participate by reporting to the gate when a class is called and presenting the gate person with a class ticket. **Tickets are \$3.00 each** and may be purchased at the shows. Tickets can be used at any conference show for **current year only. No refunds will be made on unused tickets.** Exhibitors may only enter one horse per class.
- **LIABILITY WAIVER**—A Liability waiver form must be signed by both the member and a parent, and relieves the management of the show of any liability in case of accident to the 4-H member and or his/her horse. This form must be turned in with paid yearly membership dues to ensure the receipt of assigned numbers.
- **EXHIBITOR DRESS:**  
Dress shall be according to standards in “Nebraska 4-H Horse Show and Judging Guide.” 4-H armbands are required at all shows. No chaps will be allowed in Pleasure and Horsemanship, but will be allowed in Ranch Riding and Reining.

**Exhibitor numbers will be furnished at the first show attended and are to be used throughout the season, including the OPEN Scholarship Show.** Numbers are to be attached so as to prohibit flapping.

- **AWARDS and PRIZES**—LVHC members who have met all eligibility requirements are eligible for show prizes, and yearly high-point awards including:
  - Champion and Reserve Champion Overall High-Point Awards each age division—Senior, Intermediate, Junior.
  - Showmanship Award (all ages)
  - Speed Award (all ages)
  - Super Horse Award—horses must meet additional requirements.
- The point system will award points for overall high-point awards for all classes **EXCEPT** Halter Classes and Open Walk-Trot. The point system will also be used to award points for the Super Horse Award. Winners are determined by the total number of points earned at all 4-H shows and the OPEN Scholarship show.
- Ribbons will be awarded on the Danish System; Purple, Blue, Red and White.

- The 1<sup>st</sup> purple exhibitor in each halter class and each age division in showmanship and performance classes will be awarded a ticket good toward a tack prize. Tickets may be cashed in at any time during the current show season, and may be combined with multiple tickets to claim larger prizes. Tack prizes may be different at each Loup Valley 4-H Horse Conference Club Horse Show.

The point system is as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Purple—	6 points
All Other Purples—	5 points
1 <sup>st</sup> Blue—	4 points
All Other Blues—	3 points
All Reds—	1 point
All Whites—	0 points

**SUPER HORSE AWARD**—The purpose of the Super Horse Award is to showcase a horse’s versatility. LVHC members who have met all eligibility requirements are eligible to nominate their horse.

- Horse must be nominated by filling out an official nomination form prior to the first show in which they compete.
- Exhibitor must show nominated horse in six (6) of the following classes at 4-H conference shows, including the OPEN Scholarship show, during the current show season. **Classes 1 – 4 are required classes** and must be shown at each show attended in order to qualify for award. **Classes 5 & 6 are elective classes** and an exhibitor may pick any two of the classes listed. With the exception of Showmanship, an exhibitor is not required to show the exact same six (6) classes per show. For example they may choose to show Western Pleasure at one show, and English Pleasure at another. Choose one class from each of the following:
  1. \*Showmanship
  2. \*Pleasure Class—Western or English
  3. \*Horsemanship or Equation
  4. \*Performance Class (Choose 1—Reining, Ranch Riding, Western Riding)
  5. Performance Class (Choose 1—Reining, Ranch Riding, Western Riding, Trail, Barrels, Poles, Key Hole)
  6. Performance Class (Choose 1—Reining, Ranch Riding, Western Riding, Trail, Barrels, Poles, Key Hole)

- **A Super Horse ticket is required at the entry gate for class points earned to count toward award.**
- The horse with the highest number of accumulated points at the end of the 2019 season will be declared the Super Horse for 2019. In the event of a tie the horse with the most 1<sup>st</sup> purples awarded from the all Super Horse Classes during the season in will be declared the winner.
- All Super Horse points earned also count toward all high-point, showmanship and speed awards. Points are awarded on the Danish system.

**SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS**—LVHC members who have met all eligibility requirements are eligible for a sportsmanship award in their age division.

- One sportsmanship award will be given in each of the three age divisions—Senior, Intermediate, and Junior.
- Each member will have the opportunity to vote once per horse show and can vote for any member in any age category who portrays *GREAT SPORTSMANSHIP*.
- Any member, regardless of placing for other awards, is eligible for the Sportsmanship Award.
- The type of Sportsmanship Awards will be decided by the club officers and members of the current year and be given at the year-end awards banquet.

#### **SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

- Applicants must be a resident of one of the 10 counties the Loup Valley 4-H Horse Conference Club which are Boone, Garfield, Greeley, Howard, Loup, Merrick, Nance, Sherman, Valley, and Wheeler Counties.
- Applicants must have participated in at least five (5) Loup Valley 4-H Conference Horse Shows in his/her last two (2) 4-H eligible years. If he/she does not receive a scholarship as a Senior in high school they may apply during their Freshman year of college, as long as they have NOT turned 19 on or before January 1 of the current year. NOTE: The Loup Valley 4-H Horse Conference Open Scholarship Show WILL count toward the total show count for the Loup Valley 4-H Horse Scholarship.
- A local committee will be formed to determine eligibility of the applicants before scholarships applications are given out.
- Application deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year with winners announced on or around May 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Application form may be found on the Loup Valley 4-H Horse Conference web site. [www.loupvalleyhorseconference.org](http://www.loupvalleyhorseconference.org) and must be mailed to the scholarship contact address listed on the form.
- **INCLEMENT WEATHER**—The show committee will discuss in advance the possibility of inclement weather forecasted for the day of the show and develop a plan to follow in the event the show may need to be moved, rescheduled, or canceled. If the show is moved to another location the show start time will be 9:30 AM. If severe weather approaches during a show, or if at any time the arena surface is deemed questionable and poses a safety risk to exhibitors, the show committee has the right to cancel all remaining classes. Classes canceled due to inclement weather or questionable arena conditions **will not be rescheduled or refunded**.

In case it is necessary to change a show location or to postpone a show, information regarding the change will be posted on Facebook and the conference web site [www.loupvalleyhorseconference.org](http://www.loupvalleyhorseconference.org)

- **RETURN CHECK POLICY**—Returned checks will be charge an additional \$15.00 + the amount of the check. Cash entries thereafter will only be accepted from guilty parties.

## CLASSES

- **CLASSES**—Classes will be divided according to age of 4-H members and/or size of horse in the following divisions. All ages are as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of current 4-H year.
 

Senior	15 years old and not turned 19 as of Jan.
Intermediate	12—14 years of age as of Jan. 1.
Junior	8 – 11 years old as of Jan. 1.

### ENGLISH PLEASURE

### ENGLISH EQUITATION

#### HALTER CLASSES

Each class shall have all member age groups together. Yearlings and 2 – 3 year-olds may be combined if numbers are small.

- Pony Halter – either sex, 14.2 hands or under
- Yearling Fillies—one division
- Yearling Geldings—one division
- 2 & 3 Year Old Fillies—one division

- 2 & 3 Year Old Geldings—one division
- Aged Mares—one division
- Aged Geldings—one division

**SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES**—Participant show order will be Senior, Intermediate and Junior divisions

**PERFORMANCE CLASSES**—Seniors, Intermediates, and Juniors.

- **2 & 3 YEAR OLD SNAFFLE BIT** (horse may not be used in any other Pleasure class), no minimum # of participants.
- **WESTERN PLEASURE** (Senior, Intermediate and Junior divisions)
- **WALK-TROT PLEASURE**—A member who is entered in Walk-Trot may ride a horse owned by a family member entered in a pleasure class only in the Walk-Trot class. A member may NOT enter Reining, Western Riding, Ranch Pleasure, Barrels, or Poles. A member can only enter the WALK-TROT division if it is his/her first or second year of riding. Participants in Walk-Trot classes will be eligible for class prizes but will not receive class points for the overall awards presented at the end of the year.
- **PONY PLEASURE** (no age limit, horses may not be used in any other Pleasure class) 14.2 hands & under as per state rules.
- **WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP** (Senior, Intermediate and Junior divisions)
- **WALK-TROT HORSEMANSHIP**—A member who is entered in Walk-Trot may ride a horse owned by a family member entered in a horsemanship class only in the Walk-Trot class. A member may NOT enter Reining, Western Riding, Ranch Pleasure, Barrels or Poles. If individuals enter a walk-trot class then they can NOT enter any pleasure, horsemanship or trail classes. A member can only enter the WALK-TROT division if it is his/her first or second year of riding. Participants in Walk-Trot classes will be eligible for class prizes but will not receive class points for the overall awards presented at the end of the year.
- **TRAIL CLASS** (Senior, Intermediate and Junior divisions)  
The Trail Class will be held at each of the conference shows. If participant enters a walk-trot class then they must compete in a walk-trot pattern in trail. The course will be

patterned after the guidelines suggested in EC 2-97-82. Each county show superintendent will be responsible for the course when the show is in that County.

- **WALK-TROT TRAIL**—A member who is entered in Walk-Trot may ride a horse owned by a family member entered in a trail class only in the Walk-Trot class. A member may NOT enter Reining, Western Riding, Ranch Pleasure, Barrels or Poles. A member can only enter the WALK-TROT division if it is his/her first or second year of riding. Participants in Walk-Trot classes will be eligible for class prizes but will not receive class points for the overall awards presented at the end of the year.
- **WESTERN RIDING:**  
Western Riding will be held at each of the Conference Shows. There will be only one age division.
- **RANCH RIDING:** (Senior, Intermediate and Junior divisions)  
Junior competitors do not have to have passed a level; Intermediate and Senior competitors must have passed level 2.
- **REINING:** (Senior, Intermediate and Junior divisions)  
Junior competitors do not have to passed a level; intermediate and Senior competitors must have passed level 2. Measurements between cones for reining classes will be approximately 50 yards.

#### **TIMED EVENTS**

- **POLES:** Senior, Intermediate and Junior divisions; **NO Walk-Trot participants.**
- **BARRELS:** Senior, Intermediate and Junior divisions; **NO Walk-Trot participants.**

#### **PENALTIES: Timed Events only**

Hats—Hats are optional in timed events but must stay on after crossing the starting line or rider will be penalized two (2) seconds.

Touching a pole with a hand shall cause disqualification. A two (2) second penalty will be assessed for each pole that is tipped over.

Touching a barrel with a hand shall cause disqualification. A two (2) second penalty will be assessed for each barrel that is tipped over.

Someone leading a contestant's horse past the gate will result in a two (2) second penalty.

- **KEYHOLE**

Senior, Intermediate and Junior divisions; **NO Walk-Trot participants.**

1. The length of the course shall be one hundred (100) feet from starting line to the last five (5) gallon buckets.
2. Bucket placement is four (4) feet wide by ten (10) feet long measured from inside edge of buckets. The buckets are to be five (5) gallon plastic, preferably white in color, or all the same color. All handles shall be removed from buckets.
3. The judge must be at the buckets and stand in the ten (10) o'clock or two (2) o'clock area of the pattern- the twelve (12) o'clock area is forbidden- standing no closer than fifteen (15) feet or farther away than thirty (30) feet from the buckets to judge the class.
4. The contestant is to ride through the ten (10) foot lane, making either a left or right turn after passing THROUGH both sets of buckets and returning out through the lane made by the buckets.
5. Timing will start as soon as the horse's nose crosses the starting line going into the course and cease when the horse's nose crosses the finish line.
6. Knocking over a bucket carries a two (2) second penalty per bucket. Breaking the pattern or not passing completely through both sets of buckets will cause disqualification.

- **GOAT TYING:** Senior, Intermediate and Junior divisions; **NO Walk-Trot participants.**

**GENERAL RULES**

1. A clearly visible starting line shall be provided.
2. The stake and the starting line will be permanently marked for the entire go-round.
3. A contestant may change horses in this event.
4. A contestant may enter the arena at the speed of contestant's choice.
5. Arena permitting, the gate will be in the center between the two goats allowing each contestant the same length run at the goat.
6. Arena gate must be closed immediately after contestant enters the arena and kept closed.
7. Time to be taken between two flags.
8. Time will start when the horse's nose crosses the starting line.
9. Have collars the same and snug. Ropes the same length. Goats the same size and weight.
10. Flagmen stand in identical places each performance.
11. Goats to be tied; right, left, right and left. (This will be posted on the stock draw). This will be reversed on next go. All goats used in the draw to be tied a maximum of five (5) runs before another run on the goats can begin.

12. During Goat Tying, the arena will be dragged at regular intervals, to be determined by the Arena Director.
13. Goat handlers must stand directly behind goat. Judges and directors will position themselves so they are able to have a clear view of the goat rope and horse.

#### **TIME LIMIT**

There will be a thirty (30) second time limit.

#### **EVENT RULES**

1. This event is open to both girls and boys.
2. There should be at least a 15-yard starting line.
3. Starting line will be 100 feet from stake.
4. The goat should be tied to a stake with a rope ten feet in length.
5. Stake should be completely under the ground so that no part of it is visible or above ground.
6. The contestant must be mounted on a horse when entering the arena and must ride from the starting line to the goat, dismount from horse, throw the goat by hand, cross, wrap and tie by hand, at least three (3) feet together with a leather string, pigging string or rope. No wire is to be used in the goat string.
7. If the goat is down when the contestant reaches it, goat must be elevated high enough that it has the opportunity to regain its feet and then stand clear of the goat when the tie is finished.
8. Legs must remain crossed and secure for 6 seconds after completion of tie.
9. While the judge is performing the 6-second procedure, the contestant will make no gestures, motions or noises to distract the goat. This will be considered trying to take an unfair advantage and will result in a disqualification.
10. To qualify as a legal tie, there will be at least one complete wrap around at least three legs, and a half hitch, hooey or knot. The contestant must tie the goat by hand with no pre-made wraps, coils, knots, hooeys or half hitch.
11. Time will start when the horse's nose crosses the starting line.
12. Time will stop when she signals the completion of the tie.
13. The contestant must move back three (3) feet from the goat before the judge will start the six (6) second time limit on the tie - for the goat's legs to remain crossed and tied. If contestant gets rope that is holding goat wrapped around their leg, they may ask the judge if they can remove it. After getting permission from judge, removing rope and moving back three (3) feet her six (6) second time limit will start.
14. Qualified persons other than goat tying contestants will be used as goat holders.
15. If a goat is injured, the contestants involved with the injured goat will automatically be assigned the extra goat regardless of the possible difference in runs or ties on the goat.

#### **SCORING and PENALTIES**

1. Timed event judge will not flag contestant out until time is recorded.
2. Judge is to flag time, then flag contestant out if run is not legal.

3. The tie will be passed on by a field judge and if it is not secure for six seconds, the contestant will receive no time.
4. Contestant will receive a no time for touching the goat or tie string after signaling they are finished.
5. If the contestant's horse crosses over the rope or goat, or if the contestant's horse comes in contact with the goat or rope prior to the contestant signaling for time, a ten (10) second penalty will be assessed.
6. If the goat should break away because of the fault of the horse, the contestant will receive no time between flags.
7. Hats are optional, but must stay on after crossing the starting line or rider will be penalized two (2) seconds.
8. Assistant helping the goat tying contestant will not be allowed to go past the plane of the main arena gate when they are entering the arena or the contestant will receive a no time.

### **RERUNS**

1. No run will be given due to faulty or broken equipment furnished by contestant in any event.
2. 2. If the goat should break away, it will be left to the judges' discretion whether contestant will get a rerun.
3. 3. If electric eye malfunction and no time was recorded from digital watches, if stock was qualified on in the field, contestant will be given a rerun at a time designated by the Judges and the Arena Director, plus any penalties.
4. 4. If the judge sees he has made an error in flagging, he must declare a rerun before the contestant leaves the arena.

### **OPTIONAL RULES**

Electric timer and at least two (2) digital watches shall be used, with the time indicated by the electric timer, or, if necessary, the average of the watches used by the official timers to be the official time.

### **EQUIPMENT**

1. Leather thong, pigging string or rope. (Pigging string--a piece of rope used for securing animals).
2. Western type equipment must be used.

### **LIVESTOCK REQUIREMENTS**

1. Goats shall be uniform in size and breed with a weight limit of 40 to 60 pounds per goat. Pigmy goats are not allowed to be used in the goat tying event.
2. Sharp horns shall be tipped.
3. If you are holding a single performance and the entire goat tying contestants are run at one time, you must have an extra goat in case one of the other goats get injured.
4. Extra goat must be drawn for.

## OPEN SCHOLARSHIP SHOW RULES

- Exhibitor age is as January 1 of current year.
- A horse may be ridden in the same class, but in different age groups by family or friends, but cannot be ridden in the same age group under any circumstances more than (1) time.
- No Exhibitor may show two (2) horses in the same class unless the second horse is shown as an EXHIBITION. All timed-event exhibitions will be run AFTER the event's judged competition.
- Western events – all exhibitors shall wear appropriate Western attire including long sleeved shirts, Western hats, and cowboy boots or hard-soled shoes. Boots with waffle-type tread greater than or equal to 1/8" are not allowed in riding classes.
- English events – all exhibitors shall wear appropriate English attire.
- Timed events – types of shirts and use of hats are optional.
- Class rules – the current Nebraska 4-H Horse Show and Judging Guide is the official source for rules governing legal/illegal tack, and classes regarding scoring, penalty points, etc. **Exception:** 2 & 3 Year Old Snaffle Bit **eligibility rules do not apply**, and the horse may be cross entered into other non-pleasure classes such as Horsemanship, Ranch Riding, Reining etc., if the rider deems the horse safe to do so.
- Walk-Trot Classes – 2 age divisions, 8-11, 12 & Over. Exhibitors may not cross enter in any other Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, or Trail class.
- High-Point Awards – Points awarded for overall high-point awards will be on the Danish System. In the event of a tie, a performance class where both exhibitors were entered will be used as a tie-breaker with the exhibitor who received the highest score in that class being deemed the high-point winner for the age division.

