



Family Friendly Horse Shows

RULE BOOK

2022 Edition

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.

3rd Edition—Updated 4/2022



The Loup Valley 4-H Horse Conference Club 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 4-H Youth Officers, Leaders, and Volunteers, 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 the process.
- Every show should have a good ring steward.
- Each show, after the first, should be able to replace lost exhibitor numbers.
- The Loup Valley 4-H Horse Conference Club youth officers, leaders, and volunteers will assist in setting up rules and regulations for the conference shows and will act in an 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 gateman 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).

JUDGES—All Judges are selected from the UNL 4-H Horse Show Judges list.

- **ELIGIBILITY**—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:
 - Be 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,
 - Paid the yearly \$25.00 membership dues to the Loup Valley 4-H Horse Conference Club,
 - Signed an Entry & Liability waiver form.
- **IDENTIFICATION**—All horses MUST be ID’d to compete at LVHC shows. Copies of Horse ID’s MUST be presented at the first show attended and will be kept on file by the show

office. Conference 4-H members may identify any number of horses for competition. The Nebraska identification deadline and requirements will be followed.

- **ENTRIES**—No pre-registration will be required to participate in the Loup Valley 4-H Horse Conference Club shows. The 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 \$5.00 each** and may be purchased at the shows. Tickets can be used at any 4-H conference show for the **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 an 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 exhibitor 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 to prohibit flapping.



- **AWARDS and PRIZES**—LVHC members who have met all eligibility requirements are eligible for show prizes, and yearly high-point awards in their respective age brackets. No substitutions or prize changes will be allowed.
 - **CHAMPION and RESERVE CHAMPION Overall High-Point Awards** 3 age divisions—Senior, Intermediate, Junior.
 - CHAMPION—Saddle—winners may request seat size
 - RESERVE CHAMPION—Belt Buckle
 - **SHOWMANSHIP BUCKLE** 3 age divisions—Senior, Intermediate, Junior
 - **SPEED BUCKLE** 3 age divisions—Senior, Intermediate, Junior
 - **SUPER HORSE AWARD**—One award winner. Horses must meet additional requirements, see SUPER HORSE AWARD for qualifications.
- **NOTE**—the point system will award points for Overall High-Point awards for all classes **EXCEPT Halter 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 of the current season.
- Ribbons will be awarded on the Danish System, Purple, Blue, Red, and White.
- The 1st 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 st Purple—	6 points
All Other Purples—	5 points
1 st 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 to qualify for the 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 same six (6) classes at each show. For example, they may choose to show Western Pleasure at one show and English Pleasure at another show. Choose one class from each of the following:
 1. *Showmanship
 2. *Pleasure Class—Western, Ranch, or Hunter Under Saddle
 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, Keyhole)
 6. Performance Class (Choose 1—Reining, Ranch Riding, Western Riding, Trail, Barrels, Poles, Keyhole)
- **A Super Horse ticket is required at the entry gate for class points earned to count toward the award.**
- The horse with the highest number of accumulated points at the end of the current show season will be declared the Super Horse of the year. In the event of a tie, the horse with the most 1st purples awarded from the six (6) Super Horse Classes shown will be declared the winner.
- All Super Horse points earned also count toward all overall high-point, showmanship, halter, and speed awards.

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be a resident of one of the 10 counties in 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 their last **two (2)** 4-H eligible years. If they do 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 the eligibility of the applicants before scholarships applications are given out.
- Application deadline is April 1st of each year with winners announced on or around May 1st.
- Application form may be found on the Loup Valley 4-H Horse Conference website. www.loupvalleyhorseconference.org and must be mailed to the scholarship contact address listed on the form.
- A scholarship recipient will be required to provide proof of college enrollment with a transcript of current grades to the LVHC Senior board before funds will be paid out.
- **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 website www.loupvalleyhorseconference.org

- **RETURN CHECK POLICY**—Returned checks will be charged 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 the age of 4-H members, age of horse, and/or size of horse in the following divisions. All ages are as of January 1st of the current 4-H year.

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

The show committee reserves the right to combine age groups of any class if there are three (3) or fewer exhibitors in a class, but exhibitors will be judged and awarded according to their respective age brackets.

- **HUNTER UNDER SADDLE**—Three age divisions.
- **HUNT SEAT EQUITATION**—Three age divisions.
- **HALTER CLASSES:**
In case of five or fewer entries in a halter class division, ribbons shall be awarded at the discretion of the judge. Each class shall have all member age groups together.
- **Pony Halter** – either sex, 14.2 hands, or under—Ponies will be measured before entering the arena.
- **Yearlings and 2 – 3-year-olds** will show jointly in one class of either fillies or geldings but will be judged separately according to age division.
 - a. Yearling Fillies—one division
 - b. 2 - 3-Year-Old Fillies—one division
 - c. Yearling Geldings—one division
 - d. 2 - 3-Year-Old Geldings—one division
- **4 – 5-Year-Old Mares**—one division
- **4 – 5-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**—Participants show order will be Seniors, Intermediates, and Junior divisions.
- **2 & 3-YEAR-OLD SNAFFLE BIT**—Horse may not be used in any other Pleasure class. Per Nebraska 4-H Horse Show rules, 2-Year-Olds that have been entered in the Nebraska State 4-H Horse Exposition may NOT be shown before Memorial Day. In the event an LVHC Show is held before Memorial Day, this class will not be held.
- **WESTERN PLEASURE** —(Senior, Intermediate, and Junior divisions) Any horse shown in a Western Pleasure class MAY NOT cross enter in a Ranch Pleasure class.
- **RANCH PLEASURE**—(Senior, Intermediate, and Junior divisions) Any horse shown in a Ranch Pleasure class MAY NOT cross enter in a Western Pleasure class.
- **WALK-TROT CLASSES**—one division.
Western Pleasure. Hunter Under Saddle, Horsemanship. Hunt Seat Equitation. Trail. Barrels. Poles. Keyhole. A member can only enter the Walk-Trot division if it is his/her first or second year of riding. A member who is entered in Walk-Trot may ride a horse owned by a family member who is entered in other classes but, a **Walk-Trot Exhibitor may only ride in designated Walk-Trot classes**. Participants in Walk-Trot classes will be eligible for class prizes but will not receive 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. Ponies may be measured before entering the arena.
- **WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP** (Senior, Intermediate and Junior divisions)
- **TRAIL CLASS** (Senior, Intermediate and Junior divisions)
The Trail Class will be held at each of the conference shows. If a participant enters the walk-trot division, they must complete a walk-trot trail pattern. Each conference show superintendent will be responsible for designing the trail course.

- **WESTERN RIDING:** (Senior, Intermediate and Junior divisions)
Junior competitors are not required to have passed a level; Intermediate and Senior competitors must have passed Level 2.
- **RANCH RIDING:** (Senior, Intermediate and Junior divisions)
Junior competitors are not required to have passed a level; Intermediate and Senior competitors must have passed Level 2.
- **REINING:** (Senior, Intermediate and Junior divisions)
Junior competitors are not required to have 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
- **Walk-Trot Poles**—Non-timed, non-pointed class.
- **BARRELS:** Senior, Intermediate and Junior divisions
- **Walk-Trot Barrels**—Non-timed, non-pointed class.



PENALTIES: Poles and Barrels only

Hats—Hats are optional in timed events but must stay on after crossing the starting line or else the 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.
- **Walk-Trot Keyhole**--Non-timed, non-pointed class.
 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 the inside edge of buckets. The buckets are to be five (5) gallon plastic, preferably white, 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 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.**

NOTE: Goat Tying may not be offered each show season. Refer to the current show bill.

GENERAL RULES

1. A 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 the 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 the 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 during 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 the next go. All goats used in the draw are 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 the goat. Judges and directors will position themselves, so they can 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 the stake.
4. The goat should be tied to a stake with a rope ten feet in length.
5. The 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, the 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 the 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 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, hoey, or knot. The contestant must tie the goat by hand with no pre-made wraps, coils, knots, hoeyes, 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 the contestant gets a rope that is holding a goat wrapped around their leg, they may ask the judge if they can remove it. After getting permission from the judge, removing the 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 contestants out until the 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. Contestants 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 before the contestant signals 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 the 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 contestants in any event.
2. If the goat should break away, it will be left to the judges' discretion whether the contestant will get a rerun.
3. If electric eye malfunction and no time was recorded from digital watches, if stock was qualified on in the field, the contestant will be given a rerun at a time designated by the Judges and the Arena Director, plus any penalties.
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

An 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 is injured.
4. Extra goat must be drawn for.



OPEN SCHOLARSHIP SHOW RULES

- Exhibitor age is as of January 1 of the 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 & Judging Guide rule book 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, Ranch Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Trail, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunt Seat Equitation, Barrels, or Poles. Participants will be eligible for class prizes but will not receive points for overall awards presented at the end of the year.
- The show committee reserves the right to combine age groups of any class if there are fewer than three (3) participants, but exhibitors will be judged and awarded according to their respective age brackets.
- Points awarded for 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 tiebreaker

with the exhibitor who received the highest score in that class being deemed the High-point winner for the age division.

- Entry tickets purchased at 4-H conference shows may be used at the OPEN Scholarship show.