



## JUDGING 4-H (Junior) COUNTY FAIR HORSE SHOWS 2017

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IS THE PURPOSE; HORSES ARE THE COMMON INTEREST;  
YOUTH ARE THE COMMON CONCERN!!!  
THE FAIR SHOULD BE A FUN AND EDUCATIONAL EVENT FOR ALL YOUTH!

### **SAFETY: SAFETY IN THE RING IS #1 PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES.**

#### **Be responsible for the ring**

- Have an appropriate level of expectation of riding/handling abilities of the youth. They are youth, not pros! It is a project, not a financial endeavor!

#### **Volunteer workers:**

- Workers level of knowledge and experience vary greatly from county to county. (Ring stewards, gate persons, announcers, etc.)
- Make adjustments according to their abilities to ensure the SAFETY of the youth in the ring.
- Assess ring accommodations: make adjustments to ensure safety of the riders.  
EX: workable trail pattern or WR pattern per size of arena, footing, etc
- Discuss any safety concerns pertaining to extra fair distractions & activities: (rides, distractions near arena, horns, etc) with the show committee to make appropriate adjustments to provide a safer environment for the youth handling horses.

### **ETHICS: INTENTION VS PERCEPTION**

**Your well meaning intentions may appear very different to others.**

#### **For the protection of all parties involved: youth and judges**

- Promote fairness for all competitors: Do not interact with youth, parents, grandparents prior to or during the show. Wait until the show is done.
- Interactions with youth in the ring. Refrain from touching youth, especially if a second party is not present. Emotions (youth AND parents) are high; reactions are not predictable. A 'kind' gesture in the ring can be easily misinterpreted outside the ring: 'What is said' and 'what is heard' (by youth and adults) are not always the same.

### **PREPARATIONS AND CONDUCT:**

#### **Breed variations**

- Judge all breeds equally! 4-H does not follow on breed; youth show a wide variety of horse breeds. They all deserve attention and the opportunity to show to the best of their ability.
- Be prepared for non-standard breeds. Communicate with show personnel prior to the show and familiarize yourself with standards for breeds that are likely to be shown. Bring a copy/resource of non-traditional breed rules to use as a reference if needed.
- When calling for gaits; clarify with announcer/ring steward 'jog or appropriate gait'.
- \*\*\* Disqualifications: The purpose of junior fair is to reward the youth for their efforts vs eliminating them from competition. EX: Disqualification for 'inappropriate' tack, if it could be questionable.

### **Speaking expectations:**

- Speaking to the riders after every class in horse judging can create an unfair advantage for youth showing in similar classes yet to go.
- Compromise: provide a brief explanation after all related classes have been completed for the day.

#### Educational opportunity:

- 1) Highlight a few positive qualities you were focusing on when selecting the top riders/handlers or handling expectations for specific grade levels.
  - 2) Provide a couple suggestions/adjustments for youth to practice & improve upon for further shows. A few comments mean A LOT to those trying to improve.
- Do not single out a youth (positive or negative) or compare youth when speaking.
  - Know your speaking abilities: Don't say too much and get yourself in trouble.
  - Other livestock judges do speak after every class, so many parents/exhibitors are expecting it for horses classes also.

### **Controversy outside of ring:** News flash! this is a possibility! ☺

- Harassment issues should be handled by the fair board, NOT the judge.
- Don't get into an argument with parents/relatives. Respond with a 'canned' or prepared phrase you are comfortable with and move on.

## **EXPECTATIONS OF THE JUDGING JOB:**

### **ACCEPT JOBS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR ABILITIES AND LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE!**

- **Size of show**
  - Total number of classes for the day.
  - Number of youth per class; potential for split classes.
  - Are you comfortable with split classes? How do you plan to handle them?
- **Time constraints for the show.**
  - Are there time restrictions to be followed? Can you judge effectively at a pace to complete the classes within giving time limit?
- **Gate call time limit.** Some youth may be showing other animals at the same time.
  - Consult with the show committee to clarify what the procedures are so all parties know what to expect.
- **Show committees.**
  - COMMUNICATION IS KEY! Volunteer help/committees vary greatly. Understand what expectations they have of the judge; flow of the show, contract details, etc. Have this conversation before signing a contract.

## **PATTERN CLASSES:**

- This varies from county to county. About 50% of the counties will ask you to provide patterns. Check with the show committee when confirming details about taking the job. (deadline date, skill level of youth, posting routine, etc)
- Be aware of who you send patterns to prior to the show.
  - To ensure fairness for all; best option is to send them to the county 4-H agent.
- To post or not to post? --- the pattern. (if the show does not have a policy in place)

### Options:

- *Announce a simple pattern to youth while in the ring.*  
Typically rewards youth who can work on their own vs one who has memorized the pattern.  
Make sure all youth can hear and understand the pattern you announce.
- *Posted pattern:* must be completed and posted prior to the show.  
Typically rewards the youth (parent/trainer pair) who have prepared and practiced effectively.  
There may be questions about pattern interpretation.
- Pattern or rail work first?
  - *Run pattern portion of class first:*  
Gives all youth a chance to show what they can do with their horse and is a learning opportunity for upcoming years.
  - *Rail work first:*  
This will shorten total class time, but doesn't allow all youth to show. If time is tight and you can get a fair look, the youth can perform a simple pattern on the rail as a group. (stop, back, 90 degree turn, etc)
- Pivot vs turn: designate clearly & create a pattern that encompasses all breeds.  
quarter method rules & draft horse pattern (posted WI State 4-H Horse Association Equestrian guidelines)
- **Trail:** Trail class at the 4-H State Expo uses a similar scoring method as AQHA, with slight modifications. (posted in WI State 4-H HA Eq. guidelines)  
***County shows have the option to select their own guidelines vs following state rules, so check with show management about judging criteria for TRAIL at that show.***

**Western Riding: Update starting 2017**, the WI 4-H Modified Western Riding (added as a State 4-H class in 2011) will continue with the previous simple lead change modification recommendations, but will be using AQHA Level I WR Pattern 1,.

- In accordance with the State 4-H Horse Associations recommended EQUESTRIAN GUIDELINES (WI State 4-H HA website) there are suggested modifications to the original WR discipline requirements. Simple change of leads is permitted, flying lead change is preferred and may result in a higher maneuver score. ***County shows have the option to select their own guidelines vs following state rules, so check with show management about judging criteria for WR at that show.***
- AQHA Level I WR Pattern 1 has been designated as the pattern to be used at Expo for safety purposes related to arena size.

### RECOGNIZED CLASSES AND CLASS SPECIFICATION FOR JUDGING AT COUNTY FAIRS – noted in DATCP

**DANISH:** Showmanship; Horsemanship/Equitation; Reinsmanship

**REGULAR:** Pleasure; trail/obstacle driving

### QUALIFYING CLASSIFIED FOR STATE 4-H EXPO (per WI State 4-H Horse Association)

**Qualifying Classes:** Showmanship, Horsemanship/Equitation, Reinsmanship, Pleasure, trail/obstacle driving, Western Riding

**Non-Qualifying classes:** Halter, Gymkhana

***\*Grades 3-5 CANNOT qualify to go to state in riding classes.***

- WR is a qualifying class for Expo and should be judged regular as opposed to Danish. WR is NOT listed as a DATCP junior show class.
- **Horseless Horse** (HLH) youth who earn a blue ribbon in qualifying HLH classes can move on to State Expo also. These are Walk/Trot only classes. They are not DATCP junior show classes.

### **Danish Judging System:**

**The general concept of the Danish judging system is to reward a percentage of the youth in the class vs one youth.**

- Up to a ¼ of the class can receive a blue ribbon; ¼ of the class can receive a red ribbon; ¼ of the class can receive a white ribbon; ¼ receive a pink ribbon (some shows may give the rest of the class pinks)
- You can award fewer ribbons per designated level, but not a significant higher percentage than is inclusive of that level or above.
- **Award blue ribbons in qualifying class appropriately!** Keep *'safety!'* in mind. A blue ribbon in a qualifying class at the county fair offers that youth an opportunity to show at WI 4-H State Expo. You do **not** have to award blues if their abilities do not merit a blue ribbon. If the youth does not demonstrate sufficient handling skills, awarding a red ribbon is appropriate and acceptable.
- Pros and cons of Danish judging.
  - Pro: You don't have to select one winner and individually place all youth.
  - Pro: The "I'm the winner" element has been eliminated.
  - Con: You have to evaluate all riders/handlers to the end of the class.
  - Con: Some counties may need individual placings for Danish judged classes if they offer individual high point awards.
- See separate Danish placing table: located on line at the DATCP web site.

### **Split classes when judging Danish can be challenging:**

*Options: best to discuss with show committee prior to the show*

- Select appropriate number of youth to come back from the first & second cuts; whites and pinks to those excused. Bring back and rerun top selections; blues and reds following the rerun. This method works well but will add time to the day.
- Select correct number of blues, reds, whites, pinks per cut to total what is needed overall. Less time, but may be challenging to select appropriate numbers per cut.
- Larger classes can be divided the day of the show if needed to provide a safer class.
- Smaller fairs may combine classes and have more riders per class.

Premium amounts are regulated by DATCP; Danish and regular judged \$ differ for classes. A high percentage of county fairs do not directly follow DATCP division of classes.

(about ½ classes judged Danish) check with show management regarding placing flexibility

### **Typical variations.**

Ex: All classes are judged Danish; the county may not be taking \$\$\$ DATCP premiums, and have the flexibility to use either form of judging.

Ex: All classes are judged Danish and ranked. The County fair may offer high point for individuals.

MAXIMUM PLACINGS FOR STATE AID  
Danish Judging

NUMBER OF ENTRIES	1st PLACE not more than	1st 2 PLACES not more than	1st 3 PLACES not more than	4 PLACES not more than
1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2
3	2	3	3	3
4	2	4	4	4
5	2	4	5	5
6	2	4	6	6
7	2	4	6	7
8	2	4	6	8
9	2	4	6	9
10	2	5	7	10
11	2	5	8	11
12	3	6	9	12
13	3	6	9	13
14	3	7	10	14
15	3	7	11	15
16	4	8	12	16
17	4	8	12	17
18	4	9	13	18
19	4	9	14	19
20	5	10	15	20
21	5	10	15	21
22	5	11	16	22
23	5	11	17	23
24	6	12	18	24
25	6	12	18	25
26	6	13	19	26
27	6	13	20	27
28	7	14	21	28
29	7	14	21	29
30	7	15	22	30
31	7	15	23	31
32	8	16	24	32
33	8	16	24	33
34	8	17	25	34
35	8	17	26	35
36	9	18	27	36
37	9	18	27	37
38	9	19	28	38
39	9	19	29	39
40	10	20	30	40
41	10	20	30	41
42	10	21	31	42
43	10	21	32	43
44	11	22	33	44
45	11	22	33	45
46	11	23	34	46
47	11	23	35	47
48	12	24	36	48
49	12	24	36	49
50	12	25	37	50