

Emmet-Charlevoix County 4-H Horse Council Rules

Article I Safety Precautions:

1. All clubs comprising the Emmet & Charlevoix County 4- H Horse Council must abide by the regulations set forth in the Emmet- Charlevoix County Fair book, county 4-H policy statements and County Fair Code of Conduct.
2. SEI helmets must be worn by all 4-H members (19 + under) during all shows and events sponsored by the Emmet-Charlevoix County 4-H Horse Council and whenever the exhibitor is on their horse. This means that an approved helmet is to be worn whenever the exhibitor is on their horse, including all riding classes, and working in the warm-up area, regardless of the exhibitor's county of origin.
3. The adult executive board in conjunction with the 4-H Program Coordinator or the Overall Fair Horse Superintendent has the authority to stop any unsafe activities. MSU 4-H Coordinator or Overall Fair Horse Superintendent who has the authority to approve or deny further participation and/or to remove any unsafe riders from the ring.
4. In addition, ONLY registered Emmet or Charlevoix County 4-H parents, active Gold 4-H Volunteers, and 4-H exhibitors will be allowed to lead, work with the horses in preparation for exhibition. This includes being in the show arena and warm up arenas. Only active gold 4-H volunteers and 4-H members should ride the horses.
5. Members/Volunteers must wear closed toe, leather shoes/boots/muck boot while on barn duty, cleaning stalls or handling horses. All shoe wear must be riding boot, English boot or a boot with a heel.

Article II Health Requirements:

1. All animals must comply with the "General Livestock Requirements" found in the front of the Fair book.
2. All Horses and Ponies require proof of a current negative Coggins test result (as of January 1, 2026) for any 4-H sponsored event. * 4-H offices must have negative Coggins test prior to the start of fair.
3. It is also recommended that all horses and ponies have a 4-way vaccination.
4. All 4-H horses are to be in their respective barns by 9:00 am on Monday of fair week. No animals are to be released before 7:00 am on the Sunday at the end of fair week.
5. Vet checks will be performed. The Fair Veterinarian has authority to turn away any horses exhibiting illness at check in, other concerns or illnesses throughout the week must be brought to the overall horse superintendent.

Article III Participation Eligibility:

1. To participate, 4-H members must be between the ages of 5 and 19 as determined by their county enrollment policies as of January 1st of the 4-H program year. Members aged 5-7 will be considered "Cloverbuds" and participate according to state policies. Members who qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act may participate until they reach the age of 26, as of December 31 of the program year.
2. Exhibitors must be registered in 4-H online as members in their counties by December 1st.
3. Members ages 8-19 are required to complete the "Horse & Pony Record Book" and exhibit the book at the fair in order to receive premiums for their riding classes. Cloverbuds ages 5-7 are required to complete the Cloverbud record book. Record books must meet the passing grade of at least a C ribbon and must be turned in during still exhibit check in.
4. The "Membership Enrollment Form" must be completed and turned in by May 1st of the program year.
5. The Horse Registration form with member's project horse and alternate horse needs to be turned into your leader no later than the July membership meeting. After that July meeting date deadline, members will need to contact the board president to hold a special meeting to determine the outcome for a change in their project horse. A Project Horse is defined as a horse the member will be showing/exhibiting at the county fair.5. Horse projects are to be registered as of the July membership meeting with the required "Horse Registration Forms".
6. Members 8-19 must complete a fundraising activity.
7. Members 8-19 must sign up and actively participate on a committee.
8. Fair entries are to be registered into Fair Entry by the registration deadline of the 3rd Monday in July.
9. Barn Duties are required by each youth. Barn Duty standards are set by the barn leaders, varies by barn.
9. 4-H members aged 14-19, wanting to be selected as a delegate for the state 4-H horse show, must comply with the regulations and requirements as outlined in the "State Horse Show Selection Guidelines"

Article IV Meetings:

1. All meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month and will begin at 7:00 pm (except August, which is the 2nd Thursday of the Month). No meetings November-January, unless determined by the Executive Board.
2. **For the current year, attendance requirements: Youth 8-19 MUST attend 3 meetings, which includes either July or August mandatory pre-fair horse council meeting and at least 1 horse sponsored clinic, show or club ride meeting during the program year of September 1st to August 31st.** Cloverbuds are highly recommended to attend as many meetings as possible but MUST attend either July or August pre-fair horse council meeting.
3. All members have the option to attend 1 meeting via remote platform. This will count towards the 3 meeting requirements. Members will need to coordinate with

another member in attendance to connect to the meeting. Coordinating member must approve with Adult President and sign in the online member.

4. Each registered 4-H club is encouraged to have at least 1 designated club representative attend each meeting. Those representatives can be leaders, teen leaders, members, or parents.

Article V Exhibitor Guidelines:

1. During the fair or any 4-H Horse Council sponsored events, any complaints or concerns are to be directed to the 4-H Horse Council President, 4-H Coordinator or the Fair Horse Superintendent.
2. Any person causing disruptions will be asked to leave the grounds with their exhibit, forfeiting any and all premiums or awards.
3. There will be no smoking or consumption of alcoholic beverages on the grounds during 4-H sponsored events.

Article VI Horse Stalls:

1. All fair week horse stall assignments (4-H & Open) are made by the Fair Horse Superintendent. All non-fair 4-H sponsored events, stall assignments may be made by the 4-H Horse Council President.
2. Individual stalls may be cleaned, set-up, decorated (follow each specific barn rules for hanging and putting up decorations), etc., prior to Fair week. This will allow exhibitors to have the stalls readied to their satisfaction prior to horse arrival.
3. All horses are to be in their assigned barns by 9:00 am on Monday of Fair week and accompanied by either a parent or leader. Horses are to remain on the grounds until release time on the last Sunday of the Fair no earlier than 7am.
4. All horse chores - feeding & stall cleaning - are to be done no later than 10 am each day, or earlier as instructed by your club leader. All horse stalls are to be thoroughly cleaned, with all manure and soiled bedding materials placed in the cement manure locations behind the barns - this is to be done daily as well as upon your departure from the Fairgrounds. Failure to do so may affect your participation in next year's fair.
5. Any temporary stall alterations such as special bedding brought to the fair, must be totally removed from the stalls and the grounds by the exhibitor by 12 noon on the last day of the fair, this includes personal stall mats, boards, fans, etc.
6. Any time a horse is stalled in the barn during the operational hours of fair week, an adult must be on duty.

Article VII Horse Activity:

1. **All 4-H horse exhibitors - whenever they are riding in the arena or warm-up arena are to have an active 4-H gold volunteer or members parent/guardian present. Volunteers must be aware and approve supervision.** In addition, 4-H members may be requested/required to have a leader/parent accompany them from their barn to the

arena or warm-up area.

2. ALL horses are to be led out of the back of each of the two lower barns.
3. Bathing of horses is to take place behind the T-Barn in the horse wash racks.
4. No riding of horses to the show ring or the warm-up ring, and no riding on the roads or midway during fair
5. During non-fair 4-H Horse Council sponsored events, horses must remain in the immediate area of the arena and off the paved roads.

Article VIII Class Information:

1. Proper tack and dress required for all classes. Unsafe tack or equipment may result in the exhibitor's dismissal from the class.
2. Entry in a Showmanship class is optional for Cloverbud exhibitors. It is required for ALL other 4-H 8-19-year-old exhibitors at fair.
3. Cloverbud exhibitors (5-7 year olds):
 - Five-year-olds may be involved with equine on a halter and lead. Each cloverbud must be directly accompanied one-on-one by a parent, guardian, or adult volunteer who is on foot holding the animal's halter or lead to maximize safety.
 - Six-year-olds may engage in the same activities listed as appropriate for 5-year-olds, or may ride a horse unaccompanied, but only at a walk. Adult should be in the ring with the cloverbud at all times.
 - Seven-year-olds may engage in the same activities listed as appropriate for 5- and 6-year-olds or may be involved with an equine on a halter and lead, unaccompanied by an adult on the ground (for example, in a fitting and showing-type class) and may participate in walk-trot events with adult volunteers in the ring at all times.
 - This is the rule when the exhibitors are in the show ring as well as the warm-up arena.
4. 4-H members are encouraged to work with the horses they or their families own. Animal ownership is encouraged, but not required. An animal does not have to be registered in the member's name; however, an animal must be in the 4-H member's continual care as much as possible and must be designated as the member's project animal by the county deadline of July Membership Meeting.

Article IX Show Ring Etiquette & Ethics:

1. Once a 4-H exhibitor enters the show ring, spectators are encouraged to refrain from coaching, whistling or making comments to the exhibitors unless they relate to safety issues or are in support of the exhibitor.
2. The warm-up arena is for parents, active volunteers and exhibitors only. No spectators are to be in that area. **Riding boot, English boot, or a boot with a heel must be worn by all.**

Article X Financials:

1. Any request for horse council monies must be approved at a meeting before the monies are to be used. All expenditures over \$250 and not included in the budget

- need to be submitted to the general membership for approval.
2. All expenditures require an invoice or receipt to be reimbursed or to receive payment by the adult treasurer.
 3. The 4-H Coordinators and the county 4-H Councils are to be notified about all proposed fundraising activities for horse council or individual club activities.

(As an addendum to the Horse Council Approved 10/16/25)