

Iosco County Horse Developmental Committee

4-H Horse Club Rules and Guidelines

The Iosco County 4-H Horse Program will be operated in accordance with the "Michigan 4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules and Regulations." The adopted, special supplemental rules will govern shows sponsored by the Iosco County 4-H Horse Developmental Committee and 4-H Clubs.

Membership and Entries:

1. Rules for the "Michigan 4-H Horse & Pony Show Rules and Regulations" will apply for all events.
2. Iosco County 4-H members must register with their 4-H leaders by completing an enrollment form. Members must register their project animal(s) and submit ALL horse registrations to the county MSU Extension office **by the fourth Friday in April** of the current year. This will allow this horse to participate in the State Horse Show. Members may register, and enter in shows, more than one horse, but separate show identification numbers must be used for each horse. (Point totals are maintained on the horse, not the member.) **No member will be eligible if registration is turned in after the deadline.**

4-H members must submit a cover letter with the horse registration form stating their interest in attending the state 4-H horse show.

3. All Iosco County 4-H Horse Clubs are required to see that every member is covered by 4-H health and accident insurance upon enrollment for the current year.
4. Class entry is determined by the age the member is on, **January 1, of the current calendar year**. A member has the option of participating in a higher age class, but must compete in the same class the entire season, except for Cloverbud participants. Riders eight (8) years of age and younger may only ride in Cloverbud classes. Novice classes can be organized for members with limited riding experience.
5. Age groups are:

Western, Gymkhana (speed), and Trail

Seniors 16-19
Juniors 13-15
Young Juniors 9-12
Pony 9-12

Cloverbud 5-8
walk, trot classes - learning activity

English (includes Hunter Hack)

Seniors 16-19
Juniors 13-15
Young Juniors 9-12
Pony 9-12

Riders eight (8) years of age and younger may only ride in Cloverbud classes. **The following text (in italics) has been taken directly from the “Michigan 4-H Horse & Pony Show Rules and Regulations” (Page 1: General Rules):**

“Cloverbuds (5- to 8- Year-Olds)

- 7. All 4-H cloverbud activities (for 5- 8-year-olds) must follow guidelines set by the State 4-H Office. Please check with your county 4-H staff for details. When younger children (aged 5 to 8) are involved in the 4-H horse project, all adults and older children must be aware of the youngsters’ safety. It is suggested that 5- to 8-year-olds learn about horses using activities that keep them safe and foster long-term interest in and excitement about the project. Extra adults should be on hand to help 5- to 8-years-olds before classes and as spotters during classes.*
 - 8. ASTM-SEI—approved safety helmets must be worn by youth aged 5 to 8.*
 - 9. It is important to remember that recognition of children aged 5 to 8 must be developmentally appropriate. Children aged 5 to 8 must not be put into competitive situations and must not be ranked. It is appropriate, however, to recognize the child’s participation. It is also appropriate that a caring nurturing adult provide the child with information about the strengths of his or her project and where the 4-H’er might improve the project. Please contact your county 4-H staff for a copy of the Michigan 4-H Youth Development Cloverbud Policy or see <http://expeng.anr.msu.edu/sites/4h/resources/4-HCloverbudPolicy.pdf>*
 - 10. Five- and 6-year-olds are eligible for leadline experiences with animals on a halter and lead. They must be directly assisted one-on-one by a parent, guardian or adult volunteer who is on the ground holding the animal’s halter or lead to maximize safety. When 5- and 6-year-olds are working with horses, assistance must be provided by adults on foot, rather than mounted on other horses.*
 - 11. Off-lead walk-trot experiences may be appropriate activities for children aged 7 and 8, with adult volunteers in the ring with the children at all times.”*
6. Ponies may be shown by members 13 years and older, but must be shown in members’ respective age group. Ponies must measure 56 inches or less at the withers. Shod ponies will be allowed ½ inch for the thickness of the shoes. The show management, and/or Developmental Committee reserves the right to measure ponies. Three or less ponies in a class may be combined.
 7. Adults, age 20 and over, showing in the Iosco County 4-H/Open Horse show will follow 4-H rules. Exception: The use of approved helmets for adults in hunt or in gymkhana classes is recommended, but optional. Minors (age 19 and under) showing in open classes will be required to wear helmets. Cloverbuds must wear helmets for all horse experiences.

- Horses will enter the arena promptly as directed by ring management immediately as the class is called. A five (5) minute allowance for tack changes will be given if the ring steward is notified in advance. When the last entry in the holding area has entered, the gate will be closed and no further entries will be allowed.

Show Management and Procedures:

- Each show will identify a 4-H leader as superintendent and the MSU Extension office will be informed. The superintendent will assume responsibility for the show and appoint representatives to provide stewardship for the event. Show management will be responsible for providing placing points from the show to the MSU Extension office by July 1.
- Gymkhana participants will be given one (1) minute to enter the arena after being called. Disqualification will be at the judge's discretion. Tack may be inspected by show management, and unsafe tack will not be allowed. There will be two (2) gate keepers at each show to keep the horses from bunching up at the gate and creating a potentially dangerous situation. Riders must dismount before exiting the arena. Only one class will be in the make-up area at a time.
- An automatic electric timer should be used to time gymkhana events.
- There will be a \$5.00 cap per class. Cloverbud fee will be \$1.00 per class. This does not include arena fees.
- 4-H awards per event - are optional and will be given as follows if given:

1 st place blue = 6 points	4 th place white = 3 points
2 nd place red = 5 points	5 th place pink = 2 points
3 rd place yellow = 4 points	6 th place green = 1 point
- Free will offerings may be taken to help defray the show expenses.
- The Michigan Department of Agriculture requires that all horses and ponies for exhibition be free of infectious and contagious diseases. Obviously, sick horses will be dismissed by the show superintendent. If a horse becomes lame or disabled, the judge will have the final decision to allow the animal to continue in the show. Equine entered into fairs, exhibitions or similar events must test negative for EIA prior to the event within the current calendar year.
- Sportsman-like conduct will be displayed at all times by all participants and spectators of a show. The judge will be in charge of the ring, and the superintendent will be in charge of the grounds and will have the authority to take appropriate action required.
- In case of a tie for high point awards, the winner will be decided by the judge.

18. Distances in gymkhana classes: events will be as set as in the “4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules and Regulations.” Cloverleaf barrels must be set with a tire around the top unless plastic barrels are used.
19. In case of ties in gymkhana classes, the tied contestants shall compete again.
20. All pattern classes **must be** posted prior to the start of the show.
21. Members may show in halter class and open class but placing(s) will not be used to determine high-point standings. High-point will be determined by the attire the rider is in.
22. Leader or an adult leader representative from all Iosco County Horse Clubs must be present to select the state show delegates. Decisions will be final.
23. Criteria for selection of State 4-H Horse Show representatives will be based on current project year participation and be ranked in the order written.
 - A. **Members must be active in an Iosco County 4-H Horse Club for a minimum of at least one (1) year.**
 - B. Points accumulated at official Iosco County 4-H shows, as maintained by the MSU Extension office, and members’ participation in those shows.
 - C. Members must submit a cover letter stating their interest in attending the State 4-H Show, **and will be personally interviewed.**
 - a. Information to be included in the cover letter should include, but not be limited to:
 - How many years have you been in 4-H?
 - What club are you a member of?
 - What are a few of your biggest accomplishments with your horse?
 - Why do you want to attend the State Show?
 - Why should you be chosen to represent Iosco County at the State Show?
 - D. Enter an educational horse project to be exhibited at 4-H Achievement Day.
 - E. Participation in local 4-H club meetings and activities.
 - F. Seniority in a horse related 4-H club will be a determining factor.
 - G. Sportsmanship, citizenship, and attitude.
 - H. Participation in other 4-H activities and events. (ie. Community service projects, mentoring programs, teen leader roles, horseless projects, regional and state activities like Exploration Days, workshops, State Programming Committees, National 4-H Congress, hippology, or horse bowl.)

Rules for Using Arenas:

24. The 4-H Horse Club sponsoring the show must:
 - A. Notify the arena manager of the intended use.
 - B. Be responsible for getting the area ready for the show and clean-up after the show. All litter and trash must be removed immediately after the show.
 - C. Post the rules governing the use of the grounds.
 - D. Exhibitors using the stalls in the horse barns (fairgrounds only) must check with the show superintendent to get a stall permit. If stalls are not cleaned, a \$20 fee will be charged.
25. Stallions can only be shown during the calendar year in which they are foaled.
26. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs will be allowed during any 4-H activity. **Violating participants will be asked to leave the grounds and will forfeit any entry fees/premiums/awards.**
27. All show bills need to be approved prior to public notice by 4-H Staff.
28. All horse shows are considered fund raisers and need prior approval of the MSU Extension office.

Date Last Modified: March 27, 2017