



**Yellowstone
County 4-H**

H  **RSE**
PROGRAM

2023-2024

Horse Policy revised January 2024

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Attached: Montana 4-H Horse Program: State Bit Rule and Equipment Guide

Monthly meetings for 2024

All meetings will be held at 6 p.m. in the 4-H Building at MetraPark

Meeting Date	Meeting Facilitator
January 2024 - NO meeting	n/a
February 21, 2024	Dixie Osborne
March 20, 2024	Johanna Heupel
April 17, 2024	Diana Spint
May 15, 2024	Cindy Sundheim
June 19, 2024	Shelby Swanson
July 17, 2024	Gina Loose
August 2024 - NO meeting	n/a
September 18, 2024	Gina Loose
October 23, 2024	Wendy/Kasey Felder
November 2024 – NO Meeting	n/a

4-H Objectives, Purpose & Goals

The purposes of the Montana 4-H horse program are to help members to:

1. Develop life skills

- *Foster a positive self-image
- *Learn decision making abilities and responsibility for choices
- *Develop an inquiring mind
- *Relate to yourself and others
- *Acquire a concern for local and global communities

2. Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship, and other desirable character traits.

3. Experience the pride and responsibility of having a horse and receive additional education in a horse's care, feeding, management and expenses.

4. Appreciate horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.

5. Obtain skills in horsemanship and handling of horses.

6. Utilize safety precautions that prevent injury to the horse, rider, and others

7. Nurture greater love for animals and develop a humane attitude toward them.

8. Prepare for citizenship responsibilities by working together in groups and supporting community horse projects and activities.

9. Promote 4-H

10. Promote the state 4-H horse project and program.

11. Promote uniformity among county horse projects.

12. Promote goals of the 4-H horse project.

13. Promote excellence in horsemanship.

14. Encourage individuals to perform to the best of their abilities.

15. Encourage and recognize horsemanship ability.

16. Set and achieve goals to the best of member's ability.

17. Provide uniformity for the horse project.

Enrolled leaders by club:

Club Name	Leader and phone number
Hesper Hustlers	Kasey Felder 406-661-5408
Huntley Eagles	Carrie Hawkins 406-245-7633 Colton Hawkins 406-281-1954
Laurel Roadrunners	Alexis Brasier 530-401-6900
Project Longhorns	Alyssa O'Neil 307-271-2046
Project Rockin Wranglers	Kayla Koivu 307-251-4931 Rhonda Koivu 406-598-6999
Shepherd Pioneers	Wes & Dixie Osborne 406-373-5750 Justin Heupel 406-670-0260 Johanna Heupel 406-670-9932
Shepherd Tumbleweeds	Michael Kennedy 406-647-6470 Amy Kennedy 406-647-6564 Kathy Peck 406-670-8756
Shepherd Wranglers	Wendy Siemsen 406-690-7166
Whips & Sticks	Devin Murnin 406-696-1502
Yellowstone Silver Spurs	Diana Spint 406-861-4996 Judy Roberston 406-656-8343
At Large Leaders	Bonnie DeVerniero 406-694-5234 Gina Loose 406-855-9381 Cindy Sundheim 406-672-0767 Shelby Swanson 406-671-5774 Tara Warren 406-606-8853

Clubs with no Horse Leaders and/or no Horse Members:

Big Sky Thunderbolts
 Blue Creek Jumping Bucks
 City Kids
 Compass All Stars
 Cool Clovers
 Explorers
 Kountry Kritters
 Lockwood Humble B's
 Northern Lights
 Pine Ridge Red Ryders
 Ruff Riders
 Shepherd Firecrackers
 Shepherd Lonestars
 Worden Riverdale
 Yellowstone Mavericks

If you are in a club that does not have a horse leader you may call anyone on the above list for help. In the case of no club horse leader, your club's organizational leader will receive horse ID cards and the assessment sheet. PLEASE NOTE: IT IS STILL THE PARENT/MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY TO MEET ALL DEADLINES.

Tips for Success in Your Horse Project

- 1) Get to know your horse leader in your club.
 - i) Horse leaders are volunteers who dedicate their time, knowledge, and efforts, to help horse project members learn good horsemanship skills, and to promote the safety of the youth and their horses.
 - ii) Horse leaders come from a variety of backgrounds. Each leader may have worked with, but not limited to, show horses, ranch horses, racehorses, rodeo horses, breeding programs, horse training programs. There are many methods of training that are incorporated as well. The three things all leaders have in common are the passion to help youth, the desire to teach good horsemanship skills, and ensuring the safety of the members and horses.
- 2) Acquaint both the members and parents with the 4-H project books.
 - i) Maneuvers that must be performed for assessment and fair are listed and explained in project books.
 - ii) The project books list vital safety factors.
- 3) Acquaint both members & parents with the supplemental materials available at the County Extension Office.
- 4) Ask questions all year long. Horse is a project that requires devotion and time. Get started early and as questions arise call your horse leader. If they are unsure of the answer, they can direct you where to go.
- 5) Help your child make it to meetings/clinics that are offered both at club and county levels.
 - i) Hauling your horse to different events will help you and your leaders see the horse's reaction to new settings. Many times, a horse will behave one way when they are in familiar settings, and then behave in an entirely different manner when exposed to a new setting.
 - ii) Sometimes a horse will need to be lounged in a new setting before the member can safely ride the same horse that the member "just climbs on and goes with at home."
 - iii) Occasionally the leader may be able to tell that the child will have trouble showing the horse in horse shows and the child might be encouraged to try a horse that will more likely accept the show ring.
 - iv) Attending riding meetings usually lets the horse get used to new things, and a horse that might be overly nervous at the first riding meeting will be fine and begin to behave by the 3rd or 4th meeting.
 - v) Each leader is required to assess the 4-H members for the member to show at the fair. It is much easier for these brave volunteers to assess your member and their horse in an ongoing manner, as opposed to only seeing the member one time in the horse's familiar setting.
 - vi) Many leaders are parents of members themselves and understand that sometimes there are roadblocks to getting your member to riding meetings. Discuss these things with your horse leader, they may be able to help figure out a way to get members to at least some of the riding meetings.
 - vii) Some clubs do not hold riding meetings. Please feel free to contact a different club to see if your member might be able to ride with their club.
- 6) Haul your horse before fair! So many times, a horse is excellent at many things but does not haul well.
 - i) Loading and unloading horses can be a dangerous time. It is better to plan a few trips at leisure than to wait until you MUST be somewhere and on time. If you try loading the horse for leisure and run into a problem, then you can seek out help and ideas so that you can safely teach the 4-H member how to properly load their horse.
- 7) We as leaders cannot stress SAFETY enough. Many of us have had to troubleshoot the things listed above. That's why we have made this supplement. You do not have to belong to a specific club to ask any horse leader for help.
- 8) For members who are trying finding the "right horse" to start your project with, please consult your leader before deciding. A good rule of thumb is that the age of the horse, added to the age of the rider, should equal 20 years.
- 9) Be aware that if your horse is not used to being stalled, there is a chance that it will have "extra energy" at the fair. It is an excellent idea to have your horse used to lounging to help burn off unwanted energy. Lounging lightly, in the morning, will also help older horses warm up their "old" muscles and joints after being confined to a stall all night.

Horse leaders want to help members learn about the 4-H Horse Project in a safe manner. We want to see all members succeed with their projects!

Project Descriptions

All Horse projects listed in the 4-H Clover will be offered in Yellowstone County.

Horsemanship – Western Levels 1-7

Horsemanship – English Levels 1-7

Colt to Maturity Levels 1-5

Green Horse Levels 1-4

Working Ranch Horse Levels 1-4

Horse Driving Levels 1-4

Horse Packing Levels 1-5

Horse Showing Levels 1-3

Horse Judging

Horseless Horse Levels 1-5

Careers with Horses

Self-Determined Project: Miniature Horse - NOTE: All Self Determined requirements must be met prior to fair entry due dates.

Yellowstone County Horse & Colt Policies:

A resource library of project materials (CDs and books) is available at the Extension Office.

4-H members must be 12 years old or older during the current project year and have completed Horsemanship Level 1, 2 and 3 to enroll in the Colt to Maturity Project, Green Horse Project, and Reins Manship class.

Colt to Maturity and Green Horse projects cannot cross-enter in Horsemanship I-VI English or Western. Horsemanship I-VI projects cannot cross-enter in Colt to Maturity, English or Western. Exception: A colt 5-years old and Green Horse Level 4 may cross enter into Horsemanship Level 7 if they have been assessed out of Level 6.

Colts used in the Colt to Maturity project must be entered in the program during or before they are one year old. Horses that are 2 years old or older when the 4-H member begins the project should be entered in the Green Horse Project. The Green Horse Project is defined as an unbroken or green broke horse (started but not finished) no older than 7 years old.

Members competing in Level 7 Horsemanship must ride with a saddle, bridle, and reins. Hands-free riding is allowed but the reins must be within reach (i.e. looped over the saddle horn, laid on the neck). Prior approval by two registered horse leaders is required for hands-free riding in Level 7. All Level 7 requirements must be completed by the member's second year in the project to receive the County Award of \$100.00. A member may continue to ride in Level 7 in subsequent years however, the County Award is only available through the second year. Only Yellowstone County 4-H members are eligible for this award.

Horse members, horse leaders and organizational leaders enrolled in the previous or current year can vote at the Horse and Colt Committee meetings. Any rule or policy change must be submitted to the Extension Office on the rule/policy proposal form by the deadline listed on the form (usually the end of September). These changes will be voted on at the October Horse and Colt Committee meeting.

All members in the horse project must start at Level I and then proceed through the levels as they complete the book and pass the assessments. Members may pass through more than one level in the project year. Once a member has completed a level, they show in the level above what has been completed.

Member must have completed Horsemanship Level 3 to do any of these events at fair: Level 4-7, reins Manship, poles, barrels, team penning. Colt, Green Horse, and Horsemanship Levels 1-3 horses may not enter these classes.

Yellowstone County 4-H Lease Agreements must be turned into the County Extension Office by May 1. The use of lease agreements is optional.

Project animals should not be ridden by a trainer. The project's goals are to teach the 4-H member. Riding lessons are permitted providing the student rides the horse and the instructor does not.

A project horse may be exhibited by up to two 4-H members. Members must be immediate family and may share the project horse only for a period of 1 year. They cannot be riding at the same level and one of the showing participants must be in Horse Level 1, 2 or 3. Neither the horse nor the member can compete against himself/herself. Each member must provide a Horse ID card for the horse by the June 15th card deadline.

The age of the 4-H member is determined as of October 1st of the project year for age group classes and contests at shows.

Horse age shall be computed by calendar year starting January 1st of the year foaled. EX. – A horse foaled any time in 2010 will be termed one-year old January 1, 2011; two years old January 1, 2012; etc.

All 4-H project animals must be in the continual care of the 4-H member from June 15th through September 30th of the project year. If a horse must be stabled, the member should come to the committee and tell their role in the horse's feed and care.

Member may ride at only one level English and/or one level Western. If riding both English and Western, levels ridden can be the same level or only one level above or below. Members must compete at the highest level enrolled in the county in any open class.

Only mares and geldings may be shown in any horse project. Stallions are not eligible.

Mares with foals at side are not allowed at MontanaFair.

If replacement of a project horse becomes necessary, such replacement must be approved by the Horse and Colt Committee at a monthly meeting. No replacements will be made after the July Meeting. A colt project can only be replaced with a yearling. Please note this form does not allow for animal changes or to add a class.

All horses five years old or older must be ridden with a curb bit and one hand. Age is determined as of January 1st. Exceptions include Level 1 and 2 in the Green Horse Project. Roping reins are not allowed except in speed events.

When entering the All Around you must specify which showmanship you want your points in, if entering two horse showmanship classes you must specify which horse in order to receive your showmanship points.

Horsemanship Contest entries must have been submitted by the deadline. The contest is based on a written test and scores from various horse shows with the final pattern at the MontanaFair. Results will be checked by a committee prior to awards being given.

Horse Judging

Judging consists of a 4-member team working to evaluate horses at halter and performance classes that include western, english, trail etc. Members will judge and place as the class as close to official judge's placing. They will prepare notes to enable them to give reasons of their placings for any designated class. The top team at Montana 4-H Congress will advance to National competition in Denver Co.

Horse Skillathon/Hippology

This consists of a 4-member team who have practiced overall horse knowledge and will compete in a multi-phase competition to include: judging, station ID, slides, written test and team problems. The top team at Montana 4-H congress will advance to National competition in Denver Co.

NOTE: If more than 4 individuals commit to either horse team there will be a competition with scoring to determine the top 4 individuals that will represent Yellowstone County.

Saddle Up

To participate members are required to sign up by May 1st (forms are on 4-H website). Members log all their riding hours (hours in the saddle) from May 1st to September 30th. Colt to Maturity Projects in the yearling and 2-year-old may count groundwork time while training and showing. Awards are given at Family Fun Night.

Assessments and ID Cards

4-H members will be assessed at the club level by a horse leader or teen horse leader. Assessment sheets are not to be turned into the county office but are to be kept in the member's record book. The Assessment Results Sheet signed by the horse or organizational leader showing the new levels and projects for all members will be turned into the Extension Office. These sheets, with all level changes, are to be completed by June 15th each year. Members will show in the level above what has been completed. Leaders can decline to assess a member. However, members must be assessed to attend MontanaFair. The member can ask the Horse and Colt committee for another registered horse leader to assess them.

Only one ID card per Horse Project will be accepted. (English and Western Horsemanship are different projects and two different horses may be used.)

English, Western and Ranch horse projects. (Does not apply to Colt to Maturity or Green Horse projects). Replacement of a primary horse will NOT be made after the July meeting without a vet certificate of lameness, injury, illness or death. A primary horse may only be replaced with a secondary "family" horse if an additional horse ID card has been turned in for the secondary "family" horse by June 15. The ID cards must specify each horse as primary or secondary. Each family is only allowed one additional horse. The horse MUST be a family owned or leased horse and meet the same criteria as the primary horse. A lease agreement dated prior to June 15th is required and must be attached to the ID card.

All 4-H horse exhibitors must turn in a completed Horse ID card with proof of current 4 in 1 vaccination (influenza, tetanus, and eastern and western sleeping sickness) attached to the card. Cards must be turned into exhibitor's horse leader who will verify that the ID card is complete and deliver it to the Extension Office with assessment tally sheets by June 15th. These cards must be signed by the member, parent, leader and include a picture of the horse. Cards received after the June 15th deadline or incomplete cards will be reviewed at the June or July Horse & Colt Committee meeting and dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Penalty for late or incomplete cards may or may not include being ineligible to show at MontanaFair.

FFA and Out-of-County exhibitors will be mailed an ID card upon receipt of their fair entry and must return the ID card to the fair office within 10 days.

All members must complete Horsemanship levels 1, 2 and 3 before entering any other Horse project. (In some cases, the leader could use Horseless Horse Project levels 1, 2 and 3.) This includes: Horsemanship levels 4 thru 7, Colt to Maturity, Packing, Driving, and Green Horse. Any 4-H member, regardless of Horsemanship Level, may enter Horse Judging, Horse Showing and Careers with Horses.

Dress code

Neatness is the first requirement regarding a rider's attire. Equipment stewards shall eliminate those contestants who do not conform.

The dress code for MontanaFair will be as follows:

WESTERN:

- Long sleeved, button or snap shirt with a collar.
- Western type pants, western boots, and a western type hat (felt or straw)
- Vests, sweaters, jackets, chaps, gloves, and ties are optional

- Helmets are optional. (Must follow the horse helmet policy)
- Spurs are optional unless otherwise prohibited (bareback and showmanship)
- Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid

ENGLISH:

- Hunt coat (red, pink, or scarlet coats prohibited unless earned as a member of a recognized hunt),
- breeches,
- English style blouse or shirt with sleeves,
- hunt boots,
- half chaps with jodhpurs
- helmet (meeting ASTM and SEI standards recommended)
- Stocks, chokers, ratcatchers or ties required
- Gloves, unrowelled spurs and crop or bat optional
- Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid

SADDLE SEAT:

- Conservative solid color jacket and jodhpurs are required
- Derby, soft hat, or top hat, jodhpur boots
- Gloves, stock, chokers, or ties are required
- Unrowelled spurs and crop are optional
- Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid

BAREBACK EQUITATION AND SHOWMANSHIP:

- Western or English attire is allowed. If riding English attire, long sleeved shirt must be worn without the jacket.
- Chaps, spurs, crops, and bats prohibited.

ROUND ROBIN:

- Long sleeved, collared, button up shirt
- Western type pants – blue or black

APPROVED HELMETS MUST BE WORN IN:

- All speed events
- Bareback walk trot level 1 & 2
- Introduction to Reining Level 1 & 2

MontanaFair Junior Horse Show Rules

All 4-H and FFA members exhibiting any animal in Department A (Junior Livestock) at MontanaFair are required to attend an MSU Extension ANIMAL QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINING (AQA) (per state guidelines) provided by the 4-H Committee or an FFA Advisor/ Agriculture Educator prior to the first MontanaFair entry deadline or exhibitors do not show. Yellowstone County has two 4-H age brackets for AQA training. Exhibitors must attend AQA as Beginners/Juniors (4-H age 8-13), and as a senior member (4-H age 14-19). This age is based on the exhibitors "4-H Age" – the age as of October 1 of the current 4-H year. Exhibitors must take Animal Quality Assurance the first year they reach each age bracket or the first year they are exhibiting in an animal project. All classes will include the same teaching materials and use the same forms and paperwork. Class content is determined by a committee and updated every two years. A parent or legal guardian must also attend the AQA Training.

All 4-H members exhibiting in any Department A Horse Project are required to attend an MSU Extension Horse Helmet Workshop per state guidelines prior to the first Fair entry deadline or you do not show.

Montana State University Extension 4-H Horse Helmet Policy:

Participants in the 4-H Horse Project are required to attend a Horse Helmet Workshop once as a beginner/junior 4-H member (8-13) and again as a senior 4-H member (14 and up). This age is based on the exhibitors "4-H Age" – the age as of October 1 of the current 4-H year. Exhibitors must attend a Horse Helmet Workshop the first year they reach every age bracket or the first year they are exhibiting in an animal project. A parent or legal guardian must also attend the Horse Helmet Workshop. NO EXCEPTIONS!

After attending a 4-H Helmet Workshop, riders may choose whether or not they will wear a certified helmet. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian of the 4-H member to see that the headgear worn complies with such standards and is in good condition. The Montana 4-H Center for Youth Development encourages the use of ASTM certified/SEI approved safety helmets in all equine events. Protective headgear may be used in all classes and shall not be discriminated against. Helmet use is encouraged in all 4-H horse activities any time a 4-H member is around a horse. A certified equestrian helmet with safety harness fastened in place is required in over fence classes and gymkhana events, activities, and practice sessions. Gymkhana refers to horseback speed events (timed or un-timed) that do not use livestock. Events that usually fall in this category include, but are not limited to barrel racing, pole bending, keyhole races, stake races, rescue races, pony express race, etc. Events that are not intended to be included in this policy are events such as calf roping, team roping, goat tying, and team penning that may be timed but use livestock.

Administration of Drugs. Livestock requiring any medication should be identified upon arrival to the 4-H MontanaFair Office. Exhibitors should be prepared to present a valid prescription and/or a written explanation, either or both to be signed by the animal's licensed veterinarian. In addition, the following practices are prohibited and unethical:

- The use of any diuretic on any animal.
- Labels should specifically identify the animals cleared for the use of such substances and the proper dosage.
- The use of alcoholic beverages in feed or administered as a drench.
- Surgery of any kind performed to change the natural contour or appearance of the animal's body, teeth, hide or hair. Not included is the removal of teats or horns, clipping or dressing of hair, trimming of hooves, spaying heifers, castrating male animals, or docking tails.
- Insertion of any foreign material under the skin.
- Any attempt to change natural color of any animal, either purebred or crossbred, by changing the color or adding false hair, fleece, or skin at any point, spot, or area of the animal's body.
- The natural color of an animal cannot be altered using any artificial coloring. However, products that match the animal's natural color may be used in the fitting process from the knees and hocks down and on the switch only. For example, black products may be used on a black-legged animal, red on a red-legged animal, and white on a white-legged animal. But under no circumstances can color be used to cover a steer or lamb's natural leg color.

Livestock requiring any medication should be identified upon arrival to the 4-H MontanaFair Office. Exhibitors should be prepared to present a valid prescription and/or a written explanation, either or both to be signed by the animal's licensed veterinarian. Any required medication or treatment after arrival at the show used to protect the health and welfare of the animal must be prescribed by a licensed veterinarian and approved by the Chairman of that Species, Superintendent, and Extension Agent. Administration of all medications must, at all times, be done in accordance with the specification and/or instructions given in the prescription or directions and be administered in the presence of the Chairman of that species, Superintendent(s) and/or Extension Agent. Liability for the correct administration of the prescribed drug is the responsibility of the Exhibitor and Exhibitor's parent or legal guardian.

- Therapeutic treatments/practices such as including but not limited to chiropractic, massage therapy, electromagnetic therapy, cold laser therapy, PEMF/Bemer are allowed up to show time.

- Behavior supplements for safety may be used. You **MUST** notify division chairman at check in and/or **BEFORE** use *should the need arise*.
- All therapeutic treatments/practices and use of supplements for behavior **MUST** be done in the barn during normal barn hours, i.e. not at midnight when no one else is in the barn. Barn hours are 9:00 am to 9:00 pm.
- Use of a cold wet towel is allowed.
- Drenches will only be allowed that are formulated by an animal nutrition company/business and labeled for that particular species. It must be administered by a drench gun. No pumping allowed.

All exhibitors will be required to sign off at the check in times for each species to disclose if they have or intend to use any medications, herbal supplements and/or therapeutic treatment/practices and that you are aware of the rules and expectations surrounding these issues.

All rules listed in the county policy section apply to MontanaFair.

You must follow Entry Deadline, Arrival of Exhibits, and Removal of Exhibits rules listed in the MontanaFair Exhibitor's Handbook.

All members must sign and turn in the LIVESTOCK CODE OF ETHICS & DRUG WITHDRAWAL FORM LOCATED ON THE BACK OF THE ENTRY TO COMPETE. These policies will be enforced.

Only animals entered in MontanaFair can be on the fair grounds.

AGE REQUIREMENTS:

A beginner division MontanaFair Junior Livestock exhibitor is anyone who is 8, 9 and 10 years old as of October 1 of the current year. A junior division MontanaFair Junior Livestock exhibitor is 11, 12, or 13 or anyone who has not reached 14 years of age by October 1 of the current 4-H year. A senior division MontanaFair Junior Livestock exhibitor is anyone who has reached 14 years of age and is less than 19 years of age by October 1 of the current year.

THERE WILL BE A LIMIT OF FOUR SCRATCHES ON ENTRIES. MORE THAN FOUR SCRATCHES PER ENTRANT MAY RESULT IN A FORFEITURE OF PREMIUM MONEY. ENTRIES WITH MORE THAN FOUR SCRATCHES MAY NOT COMPETE FOR AWARDS.

Exhibition horses originating outside of Montana must have a health certificate. A negative COGGINS TEST for Equine Infections Anemia within the previous 6 months is required on all exhibition horses over 6 months of age originating outside of Montana. This must be shown at check in.

Exhibitors bringing cattle or horses across a county line must obtain a brand inspection certificate before leaving home and turn them in at check in time with the animal or be subject to a heavy fine according to Montana Law. All 4-H/FFA Exhibitors exhibiting in 4-H/FFA Livestock events must show, care for, fit and clean their own animals and stalls with minimal adult assistance. Minimal adult assistance for a learning purpose or safety issue is acceptable. Excessive involvement by adults could lead to consequences for the exhibitor to be determined by the Livestock Committee, Division Chairman, Livestock Superintendent, and/or Extension Agent.

All horses will be stalled in their assigned stalls and will arrive during the scheduled check in time.

Additional specific barn rules, mandatory pre-show meeting and trail schedule are included in your MontanaFair exhibitor packet you may pick up on Department N Interview Judging Day in August. **PLEASE BE SURE TO READ ALL PACKET CONTENTS.**

To extend the check in time, you must come before the Horse and Colt Committee by the July meeting to get approval. Each exhibitor may enter one animal per class number.

All contestants MUST show in their recognized project class at fair in order to show in any other horse class or forfeit premiums and awards for those other horse classes.

All traveling trophies will be awarded to the highest placing Yellowstone County 4-H member in class.

For the reinsmanship class, the member must be accompanied in the car by an adult. Signed assessments by the 4-H leader must accompany the fair entry.

Member's horses must stay until the check-out time listed in the Exhibitor's Handbook. Horses will not be hauled in and out during fair.

When you leave the fair, your stalls must be clean, and decorations taken down. Before leaving, stalls are to be inspected by your 4-H Horse Leader or one of the Horse and Colt Committee officers, or barn supervisor to avoid forfeiture of premium money.

Only 4-H members can ride their project horses at the fair. The only exception to this rule will be to allow 2 adults, determined by the committee, to use 4-H member's horses for herd holding in ranch horse and team penning.

Judges may, at their discretion, excuse from the arena any exhibitor using a lame or otherwise unsound horse.

Mistreatment of a horse considered to be cruel or abusive (including excessive schooling) by anyone on the grounds is prohibited. Judges/Superintendents may disqualify and ask to leave the grounds anyone mistreating an animal and awards may be forfeited for all the exhibitor's horse classes.

BARN RULES

1. All horses must be able to be stalled and tied up.
2. Stalls must be cleaned twice daily or more often if necessary.
3. Main responsibility for feeding and cleaning horse stalls is up to 4-H members, not parents.
4. No liquor or smoking will be allowed in the barn at any time.
5. All 4-H members must act in a responsible manner while handling livestock and while in the barn areas.
6. Clipping of horses must be done with adult supervision only.
7. Adults and non 4-H friends are not allowed to ride or drive the 4-H horses at the fair.
8. Members must be supervised by an adult when riding in the warmup arena.

RIDING OR EXERCISING

1. No sitting on or riding horses in the barn or outside the alleyway.
2. Boots are mandatory when riding your horse.
3. Horses must be led to and from the arena. Be careful crossing the road.
4. Horses may not be ridden in halters only.
5. Youth are not allowed in the arena without an adult present.
6. Kickers must wear red ribbons in their tails.
7. Handling and riding of horses will be done in a careful and prudent manner regarding the safety of other 4-H members and the public.
8. Horses are not to be tied to the arena railing at any time.

Additional specific barn rules, mandatory pre-show meeting and trail schedule are included in your MontanaFair exhibitor packet you may pick up on Department N Interview Judging Day in August. **PLEASE BE SURE TO READ ALL PACKET CONTENTS.**

Recommended Judging Criteria

Followed by the Montana State Horse Show

Yellowstone County rules are in addition to these as listed separately.

Western Horsemanship Classes

General Requirements: A horse entered in Western Horsemanship, can be shown in only one level per family member. Horses may not be cross-entered in colt-to-maturity or green horse classes.

Horses must be shown in a stock saddle. Tie-downs, martingales and mechanical hackamores of any type are prohibited unless otherwise indicated in the class description. Split or Romal reins are permissible, but roping reins are not allowed. Splint boots, bell boots and skid boots are optional.

Spurs are optional except in bareback where they are not permitted. Spurs should not be used forward of the cinch. In all classes the judge has the option of requesting one or all contestants to perform individually.

Horses under four (4) years of age in Horsemanship and Trail Classes may be ridden with curb bits, snaffles, or bosals. Snaffle bits and bosals must be ridden two handed except opening and closing gates. It is mandatory that horses five (5) and over be ridden in a curb bit. Curb or shank bits must be ridden one handed. Touching your reins with your free hand will be a deduction. Flat chain curb straps or flat leather curb straps ½ inch or wider are required with a curb or shank bit of any kind. See Montana State Horseshow bit guide at the end of this book for bit requirements. Horses shall not be shown with artificial appliances that would tend to alter their performance.

Criteria:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. Horsemanship | 40% |
| 2. Performance of pattern | 40% |
| 3. Appearance | 10% |
| 4. Project knowledge | 10% |

Rider position: Rider will be judged on seat and hands and performance of horse. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them. Breaking of the pattern is considered a major fault.

Basic position: Rider should be seated so that from the side view a vertical line could be drawn from the center of his/her head down through his/her shoulder and seat to the back of his/her heel. The eyes should be up and shoulders back. The stirrup should be just short enough to allow heels to be lower than toes. Body always should appear comfortable, relaxed, and flexible. Feet should be placed in the stirrups with weight on the ball of the foot. Arms are in a straight line with the body, the one holding the reins bent at the elbow. When a curb bit is used only one hand is to be used for reining and hands shall not be changed. Hand is to be around reins if use a romal and one finger between the reins is permitted only with split reins which fall on the near side.

When using romal reins, no finger between the reins is allowed. The hand holding the romal reins should be above the horn and as near to it as possible. Bracing against the horn is penalized. The end of the romal reins should be held in the opposite hand at least 16 inches away from the reining hand, that hand can be placed on the leg, or the arm held in a straight position.

Position in Motion: Rider should sit to jog and not post. At the lope, the rider should be close to the saddle. All movements of horse should be governed using subtle aids and the shifting of rider's weight is not desirable.

English Horsemanship Classes

A horse entered in English Horsemanship, can be shown in only one level per family member. Horses may not be cross entered in English Colt to Maturity Project Classes/Green horse.

Entries must be shown hunt or saddle seat. Spurs and crops are optional. When riding hunt seat only regulation snaffles, Pelhams, Kimberwicks, and full bridles, all with cavesson nosebands are allowed. In saddle seat classes, entries must be shown in snaffles, Pelhams, or full bridles curb or snaffle. Bit converters are allowed. See Montana State Horseshow bit guide at the end of this book for bit requirements.

Criteria:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. Horsemanship | 40% |
| 2. Performance of pattern | 40% |
| 3. Appearance | 10% |
| 4. Project knowledge | 10% |

Hunter Type Position: Rider should have workmanlike appearance, seat and hands light and supple, conveying the impression of complete control should any emergency arise. Breaking of pattern is considered a major fault.

Hands: Hands should be over and in front of horse's withers, knuckles thirty degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from the horse's mouth to the rider's elbow. Method of holding reins is optional and bite of the reins may fall on either side. However, all reins must be picked up at the same time.

Basic Position: The eyes should be up and shoulders back. Toes should be at an angle best suited to rider's conformation: ankles flexed in, heels down, calf of leg in contact with horse and slightly behind girth. Iron should be on the ball of the foot and must not be tied to the girth.

Position in Motion: At the walk, sitting trot and canter, body should be a couple degrees in front of the vertical; rising trot, inclined forward; galloping and jumping, same inclination as the rising trot.

Mounting and dismounting: To mount, take up reins in left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand and insert left foot in stirrup, toe pointed towards girth and mount. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration.

Saddle Seat Position: Judges should note that the required Equitation Seat should in no way be exaggerated but thoroughly efficient and most comfortable for riding the type of horse called for at any gait and for any length of time. When riding saddle seat in the Horsemanship classes, riders should convey the impression of effective and easy control. To show a horse well, he/she should show themselves to the best advantage. Breaking a pattern is considered a major fault.

Hands: Hands should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle and should show adaptability and control. The height the hands are held above the horse's withers is a matter of how and where the horse carries his head. The method of holding the reins is optional: however, both hands must be used, and all reins must be picked up at one time. The bite of the reins should fall on the right side.

Basic Position: The eyes should be up and shoulders back. To obtain the proper position, rider should place himself/herself comfortably in the saddle and find his/her center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knees but without the use of irons. While at this position adjust leathers to fit. Irons should be placed under ball of foot with even pressure on entire width of sole and center of iron. Foot position should be natural.

Position in Motion:

1. **Walk:** slight motion in saddle

2. **Trot:** slight elevation in saddle rising, hips under body not mechanical up/down or swinging forward/backward.
3. **Canter:** close seat, going with the horse.

Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Performance Western

Skid, splint, and bell boot are optional for these classes. Use of a running martingale is optional for two, three, and four-year-olds when using a ring snaffle only. Other martingales or tie-downs are not permitted. It is suggested that martingale stops are used anytime a martingale is used with a snaffle bit. Spurs cannot be used forward of the cinch. For acceptable bits, reference the Montana State Horseshow Bit Guide. For other equipment, reference Western Horsemanship Classes.

Criteria:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Performance and manners of horse | 55% |
| 2. Horsemanship | 20% |
| 3. Appearance | 10% |
| 4. Project knowledge | 15% |

Walk:

1. Good: ground covering, flat footed, good attitude
2. Minor faults: too slow, too fast
3. Major faults: nervous, jiggling, not walking

Jog:

1. Good: easy riding, good motion, consistent, steady
2. Minor faults: too slow, too fast
3. Major faults: not performing a two-beat jog, failing to jog both front and back, hard or rough riding, constant breaking

Lope: (cannot extend)

1. Good: easy riding, good motion, consistent, steady
2. Minor Faults: too slow, too fast
3. Major Faults: wrong lead, pulling, jogging behind, hard or rough riding, not under control

Extended Jog:

1. Good: easy riding, good motion, smooth, consistent
2. Minor faults: inconsistent speed
3. Major faults: breaking gaits, pulling, hard or rough riding, and no increase in stride.

Back:

1. Good: proper flexion, readily responsive, back in straight line
2. Minor faults: hesitant, not backing straight
3. Major faults: throwing head, gaping, pulling, not backing, rearing

General:

1. Good: smooth, steady easy riding, proper flexion and balance, good attitude
2. Minor faults: over or under flexion, sour ears, tail switching, inconsistent speed, out of balance, poll too high or too low to throw horse out of balance, improper or incomplete appointments.
3. Major faults: throwing head, bad mouth, constant bumping of the bit, gaping, evidence of altered tail carriage, obvious schooling, and breaking pattern.

Two-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 1-Western

Open to two-year-old fillies and geldings enrolled in the 2-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 1. Animal will show with a ring snaffle bit or a rawhide hackamore (bosal). Any shank bit is not permitted. Horses will be judged at walk, jog, and lope both directions on the rail. Gait changes will be progressive. Horses will be direct reined only (rein in each hand). Other tasks the contestant may be asked to perform are:

1. Halt (not a sliding stop) from the walk
2. Dismount and mount

3. Back while mounted
4. Perform individual tasks

Three-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 2- Western

Open to three-year-old mares and geldings enrolled in the 3-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 2. You may use the same bit as the 2-Year-Old/Green Horse 1 horses. Horses can be indirect reined (neck reined) with a curb bit using one hand on the reins or direct reined with a snaffle bit using two hands on reins. Either method is acceptable: no additional credit will be given for neck reining. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may be judged at the walk, jog and lope on the rail both directions and lengthen and reduce each gait as directed by the judge. Riders must sit the jog and extended jog.

Four-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 3- Western

Open to four-year-old mares and geldings enrolled in the 4-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 3. If a contestant desires to use a curb bit, one hand must be used. Horses may be neck reined or direct reined when using a snaffle bit. Both methods are acceptable, and no additional credit will be given for neck reining. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may be judged at the walk, jog and lope on the rail both directions and lengthen and reduce each gait as directed by the judge. Riders must sit the jog and extended jog.

Five-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 4- Western

Open to five-year-old mares and geldings enrolled in the 5-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 4. Horses must be neck reined and shown in a curb bit only, using one hand. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may be judged at the walk, jog, and lope on the rail both directions and lengthen and reduce each gait as directed by the judge. Riders must sit the jog and extended jog.

Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Performance-English

Use of a running martingale or German Olympic martingale is optional for two, three, and four-year-old's when using a ring snaffle only but are not mandatory. Other martingales or tie-downs are not permitted. It is suggested that martingale stops are used anytime a martingale is used with a snaffle bit. Spurs cannot be used forward of the cinch. For acceptable bits, reference the Montana State Horseshow Bit Guide. For other equipment, reference English Horsemanship Classes.

Criteria:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Performance | 55% |
| 2. Horsemanship | 20% |
| 3. Appearance | 10% |
| 4. Project knowledge | 15% |

Walk

Good: brisk, flat-footed good attitude

Minor faults: slow, disinterested, not attentive

Major faults: nervous, jiggling, not walking

Trot

Good: balanced, free moving, consistent, steady

Minor faults: too slow, too fast

Major faults: not performing a trot, failing to trot both front and back, hard or rough riding, constant breaking.

Canter

Good: smooth, unhurried, consistent, steady

Minor faults: too slow, too fast

Major faults: wrong lead, pulling, trotting behind, hard or rough riding, not riding under control.

Extended trot/canter

Good: strong, ground covering, smooth, consistent

Minor faults: inconsistent speed

Major faults: breaking gaits, pulling, hard or rough riding, uncontrolled, no increase in stride.

Back

Good: proper flexion, readily responsive, back in straight line

Minor faults: hesitant, not backing straight

Major faults: throwing head, gaping, pulling, not backing, rearing

General

Good: smooth, steady, proper flexion and balance, good attitude

Minor faults: over or under flexion, sour ears, switching tail, inconsistent speed, or out of balance, poll too high or too low to throw horse out of balance, improper or incomplete appointments.

Major faults: throwing head, bad mouth, constant bumping of the bit, gaping, evidence of altered tail carriage, obvious schooling, and breaking of pattern.

Two-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 1 - English

Open to two-year-old fillies and geldings enrolled in the 2-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or to horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 1. Animal will show with a D or O ring snaffle bit (Shank bits are not permitted). Horses will be judged at walk, trot, and canter both directions on the rail. Change of gait will be progressive. Horses will be direct reined only (rein in each hand). Other tasks the contestant may be asked to perform are:

1. Halt (not a sliding stop) from the walk
2. Dismount and mount
3. Back while mounted
4. Perform individual task

Three-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 2 - English

Open only to three-year-old mares and geldings enrolled in the 3-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or to horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 2. Horses will be shown in a D or O ring snaffle bit. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may also be judged on the rail.

Four-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 3 - English

Open to four-year-old mares and geldings enrolled in the 4-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or to horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 3. Horses will be shown in a D or O ring snaffle bit or Kimberwick. Bit converters are acceptable equipment. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may also be judged on the rail.

Five-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity/Green Horse Level 4 - English

Open to five-year-old mares and geldings enrolled in the 5-Year-Old under Saddle Colt to Maturity project or to horses enrolled in Green Horse Level 4. Horses will be shown in a Pelham, Weymouth, or Kimberwick bit or English snaffle. Horses will be judged on performance of the required pattern and may be judged at the walk, trot, canter, on the rail in both directions, and lengthen and shorten each gait as directed by the judge.

Ranch Horse Levels 1-4

To enter these classes, select the same level you showed in at your county fair and that you are assessed. Exhibitors must use only one horse for all sections of Ranch Horse Competition. Working Ranch Horse will follow the Montana State Horse Project Bit Rules. Romel, roping and split reins are legal. Martingales and tie-downs are not allowed. Saddles must be of western type and have a horn. Mule hide, latigo, elk hide, or basic leather or rubber are suggestions for horn coverings. Leather gives better when dallied than rubber and is suggested more for younger members learning how to rope cows. Rubber bites harder on rope and gives a better grip when dragging cows.

Attire - The 4-H Working Ranch Horse Program is a western event and participants should dress accordingly.

- Boots - Boots should be of western type with a heel and should not have thick rubber soles that could cause a foot to stick in the stirrup.
- Jeans and shirts - Jeans and shirts should be of western style. Shirts should be button down with a collar and long sleeves. Jeans should be made of denim and of an appropriate color.
- Hats - Hats must be western. No ball caps.
- Accessories - Neck rags, vests, chaps, chinks, or other appropriate accessories are acceptable.

Refer to the Working Ranch Horse project book for more information.

Ranch horse levels 3-4 may compete in team penning. Partners may be designated on fair entry. Those that do not designate teams will be randomly drawn for teams and notified prior to fair.

Showmanship

MontanaFair Junior Horse Show:

1. To be eligible to show in Showmanship at MontanaFair all exhibitors must enter the appropriate Division and Class on their entry.
2. The Champion of Champions showmanship contest is the top two individuals in Beginner, Junior and Senior Showmanship and the Colt/Green Horse project.
3. First and second place Beginner, Junior and Senior Showman will show in the Large Animal Round Robin. Long sleeved, collared, button up, white shirt and black pants must be worn for the Round Robin. (See Special Round Robin rules in the Exhibitor Handbook)
4. Horse exhibitors must scratch their showmanship by 2 p.m. on Thursday prior to the horse show.
5. Also see General Showmanship Rules in the Exhibitor's Handbook.

Horses shown in Showmanship classes must be the same horse shown in project classes. A member may not show the same horse in more than one showmanship class. Neither the horse nor the member can compete against himself/herself. Miniature horses are eligible for showmanship class.

Lead shanks with chains may be used but the use of the chain over the nose or under the jaw or in any way having contact with the horse will be prohibited. Excess chain must be "looped" properly and not be in a "ball" under horses chin.

Judging Showmanship Classes

Criteria:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| 1. Showing the horse | 50% |
| 2. Appearance of the horse | 40% |
| 3. The exhibitor | 10% |

Exhibitor: The member must be neat and clean in appearance and appropriately dressed in Western or English attire.

Equipment: All horses will be shown with a properly adjusted halter. Lead shanks with chains may be used but the use of the chain over the nose or under the jaw or in any way having contact with the horse will be prohibited. Whips or bridles will not be allowed.

Appearance of the horse: The hair coat should be clean, well brushed, and free of dust, dandruff, manure stains, and bots (fly eggs). The hair coat should have a natural luster so excessive oils contracted from spray cans and other market products will be counted down. Trimming should accentuate quality about the heads and legs. Breed standards for exhibition should be followed. The hooves should be clean and properly trimmed or shod. No preference will be shown for hoof dressing or coloring. Tack should be neat, clean, and properly dressed and adjusted. Tack should complement, not detract from the horse.

Showing the horse: All exhibitors will be asked to perform a pattern. The exhibitor may be asked to perform the following maneuvers in the pattern: Walk, trot, back, hindquarter pivots, set up squarely, move forward and backward freely. The showman may be asked to pick up any or all feet of his/her horse and know the parts of their horse. The exhibitor should perform the pattern briskly and in a businesslike manner.

The exhibitor must never obstruct the judge's view of the horse. This means the exhibitor must position his body either to the front left or front right of the horse, using the quarter system. The exhibitor should lead from the left side of the horse with the lead shank held in the right hand about 4 to 8 inches from the halter. Hold the excess shank, coiled in a figure 8 with the left hand. The horse should move readily and freely with the exhibitor at the near side of the horse's neck and in front of the shoulder. The horse should neither be ahead of the exhibitor, nor should he/she be dragged along behind. Changing hands to back the horse is optional. At the judge's discretion, the finalists in each class may be called back into the arena for further work.

Colt to Maturity Yearling Project

The Colt to maturity yearling project requirements to be met will consist of the following:

1. Exhibitor must be a minimum of 12 years old during the project year and must have completed Horsemanship Level 3
2. Exhibitor may only show one horse
3. Refer to manual "Training Horses- yearling to five-year old"

Criteria:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Performance and Manners | 50% |
| 2. Confirmation and condition | 25% |
| 3. Appearance of Horse and Exhibitor | 15% |
| 4. Project Knowledge | 10% |

Intent: to show handling, willingness, control, and training demonstrated in the showmanship pattern.

Trail

At MontanaFair Junior Horse Show

The member will have two attempts at a trail obstacle and then they must move to the next obstacle. Ties will be broken by an obstacle pre-determined by the chairman before the class starts. Individual scores for that obstacle will determine the tie breaker for final placing.

Horses shown in Trail classes must be the same horse shown in project classes. A member may not show the same horse in more than one trail class. Neither the horse nor the member can compete against himself/herself.

Trail Class

1. All trail class horses will have opportunity to complete their class.
2. All trail classes will be entered by the age of your 4-H year and your enrollment at your county.
3. There will be separate courses for each trail class.
4. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse in maneuvering the obstacles.
5. The horse should work with a reasonable loose rein without undue restraint.
6. Six or more obstacles will be used, of which three will be mandatory and others selected from an approved list.
7. The distance between obstacles shall be at the discretion of the judge.
8. English or Western tack and attire may be used.

Yearling Trail:

Required abilities:

This class will be judged on the performance of the horse at halter in maneuvering the obstacles. A trail course to be set may include 4 trot-overs, bridge, gate, mailbox, and backing element. Obstacles will not be raised (trot-overs and bridge).

Criteria:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Conditioning and conformation | 20% |
| 2. Handling/ Course Completion | 80% |

Mandatory Obstacles:

1. **Opening, passing through and closing gate.** A rider losing control of gate will be penalized. A gate will be used which will not endanger horse or rider. If the gate has a metal, plastic or wooden support bar under the opening, contestants must work the gate moving forward through it.
2. **Ride over at least four logs or poles.** These can be a straight line, curved, zigzag or raised. The space between the logs is to be measured and the path the horse is to take should be the measuring point. Trot-overs and lope-overs cannot be elevated in novice classes. All elevated elements must be placed in a cup, notched block or otherwise secured so they cannot roll. The height should be measured from the ground to the top of the element. Spacing for walkovers, trot-overs and lope-overs should be as follows or increments thereof:
 - A. The spacing for walkovers should be 20" to 24" (40cm to 60cm) and may be elevated to 12" (30 cm). Elevated walkovers should be set at least 22" (55cm) apart.
 - B. The spacing for trot overs shall be 3' to 3'6" (90cm-105cm) and may be elevated to 8" (20cm).
 - C. The spacing for lope-overs shall be 6' to 7' (1.8-2.1 meters) or increments thereof and may be elevated to 8" (20 cm).
3. **Back obstacle:** Backing obstacles to be spaced a minimum of 28" (70 cm). If elevated, 30" (75 cm) spacing is required. Entrants cannot be asked to back over a stationary object such as a wooden pole or metal bar.
 - A. Back through and around at least three (3) markers.
 - B. Back through "L," "V," "U," straight or similar shaped course. May be elevated no more than 24".

Optional Obstacles, (not limited to):

1. Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slick bottom boxes will be used.
2. Serpentine obstacles at walk or jog. Spacing to be a minimum of 6' (1.8 meters) for jog.
3. Carry object from one part of arena to another. (only objects which might reasonably be carried on a trail ride may be used.)
4. Ride over wooden bridge. (Suggested minimum width shall be 36" (90 cm) wide and at least six feet long.) Bridge should be sturdy, safe and negotiated at a walk only.
5. Put on and remove a slicker.
6. Side pass (may be elevated to 12" (30cm) maximum).
7. An obstacle consisting of four logs or rails, each 5 to 7 feet long (1.5 to 2 meters) long, laid in a square. Each contestant will enter the square by riding over the log or rail as designated. When all four feet are inside the square, the rider will execute a turn and depart.
8. Any other safe and negotiable obstacle, which could reasonably be expected to be encountered on a trail ride and meets the approval of the judge, may be used.
9. A combination of two or more of any obstacles is acceptable

Unacceptable obstacles

1. Animals
2. Jumps
3. Logs or poles elevated in a manner permitting them to roll.
4. Hides
5. Rocking or moving bridges
6. PVC pipe

7. Fire extinguishers
8. Ground ties
9. Water box with floating or moving parts

Introduction to Reining Western Horsemanship Level 1 & 2

1. This is a walk trot only class.
2. Helmets are required.
3. Patterns will be provided.
4. No costumes or music allowed.

Freestyle Reining Western Horsemanship Levels 3 & Above

1. Riders may perform the following maneuvers to music, which allows them to show the athletic ability of the horse while showing reining control and style in a crowd appealing way.
2. Failure to perform required maneuvers or failure to complete the performance within the time limit will result in an appropriate point deduction.
3. Exhibitors can use two hands as well as one or no hands at any time during the class without any penalty to the rider.
4. Riders need to include the **minimum** required pattern maneuvers below:
 - a. A minimum of **3** consecutive spins to the right
 - b. A minimum of **3** consecutive spins to the left.
 - c. A minimum of **2** stops.
 - d. A minimum of **1** lead change (simple or flying) at the lope from the right to left.
 - e. A minimum of **1** lead change (simple or flying) at the lope from the left to right.
 - f. A minimum of **1** backup.
5. Additional maneuvers such as rollbacks, speed variations and non-Classical maneuvers such as a half pass and side pass are appropriate in the freestyle and shall be given appropriate credit.
6. Exhibitors will only be judged astride.
7. Costumes and props are permitted but not required. Emphasis is placed on performing the reining maneuvers to music.
8. A maximum of 4 minutes will be allowed to present the performance.
9. **4-H approved bridles and saddles are mandatory.**
10. It is the Exhibitor's responsibility to pick up their music from the announcer's stand immediately following the class.

Team Penning Rules Western Horsemanship Levels 4-7 Ranch Horse Level 3 & 4

Within a 3-minute time limit, a team of three members must cut and pen 3 head of cattle with the same color or number.

Fastest time wins. Warning will be given at 1 minute prior to the 3-minute limit.

Teams penning 3 head places higher than 2, etc. regardless of time.

Cattle will be on the cattle side of starting line where flagmen will be positioned.

Time starts when the nose of the first horse crosses the starting line marked with chalk and cones.

To call for time, one rider must stand in the gate and raise a hand.

All **undesigned** cattle must be completely on the cattle side of the starting line. If a team calls for time with only one or two of their cattle in the pen the remainder of their **designated** cattle DO NOT have to be on the cattle side of the starting line.

A team calling for time with any wrong or undesignated cattle will be given a no time.
Contact with cattle by hands, hats, ropes, bats or any equipment will be given a no time.

Fall of horse or rider that attempts to work cattle before re-mounting will be given a no time.

Unnecessary roughness to cattle, horses or unsportsmanlike conduct will be given a no time.

Grievance Policy

All formal protests must be submitted based on the Yellowstone Co. 4-H Grievance Policy. This is available at the Yellowstone County Extension Office or at the 4-H Office in the Expo Center.

Request For Rule Exception or Rule Interpretation

A form is available in the 4-H office to be filled out by the 4-H exhibitor to request a rule exception or interpretation. This request will be reviewed by the appropriate fair officials. Please note this form does not allow for animal changes or to add a class.

Montana State Horse Show

This event is held annually in late September or early October. The location moves around the state. The entry forms and rule book are usually available in late July.

Clarification of project requirements for entry into the Montana State Horse Show:

1. When entering the State 4-H Horse Show, the 4-H member must have shown their project horse in the same class at the county level if the class is offered.
2. A colt in the fifth year of the Colt to Maturity may cross enter to Horsemanship Level 7 if a member has been assessed out of Horsemanship Level 6.
3. The State Horse Events Committee highly recommends a qualification system at the county level to select those who go to state. It is further recommended that selection includes up-to-date record books, feed journals, and performance of all maneuvers included for that level.
4. The 4-H name and emblem are copyrighted, so 4-H classes are limited to Montana 4-H horse project members and must have Extension Service approval.
5. The State 4-H Horse Show has the approval of the State 4-H office.
6. For the purposes of exhibition at the State 4-H Horse Show, horses shall be defined as light, draft, and miniature horses, ponies, mules, and donkeys.
7. Entries are to be signed by the member's county extension agent, indicating that the member is a bona fide 4-H member and the named 4-H member's horse(s) is (are) a part of the 4-H member's project work for the current year and they have been assessed into the current level.
8. A current vet inspection and brand inspection are required at the State Show.

Montana 4-H Horse Program: Bit Rules & Equipment Guide



Revised June 2019

Basic guide to local, county, and state/regional Montana 4-H Horse shows as well as for those classes in open shows limited to 4-H membership entry. This resource is for agents, organizers, officials, exhibitors, parents and judges.



ABOUT THIS GUIDE

These guidelines should be used in conjunction with the current Montana 4-H State Horse Show Rulebook and Working Ranch Horse Rules. These rulebooks, which are available on the Montana 4-H web site's Horse Project pages, provide additional information about bits, other equipment and attire for respective classes.

Because the Montana 4-H Horse Program is diverse, it is difficult to generate a complete list of acceptable bits. Bits that are permitted by respective breed associations may be acceptable at the judge's discretion. A judge at his/her discretion can penalize a horse with non-conventional types of bits. Please understand that this resource is a guide and gives only examples of legal and unacceptable bits. In no way does it try to include every bit that is allowed or prohibited.

If exhibitors have questions concerning a bit they wish to use, and that specific bit is not mentioned in the current rules or these guidelines, then exhibitors should ask the equipment steward(s) and/or the judge(s) if the bit is acceptable for that show. Exhibitors should have alternative bits available so that they can make a change if it is determined by show officials that their preferred bit is unacceptable for the event.




Each county, district or regional, and state show is officiated by different stewards and judges. Therefore, exhibitors must seek approval from show officials at each show before using the questionable bit. Members should consult with professionals in their riding discipline or contact the appropriate breed association for guidance in selecting a bit in order to find one that is both appropriate and acceptable for use in Montana 4-H horse events.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Montana 4-H and the Montana 4-H State Horse Committee extend our gratitude to the Florida 4-H State Horse Program and the New England 4-H Horse Program as creators of the original content upon which Montana's guide is based. Credit is also given to developers Wendy DeVito, Sandra TenBroeck, Joel McQuagge. The Florida and New England manuals are the most comprehensive guides of bits available to the 4-H community and their materials have been adopted for our use with their permission. The original content has been slightly modified for use in Montana.





HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Bits and equipment are grouped into categories (Western, Ranch, and Speed Events; English- Hunter, and Saddle/Gaited). Images shown are labeled as either:

Icon	Description
 <i>Figure 1: Encircled Check Mark</i>	Acceptable
 <i>Figure 2: Encircled Question Mark</i>	Acceptable with conditions
 <i>Figure 3: Encircled X</i>	Unacceptable

Western, Ranch, and Speed Events Divisions

- Reference to snaffle bits mean the conventional O-ring, egg-butt, or D-ring with ring no larger than 4". The mouthpiece should be round, oval, or egg-shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal. It may be inlaid but must be smooth. The bars must be a minimum of 5/16" in diameter, measured one inch in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to center of the snaffle. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece connecting ring of 3/4" or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (top to bottom) and 2" maximum width, which lies flat in the horse's mouth, or rollers are acceptable.

Mouthpiece Image	Mouthpiece Name	Acceptable/Unacceptable
 <p><i>Figure 4: O-Ring mouthpiece</i></p>	O-Ring	☑
 <p><i>Figure 5: Egg-butt mouthpiece</i></p>	Egg-butt	☑
 <p><i>Figure 6: Offset D-ring mouthpiece</i></p>	Offset D-ring	☑
 <p><i>Figure 7: Full cheek mouthpiece</i></p>	Full Cheek	☒

The shape of the snaffle ring outside of the horse's mouth is unrelated to the style of mouthpiece on the inside. **You cannot determine what is in the mouth by the shape of the ring! The acceptable shapes are O-ring, egg-butt, and D-ring. And regardless of which shape, the ring may not be more than 4 inches across at its widest point.

2. References to a bit mean the use of a curb bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks, and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit. A description of a legal, standard western bit includes:

- a. Maximum shank length is 8½" (Diagrams 1 and 2). Shanks may be fixed or loose.
- b. Curb bit mouthpieces must be round, smooth, and unwrapped metal of 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter, measured one inch in from the cheek. They may be inlaid but must be smooth. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs on solid mouthpieces. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, connecting ring of 3/4" or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (top to bottom) and 2" maximum width, that lies flat in the mouth, or rollers are acceptable (Diagrams 1 and 2).
- c. The port height must be 2½" maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, half- breeds, and spades are standard (Diagram 1 and 2).

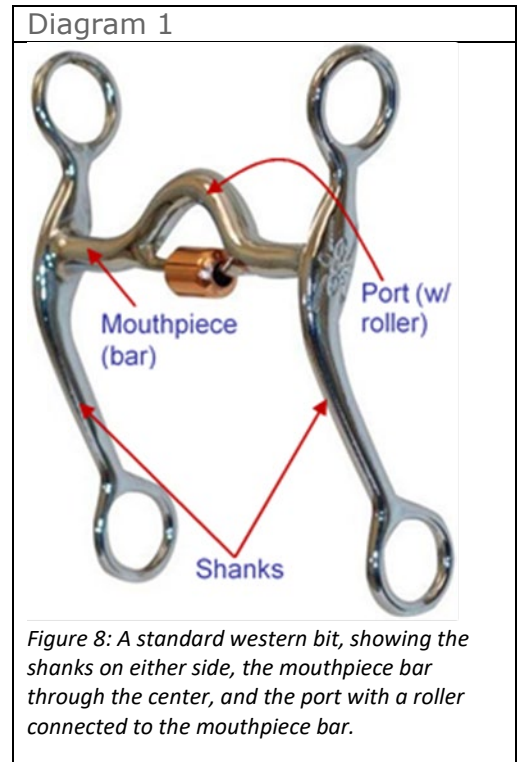






Diagram 2	
 <p><i>Figure 9: Photograph of an example of a western, ranch or speed horse event bit for the use of measurements.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum 8 ½ inches shank length. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measured from the inside top of the headstall ring to the 'pull point' of the rein ring. • Minimum 5/16 to ¾ inch diameter mouthpiece. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measured 1 inch from cheek. • Maximum 2 ½ inches port height. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measured from the top of the port to the bottom of the bar.
 <p><i>Figure 10: A photograph of an O-ring bit.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum 4 inches ring diameter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measured from outside of metal on largest part of the ring or D. • Minimum 5/16-inch diameter mouthpiece. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measured 1 inch in from cheek.
 <p><i>Figure 11: Photograph containing the connecting ring of a bit mouthpiece.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting ring, ¾ inch maximum diameter.
 <p><i>Figure 12: Photograph containing the connecting flat bar of a bit mouthpiece.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting flat bar, 3/8 – ¾ inch maximum (top to bottom), 2-inch maximum width.

Western, Ranch, and Speed Events Divisions...continued

What does it mean? ... Mouthpieces



















Many of the parameters for mouthpieces are the same regardless if it is a snaffle or a curb. They need to be the same minimum diameter (5/16"), be smooth, may be broken into two or three pieces, and if there is a connecting flat bar or ring, those connectors must meet the same respective measurements. It does not mean the connecting piece has to be a ring or flat bar.













The connecting piece could also be a roller or hinged port. Much of the determination of whether a mouthpiece is acceptable or not comes down to if it is smooth.

What is "smooth"?

Smooth simply means that there are no bumps or ridges that will press into the bars of the horse's mouth or the pressure points on the tongue when pressure is applied. Things that make it not smooth may include (but are not limited to) any kind of twist, a wire wrap, carvings into the metal that create ridges, chain, etc.

Mouthpiece examples (applies to both snaffle and curb bits):.

Mouthpiece Examples	Description	Acceptable/Unacceptable
 <p>Figure 13: A simple jointed mouthpiece</p>	Simple jointed, smooth	
 <p>Figure 14: A connecting bar mouthpiece</p>	If connecting bar is 3/8 – 3/4 inch top to bottom, this is acceptable, and wrap on a connecting bar is acceptable because it is not a primary pressure point.	
 <p>Figure 15: Three unacceptable, not smooth mouthpieces</p>	Mouthpiece is not smooth due to the twists and loose links.	
 <p>Figure 16: Connecting bar mouthpiece</p>	If the connecting flat bar is 3/8 – 3/4 inch top to bottom, this is acceptable.	
 <p>Figure 17: Wire wrapped, unacceptable mouthpiece</p>	Wire wrapped; must be unrapped metal; not smooth	
 <p>Figure 18: Connecting ring mouthpiece</p>	A connecting ring is acceptable if it is <3/4 inch across	
 <p>Figure 19: Two twisted mouthpieces</p>	The top mouthpiece is a fast twist/corkscrew. Below is a slow twist. Both create numerous sharp pressure points, making these mouthpieces unacceptable.	
 <p>Figure 20: Center link, smooth metal inlay mouthpiece</p>	The metal inlay in this mouthpiece is smooth, making it acceptable.	
 <p>Figure 21: Center link, protruding metal inlay mouthpiece</p>	The metal inlay in this mouthpiece has protruding links, making it unacceptable.	

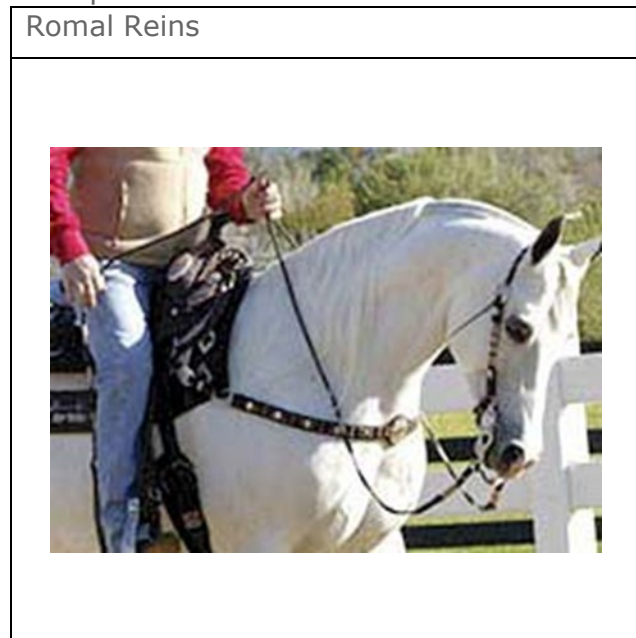
Curb Mouthpiece Examples	Description	Acceptable/Unacceptable
 <p>Figure 22: Example of a curb bit mouthpiece</p>	<p>Half-breed mouthpiece.</p>	
 <p>Figure 23: Prong Bit</p>	<p>Prong bit, with metal protruding below the bar, causing sharp pressure points.</p>	
 <p>Figure 24: Example of a curb bit mouthpiece</p>	<p>Port should measure a minimum of 2 ½ inches high and the shanks should measure a minimum of 8 ½ inches long.</p>	
 <p>Figure 25: Example of a curb bit mouthpiece</p>	<p>An example of an acceptable 3-piece mouthpiece.</p>	
 <p>Figure 26: Example of a curb bit mouthpiece</p>	<p>An example of an acceptable 3-piece mouthpiece.</p>	
 <p>Figure 27: Example of a curb bit mouthpiece</p>	<p>An example of an acceptable 3-piece mouthpiece.</p>	



Western, Ranch, and Speed Events Divisions...continued

References to a romal means an extension of braided material attached to closed reins (**Examples 1**). This extension may be carried in the free hand with an approximate 16" spacing between the reining hand and the free hand holding the romal. The rider's hand shall be around the reins with the fingers closed, thumb on top, and no fingers between the reins.

The romal shall not be used forward of the cinch or to signal or cue the horse in any way. Any infraction of this rule shall be penalized severely by the judge (Examples 1).

Example 1: Romal Reins







Romal Hold Example	Acceptable/Unacceptable
 <i>Figure 28: Correct Romal Hold</i>	✔
 <i>Figure 29: Incorrect Romal Hold</i>	✘

5. A curb bit must be used with a curb strap or curb chain properly attached so as to make contact with the horse's chin. Chain curb straps must be at least 1/2" in width, and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. No wire curbs, regardless of how taped or padded. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered. (**Examples 2**)

Example 2: Curb Straps




Curb Straps	Description	Acceptable/Unacceptable
	All seven of these examples are acceptable	✔



	This strap is okay if it is less than 1/2 inch wide	⊕
	A chain altered to create lumps and that does not fit against the jaw is not acceptable	⊗
	Chain is greater than 1/2 inch wide	⊗
	A rigid bar added to a chain is not acceptable	⊗

Western and Ranch Divisions

- References to hackamore mean the use of a non-mechanical flexible, braided rawhide or leather, or rope bosal, the core of which may be either rawhide or flexible cable. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered.

Bosals are the only type of hackamore allowed in the Western Division. These are simple, flexible hackamores with no metal or working parts. Nothing over the nose or under the jaw may be rigid.









What does it mean?... Western Division Hackamores	
 <p><i>Figure 30: Soft material makes this acceptable.</i></p>	⊕
 <p><i>Figure 31: Rigid material under the jaw makes this unacceptable.</i></p>	⊗
 <p><i>Figure 32: Mechanical hackamore is unacceptable.</i></p>	⊗

 <p data-bbox="215 451 857 506"><i>Figure 33: Rigid material over the nose and the mechanical aspect make this unacceptable.</i></p>	
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2. Slip or gag bits, and donut and flat polo mouthpieces are **PROHIBITED**.

Slip bits allow the mouthpiece to slide up the shank when pressure is applied, thereby increasing the leverage action in the mouth. With gag bits, the reins (attached directly to the headstall) slide through the bit rings and pull the mouthpiece up in a similar fashion. Neither type of 'gag action' is allowed.









Flat polo mouthpieces are functionally the same as a Rutledge Roper. Neither are allowed in the Western division.

<p data-bbox="203 905 756 974">What does it mean?... Slip/gag, Donut, and Polo Mouthpieces</p>	
 <p data-bbox="240 1155 761 1209"><i>Figure 34: Slip Mouthpiece, with a gag action and not smooth make this unacceptable.</i></p>	
 <p data-bbox="248 1394 753 1419"><i>Figure 35: Gag bit and gag action are unacceptable.</i></p>	
 <p data-bbox="264 1619 737 1644"><i>Figure 36: Donut mouthpieces are unacceptable.</i></p>	
 <p data-bbox="253 1829 748 1854"><i>Figure 37: Flat polo mouthpieces are unacceptable.</i></p>	

Western and Ranch Divisions, continued








3. Horses 4-years-old and younger may be shown in a snaffle bit, hackamore, curb bit, half-breed, or spade bit.
 - a. When using a snaffle bit, a loose hobble strap is optional (leather or nylon only, no chain). Reins to be attached above the hobble strap, if used.
 - b. Leather or woven split reins or mecate reins are acceptable with a snaffle bit.
 - c. Junior horses (4 years old and under) that are shown with a hackamore or snaffle bit may be ridden with two hands on the reins (**Examples 3**). The rider's hands should be carried near the pommel and not further than 4" out on either side of the saddle horn. Rider's hands must be steady with very limited movement. Rider's hands should be visible to the judge(s) at all times.

Example 3: Holding snaffle/bosal reins

 Correct Hold	 Incorrect Hold
 <i>Figure 38: Mecate rein - one-piece continuous rein; separate rope attached to saddle or belt.</i>	 <i>Figure 39: Incorrect Hold</i>
 <i>Figure 40: Correct Hold</i>	 <i>Figure 41: Incorrect Hold</i>
 <i>Figure 42: Correct Hold</i>	 <i>Figure 43: Incorrect Hold</i>

4. Horses 5-years-old and older may only be shown in a curb bit, half-breed, or spade bit.
 - a. Only one hand may be used on the reins, and hand must not be changed (**Examples 4**). When using split reins, the hand is to be around the reins, and if desired only the index finger may be between the reins. Violation of this rule will result in an automatic penalty.
 - b. In ranch classes when showing in a curb bit, reins must be held in one hand, but may be held in any manner.
 - c. Roping reins may be used for speed events and ranch horse classes.






Example 4: Holding Curb Reins

 Correct Hold	 Incorrect Hold
 <p><i>Figure 44: Correct Hold</i></p>	 <p><i>Figure 45: Incorrect Hold</i></p>
 <p><i>Figure 46: Correct Hold</i></p>	 <p><i>Figure 47: Incorrect Hold</i></p>
 <p><i>Figure 48: Correct Hold</i></p>	

PER RULE 4B: Any of these holds are acceptable in Ranch classes.




Speed Events Division Only

1. References to hackamore mean either a mechanical or non-mechanical hackamore.
 - a. Non-mechanical: Flexible, braided rawhide or leather, or rope bosal, the core of which may be either rawhide or flexible cable.
 - b. Mechanical: The core may be any flexible cable, rawhide, or metal material, and must be covered with leather, soft plastic tubing, or similar material for padding.
 - c. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted over the nose or under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered.

What does it mean?... Speed Events and Hackamores	Description	Acceptable/ Unacceptable
 <p><i>Figure 49: Rawhide Bosal</i></p>	Acceptable hackamore	☑
 <p><i>Figure 50: Mechanical Hackamore</i></p>	Unacceptable mechanical hackamore	☒
 <p><i>Figure 51: Easy/Fast Stop</i></p>	Rigid material under the jaw makes this unacceptable.	☒
 <p><i>Figure 52: Stop & Turn</i></p>	Rigid material under the jaw makes this unacceptable.	☒
 <p><i>Figure 53: Fast Stop</i></p>	Rigid material over the nose makes this unacceptable.	☒

Non-mechanical hackamores are allowed but mechanical hackamores are **PROHIBITED** in the Speed Events Division. The materials over and under the nose of the non-mechanical hackamore must be flexible.

2. Slip or gag bits, including the Wonder Bit, or flat mouthpiece bits like the Rutledge Roper are **PROHIBITED** in speed events.

What does it mean?... Slip/Gag Bits and Rutledge Roper	Description	Acceptable/ Unacceptable
 <p data-bbox="349 642 641 667"><i>Figure 54: Rutledge Roper Bit</i></p>	<p data-bbox="857 464 1084 562">Flat Mouthpiece makes this bit unacceptable.</p>	<p data-bbox="1258 478 1318 548">⊗</p>
 <p data-bbox="386 957 604 982"><i>Figure 55: Wonder Bit</i></p>	<p data-bbox="813 795 1130 856">Gag action makes this bit unacceptable.</p>	<p data-bbox="1258 795 1318 865">⊗</p>
 <p data-bbox="305 1272 685 1297"><i>Figure 56: Gag Action and Mouthpiece</i></p>	<p data-bbox="813 1073 1130 1205">Gag action and a mouthpiece that is not smooth makes this bit unacceptable.</p>	<p data-bbox="1258 1108 1318 1178">⊗</p>

Slip bits allow the mouthpiece to slide up the shank when pressure is applied (reins pulled), thereby increasing the leverage action in the mouth. With gag bits, the reins (attached directly to the headstall) slide through the bit rings and pull the mouthpiece up in a similar fashion. Bits with this kind of 'gag action' are **PROHIBITED** in Speed Events.






In Speed Events, flat mouthpiece Rutledge Roper bits are also acceptable. The mouthpiece of which should rotate freely on the shanks so it remains flat on the tongue when pressure is applied.

3. Horses of any age may be shown with a snaffle bit.
4. Riders may use two hands on the reins regardless of type of bit and age of horse. Roping reins are allowed in speed events.
5. Judge or equipment official may prohibit the use of bits or equipment deemed too severe.





English Division (includes Hunter but not Dressage)

1. An English snaffle (no shank), Kimberwick, Pelham, or full bridle (Weymouth) must be used. If a bit is used that requires two reins, it may be used with a converter (a U-shaped piece of leather that fastens between the snaffle ring and the curb ring at the end of the shank on the Pelham). The use of a bit converter is not illegal, but some judges may not consider it technically correct so its use may be penalized. Snaffle bit rings may be no larger than 4" in diameter.

Snaffles: The shape of the snaffle ring outside of the horse's mouth is unrelated to the style of mouthpiece on the inside. **You cannot determine what is in the mouth by the shape of the ring! The acceptable shapes are O-ring, egg-butt, D-ring, and full cheek.







What does it mean?... English Bit Types	Description/Title	Acceptable/Unacceptable
 <p>Figure 57: O-Ring/Loose Ring English Bit</p>	O-Ring/Loose Ring	☑
 <p>Figure 58: Egg-Butt English Bit</p>	Egg-Butt	☑
 <p>Figure 59: Offset D-Ring English Bit</p>	Offset D-ring	☑
 <p>Figure 60: D-Ring English Bit</p>	D-Ring	☑
 <p>Figure 61: Full Cheek English Bit</p>	Full Cheek	☑

Pelhams and Kimberwicks use a snaffle and/or curb action. A Pelham has a shank and requires reins to be attached to both the snaffle ring and curb ring. Kimberwicks have 'cut-outs' where a rein can be attached to either location – one resulting in more snaffle action and one with more curb action. Full bridles (Weymouths) have separate curb & snaffle (bridoon) bits and require two reins.

What does it mean?... English Bit Types	Description	Acceptable/ Unacceptable
 <p>Figure 62: Kimberwick Bit</p>	<p>This bit has two location options to attach one rein</p>	<p>☑</p>
 <p>Figure 63: Kimberwick Bit</p>	<p>This bit has two location options to attach one rein. Either rein attachment location is acceptable.</p>	<p>☑</p>
 <p>Figure 64: Pelham Bit</p>	<p>This is the correct use of a Pelham bit.</p>	<p>☑</p>
 <p>Figure 65: Pelham Bit</p>	<p>This bit requires two reins.</p>	<p>☑</p>

2. Any bit having a fixed rein requires use of a curb chain. Curb chain must be at least 1/2" wide and lie flat against the jaw of the horse.
 - a. Triangle ("knife edge"), true gag action, and elevator bits are PROHIBITED.
 - b. Snaffle bits with slow twist, corkscrew, or twisted wire mouthpieces are PROHIBITED.

With gag bits, straps connect the reins directly to the headstall, sliding through the bit rings. When pressure is applied, it pulls the mouthpiece up higher in the mouth. Elevator bits have an exaggerated height headstall attachment, or mouthpieces that slide up & down on the cheek rings and create a mouthpiece-lifting gag action when pressure is applied.

What does it mean?... Gag and Elevator Bits	Description	Acceptable/ Unacceptable
 <p data-bbox="305 1066 479 1094"><i>Figure 66: Gag Bit</i></p>	<p data-bbox="625 898 1182 961">The true gag action on this bit makes it an unacceptable bit.</p>	
 <p data-bbox="284 1302 495 1329"><i>Figure 67: Elevator Bit</i></p>	<p data-bbox="673 1207 1133 1270">This is an elevator bit, making it unacceptable.</p>	
 <p data-bbox="284 1623 495 1650"><i>Figure 68: Elevator Bit</i></p>	<p data-bbox="673 1486 1133 1549">This is an elevator bit, making it unacceptable.</p>	

English Division, continued

3. Solid or broken mouthpieces must be 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter, measured 1" from the cheek and may have a port no higher than 1½" (see **Diagram 3**). On broken mouthpieces, connecting rings of 3/4" or less in diameter or connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (measured top to bottom), which lie flat in the horse's mouth, or rollers are acceptable.
4. Smooth round, oval or egg-shaped, and straight bar or solid mouthpieces are allowed. They may be smooth inlaid, synthetic wrapped (including rubber or plastic), or encased. Waterford bits are allowed.

Regardless of the type of bit (snaffle, Pelham, Kimberwick, etc.), mouthpieces must meet the same requirements – have a diameter of 5/16" to 3/4", may be solid (1 piece) or broken (2 or 3 pieces), and if there is a connecting ring or flat bar, those connectors must meet the same respective measurements. It does not mean the connecting piece has to be a ring or flat bar.

Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bars or prongs).





























What does it mean?... Mouthpieces	Description	Acceptable/ Unacceptable
 <p>Figure 69: Simple jointed, round mouthpiece</p>	Simple jointed, round	
 <p>Figure 70: Three-piece mouthpiece</p>	Three-piece mouthpiece	
 <p>Figure 71: Roller in joint mouthpiece</p>	Roller in joint is acceptable	
 <p>Figure 72: Single twist, wire wrapped mouthpieces</p>	Single twisted wire, or wire wrapped mouthpieces are unacceptable	
 <p>Figure 73: Multiple link & twisted wire mouthpieces</p>	Double twists and loose links are unacceptable	
 <p>Figure 74: Mouthpiece; port is less than 1 1/2 inches</p>	Three-piece with port as connector	
 <p>Figure 75: Mouthpiece; port is less than 1 1/2 inches.</p>	One-piece wide port	
 <p>Figure 76: Fast twist and slow twist mouthpieces</p>	The top mouthpiece is a fast twist/corkscrew. Below is a slow twist. Making these mouthpieces unacceptable.	
 <p>Figure 77: Waterford bit mouthpiece</p>	Waterford bit is specifically listed as acceptable; three smooth, round balls linked together.	
 <p>Figure 78: Triangle/knife-edge mouthpiece</p>	Triangle or knife-edge bit is unacceptable; very sharp on the bars & tongue.	
 <p>Figure 79: Multi-roller, rough mouthpiece</p>	Multiple rollers set in the mouthpiece may result in many pressure points.	
 <p>Figure 80: Smooth, round roller mouthpiece</p>	Mouthpiece made of a series of rollers results in allowable smooth, round shape.	

Diagram 4: Saddle/Gaited Bit Measurements	Rules
 <p data-bbox="246 529 760 550"><i>Figure 81: Pelham bit with a three-piece mouthpiece</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting flat bar, 3/8 – 3/4 inch maximum, measured top to bottom • Minimum 5/16 inch to 3/4 inch maximum mouthpiece diameter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measured 1 inch from cheek ○ Regardless of type of bit.
 <p data-bbox="376 928 630 949"><i>Figure 82: Weymouth bit</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum 1 1/2 inches port height <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measured from the top of the port to the bottom of the bar ○ Regardless of bit type. • Minimum 5/16 inch to 3/4 inch maximum mouthpiece diameter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measured 1 inch from cheek ○ Regardless of type of bit.
 <p data-bbox="354 1138 662 1159"><i>Figure 83: Bridoon mouthpiece</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridoon Mouthpiece <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May have smaller diameter than 5/16 inch ○ Weymouth (curb) portion must still be 5/16 inch minimum
 <p data-bbox="230 1654 776 1675"><i>Figure 84: Walking horse bit with two-piece mouthpiece</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum 8 1/2 inches shank length <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measured from the inside top to the headstall ring to the 'pull point' of the rein ring. • Minimum 5/16 inch to 3/4 inch maximum mouthpiece diameter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measured 1 inch from cheek ○ Regardless of type of bit.

A few final reminders for Gaited classes...

1. Bridles/bits should coincide with the style of riding chosen. See the appropriate section (Western, Hunter, or Saddle Seat) for bit requirements.
2. Paso Finos may show in hackamores as approved by the Paso Fino Horse Association (PFHA) for Pleasure classes.
3. Tennessee Walking Horses (TWH) may be shown in a curb bit typical for the breed as long as the mouthpiece and shanks comply with the parameters described above for Saddle Seat.

What does it mean?... Bits for Gaited Classes

Gaited horses may be shown in Western, Hunter, or Saddle type tack, depending on the breed of the horse and/or the preferences of the exhibitor. Follow the bit rules for the style of riding used.

Tennessee Walking Horses (TWH) are typically shown in long shanked curb bits. This is an allowable bit for the TWH for both Western and Saddle Seat tack.

Paso Finos often show in types of hackamores not described in this section. See the PFHA rules for Paso Fino bridles.
