



## University of Idaho 4-H Youth Development State Hippology Procedures and Regulations

Hippology (Greek meaning horse knowledge) contests provide a format for youth to demonstrate their level of understanding and breadth of knowledge of horse management and use. Testing formats include written exams, demonstrations of practical skills, animal evaluation, and oral presentations. As such, a variety of learning abilities and life skills are demonstrated. It is intended to be fun, friendly and a rewarding experience for the participants.

The Hippology contest has four (4) phases:

- 1) Quiz Phase
- 2) Station Phase
- 3) Judging Phase
- 4) Team Problem Presentation

### **CONTESTANTS AND ELIGIBILITY**

1. A District can send up to five (5) teams in each division (Junior and Senior), which will consist of not more than four members. On teams consisting of four members, all will compete; however, the lowest score in each phase will be dropped from overall team score, but will be considered in determining all individual awards. For those teams consisting of three members, all members' scores will count in determining individual and team awards.
2. There will be two age divisions, and each age division will be considered a separate contest.
  - a) Junior Division: Youth age 8-13, as of January 1 of the current year.
  - b) Senior Division: Youth age 14-18, as of January 1 of the current year.
  - c) Mixed aged teams will be allowed, the age of the oldest member of the team will determine which division the team competes in (example: team of 4 with ages 10, 11, 14, 15 will compete in the Senior Division).
3. The top two (2) senior winning Hippology teams at the state contest will be invited to represent Idaho at a national Hippology contest. Mixed age teams are ineligible to attend national contest.

### **GENERAL**

1. Statewide competition will be governed by the prescribed procedures and regulations. Additional rules may be promulgated (announced prior to contest) for specific purposes. Contestants not complying with the rules will be disqualified. Coaches and/or spectators not complying with the applicable Procedures and Regulations will be dismissed from the contest area.
2. Junior Division and Senior division participants may only work together during the Team Problem Presentation phase. All other phases will be individual.
3. No source of information is infallible. There may be at times answers given to questions which are not in agreement with the recommended sources. Therefore, any queries or complaints made must be submitted in writing to the chairperson of the contest, and then only by the coach of the individual or team making the inquiry. Spectators, parents and visitors may not protest verbally or in writing to the chair, but should direct their actions to the coach or Extension Representative of their respective county or district.
4. Unseemly behavior, unsportsmanship-like conduct or any actions which are generally accepted as detrimental to the contest may subject 4-H competitors, parents, and/or coaches to dismissal from the area of the contest.
5. Unless assisting in the contest, coaches and parents must not remain in the immediate area surrounding the contest proceedings. Every effort will be made to allow viewing from some strategic place where the contest is being held, but in some instances this may not always be possible. Viewing of contest materials will be allowed once the contest is completed.
6. Contest materials (Quizzes, etc) will not be returned.

## **THE CONTEST**

### 1. Quiz Phase—approximately 200 points

This phase of the contest will include:

- a. Written quiz (or quizzes) of multiple choice questions regarding any number of horse topics.
- a. Contestants may be required to look at slides and/or objects and identify certain facts. For example: color of the horse, blemishes, markings, anatomy (which may include external, skeletal, internal organs, parts of gastrointestinal tract, reproductive organs, detailed anatomy of the foot, etc).

### 2. Station (Skill-a-Thon) Phase—approximately 200 points. This phase will consist of a series of stations or tables where all contestants will individually respond to the requirements of the station. Members will be allowed two (2) minutes at each station. Contestants will start at any station and work their way individually through each station at the direction of the timekeeper until all stations are completed. Examples of stations which may be used include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Identification of:
  - i. Various types of saddles (actual or pictures) and parts of saddles.
  - ii. Tack, bits, bridles, horse shoes, and parts of shoes.
  - iii. Tools and equipment, and assembly of specific parts of various pieces of equipment.
  - iv. Grains and forages used in equine rations including various forms of methods of preparation.
  - v. Internal and external parasites based on actual samples, pictures, life cycle charts and/or damage caused.
  - vi. Blemishes and unsoundness.
  - vii. Age of equine based on teeth.
- b. Use of pulse rate, respirations rate, temperature, dehydration, anemia, etc. to assess horse health.
- c. Measurement such as, but not limited to, wither height, shoe size, girth, collar size, gullet width, seat length of saddle, etc. may be required.

### 3. Judging Phase—approximately 200 points. Contestants will be required to place confirmation and performance classes. Live animal classes are preferred, but in the event where live classes cannot be scheduled, photographs, video or slides may be substituted. No written or oral reasons are required.

### 4. Team Problem Presentation—approximately 200 points. All teams within their respective division, will be presented with the same problem(s). Each team will have equal time to discuss among themselves the problem, immediately after which they will have to present an oral solution or series of suggested procedures relative to the problem. Asking the moderator/group leader questions for clarification will be allowed. Each member of the team is encouraged to contribute to the oral presentation. Evaluation will be based on the understanding of the problem, completeness of the response, the probability of success of the solution or procedures, and the logic used in making the oral response. The official may ask questions of any or all of the team members to clarify the presentation.

- a. Examples of the possible team problem might include:
  - i. Balancing a horse's ration.
  - ii. Farm management recommendations for specific horse operations (i.e. breeding, training, boarding, nursery, lay-up, etc.).
  - iii. Consideration for the establishment of a new horse facility (stable to be used for a specific purpose).
  - iv. Recommendations for selecting, locating, and purchasing horses for specific used.
  - v. Behavior problems-causes, management and corrections.
  - vi. Training and conditioning programs—equipment, schedules, methods, nutrition, problem avoidance.
  - vii. Breeding and/or leasing contracts—specific clauses for insurance, liability, payments, care, termination, transport, etc.
  - viii. Teaching lessons in horse management (specific subject to be announced) to a group of 9 to 11 year old beginner 4-H'ers: where, how long, how much information, hands-on experience, reinforcement, testing evaluation, will be considered.
  - ix. Explanation of use or assembly of specific equipment.
  - x. Demonstrate skill or ability to use specific equipment.

Team problem scores will not be included in determining the rank of individuals in the contest, but will be added to the team scores of the other three phases to determine overall team standing.

### **Tie Breaking**

All ties overall, individual and team, will be broken using the following sequence:

1. Quiz scores
2. Station scores
3. Judging scores

Ties within any phase are to be broken using the overall score first and then the same sequence as above. If further tie breaking is needed, the scores at each station, in order may be used.

### **AWARDS**

1. Awards will be presented to the top individual (1) in the Quiz phase, Station phase, and Judging phase for the Junior and Senior Divisions.
2. Awards will be presented to the top five (5) individuals for overall scores in the Junior and Senior Divisions.
3. Awards will be presented to the top three (3) teams, overall, in both the junior and senior divisions.
4. The ranking of individuals in both divisions (Junior and Senior) will be on the basis of three logical groups within the total range of scores. These groups will be designated as gold award, silver award and bronze award. Individuals participating in the state Hippology contest will be rated gold, silver and bronze award through a specific procedure that will be predetermined. Approximately 75% will receive the gold award, 15% will receive the silver award and 10% will receive the bronze award. However, officials will honor natural breaks in scores.

### **REFERENCE MATERIALS**

All the information covered in this contest may be found in one or more of the following publications:

\*The Horse. Evans, Borton, Hintz, and Van Vleck. Second Edition. W.H. Freeman and Company, 660 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94104. (415) 391-5870.

\*American Youth Horse Council Horse Industry Handbooks and Youth Leaders Manual. 6660 #D-451, Delmonico Colorado Springs, CO 80919. Cindy Schonholtz. Toll Free: 1-800-TRY-AYHC.

\*Feeding and Care of the Horse. Williams and Wilkins, Second Edition. 351 West Camden Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-2436. 800-638-0672

\*Illustrated Dictionary of Equine Terms, New Horizons Education Center, Inc. Alpine Publications, PO Box 7027, Loveland CO 80537 Phone - 1-800-777-7257 FAX - 970-667-9157

\*The Coloring Atlas of Horse Anatomy, Dr. Robert Kainer and Dr. Thomas McCracken, Alpine Publications Inc. P.O. Box 7027, Loveland, Co 80537, 1-800-777-7257

\*State Line Tack Catalogs from 2008

\*Horses and Horsemanship-National 4-H Council

\*Horse Science-National 4-H Council

\*Grains, forages, and feed preparations used in this contest will be representative of feeds utilized in horse rations.

*\*\*These guidelines were approved by I4-HYHC on November 5, 2008, reviewed and modified October 17, 2009.*

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