

Madison County 4-H/FFA Rules and Regulations

General Rules and Regulations

LIVESTOCK

The Madison County 4-H/FFA Program shares the general objectives of the University of Idaho Extension Program. These objectives are for young people to develop leadership skills, assume citizenship responsibilities, build character, explore career opportunities, develop skills, expand knowledge, and foster correct attitudes for lifelong use and share knowledge gained with others.

JUNIOR HORSE AND WORKING RANCH PROGRAM

The **OBJECTIVES** of the 4-H/FFA Horse Program are for young people to:

1. Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship and other desirable character traits.
2. Experience the pride of owning a horse or pony and being responsible for its management.
3. Develop an appreciation of horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
4. Increase knowledge of safety precautions to prevent injury to themselves, others and their mounts.
5. Promote greater love for animals and a humane attitude toward them.

HORSE SHOW CLASSES AVAILABLE (Detailed class descriptions in EISF Jr. Horse Show Rule Book)

1. DIVISION I-WORKING RANCH HORSE
 - Dummy Roping
 - Ranch Roping—unit 2
 - Ranch Roping—unit 3
 - Working Ranch Horse—unit 1
 - Working Ranch Horse—unit 2
 - Working Ranch Horse—unit 3
 - Team Sorting—units 1, 2 or 3
2. DIVISION II-SHOWMANSHIP
 - Senior Halter Showmanship
 - Intermediate Halter Showmanship
 - Jr. Halter Showmanship
3. DIVISION III-WESTERN
 - Pony Bareback Equitation
 - Bareback Equitation—senior, intermediate and junior

- Western Equitation—senior, intermediate and junior
 - Pony Western Equitation
 - Walk-Trot Equitation (Western & English)
 - Western Reining
 - Western Horsemanship
 - Snaffle Bit/Hackamore Training 1st year horse
 - Snaffle Bit/Hackamore Training 2nd/3rd year horse
 - Trail—senior, intermediate and junior
4. DIVISION IV-ENGLISH
- Intermediate and Senior English Equitation
 - Junior English Equitation
 - Jumper
5. DIVISION V-DRIVING
- Single Pleasure Driving-horses or ponies
 - Single Utility Driving-horses or ponies
 - Single Cone Driving
 - Team Pleasure Driving-horses or ponies
 - Team Utility Driving-horses or ponies
 - Team Cone Driving

CONDUCT BY EXHIBITORS, PARENTS AND OTHERS

The Extension office will make all possible efforts to secure the best available judges. Decisions of the judges are final. Any interference with the judges, exhibitors, officials, or any discourteousness or unsportsmanlike display toward them will be cause for disqualification of the exhibitor. Exhibitors will follow the judge's directions at all times and on request, will answer questions or demonstrate as indicated by the judge.

4-H POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. The 4-H/FFA member must own/lease the horse(s) used, provide primary care, feeding and management of the horse(s) at least 90 days before exhibiting.
2. If a 4-H/FFA member leases a project animal, a complete written and signed copy of the lease agreement must be returned to the county extension office by the required ownership date.
3. No stallions over one year old may be exhibited by a 4-H/FFA member in any 4-H Youth Development sponsored event. Stallions under one year of age may be exhibited at halter.
4. **All youth participants in Idaho 4-H horse activities or events must wear an ASTM-SEI approved equestrian helmet whenever mounted on an equine, or are in a vehicle (cart, wagon, buggy, etc.) being pulled by an equine.** This includes club meetings, trail rides or other 4-H sanctioned events.

GENERAL RULES

1. Youth must be at least 8 years of age to participate in the competitive 4-H program. The 4-H age is the age of the individual on January 1st, of the current 4-H year (which runs from October 1 to September 30). 4-H members must compete in their age group.
 - Junior—8 years old by January 1st of the current 4-H year through 10
 - Intermediate—11-13 years old
 - Senior—14-18 years old
2. **Must be enrolled in Madison County 4-H** and club enrollment turned into county extension office **prior to 1st club riding meeting**. All 4-Hers must have paid the annual \$25.00 for horse projects. \$20.00 Clover Bud and appropriate material fees by the **June 1st deadline** set by the 4-H office, to be able to participate in the activities at the Madison County Fair. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
3. Must have a registered 4-H leader
4. Exhibitors are responsible for knowledge of and adherence to all rules.
5. 4-H Member Accident Insurance must be purchased through the 4-H office (included in the sign-up fee)
6. Exhibitors are strongly encouraged to cover their animals with insurance.
7. Must attend **at least six 4-H meetings** (Meetings can include county, district and state shows or clinics, or other approved meetings by your club leaders)
8. Must do a club demonstration
9. Must **complete record book and turn it in to the extension office at the time appointed by the extension office**. Exhibitors with a “needs improvement” rating on their record book will have the opportunity to bring their book up to an “average” rating prior to fair. **Anything less than an “average” rating on a record book, will disqualify exhibitor from showing and selling at the fair.** Record books will be judged by the state record book requirements
10. Each **leader will determine whether animals registered to members of their club meet the training and quality requirements** by using the member’s manuals, attendance records at club meetings, and by looking at the animals. If the leader wishes, he/she may request this decision be made by the Extension office.
11. Awards will be given out to the exhibitors at the end of each class.
12. If a 4-H/FFA member loses their animal (due to health or sickness) after June 25th of the current year, and prior to the showmanship contest, they may enter a showmanship contest with another member’s animal with approval of the 4-H Program Coordinator, providing the lost animal was carried as a project for at least 60 days.
13. Top blue ribbon exhibitors at the County show have the optional opportunity to attend the EISF Jr. Horse Show. Exhibitors must sign up for the EISF show by the set the deadline. (See exhibitor limits #16 of the EISF Junior Horse Rule Book pg. 3) Project animals may be registered or unregistered equines of any breed.
14. **Entry forms** for both the Jr. 4-H and Working Ranch Show, must be submitted by exhibitors to the County Extension Office at least **one week before the working ranch**

4-H horse show. Signed Horse Project Waiver must be signed during enrollment, either in the extension office or 4-H Online at the time of horse project sign-up.

15. No member or horse may show unless they are enrolled in a bona fide 4-H horse project, FFA chapter, or Pony Club, and have fulfilled the county requirements for each division. If a horse is shown at the EISF it must be the same horse that qualified in that particular class at the county fair.
16. No horse may be shown by more than **one exhibitor** in any **one class**
17. No exhibitor may show more than one horse in any one class (except team events in Driving Division)
18. In the event of a serious, performance inhibiting injuring or sickness, to an enrolled project horse, the exhibitor may, at the discretion of the County 4-H Coordinator, be entitled to a medical exclusion and may use a different enrolled project horse, owned by the immediate family. The individual must submit a letter written by a licensed veterinarian stating that the horse is unable to perform on the day of the show.
19. Age divisions for the Junior Horse Show exhibitors are based upon the child's age on January 1st of the current year.
20. Madison County 4-H, Madison County and the University of Idaho will not be responsible for any accident that may occur to, or be caused by any horse or exhibitor at the show, or for any article of any kind that may be lost, destroyed or in any way damaged. Exhibitors and observers participate at their own risk. Collection of exhibitor number shall be deemed acceptance of these terms.
21. **Good sportsmanship and ethical behavior are required.** Exhibitors, parents and observers will act as ladies and gentlemen at all times. Exhibitors, parents and observers considered being verbally or physically abusive and/or exhibiting objectionable behavior will be excused from the fairgrounds at the discretion of the Madison County 4-H Coordinator. Exhibitors may also be disqualified.
22. **Use of performance altering drugs on horses is prohibited.** Suspicion of drug use may result in a veterinarian's review and/or blood test.
23. Grievances regarding the County Junior Horse Show may be presented to the Madison County Coordinator or the Madison County Extension office in written form following the show. It will be reviewed by County Extension Chair, Madison County 4-H Program Coordinator and/or the Madison County 4-H and FFA Livestock Committee for further action.
24. Only the entered rider(s) of a horse(s) may ride the horse(s) on the day of competition.
25. Madison County 4-H office reserves the right to make divisions in any class, divided by age of exhibitor, sex or size of horse, etc. Multiple rings will be used as needed.
26. Exhibitors are responsible for proper equipment and attire according to 4-H guidelines. The Madison County 4-H Coordinator, Extension Educator, judge, gate official and/or ring steward, has the authority to dismiss an exhibitor from a class. The judge may ask the exhibitor to drop the bridle and bit for inspection.
27. The judges may request individual workouts from the top 6-10 finalists per class.

28. All horses shown in **Western classes**, with the exception of Snaffle Bit/Hackamore Training, must be shown as a bridle horse with an **approved western bit**. (Appendix EISF Junior Horse Show Rule Book)
29. Horses entered in Snaffle **Bit/Hackamore Training may not be shown in any other Western, English, or Driving Class.**
30. Exhibitors entered in the **Western/English Walk-Trot class may not enter any other Western, English, or Driving Classes.**
31. Small and medium ponies (13.2 hands and under) must show as ponies; large ponies (13.2-14.2 hands) may show as either horses or ponies but not both. Pony class may be combined with the horse class, but awarded separately.
32. Youth are required to participate in the Halter Showmanship Class (other classes are optional) in his/her age division at the Junior 4-H/FA Horse Show at least two years for project completion. After two years they may choose not to compete in the Junior 4-H/FFA Horse show and only compete in the Working Ranch Show. When choosing this option youth must still follow all other 4-H/FFA rules pertaining to portfolios, club meetings and any other specific rules to complete a project.

FFA Livestock Exhibitor Rules

1. Exhibitors may start exhibiting as an FFA Project their 8th grade year and continue through graduation. In order to do so they must have signed up for an Ag class the school year previous to the Madison County Fair, paid FFA dues, be an active chapter member and turn in an electronic FFA record book.
2. FFA clothing standard for the horse show is the same as 4-H attire. Western attire for western classes and English attire for English classes. A cowboy hat may be worn for halter showmanship classes, all other classes require an approved ASTM-SEI helmet to be worn while mounted. A helmet will also be required to participate at the EISF level.

SHOW DAY RULES

1. **ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBLE RIDING** by exhibitors or non-exhibitors.
2. **Exhibitors must wear an ASTM-SEI approved helmet any time they are mounted on an equine both in and outside of the show ring.**
3. Only registered exhibitors are allowed on horseback on show day.
4. Parents, guardians and leaders are responsible to help uphold these rules.
5. Patterns will be posted near the main arena gate (both gates if the arena is split), 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the show.
6. Be ready and on call for each class. Class order may be adjusted during the show. If an exhibitor is taking part in another class, at the time a class is called, the class will be held for that exhibitor.
7. Reversal of direction in any class requiring rail work, indicates horses be reversed to the inside of the arena (away from the rail).

8. Disqualifications: The Madison County 4-H Coordinator, judges, Extension Educator, gate official and/or ring steward has the authority to dismiss an exhibitor from a class or from the show for:
 - Unnecessary roughness
 - Abuse of horse
 - Unsound horse
 - Unsafe horse
 - Fall of horse and/or rider
 - Lack of required equipment
 - Use of prohibited equipment
 - Use of performance altering drugs on horse
 - Failure to follow pattern and/or judge's instructions (only the judge may disqualify for this fault)
9. Awards are based on the merit of the exhibit. The judge may disqualify an exhibit or award the exhibit any ribbon at his/her discretion.
10. Rosette ribbons will be awarded to the top four individuals in each class. It is up to the discretion of the judge to award blue ribbons and rosettes. If the judge does not feel any exhibitors in a class have sufficient skill to be awarded a rosette, and the opportunity to represent that class at the EISF, it is his/her call.

HALTER SHOWMANSHIP CLASS

Equipment and Attire

1. Suitable, neat and appropriate Western, English Hunt Seat, or English Saddle Seat attire is desired. Western attire will include long pants, western boots with a heel, (slip-on hard soled boots are recommended for safety purposes), long-sleeved western shirt with a collar and western hat or helmet. Chaps and spurs should not be worn. Silver and fancy dress are not to be encouraged or discounted. English attire will consist of appropriate boots, jodhpurs or breeches, a hunt coat or a saddle coat and either a helmet with harness (recommended), hunt cap or derby with saddle seat attire. Saddle Seat attire will be a saddle seat coat and jodhpurs, shirt, tie and derby. A tie, choker or hunting stock is appropriate neckwear for English exhibitors. Gloves are optional for Western and English. Participants using safety helmets will not be penalized.
2. No whips of any kind allowed. No wraps, bandages or protective boots allowed on horse. In case of injury, judge may allow a protective bandage. Halters may be equipped with leather, cotton or nylon leads. Leads with chains may be used. No chains may be used over the horse's nose, only under the chin.

3. English horses to be shown in a bridle. Braiding manes and tails is optional. Draft horses may be shown with bits.

Class Description and Rules

1. The purpose of this class is to give the junior member an opportunity to demonstrate his/her ability to groom, train and show his/her horse. No considerations should be given to the horse other than fitting and grooming, response to showman, cleanliness, and fit of equipment.
2. Excess strap, rope or reins to be held loosely in the left hand
3. Exhibitors must lead the horse into the ring, leading from the left side. The lead should be held a proper distance from the halter according to size of exhibitor and horse. When making a turn, the horse should be stopped squarely and turned to the right. Exhibitor must follow directions given by the ring steward and judge. A pattern will be provided.
4. The safety system (Quarter System) of showmanship is required.
5. Showmanship patterns will be posted 30 minutes prior to the class.
6. Faults against showman:
 - a. Failure to recognize and correct faults of horse's position
 - b. Talking to other contestants, parents or spectators
 - c. Kicking a horse's leg into position or touching the horse
 - d. Allowing horse to stand unattended to place hind legs
 - e. Tugging on lead or jerking on halter shank
 - f. Lack of attention to horse and/or judge
 - g. Failure to follow posted pattern and judge's directions
 - h. Unsportsmanlike conduct or manners, including blocking judge's view of another competitor's horse
 - i. Turning the horse the wrong way at any time
 - j. Jeopardizing the safety of the exhibitor, horse or other competitors due to crowding, or lack of training.
7. Faults against the horse
 - a. Failure of the horse to lead up and travel readily
 - b. Failure to stand quietly in line
 - c. Improper fitting equipment
 - d. Improper cleaning and grooming