

Addendum II

Clarification of Selected Rules in the PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide for the Washington State 4-H Horse program

Effective July 1 to September 30, 2023

Background

This addendum is intended to be a ***clarification*** of selected rules as identified by a subcommittee of the Washington State 4-H Equine Committee. See list of sub-committee members at the end of this addendum.

The following respective rules are **not new**, but are intended to provide clarification to existing rules, language and/or protocol.

For actual rule changes—please refer to Addendum I, which is a page by page review comparing the 2015 PNW 4-H Horse contest guide to the soon to be published 2022 PNW 4-H horse contest guide.

Please be sure to be familiar with PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide, 2015 edition before using this as a reference.

The PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide-Background

3rd paragraph-top of page 3-*Reminder*

Counties are bound by state rules but may be more restrictive. Counties should create rules and criteria for “county only” for classes not addressed in this guide.

*Clarification #1: This means that counties in Washington 4-H using the PNW rules are bound by the PNW rules and may not make their rules less restrictive; however, counties may make more restrictive rules. **But cannot be contrary** to overall Washington 4-H Program Policies as listed in EM0758E (publication number) and found on WSU 4-H website.*

Clarification #2: In open shows using the 4-H name and emblem are bound by PNW 4-H Contest Guide Rules and also the Washington State 4-H Program Policies. Failure to do so puts the respective county 4-H program at risk along with the any other sponsoring 4-H organization and will not be covered by WSU liability nor American Income life insurance.

Show Protocol –page 6

9 Existing Rule States: Exhibitors should not pat their horse while being judged in the ring, except during a colt or ground training class. [**This rule was deleted in 2022 version**]

*Clarification #1: This means that the 4-H member **can pat/pet/stroke** their horse after completion of their class/course/pattern including Western Games run after the judging has been completed. Exception would be for in the Showmanship as per Showmanship Judging Requirements (p. 16-2015 version).*

Clarification #2: Washington does not have a colt or ground training rules.

Western Section

Bridle and Bit-page 10

Page 10: Horses 5 years old or younger may be ridden in a snaffle or bosal. For horses 6 years or older, a *curb bit* is highly preferred.

Clarification: Additional clarification definition of a curb bit: "A curb bit is any leverage bit and should follow guidelines as identified by the United State Equine Federation Manual for western equipment.

Page 10-paragraph 2:

Current Rule States:

Horses 6 years and older shown in a snaffle or bosal may be ineligible for top awards at management's discretion. In **Washington**, such horses shall be ineligible to advance to performance state 4-H fair competitions,

Clarification: For Washington 4-H State Fair horses are eligible for Western Games and also Western Dressage as per WDAA rules.

*Additional selected Summary Clarification for **Western Games** related to bits and bridles.*

Required (page 35):

Throatlatch on the bridle

Curb strap on all bits

Roping or single piece reins

Allowed:

Bosals-page 10

Snaffles-page 10

Mechanical Hackamores-page 35

Gag Bits-page 35

Running Martingales with Rein Stops-page 35

NOT allowed (page 35)

Mecate Reins

Tied split reins

Buckled Reins

Page 11 as related to Bridle and Bits section

Not allowed—added a 5th bullet

Curb bits with overall bit length longer than 8 ½ inches not allowed

Clarification: *The Figure on p. 11 is correct but a formal statement as a 5th bullet under **Not Allowed** was to provide further clarification.*

In-hand Trail Section

Page 21-second paragraph

Existing Rule: The horse must be unsaddled and shown in a safe, properly fitted halter. A chain may be used. Guidelines for the use of a chain and for the halter and lead may be found in the Showmanship section (pages 15–16).

Clarification (to include “touching the horse”):

The horse must be unsaddled and shown in a safe, properly fitted halter. A chain may be used. *Use guidelines for chain use, touching the horse, and halter and lead from showmanship class expectations on pages 15 and 16-Performance Guidelines-Showmanship.*

Western Games

Penalties and general disqualifications-page 37

17th bullet

Existing Rule: Spurring or striking the horse in front of the cinch

Clarification: *Youth are allowed to pet their horse in front of the cinch in a humane way, as perceived by the judge. Spurring, striking, (e.g., hitting or slapping) can be considered disqualification.*

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Authors: Washington State 4-H Judges Committee, a subcommittee of the WSU 4-H Equine Committee, June 2023

Committee Chair: Stephanie Roeter, 4-H Faculty

Members: Jennifer Leach 4-H Faculty and State 4-H Horse Contact
R-A Mazzola, 4-H Staff
Kim Baker, 4-H Staff
Pat Pehling, 4-H Volunteer
Dusti Kissler, 4-H Horse Judge
Dawn Spencer, Senior Evaluator 4-H Horse Judge
Patricia Burns, Senior Evaluator 4-H Horse Judge

Contact for questions or comments:
Jennifer Leach, State 4-H Horse Contact
jleach@wsu.edu or LeachJ@cowlitzwa.us
Phone: 360.577-3014 Ext. 4