

4-H Horse Project Committee Guidelines and Policy

Deadlines:

Enrollment for horse projects is on or before ***March 1st**. Enrollment forms, Insurance form, and 4-H Membership Enrollment fees due at Extension Office. This deadline must be met if member wants to show at San Juan County Fair in the 4-H division. Individual clubs may determine earlier deadlines in order to comply with above deadline. Responsibility for submitting these forms and fees is the responsibility of the club Leader(s).

Horse Certificates:

Certificates to be in the 4-H Extension Office on or before ***May 15th by 3:00 pm or postmarked**. Individual clubs may determine earlier deadlines in order to comply with above deadline. Certificates may be signed each year if there are no changes.

The leaders will collect the original certificates, and forward these to the 4-H Extension Office by date specified (see Deadlines above). Each club is responsible to record and file the copies.

The 4-H office will compile a list of all Project Enrollments to include 4-H member linked to his/her horse's name identifying primary and substitute horses for each division (performance, western games, dressage) and any shared horses and forward list to club leaders by June 1st to allow for correction or to clarify any misinterpretations. The final list of Project Enrollments will go out to the leaders and the Horse Superintendent July 1st.

*** If a deadline for submitting something to the Extension office falls on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or holiday when the office is closed, please submit on the last working day before the deadline date (no exceptions).**

Project Horses:

- **Primary and Substitute Horse(s)**

The "primary project horse" must be identified on the Horse Certificate for each division (performance, western games, dressage) of participation. A member may also designate one "substitute secondary project horse" for each division and this must also be identified on the Horse Certificates.

- **Replacement Horse**

To replace the primary project horse: In the case of severe injury or death of the primary project horse, or safety issues, a 4-H member may switch to the designated secondary project horse (previously registered with the 4-H Extension Office). To request substitution for the primary project horse, a *Horse Replacement Form* must be completed and submitted along with documentation (letter of explanation from your veterinarian) for approval to the 4-H Extension Coordinator, within 48 hours of the examining veterinary's signature and prior to the 4-H event. The 4-H Coordinator will approve/deny the request and forward any change in status to the 4-H Leader and/or horse show

manager or 4-H Horse Superintendent. The secondary horse may show at county fair, but not at state fair (*Horse Contest Guide PNW 574*, p. 5).

In case of denial, a written explanation will be given to the 4-H member and the member may submit an appeal. To appeal a substitution denial, the request must be submitted in writing to the 4-H Extension Office within 48 hours of notification of the denial. The request will be reviewed by the Horse Leaders Committee. If the denial is upheld, the member may file a grievance under 4-H county rules. A successful appeal may show at the county 4-H level, but will not be allowed to exhibit at state fair (*Horse Contest Guide PNW 574*, p. 5).

The member may request to substitute a safe and suitable non-project horse in cases where the member does not have a designated (Certified) secondary project horse or the designated secondary horse is ineligible. Non-project 4-H horse entries may ride in 4-H classes and receive Danish ribbons at 4-H sponsored horse shows and at the county Fair, but are ineligible for Premium points, 4-H showmanship or 4-H equitation awards, or Grand or Reserve 4-H ribbons, and will not be allowed to exhibit at state fair. A *Horse Replacement Request* form must be filed with the Extension Office and, if approved, a Horse Certificate must be completed and filed with the 4-H Extension Office prior to showing the horse at a 4-H sponsored event.

In case of denial, see the above appeal process except that a successful appeal to use a non-project horse may show at the county 4-H level, but will not be allowed to exhibit at state fair, (*Horse Contest Guide PNW 574*, p. 5) and, at the county level, the member may receive Danish ribbons, but is ineligible for Grand or Reserve 4-H ribbons, 4-H Premium points, and 4-H showmanship or 4-H equitation awards.

- **Leased Horses**

A lease agreement is permissible. The agreement must be filled in, signed & dated by all parties. A copy of the lease agreement will be attached to the completed original certificate and forwarded to the 4-H Extension Office by May 15th as described above. Leaders are responsible for having copies of leases and must be prepared to present them, if asked, at county or state fair.

- **Sharing of Project Horses**

“A shared project animal is defined as only immediate family members or two non-family members sharing the same horse including care and training responsibilities (Page 4, PNW574). All shared horses must be identified on the Horse Certificate and a completed shared animal project form must be filed with the 4-H office by May 15th. Two 4-H members may not compete in the same class or lot (division) on the shared horse at an event. Shared horse project animals must be carefully cared for and monitored for over use and stress. Every effort must be taken to care for the project horse and protect against over use.”

- **Care and Exhibition**

4-H Contest Rules provide that “Only 4-H members may ride, groom, school, or handle a horse while on the show grounds.”(P.2, PNW574). **At a 4-H sponsored Horse Show or San Juan County Fair, no one is allowed to ride a member’s project horse on the**

showgrounds except the member unless it is a shared horse project. No exceptions. 4-H members may be assisted with horse care, grooming or handling their tack by other 4-H members. Non 4-H members, including family, may NOT groom, school, or handle a project horse while on the show grounds. The only exception is when safety is a factor; then, 4-H members may be assisted in handling their tack or project horse by a 4-H leader and/or parent. This rule will be strictly enforced such that, after a courtesy warning, repeated violation will result in dismissal of the horse from the class and/or show, by show management, the judge, or superintendent.

- **Project Records**

Members must keep separate Project Records for each project horse enrolled (primary and substitutes).

Participation at SJCF:

To ride at the San Juan County Fair, all horse club members must **complete** their demonstration, community service, permanent record book review, 2/3 club meetings and any other specific club requirements no later than **July 1st**. Club leaders are responsible for tracking.

To verify registration entries for any 4-H horse classes at San Juan County Fair, Horse Club leaders must submit a list of qualified riders to the 4-H Horse Superintendent **no later than July 15th**. This list will include **rider's name**, and for each division (Performance, Western Games, Dressage) the **name of the primary project horse** whether or not the project horse qualifies as a **Junior Horse** (5 years of age or younger) or **4-H Shared Horse Project**. If it's a shared horse project, identify the members who share the horse.

Animal Health:

All horses must pass the San Juan County Fair vet check to exhibit at Fair (Check Fair schedule). The fair veterinarian is hired to ascertain that all horses (4-H, Open, and those used for demonstrations) are free from visible evidence of infectious, contagious disease and soundness issues. The vet(s) will then inform the Performance Superintendent, Western Games Superintendent and Judge of their findings. Decisions of the vet are final.

If your animal has a suspicious or irregular way of going or has had a recent accident where the injury or healing tissue are visible, a signed statement from your veterinarian would be helpful in correctly assessing condition and suitability of the animal to participate in the fair.

If an injury or unsoundness occurrence inside the show arena, the Judge or a horse 4-H leader may request that the Horse Superintendent summon the Fair Veterinarian. The same will be followed for a horse outside the arena that develops an issue after vet check and may need to be excused from the fair grounds. The Judge may dismiss any animal deemed unsound from the area.

Grievance Process:

In the event of a grievance, **4-H Resolution Procedure** will be followed. Refer to Premium Book.

Points and Ribbons for Western Games at San Juan County Fair:

For each 4-H Western Game type class at the San Juan County Fair we award:

POINTS: For each run of each Western Games type class, **points** for Blue, Red & White Danish times (5, 3, 1, respectively) according to times listed in the 4-H SJ County State Fair Equine Policy with Grand and Reserve points going to the fastest and second fastest Blue Danish times (10 and 8 points respectively).

RIBBONS: For each Western Games type class, the **4-H Grand and Reserve Ribbons** be awarded only to the overall fastest and second fastest Blue Danish times considering all (three) runs.”

Trophy Return to San Juan County Fair:

Due to the difficulties of receiving and organizing trophies awarded for 4-H and Open classes at SJ County Fair, all perpetual trophies from the previous year must be **received at the Extension Office by the final date for Fair registration as published in the SJ County Fair Premium Book**. If said trophy(s) is not returned by the published date, the holder of the trophy (last recipient) will **not be registered** for Fair.

Furthermore, if the trophy is not returned, the holder will be **charged to replace the trophy**. 4-H and Open contestants that accept a trophy(s) at Fair assume this responsibility and agree to return the trophy by the required date and understand if they do not that they cannot register for Fair the year the trophy is due and will be charged and agree to pay a replacement fee. There will be reminders and 4-H Leaders are encouraged to facilitate trophy return, especially for Orcas and Lopez islands. Hardships will be referred to the Fair Grievance Committee.

Resources:

The 4-H Horse Project Manual PNW 587
Pacific Northwest 4-H Horse Contest Guide
4-H Horse Judging Manual PNW 575
American Horse Shows Association (AHSA)

Date approved by Horse leaders 11/06

Date Approved by Leaders Council 1-13-07

Update approved by Leaders Council 1/2008

Update approved by Leaders Council 1/2010

Update approved by Leaders Council 1/2011

Update approved by Leaders Council 2/2013

Update approved by Leaders Council 2/2014

Update approved by Leaders Council 2/2019