

Washington State 4H Fair Disciplined Rail Rules

This is an equitation class in which the rider performs maneuvers as a group, as a rail equitation class (i.e. no individual work).

Disciplined rail is a class that tests the skills of both the horse and rider, as they execute specific gaits, transitions, and/or movements as requested by the judge. The horse should do what the rider asks with the least possible effort on the part of the rider and the least amount of resistance from the horse. The member will be judged on correct posture, smooth gait transitions, and effective use of aids, with special emphasis on light hands. The performance of the horse is not to be considered more important than the methods used by the rider in obtaining that performance

The judge is encouraged to call for reasonable tests of horsemanship with the rider demonstrating overall equitation as related to *seat and hands; performance; and member and appointments* as per the Equitation division of the Pacific Northwest 4H Contest Guide, current edition.

This is not a game (i.e. "Simon Says") or an elimination/out class.

Tack, Equipment, and Appointments: Same requirements as per the respective seats of the Equitation Division in the Pacific Northwest 4H Horse Contest Guide, current edition.

The following are some, but not all, of the maneuvers the judge may ask you to perform:

- Enter ring on right track
- Transitions to and from any gait, such as trot to canter, hand gallop to halt, halt to canter, trot to counter canter, etc. You may also be asked to perform a gait for a specific number of steps or strides.
- Extension and collection of any gait.
- Lope/canter on correct lead
- Starting and traveling on the incorrect lead/counter canter.
- Hand gallop/extended canter/extended lope (depending on seat and/or number of exhibitors)
- Change leads—simple, interrupted, or flying (Example: "As you pass in front of the judge, perform a simple change of lead.")
- Ride without irons/stirrups and drop and pick up irons/stirrups
- Haunch or forward turn (need forward motion), judge may ask for specific number of degrees
- Turn on forehand and turn on hind quarter (once each way).
- Leg Yield such as away from and back to the rail.
- Side pass both away from the rail (at least five steps) and then back to the rail.
- Transition from any gait to a balanced halt/stop
- Starting into a lope from a halt.
- Reverse at a jog/trot (but not at lope)
- Change of diagonals (English)
- Back
- Walk "on the buckle".
- Stand for inspection or stop and stand quietly on a loose rein.
- Mount and dismount
- Answer questions from 4H project materials
- Judge may ask for additional safe work reflective of horsemanship and equitation

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Disciplined rail rules adapted from the following sources: California 4H Horse Program; New Hampshire 4H Horse Program; and Snohomish County 4H Horse Program. Edited by Jennifer Leach, Interim 4H Horse Equine Specialist, May 2013 for use at the Washington State 4H Fair.