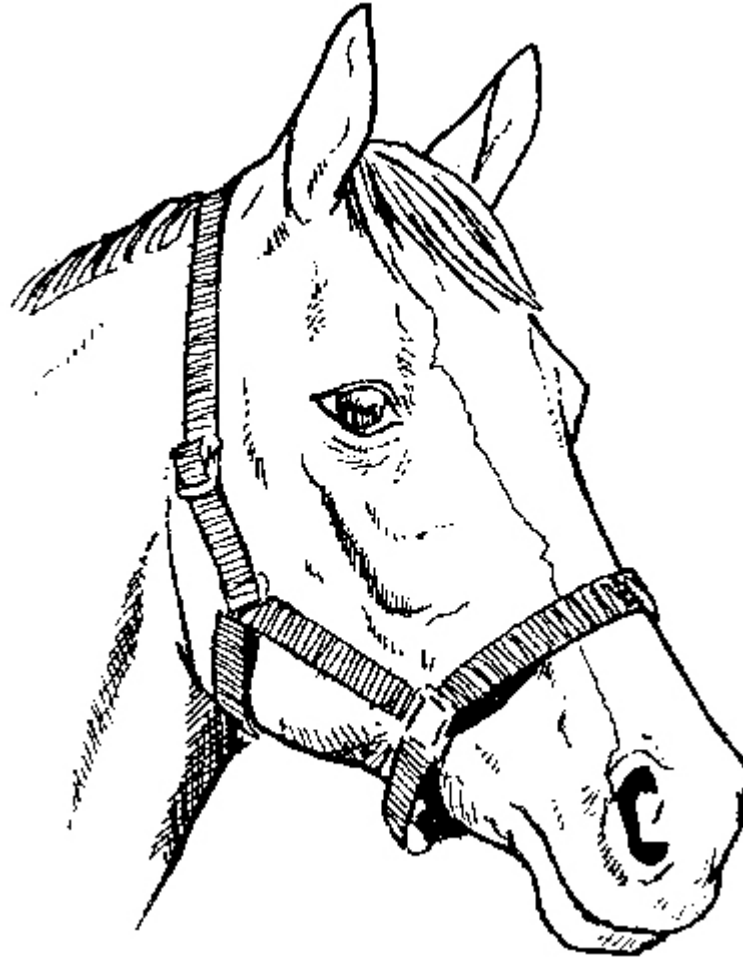


Walker County 4-H Horse Club



Closed Shows/Awards Program Rules and Guidelines

The following are the Rules and Guidelines set forth for participating in the Closed Shows offered by the Walker County 4-H Horse Club Leaders. These rules are subject to be updated or changed every year. Annually, after the conclusion of the current year, input will be gathered from all members and parents to plan for the next year. The Horse Club Leaders will make changes and present the changes at a scheduled meeting prior to the next club year starting.

2023-2024

General Rules and Regulations

1. The 4-H Horse Club year is from September 1 to August 31.
Junior Participants: 3rd – 8th Grade (as of September 1) *Have option to move up to be a Senior Participant with leadership approval.
Senior Participants: 9th – 12th Grade (as of September 1)
2. At local shows:
 - * Junior Level Competition
 - To compete for Superior Horseman, Reserve Superior Horseman or 3rd – 10th Place Awards, the contestant may only compete on one horse.
 - To compete for a High Point Buckle for the Judge Division, Speed Division, or the Roping Division – the contestant may choose to ride multiple horses. But, are required to ride the same horse, per individual event, for all three shows to accrue year end award points.
 - Participants are only eligible to win ONE point based award.
 - * Senior Level Competition
 - To compete for Superior Horseman, Reserve Superior Horseman or 3rd – 10th Place Awards, the contestant may only compete on one horse.
 - To compete for a High Point Buckle for the Judge Division, Speed Division, or the Roping Division – the contestant may choose to ride multiple horses. But, are required to ride the same horse, per individual event, for all three shows to accrue year end award points.
 - Participants are only eligible to win ONE point based award.
3. In no situation in any 4-H Horse Show will a contestant or a horse be allowed to enter the same class twice.
4. A 4-H member that qualifies for District or State shows must follow State 4-H Horse Show Guidelines.
5. The rules committee has the authority to rule if a hardship exists or to clarify any situation that may arise that is not specifically covered by the rules and regulations.
6. The rules committee is composed of 5 members selected by the adult leaders. At no time can this committee make a ruling with less than 3 members present. An adult leader will be present at each meeting to serve in an advisory capacity.
7. The Rules Committee has the authority to suspend at any time any member of the 4-H Horse Club for violation of the Rules and Guidelines or for lack of cooperation with the adult leaders, judges, or anyone assisting with the work of the club at shows, practice sessions, trips or meetings.
8. The members will be excused for absence due to sickness, summer camp, church camp, church or school activities, or other 4-H activities,. If the member is absent he/she will submit, to the secretary of the club, a written excuse delivered in hand at the next horse club function. Absences are not counted against the members' requirement to attend 6 practices.
9. In order to change from primary to an alternate horse, for safety or health reasons, member must **notify the County Extension staff**.

10. When a club member changes from primary or designated horse to a second horse that was registered by May 1, the show points go with the horse. Should the primary horse become usable during the same 4-H project year, and should the club member wish to return to the first horse, be aware that the change will be treated as a new or third horse.
11. If for any reason a member is suspended or eligibility ceases, reinstatement could be possible if the member and his/her parents come before the Rules Committee and the Adult Leaders with their plea. The decision of this committee will be final.
12. **No Stallions, Mules, Donkeys, or any horses under 10 hands or 40 inches will be allowed in Walker County 4-H Horse activities.**
13. Adult leaders reserve the authority to remove unsafe animals from the arena. All tack is subject to approval by adult leaders. See State Rules for approved tack.
14. No classes will count more than 10 points, or more than the number of horses entered in the class, when there are under ten animals in the class.
15. If a show is called in the middle of a class, that entire class will be run over again at the make-up show.

18. Split reins must be used for judged classes & held in one hand with no more than one finger between the reins, unless the exhibitor is riding a validated 2 or 3 year old futurity horse project.
19. If a 4-Her chooses to exhibit a futurity or 2-3 year old horse in non-futurity classes such as Western Pleasure or Western Horsemanship, those horses may be shown in the tack and style of a futurity class without penalty. The horse **MUST** be a validated Texas 4-H Futurity Horse Project, validated through the County Extension Agent, prior to the May 1 deadline. Staff will identify the horse as a futurity horse project for shows.
20. Horses used during practices and at the shows must have a current Coggins.

Eligibility for Shows

1. Entry must be a member of Walker County 4-H Horse Club as prescribed in rules for membership.

2. For participation in State, District and the three Closed Shows, the horse must be designated as a 4-H project on or before **MAY 1st** (for State and District Shows) of the current year.
3. Entry forms and all fees must be in by the time and date shown on entry forms.
4. Members must have their horse at the show and ready to show when a designated class is called. Parents are responsible for seeing that youth and animal are ready for show.
5. Equipment must be approved by the judge and based on State 4-H Horse Show rules. Riders shall wear western hats or equestrian helmets during judged classes. Long sleeve shirts are required for judged classes. Cowboy boots with heels **MUST** be worn when riding horses. (No flat bottomed soles) Lace-up boots accepted. No hats or caps worn during speed events. Short sleeved shirts with collars and buttons are acceptable wear in timed events only or the current 4-H Horse Club T-shirt for one specified show – which will be the 3rd Show.
6. The rules committee has the authority to suspend, at any time, any member of the 4-H Horse Club for violations of the Rules and Guidelines or for lack of cooperation with the adult leaders, judges or anyone assisting with the work of the club or at any club activity. **Exhibitors/parents are not allowed to talk to judges unless 4-H Leader is present.**
7. **All 4-H members must attend a minimum of 6 practices.** To receive credit for practices that are scheduled “with horse” the member must attend this practice and participate with the horse. Practice meetings scheduled “without horse” count as long as a member is in attendance and actively participates. A member may receive an excused absence only if #8 of the General Rules and Guidelines applies.

Eligibility for District and State Shows

As per official rules *Texas State 4-H Horse Show* all horses ridden in District or State must be validated by the May 1 deadline.

Eligibility for Year-End Awards

1. Be a member in good standing and attended a minimum of **6** practices with horse.
2. Members must compete in at least 2 of the 3 closed shows for points to count towards year-end awards. **Each contestant is only eligible to win ONE point based award.**
3. Members are encouraged to participate in the 4-H Horse Club Community Service Project and 4-H Horse Club Fundraiser, which will be discussed at the first meeting. Participation will make a member more desirable for leader-selected awards.
4. Members must turn-in their 4-H Horse Club Record Book **OR** their 4-H Horse Club Participation Form by June 15th.

6. There is no limit to the number of classes a contestant can enter. **If a participant is NOT competing for the Superior Horseman Award, Reserve Superior Horseman Award or 3rd – 10th place, they may choose to ride multiple horses. But, they are required to ride the same horse, per individual event, for all three shows to accrue points towards the 3 High Point Buckle Awards in the Junior and Senior Classes. Participants are only eligible to win ONE point based award.**
7. Divisions offered for Juniors and Seniors are as follows:
- Juniors:**
- Judge Division** – Showmanship, Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Stock Horse Pleasure & Trail
- Speed Division** - Barrels, Poles & Stakes
- Roping Division** - Break Away Calf Roping, Ribbon Roping, Tie Down Calf Roping, Heading & Heeling (Leadership Approval & Passing a Riding Test is required to rope live cattle. Only live cattle will be used at the 3 Roping Shows.)
- Superior Horseman Awards – The above Divisions will be used to accrue year end points, taking the **6** highest event score totals, using no more than 3 events per Division. High Point tiebreakers will follow guidelines in the State 4-H Horse Rule Book.
 - High Point Buckles – Year end points will be accumulated from all events per Division, i.e. Judge Division, Speed Division, or Roping Division.

Seniors:

Judge Division - Showmanship, Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Stock Horse Pleasure & Trail

Speed Division - Barrels, Poles & Stakes

Roping Division – Break Away Calf Roping, Ribbon Roping, Tie Down Calf Roping, Heading & Heeling (Leadership Approval & Passing a Riding Test is required to rope live cattle. Only live cattle will be used at the 3 Roping Shows.)

- Superior Horseman Awards – The above Divisions will be used to accrue year end points, taking the **6** highest event score totals, using no more than 3 events per Division. High Point tiebreakers will follow guidelines in the State 4-H Horse Rule Book.
- High Point Buckles – Year end points will be accumulated from all events per Division, i.e. Judge Division, Speed Division, or Roping Division.

Year End Awards Program

1. Seniors Awards (Point Based)

Senior Superior Horseman Award – Saddle

*Saddle must bear the 4-H Clover and Club Name in the leather.

Reserve Superior Horseman Award – Buckle

3rd thru 10th Place Superior Horseman Awards

High Point Buckles – 1 Judged Division, 1 Speed Division, & 1 Roping Division

- A Senior Contestant is only eligible to win the Senior Superior Horseman Award two times as a Senior, on the same horse. These are the options, once that has been achieved.
 1. Change horse project (ride and compete on a different horse).
 2. Compete for the High Point Buckles only.

2. Juniors Awards (Point Based)

Junior Superior Horseman Award – Saddle

*Saddle must bear the 4-H Clover and Club Name in the leather.

Reserve Superior Horseman Award – Buckle

3rd thru 10th Place Superior Horseman Awards

High Point Buckles – 1 Judged Division, 1 Speed Division, & 1 Roping Division

- A Junior Contestant is only eligible to win the Senior Superior Horseman Award two times as a Junior, on the same horse. These are the options, once that has been achieved.
 1. Change horse project (ride and compete on a different horse).
 2. Compete for the High Point Buckles only.
 3. Or, move up to the Senior Division, with leadership approval.

3. Year End Awards – Non-Point Based (members selected by Club Adult Leaders):

- **Carol Jo Heaton Award:** Awarded to a Senior Level 4-H Horse Club Member exhibiting participation in all levels of the 4-H Horse project, including local, district, State events, judging activities, leadership, method demonstrations, etc.
- **All-Around Horseman Scholarship:** to go to a 4-Her demonstrating abilities in horsemanship and showmanship inside and outside the ring. Must be active in showing horses at other events and activities, must be helpful and active in other 4-H activities such as judging teams, meetings, shows, and social activities. This will be an application-based award that a member will apply for. The application can be received from the County Extension Office. This scholarship is awarded to graduating senior club members only.
- **Sportsmanship Award:** to a 4-H member with the best sportsmanship attitude throughout the year, helping others, and being cooperative with all. One member will be selected from the Junior/Senior Division and will receive an award at the Awards Banquet.
- **Achievement Award:** to a 4-Her showing most improvement for the year this will include meeting attendance, progress at horse practices, and progress at shows. A Junior and Senior Award will be presented at the Awards Banquet.

4. Other Year End Awards:

Judging Team Recognition

Record Book Awards – Top 3 Seniors & Top 3 Junior

Pee Wee Group Rules:

1. Pee Wee Level Participants: Kindergarten – 2nd Grade (as of September 1) With approval from the Adult Leaders based on child's ability to ride safely. Child may begin the program using leadline, during practices.
2. Must be properly enrolled at County Extension Office with all paperwork complete.
3. PARENTS AND PEE WEES WILL COME UNDER THE SAME RULES AND REGULATIONS AS STATED IN GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS.
4. Must attend a minimum of 6 practices, with horse. Pee Wees are only allowed to ride one horse, for all 4 events, at the 3 county level horse shows.
5. **One parent must be in the arena, at all times, during practices and shows.**

6. Pee Wee Show Events Include:

- Western Pleasure
- Western Horsemanship
- Barrels
- Poles

7. Pee Wee Awards (Point Based) Include:

- High Point Buckle
- Reserve High Point Buckle
- 3rd thru 10th Place Awards
- Pee Wee Contestants are only eligible to win ONE award.

Dummy Roping Rules:

Competition: Mixed boys and girls

Division: Pee Wee

Events: Calf Roping – Steer Heading

1. Contestants must be Walker County 4-H Horse Club member.
2. Contestants must attend a minimum of **6** regular Horse Club practices.
3. Dummy Ropers are subject to all by-laws of 4-H Horse Club and must be properly enrolled at the County Extension Office with all paperwork completed.
4. Contestants must furnish their own ropes.
5. Attire: Exactly like timed events. Long sleeve shirts and western hats are optional. If a western hat is worn it must be affixed in a manner to keep it from coming off the roper's head. **No caps will be allowed.**
6. Legal catches:
 - a. Calf Roping – Must be a bell collar catch
 - b. Heading – Must be a slick horn catch, neck and 1/2 head catches are acceptable.
7. Line Rules: The ropers will begin roping from a line 3 feet behind the dummy in both the calf roping and heading. Each roper will rope in rotation and rope until you miss. Once you miss you are finished, unless there is a tie for the placing. After each rotation the line will be extended by 1 foot.
8. Ropers must take at least one twirl around their head before throwing their loop. Fishing or trying to place the rope on the dummy will be counted as a miss.
9. Points will be given thru 10th place.

At the Awards Banquet the following will be presented:

Pee Wee High Point Dummy Roping Buckle

- Pee Wee Contestants are only eligible to win ONE award.
(Cannot receive both roping and riding awards.)