

# Missoula County 4-H Horse & Miniature Horse Exhibitor's Guidelines January 2012

## Introduction:

This is a guideline checklist for all 4-H horse projects and needed material. The following guidelines have been published to ensure that all 4-H horse exhibitors are aware of, and abide by, existing horse project rules. If there is any question about these guidelines, or if extenuating circumstances arise, please contact your local horse leader or the Missoula County Extension office at 406-258-4201.

## Intent:

To allow the member to gain every skill possible in all levels of "Horsemanship" and "Colt to Maturity" projects by "learning by doing". To encourage the member to assume sole responsibility for training the colt-to-maturity animal. To encourage the member to go to trainers for advice when needed, and to encourage trainers to conduct clinics for all members in a county, to further either horsemanship or training skills, and to discourage the use of trainers actually riding the project horse, except in a case where the trainer deems the safety of the member is threatened.

**General Rules:** At the Horse Show Committee's request, an exhibitor meeting may be held prior to the show.

1. Book work in Horsemanship manual levels 1-3 required for, Driving, Colt-to-Maturity, Green Horse, Horse Showing, and Packing projects.
2. Book work for Western Games and Trail Ride members: 1<sup>st</sup> year must do level 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> year must do level 2, and 3<sup>rd</sup> year must do level 3 in horsemanship manual.
3. Members must complete horse release forms and "Me and My Horse" forms. The horse release forms must be turned in to your horse leader or the Extension Office before a 4-H horse practice or event. The "Me & My Horse" forms are due in the Extension Office no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> of the 4-H year.

4. The administration of any drug affecting the central nervous system (stimulant or depressant) of a horse shown in any 4-H class is strictly prohibited.
5. The Fair judge for the Fair 4-H Horse Show must not judge more than 2 years in a row. This includes the miniature horse projects.
6. The judge and/or ringmaster will dismiss from the ring any entry that is unruly or not in sufficient control to ensure the safety of handler and other exhibitors. Riders using equipment inappropriate for 4-H, may be asked to leave the arena. Equipment checks may be made prior to showing.
7. Unsportsmanlike-like conduct, abusive language or actions, and/or abuse of any animal on the part of any 4-H exhibitor, parent, family member, or leader may result in forfeit of any award received and/or/elimination from further competition of the 4-H member or other persons involved.
8. Adults may assist members, only if necessary, in warming up, grooming, or training horses with the member present. Only 4-H members may mount or drive in hand an exhibitor's horse at the fair show.
9. Additional safety precautions to be used at any 4-H function:
  - Approved equestrian helmets are mandatory when mounted, or within a cart, buggy, or wagon.
  - Boots must be worn at all times.
  - All horses must be ridden with bridles, no halters.
  - Riding double is prohibited.
  - All horses must enter the arena in a controlled manner.
  - When riding English, you must run your irons when dismounted.
  - Horses must be walked in all areas other than specified warm-up area.
  - No horses may be ponied.
10. All colt-to-maturity and horsemanship level project animals shown by 4-H members in 4-H classes must be owned by the member or in partnership with his or her immediate family or the member must have responsibility for the project horse throughout the 4-H year. Members who borrow a horse are encouraged to develop a usage agreement with the horse owner, including a list of the members responsibilities.

11. Once a horse becomes a 4-H project animal it may not receive professional training unless the member is directly involved with the training or is receiving lessons with that horse.
12. Members may stay in a 4-H horse project level *no more than 2 years*. If the member receives a purple and the top overall project award at the Fair 4-H Horse Show, they must advance to the next level in that project.
13. No late entries allowed after the gate is closed. A gate hold may be requested, and will be granted or denied at the discretion of the Horse Show Committee.
14. Stations: **Station judging is required to complete the project. Station judging will be completed prior to the Fair, and will be judged separately, and will only be held once in show year. If cannot make scheduled station judging member must contact horse committee before fair show to do station judging.** The Fair 4-H Horse Show class placings and station judging interview scores will have a separate ribbon rating. Station judging will take place before the Fair 4-H Horse Show. Record sheets and project workbooks must be up-to-date to that point, and must be brought to station judging or the extension office prior to station judging in order for the member to be eligible to show at the Fair show.
15. Patterns: 3 acceptable patterns will be available to members and leaders of all horse projects on May 1<sup>st</sup>. It is the judges' discretion to select from these approved patterns. The patterns will be posted the morning of the Fair 4-H Horse Show when the office opens.
16. Horses with a tendency to kick must have a red or orange ribbon tied to their tail at all times.
17. A horse carried as a 4-H horsemanship project may be shown by more than one member of the immediate family in any one year providing that neither the horse nor the members compete against themselves.

18. Colt to Maturity and Green horse projects cannot cross-enter in Horsemanship I-III, English, or Western. Horsemanship I-III projects cannot cross-enter in Colt to Maturity English or Western.
19. Members enrolling in Colt to Maturity or Green Horse projects must have completed Horsemanship 1-3, be 12 years old, and be evaluated by the Missoula County 4-H Horse Committee.
20. Members are not allowed to show stallions except as yearlings.
21. Eligible 4-H members include youth at least nine (9) years old and not more than the age of nineteen (19) years during the current 4-H year.
22. For the purpose of determining eligibility for competition, the age of the horse shall be computed by the calendar year starting on January 1 of the year foaled.

### **Western Dress:**

1. For mounted Western classes, approved helmets are mandatory, and for Showmanship, felt or straw cowboy hats, or an approved helmet is required. Exhibitors shall have their hair tied back; wear a collared, long sleeved, white shirt buttoned up, dark colored western type pants, and western boots. Blunt spurs, belt, ties, and gloves are optional.
2. Chaps, vests, show coats, and loud, multi-colored shirts are not allowed except in the Horse Showing project.
3. Chaps or chinks are allowed in the Ranch Horse and Horse Showing projects.
4. Exhibitor's number must be worn on the back and be visible at all times.

## Halter Classes and Showmanship:

1. The exhibitor must be neat in appearance and be appropriately dressed in either Western or English attire. They must also show with a cowboy hat or approved helmet. **No spurs allowed on boots.**
2. All horses must be shown with a properly adjusted nylon or leather box show halter. Lead shanks with chains may be used, but the chain may not be used over the nose or under the jaw or have any contact with the horse. Whips or bridles will not be allowed. Rope halters are not allowed.
3. If a member wins novice showmanship they must move onto their appropriate age division. If a member wins Junior showmanship they must move on to Senior showmanship for the next year.
4. Showmanship is optional.

## Western Horsemanship:

1. Horses must be ridden in a properly equipped, western stock saddle **adjusted to fit the rider and the horse including stirrups.** Breast collars and back cinches are optional.
2. Silver show equipment is allowed, but will not affect ribbon rating.
3. Western headstalls come in a variety of designs and all are appropriate as long as they are properly adjusted.
4. Reins may be either split, Romal or mecate style. Roping reins may only be used in the timed events and ranch horse project.
5. Tie-downs, martingales, and draw reins are not permitted in the horsemanship classes.
6. Splint boots, bell boots, and skid boots are optional.
7. Horses four and under (4) years of age may be ridden with curb bits, snaffles, or bosals. Snaffle bits and bosals must be ridden two handed except when opening and closing gates. Curb bits must be ridden with one hand.

8. It is mandatory that horses five (5) and over be ridden in a curb bit. Curb or shank bits must be ridden one handed. Flat chain or flat leather chin straps at least 1/2 in wide are required with a curb or shank bit of any kind.
9. A standard snaffle bit is defined as a center jointed single, rounded, unwrapped smooth mouthpiece 3/8" to 3/4" diameter metal. The rings may be from 2" to 4" outside diameter of either loose type, eggbutt, Dee or center mounted without cheeks. If an optional curb strap is used it must be attached below the reins.
10. Slip or gag bits, twisted wire bits, and donut, rolls, flat polo mouthpieces and non-jointed bar type snaffle bits may not be used.
11. A braided leather or rawhide bosal may be used in place of a snaffle bit **for horses 4 years and under**. The bosal must be no thicker than 3/4" (three-quarter inch) diameter at the cheek. There must be a minimum of one finger space (approximately 3/4") between the bosal and the nose. Absolutely no metal under the jaw or on the noseband in connection with the bosal. The bosal should be properly fitted relative to the horse's size and conformation.
12. Approved mechanical hackamores may be used for timed events, on the Trail Ride and Ranch horse projects. **(Mechanical hackamores are not allowed at the state level.)**
13. A curb bit is one that may have a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical devices, and should be considered a standard Western bit. A standard Western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum overall length of 8 1/2". Shanks may be fixed or loose. The mouthpiece will consist of a smooth round metal bar 3/8" to 3/4" diameter. They may be inlaid, but shall be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs on solid mouthpieces. These bits are to be used with a **no less than 1/2"** leather or flat chain curb strap. Horses being shown in a shanked bit will be ridden with one hand. Reins must be attached to each shank. Roping bits with both reins connected to a single ring at the center of cross bar can not be used.

## English Dress:

1. English showmen will wear a long sleeved, collared, white shirt, jodhpurs or hunt pants (black, tan, white or grey), English hunt boots or Jodhpur type boots, and approved ASTM or SET hunt hat or helmet with a properly hooked harness. Stock pins, ties, **belts**, and gloves are optional. Vests and coats are not allowed except in the Horse Showing project levels I-IV. Horses must be ridden in properly equipped English tack appropriate to the class. Breast collars are optional.
2. Unrowelled spurs and crop or bat are optional.
3. **Exhibitor's number must be worn on the back and be visible at all times.**

## English Horsemanship:

1. Horses must be ridden in a properly equipped English tack appropriate to the class. Breast collars are optional.
2. For hunt seat classes, horses may be ridden in regulation snaffles, Kimberwicks, and full bridles (curb and snaffle). Cavesson nosebands are allowed.
3. In saddle seat classes horses must be shown in snaffles, Pelhams, or full bridles (curb and snaffle). Cavesson nosebands are allowed.
4. An acceptable snaffle bit will have a smooth metal, broken mouthpiece 3/8" in diameter with cheek rings no larger than 4" and no smaller than 2". From the cheek to one inch in from the cheek must be a minimum 3/8" diameter with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle.
5. German Olympic martingales or running martingales may be used in the Colt to Maturity classes when using a ring snaffle only. Martingales and tie downs may not be used in the Horsemanship classes.

**HUNTER-JUMPER PROJECT;** This is a pilot project that is being taken on by a teen member. Approved members may take this project but with the understanding it is new and must take that members lessons and clinics to complete the project. Approved hunter jumper equipment is mandatory with approved

helmets. Safety vests highly recommended. English dress same as for English horsemanship. Contact horse committee for more information.

### **Horseless Horse Project:**

This project offers you opportunities to learn about horses without having to own or lease one. You may use horses as a tool to expand your learning experiences. 4-Hers will learn how to compare horses on horse breeds, horse behavior, horse safety, parts of the horse, horse health, horse careers, and more. Materials needed are the *Giddy Up and Go* manual and the *MT 4-H Horse Safety Rules* book.

### **Horse judging and careers;**

### **Horse independent study;**

### **Mini horse independent study;**

These projects are educational projects. You must get prior approval from the Missoula 4-H Horse Committee for independent study projects. Deadline is the April meeting of the 4-H year. You must also complete an interview at the fair, make a presentation to your club or the Missoula County 4-H Horse Committee, at or prior to the fair.

# Western Bits and Bridles

## Examples of Snaffle Bits



Standard Snaffle



D-ring Snaffle



Egg-Butt Snaffle

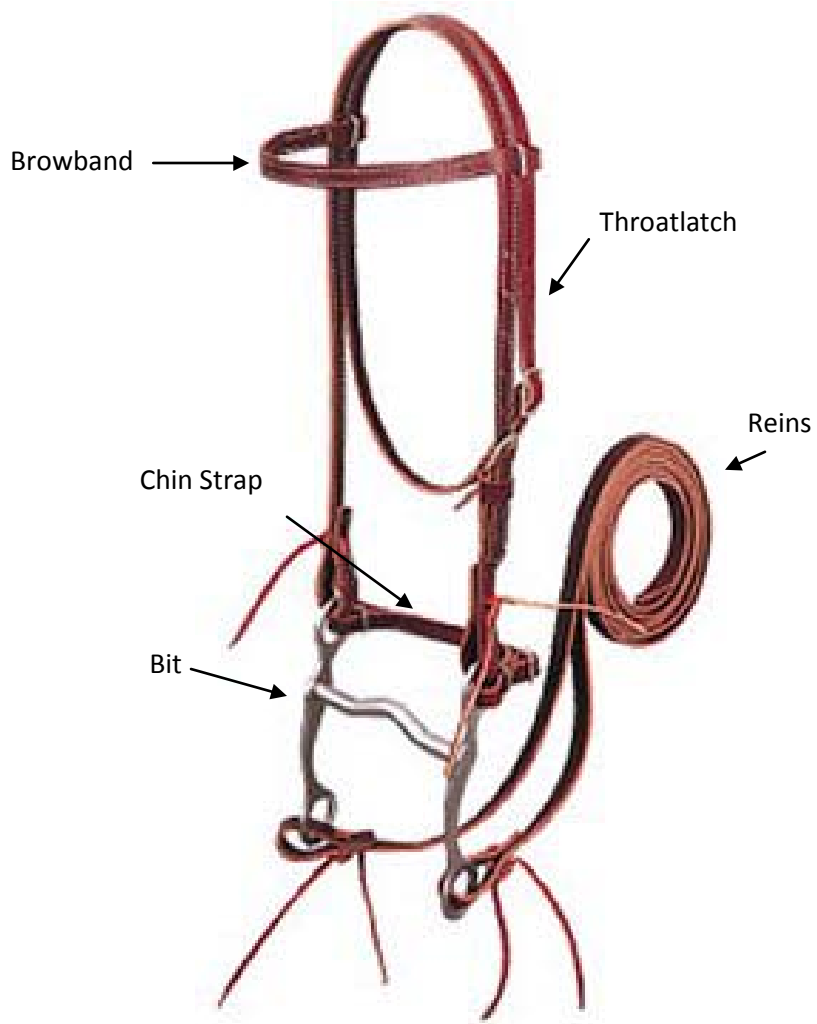
## Shanked Snaffles (Broken Mouth Curb Bit)



## Curb Bits



# Western Bridles



Decorative Headstall



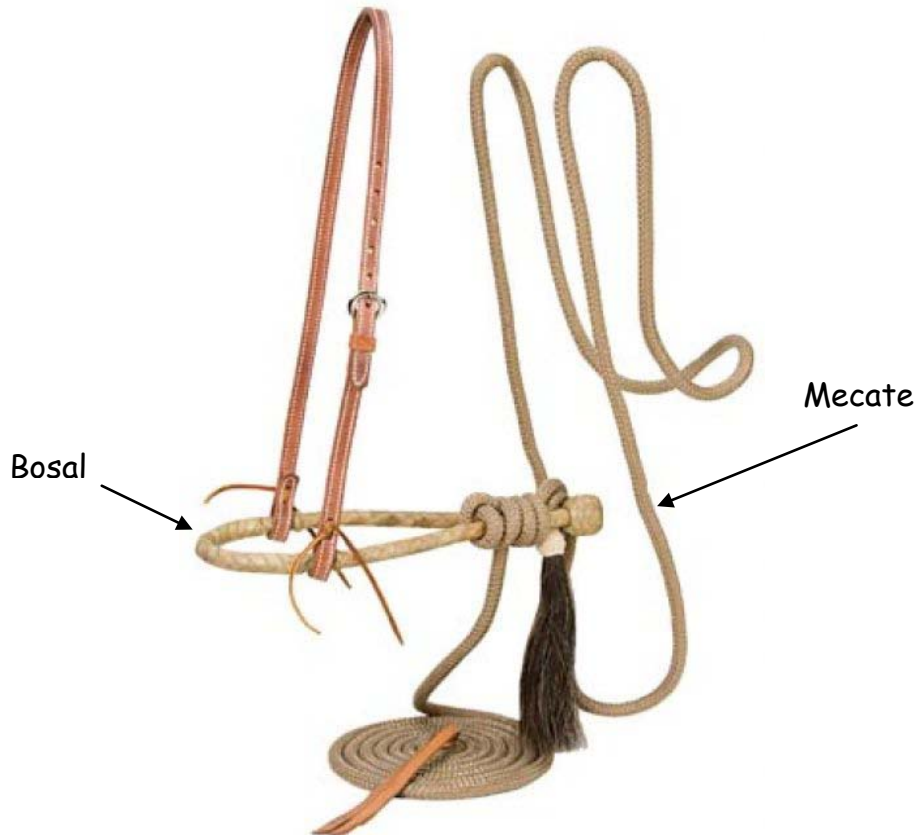
One Ear Headstall



Two Ear Headstall

## Hackamore

(may be ridden with or without a Fiadore, and may be used with a mecate or split reins)



### **Mechanical Hackamore** has shanks

which create leverage on the nose band. Noseband must be made of leather covered material only, no less than two inches wide. Preferably used with leather chin strap, if you must use chain chinstrap, it must be approved by the horse committee.

*Optional for Western Games, Ranch Horse, and Trail Ride Projects only.*

**Allowed in Missoula County, not allowed at the Montana State Horse Show.**

## English Bits

### *Snaffles*



Standard Snaffle



D-ring Snaffle



Egg-Butt Snaffle



Full Cheek Snaffle

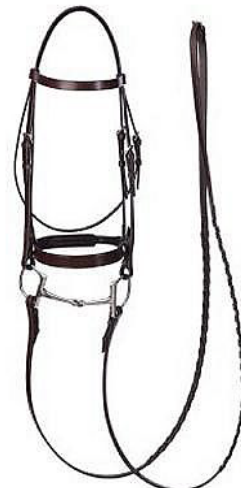
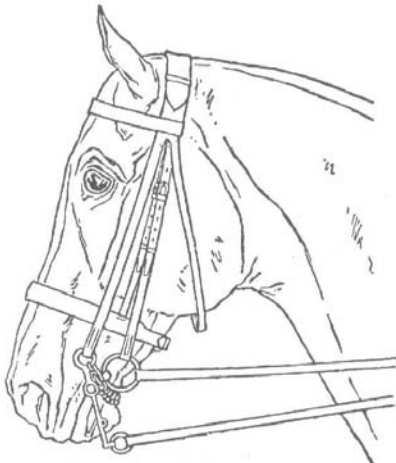
### *Kimberwicks*



### *Pelhams*



## English Bridles



## Western Games:

Missoula County will use the Western Games Project manual with the exception of the following regulations:

1. There are **three** levels in the Western Games Project: Walk/trot only, & then Junior, and Senior. There are no pre-requisites to participate at the Walk/trot level. If the member is currently enrolled in Horsemanship Levels 2 or 3, and wish to compete in junior or senior levels, they must successfully pass an evaluation of their riding skills. The evaluation will be judged by members of the Missoula County 4-H Horse Committee. **Note: to participate in Western Games at the Montana State 4-H Horse Show, a member must be enrolled in Level 4 or higher.**
2. The age levels for the Western Games Project are as follows:  
Junior - 13 & under                      Senior - 14 & over  
The age of the member is determined by their age on October 1<sup>st</sup> of the current 4-H year. Walk/trot is 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year in project regardless of age.
3. Book work for Western Games members: 1<sup>st</sup> year must do level 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> year must do level 2, and 3<sup>rd</sup> year must do level 3 in horsemanship manual.
4. Showmanship is optional. If western games participants want to compete in showmanship please do so on the Saturday of fair show. It is not counted towards the overall award.
5. There is now a judged MANDATORY pattern class. This will be done prior to the start of the games classes. Three patterns will be available on the Missoula Horse committee page no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> of the 4-H year. One of those patterns will be the pattern at the fair. **If you do not complete mandatory pattern at time judged you will not be eligible for the overall award.**
6. The administration of any drug affecting the central nervous system (stimulant or depressant) of a horse shown in any 4-H class is strictly prohibited.
7. If member wins overall highpoint in their current level, they must advance to the next level regardless of age.

8. 4-H dress is required for mounted Western Games. **Helmet, white collared, buttoned up, long sleeved Western shirt, long dark colored pants, Western boots, number visible on back are all required.** Blunt spurs **and belt** are optional.

9. Western type tack must be properly adjusted to fit the rider and the horse; including stirrups. If a rider goes off pattern or breaks gait, the rider will be disqualified. Walk/trot riders will be disqualified if they break to a lope during their pattern. See page Western Games manual for more disqualification information.

10. Only contestants, ring crew, and officials are allowed in the arena at time of competition.

11. Overall winner will be decided in each division by a combination of overall time, and points awarded from each division placing and a mandatory judged pattern. A disqualification in one game or a white ribbon in the mandatory pattern would knock you out of the overall award, unless all members disqualified in one event. For overall award a member must do all game events.

12. Each member will be awarded points in each event they do. Fastest time will earn 10 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> 8 points, 4<sup>th</sup> 7 points, 5<sup>th</sup> 6 points, 6<sup>th</sup> 5 points, 7<sup>th</sup> 4 points, 8<sup>th</sup> 3 points, 9<sup>th</sup> 2 points, 10<sup>th</sup> on down would earn 1 point. If you are disqualified you will receive 0 points.

13. Each member will be awarded points also for the mandatory judged pattern. Purple would be 10 points, Blue 7 points, red 4 points, white 0 points

14. A rider may be asked to move on at the discretion of the Ring Steward if taking too long at an obstacle.

15. In flag race there will be a 45 second time limit for junior and seniors and 60 second time limit for walk trot.

16. Number of games maybe limited at the discretion of the horse committee.

17. No part of the course or game may be used as a crop or bat. (example would be flag, pole ect...)

## Driving:

This is a project to teach 4-Hers basic horse driving skills, safety, and to train a horse to drive in a single or multiple hitch. Members will learn parts of the horse, cart, and harness.

Project Requirements:

1. Members need an adult in the cart if they are 17 & under; the adult must be a qualified driver
2. 4-Hers must wear an approved helmet at all times when seated in the cart, buggy, or wagon.
3. 4-Hers will use the Horsemanship Project book, levels I-III, and the 4-H Horse Driving manual.
4. Members must be in or have completed Horsemanship level III to take this project, or be evaluated and/or file an exception.

## **Packing: This class will be run concurrently with the mini horse classes Sunday of the fair show.**

This project develops your knowledge and skills in the art and science of using horses and mules to transport materials. This project also provides opportunities for enjoying nature in a way that is otherwise difficult to achieve. The 4-H Horse Packing Manual covers the basics of what the project members will learn. There will be expert help available at training sessions such as local veterinarians, professional packers and forest service personnel. Like with any project, success largely depends on parental commitment.

## Ranch Horse:

This project prepares you and your horse for general ranch work. Open to members nine and over enrolled in the ranch horse project. Examples would be riding up to certain objects, roping, cattle work such as sorting or moving from one pen to another. Horses in this project must be 4 years of age or older. 4-Hers will need the Ranch Horse Manual. Book work must be completed in Horsemanship manual level 1, and be evaluated at the Mandatory horse clinic. Equipment required - rope or box halter underneath bridle or tied on saddle, hackamore or legal bit with split, mecate, or roping reins, saddlebags, slicker, and lariat. Splint boots and chaps or chinks and hobbles, are optional.

## Horse Showing:

This project teaches 4-Hers to train and maintain horses for showing. The manuals needed are the 4-H Showing Horse manual and Proper Showing Procedure and Etiquette. Horse showing can be a wonderful learning experience, and opens up a lot of other possibilities in the horse world. Book work must be completed in Horsemanship manual levels 1-3, and be evaluated at the Mandatory horse clinic. This project is open to large and miniature horses.

## **Arena Trail Class: This is a class at the fair show not a project.**

1. This class is held during the regular show and is not the same as the Trail Ride project.
2. This class can be entered by the age the contestant is at the start of the 4-H year.
3. The classes are 9-11, 12-14, 15-18 and yearling horse.
4. Trail class will be judged by a separate judge and separately from the other classes, and needs to be completed on the day it is specified.
5. There will be separate courses for each trail class.
6. Class will be judged on the performance of the horse and rider maneuvering the obstacles.
7. Horse should work with a reasonable loose rein without undue restraint.
8. Six or more obstacles will be used of which three will be mandatory and others selected from an approved list.
9. The distance between Obstacles shall be at the discretion of the judge.

## **Arena Trail Mandatory Obstacles:**

1. **Opening, passing through, and closing gate.** A rider losing control of gate will be penalized. A gate will be used which will not endanger horse or rider. If the gate has a metal or plastic or wooden support bar under the opening, contestants must work the gate moving forward through it.
2. **Ride over at least four logs or poles.** These may be a straight line, curved, zigzag or raised. The space between the logs is to be measured and the path the horse is to take should be the measuring point. Trot-overs and lope-overs cannot be elevated in the novice classes. All elevated elements must be placed in a cup, notched blocks or otherwise secured so they cannot roll. The height

should be measured from the ground to the top of the element. Spacing for the walkovers, trot-overs and lope-overs should be as follows or increments thereof:

- A. The spacing for walkovers should be 20" to 24" (40cm to 60cm) and may be elevated to 12" (30 cm). Elevated walkovers should be set at least 22" (55cm) apart.
  - B. The spacing for trot overs shall be 3' to 3'6" (90cm-105cm) and may be elevated to 8" (20 cm).
  - C. The spacing for lope overs shall be 6' to 7' (1.8-2.1 meters) or increments thereof, and may be elevated to 8" (20 cm).
3. **Back obstacle.** Backing obstacles to be spaced a minimum of 28" (70 cm), If elevated 30" (75cm) spacing is required. Entrants cannot be asked to back over a stationary object such as a wooden pole or metal bar.
- A. Back through and around at least three (3) markers.
  - B. Back through L, V, U, straight or similar shaped course. May be elevated no more than 24" (60 cm).
  - C. Barrels, cones and poles are acceptable material for back throughs.

### **Arena Trail Optional Obstacles, but not limited to:**

1. Mount or dismount. A mounting block may be used if available, for kids who need assistance in mounting or may receive help from a qualified adult.
2. Water hazard (ditch or small pond), or acceptable water box, No metal or slick-bottom boxes will be used.
3. Serpentine obstacles or patterns at walk, jog or lope.
4. Carry an object from one part of the arena to another.
5. Ride over a secure, sturdy, safe bridge at a walk only.
6. Put on and remove a slicker.
7. Remove and/or replace material from a mailbox.
8. Side pass (may be elevated to 12" (30 cm) maximum).
9. An obstacle consisting of four logs or rails, each 5 to 7 feet long (1.5 to 2 meters) long, laid in a square. Each contestant will enter the square by riding over the log or rail as designated. When all four feet are inside the square, the rider will execute a turn and depart.
10. Any other safe and negotiable obstacle, which could reasonably be expected to be encountered on a trail ride and meets the approval of the judge, may be used.

11. A combination of two or more of any obstacles is acceptable.

### Arena Trail Unacceptable Obstacles:

Tires	Jumps	Flames
Dry Ice	Fire Extinguishers	Animals
Ground Ties	Rocking or Moving Bridges	
Water box- with floating or moving parts		
Logs or poles- elevated in a manner permitting them to roll and not secured by a cup, or notched block.		

### Arena Trail Yearling At Hand:

#### Required abilities:

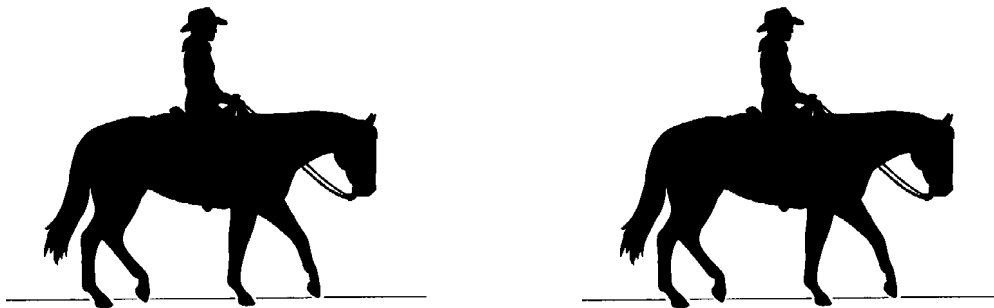
1. This class will be judged on the performance of the yearling horse at halter, in maneuvering the obstacles.
2. A trail course to be set may include: 4 trot-overs, bridge, gate, mailbox, and back through.
3. Trot-over poles will not be raised.

#### Criteria:

Conditioning and conformation	20%
Handling / Course Completion	80%

### Trail Ride

All riders are required to wear helmets



First year Trail Ride members must be evaluated at the Mandatory Horse Clinic. Use Montana Horsemanship Project Manuals & 4-H Packing Manual as references regarding equipment, feeding, health, and safety.

**TRAIL RIDE** is designed for members who want to enroll in a 4-H horse project but are not necessarily interested in show competition. The horse does not need to be owned by the member. The horse used in this project may be used in another project, and should be at least four years old.

**TRAIL RIDE** is to include two rides with two or more people (not necessarily 4-H members) for a minimum of 5 miles each. Members are to include a recording of **location**, terrain, obstacles encountered, and how they were overcome, etc. The member should learn about the training and conditioning of a Trail horse as well. **In order to receive a ribbon rating or be eligible for other Trail Ride project awards, the rider must complete both required rides before the Fair Horse show. One ride must be completed prior to the judged trail ride (or approved alternative.) The 2<sup>nd</sup> trail ride can be the Judged trail ride (or approved alternative.)** **Book work** for Trail Ride members: 1<sup>st</sup> year must do level 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> year must do level 2, and 3<sup>rd</sup> year must do level 3 in horsemanship manual. **An assessment sheet must be turned in with as many completed assessments done to date, and signed by a competent parent or leader.**

**A judge or 4-H leader may ask a member to remove their horse from this event if the horse is deemed out of control or unsafe.**

**Horses with tendency to kick need a red or orange ribbon in their tail.**

#### **A. Type of Horse (Trail Ride)**

1. Gentle 4 year old or older saddle horse of a size and type suited to the member.
2. Stallions cannot be used.

#### **B. Equipment (Trail)**

1. Entries will be ridden in either English or Western saddle. Blunt spurs are permitted, but not required.
2. Adequate padding is required under saddle. Horse should be clean, in good condition, and have well-maintained hooves.
3. Head gear allowed.
  - a. Curb bit, bosal type hackamore, approved mechanical hackamore, snaffle and full bridle will be allowed

- b. Twisted wire, gag and spade bits will not be allowed. Any bit exceptions should be brought up at the Mandatory Horse Clinic because of safety issues.
  - c. Halter with a 12 foot, at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick lead rope, in good condition, is required to be worn or tied to the saddle. If the halter is worn and the connected lead is secured to the saddle, a breakaway link must be used for safety.
  - d. Either a leather curb strap or flat metal curb chain is mandatory on shank bits and mechanical hackamores.
  - e. Tie-downs, martingales, draw reins are not allowed. Crops are allowed.
4. All equipment should be clean and in good repair. Special attention should be given latigos, cinches, stirrup leathers, and all bridle parts.
  5. All equipment should be properly fitted to the horse and rider.
  6. Riders should carry a hoof pick and knife adequate to cut a rope if necessary.
  7. Members must wear a long sleeve shirt, must wear clean jeans, boots and helmet. Rain gear *must* be carried or worn.
  8. Optional: Chaps (working - not "show" chaps) will protect legs, shed water, and provide warmth. Also included as optional are blunt spurs, gloves, saddlebags, breast collar, crupper, bell boots and splint boots.

### C. Working (Trail Ride)

1. Members must ride through an obstacle course on a planned Trail Ride.
2. Member must turn in an assessment sheet with as many completed assessments done to date, and signed by a competent parent or leader.
3. Member is judged on the horse's manner and ability, and his ability to aid his horse through the obstacles.
4. Ribbons are awarded on the Danish system.
5. Forest Service rules must be observed and obeyed.

### D. Faults of Horse and Rider

1. Bouncing in saddle.
2. Heavy handedness.
3. Jerking horses head.
4. Excessive spurring.
5. Toe is often lower than heel.
6. Following too close to horse in front of you.
7. Failure to properly execute any of the required movements.

8. Not sitting in saddle correctly.

#### **E. Trail Courtesy to be Observed**

1. Wait for person at obstacle or when requested by another.
2. Do not allow branches to snap back at other riders, etc.
3. Warn other riders behind you of danger on the Trail (wire, holes, etc.).
4. Do not ride too close to the horse in front of you, or lag too far behind.
5. If you must adjust equipment, take a photo, water your horse, etc., ride out of the line, so you do not hold up the ride.
6. When passing another rider, wait for a safe place and let others know what you intend to do. You may trot or walk by quietly and courteously.
7. No galloping in group.
8. Do not cut across switchbacks.
9. Be courteous to other trail users.

#### **F. Obstacles Which May Be Included for Judging**

The type of obstacles and degree of difficulty will differ with the level of horsemanship in which the member is enrolled.

1. All members may be required to do the following:
  - go between two trees with low branches
  - ride through heavy timber
  - pass through a camp site
  - ride single file in a group
  - follow trail markers
  - pass a motorcycle or mountain bike
  - pass another animal (llama, mule, donkey, etc.)
  - pass a horse or hiker with packs
  - cross a bridge
  - cross a creek
  - go through fallen logs
  - go over high logs
  - go through brush
  - open & close a gate while dismounted
  - lead horse from ground
  - mount and dismount correctly
  - ride along road
  - tie horse correctly
  - climb hill

- descend hill
  - cross a very rocky area
2. **Members in Horsemanship II and higher may be asked to do the following:**
- mount & dismount from either side of horse. The side you use will depend upon the terrain. You should use the uphill side to dismount in steep country, **depending on the footing. If it is slippery, it may be safer to dismount on the downhill side.**
  - tie a trail marker
  - climb a steep hill or bank
  - descend a steep hill or bank
  - open & close a gate while mounted
  - lead another horse while mounted
  - back your horse out of a tight spot
  - lead your horse on a narrow trail

## Miniature Horse Project

### Intent:

The Missoula County 4-H Horse Committee is offering a Miniature Horse Project that continues to be updated as needed. We want to fulfill the needs of all 4-H members who wish to take the Mini Horse Project. The Missoula County 4-H Horse Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm for anyone who wants to attend. Both youth and adults are welcome. For more information please contact the Missoula County Extension Office at 258-4201, or the Missoula County 4-H Horse Committee at 240-3450.

### Definition of a Miniature Horse:

Miniature horses or donkeys are 40 inches and under.

**\*Note to exhibitors:** Missoula county 4-H mini horse project allows exhibitors to show horses and ponies up to 40 inches in any of the project areas. No preference is given for conformation and size as long as the horse is able to safely complete project components.

**Equipment:** Miniature Horse Project members must use tack appropriate for the project. Western box-style halters are required for showmanship. Whips are optional in jumping only. No rope or Arabian type halters allowed. Chains on leads permitted but must not be touching the horse.

### Miniature Horse Project General Rules

1. Eligible 4-H members include youth at least nine (9) years old and not more than age 19 years during the current 4-H year.
2. May 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to drop/add a horse project.
3. Miniature horses may be owned or leased.
4. The miniature horse is not required to be registered.
5. Members are not allowed to show stallions except as yearlings.
6. All 1<sup>st</sup> year members are required to attend the Mandatory Spring Horse Clinic in May.

7. All kicking horses must be marked with a red ribbon on their tail at all times.
8. Unruly horses will be asked to leave the area at the time of the incident, and will be disqualified from the event.
9. Parents may assist members outside the arena if needed, but are not allowed inside the arena unless **as a passenger in cart for driving**.
10. 4-H members must be in control of their horses at all times.
11. Members must complete horse release forms and "Me and My Horse" forms. The horse release forms must be turned in to your horse leader or the Extension Office before a 4-H horse practice or event. The "Me & My Horse" forms are due in the Extension Office no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> of the 4-H year.
12. Members must complete approved station questions before the Fair. Date to be announced. Books must be turned in at this time and be up-to-date date.
13. Members and leaders must comply with all 4-H and Missoula County 4-H Horse Committee deadlines unless approved extensions apply.
14. **All general rules from Missoula County Horse Exhibitors' Guidelines apply. Please pay close attention to rules (#1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14).**
15. The Grievance Committee for Miniature Horse issues consists of the Missoula County 4-H Horse Committee/Grievance Subcommittee.
16. Independent Study Miniature Horse projects must be approved by the Missoula County 4-H Horse Committee and the member must attend the Mandatory Spring Clinic.
17. Members need an adult in the cart if they are 17 and under; the adult must be a qualified driver.  
Intent: The 4-H driver should be in control of his/her horse and cart at all times. The adult passenger is only in the cart as a safety measure. In the show ring the rider is not allowed to provide any coaching or directions. If the adult passenger must intervene, physically or verbally, to ensure safety, the 4-H driver may be discounted or disqualified. If a 4-H driver is unable to safely

handle or warm up his/her horse outside the ring they may be deemed unable to show at the show committee's discretion.

18. Please see all other driving general rules.

## Miniature Horse Showmanship

1. Novice: 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> year in project.
2. Junior: age 13 and under
3. Senior: those who do not qualify for novice or junior showmanship are eligible for senior showmanship.

Miniature horses are shown using the  $\frac{1}{2}$  (half) system, please see project book for more information.

## Miniature Horsemanship Project

### Intent:

Miniature horsemanship project levels are intended to give members experience in handling, training and showing miniature horses. Members who wish to explore other mini horse projects must have completed or are enrolled in the corresponding horsemanship level.

### Materials Needed:

This project uses the Missoula County 4-H Miniature Horsemanship Workbook & Horsemanship manual, the 4-H Horse Safety Guidelines, and the Missoula County 4-H Horse & Miniature Horse Exhibitor's Guidelines, and Miniature Horse revised project manuals.

## Rules Specific to Miniature Horsemanship Project

1. See Miniature Horse Project General Rules.
2. Members must choose one lot for each project enrolled in. Members may use a different horse for each project, but it is not required to use two or more horses. But horses must be declared project horses and have a Me and My Horse form on file with the extension office by the deadline. A horse used in showmanship must be entered in another project class.

3. The 4-H dress code for the Miniature Horsemanship project will be enforced at all 4-H shows and consists of long sleeved, white collared shirt, dark colored western type pants, boots or sturdy closed-toe shoes that will be worn at all times. Cowboy hats or helmets are mandatory for showmanship. Helmets must be worn when ground driving or driving a cart. Head gear is optional for jumping and obstacle. Belt, gloves, tie are optional. Hair should not cover showman's number.
4. If a member wins novice they must move onto the appropriate age division. If member wins junior showmanship they must move onto senior showmanship for the next year.
5. For specific project rules, see revised miniature horse project book.

### **Optional Miniature Horse References**

1. Miniature Horses Their Care Breeding and Coat Colors  
Miniature Horses - A Veterinary guide for Owners and Breeders  
Rebecca L. Franken, VMD
2. Breed Journals:  
The Journal of the American Shetland Pony club and the American Miniature Horse Registry
3. Breed Associations and Registries:  
American Miniature Horse Association (AMHR)  
81B E. Queenwood, Morton, IL 61550  
(309) 263-4044  
<http://www.shetlandminiature.com>

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