

2023 Virginia State Championship Horse and Pony Show

Rulebook and Schedule Changes

1. State Show entry deadline is July 17.
2. 2023 Primary Division Entry fee per horse/rider - \$225 includes a stall for Thursday – Sunday.
3. 2023 Tack Stall fee - \$75 (Thurs, 9am – Sun). No free tack stalls for Units.
4. 2023 Wednesday horse stall - \$25
5. 2023 Wednesday tack stall - \$25
6. Horsemanship Skills Level 1 and 2 Tests have been updated – visit <https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/horse/events/horsemanship-skills.html> for updated forms and the FAQs.
7. Sharing horses – no more than **two 4-H members may share** a horse/pony at the State Show.
The rule will now read
 - Two members may show one animal but this animal must be their 4-H horse project, and may be shown only one time in each class for which it is eligible. Both members must qualify animal at a qualifying show and abide by all other qualification rules. Each individual exhibitor will pay the entry fee and jointly will be assigned one stall for the animal. Animals must be declared in 4honline by members using this animal by the July 1 deadline.
8. New “Horse Show Declaration” Deadline – July 1. All horses showing at the State Horse Show must be declared in 4honline and approved by their respective Extension Agent / Staff.
9. **Outside Qualifying Show Exceptions.** Allowances have been made per the following:
 - Eligibility:
 - i. Any qualified 4-H member with declared project animal
 - ii. Class shown must be at the equivalent or higher level division that they plan on competing in at the state show.
 - Exhibitor Responsibilities:
 - i. Submit Qualifying request to District Horse Council prior to show.
 - ii. Receive approval from District Horse Council.
 - iii. Submit completed Qualifying form and fee to Horse Council
 - iv. Upload Qualifying Form to their 4honline account
 - District Horse Council Responsibilities:
 - i. Establish a Qualifying fee and deadlines for exhibitors
 - ii. Generate a list of acceptable Outside Qualifying Shows
 - iii. Designate a contact for approvals and approve show requests
 - iv. Submit list of qualified riders/shows to the state office
10. Trail classes for walk/jog/trot will be added. Riders must still submit a [Trail Qualifying form](#).
11. Walk/Jog/Trot is now its own division and Championship awards will be available if donations are provided. The one-year rule has been eliminated. Championship includes walk/jog/trot trail, horsemanship/equitation, 1st and 2nd go pleasure, and showmanship. There are no Classic classes for walk/jog/trot.
12. A Combined Test Championship for Junior and Senior will be offered, combining one specified/designated dressage test and the Jumper class. A perpetual trophy and keepers will be provided if donated.
13. Drill Team – no District limit to teams participating and teams can be comprised of mixed Units.

14. The Substitution Deadline has been removed. Show management will have the discretion and final say at the show upon inquiries. Rule now reads:
 - The animal shown at the qualifying show or clinic must be the one shown at state. After entries are submitted, exhibitors may substitute one qualified horse for another horse they declared by the July 1 deadline which must have also met all other qualification criteria. The agent must verify the reason for substitution and the request must be accompanied by a \$50.00 cashier's check or money order only, to make the change. Show management will have discretion at the show to have the final say.
15. Cloverbud Camp has been discontinued.
16. The miniature division and saddleseat/gaited divisions have updated rules. See the rulebook for clarification. (attaching rules to this document separated from rulebook until rulebook is completed)
17. An unjudged California warmup is offered for a \$25 fee, for the Hunter Over Fences division only.
18. Miscellaneous classes are now a separate entry fees (\$25/class). Miscellaneous classes are:
 - Driving/reinsmanship
 - Side saddle
 - Jumpers ([must prequalify with form every year](#))
 - Western Dressage
 - Freestyle Reining
 - California warmup (for hunter over fences; not equitation)
 - Combined Test
19. Cross Division entries are allowed per 2022 rule below.
20. Trail classes are part of the division fee – no extra fee. ([must prequalify pair with form if not shown at state in previous years](#))
21. No show program fee. One per exhibitor will be provided.
22. Scratch deadline for refunds is August 24 for Primary Division entry fees only.

Summary of Rulebook Changes continued – 2022

1. New enrollment deadline February 1: Members wishing to show at the State 4-H Show must be enrolled by Feb. 1 of the show year. Check with your Extension agent to verify.
2. All competitors will identify their Primary Division within the entry system.
3. Cross division class entries **Must be pre-entry only. No adds allowed at the show. No refunds at any point. No exchanging fee for another class.**
 - a. Gymkhana and Dressage entries will be limited by priority in this order:
 1. Primary Division entries
 2. A cap of balanced entries per class based on time available to add entries.
 3. If there are more entries than time available, older riders will be given priority, balanced over junior and senior classes.
 - b. Classes will not be held for any reason or the order of classes changed to accommodate any rider. We cannot advise or predict when or how long a class will run by the tentative schedule. Note that opening for cross entries will add time to the schedule.
 - c. Class lists will be available at the time of the program printing in August.
4. There is no charge for classes dropped and no fee for Classic entries. Changes of primary division can be made at the show if necessary however it is encouraged to call the show secretary well

before the show. Division manager can request division changes if necessary.

5. Horsemanship Skills: All Virginia enrolled Junior and Senior 4-H Members must take and pass Levels 1 and 2 once to show at the State Show. A change of horse does not require passing Level 1 and 2 again, once the 4-H member has passed Level 1 and 2 on any project animal. Riders that have previously shown at the State Show do not have to re-test. [Read the FAQs for more detailed information.](#)

Please note that not all arenas will be open (unlocked) due to the change in pricing structure with rings paid on per day and ring use. Schooling rings will be identified.

Summary of Rulebook Changes – 2021

1. Juniors may bring two horses as long as they are not in their first year showing at the State Show. This rule excludes walk/trot riders.
2. Freestyle Reining is now a miscellaneous class.
3. Drill Team: There will be a class fee per team.
4. Senior Stampede entries will be due with entry forms.
5. Per Virginia Horse Center contract rules, golf cart drivers must be licensed drivers, at least 18 years of age.

Summary of Rulebook Changes - 2020

1. If you wish to compete in a showmanship or equitation class, you must choose from the primary division of the riding classes that you are entered in. However, if your division does not offer a showmanship or equitation class (example: gymkhana) or you have a second horse, you may choose any of the showmanship or equitation classes.
 - a. Example #1 if you are competing in the Hunter Pleasure or Hunter riding classes, you may only choose to compete in Hunter Showmanship and a Hunter Equitation. You may not compete in Dressage Showmanship or Dressage Equitation.
 - b. Example #2 if you are competing in the Dressage riding classes, you may only choose to compete in Dressage Showmanship and Dressage Equitation. You may not choose to do Hunter Showmanship or Hunter Equitation.
2. Bridles are required for Hunter and Dressage Showmanship
3. Equitation Over Fences Height Change – choice will be made **at the arena** with the division managers. Order of Go to be assigned with division managers **at the arena** once choice is made.
 - a. Classes 21 and 22 – option to Jump 2’9” or 3’
 - b. Class 23 – option to jump 2’6” or 2’9”
4. Driving Reinsmanship will now have a pattern and will be posted.
5. Miniature height will increase to 40” but these minis cannot be ridden.
6. Miniature showmanship will be removed out of division points and a Versatility Class is added.
7. Trail/Jumper Pre-Qualifying Form

Trail: If a **horse/rider combination** participated in a trail class at the State Show, they do not need to pre-qualify again.

Jumper: **Every year**, horse/rider combinations **must still pre-qualify for the State Show.**

I. MINIATURE HORSE (40" and under)

Miniature horses are to be shown in proper tack and attired: this can be Western, English or Hunter. Approved ASTM safety headgear (fastened) is required for all classes. Soundness is required. Conformation is not considered. Classes judged on manners, suitability, performance and way of going. These rules are combination of several miniature horse associations and 4-H rules.

Horses must be not less than two (2) years of age for obstacle, hunter and versatility classes. Horses under two (2) years of age can do Miniature Showmanship. Miniature horses cannot be ridden in other classes.

Champion & Reserve Champion Division Awards

Champion & Reserve for minis will be awarded in both the Junior and Senior divisions. The mini showmanship class will have perpetual trophies for the winning Junior and Senior but will not be included in the division points.

The classes that determine the Division Champion and Reserve are **obstacle, hunter and versatility classes**.

Championships determined by points earned in four classes: 1st place – 10 points; 2nd – 9 points; 3rd – 8 points; 4th – 7 points; 5th – 6 points; 6th – 5 points; 7th – 4 points; 8th – 3 points; 9th – 2 points; 10th – 1 point.

- **Mini Senior Division Champion:** to include points from all classes except driving. Awarded after all Miniature Classes are completed, on Saturday after Class 135. Sponsored by DBR Creations.
- **Mini Senior Reserve Division Champion:** to include points from all classes except driving. Awarded after all Miniature Classes are completed, on Saturday after Class 135. Sponsored by DBR Creations.
- **Mini Junior Division Champion:** to include points from all classes except driving. Awarded after all Miniature Classes are completed, on Saturday after Class 135. Sponsored by Dowdy's Well and Septic Service, Inc.
- **Mini Junior Reserve Division Champion:** to include points from all classes except driving. Awarded after all Miniature Classes are completed, on Saturday after Class 135. Sponsored by Dowdy's Well and Septic Service.

Miniature Hunter

Hunters: Hunters are not scored mathematically by faults nor by time. Hunters are judged on style and form over fences, manners, way of going and pace in that order. Judge must penalize unsafe jumping (i.e. charging, refusals) and poor form over fences. Circling once upon entering the ring and once upon leaving the ring is permissible.

The following faults are minor faults and are scored by the judges based on severity: light touches against an obstacle, hesitation before jumping (not a refusal), excessively slow or fast pace, changes of gait for 1–2 strides, kicking, spooking or shying.

The following faults are major faults: circling while on course, knockdown of any part of an obstacle, and refusals. Horses with major faults are not to be placed above horses with clean rounds or minor faults only. Causes for Elimination in Hunter Classes • Three (3) refusals • Off Course • Fall of horse or exhibitor • Jumping of obstacle by exhibitor • Carrying a whip

All jumps will be set based on the course provided, jumps will be set a minimum of 20 feet apart. Jumps will be set at a height no great than 24" at the discretion of the judge and management based on ring conditions. Exhibitors will be allowed to wear tennis shoes in this class due to footing in the ring for safety reasons.

<u>Class No</u>	<u>DIVISION I2</u>
165	Junior Miniature Hunter
166	Senior Miniature Hunter

Miniature Obstacle

The obstacle class will require horses to navigate through 5-8 obstacles. It can include backing, jumping and walking over tarps, etc.

Any type of halter can be used, either leather or nylon.

Class to be judged on performance and way of going with emphasis on manners throughout course. Entries will be evaluated on responsiveness and willingness, plus general attitude.

The handler can use two (2) hands to help the horse negotiate an obstacle, but would not receive as much credit as a handler that only used one (1) hand. No disqualification for use of two (2) hands.

Maximum time 60 seconds per obstacle, judges are encouraged to advance on to the next obstacle any horse taking excessive time at an obstacle. Horses to be penalized for any unnecessary delay or excessive time at an object. Refusals do not constitute class disqualifications.

Horses will be required to walk and or trot

The following will result in the exhibitor being excused from the course and disqualified from the class:

Carrying a whip or crop

Handler physically moving or coercing the pony/ horse by touching.

Refusals of three (3) obstacles

Parents or attendants interfering with the performance of the individual or equine.

Off course or horse leaving the obstacle course. Off course is defined as: Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction, Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side, Skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge, Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence, Off pattern.

Obstacle requirements:

- Must be a minimum of five (5) obstacles and a maximum of eight (8).

- Care must be used to avoid setting any obstacle in a way so as to be hazardous to the horse or exhibitor.
- Tires and stair steps are prohibited.
- Jumps, if used, must be a maximum of twelve (12) inches high and minimum length of five (5) feet.
- Jumps must use ground poles.

Obstacle Guidelines:

The course designer will be readily available to answer questions regarding the course and be available for a walk through the course with exhibitors as well as the judge.

Judge shall walk course with designer and exhibitors. Judge has the right to alter the course for time and/or safety.

Ingenuity and originality in adapting and combining various obstacles both to demonstrate a horse's willingness and ability to please exhibitors and audience are encouraged. However, unnatural or "horror" obstacles should be avoided and all obstacles should be safe for exhibitors as well as horses. J

Obstacles may range from backing up, jumps, bridges, 360 degree box, side passing, use of hula hoop, serpentine, umbrellas, or any other obstacles the course designer deems appropriate.

<u>Class No</u>	<u>DIVISION I3</u>
197	Junior Miniature Obstacle
198	Senior Miniature Obstacle

Versatility Class:

Versatility class will consist of jumps and obstacle. It can include any of above obstacles and jumps. Will be judged the same as hunter and obstacle.

<u>Class No</u>	<u>DIVISION I4</u>
225	Junior Miniature Versatility
226	Senior Miniature Versatility

****MOVING TO MISCELLANEOUS DIVISION** Miniature Driving** will be shown in an easy entry or a pleasure cart. Horses will be shown at the walk, collected trot and the working trot, going in both directions of the ring. May also be asked to back and perform other tasks as asked by the judge. Horse will be judged on the way of going, manners, and presence. Conformation WILL NOT BE JUDGED. Handler to be judged on attire, tack should be clean, cart should be in good repair, and horse should be well groomed. Proper attire includes: long-sleeve shirt or blouse, show pants, driving skirt,

dress, driving apron, gloves, boots, and safety helmet. Driving whip optional. Drivers should follow their breed rules regarding the use of side or over checks.

Class No. **DIVISION I1**

155 Junior Miniature Driving

159 Senior Miniature Driving

220 **Mini Driving Classic** – Top 5 entries in classes 102, 104, 155, and 159 will be eligible to show in the Classic. Entries will be made at the Show at no additional cost.

DIVISION E1, E2 - ENGLISH PLEASURE HORSE & PONY

Horse and ponies must be shown in proper English tack and attire according to the current USEF rule book. Academy riders are permitted to follow Academy attire rules of the following: dark pants, long sleeve shirt with collar, tie, gloves, vest (sweater permissible in very cold weather). Riding suits and jackets, chaps, western hats, and roweled spurs are prohibited for Academy riders. Academy attire will not be discredited against full attire. Martingales are prohibited.

Entries shall be plain shod as for trail and pleasure riding, ¼" pad permitted. Pads should not exceed ¼" anywhere measured and no extra lead is allowed.

The judge will call for the walk, trot, and canter both directions of the ring. Horses and Ponies need to stand quietly and back readily. English Pleasure Horses and Ponies should give the distinct impression of being a pleasure to ride with easy, ground-covering action desired. Whips/Crops are optional.

Class No.

91 English Pleasure, Junior and Senior Rider

2nd Go:

98 English Pleasure, Junior and Senior Rider

214 ENGLISH PLEASURE HORSE AND PONY CLASSIC – Top Seven Highest Riders First & Second Go Combined Score. Judged the same as Class 91. Entries are made at the show at no additional charge.

DIVISION A6 - SADDLE SEAT EQUITATION

Horse and ponies must be shown in proper English tack and attire according to the current USEF rule book. Academy riders are permitted to follow Academy attire rules of the following: dark pants, long sleeve shirt with collar, tie, gloves, vest (sweater permissible in very cold weather). Riding suits and jackets, chaps, western hats, and roweled spurs are prohibited for Academy riders. Academy attire will not be discredited against full attire. Martingales are prohibited.

Entries shall be plain shod as for trail and pleasure riding, ¼" pad permitted. Pads should not exceed ¼" anywhere measured and no extra lead is allowed.

1. **Class Routine:** Test will be individually administered first, followed by rail work as a group. At the judge's discretion, further tests may be verbally given by the judge on the rail. During the rail work portion of the class, horses will be asked to perform a walk, trot, and canter in order to check maneuverability, ring etiquette, and sportsmanship.
2. **Possible tests on the rail** include, but are not limited to, the following: Addressing the reins, backing on the rail, riding without stirrups, dropping and picking up stirrups either in motion or stopped, perform figure eights, serpentines, or circles of various size and speed.
3. **Suggested Scoring:** Scoring may be on a basis on 0-100 with 1/2 point increments acceptable, an approximate breakdown follows:

90-100: Excellent equitation including body position and use of aids. Pattern is performed promptly, precisely and smoothly.

80-89: Generally excellent performance with one minor fault in appearance and position of exhibitor or execution of pattern.

70-79: Generally good pattern execution and equitation with one minor fault in precision or execution of pattern (performance), or appearance and position of exhibitor.

60-69: Average pattern that lacks quickness or precision, or rider has obvious equitation flaws that prevent effective equitation, or commits two or three minor faults in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor.

50-59: One major fault or several minor faults in the performance and/or appearance and position of exhibitor that precludes effective communication with the horses.

40-49: Two major faults or many minor faults in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor.

30-39: Several major faults or one severe fault in the performance, or appearance and position of exhibitor. Exhibitor demonstrates a complete lack of riding ability or commits a severe fault in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor.

20-29: Exhibitor commits one or more severe faults in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor, but does complete the class and avoids disqualification.

SEAT: The required Equitation Seat should in no way be exaggerated but be thoroughly efficient and most comfortable for riding the type of horse called for at any gait and for any length of time. In

Saddle Seat Equitation classes, riders should convey the impression of effective and easy control. To show a horse well, they should show themselves to the best advantage. Ring generalship must be taken into consideration by the judges. A complete picture of the whole is of major importance.

HANDS. Hands should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle and should show sympathy, adaptability and control. The height the hands are held above the horse's withers is a matter of how and where the horse carries its head. The method of holding the reins is optional however both hands must be used and all reins must be picked up at one time. Bight of rein shall be on the off (right) side. According to tradition, the "on side" is the side on which you mount and therefore, the "off side" is the opposite side. Riders shall be penalized for switching or carrying at any time the bight of the rein to the ("on" side) left side.

BASIC POSITION. To obtain proper position, rider should place themselves comfortably in the saddle and find their center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knees but without use of irons. While in this position adjust leathers to fit. The rider should not be sliding off the back of the saddle nor should there be excessive space in the seat behind the rider's back. Irons should be placed under ball of foot (not toe nor "home") with even pressure on entire width of sole and center of iron. Foot position should be natural (neither extremely in nor out) with heels down.

POSITION IN MOTION. a. Walk: slight motion in saddle. b. Trot: slight elevation in saddle when posting; hips under body not mechanical up-and-down nor swinging forward and backward. c. Canter: close seat, going with horse, not rocking. d. Slow Gait: steady in saddle, no slap nor twist; legs straight down, intermittent calf pressure permissible; hands slightly raised, flexible contact, no sawing. e. Rack: seat smooth in saddle; legs down and slightly back, not thrust forward; hands low in motion with gait, not sawing but placement optional to individual rider and horse.

Class No.

15 Saddle Seat Equitation Horse and Pony – Senior Rider

16 Saddle Seat Equitation Horse and Pony - Junior Rider eligible

201 SADDLE SEAT EQUITATION TROTting CLASSIC – Top seven ribbon winners from classes 15 and 16 will show in 201. Entries made at the show with no additional charge.

GAITED DIVISION

APPOINTMENTS

All tack, bits, equipment, shoeing regulations and attire that are accepted in the respective breed association and/or USEF will be permitted.

ALL GAITED (Non-trotting) entries in this division MUST pass inspection with the show DQP prior to competing in each mounted class. All 1st place winners must pass inspection with the show DQP after each mounted class's conclusion. THIS SHOW WILL FOLLOW THE CURRENT WALKING HORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION (WHOA) GUIDELINES FOR SHOEING AND INSPECTION. As such:

- **Hoof bands are prohibited in all classes.**
- **The maximum hoof toe length will be five inches, exclusive of the shoe, measured from the coronet band, at the center of the hoof along the front of the hoof wall to the bottom of the hoof.**
- **The maximum shoe size is 1 ½" x ½" (classic park shoe) for any class.**
- **Tungsten metal (in whole or in part) is prohibited.**

Division E4 - Ambling Pleasure

This division will include but is not limited to non-trotting breeds such as the Rocky Mountain Horse, Missouri Fox Trotter, Paso Fino, Standardbred, etc. who perform a gait other than a walking or racking gait. Please refer to your breed's specific rulebook for guidelines for appropriate tack and attire, English, western, or period. Horses in this class may not cross enter in to the Walking or Racking Pleasure classes.

1. Horses shall be shown at the walk and pleasure gait as appropriate for the breed.
2. Entries should be the paramount of a pleasure horse and shall have a smooth, comfortable way of going.
3. Horses must back easily and stand quietly.
4. Horses will be judged on manners, suitability and performance.
5. Horses are to be reversed at the walk.
6. Form should not be sacrificed for speed.

Class No.

93 Ambling Pleasure Horse and Pony – Junior and Senior Rider

2nd Go:

100 Ambling Pleasure Horse and Pony – Junior and Senior Rider

209 AMBLING PLEASURE CLASSIC – Top Seven Highest Riders First & Second Go Combined Score. Judged the same as Class 93. Entries are made at the show at no additional charge

DIVISION E5 –RACKING PLEASURE

Open to any suitable racking type mount, horses or ponies. Please refer to your breed's specific rulebook for guidelines for appropriate tack and attire, English, western, or period. Horses in this class may not cross enter in to Walking or Ambling Pleasure classes.

1. Horses shall be show at the walk, slow rack, and trail/fast rack.
2. Horses must back easily and stand quietly. The Judge may call for the halt on the rail at his/her discretion.
3. Horses will be judged on manners, suitability and performance.
4. Form should not be sacrificed for speed.

Class No.

94 Racking Pleasure Horse and Pony – Junior and Senior

2nd Go:

101 Racking Pleasure Horse and Pony – Junior and Senior Rider

210 Racking Pleasure CLASSIC – Top Seven Highest Riders First & Second Go Combined Score. Judged the same as Class 94. Entries are made at the show at no additional charge

Division E6 - Walking Horse and Pony Pleasure

This class is limited to horses who perform the flat walk and running walk. All horses must be shown in accordance with standard shoeing, tack, and attire regulations, as set forth by the current WHOA rulebook. Horses in this class may not cross enter in to the Ambling or Racking class.

1. Horses shall be required to perform 2 gaits: flat walk and running walk as appropriate for breed.
2. Horses must back easily and stand quietly.
3. Horses will be judged on manners, suitability and performance.
4. Form should not be sacrificed for speed. Horses and ponies shall be a pleasure to ride and show a true, four beat walking gait with a cadenced head nod/shake.
5. Whips/Crops are optional

Class No.

96 Walking Horse and Pony Pleasure – Junior and Senior Rider

2nd Go:

103 Walking Horse and Pony Pleasure – Junior and Senior Rider

212 WALKING HORSE AND PONY PLEASURE CLASSIC – Top Seven Highest Riders First & Second Go Combined Score. Judged the same as Class 96. Entries are made at the show at no additional charge.

Division A4 - GAITED EQUITATION

1. **Eligible entries** include horses shown in Ambling, Racking, or Walking Horse and Pony Pleasure. Shoeing regulations will follow the rules previously set forth by those classes listed and will be in accordance with standard shoeing regulations set forth by the current WHOA rulebook
2. **Class Routine:** Test will be individually administered first, followed by rail work as a group. At the judge's discretion, further tests may be verbally given by the judge on the rail. During the rail work portion of the class, horses will be asked to perform a walk and a pleasure gait in order to check maneuverability, ring etiquette, and sportsmanship.
3. **Possible tests on the rail** include, but are not limited to, the following: Addressing the reins, backing on the rail, riding without stirrups, dropping and picking up stirrups either in motion or stopped, perform figure eights, serpentines, or circles of various size and speed.

Seat: Rider's seat should be a natural, coordinated and comfortable riding position and should in no way be rigid or exaggerated. A rider should convey the impression of effective and easy control, with the general appearance of being able to ride for a considerable length of time with pleasure. Ring generalship shall be taken into consideration by the judge. The appearance, presentation and alertness of the rider and mount make the overall picture of utmost importance.

Hands: The hands should be held in any easy position; waist or elbow high, over pommel, with palms downward, slightly turned toward body, wrist rounded slightly. The hands should be in unison with the horse's mouth, showing adaptability as well as control. How and where the horse carries his head determines the height the hands are held above the horse's withers. Hands and wrists should be flexible and not held extremely separated. (From the rider's view, then hands should be in a V shape, close enough for thumbs to touch.) The fingers should be closed firmly over reins, but not rigid. Pressure between thumb and index fingers is used to secure. Closed (or crossed) reins shall be used, with both hands on the reins, and the bight of the rein should be on the off-side.

Upper arms should fall naturally from the shoulders toward the hipbones and should be flexible. Elbows should not clutch the body, be extended forward or spread away from the body. Hands should be in comfortable waist-level position, depending on how and where the horse carries its head. The use of hands should be smooth and gradual without jerking or pumping at any of the gaits, or in the parked position.

Basic Position: To obtain proper position, the rider should sit comfortably in the middle of the saddle and find the center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knees without use of the stirrups. While in this position, have stirrup leathers adjusted to fit so that irons will be under ball of foot with even pressure on entire width of sole and center of iron.

The foot position will be natural and comfortable if the knee and thigh are rolled inward and the heel is slightly lower than the toes. From the front or rear view, the lower leg will be held naturally away from the horse, depending on the anatomy of the rider and the size of the horse. Knee should rest against the saddle.

Position in Motion: The position in motion should be natural, coordinated and graceful, attained only with practice. From the side view a straight line can be drawn perpendicular to the ground through the rider's

head, neck, shoulder, hip and ankle. The rider's toe should never be anymore forward than the knee, thereby keeping the center of balance directly above the feet and ankles. This basic recommended position should be maintained at all gaits.

4. **Suggested Scoring:** Scoring may be on a basis on 0-100 with 1/2 point increments acceptable, an approximate breakdown follows:

- 90-100: Excellent equitation including body position and use of aids. Pattern is performed promptly, precisely and smoothly.
- 80-89: Generally excellent performance with one minor fault in appearance and position of exhibitor or execution of pattern.
- 70-79: Generally good pattern execution and equitation with one minor fault in precision or execution of pattern (performance), or appearance and position of exhibitor.
- 60-69: Average pattern that lacks quickness or precision, or rider has obvious equitation flaws that prevent effective equitation, or commits two or three minor faults in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor.
- 50-59: One major fault or several minor faults in the performance and/or appearance and position of exhibitor that precludes effective communication with the horses.
- 40-49: Two major faults or many minor faults in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor.
- 30-39: Several major faults or one severe fault in the performance, or appearance and position of exhibitor. Exhibitor demonstrates a complete lack of riding ability or commits a severe fault in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor.
- 20-29: Exhibitor commits one or more severe faults in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor, but does complete the class and avoids disqualification.

Class No.:

- 17 Gaited Equitation Junior Rider
18 Gaited Equitation Senior Rider
202 Gaited Equitation Classic – Top seven ribbon winners from classes 17 and 18 will show in 202.
Entries made at the show with no additional charge.

Outside Qualifying Show Exception Form

This form is for 4-H members wishing to qualify at a show that is an equivalent or higher level division than what is planned, competing at the Virginia State 4-H Championship Horse and Pony Show. This must be a show declared eligible by your District Horse Council. **Placing is not necessary but participation and successful completion is.** See the rulebook for the definition of successful completion and specific rules regarding State Show eligibility. It is the member's responsibility to see that the form and fee is submitted within the deadlines stated by each District Horse Council.

Show Manager Certification

I, _____ (show manager) hereby

certify that _____ (4-H exhibitor)

participated with _____ (horse) in

Show: _____ on

Date: _____

Class name: _____

Show Manager Signature: _____

Show Manager Email: _____

Show Manager Contact Phone: _____

4-H Exhibitors/Parents/Agents:

This completed form must be submitted with the fee required to your District Horse Council representative and uploaded to your 4honline account – with your horse declaration files no later than the State Show Entry deadline date. Youth will not be allowed to enter the show without this form. Jumpers and Trail classes must still use those specific forms for those specific class entries at the State Show.

Club Leader Signature

Extension Agent Signature

Outside Qualifying Show Exception Rule Details

- Eligibility:
 - Any qualified 4-H member with declared project animal
 - Class shown must be at the equivalent or higher level division that they plan on competing in at the state show.

- Exhibitor Responsibilities:
 - Submit Qualifying request to District Horse Council prior to show.
 - Receive approval from District Horse Council.
 - Submit completed Qualifying form and fee to Horse Council
 - Upload Qualifying Form to their 4honline account

- District Horse Council Responsibilities:
 - Establish a Qualifying fee and deadlines for exhibitors
 - Generate a list of acceptable Outside Qualifying Shows
 - Designate a contact for approvals and approve show requests
 - Submit list of qualified riders/shows to the state office

Jumper Pre-Qualifying Form

Virginia 4-H State Horse Show participants wishing to enter the Jumper classes at the show must participate and successfully complete in a Jumper (NOT Hunter style) Class within the State Show 4-H year similar to the one offered at the State Show (**height between 2'6" and 2'11"**) with the horse that is entered in the State Show. Class participation can be at any recognized show or event. **Placing in the jumper class is not necessary but participation and successful completion is.** Please see rulebook for the definition of successful completion. **Deadline: same as state show entry deadline.**

Show/Clinic Manager Certification

I, _____ (show manager/secretary) hereby

certify that _____ (exhibitor)

participated with _____ (horse)

in a jumper class at our show at _____ height.

signed by show manager/secretary

Show: _____

Date: _____

Class description and height of fences: _____

Show Manager Signature: _____

Show Manager Email: _____

Show Manager Contact Phone: _____

4-H Exhibitors/Parents/Agents

This form should be included with rider's state show entry. Youth will not be allowed to enter the jumper class without this form.

This is only for classes 221 – Junior Jumpers and Class 222 – Senior Jumpers. Extension requests may be granted.

Trail Pre-Qualifying Form

Virginia 4-H State Horse Show participants wishing to enter a trail class at the show must participate in a Trail Class or Trail Clinic with the horse that is entered in the State Show. Class participation can be at any open, 4-H, qualifying or breed show. **Placing in the trail class is not necessary but participation is.**

Only NEW Horse/Rider Combinations that have not competed in the State Show trail class must complete a pre-qualifying form. If a horse/rider combination previously competed in trail at the state show, prequalifying is not necessary.

Deadline: same as state show entry

Show/Clinic Manager Certification

I, _____ (show manager) hereby
certify that _____ (exhibitor)
participated with _____ (horse)
in a trail class/clinic at our show.

Show/Clinic: _____

Date: _____ Location: _____

Class/Clinic Name: _____

Show/Clinic Manager Signature: _____

Show Manager Email: _____

Show/Clinic Manger Contact Phone: _____

4-H Exhibitors/Parents/Agents

This form should be included with exhibitor's state show entry. Extension requests may be granted.

LEVEL 1 4-H Horsemanship Skills Evaluation Sheet

(All Riding, Driving & Miniature Horses)

Member's Name (Last) _____ (First) _____ (DOB) _____

Address _____

Club _____ County _____

Horse's Name _____ Date _____

Basic Handling	Pass or Retest	Examiners' Comments
1-1 Properly approach a horse safely and correctly	R P E	
1-2 Properly halter a horse	R P E	
1-3 Lead, turn, and back horse safely and correctly	R P E	
1-4 Lead a horse into and out of a stall	R P E	
1-5 Practice safety rules when turning a horse loose	R P E	
1-6 Tie a horse at appropriate level and length	R P E	
1-7 Tie a quick release knot	R P E	
1-8 Perform simple grooming on the body of a horse	R P E	
1-9 Pick-up feet and clean properly	R P E	
1-10 Showmanship skills: walk/trot/stop/turn on hindquarters back and set up (prepare horse appropriate for discipline)	R P E	
1-11 Present horse properly fit, groomed and clipped - mane/tail/body/legs/feet for their discipline	R P E	
1-12 Saddle & bridle horse—check fit and be able to make basic adjustments. Properly adjust stirrups	R P E	
1-13 Demonstrate proper fit, adjustment, and safety of equipment	R P E	
1-14 Mount and dismount properly (may use mounting block)	R P E	
1-15 Describe and discuss safely riding/working in a group	R P E	
1-16 Equipment, dress, overall attitude, and confidence	R P E	

Level 1 emphasizes basic, correct, and safe principles of handling, tacking and mounting a horse.

Is this a Declared Project Animal? Yes No

To pass this level, the 4-H member must have mastered each section of the test.

Mastery is considered to be receiving a score of P (passed) or E (exceeds requirements) Youth needing to be retested must be retested on the entire level one.

Last Revised Dec. 2022
Retain records for 5 years.

A print or digital copy should remain with the Evaluators, 4-H member, Ext. Agent, and Leader.

Passed _____ Retest _____

EXAMINER'S SIGNATURE: _____

LEVEL 2 4-H Horsemanship Riding Skills Evaluation Sheet

(All Horses & Ponies Under Saddle)

Member's Name (Last) _____ (First) _____ (DOB) _____

Address _____

Club _____ County _____

Horse's Name _____ Date _____

	Pass or Retest	
Riding		
2-1 Proficient in all Level 1 skills	R P E	
2-2 Use proper basic seat, leg, and body position with balance	R P E	
2-3 Drop and regain stirrups while at a halt	R P E	
2-4 Demonstrate proper use of reins; hand position and action	R P E	
At a walk with control and proper position:		
2-5 start and stop (gradual and balanced)	R P E	
2-6 check and release (demonstrating control of horse)	R P E	
2-7 turn while walking and walk in both directions	R P E	
Demonstrate correct body position and upward transitions using proper aids and maintaining an even pace:		
2-8 walk to a jog/trot/slow gait	R P E	
2-9 increase the jog/trot/slow gait	R P E	
2-10 halt	R P E	
At a jog, trot, or slow gait with control and proper position:		
2-11 start and stop (gradual and balanced)	R P E	
2-12 check and release (demonstrating control of horse)	R P E	
2-13 turn while jogging, trotting slow gaiting both directions	R P E	
2-14 ride a circle both directions and do a figure 8	R P E	
2-15 Drop and regain stirrups while at a walk and jog, trot, slow gait	R P E	
*At a canter, lope, fast gait:		
2-16 start and stop (gradual and balanced)	R P E	
2-17 check and release (demonstrating control of horse)	R P E	
2-18 turn while loping, cantering, fast gaiting and ride in both directions	R P E	
2-19 Show a gradual and balanced halt from all gaits	R P E	
2-20 Back 4-5 steps in a straight line	R P E	
2-21 Present horse properly fit, groomed and clipped - mane/tail/body/legs/feet for their discipline	R P E	
2-22 Equipment, dress, overall poise, attitude, and confidence	R P E	

Level 2 emphasizes building a solid foundation of horsemanship skills.

**To Qualify for the State Show, Walk/Trot/Jog riders must pass all skills listed above including the canter/lope.*

Last Revised Dec. 2022
Retain records for 5 years.

Is this a Declared Project Animal? Yes No

To pass this level the 4-H member must have mastered each section of the test.
Mastery is considered to be receiving a score of P (passed) or E (exceeds requirements). Youth may be retested on individual skills not previously passed.

Passed _____ **Retest** _____

A print or digital copy should remain with the Evaluators, 4-H member, Ext. Agent, and Leader.

EXAMINER'S SIGNATURE: _____