

Pinal County 4-H Horsemanship Program Rules

Introduction

This section has been developed as rules and guidelines for the Pinal County 4-H Horse Program and does **not** take the place of the current Arizona State 4-H Horse Show Rules set forth by the State 4-H Advisory Committee. The Arizona 4-H Horse Show Rules are the official rules followed at our shows with these guidelines serving as a county supplement and reinforcement to our state rule book.

Goals and Objectives

The primary purpose of our 4-H Horse Program is to provide members an opportunity to demonstrate abilities and horsemanship accomplishments which they have learned and are able to perform with their project horses. In so doing, safety, courtesy, participation, establishment of a good public image, and positive youth development are most important! Specific objectives of the 4-H Horse Project are to help members:

1. Develop leadership, initiative, participation, self-reliance, sportsmanship, and other desirable traits of character.
2. Experience the privilege of owning/utilizing a horse or pony and being responsible for its management.
3. Develop and appreciate horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
4. Learn skills in horsemanship and an understanding of the business of breeding, raising, and training horses.
5. Increase knowledge of safety precautions to prevent injury to themselves, others, and their horses.
6. Promote greater love for animals and a humane attitude toward animals.
7. Be prepared for leadership and citizenship responsibilities through working in groups and supporting the 4-H community club and horse activities.

Governance

The Pinal County 4-H Horse Advisory Committee (HAC) is composed of all 4-H Horse project leaders and all senior 4-H members enrolled in the Horse project in Pinal County. All 4-H Leaders shall be certified per the requirements of Arizona 4-H Policy. The Pinal County 4-H Youth Development Agent assigned to support the Horsemanship Program shall provide guidance and oversight. The governance structure shall consist of:

Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) – Offices may be held by adults or youth members of the committee.

1. The HAC will conduct an annual fall meeting to:
 - a. Adopt Pinal County 4-H Program Guidelines.
 - b. Determine numbers and dates of horse shows.
 - c. Elect officers.
 - d. Discuss other issues as deemed necessary by the HAC.
2. The HAC will conduct the program's business throughout the year. Voting members include one (1) adult leader and one (1) youth member from each 4-H club.

3. The HAC has made it mandatory for 1 youth & 1 Adult from each Horse & Pony Program Pinal County (2 Adult if a youth can't be present) at every HAC Meeting. If two representatives are not present from the horse and pony project club at the set HAC Meeting dates then members from that group will not be eligible for the End of Year High Point and Reserve High Point Horse & Pony awards at the end of the show season.
4. Individuals serving as volunteers are expected to perform in the best interests of the 4-H program. Possible terminations are covered by Arizona 4-H policy and procedures.
5. In the event that it becomes necessary to forbid attendance of a 4-H parent at 4-H Youth Development activities or events for personal actions detrimental to the program, the 4-H Youth Development faculty member will give written notice to the adult. Any hearing requested will be handled by the state grievance procedure.

General Rules

Section I – Eligibility and Certification

1. **Participation** – Pinal County 4-H Horse Shows are open to all 4-H members currently enrolled in the 4-H Horse Project and in good standing for the club year. Members must have a current and complete 4-H enrollment form on file in the Pinal County Cooperative Extension office.
2. **Eligibility Criteria** – Members must be at least nine (9) years of age or in the 4th grade and not have passed their 19th birthday by January 1st of the current year (October 1 – September 30) in order to be eligible for 4-H membership. Junior members and Senior members are defined as follows:
Junior Members Persons who have not reached their 14th birthday prior to January 1st of the current club year.
Senior Members Persons who have reached their 14th birthday, but not their 19th birthday, prior to January 1st of the current club year.
Members stay within the same age division throughout the 4-H club year.
3. **Horse Ownership or Lease Agreements** – 4-H Project Horses must be owned by the 4-H member or family, or there must be a written lease agreement allowing the 4-H member to feed, care for, and work the horse as their 4-H Project Horse.
 - a. Regardless whether a 4-H project horse is owned or leased, a Pinal County 4-H Horsemanship Project Identification Card must be completed and returned to the Pinal County 4-H Extension Office and be available to the HAC.
 - b. The Project Horse must be in the care of a 4-H member at least 30 days prior to participation in any County show. The member may petition the HAC for approval of any exception to the 30 day requirement.
 - c. If a member's horse becomes disabled during the current 4-H year, the member may petition the HAC for approval on the mid-year replacement of that horse.
4. **4-H Record Book** – Each member is encouraged to complete a 4-H Club Record Book or Portfolio and turn it in to the 4-H Office by the established deadline. In addition, each member must complete and submit to the Project Leader by the designated deadline the Pinal County 4-H Member in Good Standing Form. The Member in Good Standing Form is to be included in the County Rule Book as Appendix A and shall be made available to

each 4-H member by the project leader at the beginning of the 4-H year. The Member in Good Standing Form requirements are:

- a. Attend two (2) community club meetings during the 4-H year.
- b. Attend six (6) work sessions during the 4-H year.
- c. Attend two (2) horse project meetings during the 4-H year
- d. Participate in one (1) community service activity during the 4-H year.

This form must include signatures of the project leader or community club leader. This will result in satisfactory completion of the project and is a requirement to be considered for competition at the State level. This form (MIGS) will then be submitted to the HAC at the last regularly schedule meeting of the 4-H year.

- 5. 4-H Horse Advancement Program** – Utilizing the Pinal County 4-H Horse Advancement Program criteria, each member must be designated as a Beginning Horseman, Intermediate Horseman, or Advanced Horseman in all classes. In order to compete in the Junior or Senior division at the State 4-H Horse Show, the member must have achieved the Advanced Horseman level. Determination of skill levels may be based on the following:

- a. If, at any event, a member demonstrates that s/he cannot perform safely at the designated skill level, the show officials reserve the right to remove the member from the show. The 4-H leader will discuss the member's appropriate skill level with the HAC.
- b. A member's certification designation will apply separately to Western Horse Shows, English Horse Shows, Gymkhana, and Roping. *For example, a person may be certified as Advanced in Western, Intermediate in English, and Beginning in Roping.*
- c. If an individual has won at least two (2) high point or reserve high point awards the preceding year, the member may be advanced to the next level of certification at the option of the HAC.
- d. The HAC may advance a member who demonstrates skills beyond the current level criteria, after the first show and before the second show.

Section II – Horse Shows

1. Each exhibitor will be allowed to use no more than three (3) horses in a show. A maximum of (4) horses can be on file if youth is participating in all 4 riding disciplines: English, Western, Gymkhana and Roping.
2. The same horse may be used by two (2) or more members of a family under the following conditions:
 - a. The horse is owned or leased within the same family.
 - b. The classes are individual work classes.
 - c. Tack changes do not delay the show.
 - d. A special notification of joint use is made on the Horse Show entry form.
3. Entry fees must be paid at the time of registration and before participating. Contestants will be assigned predetermined show numbers.
4. NO stallions over 12 months of age will be allowed in any 4-H Horse Show.
5. Exhibitors must prepare their own animals without assistance except in holding, leading, loading, or where there is a question of safety; i.e. small children that cannot reach.
 - a. All beginners and intermediate contestants will be allowed to ride with two hands without being penalized.

- b. If the rider gets to ride with one hand, s/he must ride with one hand during the entire class.
 - c. If the rider gets to ride with two hands, s/he must ride with two hands during the entire class.
 - d. It is permissible to change hands to work on obstacles in trail classes.
 6. Tack will be used as follows:
 - a. Western – must utilize a western shanked bit with split or Romal reins or a snaffle bit for horses aged 5 and under. NO mechanical hackamore bit, wire device, rawhide device, or roping reins are acceptable. Beginning and Intermediate riders may use bosal type hackamores or snaffle type bits on horses of any age.
 - b. Gymkhana and Roping – must utilize a western shanked bit, hackamore bit, gag, or snaffle bit.
 - c. English – See Arizona State 4-H Horse Show Rule Book.
7. A flat curb chain at least ½ inch in width or smooth leather curb strap at least ½ inch in width is allowed with any regular Western type bit.
8. In gymkhana and roping events, a western hat or protective head gear is not required, but it is required at the State Horse Show.
9. Ties for High Point and Reserve High Point awards shall be handled as follows:
 - a. The person who participates in the most classes shall receive the award.
 - b. In the event they have equally participated, the person who has the most 1st places shall receive the award.
10. Each class shall be called at least two times prior to entering the gate and *no contestant will be permitted to enter the arena after this time*. The gate will close following the second announcement. Gymkhana exhibitors will be allowed one (1) minute from the time they are called to cross the starting line of the event.
11. Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or illegal drugs is prohibited in and around all 4-H Horse Shows. Violation of this rule will result in the parent or leader being asked to leave the grounds for the duration of the show.
12. Appropriate behavior – Exhibitors, leaders, and parents are expected to display themselves in a courteous and respectful manner at all times. Unnecessary spurring, striking, or beating the horse at any time or the misrepresentation of the horse by the exhibitor will not be permitted. Violations of these rules will result in parent or leader being asked to leave the grounds for the duration of the show.
13. Any horse that becomes unruly or lame, and in the opinion of the Judge (with the exception of timed events, where the show officials shall decide) endangers the safety of the rider, the horse itself, other exhibitors, or other horses, may be disqualified. A veterinarian certificate may override the judge's decision in issues of lameness, if issued the current 4-H year.
14. All lame, sick, or unmanageable horses will be screened at the time entering the show and may be excused by Show Officials. An example of unmanageable is: *Horse running into gate during timed events, or running away causing the rider to be bucked off, fall, or dismount*. Rider will be disqualified from the event.
15. NO horse is to be exercised except in assigned areas. **No horse will be permitted in the spectator area. Violators may be disqualified by Show Officials.** NO riding faster than a walk in any areas other than the show or practice rings. Only one (1) rider is allowed on any horse at one time.
16. From the time the horse enters the grounds; no parents, trainer, or person other than the 4-H exhibitor may ride the horse or assist the exhibitor.

17. For safety of horse and participants, no dogs are allowed at horse shows and on horse show property.
18. NO leader shall be permitted inside the arena, unless asked to assist in some manner by the Show Secretary or Ring Steward.
19. **Injuries or Accidents – Any injury, accident, or damage to property which is the result of the 4-H Horse Show activities must be reported as soon as possible to the Pinal County 4-H Extension Office.**
20. The gate keeper or designated person is the only person allowed to lead or give assistance to beginner and intermediate riders into the arena. This person must be a certified or resource volunteer on file with the 4-H office.
21. Boots with heels are required. There will be no tennis shoes (with heels) permitted. It is also required that the participant wear long sleeve button-up shirts tucked in their pants when present in the Horse Show arena.
22. In roping events, in Junior and Senior heading and heeling classes, the roper being judged may only throw one (1) loop per steer.
23. In roping events, Junior and Senior advanced exhibitors must register prior to the show with an eligible partner at least 18 years of age and who is not a 4-H member.
24. In roping events, Junior and Senior heading and heeling classes, the non-judged partner may only throw one (1) loop.
25. No coaching or signaling from the rails or bleachers shall be permitted while the exhibitor is in the judging ring.
26. **No horses, other than 4-H exhibitor's horses showing that day, are able to be present on the premises with the exception of foals not weaned.**

Section III- Points and Scoring for State/County 4-H Horse Show

1. Points will be earned at 4-H "pointed" county-wide Horse Shows as follows:
 - a. Points earned in a given class will be credited to the 4-H exhibitor. NOT to the exhibitor's horse.
 - b. Points earned by an exhibitor will accumulate until the end of the current 4-H year to determine who qualifies from the Junior and Senior divisions for the Arizona State Horse Show.
 - c. Points earned in a given class will be:

1 st place = 6 points	4 th place = 3 points
2 nd place = 5 points	5 th place = 2 points
3 rd place = 4 points	6 th place = 1 points
 - d. Total points will be maintained by the Pinal County 4-H Office.
 - e. State 4-H Horse Show eligibility shall be determined by the points scored per event in the exhibitor's three (3) strongest shows out of the four (4) pointed County Horse Shows. If all County exhibitors gaining points from one (1) show will be eligible.
 - f. In the Junior and Senior Classes, the top four (4) exhibitors who have accumulated the most points in each class will be eligible to compete at the Arizona State 4-H Horse Show in that class. If exhibitors tie for the top four (4) placing, the following system will be used to determine who represent Pinal County in the State event:
 1. If neither is eligible for another event, the individual who has participated in the most shows during the past year wins the tie.
 2. If one (1) exhibitor is going in another event, the other contestant not yet going wins the tie.

3. If both exhibitors are going to State in other events, the one with the least classes wins the tie.
 4. At the discretion of the HAC.
2. An incorrect pattern is not grounds for disqualification. Failure to complete a pattern is grounds for disqualification.

Eligibility for Year End High Point and Reserve High Point Awards

1. 4-H Member must attend at least 3 of the 4 shows to be eligible for Year End High Point and Reserve High Point Awards.
2. A family member must volunteer at one of the shows.
3. Two representatives from the youth's horse and pony project club must attend all HAC meetings scheduled for the year.

Section IV- Protests and Appeals

1. Show Officials shall select three (3) members of the HAC to serve as a Grievance Committee at each show.
2. The Decision of the Judge is FINAL.
3. All protest must be made in writing by the parent/guardian, leader, or 4-H exhibitor, and must be accompanied by a deposit of \$10. Protest deposits will be refundable if the complaint is substantiated. Protests must be clearly state the following:
 - a. Cause of the complaint.
 - b. Reasons for the appeal, with specific charges.
 - c. Reference to policy or rule violation.
 - d. Names of the witnesses and their address.
4. The exhibitor may appeal the judge's decision to the Grievance Committee only when:
 - a. The award has been made in violation of the rules governing the show, or
 - b. The decision of the judge has been influenced or interfered with by another.
5. No protest/appeal based on the statement that the judge(s) are incompetent or have overlooked an animal or performance will be considered by the Grievance Committee.
6. Final decisions on rule interpretations, protests, appeals, or cases of disorderly conduct at any County 4-H Horse event will be made by the HAC, three (3) enrolled 4-H Horse Leaders, and a 4-H Youth Development Agent/Staff from Pinal County Cooperative Extension.