

## 2024 Kansas State 4-H Horse Rulebook Changes

Below are the updates that have been made to the Kansas State 4-H Horse Show Rulebook. Changes are also indicated throughout the book in bold.

Page 5, Introduction :

Competitive events in Kansas are divided into three age divisions based on the 4-H member's age before January 1 of the current 4-H year:

- Juniors: ages 7 to 8 (local level ONLY)
- Intermediates: ages 9 to 13
- Seniors: ages 14 to 18

This rulebook supersedes all previous editions. The rules herein are effective October 1, 2024, unless otherwise specified at the time of their enactment. These rules remain in effect except as superseded by rule changes enacted by Kansas 4-H as published at [www.kansas4-h.org](http://www.kansas4-h.org). Rule changes have been indicated by bold lettering/underlining. Please read the rules applicable to your activities in their entirety as changes/modifications may have occurred as compared to last published edition.

Page 6, Educational Objectives:

- Youth in every project area are encouraged to continue to grow in mastery of their project.

Seeking professional education/coaching is encouraged where appropriate.

Page 6, Ownership and Leasing:

Members must have managing control of their horse project. "Managing control" means overseeing proper feeding, grooming, exercising, training, and stall management, and the member must have free access to the use of the horse at all times.

If a 4-H member identifies a family-owned horse, 1 additional horse may be leased and identified.

Page 8, Identification: ("registration papers" has been removed)

The multi-year horse identification certificate must be submitted to the local K-State Research and Extension office annually on or before June 1 each year. Local identification deadlines supersede state deadlines for local shows.

Page 9, General Show Management Recommendations:

Show Management should provide cards for judge to place classes to turn in to show secretary.

Page 10, General Show Management Recommendations:

Judges' discretion used for the following:

- To call for a final pattern or place class from the preliminary pattern.
- Dismissal of an exhibitor not ready to enter the arena when the class is called, resulting in disqualification from the class.
- Disqualification and dismissal of any rider not having his or her mount under sufficient control.

- Signs of pain and/or lameness displayed by horse shall result in dismissal from the class or show.
- Disqualification of an exhibitor for broken equipment.

Page 10 and 11, General Show and Class Rules:

Accessibility Information: K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including 11 alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact the State 4-H Office four weeks prior to the start of the event at 785-532-5800, [kansas4h@ksu.edu](mailto:kansas4h@ksu.edu). Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request

Page 11, General 4-H Rules:

Violation will result in disqualification at the discretion of Show Management. All 4-H'ers and family members are expected to display positive conduct and courtesy at all times. Unsportsmanlike conduct by the 4-H exhibitor or those accompanying the 4-H'er will not be tolerated. Such actions will result in forfeiture of all placings and qualifications earned during the show, and those involved may be excused from the grounds at the discretion of Show Management.

Page 12:

At no time should the 4-H exhibitor or parent(s) be allowed to confront the judge during the show.

Page 13:

Risk management and safety measures are practiced throughout the 4-H Horse Shows to promote a safe environment for exhibitors, spectators, and horses.

Page 14:

No double riding or riding bareback unless it is for an official bareback class at the show

Page 16, Award Systems:

Judges are encouraged to address how they are applying the Danish system with 4-H'ers during the show.

**PAGE 18, Entering the State 4-H Horse Show:**

Exhibitors are encouraged to refer to "Are You Ready for the State 4-H Horse Show" document located on the Horse page of the Kansas 4-H website as a checklist of skills prior to entering the State 4-H Horse Show.

Exhibitors should be prepared to show proof of exhibition via Horse Show Qualifying Affidavit signed by show management.

If a 4-H member has multiple horses in a halter class, the horse must be exhibited by another currently enrolled Kansas 4-H member who is exhibiting at the show.

Entries must be completed through the online system on or before August 1. The 4-H'er must show in the same Class Group(s) with the same horse in which they qualified at the indicated show. There will be no substitutions and no exceptions

**Page 30, Trail:**

A rope gate is recommended.

**Page 34, Western Division Clothing and Equipment:**

Judges, at their discretion, may authorize adjustments to attire due to weather-related conditions.

**Page 41, Reining:**

Reining: To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of/or temporary loss of control and therefore a fault that must be marked down according to severity of deviation. After deducting all faults, set here within, against execution of the pattern and the horse's overall performance, credit should be given for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of performing various maneuvers, while using controlled speed which raises the difficulty level and makes him more exciting and pleasing to watch to an audience. (NRHA Rules for Judging, 2024)

**Page 42, Reining, 2 point penalty:**

Breaking gait except in simple lead changes of two strides or less.

**Page 46, Reining Pattern 2 corrected**

**Page 47, Reining Pattern 4 added**

**Page 48, Reining Pattern 5 added**

**Page 49, Working Ranch Horse Classes:**

Working Ranch Horse: Working Ranch Horse classes include Ranch Pattern, Working Ranch Pattern (Ranch Horse Pattern), and Ranch Trail.

**Page 51, Clothing and Equipment:**

Judges, at their discretion, may authorize adjustments to attire due to weather-related conditions.

**Page 51, Ranch Horse Rail:**

Ranch rail is not judged on speed; safety and courtesy to other exhibitors in the arena should be shown at all times. The judge may choose at his/her discretion to penalize/remove those not showing control.

**Page 52, Working Ranch Horse Pattern:**

Horses in this class exhibit brokenness, willingness, and are completely guided by the rider.

Judges may select ranch horse patterns 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 for any age division.

**Page 60, Ranch Horse Trail:**

Ranch Trail: This class should test the horse's ability to cope with situations encountered while being ridden through a course of obstacles generally found during the course of everyday ranch work. The horse/ rider combination is judged on the correctness, efficiency, and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated, and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse. Judging emphasis is on identifying the well-broke, responsive, and well mannered horse which can correctly navigate and negotiate the course. The ideal ranch horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

**Page 62, Ranch Horse Trail:**

Obstacles should mimic obstacles commonly found in a working ranch environment and thus natural wood logs and tree branches are encouraged rather than brightly painted ground poles.

Opening, passing through, and closing a hinged swinging gate (not a rope gate). (Losing control of gate is to be penalized.)

Natural logs are required.

**Page 63, Ranch Horse Trail:**

Heavy plywood lying flat on the ground is an acceptable simulation of a bridge. Suggested minimum width shall be 36 inches wide and at least 6 feet long.

**Page 64, Hunt Seat Division Clothing and Equipment:**

Hunt Seat: Riding coat of traditional color such as navy, dark green, gray, black, or brown. Red or maroon are improper colors.

**Page 65, Hunt Seat Division and Equipment:**

Judges, at their discretion, may authorize adjustments to attire due to weather-related conditions.

**Page 78, Timed Events:**

The use of protective headgear is strongly encouraged.

At the judge's discretion, a contestant can be dismissed from a class if unable to enter the arena in a timely and safe manner

The horse must enter the arena; the gate must be closed before starting the run

**Page 80, Ribbon Groups for Timed Events:**

Blue: utilize the natural break in times in the tenths and hundredths of a second to determine the blue ribbon group.

Red: close times can be adjusted a few hundredths of a second to find a natural break.

Barrels should be the size of a 55-gallon drum with no sharp edges. Brightly colored barrels that are distinguishable from the background should be used. If possible the barrels should match in size and type.

**Page 85, 3Year Old Project:**

After the horse becomes a project horse on June 1, it can only be shown and ridden by the 4-H member.

**Page 87, Appendix A- Bits:**

It is admissible and encouraged to ask the judge show management prior to a class whether equipment is legal or not.

Curb straps are required when using a snaffle bit. The curb strap must be loosely attached, flat or woven natural material, and be attached in front of the reins