

It is the philosophy of the 4-H Middlesex County Horse Advisory Council that we develop our members into being well rounded horsemanship individuals through the 4-H project based program.....



Middlesex County 4H Horse Show Pocket Guide

4-H Middlesex HAC Board

Dee Raftery
Chairperson

Suzanne Ferris
Vice Chairperson

Steven Brackett
Treasurer

Erica Desfosses
Secretary

For further 4-H State Horse Show Rules as well as other information please visit our website:

www.4hmiddlesexhac.org



Copyrighted © 2007 by 4H Middlesex
County Horse Advisory Council

Middlesex County 
Horse Advisory Council



At the 4H Show

The 4-H Horse Show places the major emphasis on the accomplishments and development of the member. Because the economic background of 4-H members varies widely, the quality of the horse is not directly related to the member's abilities. The 4-H Horse Show provides an opportunity for members to exhibit their project, and receive input on their accomplishments. Under saddle classes should be judged on manners, suitability, and performance, with minimum emphasis on conformation.

4-H Middlesex County Horse Shows are governed by the rules of the Massachusetts's 4-H Horse Show Rule Book.

Massachusetts 4-H Horse Show Rules parallel USEF rules. However, there are some specific Massachusetts 4-H interpretations.

The following rules must be followed in Middlesex County 4-H classes and the County Show Series. Additional rules may be added at the discretion of the show committee.

Riders in 4-H classes and/or the 4-H horse show series must have their horse project on record with the County Educator office 90 days prior to the show.

Exhibitor must show his/her own project(s).

Exhibitors may show only registered project horses/ponies in 4-H classes and/or show series divisions.

No one else may ride or prepare a 4-H exhibitor's project horse that is in the 4-H classes or the show series during the show. This includes trainers and parents. The only exceptions being a grooms class at the end of the show.

Adults may not groom, prepare, or assist with horses with the exceptions of:

- **loading and unloading**
- **horse holding**
- **Leading**
- **giving a rider a leg up, if necessary**
- **harnessing and tightening girths**
- **common sense in regards to safety may justify additional assistance.**

4-H exhibitors are to prepare and handle their own project animals, or they may be disqualified from the show. *4-Hers may assist other 4-Hers, solely for the purpose of explanation and demonstration.*

4-Hers MUST show in 4H Fitting and Showmanship in order to show in the 4-H division classes at that show.

In 4-H Fitting and Showmanship classes, it is the exhibitors' efforts which are judged, NOT the breed, type, or conformation of the horse.

Once a class has started NO entries will be accepted for that class. Every effort should be made by the exhibitor to register 2 classes prior to class registering for.

- Leadline riders are ages 5 – 7 as of January 1st of the current show year, and may not compete in any other classes.
- Walk Trot riders are ages 8 - 18 as of January 1st of the current show year, and may not compete in any other classes.
- A Junior is ages 8 - 13 as of January 1st of the current show year.
- A Senior is ages 14 to 18 as of January 1st of the current show year.
- An Adult is 19 and over as of January 1st of the current show year.
- Open Beginner W/T/C/L is open to All Riders ages 8 and above, **FIRST YEAR CANTER RIDER ONLY!**
- All horses that kick must wear a red ribbon in their tail.
- Safety is our first concern. Unruly horses and/or people, poor sportsmanship or mistreatment of any animal on the part of the exhibitor, or unwarranted misbehavior on the part of a horse will subject exhibitor to dismissal from the ring or show grounds without refund.
- Horses must be in complete control before leaving the ring.
- Horses must be kept at a walk outside the show ring, except in the designated practice areas.
- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at any show.
- ASTM Approved helmets must be worn by all participants 19 and under as of January 1st of the current show year. All riders must wear hard soled shoes with a heel.
- There will be two stable calls prior to each class. There will be no holds on classes; classes will be closed two minutes after final call.
- Participants are responsible for their own property. Show management shall not be held responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged property.
- Refunds are not given unless bona fide injury to horse or rider.
- Stallions over one year of age and nursing mares are prohibited from entering 4-H classes.
- Spurs with rowels are not permitted in any class at a 4-H show.
- Gymkhana Classes: Bats/whips, crops are not permitted; tie-downs and standing martingales are permitted **only in the speed classes.**
- Jumping Classes: Martingales are permitted in jumping classes or combined flat and jumping class.
- English Flat Classes: Not allowed; draw reins, German martingales, Chambons or any type of tie down. Flash, drop and figure eight nosebands are also not permitted.
- All horses will be required to provide a copy of Current Coggins test. Name and description must be the same on all the paperwork.
- Show committee reserves the right to combine or cancel classes or change class order if needed.