

## 2021 Ohio 4-H Horse Advisor & Volunteer Training Session Webinar Frequently Asked Questions

### Are there any changes to the state event schedule in 2021?

Yes! You can view the schedule of events online at [www.horse.osu.edu](http://www.horse.osu.edu) and look under “Calendar of Events.” The two major changes to the schedule are moving the horse judging and hippology contests to April and pushing back Horse Bowl until June.

### When will EquiSTEP be available and do I have to enroll through my extension office?

Enrollments for EquiSTEP this year begin Monday, February 1, 2021. New this year-participants can self-enroll at <https://cfaesosu.catalog.instructure.com/courses/equine-safety-training-and-education-program-09-mz2-e41> If you have questions, please reach out to your county 4-H educator who can also assist you with this process.

### I am experiencing problems with my child’s email address and accessing EquiSTEP. What might be the problem?

When registering for EquiSTEP, 4-H members should have their own unique email address. Experience has shown that most school/education-based email accounts tend to block access to OSU Scarlet which is the platform that hosts the program. It is recommended that students create their own free Gmail or Yahoo account.

### What is the Horses A to Z podcast?

A link is available on the homepage of the state horse website for podcasts that are available to the public about various information related to the equine industry and the Ohio 4-H Horse Program. Ideas for discussion are encouraged to be submitted to [horsesAtoZpodcast@gmail.com](mailto:horsesAtoZpodcast@gmail.com)

### What level of participation is required for the new Horseback Riding & Driving Recognition program and how will 4-H members be recognized?

Participants can start logging hours by registering online and the different levels of participation are not yet determined. This will greatly depend on the initial response received from those that choose to log their hours.

### Does participating in the Dressage Show at the Ohio State Fair Junior Horse Show count for year ends awards (8/8) participation?

Yes, showing at the state fair in the dressage show permits 4-H members to gain credit for participation for yearend awards. One horse may be shown in western and classical dressage tests and another horse may be shown in the regular state show. Please refer to the PAS guidelines publication online for reference.

### Will the jumping classes at the Ohio State Junior Horse Show take place in Denny Hales arena again?

No, in 2021 all over fences classes will move back to the coliseum and shown on Friday of the show week.



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**Will the PAS patterns be posted soon?**

The PAS qualifying patterns are already posted online at <http://horse.osu.edu> There are some new changes including the separation of junior and senior patterns within a division and the addition of new classes such as ranch showmanship and ranch horsemanship. All pattern classes have the maneuver descriptions already pre-printed on them.

**What is the new rule regarding bitless bridles?**

When the rule book refers to a bitless bridle in western classes, it means the use of a cross-under bitless headstall. Side pulls or halters are not allowed. Bitless bridles may be ridden two-handed on horses five years of age and younger; however, horses older than five years of age must be ridden one-handed with a bitless bridle. For reference, you can search for Dr. Cook's bitless bridle online for many visual representations.

**Can horses in Ranch Horsemanship wear leg protection?**

No, horses in ranch classes are not permitted to wear leg protection.

**Are ranch exhibitors able to cross enter other showmanship and horsemanship divisions?**

Exhibitors are permitted to show in any showmanship and horsemanship division. The only restrictions that currently exist are that an exhibitor cannot show in western pleasure and ranch pleasure or western pleasure and ranch riding at the same show.

**Has ranch trail been added as a new class yet?**

No, ranch trail is not a class recognized within the Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows.

**What guidelines are there for the Obstacle Trail class held at state fair?**

The obstacle trail course held at the state fair is not a sanctioned class and counties can add their own specifications and requirements. The state does have a prescribed score sheet that can be used as a guide if interested for scoring purposes.

**Are gaited horses penalized or disqualified in Trail classes for not cantering?**

Horses of breeds that do not traditionally canter (gaited) may show at an extended show gait in place of the canter and are not to be penalized when asked to canter. If the gait is broken a major penalty may be assessed however if the proper gait is not displayed at any time between obstacles a judge can DQ an exhibitor at their discretion.

**What classes are required to have a bit inspection by the judge and/or steward?**

Bit inspections apply to all classes and are usually performed by the judge and/or a steward. This might take place in the warmup ring, at the entry gate of the arena, or following a class in the center of the arena. Exhibitors may be asked to dismount and drop their headstall/bridle. Failure to comply in reining when asked results in a zero score and in gymkhana can be assessed a 5-point penalty or be cause for disqualification.

**Can a horse be ridden in a snaffle bit in gymkhana classes?**

Yes, horses may be ridden in a snaffle bit for any gymkhana class.



**What is the difference between a “No Time” and a “DQ” in gymkhana classes?**

The new rulebook has streamlined the language for this and refers to a disqualification typically as a “No Time” for all gymkhana events. But, not all “No Times” are considered a DQ.

**Can riders touch or hold up an obstacle in gymkhana so long as it does not fall over?**

Exhibitors may touch or bump an obstacle without penalty so long as it does not fall over.

**Will the updates to this year’s rulebook have the changes highlighted?**

Yes, new sections and changes that are specific to the latest revision of the Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows will be highlighted.

**Are scribes required for all 4-H horse shows? How do you find a scribe or what is involved?**

Scribes are not expected but are being encouraged at 4-H horse shows. Show committees should work with their judges which can often bring someone with them or recommend someone (a new/beginning judge or professional scribe) that may perform the job. With the many new changes in scoring systems, scribes help to ensure a judge avoids missing penalties that may have occurred. Opportunities are available to learn how to scribe by reaching out to [stutzman.34@osu.edu](mailto:stutzman.34@osu.edu) Show committees may also reach out to neighboring counties for assistance with this. Also, a preliminary list of scribes and contact information may be developed over time and posted online for future reference.

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