



BC Agricultural Expo
September 23-26, 2022
North Thompson Agriplex
Barriere, BC



4-H & Youth Open Horse Show Rules & Class Descriptions

***Mandatory Club Aggregate Classes**

Class Descriptions

***Showmanship**

Members will be judged on how well they show their horse to its best advantage, on grooming and presentation of horse and member, as well as the ability to answer questions related to horse husbandry. The ideal performance consists of a poised, confident, neatly attired member leading a well groomed and conditioned horse that quickly and efficiently performs the requested pattern with promptness, smoothness and precision. Members will execute a posted pattern.

Horses will not be judged on conformation.

Silver will not add marks.

Members showing in English attire must show with an English bridle.

Members showing in Western attire must show with a halter. Halter shank may have a chain and should be positioned in a way that best suits your horse. Member may wear Western type hat or helmet.

No spurs, whips or crops allowed.

***Level Evaluations (Publication number 1011 &1012)**

The Horsemanship Assessment Books- Levels 1-3 & 4-7 are to give you a better idea of where you need to work with your horse for the project year. Regardless of your age and experience, you should work through these tools from the start. New members and experienced riders alike should make certain that all of the listed skills have been mastered.

The levels have been set up to ensure safety for the horse and rider and to build a strong foundation for your future in riding, wherever it may take you.

All members should be prepared to complete a pattern based on the elements set out by BC 4-H Horse Project - Horsemanship Assessments -Mounted Skills (Levels 1-7). When you register you will circle the level that best suites horse and rider. Patterns may be different from the pattern in the assessment manual but will include all skills related to the level you chose.

Level 6- will be evaluated on a pattern created by the BC Ag Expo Horse rep. This pattern will include all elements of levels 1-6. Members may enter this level once they have been evaluated and signed off from levels 1-5 at club level.

Level 7 - member will be evaluated as a Coach. Assisting a younger member through a 20-30 min riding lesson. The lesson must be instructed from the foundation set out by the Horsemanship Assessment Books- Levels 1-5. A short pattern will be given to the rider from the coach in the last 5 min of the evaluation. ** This level can ONLY be entered if you have passed level 6 with an 80% or greater at previous years BC Ag Expo.

***English Level Evaluation**

Riders may ride Hunter seat or Dressage seat. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, legs and their ability to execute the required manoeuvres set out by the 4-H BC Horsemanship Assessment - mounted skills level manual. Each member will enter the ring individually and perform the posted pattern for their level. Spurs are permitted. No martingales of any kind. May ride 1 or 2 handed.

***Western Level Evaluation**

Riders will be judged on seat, hands, legs and their ability to execute the required manoeuvres set out by the 4-H BC Horsemanship Assessment -mounted skills level manual. Each member will enter the ring individually and perform the posted pattern for their Level. Spurs are permitted. No martingales of any kind. May ride 1 or 2 handed.

English Pleasure

To be shown at the **flat-footed** walk, normal trot and easy canter, light contact to be maintained. To be judged on manners, performance, quality and confirmation. Martingales not permitted. Maximum credit to be given to the flowing, balanced and willing horse which gives the appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride. Horses must work both **directions** of the ring at all three gaits. Horses may be asked to extend the walk, trot, or lope, one or both **directions** of the ring. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly. Horses are to reversed to the inside (away from the rail).

Judged on: (45%) performance (40%) manners (15%) conformation. Martingales. Breastplates and whip/crop not permitted.

Hunter Under Saddle

This class will be judged on performance, condition and conformation. Credit will be given to the flowing, balanced, willing horse with ground covering and relaxed strides of good quality. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both directions of the ring, to back easily and stand quietly. Martingales not permitted, crop/whip allowed, breastplate optional.

English Equitation

Entries judged on rider's ability. Riders will be asked to walk, trot, and canter both directions of the ring. Neatness is a first requisite regarding rider's dress. Individual riding test may be called for at the discretion of the judge on command including sitting trot without stirrups.

Handy Horse

Judged on manners, quality of movement, and responsiveness to rider's aids. Course shall vary from the normal hunter class routine to include elements that show ride-ability and handiness, similar to that of a Trail course in Western riding. Obstacles may include walk over or small jump, poles, back through test, bridge optional, gate, side pass. To be ridden in English tack, Hack tack rules apply, no whip, martingale, breastplate etc.

Western Pleasure

To be shown with a free flowing stride, should cover ground with little effort and gaits of the proper cadence. To be shown on reasonably loose rein, but with light contact and control. Horse should carry its head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with its poll level with or slightly above the level of the withers. Maximum credit to be given to the flowing, balanced and willing horse which gives the appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride. Horses must work both directions of the ring at walk, jog and lope, horses may be asked to extend the walk, jog, or lope, one or both directions of the ring. Riders should sit at the extended jog. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly. Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail).

Western Horsemanship

The western horsemanship class is designed to evaluate the rider's ability to execute, in concert with their horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, and maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position.

Western Stock Seat Equitation

Riders will be judged on seat, hands, performance of horse, appointments and suitability of horse to rider. Results as shown by performance of the horse are NOT to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them. Riders enter the ring at a walk or jog and are judged at a flat-footed four-beat walk, two-beat jog and a three-beat lope both directions of the ring. All competitors are required to back in a straight line during the line up in all classes. Judges may or may not ask for a test, and in this case, patterns will be posted in advance.

***Trail Horse**

A well-mannered, sensible trail horse must display the intelligence and ability to carry its rider safely over and through the various obstacles on the course. Judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles, with 11 emphasis on manners, response of rider and quality of movement. Obstacles can include gates, poles, a bridge, carrying objects, a back through and side pass.

Additional Club Aggregate Classes

***Judging** - Members will be asked to Judge two different horse Classes. They will be allotted 20 minutes per class to judge.

***Show and Fitting:** Please see rules and entry form