

# Stevens County 4-H Equine Committee Mission Statement and Policies

## Mission Statement

The purpose of this committee shall be to educate, enable, equip and empower our young people, families, and community in the 4-H equine program.

## Policies

**Governing Guides:** Stevens County shall follow **PNW574 4-H Horse Contest Guide** as the policies and rules for Stevens County 4-H equine events. Situations not covered by the 4-H Horse Contest Guide, USA Equestrian rules, or project manuals will first, give the benefit of doubt to the 4-H member and then be brought to the attention of the Stevens County Horse Leaders equine committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting for follow up and possible ruling, if the dispute cannot be resolved the day of the event.

**PLEASE NOTE: PNW574 4-H Horse Contest Guide takes precedence over all other manuals.**

The guidelines and rules within this publication are the guidelines and rules that Stevens County 4-H equine events will follow. Breaking rules in the 4-H Horse Contest Guide may result in dismissal from the show and/or forfeiture of all awards. Also, any gross abuse of these rules could result in the removal of a 4-H member from the 4-H program.

**Know the rules so that everyone may have an enjoyable experience.**

## Requirements

### Horse Sign Up

1. Any and all horses that a 4-H member wishes to use for any official 4-H exhibit activity must have a **4-H Horse Certificate (CO233)** on file with the member, member's leader, and the WSU Stevens County Extension office. One certificate is good for three years as long as the proper signatures are affixed. Certificates must be on file **by May 1<sup>st</sup>** of each year. In case of emergency situations—injury, illness or death of the animal—another animal may be substituted if approved by the member's horse project leader and the horse show superintendent. If there is disagreement over the decision, the Stevens County 4-H Leaders Council Executive Board will serve as an appeals board.
2. In addition to 4-H Horse Certificate (CO233), each exhibitor shall have a **4-H Horse Member Health Form/Parent Consent and Release Form and Commitment to Excellence** completed and on file with the WSU Stevens County Extension office before being allowed to participate with any equine at any 4-H sponsored activity.
3. New 4-H members and those missing the **May 1<sup>st</sup>** deadline, can sign up after **May 1<sup>st</sup>** deadline. However, as a safety precaution, the 4-H member will not be able to compete with that animal until 30 days from the date the animal was signed up have elapsed. Late sign-ups will NOT be eligible for state competition. Horse leaders committee will decide if late sign-ups will be eligible for county awards.

## **According to the Washington State 4-H Youth Development Program Policies (EM0758e):**

- Members must be in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and have reached their 8<sup>th</sup> birthday by January 1 of the current 4-H year to be eligible for enrollment in large animal projects including equine.
- The following groups are identified for special programs and activity participation within the 4-H Youth Development Program: Junior (3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades), Intermediate (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades), and Senior (9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades).
- Showmanship is a required educational activity for all 4-H youth who show animals in 4-H classes at community fairs, county fairs, State 4-H Fair qualifying events, youth shows, and State 4-H Fair.
- Animals must be under the 4-H member's regular care and management for the following periods of time prior to the official county exhibit activity—Equine: 90 days.
- Equestrian Helmets. All Washington 4-H members and non-member youth participating in all equine projects and activities must wear American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) and Safety Engineering Institute (SEI) approved headgear when riding or driving. The headgear must have a chin strap and be properly fitted. Additionally, all equestrians including adults) are strongly encouraged to wear protective headgear at all times when riding or working around horses.

Note—The Stevens County Equine Committee views the NE WA Fair as the official county exhibit activity, but not a state qualifying event.

### **State Qualification**

Stevens County 4-H is given a quota of the number of participants we can send to the State 4-H Fair. The quota is determined by project enrollment and past State 4-H Fair participation. Qualifiers with the most points will be given first opportunity to compete at the state level. Should a state qualifying team member elect not to participate at the state level, then the opportunity will be presented to the next eligible member. In order to make the state qualifying team, the member/animal team must meet the following criteria:

1. Blue in showmanship, blue in type (performance, harness, or games)
2. Blue in showmanship, red in type
3. Red in showmanship, blue in type

Performance: Showmanship, Saddle Seat Equitation, Hunter Seat Equitation, Stock Seat Equitation, Bareback Equitation, Trail, and Equitation over Fences.

Western Games: Showmanship, Texas Barrel Race, Pole Bending, Two Barrel Flag Race, Idaho Figure Eight Stake Race, Pole Key Race, and International Flags.

Harness: Showmanship, Reinsmanship, Precision Driving I or Open, and Pleasure Driving.

If a 4-H member qualifies in more than one type for state, s/he must make a choice on which type s/he plans to participate in at state fair (State Fair Rule). Non-state fair classes will not be used to calculate points for qualification to state fair.

Judging contest participants are selected by the highest scores per judging contest.

To qualify for state 4-H members must attend 2 out of 3 or 50% of state qualifying events offered with a minimum of two events attended. Participants must participate in showmanship to be eligible to attend State Fair.

#### Performance Qualifying System

Points are awarded to the top six placings in each class. Showmanship classes are given more points. The points system is:

<u>Placing</u>	<u>Showmanship</u>	<u>Class</u>
First	110 points	100 points
Second	99 points	90 points
Third	88 points	80 points
Fourth	77 points	70 points
Fifth	66 points	60 points
Sixth	55 points	50 points

Judges will be required to provide a blue, red, or white placing for all exhibitors in all State-Qualifying classes. Participants must receive at least one blue or red placing in Showmanship to be eligible to advance to state.

#### Western Games Qualifying System

Times from all qualifying shows will be combined as if you had one large show and then a reverse points system will be used to determine state qualifiers. Participants receiving blue ribbons in showmanship have first priority followed by a red ribbon in showmanship. White ribbons do not qualify. Western Games participants are allowed to use only one horse in a state-qualifying event.



Persons with a disability requiring special accommodations while participating in this program may call WSU Stevens County Extension, 509-684-2588. If accommodation is not requested in advance, we cannot guarantee the availability of accommodation on site. Extension programs and policies are consistent with federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.

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