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**Cape May County
4-H Equine Program**



**HORSE EVENT
RULE BOOK**

Revised 2022

PREFACE

This booklet is designed to inform Cape May County 4-H horse club members, parents and leaders of the rules adopted by Horse Council and Junior Horse Council to guide the county 4-H horse program in a positive, fair and safe manner. Unless specified otherwise in this book, the NJ State 4-H Championship Horse Show & County Qualifying Shows Rule Book, published bi-annually, will govern all county 4-H horse shows. The Cape May County 4-H Horse Council shall be responsible, under the direction of 4-H professional staff, for promoting the use of these documents with 4-H leaders, members and parents.

The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers Cooperative Extension. The 4-H Youth Development Program offers education programs to all youth, grades K-13, on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. For additional info, contact (609) 465-5115, or <https://capemay.njaes.rutgers.edu/>.

MISSION STATEMENT AND ACTIVITIES OFFERED

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills through involvement and participation in the 4-H Youth Development Program.

To help 4-H horse club members attain these positive life goals, the Cape May County 4-H Youth Development Program offers a variety of equine activities throughout the 4-H year. These include, but are not limited to, public presentations, equine presentations, equine educational seminars, a Horse Judging Team, a Hippology/Horse Bowl Team, Drill Team, Trail Ride Team, skills clinics, state qualifying horse shows, schooling and fun horse shows, health clinics, an Equestrian of the Year contest and more. Guidelines for these events will be distributed as needed by the county and state 4-H offices.

One of the highlights of the year is the annual 4-H County Fair, held on the third weekend in July. It is a time in which 4-H horse project members show what they have learned in their horse projects throughout the year. Separate guidelines for participation in the 4-H County Fair are established and distributed each year.

In addition, at least one county 4-H qualifying show is held to select those eligible members who will represent the county at the State Championship 4-H Horse Show held each August.

4-H CODES OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS POLICIES

All 4-H youth members, volunteers, club leaders, and parents are expected to endorse and abide by the 4-H Behavior Agreement and Code of Conduct while participating in any 4-H event or activity (attached). In addition, all activities within 4-H are guided by a program of ethics called the Six Pillars of Character, developed by the Josephson Institute of Ethics. All 4-H participants are expected to uphold these principles. (See below.)

USE OF THE NAME AND EMBLEM OF 4-H

The use of the name and emblem of 4-H is restricted by federal law. Only activities or programs under the supervision of the Cooperative Research and Extension Service may use them. Any other organization or event employing the 4-H name and emblem must have authorization from National 4-H Headquarters through the county 4-H agent.

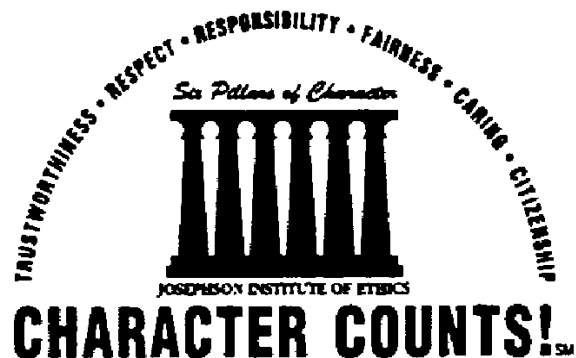
YOUR CHARACTER REALLY COUNTS!

The Six Pillars of Character

A person of character exercises:

- Trustworthiness** Be honest ☺ Don't deceive, cheat or steal ☺ Be reliable - do what you say you will do ☺ Have the courage to do the right thing ☺ Build a good reputation ☺ Be loyal - stand by your family, friends and country
- Respect** Treat others with respect and follow the Golden Rule ☺ Be tolerant of differences ☺ Use good manners, not bad language ☺ Be considerate of the feelings of others ☺ Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone ☺ Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements
- Responsibility** Do what you are supposed to do ☺ Persevere and keep on trying ☺ Always do your best ☺ Use self-control ☺ Be self-disciplined ☺ Think before you act - consider the consequences ☺ Be accountable for your choices
- Fairness** Play by the rules ☺ Take turns and share ☺ Be open-minded; listen to others ☺ Don't take advantage of others ☺ Don't blame others carelessly
- Caring** Be kind ☺ Be compassionate and show you care ☺ Express gratitude ☺ Forgive others ☺ Help people in need
- Citizenship** Do your share to make your school and community better ☺ Cooperate ☺ Stay informed and vote ☺ Be a good neighbor ☺ Obey laws and rules ☺ Respect authority ☺ Protect the environment

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8 Ways To Make Your Youth Horse Program Better

- Hold Rules and Ethics in High Regard
- Encourage Appropriate Parent Involvement
- Get Rid of Tunnel-Vision
- Avoid Short-Cut Training Methods
- Get a Handle on Competition
- Practice and Promote Unselfishness
- Leave Excess Adult Baggage at the Gate
- Have Fun & Learn

From Horses, Kids and Ethics

When I Compete

- I have a performance goal...never a "to only beat someone else" goal,
- I respect and learn from other competitors more skilled than myself,
- I don't criticize other competitors, officials, or judges,
- I do my best,
- I have fun,
- I stay home if I can't follow the above rules.

From Horses, Kids and Ethics

Cape May County 4-H Horse Council

GENERAL HORSE EVENT RULES

In addition to the rules outlined in the NJ State 4-H Championship Horse Show & County Qualifying Shows Rule Book, these rules shall apply to all 4-H sponsored horse events held.

1. The Cape May County 4-H Foundation, Inc., 4-H Horse Council and Horse Show Committees shall not be held responsible or liable for any damage, injury or loss to person, animals or property of exhibitors or spectators. All horses are exhibited at owners' risk.
2. All 4-H member registrations are due by January 1 of the current 4-H year. Registering by this date makes 4-H members eligible for all club, county and state programs and events for which they meet other eligibility requirements, all event and end of year awards and insures that members and club leaders are properly protected by insurance and liability coverage.
3. 4-H members who register to attend any event paid for by Horse Council must reimburse Horse Council if they choose not to attend.
4. All horses and ponies must be registered project animals by April 1 of the current year to be eligible to compete in any 4-H activity, with the exception of open horse events and the drill team. Any additional exceptions must be presented to Horse Council for consideration.
5. All decisions made by judges, show stewards, and the Cape May County 4-H Horse Council under the direction of the county 4-H agent shall be final.
6. All horse show committee or Horse Council members must abstain from decision-making involving incidents including their own children or relatives.
7. A properly-fitting ASTM/SEI-rated hard hat with chin strap fastened is required at all times when mounted at any 4-H event.
8. Every exhibitor must present proof of a negative Coggins Test (dated no more than two years prior to date of show) and proof of eastern encephalitis or bivalent encephalitis, tetanus and rabies vaccinations (dated no more than one year prior to date of show) and Equine Influenza and Equine Herpesvirus vaccinations (dated no more than 6 months prior to date of show) when registering for any 4-H horse event.
9. Registered 4-Hers with properly submitted event permission and helmet notification waiver forms may school or ride one another's registered project horses at Fair and at other events with the exception of state qualifying shows. The 4-H member/owner must be present and must have club leader approval. 4-H members may not show another member's project horse without the approval of Horse Council.

10. During any 4-H event, the care and management of a 4-H horse project animal is the complete responsibility of the 4-H member. This includes banding, braiding, grooming, training, feeding, and stall cleaning, etc. 4-H leaders and parents are only to provide guidance to members to help them learn. 4-H members are encouraged to help one another.

11. Horse Council must provide a contract and copies of the state and county rule books to all judges in advance of the 4-H horse shows they will be judging.

12. In order to be eligible to stable at Fair and compete in state qualifying horse shows and the 4-H State Championship Horse Show, 4-H members must be registered by January 1 of the current year and be in "good standing." To remain in good standing, 4-H members must:

- attend at least 70 percent of 4-H club business meetings during the year
- participate in annual 4-H Public Presentations
- do community service
- properly register their 4-H horse projects by April 1 of the current year
- submit up-to-date project record books.

13. 4-H state horse show rules shall govern all state qualifying 4-H horse shows. There shall be at least one English and one Western Qualifying Horse Show held annually to determine those eligible 4-H members who will represent the county at the State 4-H Championship Horse Show. A qualifying horse show participant's highest score will be considered for each class. The class scores will not be cumulative.

14. Each class participant in state qualifying horse shows shall be given a Danish System score and a class placing in order to prevent ties. If in the event that a tie still does occur in a class after consideration of all high Danish scores and class placings at both qualifying shows, then the tie will be broken by the highest score received in the appropriate Showmanship and Grooming class. If in the event that the tie occurs in the Showmanship and Grooming class, then scores from Western Horsemanship or Equitation on the Flat will be used to break the tie.

15. If a 4-H horse project member qualifies for the state horse show, that member must attend the show. Exceptions to this rule include a veterinarian's certificate, a medical certificate, or a death in the family. If a member qualifies but does not go and does not meet the above criteria, he or she may not be eligible to qualify for state the next year and will be held responsible for any expenses incurred by Horse Council. 4-H members should only ride in qualifying classes that they intend to compete in at the State 4-H Horse Show.

16. All 4-H members showing in any state qualifying horse show must exhibit in at least one Showmanship and Grooming class.

17. Absolutely no tranquilization of horses at 4-H horse shows unless recommended by a veterinarian.

18. Horses/ponies of questionable height will be measured by the show committee. All 4-Hers

with ponies will be required to present 4-H pony cards when registering for 4-H horse shows.

19. Cape May County 4-H horse shows and qualifying shows are for Cape May County 4-H members only. Exceptions may be made by Horse Council for 4-H members from other counties on a need by need basis.

20. 4-H horse show committees may change the position of any class or to combine classes with less than four entries.

21. Horses and ponies are not permitted outside of the equestrian area. The equestrian area is defined as the area bounded by the road in front of the bathhouse, the show ring, the schooling ring, the horse barns and the ready area. If overflow parking is required, 4-H members may not be mounted on their horses outside of the equestrian area.

22. Racing on horseback outside of the show ring is prohibited at all times.

23. Everyone temporarily stabling a horse at the fairgrounds for a horse show or other activity is expected to clean that stall(s) before leaving the Fairgrounds. All hay, grain, manure, and bedding are to be removed. Stalls must be stripped. In addition, trailer parking areas must be cleaned of manure and trash. All participants are responsible for their own parking areas. All manure and stall debris is to be taken to designated areas only. 4-H horse club leaders are responsible for the maintenance and condition of club members' stalls during and at the completion of 4-H events.

24. Failure to properly strip a stall (including hay) and dispose of waste properly may result in the loss of future stabling privileges. Horse Council reserves the right to charge a stall cleaning deposit fee.

25. Stallions are ineligible for competition or stabling.

26. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages are permitted on 4-H Foundation, Inc. or county property.

27. Dogs are not permitted at any 4-H horse activity.

28. Proper dress is expected of all persons in the equestrian area, as defined in the 4-H Code of Conduct. No open-toed shoes or sandals are allowed in the equestrian area.

29. All participants and their families are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the NJ 4-H Horse Program Ethics Policy, as outlined in the 4-H State Rule Book, and the 4-H Code of Conduct (attached).

30. 4-H club leaders are responsible to see that club members comply with all rules and regulations herein contained as well as any additional rules posted on the Fairgrounds.



The Cape May County 4-H Youth Development Program
is a joint partnership of the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders
and Rutgers Cooperative Extension.