

## **2008 STATE 4-H HORSE COUNCIL DISTRICT RECOMMENDATIONS & SUGGESTIONS**

*The following are a list of all District's recommendations and suggestions. Please review each carefully with your Management Teams, and especially with your voting delegates. The recommendations will be voted on at the State 4-H Horse Council Meeting on Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am EST at the Hardin Co. Extension Office. Please see the Kentucky 4-H Horse Leaders' Guide if you have further questions.*

**No Recommendations or Suggestions were turned in from District 1 or 2**

### **District 3 State 4-H Horse Recommendations & Suggestions 2008**

#### Recommendations

1. Split the Miniatures into a junior and senior division. **APPROVED BY THE ANIMAL SCIENCES COMMITTEE**

### **District 4 4-H Horse Council Rule Changes and Suggestions 2008**

Recommendations:

**Recommendation 1** – District 4 makes a Recommendation that because of the inappropriate themes, costumes and music used during Drill Team events in past years that the following wording be added: “In costume, theme, and music, there shall be no references to alcohol, tobacco, drugs, vulgar language, sexual innuendo, or inappropriate behavior. Costuming shall not have any spaghetti straps, tube tops, exposed bra straps, bare midriffs, abdomens, or buttocks. No shorts shall be allowed on riders. For each infraction, there shall be a deduction of 15 points from the teams overall score.”

The above rule addition has become necessary so that the values 4H instills in children also be exhibited in the Drill Team Competition.

The wording is also taken directly from various other 4-H publications when referring to appropriate dress and conduct. **ANIMAL SCIENCES COMMITTEE REFERS THIS TO THE DRILL TEAM COACHES COMMITTEE**

**Recommendation 2** – District 4 makes a Recommendation that the “Non-ASB English Pleasure Horse and Pony” and “Natural Pleasure Horse and Pony” be made regular classes as opposed to the Open Invitational Classes they currently are.

The rationale behind this is that youth will tend not to enter their horses in these classes as OI classes if they then have to show their horses back in non-OI performance classes which count toward high point. Types of horses that would show in the non-ASB would be Arabs, Morgans and grade English-type horses. Types of horses that would show in the Natural Pleasure would be any type, registered or grade, that are not open-show-quality horses. In the non-OI performance class, these other types of horses, which are probably more of the true 4-H horses, have to try to compete with open-show-quality Saddlebreds. If they have already performed in an OI class, they will be more tired than those horses who have not had to compete yet. It also will give 4-Hers with Arabs, Morgans or grade English-type horses much more of a fair chance at High Point if they do not have to compete in the performance classes against Saddlebreds. **APPROVED BY THE ANIMAL SCIENCES COMMITTEE**

**Recommendation 3** - District 4 makes a Recommendation that the following rule be added in the Drill Team Competition Rules “There shall be no active or overt solicitation for audience support. Team T-shirts and cheering are allowed, however, handouts of any kind to audience members shall not be allowed.”

Rationale for this is that this type of activity creates an uneven playing field as small teams with minimal funding cannot afford these props to help sway audience support. It also distracts audience members while viewing other performances. **APPROVED BY THE ANIMAL SCIENCES COMMITTEE**

### **District 5 4-H Horse Council Rule Changes and Suggestions 2008**

1. In the **Walking Horse division**, the Plantation classes shoe size change causes a lot of concerns for participants. To explain the concerns, one must understand the different divisions within this flat shod division. The flat shod horses are further divided into trail pleasure, country pleasure, and plantation, and are judged on way of going, which includes head nod, overstride and front animation. The trail pleasure classes have the least animation; the plantation horses have the most, with the plantation horses wearing a heavier shoe. They are not allowed to use pads, action devices, or tail braces. In many cases, a Plantation shod horse has been stepped down to the Plantation shoe from pads. In Kentucky, in the Walking Horse Division, 4-H does not allow the horses to be shown on pads and having the Plantation class allows the participants to have the opportunity to show their horses with the animation and show brilliance of a padded class. In most cases, taking the Plantation shod horse down to a lighter weighted shoe will affect the performance of the horse, causing the horse to pace. It is proposed that the Plantation Shod classes remain the same shoe size (no thicker than ½” and no wider than 1 ½”) as they have always been. Below is a list of concerns collected by participants in this class as well as shoeing regulations for the Plantation shod horse from the TWHSA and the NHSC.

- This new rule causes a great disadvantage to the 4-H riders. Since we will have to decrease shoe size, we will not be able to perform and compete in other shows outside of 4-H that go by the correct shoe requirements.
- In other states, 4-Hers are still allowed to show Walking Horses with pads. In Kentucky the racking division allows horses to be shown with pads. It seems very unfair to the Walking Horse division to decrease the shoe size of the Plantation class.
- I am aware that at the Southern Regional 4-H Championships we are able to show with pads, plantation shoes, and lite shod shoes, all in the same class. Of course it is harder to compete flat shod with a horse shown on pads, the change in this rule will make it harder for those from Kentucky to compete at the Southern Regional level.
- If this rule stays in place, this allows lite shod horses to enter in Plantation Classes. Plantation Classes are for the horses that carry the heavier shoe sizes and the Country Pleasure Classes are for the horses that carry the lighter shoe sizes. If lighter shoes are the requirement for the plantation classes, then the class is *not* plantation anymore. And if this be the case, why even have the class?
- In my opinion and as a 4-Her who shows in the Walking Division, this rule change is not fair to the participants. I feel that the Walking Horse division is being shafted. Each year we have more and more opportunities taken away from us causing, fewer classes we are able to compete in at the different show levels. Changing the Plantation Class rules is only taking more opportunities away from us as a whole. I take great pride in showing horses and my project horse is a Plantation shod horse that I enjoy riding. I have tried the size 3/4 X 3/8 shoe on him and he is not a pleasure at all to ride. He becomes very sloppy. 4-H is about making the best out of what you have. I have a great horse and we have shown together for six years now. But this rule will probably cause me to change horses.

**Shoeing regulations from the TWHSA (Tennessee Walking Horse Shows of America)**

**Plantation Shoe:**

- a. The plantation shoe must be made of iron and must not be wider than 1 1/2 inch, or thicker than 1/2 inch with no other weight inside the shoe. The use of borium is permitted on the caulks of plantation shoes, but the thickness of the shoe and caulk with the borium must not exceed 1 1/8 inches. Welded on clips are not permitted on flat-shod horses. No additional weight shall be allowed on or in the hoof, other than the shoe and nails. The caulk must not exceed a one-inch turnback and the shoe must not extend more than 1/4 inch beyond the hoof at the toe. The measurement of the turnback is made inside the fold. The heel of the shoe must not extend beyond the bulb of the horse's heel when a perpendicular line is drawn from the bulb of the horse's heel to the ground. The weight-bearing surface of the shoe must be level. Pads of any kind are prohibited.

**Shoeing regulations from the National Horse Show Commission**

Rule X. Judging Procedure and Criteria. Flat-Shod Pleasure Classes.

117. The Plantation Shoe must not exceed ½” in thickness or 1 ½” inches in width with no bare plate or other weight inside the shoe. The caulk must not exceed a 1” turnback and the shoe must not extend more than ¼ inch beyond the hoof at the toe. The heel of the shoe must not extend beyond the bulb of the horse’s heel when a perpendicular line is drawn from the bulb of the horse’s heel to the ground. The use of Borium is permitted on the caulks of the pleasure shoes, but the thickness of the shoe and caulk with the Borium must not exceed 1 1/8”.

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**APPROVED BY THE ANIMAL SCIENCES COMMITTEE**

**District 6 4-H Horse Council Rule Changes and Suggestions 2008**

1). A color photo of the 4-H’ers project horse must be attached to the Kentucky 4-H Horse Project Eligibility Form and Lease/Loan Agreement (if applicable)

**REJECTED BY THE ANIMAL SCIENCES COMMITTEE**

- 2). Allow 4-H’ers to have a second project horse, also designated by the May 1 deadline.
- A). All 4-H’ers have access to more than one project horse by the lease/loan agreement program. By allowing this program, NO 4-H’er should ever have to be excluded from competing.
  - B). In the event project horse #1, although appropriate at the time of designation, becomes lame, sick or dies AND has an accompanying veterinary certificate stating such, 4-H’er may ride project horse #2 (previously designated by the May1 deadline).\*
  - C). By allowing a secondary project horse, 4-H’ers would be able to compete in the events they have prepared for all year, instead of being left out (a self-esteem/pride issue).
  - D). The project horse that is shown at the District 4-H Horse Show MUST be the project horse shown at the State 4-H Horse Show, if they qualify at the District level for the State 4-H Horse Show.
  - E). Having a secondary project horse would teach the 4-H’er to be able to adapt to unfortunate situations - just another opportunity for learning.
  - F). 4-H’ers should never be excluded from participating in their respective events due to circumstances beyond their control.
    - \* If a designated project horse is certified unable to compete due to any of the above, and a backup project horse is prohibited, resulting in the 4-H’er’s exclusion from the event, the 4-H’er should at least have all fees refunded.

**NOT APPROVED FOR 2009 BY THE ANIMAL SCIENCES COMMITTEE-THIS RULE WILL STRONGLY BE CONSIDERED WHEN THE VOLUNTEER HORSE LEADER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM GOES INTO EFFECT IN 2010.**

- 4). In the Contest Division, add a High Point Award for the pony classes. It is very difficult for a 4-H'er who is riding a pony to win High Point in the Contest Division due to the number of entries in the pony classes as compared to the number of entries in the horse classes. **REJECTED BY THE ANIMAL SCIENCES COMMITTEE**

**Additional Rule Change to be added:**

Currently, parents, trainers and other adults or other 4-Her's are NOT allowed to school (riding and/or driving), and/or lunge horses at the District and/or State 4-H Horse Show. Only 4-Her's should be riding, schooling, and lunging their own project horses.

Due to safety concerns, adults will now be allowed to assist youth in lunging horses at the District and/or State 4-H Horse Show. **APPROVED BY THE ANIMAL SCIENCES COMMITTEE**