



## THE MF JR. SHOW HORSE CONTEST GUIDE

**May 2, 2026**

Milton-Freewater Jr. Show PO Box 379  
Milton-Freewater, OR 97862

### **Mission Statement**

*Working together with our community partners to provide an ecological environment in which **4-H, Grange and FFA** members from the community and surrounding communities can successfully demonstrate, leadership, animal husbandry, responsibility, and learn life skills.*



[www.mfjrshow.com](http://www.mfjrshow.com)



miltonfreewaterjuniorshow



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## GENERAL RULES

1. Youth organization members participating in any equestrian activity must wear an approved helmet whenever they are mounted on an equine. An approved helmet meets the minimum performance standards imposed by the American Society for Testing Materials F1163 and includes certification and labeling required by the Safety Equipment Institute. The helmet must be properly fitted with the harness engaged and properly fastened according to manufacturer's instructions. It is recommended that youth members wear their ASTM and SEI helmets any time they are around their horse.
2. Only youth organization members may ride, groom, school or handle a horse while on the show grounds. Junior members may have assistance with saddling and bridling if needed. Anyone may have assistance for safety reasons.
3. No one is allowed to coach contestants while the contestants are in the show ring.
4. A horse not under control may be dismissed from the ring.
5. A visibly ill or unsound animal may be dismissed from participation by show personnel or at the judge's discretion.
6. Humane treatment of all animals is required. Exhibitors are expected to treat their animals with respect and provide for their continuous well-being through proper feeding, handling, disease prevention, sanitation and attention to safety.
7. No one may ride a horse double at any time.
8. No one may ride a horse with a halter only.
9. The show arena is off-limits to anyone other than show personnel except during an emergency.
10. Judges' decisions are final.
11. Show management or the judge reserves the right to dismiss any youth from any youth class or show for any misconduct, lack of sportsmanship or rule infraction. Dismissed exhibitors may forfeit all awards received in the class or at the show.
12. Misrepresentation or falsification of a horse's age, exhibitors' age or project horse is grounds for an exhibitor's immediate disqualification from a Junior Show event.
13. Rules for general exhibitors will apply to horse exhibitors. Please read hardship clause page 10.
14. All horses must be in complete possession of the exhibitor at least thirty (30) days prior to show date. They may not be professionally ridden or handled during that thirty-day period. The youth organization leader is responsible for knowing if entry is eligible.
15. For show purposes, any horse shall be considered to be one year old on the first day of January following the actual day of foaling.
16. No stallion over one year of age may be shown.
17. The horse entered must be the member's project animal for the current year. Each contestant may show only one horse.
18. All animals will be fitted for showing prior to arrival at the grounds. NOTE: GENERAL RULES RESTRICT PARENTS HANDLING, TRAINING or FITTING OF THE EXHIBITOR'S PROJECTS except in matters pertaining to the safety of the exhibitors or the project animal ALSO PARENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO RIDE EXHIBITOR'S ANIMAL DURING THE COURSE OF THE SHOW...THANK YOU.
19. Class requirements and procedures are listed in the JR Show Horse Contest Guide found on [www.mfirshow.com](http://www.mfirshow.com). Horses to be shown according to JR Show program rules.
20. Unruly and out-of-control horses will be removed.
21. If less than 3 exhibitors are entered per class, the classes may be combined with a class of similar requirements or with the same type of class with other age group(s).
22. An exhibitor must receive a blue ribbon to receive a Champion or Reserve Champion award.
23. All FFA exhibitors will be in one class.
24. **All horse exhibitors must participate in Showmanship - NO EXCEPTIONS.**
25. Class designation will follow rules defined in the JR Show eligibility section in the MF Jr Show Exhibitor Handbook.

26. Youth and FFA Horse All-Around Showmanship Champions may participate in the All-Around Showmanship contest. If the Champion cannot or doesn't want to participate, then the reserve Champion will be able to represent the horse Youth or FFA program.
27. Washington horse exhibitors are required to provide M-F Jr. Show with Washington Health Certificates and NEGATIVE Coggins within SIX months of the date entry.
28. ALL Exhibitors must have an approved riding helmet in order to participate and receive their number. You must be checked in and have your helmet checked by 9:00 am the day of the show. If you are a Washington contestant, you will need to show your **Health Certificate** at the same time you check in your helmet.
29. All contestants must attend the exhibitor meeting held at 8:30 am in the bleachers.
30. All contestants must check in with the gate person for your class. If you need a gate hold, you must let the office know two classes before the class you need the gate hold for.
31. For High Point winners—you will receive your award at the end of the show. You must fill out the thank you note and return it to the office on the day of the show.
32. Novice/Riding Classes will be Walk/Trot only
33. HIGH POINT AWARD: IF YOU ARE ENTERED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND WESTERN CLASSES, YOUR HIGHEST EQUITATION SCORE WILL BE USED AND TRAIL CLASS WILL BE USED TO BREAK THE TIE FOR HIGH POINT. BAREBACK EQUITATION WILL NOT BE USED FOR HI POINT AWARDS.
34. Hardship Clause - All species of animals must be in possession of the exhibitor at least 30 days prior to show date. They may not be professionally ridden or handled during that 30-day period. The club leader is responsible for knowing the entry form is eligible. Any exceptions to the 30-day possession rule must be presented as a hardship case to the Superintendent of the species of animal involved. The Superintendents will require documentation to verify the hardship request. The Superintendents will then notify the M-F Jr. Show Board of any hardship cases presented to them and their recommended ruling. The M-F Jr. Show Board will then make a final decision in all hardship cases. Any exhibitor granted a hardship will be allowed to show their animal the same as other exhibitors. They will be eligible for any awards the same as all other livestock contestants.

## GENERAL SHOW PROTOCOLS

1. Exhibitors should be prompt, courteous and alert and should follow instructions from the judge or ring steward.
2. Exhibitors' numbers must be clearly visible on the rider's back or both sides of the saddle pad. The exhibitor is responsible for supplying the second number.
3. Exhibitors should be ready at the gate when called. If an exhibitor needs a "gate hold" (delay of class) for equipment change, they must request this before the class is called to enter the arena. Delays may be penalized at the judge's discretion.
4. A red ribbon should be placed on a horse's tail to alert others that the horse may kick if crowded.
5. Contestants are judged at all times when in the ring.
6. Equipment or class rules may be modified, or exceptions may be made by show management at their discretion, as needed for the safety of special needs youth or youth needing extra assistance.
7. When a judge requests a movement to the right (off-side) or left (near-side), this is to the horse's right or left.

## COMPETITION DIVISIONS

1. All YOUTH Exhibitors must follow the Milton Freewater Jr Show Age Guidelines below:
 

<b>Youth Junior</b>	9-11 years of age on Sept. 1, 2025
<b>Youth Intermediate</b>	12-14 years of age on Sept 1, 2025
<b>Youth Senior</b>	15-19 years of age on Sept 1, 2025
<b>Youth Novice</b>	First year Juniors only

2. All FFA Exhibitors must follow the Milton Freewater Jr Show Grade Level Guidelines below:

**FFA Beginning** Must be enrolled in Ag Classes 1 & 2 **(Verified with Chapter Advisors)**

**FFA Advanced** Must be enrolled in Ag Classes 3 & 4 **(Verified with Chapter Advisors)**

## CONTEST GUIDELINES

Any or all the classes listed in this guide may be offered at the Junior Show Horse Contest. Showmanship is required.

## CLASS PRIORITIES

When management must choose between Equitation, Showmanship and Pleasure classes, Equitation and Showmanship classes must take priority.

MF Jr Show will offer the following classes:

- **Western Pleasure**
- **Western Equitation**
- **Barback Equitation**
- **English Pleasure**
- **English Equitation**
- **Trail**
- **Showmanship**

## RIBBONS AND AWARDS

Junior Show uses the Danish system of awards, in which every contestant receives an award: a flat blue, red, white or participation ribbon. Trophies, rosettes and other special recognition may be awarded in addition.

The standard breakdown for ribbons is:

- Blue award, 85–100 points
- Red award, 70–84 points
- White award, 69 points and below

Disqualified riders may receive a white or participation ribbon. The system may also be modified in classes that do not allow the same 100-point system or scoring criteria.

## PARTICIPATION

Show management invites participation from youth organizations such as Grange, 4-H, or FFA to participate in the MF Jr Show Horse Show.

## SHOW EXPECTATIONS

### EXHIBITORS

While the judge's decision is final, each exhibitor should have an opportunity to approach the judge to ask questions. This should be for educational purposes, not to dispute placings. The exhibitor should not approach the judge until after the final class of the day or as otherwise specified by the show committee. A parent or leader may be present. The contestant should provide their exhibitor number and any score sheets they may have received, but **photos or any visual recordings are not allowed**. The contestant should expect discussion or explanation on how to improve.

### SHOW SUPERINTENDENTS, BOARD MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

It is the show committee's responsibility to provide an opportunity for exhibitors to approach judges. This information will be relayed to exhibitors during the informational meeting or by other means. Before the beginning of a class or show, questions about specific classes or rules must be addressed to all exhibitors, not one-to-one. Show committees need to remember that judges' decisions are final.

## **JUDGE**

Each judge should confirm with the show committee or superintendent when questions may be asked and answered and when an exhibitor may approach the judge. Since judges' decisions are final, they should expect their decisions to be upheld. A judge should be able to provide oral or written comments or clarification to an exhibitor when asked. Judges must address questions about specific classes or rules to all exhibitors, not one-to-one.

## **RECOURSE**

Judges' decisions are final. A show committee has the option to not rehire a judge who has not met their expectations. The coordinator and committee will investigate any concerns and make an appropriate response to the judge.

## **EQUINE ACCOMMODATIONS**

The Junior Show Horse Contest does not tolerate the use of illegal drugs or the improper use of animal health products or foreign substances. The administration of any drug or medication that affects the animal's conformation, appearance, natural performance, behavior or in any way alters its natural color is unacceptable. Junior Show personnel and volunteers, families, youth and show officials have a legal and moral obligation to not misuse these products and to report those who do. Consequences are at the Horse Superintendent's discretion.

Horses requiring any medications or special equipment must have a letter from a licensed veterinarian before the Horse event. If a horse requires medication or treatment to protect its health and welfare after arrival at the show, the medication must be prescribed by a licensed veterinarian. All medication, at all times, must be administered in accordance with the prescription specification or instructions or both. The exhibitor's parent or legal guardian is responsible and liable for the correct administration of the prescribed drug.

## **VOLUNTEER POLICY ON ANIMAL DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT**

Junior Show volunteers are expected to act within the policies, mission statement and core competencies of the Junior Show. Jr Show volunteers may educate members and their families in the normal course of their activities in the areas of animal care, production and management. Jr Show volunteers are not to engage in activities that include diagnosis, treatment or the direct administration of medication to protect animals without authorization from a licensed veterinarian. A Junior Show volunteer may exercise commonly accepted first-aid skills and practices in emergency situations.

## **PROJECT HORSE**

- Each member is expected to have access to at least one horse that he or she may own, share or lease.
- A lease agreement is permitted if the member provides primary care for the horse. States or counties may require that a copy of the lease be included in the member's record book. The horse shown in a youth organization exhibit activity must be the member's project horse.
- Stallions older than 12 months are not allowed in contests or events.
- Horses should be clean and well-groomed, with the feet trimmed or shod. Fetlocks, muzzle and bridle path should be trimmed according to breed type.
- Exhibitors may not decorate their horse with glitter, paint or other means.
- To be classified as a pony, the animal must be 56 inches high or less. When there are a great number of ponies, they may be divided into small pony and large pony divisions:
  - Small pony: any pony less than 48 inches high.
  - Large pony: any pony 48–56 inches high.
- When there are few ponies, counties have the option to combine horse and pony classes.

## POSSESSION

The goal of Junior Show is to ensure that youth have opportunities within the four Essential Elements such as described in the MF Jr Show Core Values and Mission Statement.

Projects are used as tools to promote positive youth development. The purpose of Junior Show events is for youth organization members to demonstrate what they have accomplished with their projects during the year. The goals of the Junior Show program are only met if the accomplishments demonstrated are the result of the youth organization member's own work. Therefore, project animals (owned, leased) must be under the care and management of the youth organization member at least 30 days before the animal may be shown at the official county exhibit activity.

## CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

- Members and attendants should be neat, clean and dressed in long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Boots are required for exhibitors in all classes. (Attendants may wear hard-soled shoes.) Boots are defined as high-topped (above the ankle) leather or leather-like riding shoes with heels. (The boot must have an adequate heel to prevent it from moving forward through the stirrup.) Exhibitors must be able to move the boot freely in the stirrup and easily slide the boot out of the stirrup.
- Equipment must be safe, clean, properly adjusted and suitable for the class being shown. Exhibitors with equipment that does not meet these standards may lose points or possibly be eliminated. Equipment age or cost is not considered.
- An exhibitor's hair must be worn in a net, braid(s) or other means to present a neat appearance and give the judge a clear view of the show number.
- Each member must have proper clothing and equipment for the specific classes entered. (Refer to the appropriate divisions below.) Variations in clothing, tack or both (including bandages on the horse) are permitted if there is a valid medical reason. However, a letter explaining the need for the variation, signed by the physician or veterinarian, must be presented to the show managers before the start of the show.

## HEADGEAR POLICY

Youth organization members participating in MF Jr Show Horse Show must wear an approved (by the superintendent) helmet whenever they are handling or riding on a horse. Approved helmet meets the minimum performance standards imposed by the American Society for Testing Materials F1163 and includes certification and labeling required by the Safety Equipment Institute. The helmet must be properly fitted with the harness engaged and properly fastened according to manufacturer's recommendations. **Youth organization contestants should wear their ASTM/SEI helmets any time they are around their horse.**

## WESTERN

Western clothing and equipment are appropriate in Western classes including, but not limited to, Trail, Western Horsemanship or (Equitation, Showmanship, Western and Bareback.

### *Required*

- Long-sleeved Western shirt with any type of collar, tucked in, and sleeves rolled down
- Jeans, trousers or Western pants
- Belt, unless loops are not present or are covered by another garment.
- Western boots
- ASTM and SEI-approved equestrian helmet

### **Optional**

- Vest, jacket, coat, sweater, jacket with collar
- Gloves
- Ties, pins

### **Not Allowed**

- Whips or crops
- Spurs in Showmanship

## **SADDLE AND PAD**

### **Required**

- Participants may use any standard Western saddle with a horn, but it must fit the rider and the horse.
- Any clean saddle pad, blanket or combination is allowed if it provides sufficient padding for horse and rider.
- If the cinch pin or tongue on the cinch is not being used, it must be removed.

### **Optional**

- If a back cinch is used, it should be adjusted close to the horse and attached to the front cinch with a connecting strap.

### **Not Allowed**

- Australian saddles
- Tapaderos (stirrup covers)

## **BRIDLE AND BITS**

Horses 5 years old or younger may be ridden in a snaffle or bosal. For horses 6 or older, a curb bit is highly preferred. Members showing horses 6 or older in a snaffle or bosal must have a significantly better performance in order to be placed above a member showing a horse 6 or older in a curb bit. Horses 6 and older shown in a snaffle or bosal may be ineligible for top awards at management's discretion. Also, on a horse 6 years or older, the exhibitor should ride with one hand. You can use two hands but you will be docked points.

### **Required**

- Most types of Western bits are acceptable.
- A snaffle bit must have a curb strap, curb chain or bit guards. Curb strap or chain should be attached below the reins on a snaffle bit.
- Bosal hackamores are allowed.
- Bitless bridles are considered training devices and are only allowed for veterinary reasons and require a veterinary prescription to be allowed.
- Overall bit length, as measured in the picture below, can be no longer than 8½ inches.
- 8½" maximum - The correct measure of overall bit length is a vertical line from the uppermost part of the headstall slot to the center of the rein ring.
- Curb straps must be plain leather or chains at least ½ inch wide and must lie flat against the jaw.



### **Optional**

- Throat Latches on all bridles are strongly recommended.

### **Not Allowed**

- Sidepulls and other bitless bridles in performance classes

- Full cheek, half cheek, double wire snaffle or Baucher snaffle bits
- Curb bits with overall bit length longer than 8.5 inches
- Cavessons or nosebands in performance classes
- Mechanical hackamores, double wire snaffles, slip or gag bits.
- Rolled leather chin straps

## Reins

- Only split or romal reins are allowed in Western Equitation, Trail and Bareback.
- Only one hand may be used for reining when using a Western bit with shanks for Western Equitation, Trail and Bareback. The rein hand cannot be changed.
- When romal reins are used, no finger between the reins is allowed. In these cases, the romal goes on the opposite side from the rein hand. The rider's hand shall be closed around the reins with the wrist kept straight and relaxed, the thumb on top.

There are two ways to hold split reins:

- With the palm of the hand facing down and one finger between the reins. The free end of the rein or bight, falls on the same side as the "rein hand."
- When a bosal or snaffle bit is used, two hands must be used. Split reins should be held by crossing the reins between hands so that both hands are holding both reins. Closed reins are allowed with a bosal. Mecate reins can be half-hitched around the horn or properly tucked under (not tied to) the belt.

## OTHER WESTERN TACK AND EQUIPMENT

### *Optional*

- Spurs (if used) must be Western type and must be used properly.
- Hobbles
- Lariat or riata
- Breast collars
- Hoof boots may be used in place of shoes if they are fitted properly.

### *Not Allowed*

- Tie-downs, martingales, draw-reins
- Nosebands
- Tack collars
- Splint boots, bell boots, bandages and polo wraps are not allowed in Western Equitation, Trail, Showmanship, or medals classes.

## ENGLISH | TRAIL | SHOWMANSHIP

**Equipment** and **Clothing** may be used appropriately in Showmanship, Trail, Ground Training, Bareback.

### **CLOTHING**

#### *Required*

- Long-sleeved tailored shirt or short-sleeved shirt with a coat
- Tie
- Jodhpur boots (short)
- Pants or Kentucky jodhpurs
- ASTM/SEI-approved equestrian helmet

### ***Optional***

- A saddle-seat suit or day coat may be worn, but it must be a conservative color and will
- not be given preference by the judge.
- Spurs must be English type and in mounted classes only.
- Whip no longer than 48 inches, including lash.
- Gloves, a four-in-hand or bow tie, and a pin or flower in the lapel are traditional, but not required.

## **TACK & SADDLE**

### ***Required***

- Saddle seat-type saddle

### ***Optional***

- Breast collars
- Pad

### ***Not allowed***

- Dressage, hunt-type, all-purpose or Western saddles

## **BRIDLE & BIT (s)**

### ***Required***

- English Bridle with kavesson
- Snaffle, Pelham, Kimberwick, Full Double Bridle or any other English - type bit appropriate for the seat.

### ***Not Allowed***

- Martingales or tie-downs

## **PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES**

### **SHOWMANSHIP**

**Scoring** - 100 points total

#### ***Member***

25% - Neat and clean, properly dressed, prompt and alert, confident (poised), courteous.

#### ***Animal and Equipment***

25% - Animal clean and brushed, in good condition, feet cared for. Halter and lead fitted, equipment clean and safe.

#### ***Showing the Animal***

50% - Following directions, leading, turning, standing, backing, stopping, showing to advantage, controlling on lead and in line, attention in line.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of Showmanship is to learn courtesy, good grooming, poise, confidence, and how to fit, train and handle a horse. Showmanship is a demonstration of the member's ability to show the animal, in hand, to its best advantage. Conformation of the animal is not considered. Attire may be Western or English.

The type of headgear for the exhibitor in Showmanship is optional. ASTM/SEI helmets, although not required for Showmanship, are encouraged. Exhibitors must wear an appropriate hat or helmet.

## EQUIPMENT

### *Halter or Bridle*

- You may show your horse with a safe, properly fitted halter or show bridle, each complete with a throatlatch.
- You may use a bridle when it is appropriate to breed, attire, or both. If you show with a double bridle, you may use either the snaffle or curb reins for leading. The other set of reins is put over the neck near the withers.
- The halter and lead should be leather, rope, or webbing. The lead should be 6 to 10 feet (about 2 to 3 meters) long. Be sure the lead is long enough to allow you to pick up a hind foot. *Western tack.*

### *Chain*

- For safety or control, using a chain under the chin or over the nose is permitted but not required. If used, the chain must be attached and used properly. A chain approximately 15–24 inches is long enough. You may run the chain through the ring on the side of the halter or through the ring on the bottom, then over the nose or under the chin to the other side. With a very long chain, you may run the excess up the off cheek. If your chain is too long, it may double back through the bottom ring and snapped back to itself. In all cases, the snap should face out. When leading your horse, do not put your hand on the chain.
- *Whips and bats are not allowed.*

## Judging Requirements

- Horses should be well-groomed, clean and clipped according to breed.
- The horse should also be well-trained to the required routine and well-mannered so that it stands quietly, but alertly, while in the class.
- Exhibitors will be asked to demonstrate their ability to lead, turn, set up and move their animals as the judge requests. Additional tests, as listed, may be asked.
- The following principles always apply:
  - Individual tests must be performed with the official(s) in the same relative position to each exhibitor.
  - The exhibitor shall not stand directly in front of the horse.
  - Use of the quartering system is required.
  - The exhibitor shall not touch his or her horse except when executing a requested test that allows touch (for example, sidepass and turn on the forehand) or to smooth the mane or forelock if the judge's inspection has disturbed the grooming. (Tails do not need to be smoothed.)

### *Tests*

- Back horse.
- Sidepass. The exhibitor may touch the horse.
- Turn on haunches (need forward motion).
- Turn on the forehand (need forward motion). The exhibitor may touch the horse.
- Lead at the walk or trot from either side.
- Pick up the feet.
- Stop and set up, square and balanced, or according to breed standard. Do not change hands to set up.
- Answer questions from project materials.
- Perform a circle at a walk or trot.

## EQUITATION SCORING (Western)

Scoring 100 points total

## **Member and Appointments**

15% - Clothing, equipment, courtesy, poise

## **Seat and Hands**

35% Seat, posture, head, legs, hands, balance, distribution of weight, aids.

## **Performance**

50% Standing, starting, walking, jogging or posting trot, figure 8 or equivalent at lope or canter from walk, stopping, turning, backing, general control

- The horse should do what the rider asks with the least possible effort on the part of the rider and least amount of resistance from the horse.
- Gaited horses that pace, slow gait, fox trot, single-foot, rack, or perform a running walk may be worked with the class, adjusting their speed to conform to the other horses. When riders are asked to post the trot on the rail or in a pattern, the intermediate gait is acceptable if that is the breed standard. However, if all other aspects of the performance are equal, a rider posting correctly will be given preference.
- The member will be judged on correct posture, smooth gait transitions and effective use of aids, with special emphasis on light hands. The performance of the horse is not to be considered more important than the methods used by the rider in obtaining the performance.
- The member, horse and equipment may be inspected at any time during the contest. Members using unsafe equipment may be asked to leave the ring.

## **Tests**

- Regular or extended walk.
- Regular or extended jog, trot, or intermediate gait.  
*In Western riding, the rider may sit the extended trot or lean slightly forward, keeping contact with the thighs, with more weight in the stirrups and the seat coming slightly out of the saddle. In either case, the rider must demonstrate an extended gait.*
- Lope or canter, on the correct lead or a counter canter.
- Extended lope for Western
- Perform figure 8s, serpentines, circles, straight lines or other specific patterns at any of the above gaits.
- Simple, interrupted, or flying lead changes.
- Ride without irons or stirrups and drop and pick up irons or stirrups.
- Haunch or forehand turn, need forward motion.
- Sidepass or two-track.
- Transition from any gait to halt followed by "on the buckle" or loose rein.
- Change of diagonals.
- Back up.
- Stand for inspection.
- Mount and dismount. Juniors may not be asked to mount.
- Balanced stops.
- Answer questions from project materials.

## **BAREBACK EQUITATION**

- Exhibitors may be asked to perform any test listed under equitation. Western riders must sit the jog or intermediate gait. English riders must post the trot on the correct diagonal. No mount or dismount is allowed.

## ENGLISH EQUITATION

- Judging for English Equitation is based on overall correctness of position, relaxation and suppleness of the rider, lightness and correct application of the aids. All movements should be obtained without apparent effort of the rider. The rider should be well balanced with loins and hips supple and thighs and legs steady and well stretched downward. The upper part of the body should be easy, free and erect with the hands low and close together without touching each other or the horse. The elbows and arms are close to the body, allowing the rider to follow the movements of the horse smoothly and freely and to apply the aids imperceptibly.
- In addition, the rider is judged on the ability to maintain tempo and rhythm with the horse, along with overall performance.
- The movements or gaits that must be performed are medium walk, working trot (sitting and rising) and canter both ways of the ring. Transitions in gait are from medium walk to working trot to canter. The movements or gaits shall be performed by the exhibitors simultaneously, the same as with other equitation classes. The judge may ask for additional tests.

## ENGLISH PLEASURE

### Performance

- Test requirements are the same for juniors, intermediates and seniors. Tests are to be ridden and judged according to MF Jr Show Horse Contest Guide rules except where noted in this contest guide. Tests to be used are the current approved MF Jr Show Horse Contest Guide, which are usually updated by MF Jr Show. Exhibitors should make sure they are using the most current test each year. Tests may be read, but must be limited to reading each movement one time only, as it is written.
- A ride is to be judged on the horse's gait, impulsion and submission; the rider's position and seat; and the correctness and effectiveness of the aids.

## TRAIL

- The trail class is an under-saddle mounted test of horse control and the rider's ability to guide the horse through a series of obstacles. The course must be safe for horse and rider. The obstacles may be progressively harder for each age group.
- The course should not be spread out over a very large area; obstacle spacing must allow the horse to move easily between obstacles with no wasted time. The course should be designed to be completed in less than five minutes.
- The rider may show English or Western. See clothing and equipment specifications or proper tack and attire. Riders moving on to championship classes must ride the same seat as in the first class.
- Courses must be posted showing the order and direction of the obstacles. Each disturbed obstacle must be measured and reset for the next rider. Courses will contain 6 to 10 obstacles which may be used individually or in combination.
- Unsafe or unnatural obstacles are not permitted, such as stepping into tires, a water box with floating or moving objects, fire extinguishers or cinder blocks.
- Judging is based on safety, performance, way of going, responsiveness, willingness and general attitude with emphasis on manners. Riders may be asked to move on at the judge's discretion or after three refusals or attempts.

### *Attire*

#### *Required*

- ASTM/SEI helmet

### ***Optional***

- Either Western or English

### ***Not Allowed***

- Spurs
- Chaps

## ***Tack and Equipment***

### ***Required***

- Halter with throatlatch and a lead line, suitable for the horse

### ***Optional***

- Correctly attached chain, only if used properly (see Showmanship equipment)

### ***Not allowed***

- Bridles
- Whips or crops

## ***Course***

- The course will be designed so that exhibitors can move quickly and smoothly between obstacles. The course should contain 6 to 10 obstacles and should be designed to be completed in less than 5 minutes. Ensure that there is no advantage to either a large or a small horse. The course should be designed to be suitable for all breeds and sizes.

## ***Obstacles***

- Obstacles can be generally the same as for a standard trail class, except lope/canter obstacles are not allowed.
- When deciding whether the handler should go over obstacles with the horse or work inside poles, boxes, etc., safety should be the primary consideration. This could depend on the size of the horse and the size of the obstacle. The handler must stay out of the danger zone.
- If there is a definite preference for how an obstacle should be completed, this should be clearly stated in the pattern.

## ***Basis for Judging***

- Emphasis is placed on safety, the horse's manners and response to the handler and the quality of the movement. The exhibitor should be poised, confident and courteous and should display safe and quiet techniques in handling the horse. Handlers may be asked to move on after three refusals or at the judge's discretion.

## ***Disqualifications***

- Horse gets loose
- Extreme disobedience

## MOUNTED TRAIL DIMENSIONS

WALK TROT LOPE - OVERS	Maximum height 10 in. 20–24 in. apart for walkover 3–3 1/2 ft. apart for the jog 6–7 ft. apart for the lope/canter Spoke style should be set 24 in. apart halfway. No freely rolling poles allowed
BACKTHROUGHS	Minimum of 28 in. wide on ground Minimum of 30 in. wide elevated Minimum of 32 in. wide for barrels or cones
SIDEPASS	Minimum of 24 in. between poles Maximum height of 24 in.
SERPENTINES	Cones minimum 6 ft. apart Guardrails (if used) 3 ft. to either side Cones minimum 3 ft. apart Guardrails (if used) 6–8 ft. to either side If tall standards are used, dimensions can be loser.

GATE	Latch 54–60 in. high Minimum of 4 ft. wide Rope gate optional
BRIDGE   PLANK	Must lie flat on ground Minimum of 12 in. wide for a plank Minimum of 36 in. wide for a bridge
GROUND TIE   HOBBLE	Inside a minimum 6-ft.-diameter circle
MAILBOX	Must be a minimum of 48 in. from the ground to the bottom of the mailbox
TURN IN BOX	Minimum 6-ft. sides
Other obstacles you may want to consider	Tie horse properly, pick up horse's feet, carry item, dismount and mount (juniors will not be asked to mount), walk through brush, walk by a hide or noisy object
Obstacles not allowed	Tires, walking on plastic, cinder blocks, fire extinguishers, water boxes with floating or moving objects, PVC pipe, live animals, wire gates, unsafe or unnatural obstacles