

2012 King County 4-H Horse Program Rule Change Proposals
Rule changes supported by majority of 4-H Horse Program members will become effective
March 1, 2012

Rule Change Proposal #1

Reference: KC 4-H Horse Project Rule Book and Resource Supplement,
Groom Squad Contest – p 26

Summary Question: *Should the county groom squad rules require that each team use the horse it supplies for the competition rather than switching horses?*

Specific Language:

Current:

8. The horse to be groomed will be determined by lot number, and the horse provided will not be used by the team providing the horse. However, an unruly or intentionally dirtied horse may be given back to the team which entered it.

Proposed:

8. Groom squad teams will groom and show the horse that they supply for the competition.

Pros:

Brings county rules into line with a new rule the State Fair board enacted for the 2011 State Fair Groom Squad competition and should make the competition safer.

Cons:

Removes an element of challenge from the competition (working around and doing Showmanship with an unfamiliar horse)

Rule Change Proposal #2

Reference:

KC 4-H Horse Project Rule Medals Program Patterns and Guidelines,
p. 8 Conditions governing holding Medals and Supreme Award competition

Summary Question: *Should the Medals year be defined to be the same as the 4-H program year running from October 1 to September 30 with members eligible to earn Medals and Supreme awards as long as they are enrolled?*

Specific Language:

Current:

None

Proposed:

Add an additional numbered item:

The Medals program year will be concurrent with the 4-H program year and will run from October 1 through September 30. Qualified members may earn medals and Supreme points for as long as they are enrolled as youth members. If a member completes a Supreme award too late in the year for the award to be presented at the designated recognition event, he or she will still receive the award.

Pros:

When Medals shows are held after the county fair but before the end of the program year, questions have been raised as to whether Supreme points earned at those shows should count towards current year Supreme awards.

Cons:

When awards are completed late in the program year, it may not be possible to present the actual award at the recognition event.

Rule Change Proposal #3

Reference: KC 4-H Horse Project Rule Book and Resource Supplement,
Voting – p45

Summary Question: *Should the King County rule change process be revised to include a review step in which a committee evaluates the submitted proposals and decides if they should be sent to the membership for voting based the impact on the program and alignment with 4-H ideals?*

Specific Language:

Current:

Rules and proposed changes can be submitted at any time during the year and will be reviewed yearly from August to January by the Rules committee consisting of the Vice President for the Horse Program and at least three leaders from active clubs. New and changed guidelines and rules will be in effect as of March 1st of the current year. Changes will be reviewed by the County 4-H Extension Staff (prior to the vote of clubs.)

Proposed:

Rules and proposed changes can be submitted at any time during the year and will be reviewed yearly from August to ~~January~~ November. ~~by the Rules committee consisting of the Vice President for the Horse Program and at least three leaders from active clubs.~~ All proposals are to be made available to clubs for voting by the November program meeting with votes due back at the January meeting. New and changed guidelines and rules will be in effect as of March 1st of the current 4-H year. Proposed changes will also be reviewed by the County 4-H Extension Staff prior to the vote of clubs.

Add the following section after the above section and prior to the section headed 'Voting'.

Review Process

A committee (as defined below) will review each presented proposal. Each member of the committee will vote yes or no as to whether the proposal should be sent to the general membership for voting. A simple majority is required for proposals to proceed out of committee. The guiding questions to consider in determining if the proposal is to be sent to the general membership are:

Would this change help or harm the KC 4-H horse program?

Would the result of this change better align the program with 4-H ideals?

Rule Review committee will consist of: President, Vice President, Fair Superintendent, Performance Chair, Performance Medals Chair, Gaming Chair, Gaming Medals Chair, Education Chair, State Qualifying Co-ordinator. Each of the listed positions has one vote. If the same person holds multiple positions, he or she may vote once for each position. If a position is shared among multiple people, there is only one vote per position.

Pros:

This process would better uphold the integrity of the program and help maintain the standards that 4-H represents. This would also strengthen the program by eliminating proposals that do not benefit the program overall. The committee will reject proposals that conflict with State rules.

This process would possibly result in fewer proposals being presented to the membership for voting.

Cons:

Convening the committee might be a challenge.

Rule Change Proposal #4

Reference: KC 4-H Horse Project Rule Medals Program Patterns and Guidelines
p.42 – Trail Medal and Supreme Award Competition

Summary Question: *Should the requirement that a 4-H member pass a written test based on 4-H horse project materials in order to earn a Trail Gold Medal be eliminated?*

Specific Language:

Current/Proposed:

Strike the requirement that the rider must pass a written test to receive a Trail Gold Medal

Medals to be determined by a total percentage score as follows:

Bronze 80%

Silver 85%

Gold 90%. ~~The gold pattern is not designed by the rider. Additionally, a gold pattern rider will take a 15 question written test from current 4-H project materials including 4-H Horse Contest Guide (PNW574) and Beginning Horsemanship. Rider must pass the written test with 10 correct answers. The medals chairman or designee will have the appropriate written test.~~

Supreme: A Supreme point will be awarded to a rider achieving a minimum score of 90% with no less than 5 points per obstacle.

Pros:

Passing a written test is not required to achieve a Gold Medal in any other 4-H Medals discipline. Riders presently do not get detailed feedback on which questions they miss when they do not pass the test making it difficult to improve on future tests.

Cons:

Written test has been a requirement for Trail Gold Medal since the Trail Medals program was implemented; eliminating it diminishes the accomplishment of those who earned it in the past. While other Performance Medals disciplines do not require passing a written test to earn a Gold Medal, they do require the rider to design an original pattern to demonstrate an understanding of how elements are combined into patterns for the specific discipline.

Note: There are three different Trail Gold Medal tests. Exhibitors attempting Trail Gold take the test at a show and then turn it in to the Performance Medals Chair who scores the test and notifies exhibitors whether they passed or failed. Tests are not returned in order to keep them from being compromised.

Rule Change Proposal #5

Reference: KC 4-H Horse Project Rule Medals Program Patterns and Guidelines
p.69 – Dressage Medal and Supreme Award Competition

Summary Question: *Should the requirement to earn a dressage Supreme Award be changed so that the rider must earn two scores of 63% or better at First Level (or higher) to receive the award, and should subsequent Supreme awards also require two scores of 63% or better at progressively higher levels?*

Specific Language:

Current:

In Dressage, when a rider has earned a score of 63% or above on First Level Test 3 or above, a Supreme Award will be presented. To achieve additional Supreme Awards, a score of 63% or above must be achieved on a higher level test than the one for which the last Supreme award was received.

Proposed:

In Dressage, a rider must receive two scores of 63% or higher on a Supreme level dressage test (minimum: First Level Test 3 or First Level Musical Freestyle) in order to earn a Supreme Award. The two scores should be achieved under two different judges or if under the same judge, at least six months must elapse between the points being awarded. To achieve additional Supreme Awards, two scores of 63% or above must be achieved riding tests at the next higher level e.g. Second Supreme – ride Second Level tests or 2nd Level Musical Freestyle, Third Supreme – ride Third Level tests or 3rd Level Freestyle.

Pros:

Requiring two Supreme Level scores in order to achieve a Dressage Supreme Award brings the Dressage Medals program more in line with other Performance Medals which all require the rider to earn multiple points in order to receive a Supreme Award. It also ensures that the rider has paid a minimum of two Supreme fees to offset the cost of the award.

Requiring that the score be earned under two different judges (or be separated in time if under the same judge) ensures that the award is not the result of a single instance of generous or inconsistent judging.

Requiring that the rider advance to higher levels to achieve subsequent Supremes is consistent with the principals of dressage. To date, no rider in King County 4-H has ever achieved more than one Dressage Supreme.

Cons:

This rule change would make the Supreme Award in dressage slightly more difficult to achieve. However, since there have only been two Dressage Supreme Awards presented in the history of the King County Dressage medals program and since the minimum Supreme test requirement was lowered last year from 2-4 to 1-3, the award should still be attainable for the 4-H member who consistently and seriously pursues dressage and attempts to move up the levels.