

WCHC Open Show Rules

General WCHC Event Rules

1. The Washington County Horse Council and its officers, volunteers and other event staff are not responsible for any accident, damage, injury or loss that may occur to any person, animal or property at or in connection with any event.
2. Proof of current (within past 12 months) negative Coggins and “Self-Certification of Equine Health” form is required of all horses on the grounds, whether participating in the event or just on the grounds “for the experience.”
3. All event participants must submit an entry form which includes a release of liability before participating. Participants under 18 years of age must have an adult sign.
4. No alcoholic drinks allowed.
5. All decisions of the judge and event management are final.
6. Classes may be split, combined, added or canceled at the discretion of event management. Similarly, management may cancel, add or modify any event, or change any obstacle, course or other pattern. Please see our website or Facebook page for updates and changes.
7. All mounted riders are required to wear ASTM/SEI riding helmet (properly secured at all times) and boots with a heel. Show attire is expected in all classes at shows unless excused by the judge or management.
8. No person is allowed in the ring, in the secretary’s stand or near the judge’s (or clinician’s) stand unless invited by management or the judge/clinician.
9. Management or the judge (or clinician) may decline any entry (whether before or during the event) and otherwise excuse any rider, horse, trainer or other attendee from the grounds at its discretion, whether for soundness, safety, discourtesy or other reason. Participants and other attendees are notified that any act of discourtesy or disobedience or any harsh behavior (in management’s or the judge’s (or clinician’s) sole discretion) on the part of any owner, rider, trainer or other attendee may be excused or disqualified, with entry or similar fees forfeited.
10. Well behaved, leashed dogs are permitted; however, dogs may be excused from an event at management’s sole discretion.
11. Cash and personal checks (with proper identification) are the only forms of payment accepted. Checks should be made payable to Washington County Horse Council. There is a \$25 fee for all returned checks. Management may refuse to accept a personal check for a previously unresolved issue.
12. Designated trailer and car parking areas must be used. You will be asked to move your vehicle if parked in an undesignated parking area. See grounds map for details.

13. Questions, comments and concerns should be brought to the attention of the event secretary.

Open Show Specific Rules

1. In order for riders to be eligible to compete in more classes, there are three ways that they may select classes.
 - a. First, riders may enter classes based on their age or skill level in either western or English disciplines.
 - b. Second, they may also enter classes based on the age of their horse in either western or English disciplines
 - c. Third, other classes are offered such as halter, pleasure gaited, and the GAYP Pattern Class which cut across horse or rider ages that may be considered.

The main restriction in selecting a combination of classes across these categories is that individuals who designate themselves as beginners (only comfortable riding in control at the walk-trot/jog) by entering the short or long stirrup classes are not allowed to ride in classes that require a canter or lope. Please see below for lists of possible classes by age/skill level of rider.

2. Leadline classes are limited to children ages 8 and under, English or Western Tack. Leadline riders are not allowed to enter other mounted classes.
3. Short Stirrup classes are limited to beginning riders ages 10 and under, English or Western tack. Walk-Trot/Jog only.
4. Long Stirrup classes are limited to beginning riders ages 11 and over, English or Western tack. Walk-Trot/Jog only.
5. Youth age-based classes (13 and under; 14-18) and adult classes (ages 19 and older) require riding at the walk-trot/jog-canter/lope.
6. Junior Horse classes are open to all horses ages 5 and under.
7. Senior Horse classes are open to all horses ages 6 and over.
8. Trail classes will be held outside the ring. No practice of the obstacles permitted the day of the show.
9. Martingales are prohibited in flat classes.
10. Walk-Trot Hunter Hack consists of 2 jumps at 18" and work on the rail (w-t)
11. Open Hunter Hack consists of 2 jumps at 2' and work on the rail (w-t-c)
12. Gaited Classes are open to any horse with a smooth gait other than a trot. These classes will be judged on manners and suitability as a pleasure horse.
13. GAYP (go as you please) Pattern class open to any gaited or nongaited horse. Pattern does not require a canter or lope.
14. Patterns will be posted at the beginning of the show.

15. For clarification regarding classes each rider is eligible to enter, see specifications at the end of this document.
16. Ribbons will be awarded to 6th place.
17. A Champion and Reserve Trophy will be awarded in each division: Short Stirrup Rider, Long-Stirrup Rider, Youth English Rider 13 and Under, Youth English Rider 14-18, Adult English Rider, Youth Western Rider 13 and Under, Youth Western Rider 14-18, Adult Western Rider. Classes that will be included in point totals for Division Trophies are in bold print below.

Eligible Classes for Leadline Riders (8 and Under, English or Western)

1. Showmanship (13 and Under)
4. or 5. Mare Halter or Gelding Halter
6. Pleasure
7. Equitation

Eligible Classes for Short-Stirrup Riders (10 and Under, English or Western)

- 1. Showmanship**
4 or 5 Mare Halter or Gelding Halter
- 8. Trail (13 and Under)**
- 11. Short Stirrup Pleasure**
- 15. Short Stirrup Equitation**
19 or 20 Jr or Sr Horse Western All Day (Age of horse)
27. Pleasure Gaited Western (if horse is gaited)
31. GAYP Pattern Class
32. Pleasure Gaited English (if horse is gaited)
33. or 34. Jr or Sr Horse English All Day (Age of Horse)
43. Walk-Trot Hunter Hack

Eligible Classes for Long-Stirrup Riders (11 and Older, English or Western)

- 1. Showmanship**
4. or 5 Mare Halter or Gelding Halter
- 8 or 9 or 10 Trail (Class depends on age)**
- 11. Pleasure**
- 15. Equitation**
19. or 20 Jr or Sr Horse Western All Day (Age of horse)
27. Pleasure Gaited Western (if horse is gaited)
31. GAYP Pattern Class
32. Pleasure Gaited English (if horse is gaited)
33. or 34 Jr or Sr Horse English All Day (Age of horse)
43. Walk-Trot Hunter Hack

Eligible Classes for Western Youth Riders (13 and Under)

- 1. Showmanship**
4 or 5 Mare or Gelding Halter
- 8. Trail (14-18)**
- 12. Western Pleasure**
- 16. Western Horsemanship**
19 or 20 Jr or Sr. Horse Western All Day
22 or 23 Jr or Sr. Horse Western Pleasure

25. Western Riding

- 28. Pleasure Gaited Western
- 29. Youth Command Break/Out
- 31. GAYP Pattern Class

Eligible Classes for Western Youth Riders (14 to 18)

2. Showmanship

- 4 or 5 Mare or Gelding Halter

9. Trail (14-18)

13. Western Pleasure

17. Western Horsemanship

- 19 or 20. Jr or Sr Horse Western All Day
- 22. or 23 Jr or Sr Horse Western Pleasure

26. Western Riding

- 28. Pleasure Gaited Western
- 29. Youth Command Break/Out
- 31. GAYP Pattern Class

Eligible Classes for Western Adult Riders (19 and older)

3. Showmanship

- 4 or 5 Mare or Gelding Halter

10. Trail (adult)

14. Western Pleasure

18. Western Horsemanship

- 19 or 20. Jr or .Sr. Horse Western All Day
- 22 or 23 Jr or Sr. Horse Western Pleasure

27. Western Riding

- 28. Pleasure Gaited Western (if horse is gaited)
- 30. Adult Command Break/Out
- 31. GAYP Pattern Class

Eligible Classes English Youth Riders (13 & Under)

1. Showmanship

- 4 or 5 Mare or Gelding Halter

8. Trail (13 and under)

- 29. Youth Command Break/Out
- 31. GAYP Pattern Class
- 32. Pleasure Gaited English (if horse is gaited)
- 33 or 34. Jr or Sr Horse English All-Day (Age of Horse)

35. English Pleasure

38. English Equitation

- 41. or 42. Jr or Sr Horse English Pleasure (age of horse)
- 43. Walk-Trot Hunter Hack

44. Open Hunter Hack

Eligible Classes for English Youth Riders (14 to 18)

2. Showmanship

- 4 or 5 Mare or Gelding Halter

9. Trail (14-18)

- 29. Youth Command Break/Out
- 31. GAYP Pattern Class
- 32. Pleasure Gaited English (if horse is gaited)
- 33 or 34. Jr or Sr Horse English All-Day (Age of Horse)

36. English Pleasure

39. English Equitation

- 41. or 42. Jr or Sr Horse English Pleasure (Age of Horse)
- 43. Walk-Trot Hunter Hack

44. Open Hunter Hack

Eligible Classes English Adult Riders (19 and older)

3. Showmanship

- 4 or 5 Mare or Gelding Halter

10. Trail (adult)

- 30. Adult Command Break/Out
- 31. GAYP Pattern Class
- 32. Pleasure Gaited English (if horse is gaited)
- 33 or 34. Junior or Senior Horse English All-Day (age of Horse)

37. English Pleasure

40. English Equitation

- 41. or 42. Junior or Senior Horse English Pleasure
- 43. Walk-Trot Hunter Hack

44. Open Hunter Hack

Check our Facebook page for updates and last minute changes.