

## Public Speaking Rules & Resources

### National 4-H Horse Classic – Western Division

#### Contestants and Eligibility

1. States may participate in only one event, either Eastern National 4-H Roundup or Western National 4-H Roundup. If a state decides to change whether it will attend the Eastern or Western National Contest from its participation the previous year the Contest Management Committee of both event are to be notified of the decision by April 1 of the current year. All representative teams from a state must attend the same event.
2. Contestants (including team alternates) may participate in only one contest per year at the Classic. After competing in this contest, they are ineligible to compete in the same specific contest again. Contestants must not have competed in this contest in past Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundups in Louisville or the National 4-H Horse Classic - Western Division in Denver.
3. A State/territory/District of Columbia is allowed only one entry in only one division of a contest in a national 4-H competitive event each year. An entry is an individual, in the events where individuals compete against individuals only, or a team in events where total team scores are computed and recognition given to the team. Individuals may be recognized in those events that are primarily team events.
4. Entries not officially entered will not be permitted to participate for any reason.
5. An individual may enter a National 4-H competitive event in a specific program area only once. Participating members of a team entry (even if they are designated alternate by low score) are ineligible to enter the same event again as a part of another team.
6. The eligibility requirements to enter a National 4-H Competitive Event or a Multi-State 4-H Competitive event are:
  - a. Contestant must already have passed his or her 14th birthday, and may not have reached his or her 19th birthday as of January 1 of the year in which the National 4-H Competitive Event is held. However, the State 4-H Leader may grant a special authorization to compete, for youth with developmental disabilities who exceed the upper age limit.
  - b. The January dates for the Western National Roundup event are considered part of the **previous year** for the purpose of allowing all youth to compete in the national events in their last year of eligibility.

7. All contestants must be members of 4-H in the state they are representing during the year in which the National 4-H Competitive Event is held.
8. The contestant(s) or team(s) of contestants must be certified as the official state entry by the State 4-H Leader or by a person designated by the State 4-H Leader. The individual(s) or team(s) may be selected by any procedure the State 4-H Leader believes is appropriate.
9. The contestant, his or her county 4-H staff member, and the State 4-H Leader must certify as follows on the application form or an accompanying memo:  
*"This contestant has not participated in post-secondary coursework in the subject area of the national 4-H competition, nor has he or she participated in training for post-secondary competition in the subject area of the national 4-H competition."*
10. Violation of the above will result in forfeiture of any awards or recognition which have been won in the National 4-H Competitive Event.

## **Contest Rules**

1. The subject matter must pertain to the horse industry. Speeches not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.
2. No visual aids may be used.
3. No coaching from parents or coaches during the speech. Once the individual has started their speech, they may not receive assistance from any coach, parent, audience member, or other person. The penalty for violating this rule is disqualification.
4. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judges.
5. A public address system will NOT be used during the contest, but a podium will be provided.
6. During the competition, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, state and speech topic.
7. Speeches should be 7-10 minutes in length. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under 7 minutes or over 10 minutes. After the individual has been introduced by the superintendent, the time will start once the contestant begins to speak.
8. Contestants should cite their major reference materials at the end of their speech. This time will not be counted in the allotted time.
9. Only the judge(s) may ask questions of the contestant. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question, and then answer it.
10. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and announced at the coach's meeting.

11. No videotaping or photographing of presentation is allowed during the contest. A videographer will be provided by the contest. If one is not available it will be announced at the coach's meeting and other arrangements can be made.
12. Improper attire will be a violation and appropriate points deducted on the score card. Improper attire will be determined at the discretion of the judges. Business attire or dress appropriate to the speech is acceptable.
13. Three judges will be used and judges will score each entry independently and assign scores. After all presentations are presented and score are tabulated, judges may confer and discuss evaluations. Each judge assigns his or her final scores and then cumulative final scores are tabulated to determine the final placings. Contest superintendents may review and check tabulation of scores for mathematical accuracy.
14. The judge's scores are final; however ties will be broken by the following order: 1) judges' accumulated delivery score 2) by the judges' accumulated organization score and 3) on the contest and accuracy scores.
15. The judges will consider the questions listed under each section. The points on the score card will be as follows:

**A. Introduction                      10 Points**

- Did the introduction serve to create interest in the subject?
- Was the introduction short and to the point?

**B. Organization                      15 Points**

- Were the main points easy to follow?
- Were the main points arranged in the best order?
- Were the sentences short and easy to understand?
- Was the speech interesting?

**C. Content and Accuracy      20 Points**

- Were the facts and information presented accurate?
- Was there enough information presented about the subject?
- Was credit given to the sources of information, if it was appropriate?
- Was the content appropriately related to the horse industry?

**D. Stage Presence                      15 Points**

- Was the speaker neat and appropriately dressed?

- Did the speaker talk directly to and look at the audience?
- Was the speaker's posture erect, but not stiff?
- Did the speaker seem relaxed and at ease?

**E. Delivery** **20 Points**

- Did the speaker have good voice control?
- Were all words pronounced correctly?
- If notes were used, was it done without detracting from the presentation?
- Did the speaker seem to choose words at the time they were spoken as opposed to a memorized or ready-type delivery?

**F. General** **10 Points**

- Did the speaker convey to the audience a sense of wanting to communicate?
- Did the speech reflect the thoughts and personality of the speaker?

**G. Conclusion** **10 Points**

- Was the conclusion short and interesting?
- Did the conclusions properly wrap up the presentation?
- Did the summary properly wrap up the presentation?
- Could the presenter handle questions easily?