



## **2025 Clinic and Arena Information and Expectations and 4-H Horse Project Policies**

### **What you need to know before you arrive:**

Clinic reservations will be on a first come/first serve basis for riders only. If a clinic is full, participants who did not pre-register may participate, but not on horseback. Please note the Western Pleasure Clinics Part I & Part II will have a limited number of participants.

Clinics may be cancelled because of weather or a lack of registered participants. Members who have pre-registered will be notified of cancellations. We welcome non-registered participants, but it will be your responsibility to verify with Ashley Dums if a clinic will happen as planned.

Clinic dues are a one-time fee of \$30 due May 15th. We know it may be hard to plan ahead, so you are welcome to come to a clinic even if you did not pre-register.

### **When you arrive at the clinic**

- Horse and Rider need to be ready by clinic start time. Please arrive early to unload and prepare your horse.
- If you are not pre-registered, you must check in and pay your fees prior to the start of the clinic.
- It is your responsibility to clean up any and all poop that your horse leaves behind. If it falls when you are walking across the lot or around your trailer, please clean up before you leave. Bring a muck bucket and fork/rake for this job. Use of the arena at the fairgrounds is a privilege – don't abuse it!
- For the same reason, please remember to clean up your garbage and grab your water bottles at the end of the clinic.

### **During the clinics:**

- Approved riding helmets and boots must be worn at all times when you are mounted. You should only be mounted in designated areas.
- Be very cautious of others. We have many first-time participants and several new horses this year, so please give extra space between each other at all times.
- Help each other out! For those of you that have a few years in the project, please try to tack up early and give a hand to a new member if needed. You will make them feel more welcome and may just make a new friend in the process. WE NEED YOUR MENTORSHIP THIS YEAR!

- If you need assistance or are having an issue with your horse, please let Ashley or the leader in charge know. If during a clinic you feel unsafe and need to dismount, please do so. If your horse is acting up, please move to an unattended portion of the arena.
- HAVE FUN!

Reminder that at any 4-H Horse project events and activities, the following policies must be followed for safety reasons: These policies and safety requirements apply to ALL youth and adults participating in 4-H Horse-related projects, activities and events, including, but not limited to Horseless Horse, clinics, shows, fairs, parades, open-houses, and petting-zoos. Specific events, fairs, facilities, and local 4-H programs may have additional guidelines.

## **B. General Safety Rules**

- Youth must be in 3rd grade or higher to participate.
- The handler, rider or driver must have control over their horse during 4-H sponsored activities or events.
- No intact male horses (stallions) are allowed.
- No Bareback or riding double.
- No Reining or Team Penning classes/activities
- No horse may be left unattended when out of the stall or trailer.
- Leave at least one horse/pony length between animals.
- When holding a horse in hand, make turns to the right when more than ninety degrees.

## **C. Required Participant Safety Attire**

- SEI approved helmets, with harness fastened, must be worn at all times when mounted or driving.
- Close-toed shoes or boots are required when near a horse.
- Clothing appropriate for the activity which will protect the participants from the elements surrounding the event.
- Boots with a cut out heel must be worn when mounted.

## **D. Required Safety Tack and Appointments**

- A saddle is required when mounted. Saddle which fits horse and rider with stirrups, girth or cinch properly attached.
- Appropriate headgear with reins attached are required when riding or driving a horse. Halters and tie-downs alone are not approved headgear for riding or driving a horse. See WI 4-H Horse Association rules for additional headgear guidelines.
- Twisted wire snaffle bits are prohibited.
- Adjustments to tack for a valid medical reason are permitted with written permission from a veterinarian or physician, provided lead volunteers or staff are notified, and approved, prior to participation.

## **E. Animal Welfare and Safety**

- Horses or Ponies must be serviceably sound and must not show evidence of broken wind (respiratory issues – COPD) or impairment of vision in both eyes.

- Coggins/Premise ID records for the open event must be maintained by the host organization for five years in compliance with Wisconsin law. (Visit [wiid.org/premises-registration-renewal](http://wiid.org/premises-registration-renewal) for more information on Premise ID's.)
  - Equine animals from within Wisconsin need documentation of a negative EIA test done within the previous 12 months, which clearly identifies the animal by complete description, digital photographs, or an approved microchip (if a reader is available).
  - Wisconsin Premise ID should be written on the top of the Coggins record for each horse.
  - Health certificates for out-of-state horses should be maintained with show records. Please visit DATCP website for more details:  
[datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/HorseOtherEquineMvmt.aspx](http://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/HorseOtherEquineMvmt.aspx)

#### **F. 4-H Horse Project Concussion and Head Injury Policy**

- Wisconsin 4-H will annually distribute the 4-H Horse Project concussion and head injury information via the online enrollment system to:
  - every 4-H volunteer who is enrolled in the 4-H Horse Project and
  - every 4-H member/parent that participates in the 4-H Horse Project and
  - every youth/parent that participates in the 4-H Horse Program
- No youth may participate in the 4-H Horse Project unless the youth and parent agrees to and signs the 4-H Horse Project Concussion Agreement. Forms will be signed annually at the start of each program year or upon entry of a youth into the 4-H Horse Project via the online enrollment system or paper registration.
- All 4-H Horse project volunteers will annually agree to and sign the 4-H Horse Project Concussion Policy Acknowledgement Form via the online enrollment system or paper registration before they are approved to hold 4-H Horse Project riding or driving programs/activities.
- The supervising 4-H volunteer will immediately remove a participant from the 4-H Horse Project riding or driving project/activity if the 4-H volunteer determines that the 4-H member/participant exhibits signs, symptoms, or behavior consistent with a concussion or head injury –OR– the 4-H member/participant was separated from their horse and hit their head or their head was struck.
- A youth who has been removed from the 4-H Horse Program riding or driving program/activity related to a suspected and/or confirmed concussion or head injury –OR– the 4-H member/participant was separated from their horse and hit their head or their head was struck may not participate in any 4-H Horse riding or driving activities until he or she is evaluated by a health care provider and receives a written clearance to participate in the project/activity from the health care provider.
- Records shall be kept in the local Extension Office of all participants removed from a 4-H Horse project/activity for suspected and/or confirmed concussions and corresponding written clearances provided by health care providers to return to the 4-H Horse project/activity.