Light Horse Judging

Revised 6/2023

Purpose and Standards

The purpose of the Light Horse Judging Career Development Event (CDE) is to provide students with new insights into equine science by evaluating and ranking horses based on breed characteristics, confirmation and performance.

Participants will make accurate observations of equine, access desirable traits of horses, make logical placing decisions based on these observations, and defend their decision making process. Participants defend their decisions via oral reasons in front of industry experts.

Participant of the Light Horse Judging CDE strengthen their leadership, observation, analysis, critical thinking and communication skills while also developing and exercising a competitive team spirit and building an awareness of career opportunities within the equine industry.

Foundation Standards: 2.0, 2.4, 5.0, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 9.0, 9.1, 9.2, 9.5, and 11.1

Agricultural Pathway Standards: D 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, and D10**5**

Contestants

Teams consist of four members, with all four individual scores counting as the team score. All team members are eligible for individual awards.

Classes

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Individual Points** | **Team Points** |
| Class 1 | 50 | 200 |
| Class 2 | 50 | 200 |
| Class 3 | 50 | 200 |
| Class 4 | 50 | 200 |
| Class 5 | 50 | 200 |
| Class 6 | 50 | 200 |
| Class 7 | 50 | 200 |
| Class 8 | 50 | 200 |
| Halter Reasons Class 1 | 50 | 200 |
| Halter Reasons Class 2 | 50 | 200 |
| Performance Reasons Class 1 | 50 | 200 |
| Performance Reasons Class 2 | 50 | 200 |
| TOTAL | 600 | 2400 |

Tiebreaker

In the event of a tie, the team or individual scoring the highest total score on four sets of reasons will be the winner.

Sub-contest Awards

Sub-contest awards will be given for high teams and individuals in the following areas: Halter, Performance, and Reasons. (Halter and Performance include reasons for respective classes. Reasons sub-contest includes all reason scores.)

Event Rules

1. No pre-printed materials will be allowed during the event unless supplied by the host school.
2. Any participant in possession of an electronic device in the event area is subject to disqualification.
3. Inappropriate behavior by contestants or coaches will result in the immediate disqualification of the team for that contest.
4. Coaches will be permitted to watch the contest in a designated area.
5. Release the name of the classes being judged by 6:00 p.m. the night prior to all coaches/teams registered.

Judging Rules

1. Judging
   1. There will be eight classes judged with a minimum of two classes in halter and two in performance not to exceed six in each area.
      1. Halter Classes (200-400 points)
         1. All contestants will be allowed 12 minutes for the placing of each halter class. Two minutes will be allowed for each set of reasons.
         2. These two to six classes of horses will be judged on conformation. The classes shall consist of:
            1. Four individuals of any of the following breeds: American Paint Horse, American Quarter Horse, American Saddlebred, Appaloosa, Arabian, Morgan, or Conformation Hunter.
            2. Four individuals of any one sex; Stallions, Colts, Mares, Fillies or Geldings:
            3. Each class will be scored 0-50 points.
         3. Two sets of reasons will be given on halter classes. These sets will be scored 0-50 points. Contest advisors should be advised of Curricular Code Introduction section on oral reasons, which reads; students giving oral reasons may take notes while judging the classes. (See attached reason’s score sheet.) A contestant has the option not to give reasons to alumni from their school. A contest official will reassign the contestant to another group for that set of reasons.
         4. Horses will be judged standing.
         5. All halter horses to be judged as sound.
         6. No close inspection
      2. Performance Horses (200 - 400 points)
         1. All performance classes will be judged according to AQHA rules.
         2. Patterns will only be established by the Official Handbook of the American Quarter Horse Association.
         3. Two to six classes of horses will be judged as performance horses. The time allowed for judging these classes will be set by the contest management. Each class will be scored 0-50 points.
         4. Each class shall consist of four individual horses.
         5. Performance classes shall consist of any two of the following:
            1. Western Pleasure
            2. Western Riding
            3. Trail
            4. Reining
            5. Hunter Under Saddle
            6. Hunter Hack
            7. Western Horsemanship
            8. Ranch Riding
         6. Two set of reasons will be given on performance classes. Reasons will be scored 0-50 points. (See attached score sheet.) A contestant has the option not to give reasons to alumni from their school. A contest official will reassign the contestant to another group for that set of reasons.
         7. Official placing and contest judging will be done simultaneously for all performance classes.
         8. Performance classes will be evaluated as presented (unsoundness to be penalized accordingly). Patterns will be provided to team prior to the start of the event for all classes requiring patterns.
         9. All attire of riders and handlers and all tack is to be considered legal in performance classes.

REASON’S SCORE SHEET

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Score** |
| What to do when a contestant.....does not show. Write DOES NOT SHOW on Card | 0 |
| Says “I don’t have anything to say.” | 0 |
| Reads notes with poor organization and terms | 5-9 |
| Reads notes, fairly complete set | 10-14 |
| Reads notes, excellent set | 15-20 |
| Glances at notes one or more times | 20-24 |
| No notes, poor terminology and organization | 25-34 |
| No notes, proper terms, but brief or not accurate | 35-39 |
| No notes, good terms, fair organization and accurate presentation | 40-44 |
| No notes, excellent terms, organized, accurate and well presented | 45-50 |

Time Penalties: (two minutes allowed)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Penalty** |
| 2:01-2:10 | - 1 |
| 2:11-2:20 | - 3 |
| 2:21-2:30 | - 6 |
| 2:30 or more | -10 |