

# **Holiday Classic Open Horse Show**

## **Rulebook**

Revised 30NOV17

Show series to benefit the NC 4-H Horse Program North Central District,  
Equestrian Western Club at NC State, and University of North Carolina Equestrian Team

Managed by Richard Isley (4-H) and Robin Lynn (NCSU)

Class lists, entry forms, and stall request forms are available online at  
<http://www.holidayclassicopenhorseshow.com/>

Contact Richard Isley with questions (336-908-3302)

### **Diversity of Exhibitors:**

We believe in the policy ALL equines can do ALL things within the diversity and distinction of their breed and thus should be presented with all opportunities to do so. The Holiday Classic is an Open horse show that welcomes all breeds of equine and riders of all ages and skill to promote their talents and to allow them to expand and enrich their experience. No registration papers are required for any class.

## **I. BASIC INFORMATION**

Spring Show – Third weekend in April  
Winter Show – First weekend in December

Dates are contingent upon the NC State Fairgrounds facility staff not changing the Holiday Classic's traditionally scheduled weekends.

Shows will be located at the Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr. Horse Complex in Raleigh, North Carolina

### **DIVISIONS**

**Over Fences**

**Field Hunter**

**Dressage**

**Huntseat**

**Working Western**

**Western Pleasure**

**Holiday Classic Series Grand Championships will be awarded at the December show for the divisions listed above.**

**Holiday Classic Spring and Winter Division Championships will be awarded at the completion of the weekend for the divisions listed above.**

**Show Management reserves the right to move classes to different arenas or eliminate breaks if timing, weather, or safety concerns dictate the need to do so.**

**Show Management will always have the final say regarding any issues, questions, or interpretations needed for the rules.**

**Preregistration is encouraged but not required.**

**This rulebook will be updated on the website when changes are made. Please ask Show Management for clarification if you have any questions about the content.**

## II. GENERAL RULES

- 1) A negative Coggins test drawn within one year is required for admittance to the show grounds. The negative Coggins test must be inspected and approved by a member of show management before check-in.
- 2) Payment for stalls and entry fees is expected at the time of sign-up. In order to receive the “early entry discount,” entry fees and an acceptable form of payment must be postmarked to the show secretary by the assigned date that is posted on the website and social media.
  - a) All returned checks are subject to a \$30.00 processing fee or the fee instituted by the applicable bank, whichever is greater.
  - b) Pre-entries who do not show up or who notify show management of their cancellation less than one week before the Friday of the show will be charged a \$10.00 office fee.
- 3) Any equine or rider exhibiting unsafe or unpredictable behavior will be immediately excused from the arena.
  - a) Show management reserves the right to excuse any rider and their mount from the show grounds that deliberately and/ or intentionally continues to provide an unsafe environment either for themselves or other exhibitors.
  - b) Trainers and/or parents are not allowed in the ring while classes are being held, unless special permission is given.
  - c) Drugs, alcohol or unruly behavior will not be tolerated. Violators will be asked to leave.
  - d) Scratching from a class must be done in the show office prior to the beginning of the division, or the entry fee will be charged for the class. Show Management will make concessions in the event of injuries or extenuating circumstances.
  - e) Failure to enter the show arena before the gate is closed and class begins will result in disqualification. Tack and gate holds must be scheduled with the ring master in advance.
  - f) Exhibitors will be responsible for all blanks or errors made on entry forms.

## III. EXHIBITOR SHOW ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

- 1) Show Staff will begin checking horse in at 10:00 AM on the Friday prior to the show. The show office will open at 3:00 PM at the earliest on the Friday prior to the show. The main arena will be open for schooling over fences around 2:00 on the Friday prior to the show.
- 2) ENTER THE SHOWGROUNDS THROUGH GATE H4. Stop at the Stall Check-In Office located adjacent to the shavings trailer and provide the Stall Coordinator with your name and the name of your responsible party. Stall assignments will be posted on the announcement board in the same area. After receiving confirmation of your stall assignment, drive to your stall area and unload. Move all vehicles to a designated parking area.
- 3) **Parking next to or between barns except during loading and unloading restricts access by emergency vehicles and is prohibited.**
- 4) Take horses to the COGGINS CHECK-IN STATION, WHICH WILL BE LOCATED AT THE FARRIER BARN, along with a copy of your current negative Coggins. Present your horse and Coggins for inspection and approval. Please remove blankets and wraps prior to having your horse’s Coggins checked. Obtain a signed Coggins slip verifying that your horse matches the information submitted on your entry form.

### **III. EXHIBITOR SHOW ARRIVAL PROCEDURES (CONT'D)**

- 5) **Pre-Entered Exhibitors** - Take the signed Coggins check-in form to the Show Office located in the main arena to obtain your entry packet. Your entry packet will include back numbers.
- 6) **Exhibitors Not Yet Entered Upon Arrival**
  - a) Inform show staff inspecting Coggins that you have not pre-entered. Show staff will request exhibitor's name, responsible party, and stall location.
  - b) If the horse does not have a stall, one will be assigned at that time.
  - c) Show staff will then assign an exhibitor number (will be recorded on the Coggins slip).
  - d) Take the signed Coggins slip to the Show Office located in the main arena, where the show secretary will process class entries and give an entry packet to the responsible party.
  - e) Once the entry packet has been received, the responsible party should check to ensure that charges are correct and the correct classes have been entered.

You **MUST** keep a copy of your horse's Coggins Test posted next to your stall door and visible at all times. Failure to do so could result in a fine from the NC Department of Agriculture State Veterinarian.

**Office hours and shavings trailer staffing times will be posted. Shavings will not be sold or distributed during non-staffed times.**

#### **WARNING:**

**Under North Carolina law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for any injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting exclusively from the inherent risks of equine activities. Chapter 99E of the North Carolina General Statutes.**

## IV. GENERAL EXHIBITOR AND CLASS RULES

- 1) ASTM approved helmets are **required** for all riders and exhibitors schooling and showing over fences.
- 2) ASTM approved helmets are allowed and encouraged in all classes.
- 3) Show management will follow USEF guidelines on prohibited and restricted substances for competition.  
<https://www.usef.org/IFrames/Drugs/Rules.aspx>
- 4) **The decision of the judge is final.**
- 5) The following rules will be used and followed as a guideline for the class divisions as indicated below.
  - a) Working Western Division- American Ranch Horse Association (ARHA) and American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) (<http://www.americanranchhorse.net>) & (<https://aqha.com>)
  - b) Western Pleasure Division - American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) (<https://aqha.com>)
  - c) Trail - American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) (<https://aqha.com>)
  - d) Over Fences Division - United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) (<https://www.usef.org/>)
    - i) EXCEPTION: HUNTER HACK. See Hunter Hack section (VII.9.f) for rules.
  - e) Field Hunter Division - United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) (<https://www.usef.org/>)
  - f) Halter - American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) (<https://aqha.com>)
  - g) Showmanship - American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) (<https://aqha.com>)
  - h) Huntseat Division - American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) (<https://aqha.com>)
  - i) Suitability for Dressage - United States Dressage Federation (USDF) (<http://www.usdf.org/>)
- 6) Hoof bands and other such action devices are not permitted on the show grounds. Violators will be asked to leave the property.
- 7) **Properly fitted protective headgear with harness secured which passes or surpasses ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag are required to be worn by the following:**
  - a) **All riders competing in the Field Hunter, Dressage, or Over Fences divisions**
  - b) **Anyone schooling over fences, youth or adult, anywhere on the show grounds**

## V. EXHIBITOR PRESENTATION

- 1) **Tack**
  - a) Numbers on exhibitors in western tack may be affixed to both sides of their saddle pad or displayed on the exhibitor's back. Exhibitors in the Huntseat division may show with numbers on their back but are encouraged to do the same if saddle pad permits. Exhibitors in Field Hunter and Over Fences should have numbers displayed on the exhibitor's back.
  - b) Standing Martingales are only allowed in Over Fences classes with the exception of Hunter Hack. Martingales are prohibited in both the over fences and the flat phases of Hunter Hack.
  - c) For more specific equipment requirements consult the particular rulebook for each division.

## V. EXHIBITOR PRESENTATION (CONT'D)

### 2) **Rider Attire**

- a) Clothing maybe casual but should show an appropriate level of respect for the event and the judge; collared shirts with sleeves, long pants, and boots with a heel are required for all events.
- b) Western riders may choose to show their horse in either cowboy hat or helmet. Ballcaps will not be accepted.
- c) English riders may show in either paddock boots or tall boots. Hunt coats are not required.
- d) Accessories appropriate to the costume of the rider (ex. a rope tied to the saddle in a working western class) will be permitted only as long as the accessory is deemed appropriate by show management and does not interfere with other exhibitors.

## VI. DEFINITIONS

- 1) **Action Devices:** Action devices are any material (mechanical or chemical) applied to the legs of an equine to encourage exaggerated movement of the gaits.
- 2) **Stock Type:** Refers to breeds of horses that traditionally have roots working stock on ranches. This would include the Quarter Horse, Paint, Appaloosa, Palomino, Pinto, and other ARHA recognized breeds.
- 3) **Saddle Type:** Refers to breeds that traditionally have roots that can be traced to or are similar to the American Saddle Horse. Horses in this category are typically smaller boned with more refined builds than stock horses characterized by their smooth, lively gaits and stamina.
- 4) **Field Hunter:** Refers to equines that could reasonably be expected to carry a rider through the hunt field with ease. Confidence and stamina are praised. Horses that look through the bridle to the next obstacle with consistent, ground-covering strides are well suited.
- 5) **Hunt Seat:** The purpose of the hunter under saddle horse is to present a horse with a bright, alert expression, whose gaits show potential of being a working hunter. Its gait must be free-flowing, ground covering and athletic and should move with long, low strides reaching forward with ease and smoothness. The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gaits is a major consideration. Horses should be obedient, have a bright expression and should be responsive. The poll should be even with or slightly above the wither.
- 6) **Junior Horse:** Any horse that is younger than age 6 (using standard Jan 1 birthdate).
- 7) **Senior Horse:** Any Horse that is 6 years of age or older.
- 8) **GAYP:** "Go As You Please". Riders may present their horse at their preferred gait (trot, canter or 3-gait). Riders must show at the same gait in both directions.
- 9) **Novice Rider:** A novice rider is defined as one who has not placed first in more than three (3) classes at any open, breed or rated show prior to the start of the Holiday Classic, except in classes where there was only one exhibitor.

## **VII. DIVISIONS**

### **1) Halter (AQHA Rules)**

- a) Halter classes will be judged on the conformation of the horse against their ideal breed standard.
- b) Stallions may **only** be shown by exhibitors 18 years and over.
- c) Class procedure: Horses will walk to the judge one at a time. As the horse approaches, the judge will step to the side to enable the horse to trot/gait straight approximately 50 feet away. The horse will continue trotting, turn and trot toward the wall or fence of the arena. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail at the direction of the ring steward for individual inspection by the judge. The judge shall inspect each horse.
- d) Exhibitors shall show in attire suitable to the breed they are showing.
- e) Exhibitors who place first and second in each class will be eligible to return for a championship class.

### **2) Showmanship (AQHA Rules)**

- a) Showmanship classes will be judged on the exhibitor's ability to show their horse in hand through a prescribed pattern, in accordance with AQHA rules. Credit will be awarded for correctness of pattern, good posture, and personal appearance of horse and rider.
- b) Exhibitors may show in English or Western tack and attire.
- c) Exhibitors who place first and second in each class will be eligible to return for a championship class.

### **3) Huntseat (AQHA Rules)**

- a) Cross entering a horse / rider combo between the Field Hunter Division and Huntseat Division will not be allowed
- b) Unless otherwise denoted by "GAYP" or "W/T," horses will be required to walk, trot, and canter. Exhibitors may be asked to back at the judge's discretion.
- c) The AQHA rulebook will be used as a guide while judging Huntseat classes.
- d) Equitation
  - i) Equitation classes judge the ability of the English rider. Credit will be awarded for correctness of riding posture and personal appearance of horse and rider.
  - ii) Riders in W/T equitation will be required to perform a prescribed pattern and show at the walk and trot on the rail. Riders may be asked to drop stirrups, two-point, sit or extend the trot, or back at the judge's discretion.

### **4) Working Western (ARHA & AQHA Rules)**

- a) Working Western classes serve to measure the ability of the horse to be functional and a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from one task to another. This horse should be relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint. Excessively long floppy reins will not be given extra credit. The horse should be responsive to the rider and make all required transitions smoothly, timely, and correctly. The horse should be soft in the bridle and yield to contact.
- b) The ARHA and AQHA rulebook will be used as a guideline while judging working western classes.

## Working Western (cont'd)

- c) Cross entering a horse / rider combo between the Working Western Division and Western Pleasure Division will not be allowed, with the exception of *Working Western: Ranch Riding (Pattern Class) – Open* (one on Saturday and one on Sunday), *Western Pleasure: Horsemanship W/J – Open* (Saturday), and *Western Pleasure: Horsemanship W/J/L Open* (Sunday). Horse / rider combos competing in the Working Western Division may also show in the Horsemanship classes and horse / rider combos competing in the Western Pleasure Division may also show in the Ranch Riding classes.
- d) Unless otherwise denoted by “GAYP” or “W/J,” horses will be required to walk, jog, and lope.
- e) Horses may be required to show an extension or collection of each gate and/or back at the discretion of the judge. Exhibitors reserve the right to sit, post, or two-point during the extended jog. If exhibitors choose to two-point they may hold the saddle horn.
- f) Ranch Riding:
  - i) The purpose of the Ranch Riding horse should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. This class should show the horse’s ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the rider. Light contact should be rewarded and horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the horse’s quality of movement are the primary considerations.
  - ii) Riders in Ranch Riding will be required to perform a prescribed pattern, which will be judged and scored based on AQHA Ranch Riding rules.

## 5) Western Pleasure (AQHA Rules)

- a) A good pleasure horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with his conformation. He should cover a reasonable amount of ground with little effort. Ideally, he should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of the proper cadence. He should be shown on a reasonably loose rein, but with light contact and control. Maximum credit should be given to the flowing, balanced and willing horse that gives the appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride.
- b) The AQHA rulebook will be used as a guideline while judging western pleasure classes.
- c) Unless otherwise denoted by “GAYP” or “W/J,” horses will be required to walk, jog, and lope. Exhibitors may be asked to back at the judge’s discretion.
- d) Cross entering a horse / rider combo between the Working Western Division and Western Pleasure Division will not be allowed, with the exception of *Working Western: Ranch Riding (Pattern Class) – Open* (one on Saturday and one on Sunday), *Western Pleasure: Horsemanship W/J – Open* (Saturday), and *Western Pleasure: Horsemanship W/J/L Open* (Sunday). Horse / rider combos competing in the Working Western Division may also show in the Horsemanship classes and horse / rider combos competing in the Western Pleasure Division may also show in the Ranch Riding classes.
- e) Horsemanship
  - i) Horsemanship classes judge the ability of the Western rider. Credit will be awarded for correctness of riding posture and personal appearance of horse and rider.
  - ii) Riders in horsemanship will be required to perform a prescribed pattern and show at the walk, jog and lope (some classes) on the rail. Riders may be asked to drop stirrups, extend the jog, or back at the judge’s discretion.



**6) Suitability for Dressage (USDF Guidelines / USEF Rules)**

- a) The ideal dressage horse should display freedom and regularity of the gaits; harmony, lightness and ease of the movements; lightness of the forehand and engagement of the hindquarters, originating from a lively impulsion; and the acceptance of the bit, with submissiveness without any tension or resistance.
- b) Consult the USEF rulebook for appropriate Bridle and Equipment requirements. Exhibitors may show in any English type saddle with stirrups, saddle may be constructed with or without a tree but cannot have a horn, swell, gallerie, or open gullet.
- c) USDF guidelines will be used while evaluating horse's carriage and way of going.
- d) Equitation classes judge the ability of the English rider. Credit will be awarded for correctness of riding posture and personal appearance of horse and rider. Riders may be required to show on the rail at the walk, trot, and canter (in some classes) both directions of the ring. Riders may be asked to drop stirrups, sit or extend the trot, collect or extend the canter, or back at the judge's discretion.

**7) Trail (AQHA Rules)**

- a) Trail is to be conducted in accordance with AQHA rules.
- b) Horses will be judged on their ability to negotiate a variety of obstacles meant to resemble things one may encounter on a trail ride.
- c) The highest trail score from *Trail: W/J/L – Riders 13 & Under*, *Trail: W/J/L – Riders 14-18*, and *Trail: W/J/L – Riders 19 & Over* will be awarded the "Highest Scored Trail Run Award." Scores from *Trail: W/J – Open* will not be eligible for this award.

**8) Field Hunter (USEF Rules)**

- a) Cross entering a horse / rider combo between the Field Hunter Division and Huntseat Division will not be allowed
- b) Horses in Field Hunter should be representative of the type of horse used in the hunt field. They should possess manners, style, pace, and quality. The working hunter must be able to demonstrate his ability to furnish the rider with a smooth comfortable and safe ride. The Field Hunter Division is for USEF style horses and riders.
- c) Horses may be required to extend gaits and/or back at the discretion of the judge.
- d) Equitation classes judge the ability of the rider on the flat. Credit will be awarded for correctness of riding posture and personal appearance of horse and rider. Riders may be required to walk, trot, and canter (in some classes) both directions of the ring. Riders may be asked to drop stirrups, two point, sit or extend the trot, hand gallop, or back at the judge's discretion. NO PATTERN WORK.
- e) Field Hunter: *Go As You Please – Pony (Riders 18 & Under)* and *Field Hunter: Hunter on the Flat – Pony (Riders 18 & Under)* are offered on both Saturday and Sunday. Horse / rider combos competing in these pony classes may not also enter the corresponding age group classes. For example, a 12-year-old youth exhibiting a pony may show in *Field Hunter: Hunter on the Flat – Pony (Riders 18 & Under)* but can not also enter *Field Hunter: Hunter on the Flat W/T/C – Riders 11 – 13* on the same pony. Ponies shall be measured to verify size if requested by show management.

## 9) Over Fences (USEF Rules)

- a) Horses in the Hunter Over Fences should be representative of the type of horse used in the hunt field. They should possess manners, jumping ability, style, pace and quality. The working hunter must be able to demonstrate his ability to furnish the rider with a smooth, comfortable, and safe ride.
- b) Equitation Over Fences evaluates the exhibitor's correctness and ability over fences. This class should be judged on the precision of riding ability while executing the jumps. The class objective is to judge the rider's ability over the fences, not the horse's. Only the effect the rider has on a horse is to be considered. How a rider elects to ride the course, the pace and approach to the jumps are used to evaluate the rider's judgment and ability.
- c) Exhibitors may be excused at any point during their round if the judge feels the exhibitor is unsafe.
- d) Horse and Rider combinations may only enter a maximum of three over fences classes per day.
- e) All horses will complete a course of seven to twelve jumps at the prescribed height.
- f) Hunter Hack
  - i) The purpose of hunter hack is to give horses and opportunity to show their expertise over low fences and on the flat. The hunter hack horse should move in the same style as a Field Hunter. The class will be judged on style over fences, even hunting pace, flat work, manners, and way of going.
  - ii) Horses and ponies will first be required to negotiate two jumps, with a minimum of 48 feet between jumps. Jump distances may be set greater than 48 feet apart but must be in increments of 12 feet. Maximum jump height will be 2 feet. Martingales are not allowed.
  - iii) A minimum of the top 15 horses and ponies will be selected by the judge to be judged on the rail, to be ridden in accordance with Field Hunter rules. The judge will have the option to work horses and ponies both directions of the ring; however, only one direction will be required.

## 10) Non-Division Classes - Saddle Type

- a) These rules apply to *Hunseat: Saddle Type Go As You Please – Open*, and *Hunseat: Saddle Type English Pleasure – Open*, as well as *Western Pleasure: Saddle Type Go As You Please – Open*, and *Western Pleasure: Saddle Type – Open*.
- b) To be judged on movement, manners, and suitability as an English Pleasure mount. Transitions from one gait to another should be smooth and effortless. High, natural, free-moving action is desirable. Labored action due to excessive weight of shoes or length of foot is penalized. Special emphasis is placed on a true, flat walk.
- c) Unless otherwise denoted by "GAYP" horses will be required to walk, trot, and canter. Entries may be asked to extend the trot, halt and stand quietly on the rail, and/or back.
- d) Hoof bands and other such action devices are not permitted on the show grounds. Violators will be asked to leave the property.

## **IIX. POINTS AND AWARDS**

- 1) Year End High Point awards and Weekend Division awards will be given out in the following divisions: Hunt Seat, Western Pleasure, Working Western, Over Fences, Dressage Suitability, and Field Hunter.
- 2) Point Tabulation: Points will follow the horse and rider combination. Although ribbons may not be given for all places through 10<sup>th</sup>, points will be accumulated in the following manner, following the 4-H Horse Program national standard:

Number of Horses in Class	Placing									
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>
1	1									
2	2	1								
3	3	2	1							
4	4	3	2	1						
5	5	4	3	2	1					
6 to 12	6	5	4	3	2	1				
13 to 15	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
16 to 17	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
18 to 19	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
20+	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

- 3) Ties for championships will be broken as follows in order of precedence:
  - a) Highest number of points in equitation classes.
  - b) Greatest number of placings that earned points for champion and reserve.
  - c) Number of first place ribbons.