

OPEN HORSE SHOW RULES For 4 Day Exhibitors (Thurs – Sun)

1. All exhibitors must register and have an identification number on or before the Monday preceding the fair.
2. A veterinarian can check each horse upon entering the fairgrounds and before it can go in any stall.
3. All horses must be entered and in the barns by 6 p.m. on Thursday. Horses will not be released from the Fairgrounds until 7:00 p.m. on Sunday.
4. Horse Exhibitors must pre-register with the Gogebic County Horse Advisory Council through the Gogebic County MSU Extension Office. A \$15 stall fee will be charged to all horse exhibitors, payable to the Horse Advisory Council. Payments can be made between the dates of June 1st through August 15th and can be mailed to Lori Bennetts, N10090 Barber Road, Bessemer, MI 49911. Individual reservations must be made, group reservations (ex: 4H club) will not be accepted. Requests for stabling together may be made but are not guaranteed. The stall coordinator will make the final decision on stall assignments. Stalls will be assigned by the Horse Advisory Council. After August 15th stall fees will be \$20. **There will be no refunds given.** Stalls may only be reserved for horses – **tack stall reservation is not allowed.** No horses will be allowed in a stall until stall fees have been paid in full. Horse clerks have the authority to collect stall fees for those that have not been prepaid.
5. Registered 4H youth and adult leaders have preference in stalling in the 4H barn. Youth have priority over adults in the event we do not have enough stalls to accommodate everyone. The following order will be followed: 1) Gogebic County Youth 2) Gogebic County Adults 3) Other County Youth 4) Other County Adults. All exhibitors must have their animals on exhibit throughout the fair.
6. All horses must be in their stalls by 9:00 p.m. daily. Grooming of horses will be done **ONLY** in the wash area or in stalls. Horses will be walked – **NOT RIDDEN** – to and from the show arena. **ALL RULES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED FOR EVERYONE’S SAFETY !**
7. An exhibitor may enter only one (1) horse per class. A horse may only be shown once per class per age division. Jr. and Sr. Horse Pleasure are considered to be a separate class from Western or English Pleasure.
8. Training and mechanical devices are prohibited in equitation and pleasure classes.
9. Only humane bits, spurs, curbs, etc. shall be permitted.
10. Horses six (6) years old and older must be bitted.
11. Exhibitor must show within their appropriate age division. Exhibitor age is as of January 1st of current year. An exhibitor is considered a youth if he/she is 19 yrs. of age or younger on January 1st. See Rule #21 for exception to this rule.
12. Exhibitors entering classes must have proper attire for respective classes to include appropriate hat, long sleeve shirt, long pants and boots. English classes must also include a jacket. Chaps are optional in all western classes. Attire required during participation in the action games on Sunday is long pants, boots, and a helmet for youth. **AS REQUIRED IN SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS, PARTICIPANTS IN ALL YOUTH HUNTER (BOTH OVER FENCES AND ON THE FLAT) AND ACTION GAME CLASSES ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR PROTECTIVE RIDING HELMETS. THE FAIR BOARD HIGHLY RECOMMENDS YOUTH HORSE SHOW PARTICIPANTS WEAR HELMETS AT ALL TIMES WHEN ON A HORSE.**
13. Animals must be humanely cared for and fed by 9 a.m. or an exhibitor will face **POSSIBLE EVICTION AND PENALTY. THIS INCLUDES PROPER CLEANING OF STALLS ON A REGULAR BASIS.**
14. Complaints must be filed with the Horse Superintendent within 24 hours of occurrence.

15. A County Horse Advisory Council has been appointed to hear grievances and make rulings on situations not covered by the premium list. Said Council will meet as necessary at the 4-H Horse Barn Office to hear any grievances. The Fair Board, however, reserves the right to make final decisions.
16. Failure to abide by rules and regulations may subject the exhibitor to eviction from the fairgrounds and loss of premium money. Any dismissal or eviction from a class will result in a loss of premium for that class.
17. The Youth Show will be held on Friday, August 26, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. The Danish System of judging will be used. See Dept. VIII – Livestock Youth. The Youth Horse Show is governed by Gogebic County Horse Council Rules. Youth participating in the Youth Show on Friday must have their horses on display for the duration of the Fair (Thursday by 6:00 p.m. thru Sunday at 7:00 p.m.)
18. The Open Horse Show performance classes will be held on Saturday, August 27, 2016 beginning at 9:00 a.m. with the Action Games to be held on Sunday, August 28, 2016 beginning at 9:00 a.m. for the Costume class followed by Speed Classes. This will be judged by the numerical system. Rosettes will be awarded. Participation in the Open Horse Show **is not** restricted. The Horse Show is governed by Gogebic County Horse Council Rules.
19. Exhibitors who have their horses on display for the entire Fair (Thursday by 6:00 p.m. through Sunday at 7:00 p.m.) **will not** be required to pay class fees for the Open Horse Show.
20. Pony and mini size is 56” or less. Registered ponies and mini’s must fit the size requirements for their breed.
21. Proof of current negative Coggins test will be required on all horses with the exception of a nursing foal. Out of state horses must have an inter-state health certificate.
22. Tiny Tot Class exhibitors must be under age 10 (as of January 1st of current year) and exhibit only in Tiny Tot Classes.
23. Walk-Trot Pleasure class is for the **beginning horse** who has never been shown in a canter class before. Walk-Trot Equitation (Horsemanship) is for the **beginning rider** who has never shown in a canter class. A Walk-Trot participant is limited to winning 1st place in the “Open Show” for a limit of 2 yrs. You may participate in this class after you have won twice, but you will not be placed in the class. Special needs riders are exempt from the 2 yr. limit. Walk-Trot participants in the Youth Show on Friday are expected to be Walk-Trot participants for the **entire** Fair.
24. Walk-Trot exhibitors who enter a Walk-Trot Horsemanship (Equitation) class may not enter any other canter performance classes. Any Walk-Trot exhibitor/horse combination who enters a Walk-Trot Pleasure class may not enter any other canter performance class (not including speed).
25. Special needs exhibitors are strongly recommended to wear a helmet at all times when handling a horse.

Please check at the horse registration area as to the order of the classes. Class order is always subject to change. If the change will affect any exhibitor, they will be notified of the change. Every effort will be made to accommodate all exhibitors; however, the show will need to keep moving ahead. Exhibitors should be advised that if a conflict arises, classes may be missed.