

## **2026 MAHONING SADDLE HORSE COMMITTEE**

**CO- CHAIRPERSONS:** Pat Adams & Chris Riblet

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### **SADDLE HORSE COMMITTEE**

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### **MAHONING SADDLE HORSE SHOW & JUNIOR FAIR SHOW GUIDELINES**

All MSHC (Mahoning Saddle Horse Committee) shows are governed by Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows and Junior Fair Guidelines. Exceptions and/or additional rules and guidelines are listed below. Compliance and enforcement are the responsibility of the MSHC, advisors, parents and youth members.

1. 4-H youth and MSHC youth participants must 9 years old and in the third grade to the age of 18 as of Jan. 1 of the current year.
2. All youth must be enrolled with the Mahoning County Extension Office in the 4-H by deadline of March 15, 2026 and in the online Junior Fair Program by April 7, 2026.
3. Each project horse must be enrolled and on file by June 1st with the Junior Fair/MSHC.
4. Project animals cannot be shared unless qualifying under the Hardship Rule.  
**Hardship Rule** - In the case where a family has one horse, but more than one child of exhibition age, a family may request permission for the two children to show the same horse.. Each hardship case must be submitted to the MSHC, in writing to be approved by the committee. Each member must show in separate specified classes. The horse must be listed in these classes with each child and this information must be on file with both the Mahoning Saddle Horse Committee and Mahoning County Junior Fair. Only siblings are eligible to qualify under this rule.
5. Any project changes made after the July MSHC monthly meeting must be presented to the MSHC. MSHC will vote upon and approve/deny the change of project. If approved for a change at this meeting, the member will not be permitted to show in championship classes at the Junior Fair. After the July MSHC meeting, no project change will be approved except for death of a project animal.
6. Horses being exhibited in the Mahoning County Junior Fair Show may not be exhibited in any other county junior fair show in the same year.
7. Walk-Trot will be offered as a two-year project for members 13 years and under only. Youth 14 & Older are permitted to exhibit one year in Walk-Trot. To continue to exhibit in Walk-Trot, youth and a parent/legal guardian must request permission from the MSHC. Only those approved shall be permitted to remain in Walk-Trot. Participants in Walk-Trot may not canter in any class. Youth participating in Walk-Trot must be enrolled in this project by June 1 of the current year. In riding classes, project Walk-Trot exhibitors are eligible for Walk-Trot designated classes only.

## **MAHONING COUNTY EQUINE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

Equine safety requirements for 2026 for youth participants and parents/legal guardians:

Youth Member and at least one parent/guardian exhibiting during the Mahoning Saddle Horse Season and at the Mahoning County Junior Fair must:

- Complete the sessions at the Mahoning County Saddle Horse Symposium or must attend a scheduled make-up session and the Saddle Horse Program Update..
- Youth only: Complete the online Ohio State University Equi-Step Program.

**IMPORTANT:** The safety requirements apply to all equine projects, including ground roping, horseless horse, and mentor/mentee program.

### **REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN MSHC SHOWS, JUNIOR FAIR & YEAR END AWARDS**

Parents and Youth Participants must:

- Complete Mahoning County Canfield Fairgrounds Liability Form and submit online by the first show or program a youth is participating in.
- Complete Junior Fair Online Registration by April 7, 2026.
- Complete and return the MSHC Year-End Award Sign-Up and Information Sheet online. If participating in Year End Awards, pay \$35 per horse. All participants must complete and submit form online.
- Submit a Horse ID & BODY SCORE Form ONLINE as instructed for the horse(s) prior to the first horse show a youth plans to participate in.. ID form requires a **current picture of the horse(s) you will be showing**. This form **MUST** be updated if horse changes prior to the deadline of June 15.

**Body Condition Score Requirement:** Body Score Form must be printed and completed by **your veterinarian**. The completed Certificate of Body Condition Score Form **MUST** then be scanned and uploaded into the online registration program by June 15.

#### **BODY SCORE EVALUATION:**

##### **VETERINARIAN VISIT WILL:**

- ◇ Provide the opportunity to make sure your horse is up to date with horse vaccinations.
- ◇ Provide the opportunity to make sure your horse is sound (not lame) and in good health.
- ◇ Give youth an idea of the goal they need to set and achieve to keep their horse in good health.

##### **PLEASE BE REMINDED:**

- ◇ All equine must meet the standards of a **Body Score of 4** to be exhibited at any State & County 4-H Show and Junior Fair.
- ◇ No horses obviously sick will be permitted on the show grounds.
- ◇ No horses with Grade 3 lameness will be permitted to show.
- ◇ Excessive schooling or abuse in the arena will result in disqualification from showing.

### **MSHC & JUNIOR FAIR SADDLE HORSE SHOW GUIDELINES**

1. The judge, show steward and or show manager will have the responsibility to oversee rules and once the call has been made, changes in scoring and participation are final.
2. The judge or attending MSHC member may dismiss any entry considered to be unruly or lacking sufficient control for the safety of the handler and other exhibitors. Unsportsmanlike conduct toward judges, show management, or exhibitors or physical abuse of the project horse will not be tolerated. Violators will be dismissed from the show by the show manager.
3. Proper attire for all of the horse shows will follow the current year's Saddle Horse Rule Book or be at the discretion of the MSHC and/or Junior Fair Show Judge.
4. It is required for all exhibitors to wear ASIM/SEI protective headgear while riding and/or driving a horse or pony as stated below in the Ohio State & Mahoning County 4-H Horse Show Guidelines.

### **Ohio 4-H, MSHC & Mahoning County Junior Fair Helmet Policy**

All youth age 19 and under, participating in any 4-H equestrian activity or equine youth activity are required to wear properly fitted protective headgear which meets or exceeds current ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards with the chin harness securely fastened at all times while riding or driving an equine. It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent or guardian of the youth participant to make sure that the headgear worn complies with the appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use and is properly fitted and in good condition. The Ohio 4-H Horse Program, Show Committees, Officials, Extension Personnel, MSHC, Mahoning County Junior Fair and Volunteer Leaders are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance. The Ohio 4-H Horse program, Show Committees, Officials, Extension Personnel MSHC, Mahoning County Junior Fair and Volunteer Leaders make no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, about any protective headgear, and cautions riders that death or serious injury may result despite wearing such headgear, as no helmet can protect against all foreseeable injuries in equestrian activities. The Ohio 4-H Horse Program, Show Committees, Officials, Extension Personnel, MSHC, Mahoning County Junior Fair and Volunteer Leaders may, at his/her discretion, check a

participant's headgear for proper, MSHC, Mahoning County Junior Fair and Volunteer Leaders may, at his/her discretion, check a participant's protective headgear for proper standards. If the youth is found to be wearing unapproved, defective, or improperly fitted headgear, he/she will not be permitted to participate in riding or driving activities until proper headgear is acquired.

6. Every rider must present their number visibly to the judge while in the ring.
7. Any eligible rider or horse may appear only once in any class.
8. No more than 25 horses shall work the ring in any class except cake walk. Should the average be only 1-2 horses, the judge may decide one or two cuts.
9. No training devices are permitted in the show ring.
10. Blindfolds are permitted only to lead a horse up to the show ring, but not into the show ring.
11. A horse may be urged with approved aids in English, Driving, or Gymkhana classes; however, may not be abused in anyway at any time in or at the show ring. Abusive behavior will result in the elimination from the class.
12. Hack Classes: No more than 10 exhibitors will hand gallop in the ring at any one time. Exhibitors will be dismissed for excessive speed and recklessness at the judge's discretion.
13. Hunter-Hack Classes: Exhibitors to walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Jump two fences two or three strides apart and not to exceed two feet six inches in height.
14. Contest Classes: To start in the arena - the horse and rider may be assisted up to the entrance gate, but the horse and rider must enter the ring alone. The rider must not enter the gate any faster than a trot, must stop forward motion by completely stopping or else circle prior to start pattern. Due to safety, a running start is not permitted. Contest riders are required to wear appropriate attire. It is mandatory that all contest exhibitors use western saddles in all timed contest classes.
15. Absolutely no cell phones or electronic devices are permitted in the show ring or practice ring. Breaking this rule will result in dismissal from the show/exercise ring.
16. In open classes, the equine project or 4-H horse is permitted to be ridden by another rider as long as the equine project or 4-H horse participant is present. No trainers are permitted to ride an equine project or 4-H horse in any class. This is considered schooling and not permitted. If this does occur, the youth equine project or 4-H participant will be disqualified from the show and lose any points for that day. No exceptions will be considered.
17. Horses must walk to and from all rings.
18. Exhibitors must exercise horses in a designated class or practice session safely. Appropriate and safe behavior is to ride at a slow canter, unless it involves Walk Trot youth, then a trot is the acceptable pace.
19. A green ribbon on the tail designates a green, inexperienced horse or rider.
20. A red ribbon designates a horse that may kick.
21. The MSHC may cancel or postpone any class or show if unsafe conditions exist. No riding during a lightning storm.
22. For the safety of the horse and rider, spectators are not permitted to climb on or lean on the show rails or gates during classes.
23. At open or summer shows, dogs in the saddle horse area must be handled by adults 21 years of age or older. Dogs must be always kept on a leash. Dogs are not permitted in concession area. Owner is responsible for action of animal.
24. Horses or ponies are not to be turned loose in any ring.
25. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend horse shows with their children as they are solely responsible for them.
26. Classes may be split at judge's discretion.
27. Tie Breakers in all divisions will be handled at the judge's discretion.
28. Falling off your horse during any event while in the ring will be an automatic disqualification.
29. Any equipment failure is cause for disqualification. No electronic devices are permitted in arena. This will be cause for automatic disqualification.
30. All classes will have a 2-minute gate call. Events must be started within 2 minutes of the rider's number being called. For youth members participating in shows with 2 rings or simultaneous classes, events can be completed at the end of the class provided there are other groups participating in the same course. Once the last rider for all age groups has finished, the 2-minute gate call will go in effect. Exceptions must be brought to the immediate attention of the show steward and will be up to the discretion of the judge.
31. Exhibitors must register before the individual class or event begins. No entries will be accepted once the class has started.
32. Bumping the arena fence, gate, or any part of the ring will be automatic disqualification for class.
33. If you are declaring a pony for the year for PAS, you must have the MSHC measure your pony prior to the first class of the first show you are at. Otherwise, when PAS takes place, you will be scored as a horse.
34. Year- end Points signups will be at the Horse Symposium and the first two shows. As soon as you are signed up and fee is paid, points will begin. There will be no retroactive points added from prior shows. Open classes will not count toward year-end points.

## **SADDLE HORSE AND JUNIOR FAIR SADDLE HORSE SHOW PROTEST PROCEDURE**

If you have a complaint or concern during any Saddle Horse and/or Junior Fair competition, do not approach the judge. Exhibitors, parents, and spectators wishing to have a discussion with the judge must first contact the show steward to get approval and set up an appointment. The Official Protest Procedure is listed below. See the Ring Steward. Complaints will be handled through the designated show steward who will clarify rules and arrange for the exhibitor to visit with the judge. If the steward feels the request is justified.

1. If any complaint cannot be resolved at the steward level, a written protest should be filed with the MSHC for horse shows during the year and Junior Fair Manager for the Junior Fair Horse Show.
  - a) Protest must be made in writing and signed by the party or parties making the protest.
  - b) A \$100 fee - cash or money order only must accompany the protest. The fee will be retained by the manager and used to pay the costs of investigating the protest.
  - c) The protest and fee must be filed with the manager the same day of the show. The protest will be considered at the time designated by the manager and committee and will include the accused, the accuser, Junior Fair representation, and MSHC chairperson.
  - d) The judge's decision on how a class is placed or a decision on disqualification of an exhibitor based on the judge's interpretation of the rules for that class shall not be protested.
2. The MSHC and Junior Fair Management have the right to prohibit an exhibitor from showing if there is evidence that the exhibitor has violated show rules.

### **JUNIOR FAIR SHOW SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

**IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE the following is required to compete in the Junior Fair Show:**

- ◆ Complete Junior Fair Entry Sheet by August 1, 2026 and submit online. Youth must declare the Performance Class/Division in which they wish to be graded on the Junior Fair Entry Form.
- ◆ Must participate in at least two of the MSHC Open and/or 4-H Shows, or 1 MSHC sponsored show and 1 MSHC approved Mahoning County horse show sponsored by a Mahoning County Saddle Horse 4-H Club with the horse they plan to exhibit at the fair. The Mahoning County PAS Show is an approved option.
- ◆ Complete a Permission to Treat Form (in case of emergency) on Entry Day.
- ◆ Complete Equine Record Book and turn in to Saddle Horse Show Office by Wednesday of the fair at 12:00 noon.

**JUNIOR FAIR ENTRY DAY:** Entry Day is Tuesday prior to the Junior Fair Show from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm, unless otherwise noted. All projects must be in place by 8:00 pm on Tuesday - Entry Day. Exhibits must remain on the fairgrounds until Monday, Labor Day at 9:00 p.m., unless early dismissal has been announced or exhibit has been excused for emergency reasons. Anyone taking their animal from the exhibit area prior to 9:00 p.m. Monday will forfeit their premium and may not be permitted to exhibit the following year.

**JUNIOR FAIR SCHEDULE:** Refer to the website at [mcjrfair.com](http://mcjrfair.com) and/or the printed Junior Fair Horse Show Schedule which will be available at the Junior Fair Office and the MSHC Office/Announcement Booth during the fair.

### **JUNIOR FAIR EXHIBITION**

1. Any exhibitor entered in the Junior Fair Show who is not planning to exhibit must contact Junior Fair Management two weeks prior to Entry Day of the Junior Fair. (Veterinary excuse and/or an emergency will be the only exceptions.) Exhibitors not canceling their Saddle Horse entry and not exhibiting their Saddle Horse entry in the Junior Fair may not be eligible for participation for the following year, and the club will also be penalized with stall assignments.
2. All Saddle Horse exhibitors in the Junior Fair **MUST PARTICIPATE IN 4-STATION GRADING AS WELL AS PERFORMANCE GRADING.** Exhibitors not participating in the required grading activities, without previous permission for make-ups from the MSHC and the Junior Fair Management, will not receive their premium, not be permitted in Championships and may be prohibited from Junior Fair Exhibition the following year.
  - a) 4- Station Grading - 4-Station Grading has been available to complete at the August MSHC Show. Youth not completing at this show, must complete during the time offered during the Junior Fair Show.
  - b) Performance Grading - The judge will determine if patterns will be used in performance grading classes. The patterns will be determined by the judge. To help expedite the process on the performance grading, ground work/rail work, broken into age groups and disciplines may be an option. Riders will exhibit both directions of the arena, stop, reverse and back up at least. This will determine the ability to control the horse project.
3. Exhibitor may only show one Saddle Horse Project animal in the Junior Fair Show.
  - a) Exhibitor must show the project listed as of June 1, which is documented on the Saddle Horse ID/Information Form submitted online to the Mahoning County Junior Fair. The only exceptions are those project changes approved by the MSHC.
  - b) Youth showing an equine at the fair, may also participate in Ground Roping.
  - c) Ground Roping exhibitors do not need to exhibit a horse at the fair.

5. Horses and ponies should not be exhibited if the exhibitor knows their animals is infected or has been exposed to any dangerous, contagious, or infectious disease. Horses showing health problems upon check-in may not be permitted to exhibit in the Junior Fair Show. The Fair Veterinarian, Junior Fair Management, and a representative of the MSHC may determine that a horse is not in condition to be exhibited and may request the horse be removed from the fairgrounds. It is highly recommended, but not required, that horses being exhibited have current vaccinations. All horses/ponies are required to have proof of Rhino (EHV)/Flue vaccine within 12 months of the closing date of the Canfield Fair. Veterinarian highly recommends within 6 months of fair closing date.
6. No stallion over one year (actual age) will be exhibited in the Junior Fair.
7. Championship Classes: To participate in the Championship Classes, you are required to have a minimum score of "B" combined. We will add 4 Station Grading and Performance Grading together to arrive at final grade.
8. Neither the Mahoning County Agricultural Society, or any youth organizations involved in the Junior Fair and their volunteers assume responsibility for exhibits or projects, including livestock, any article lost or stolen, or any injury during the fair, or any damage to person or possessions on the grounds, or the neglect of any exhibitor, patron, or employee, nor provide liability insurance to cover the exhibitor or livestock.

**SHOW/BARN ATTIRE:** All exhibitors are required to wear appropriate dress attire for both handling and showing of animals. As we are in the public view, dress code while working with animals should be reflective of the agricultural and equine industry. During the show, while working in the barns and for safety reasons, exhibitors are expected to dress in nice jeans/show pants, appropriate shirt and/or show shirt; and/or club shirt, clean t-shirt or collared shirt, closed toe shoes/boots. (Boots must be worn while riding and should have at least 1" heel. This includes morning exercise.) Low cut shirts, tank tops, torn clothing, novelty t-shirts, cut-offs, low cut jeans and like style clothing will not be tolerated and will not be considered appropriate show attire or appropriate dress attire to be worn in the public barn/exhibition areas. Exhibitors dressed in such clothing shall not be permitted to enter the show ring. PLEASE DRESS ACCORDINGLY.

**ANIMAL CARE DURING JUNIOR FAIR:** Each exhibitor shall be responsible for the continuous care, grooming, and preparation of their animal(s) prior to and during the Mahoning County Junior Fair; and to comply with the "Exhibitor Only Policy" which encourages youth to be the primary individual responsible for their horse(s). Each Saddle Horse Club member is responsible for feeding, watering, bedding, cleanliness, grooming, and fitting of their horse from check-in until the time their horse leaves the fairgrounds. Horses, tack boxes, and equipment should be removed from the fairgrounds Monday evening, the last day of the fair after 9:00 pm. If the exhibitor is unable to remove their horse on Monday evening, then the Junior Fair Office must be notified, and arrangements must be made for proper care until the horse has been removed.

**NEAT AND CLEAN by 8:30 AM:** Each project animal, the entire stall, and/or the area behind each horse must be completely cleaned each day during the fair before 8:30 am. Each horse must be fed and watered on a regular schedule. Each horse must be cleaned periodically throughout the day. Spot checks will be made during the fair. The exhibitor is also responsible for the clean-up of their animals as it is moved from the stall to show area. If there is a concern about an animal, the MSHC or Junior Fair Representative has the right to enter and check the animal and stall as needed. If the animal is not being cared for properly, as described above, then two warnings will be given. The third warning will be considered animal neglect. Refusing to follow the guidelines may cause the exhibitor to be barred from future participation in Junior Fair activities. Also, refer to "Exhibitor Only Policy" listed below.

**VETERINARY CARE:** Any veterinary measures requested by the owner to maintain animal health are the financial responsibility of the owner. Each youth showing Saddle Horse must have a Permission to Treat. Form on file to provide permission for emergency treatment for your animal. All non-emergency veterinary treatment requested must be submitted through the Junior Fair Office and will be recorded at the Junior Fair Office for the veterinarian on call as they make their rounds. The Permission to Treat Form will be available at Junior Fair Check-In.

### **JUNIOR FAIR STALL ASSIGNMENTS**

Stall assignments are based on a rotation. We must give each club the same opportunity. If youth will not be exhibiting at the fair, Junior Fair Management must be notified immediately. If a club does not notify Junior Fair Management of youth not exhibiting and extra stalls are not turned in, the club will be penalized one box stall for each stall not turned in the following year. ALL extra stalls will be reallocated to make the best effort to be fair to everyone and to provide additional tack space.

1. Clubs are to use stalls assigned. Please accept stall assignments as posted. Stall assignments may be altered by the Junior Fair Management if stalls have been reallocated due to stalls being turned in. Do not move your animal into another stall without approval from MSHC and the Junior Fair Manager.

2. Tack stall space, if any, will be limited so tack stalls are to be shared with other clubs in your area if needed.
3. One box stall must always remain available for use by the veterinarian. Assigning stalls is a difficult task to accomplish. All livestock must be accommodated within these assignments. Special requests may be submitted, but assignments can only work with the space available.
4. Please do not make any alternations to the stalls without consulting Junior Fair Management. This will include your assigned tack stalls.
5. Each individual club must have their own system to determine the allocation of box stalls within each club.

**DECORATIONS AND STALL SAFETY:** With our new location, stall decorations may be at a minimum, so please follow the guidelines as they become available. No fair decorations can be placed before the Friday prior to the fair since stall assignments may not be finalized. All decorations are to be in place by Sunday evening prior to Entry Day, if any decorations are used this year. No permanent fencing should be pounded into the ground. Fencing/decorations must be able to move in case of emergency.

- ◆ Absolutely no white paint shall be on natural wood.
- ◆ No free-standing mirrors, or glass of any kind in decorations or photographs in displays. Use plastic.
- ◆ No crocks or glass pottery of any kind may be used in decorations.
- ◆ Be considerate in using chairs, benches, etc. in the space available. Be willing to share space.
- ◆ No cots, tables, outdoor furniture, etc. can be placed to obstruct the aisles.
- ◆ Tack boxes are to be used for tack and decorations. Do not sit on them.
- ◆ No doors or gates are to be added to change stalls. Any such addition must be preapproved by Junior Fair Management.
- ◆ Stall guards are permitted for safety issues, not be used for containing an animal.
- ◆ Please check the stalls for safety such as nails, sharp objects, etc. The sharp edges on the screws may be rasped down carefully.
- ◆ Please do not cover the upper sections of stalls. If a problem exists with two horse side by side in the box stalls, switch stalls with another member of your club or notify MSHC and/or Junior Fair Management about the situation. If the upper portion of the stall covered, this will cut off the air circulation throughout the barn.
- ◆ Hay bags may be used in the box stalls if secured safely. Feed tubs and buckets should be secured safely.
- ◆ Tack boxes should be kept flush with the stall wall.
- ◆ Oversized tack boxes that block the aisles will be considered a hazard and moved to the tack stall area.
- ◆ Youth should be careful opening and closing stall doors. Stall doors should be closed and locked when not in use.
- ◆ In case of emergency and for safety, horses must always have halters on while in the stall.

**TACK BOXES:** Because of the new location tack boxes will be limited in certain areas. Youth with oversized tack boxes may use them but may need to have them placed in special locations during the fair. Stall assignments will not be based on the size of a club's tack boxes.

**CANOPY RULES:** Because of space and adjusting to our new location, there will be no canopies in the Junior Fair area.

**STALL BEDDING:** Sawdust will be provided by the Senior Fair Board for Saddle Horse Stalls. The Junior Fair representatives will place the first base of sawdust in the stalls. Exhibitors must share sawdust, so be considerate. Sawdust should be hauled into stalls the weekend prior to fair week to eliminate covering fair decorations with dust. If your club prefers straw, this will only be provided upon request. Make sure to mark this with your club entry forms.

**HAY, AND GRAIN:** The Fair Board will provide hay which is to be shared to help prevent storage and shortage. Please do not use more hay than needed. Hay will not be provided on Tuesday, Entry Day, so bring enough hay to feed your horse the first day. Hay will be provided on Wednesday. Each club is required to request hay on a sign-up sheet at MSHC Office. If your horse requires special hay, you are welcome to bring your own. Youth participants must supply all grain and other supplements.

**SADDLE HORSE GENERAL AREA SAFETY:** Safety is important. Be conscientious. The Fair Board and MSHC do not have insurance to cover you or your animal.

- ◆ Electrical appliances are to be used in approved areas only. **Do not use cooking appliances, refrigerators, etc. in the Junior Fair barns and areas.**
- ◆ Horses must be led, not ridden to all areas outside of the riding ring.
- ◆ Please stay off black top areas as much as possible. Please walk your horses to the Saddle Horse Ring area. Horses must have special permission to be walked in any location other than the Junior Fair area.
- ◆ Do not walk horses in the Pop Shop and/or the Saddle Horse Office/Announcer Stand area.
- ◆ If a member needs the blacksmith for their horse, please notify the MSHC office.
- ◆ If your horse drops manure in a public area, please be considerate and clean up after your horse.

**EXERCISE GUIDELINES:** Exercise times will be determined by the schedule and announced. Check the Saddle Horse Office for specific posted exercise times. All horses must be exercised in designated areas, and MAY NOT be exercised in the Parking areas or Fire Lanes.

- ◆ Lunging in the ring will be at the discretion of the committee. Make sure to check the posted exercise schedule.
- ◆ Controlled canter or lope during open riding time.
- ◆ Walk Trot will not be allowed to canter.
- ◆ No double riding will be permitted.
- ◆ All fair exhibitors must have horses fully bridled whether riding in shows or exercising their horses. No halters permitted.
- ◆ There shall be a red ribbon at least ¾" wide placed in the tail of any unruly horse. This should always be kept in during the Junior Fair Show.
- ◆ Boots must be worn while riding and should have at least a 1" heel while exercising the horse.

**EXHIBITOR ONLY POLICY - GUIDELINES FOR ALL JUNIOR FAIR LIVESTOCK EXHIBITION**

1. A junior livestock show exhibitor shall be responsible for the continuous care, grooming and preparation of the livestock entered in the Junior Fair Show.
2. An exhibitor may receive assistance in the care, grooming, and preparation of the livestock entered in the Junior Fair Show, provided the assistance shall be limited to explanation and/or demonstration provided by the following:
  - a) Family members;
  - b) Household members;
  - c) Members of the exhibitor's 4-H club, FFA chapter, or other youth organization. Members helping must be active youth members of the youth organization.
3. Assistance will be limited to explanation, minimal demonstration, or safety purposes. Explanation and minimal demonstration refer to explaining and/or showing a youth how to perform the task at hand and is restricted to this assistance. Youth are expected to complete the task.
4. Members must show their own animal. Excessive coaching or assisting by any person outside the show ring while the exhibitor is show is prohibited.
5. Only youth exhibitors and/or MSHC or Junior Fair designees may assist with the show and be in the ring during the show. Any exceptions must be approved by MSHC. Any violations may result in the disqualification of the exhibitor.
6. All youth exhibitors, parents, family members, advisors, adult volunteers, or other individuals involved in these projects are expected to maintain a respectable and professional demeanor throughout the project year and especially during the Junior Fair Show. The project year will be considered from the time an individual enrolls in their project until the next enrollment deadline. Foul language, disrespect, unsportsmanlike conduct, unruly behavior and/or animal neglect will not be tolerated. Discipline will be any or all of the following.
  - a) One verbal warning to discontinue behavior.
  - b) Second warning will be security escort of the individual from the premises.
  - c) Third warning will result in the barring from exhibition, and/or participation in activities held during the year, and/or other Junior Fair Livestock events/activities, and/or Junior Fair Show for up to three years.
7. **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY:** All youth exhibitors, parents, family members, advisors, adult volunteers, or other individuals involved in these projects are expected to maintain respectable demeanor in the use of social media with regards to the youth involved in the Junior Fair Program. Social Media use, which is deemed unlawful, abusive threatening, defamatory, obscene, harassing, creates a hostile environment, or creates a negative image of the Junior Fair Youth Program will not be tolerated. Discipline will be any, or all of the following:
  - a) One verbal warning to discontinue behavior.
  - b) Second warning will be removal from events/activities.
  - c) Third warning will result in the barring from the exhibition, and/or participation in the activities held during the year and/or other Junior Livestock events/activities, and/or the Junior Fair Show for up to three years or length of time determined by the committee, Manager of Junior Fair, and/or Senior Fair Directors involved in the Junior Fair Show.

**IMPORTANT:** In extreme situations where the safety of any individual has been threatened and/or is in question, and/or if there is any evidence of the use of alcohol, drugs, or violence, the MSHC and/or Junior Fair Representative may waive the right of the first and/or second warning and may immediately seek assistance in the removal of an individual from the premises. This individual will be placed on probation and the situation will be reviewed as to further participation referring to section 5(c) above.

### **VIOLATION OF EXHIBITOR ONLY POLICY:**

Any special adult assistance required by a youth exhibitor must be approved by the MSHC and/or Junior Fair Manager PRIOR to class or event. Infractions of this guideline shall result in the following:

1. If an infraction to the guidelines has been reported and confirmed, one verbal warning will be given immediately to the exhibitor and/or parent/guardian. Exhibitor will be expected to adhere to the guidelines.
2. If exhibitor refuses to adhere to the guidelines, a second warning will result in a \$50.00 penalty which the exhibitor must pay immediately. Penalty monies will be paid to the Mahoning County Junior Fair. The penalty money or money order will be attached to a signed, written agreement which states the exhibitor will adhere to the above guidelines.
3. A third refusal will be termed as tampering and/or misrepresentation and/or a violation of the above rules as defined in the Junior Fair Show Rules and will result in the immediate disqualification of the exhibitor and their animal from the Junior Fair Show. After the situation is reviewed by the Senior Fair Board, this disqualification may result in the barring of this exhibitor from the Junior Fair Show for a period of up to three years.

### **EXIT DAY FROM JUNIOR FAIR:**

Exit Day is Monday, Labor Day. Exhibits must remain on the fairgrounds until Labor Day at 9:00 pm, unless early dismissal has been announced or a horse exhibit has been excused for emergency reasons. The MSHC will provide an Exit Strategy Meeting during the Junior Fair. Attendance is highly recommended. You may leave your horse until Tuesday with permission of MSHC and Junior Fair Management, but all Junior Fair entries are to be removed from the Junior Fair area by noon on Tuesday.

**POST-FAIR STALL CLEANING:** All exhibitors are responsible for cleaning your stalls after the fair. PLEASE DO NOT HAUL MANURE TO MANURE PIT MONDAY EVENING. Post-fair stall cleaning must be completed between Tuesday and Saturday by 9:00 a.m. following the Junior Fair Show. Stalls must be completely cleaned, and manure hauled to manure pit. Club area must also be cleaned. If an exhibitor is unable to return, then arrangements must be made within their club for ALL stalls to be cleaned. Each stall not cleaned will result in that club forfeiting the same number of stalls or a fine being charged per stall determined by the committee. The fine will need to be paid before the youth member may participate the following year. Garbage (paper, pop cans, plastic, etc.) should be disposed of in garbage cans. The manure pit needs to contain manure, straw, and sawdust only.

## **2026 EQUINE MENTORSHIP GUIDELINES** **MSHC EQUINE JUNIOR FAIR/4-H MENTORSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

The purpose of designing this program for Mahoning County is to allow youth to become involved with the saddle horse program. This mentorship program allows the youth and parent/legal guardian the opportunity to find out all the aspects of owning/leasing a horse. The program is designed to create peer-teaching situations among the youth and the chance to demonstrate what they have learned. The top priority is the safety of all participants. Therefore, the following guidelines have been put in place.

### **MENTOR REQUIREMENTS**

1. The mentor must
  - Be at least **13 years old**
  - Have completed at least 3 years of experience in the Mahoning Saddle Horse Program.
  - Have completed at least 3 years of Project #174, Beginning Horse Management
  - Have shown a horse in the Mahoning Saddle Horse Shows for at least 3 years.
  - Show their project horse during the year in Mahoning Saddle Horse/4-H shows to demonstrate the learning by doing aspect of the program for the mentee.
2. The mentor must be signed up with 4-H project #370 individually and be signed up in a 4-H Horse Project.
3. Youth are required to attend the Mahoning County Equine Safety Program at the Horse Symposium or an approved make-up session.
4. The mentor is required to complete in their name
  - Mahoning Saddle Horse Information and Guideline Form Online
  - Canfield Fair Liability Form
  - Mahoning Saddle Horse ID Form
  - Mahoning Saddle Horse Year End Points Form
  - Body Score Form
5. Saddle Horse Mentor/Mentee agreement must be signed by both members and their parents/legal guardians and on file at the Extension Office and a copy will be kept with Junior Fair records.
6. The mentor may only sign up with one mentee for each year. The mentor/mentee combination can only be used for a maximum for two years.
7. The mentor should allow the mentee to interact with the horse and mentor in the barn to learn all aspects of care

and handling. Please note: The horse used by the mentee **MUST** be a project horse that belongs to the mentor. If the mentor is leasing a horse, the leasor must sign a lease including the mentee as part of the lease.

Therefore, the mentor is required to maintain all aspects of care and handling while allowing the mentee to help.

8. If the mentor owns two project horses, and one of the horses is a safer option for the mentee; then the mentor may work with the mentee with this horse and show the other horse as their project horse.
9. The mentor may exhibit in the Junior Fair Show without the mentee.
10. However, if the mentee wishes to participate in the Junior Fair Show, the **mentor must submit an entry form and participate in the Junior Fair Show at the Canfield Fair** in order for the mentee to exhibit the horse in the Junior Fair Show. as well as be available to assist the mentee as mentioned in these guidelines.

### **MENTEE REQUIREMENTS**

1. The mentee, the person being mentored, must:
  - a. Be at least 8 and in the 3rd grade as of January 1 of the current year.
  - b. Be signed up with 4-H project #370 individually and Project #174, Beginning Horse Management and complete and submit a Horse Record Book.
2. The mentee is required to attend the Mahoning County Equine Safety Program at the Horse Symposium or an approved make-up session and complete all of the safety requirements.
3. The mentee is required to complete in the following:
  - a. Mahoning Saddle Horse Information & Guideline Receipt Form (Must read and agree to follow the guidelines.)
  - b. Canfield Fair Liability Form
  - c. Mahoning Saddle Horse ID & Body Score Form
  - d. Mahoning Saddle Horse Year End Points Form
4. The mentee may only sign up with one mentor for each year. The mentor/mentee combination can only be used for a maximum for two years.
5. The mentor should allow the mentee to interact with the horse and mentor in the barn to learn all aspects of care and handling. Please note: The project horse must be a project horse of the mentor. Therefore, the mentor is required to maintain all aspects of care and handling while allowing the mentee to help.
6. To participate in the Junior Fair Show, the mentee must complete and submit their own Junior Fair Entry Form. The mentor must also submit a Junior Fair Entry Form as stated above in the Mentor Requirements.

### **MENTORSHIP HORSE SHOW RULES**

1. Mentee classes will be Walk Trot only and will be only and will be only offered at certain shows. The classes will be Mentorship Showmanship, Mentorship Barrels, Mentorship Equitation/Horsemanship, and Mini Mentorship to include Mini Showmanship, Mini Horse Trail in Hand, Mini Horse Hunter in Hand.
2. The above classes will be offered at the Mahoning County Junior Fair and will be offered as championship classes at the fair. The committee may add additional mentorship classes at the shows.
3. The mentee must go to at least two Mahoning Saddle Horse/4-H shows and prove his or her ability to handle and lead an equine to participate at the Mahoning County Junior Fair.
4. The mentor must be at the show with the mentee. The mentor must remain with the mentee and project animal at all times. The mentor has sole responsibility for their project animal at all times, at the shows and at the fair.
5. The mentee must enter the show ring by him or herself. Exceptions to this rule must be approved by the MSHC.
6. There are no age divisions currently. This may be changed dependent upon participation level.
7. Exhibitors are required to wear a helmet, long pants, long sleeved shirt and boots with at least a 1" heel. The style of show attire is optional.
8. The project horse may not be a lease animal.

**IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE MSHC TO MAKE MAJOR DECISIONS AT THE JUNIOR FAIR.  
SUCH DECISIONS WILL BE DOCUMENTED IN WRITING AND WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE FIRST MSHC MEETING AFTER  
THE JUNIOR FAIR. ANY OF THESE GUIDELINES AND THE JUNIOR FAIR SHOW SCHEDULE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMITTEE.**