

Ottawa County 4-H Horse Club Constitution

ARTICLE I—NAME

The name of this organization shall be Ottawa County 4-H Horse Club, also known as OCHC.

ARTICLE II—OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the OCHC shall be:

To ensure a positive environment while teaching all skill levels associated with horses.

To promote all levels of horsemanship and good sportsmanship.

ARTICLE III—PURPOSE

The purpose shall be to enable members to work in harmony with one another for the best interest of the individual and club.

ARTICLE IV—MEMBERSHIP

Age Group Divisions: All youth ages enrolled in Ottawa County 4-H who, live or go to school in Ottawa County and are in good standing with a current enrollment form on file with the OSU Extension office are eligible to compete in any or all OCHC Events.

Cloverbud, JR, INT, SR 4-H: Any 4-H youth enrolled in 4-H may participate. Ages are 5-19. Must have an active enrollment form on file with their Extension Office and show proof from Extension Educator that they are enrolled. Failure to do so could result in forfeiting points and awards.

Open: Any age contestant may enter. 4-H and NON-4-H are welcome to enter in the Open class. Points will be given, and prizes will be contingent on money available.

Age Groups: Age to be determined January 1st of current year.

Assisted/Leadline—Any age may compete in the assisted class. But may not compete in any other class. *
Contestants will be lead or have ground assistance. *Assisted members will receive participation awards only.*

Assisted	All Ages*
Cloverbud Ages	5-8
JR 4-H Ages	9-11
INT 4-H Ages	12-14
SR 4-H Ages	15-18
Open	All Ages

Contestants will remain in his or her age group throughout the series. If a contestant, parent, guardian, family member, etc., knowingly enrolls in a younger age group, contestant will be disqualified and not allowed to compete in any other OCHC event in the current year and will forfeit all points earned.

ARTICLE V—AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution can be changed by a majority vote of the OCHC 4-H Board in attendance at the annual election or any general meeting called by the officers or a person who is a member and approved by the County Extension staff. Suggested changes must be brought before the membership at least (30) thirty days before the changes are voted on. The proposed changes are effective immediately, if approved.

ARTICLE VI—CONSTITUTION CONFLICTS

Any provision in a local 4-H constitution that conflicts with the spirit or letter of this document is hereby declared null and void.

ARTICLE VII—OCHC PARENT & LEADER OFFICERS

The OCHC board of directors shall be made up of 4-H volunteers that's sole purpose is to help the OCHC 4-H Leader determine events, rules, awards, and other duties.

Offices include:

President—the president shall preside at the meetings of the organization and the executive council as needed. Shall appoint, subject to the approval of the executive committee, such standing committees as may be necessary, and shall perform such other duties as usually pertaining to the office of President.

Vice President—the Vice President shall be chairman of the program committee. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall preside at all meetings of the council and the executive committee. In case of vacancy in the office of President, the Vice President shall assume the title and duties of President.

Secretary & Treasurer—the Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the organization and the executive committee. The Secretary shall be custodian of all official papers and records. The Secretary shall keep a correct list of the officers of the organization, members of standing, and special committees. The Treasurer shall collect all monies belonging to the organization and shall return those funds to the Extension Office for deposit.

Board Member 1 —Shall be to help board members and OCHC with all activities.

Board Member 2 — Shall be to help board members and OCHC with all activities.

Youth Representatives—Shall be to help board members and OCHC with all activities.

Ottawa County 4-H Horse Club

By-laws

ARTICLE I—RELEASE OF LIABILITY

Ottawa County 4-H Horse Club, hereinafter referred to as “OCHC” assumes NO responsibility for injury or damage to person, property, or stock of any owner, contestant, or assistant. Each participant, by the act of paying membership dues, permit fees, and/or entry fees, waives all claims against management, stock contractors, property owners, other participants, and association for injuries he or she or their property may sustain at the OCHC event or on the road to or from the event. No person shall be allowed in the arena during a rodeo performance unless he or she has turned in a Signed Waiver releasing management, stock contractors, property owners, other participants, and association from liability. This rule will be strictly enforced. All members will be required to sign a release form for the current rodeo series.

ARTICLE II—INJURED CONTESTANT

If a contestant or member of his immediate family is injured during a performance and leaves the rodeo, entry fees for the remaining events for the contestant or members of the immediate family will be refunded. If a contestant or immediate family paid a stock fee, the stock fee will be returned. If a contestant does not leave the rodeo and a parent/guardian requests an entry fee be refunded, it will be refunded for the injured contestant only, not the immediate family members.

ARTICLE III—CONDUCT

NO foul language, alcoholic beverages, arguing, fighting, bullying, unsportsmanlike conduct, etc., will be tolerated. If you have a complaint, question, or concern, it must be addressed to a current board member within 24 hours of initial concern. The board member will then review the complaint with the rest of the board and make a timely decision to resolve the complaint, question, or concern. The board’s decision is final.

A contestant may be disqualified if the contestant, parent, guardian, family member, etc. violates any of the actions listed above. The first offense results in disqualification of the contestant for that current rodeo, forfeiting all entry and stock fees, and must leave the grounds immediately. A second offense will result in disqualification of all remaining rodeos for the remainder of the series and forfeiting year-end awards.

ARTICLE IV—AWARDS

All awards are contingent upon monies available. Contestants must compete in a set number of rodeos, determined by the board, to qualify for year-end awards. All Around awards in each age group will be calculated by adding the points from the qualifying contestant’s events. Points will be awarded for each rodeo and will count towards year-end awards.

If less than 6 contestants entered per age group per rodeo, contestants will have option to offset cost of the year end award.

ARTICLE V—POINTS

Points will be awarded for each rodeo participant, who is an OCHC member, Assisted, Cloverbud, JR 4-H, INT 4-H, SR 4-H member, &/or qualified Open contestant. All awards are contingent with money available.

To see eligibility of points see membership rules for OCHC.

1 st place: 10 points	4 th place: 4 points
2 nd place: 8 points	5 th place: 2 points
3 rd place: 6 points	6 th place & beyond: 1 point for participation

ARTICLE VI—OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES.

Books will be open at least 1 hour before first event is to start. Announcer will call last call for entries about 10 minutes before the start of the first event. No person, on foot or on animals, except the roper will be allowed in the arena. 1 helper will be allowed to assist in the box. Arena must be clear before calf can be released. Once a contestant has entered the arena and the timer begins, contestant accepts all conditions of the arena. Any help beyond the timer line, will result as a NT, unless in the assisted class. All timed events will run with the gate closed. Contestants may not start their run until in the arena. All contestants must start inside the arena. (No running from outside.) This is a safety precaution. Members will be warned 1 time, and if the board feels it is necessary the member will be disqualified.

ARTICLE VII—RESTRICTIONS/DISQUALIFICATIONS

Riders may be disqualified, receive a no time (NT), no score/points, and/or placing: (*except for Assisted Class.)

- If a rider's horse is led by another person beyond the timer line in any class.
- If a rider has any assistance beyond the timer or after the timer has started.
- If a rider follows a mounted rider through any pattern past the timer line or after the timer has started.

Riders may be disqualified, receive a no time (NT), no score/points, and/or placing:

- If a contestant strikes any horse or animal with any OCHC equipment, hand, fist, foot, etc.
- If a contestant hits or kicks a horse or animal abusively.
- If they cross the timer line before completing the pattern.
- If they break the pattern. Broken patterns will be determined by the Arena Judge.
- If they run into the arena from outside. (All participants must start their run from inside the arena)

Members of the Board's decisions are final.

ARTICLE VIII—EVENTS

These are possible events.

Barrels

Flags

Poles

Stakes

Goats

Dummy Roping (Ground)

Dummy Roping (Horse)

Breakaway Roping

ARTICLE IX—EVENT RULES

Showmanship

Showmanship class shall be designed to evaluate the exhibitor's ability to execute in concert with a well-groomed and conditioned horse, perform a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, while maintaining a balanced functional and fundamentally correct body position. A pattern will be posted before the class starts.

- A. Exhibitors will enter the ring at judge's discretion and follow a set pattern.
- B. Exhibitors are judged on Appearance, Performance, & Faults.
- C. The judge's decision is final.
- D. Horses that are lame will be disqualified.

Barrel Racing

- A. Barrels will be set according to conditions and arena. Contestants can run from right or left completing a clover leaf pattern of one turn to the right and two turns to the left, or one turn to the left and two turns to the right.
- B. Time starts when a contestant's horse crosses the timer line and finishes when the horse crosses the line again.
- C. Any contestant crossing the timer line before completing the pattern will receive a no time.
- D. Show official or Judge shall be appointed to make decisions regarding entrants following course in speed events. Close calls should be made in favor of the contestant. A contestant is considered on course as long as the turns are started and finished on the correct side of the barrels and that deviations through the course are corrected so the final path of the horse is on the correct side of the obstacles. The decision of the official or Judge is final and not subject to review.
- E. Each barrel knocked over will add a five (5) second penalty.
- F. Contestants cannot begin the run until in the arena and will run back to a closed gate. (no exceptions).

Pole Bending

- A. 6 poles will be used and set 21 feet apart. The first pole will vary considering arena conditions but never less than 21 feet from the timer.
- B. Contestant may start the pattern from the left or the right, weave accordingly, and finish on the opposite side from which the contestant started the pattern.
- C. There will be a 5 second penalty for each pole knocked over.
- D. Time starts when a contestant's horse crosses the timer line and finishes when the horse crosses the line again.
- E. Any contestant crossing the timer line before completing the pattern will receive a no time.
- F. Show official or Judge shall be appointed to make decisions regarding entrants following course in speed events. Close calls should be made in favor of the contestant. A contestant is considered on course as long as the turns are started and finished on the correct side of the poles and that deviations through the course are corrected so the final path of the horse is on the correct side of the obstacles. The decision of the official or Judge is final and not subject to review.
- G. Breaking the pattern will result in a no time.
- H. If horse and rider pass a pole that should have been weaved or make any passes or turns in an attempt to correct the missed pole, the rider will receive a no time.

Flag Race

- A. Contestant may run flag race left or right and go around the barrel as many times as necessary to get the flag.
- B. Contestant will be disqualified for hitting horse with flag.
- C. Contestant must carry flag with hand across the finish line. If the flag is dropped, it is a no time.
- D. Knocking over the barrel (not the flag bucket) will result in 5 second penalty.
- E. Time starts when a contestant's horse crosses the timer line and finishes when the horse crosses the line again.

Stakes Race (Figure 8 pattern)

- A. The start and finish line is 20 feet wide and marked by two upright markers (10 feet on each side of the center line and short enough that doesn't interfere with the timer. The first and second poles (same requirements of height and base as in pole bending) marking the centerline are each 40 feet from the start and finish line, making them a total of 80 feet apart.
- B. Contestant may run from the right or left to start the pattern.
- C. Time starts and stops when the horse's nose crosses the line.
- D. Show official or Judge shall be appointed to make decisions regarding entrants following course in speed events. Close calls should be made in favor of the contestant. A contestant is considered on course as long as the turns are started and finished on the correct side of the poles and that deviations through the course are corrected so the final path of the horse is on the correct side of the obstacles. The decision of the official or Judge is final and not subject to review.
- E. Knocking a pole over is a disqualification.
- F. Failure to cross the start and finish line between the markers shall result in a no time.

Goat Tail Stripping (Ground)

- A. Goat will be tied on a stake. Contestant's time will start when they cross the designated starting line.
- B. Contestant will run to the goat on foot and pull the ribbon from the goat's tail and time will stop.

Goat Tail Stripping (Horseback)

- A. Contestant must ride horse to the goat. If contestant rides horse into the goat or into the rope the contestant will receive a no time.
- B. Time will start when horse crosses the timer and stop when the contestant pulls the ribbon from the goat tail.
- C. Contestant may have a "catch" person standing by the goat. This is to allow a safe dismount for the younger age divisions. The catch person must stay out of the way and cannot assist with actual goat tying or ribbon. The catch person cannot interfere with judge or goat string.

Goat Tying

- A. Contestant must ride horse to the goat. If contestant rides horse into the goat or into the rope the contestant will receive a no time.
- B. Time will start when horse crosses the timer and stop when the contestant puts hands in the air.
- C. Goat must be tied with string around 3 legs and must stay tied for 5 seconds. Contestant cannot touch goat during that time and if they do will result in disqualification.

Dummy Roping Ground

The dummy roping is an elimination roping. All contestants will attempt to catch from the same starting point determined by the judge. Only the contestants that make a clean catch-over the calf head (nose and ear do not count) will advance to the next round. Rounds will continue until just 1 contestant is left. Due to the fact we give points up to 5 places, an eliminated contestant may need to rope again to fill the lower placing. The event judge will move the roping line after each round. If a contestant steps across the line, they will be eliminated. If a contestant is physically assisted (except for the assisted class) the contestant can be disqualified. The contestant must swing the rope at least once overhead.

Horseback Dummy Roping

- A. There will only be a field judge.
- B. Disqualification if roper ropes 4-wheeler, ATV, or the driver.
- C. Only 2 loops are permitted per roper/per run.
- D. Only legal catches will qualify as a catch.
- E. Ropers will continue to rope until 1 person is left or until all have 1 time.
- F. While on horseback contestants will rope the dummy. They will rope the dummy at a trot.
- G. Time will be called from drop of flag when slack is pulled, and rope is taunt. Judge's decision is final.

Breakaway Roping

- A. Western type equipment must be used, western saddle required. The use of a mechanical hackamore or any type of bridle is allowed; however, the judge or a designated show official may prohibit the use of bits or equipment that they consider severe. Closed reins recommended for all bridles.
 - a. Optional equipment: protective boots, leg wraps, tie-downs, and nosebands (no bare metal in contact with the horse's head and spurs not to be used forward of the cinch. Whip, crop, rope, or bat; however, the judge must disqualify any contestant for excessive use of whip, rope, crop, bat or reins anywhere on the horse.
 - b. Prohibited equipment: wire chin straps, regardless of how padded or covered, chin straps narrower than one-half inch. Chain, wire, metal tie down or bonnets, regardless if they are covered. Running martingales and tack collars. Any other equipment deemed by show official that is inhumane, unsafe, or providing an unfair advantage to an exhibitor.
 - c. The judge or designated show officials have the authority to require the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment which, in his/their opinion is unsafe, tends to give unfair advantage or is deemed inhumane.
 - d. The judge or designated show officials have the authority to require the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment which, in his/their opinion is unsafe, tends to give unfair advantage or is deemed inhumane.
- B. This is a timed event with a 30 second time limit from start to finish. Start time begins at drop of flag at barrier. Finish time is identified by flag judge when the rope breaks away from the saddle.
- C. Horses should start in the box. Calves must be used for this event.
- D. One loop will be permitted. A visible cloth or flag must be attached to the end of the rope tied to the horn to make it easier for the flag judge to see it break free.
- E. The contestant shall receive no time should they break the rope from the horn by hand or touch the rope or string after the catch is made, flag judge's decision is final. If the rope dallies or will not break free when the calf reaches the end of it, the contestant will receive no time.
- F. Time will be called from drop of flag at the barrier to the break of rope string from the saddle horn. A legal catch is to be any loop that goes completely over the calf's head and draws up on any part of the calf's body, causing the rope to break away from the saddle horn. Roping the calf without releasing the loop from the hand is not permitted.

G. Rope may not pass through bridle, tie-down, neck rope or any other device.

OCHC Board

September 5, 2023

President

Vice-President

Secretary/Treasurer

Board Member

Board Member

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