



## Red Flannel Saddle Club Rules

1. All Board Members of Red Flannel Saddle Club (RFSC) are volunteer members of RFSC.
2. Michigan law #826A states that all equines on show grounds must have proof of a current negative Coggins.
3. All riders must submit a signed current year RFSC Risk and Liability form prior to riding on the grounds.
4. Age of the rider will be determined as of January 1 of the current year.
5. Judges decisions are FINAL!
6. No Refunds for scratched or missed classes.
7. Insufficient check fee - \$30 plus the amount owed on the check; to be paid in cash.
  - a. If a Member, the rider will not accumulate points until the issue is cleared up.
  - b. Rider will be on a cash only basis for the rest of the show season.
8. Boots or approved riding footwear is required when riding, no riding in tennis shoes.
9. Exhibitors under 18 years of age will not be permitted to show stallions.
10. Horses must be serviceably sound, sound of wind, and have vision in at least one eye.
11. A lame horse shall not place in any judged event.
12. In the event of a death or lameness of a horse, a member in good standing may continue accumulating points with a new horse.
  - a. A certified Veterinary Certificate is required in the event of death or lameness.
  - b. Once you have shown the required certificate and switched horses you may NOT switch horses again.
  - c. No other substitutions will be allowed, and proof of the member's horse's death/lameness must be presented to the show chair.
  - d. Certificate must be provided before the next show.
13. Inhumane or abusive treatment of a horse will result in disqualification and possible eviction from the grounds.
14. At no time may spurs be used forward of the cinch.
  - a. Excessive spurring (Example: drawing of blood on the horse) is not permissible.
15. Disqualification for any reason results in forfeiture of entry fee.
16. Any harassment of officials or judges will result in denied entry to a class(es) by the show chair.
17. Profanity of any kind will not be tolerated on the grounds.
18. All dogs must always be on a HELD leash or tied to a truck or trailer.
  - a. No dogs are allowed in arenas or in the club house.
  - b. You must clean up after your dog.
19. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the grounds.
20. No open fires are allowed on the grounds.
21. One Judge will be used for all events on a given show day.
22. All questions asked of the judge by an exhibitor must be in the presence of the ring master or other show official.
23. In all pleasure classes, all exhibitors will show their horses in both directions of the arena at all appropriate gates.
24. Showmanship classes will be run per the judge's discretion.
25. If a horse/rider leaves the ring without permission from the ringmaster before a class is declared complete, they will be disqualified from the class.
26. If a horse and/or rider falls in a judged event the horse and rider will be disqualified from the class.
27. A horse entered in judged events may be entered in the same type of class by a different rider in a different division at the same show.

28. If the horse/rider team changes age division, points earned will stay in the division they are leaving, and they will start from zero in the new division.
29. Casual attire is acceptable at all shows unless otherwise specified.
30. Formal show attire by seat is acceptable but not required.
31. Long pants are required.
32. Shirts are to be appropriate – no halter tops, spaghetti straps, crop tops.
33. Helmets must always be worn by any Lead-line and Walk Only riders.
34. Helmets are required to be worn by riders 18 & under in English (Hunt/Saddle Seat), Bareback and Speed/Contesting classes.
35. Suggested changes or questions about RFSC will be submitted/presented to the board.

### **Judge's Criteria**

1. Judges will abide by approved code of ethics/conduct.
2. A Judge may not judge a horse owned or exhibited by any member of his/her immediate family (daughter, son, spouse, mother, father, or sibling).
3. A Judge may not judge any horse that he/she has owned, trained, or managed in any capacity within the previous three months.
4. A Judge shall exhibit professionalism in attire and conduct.
5. All complaints regarding judges should be forwarded to the RFSC board for review.
6. It is the responsibility of the Show Chair to make the judge aware of all judging criteria.
7. A Judge shall not consume alcoholic beverages during a show he/she is judging.
8. A Judge shall know all RFSC rules and shall have access to the rulebook.
9. The Judge shall position him/herself properly to fairly evaluate each event.
10. The Judge must remain in the arena for the duration of each class.
11. All Main Ring judges shall hold a valid judge's card.
12. Judges are encouraged to provide riders with comments.
13. Main Ring Judges are to provide RFSC with class patterns: Showmanship (required for all series), Equitation and Horsemanship (optional for Casual Pleasure Series), Sweepstakes (required for Casual Pleasure Series) and Trail (required for Casual Pleasure Series).
14. Patterns must be provided at least one week in advance of the show.

### **Ringmaster Criteria**

1. Arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the show.
2. The ringmaster is responsible for the activity in the ring, including keeping the judge safe.
3. They should act as mediator between the judge and the exhibitor as needed.
4. They shall refrain from discussing the horses or exhibitors with the judge.
5. The ringmaster shall wear appropriate footwear and attire.
6. Communicate with the Announcer for class size and relay judge's orders.

### **Gate Worker Criteria**

1. Arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the show.
2. Be ready at your assigned gate (in or out gate) at the start and end of each class to allow riders to enter and exit the arena.
3. Watch for safety issues in and around your area.
4. Count the number of riders entering the arena. The announcer will state how many riders are in each class before the start of the class.
5. Close and lock the gate upon the start of each class or exhibitor run.
  - a. An unlocked gate is a safety hazard should a rider fall and their horse bolt.

## Entry Booth Worker Criteria

1. Arrive no later than 1 hour prior to the start of the show.
2. Check in with the office immediately upon arrival to the grounds to receive any necessary training.
3. Per your training, collect money, review coggins, and collect class slips.
4. Remain in and around the booth for the duration of the show to aid any exhibitors adding or dropping classes.

## Announcer Criteria

1. Arrive no later than 1 hour prior to the start time of the show.
2. Check the microphone system upon arrival to establish an understanding of how to use it.
3. Playing youth-appropriate music is acceptable during the show with permission from the judge.
4. Keep a timer or watch on your person at all times. You are responsible for keeping the show on time.
5. Always observe exhibitors in the arena for safety measures.
6. Keep the class slips organized.
7. Communicate with the gate worker and Ringmaster at all times.
  - a. Communicate how many exhibitors in each class.
  - b. Communicate any last-minute drop/adds.

## Announcer Aid Criteria

1. Arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the show.
2. Always observe exhibitors in the arena for safety measures.
3. Aid the announcer in keeping the class slips and placings organized.
4. Record run times for speed events.

## Cookshack Volunteer Criteria

1. Arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the show start time for training.
2. Aid in preparing food for customer orders throughout the day.
3. Be able to be on your feet all or most of the day.
4. Customer service is a must!

## Show Series Specific Information

1. All regular classes will be awarded a ribbon to 6 places.
2. Points will be awarded in all regular classes as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 points	4 <sup>th</sup> – 3 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 5 points	5 <sup>th</sup> – 2 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 points	6 <sup>th</sup> – 1 point
3. Sweepstakes and Contesting Payback classes are an 80% payback class paid to the horse and will be placed to 3 places.
  - a. Division of the purse is 65% to 1<sup>st</sup>, 25% to 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 10% to 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - b. Points will not count in any sweepstakes or payback class.
  - c. There must be 5 entries in the sweepstakes/payback classes, or they will be canceled.
  - d. Refunds will be given in the event of cancellation.
4. All year-end points are based on a one horse/one rider team per series as stated on membership form.
5. A horse/rider team can only win a Year-end Award in one division per series.
6. **Casual Pleasure Series:** A member must show in **3 of the 4** shows to qualify for Year-End Awards in that series. Daily high point awards will be given.

7. **Red Thing Versatility Series:** A member must show in **3 of the 4** shows to qualify for Year-End Awards in that series.
  - a. Daily and Year-End high point awards will be given for combined Pleasure and Speed.
  - b. Rider must use the same horse for pleasure and speed.
  - c. Only one horse/rider combo per division (Pleasure/Speed) will be counted towards Year-End points.
  - d. Must show in at least 4 division (non-Open) classes to qualify for Daily and Year-End high point awards.
8. **Speed Series:** A member must show in **5 of the 6** shows to qualify for Year-End Awards. Daily high point awards will be given.
  - a. No rider 18 years and under may attach themselves to their horse and/or saddle in any form (rubber bands, Velcro, resin, ties, etc.). Rider will be disqualified if found to be using anything to attach themselves to their horse and/or saddle.
  - b. Electric timers will be used. In the case of timer malfunction, the rider has the option to re-ride provided the first run was qualified.
    - i. Penalties during the re-ride will not count provided the rider attempts a clean run as determined by the judge.
    - ii. If timers are inoperable, two stopwatches will be used, one on each side of the arena.
  - c. No re-rides will be given for any reason caused by the rider, owner, or tack.
  - d. You may keep your time from the payback class and use it for the regular class of the same event, but you must inform the office prior to the regular class starting.
  - e. There will be a five second penalty for each knocked down barrel/pole in any payback or regular class.
  - f. In the event of a tie, for the award only, contestants will have a runoff as a tiebreaker.
    - i. Each rider in the tiebreaker will maintain his/her placing points for year-end awards.
    - ii. The tie breaking event will be a down and back flag type race with the contestant retrieving a flag from a barrel and returning with it across the timer line; fastest time wins the award.
    - iii. If both contestants decline the run-off, they may flip a coin or concede to the other.
  - g. Failure to complete a pattern properly results in disqualification. Rider to exit the arena quickly and not repeat the pattern.
  - h. There will be no penalty for touching poles/barrels unless they need to be reset more than the set distance. Set distance is  $\frac{1}{2}$  the width of a barrel and 1 width of a pole base.
  - i. In the 8 & Under division, a child that rides/steers the horse themselves will place ahead of a child who is led through a pattern even if the time is greater.
9. **Year End Awards:** Grand Champion, Reserve Champion and Runner-Up awards given for each of the three series by division as qualified.
10. **Overall High Point Award:**
  - a. Rider must qualify in 2 out of the 3 series.
  - b. The stand-alone shows count as individual point shows and will count towards the Overall High Point Award. They are not included in any series points and cannot be used as a substitution for missed shows.
  - c. Rider's points can be accumulated on more than one horse as called out in the series rules as outlined on the membership form.
11. A RFSC show may be canceled once it has begun if deemed unsafe for all.
  - a. If inclement weather should occur during a show that would endanger lives, the show may be delayed for a period of no more than one hour.
  - b. In the event of lightning and/or thunder, the show will be stopped immediately.
  - c. After one hour a decision will be made as to when the show will continue or if the show will be canceled.
  - d. If the show cancellation takes place and over 50% of classes have been completed, the points accumulated will count towards year end.

## **Lead-Line/Walk Only**

POINTS: Performance of rider 100%

1. Horse/rider combo cannot ride in any other division at the show.
2. Lead Line: Riders are evaluated but not placed (all 1<sup>st</sup>)
3. Walk Only: Riders will be placed to 6<sup>th</sup>.
4. Riders will be judged on hands, seat, horse handling skill, and ability.
5. Rider's feet must be in the stirrups upon entering the arena. Rider may not enter the arena until complying with this rule.
6. Buddy stirrups are acceptable.
7. Helmets are required.

## **Walk/Trot Class**

POINTS: Performance of rider 100%

1. Horse/rider combo cannot ride in any other division at the show.

**All other Disciplines (unless stated above) follow current 4-H General Rules**

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan\\_4\\_h\\_horse\\_pony\\_project\\_show\\_rules\\_regulations](https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan_4_h_horse_pony_project_show_rules_regulations)

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