

BOULDER COUNTY 4-H HORSE SAFETY RULES

(Reviewed 10/6/25, Approved 11/03/25)

1. Abusive treatment of horses is prohibited.
2. Riding in stall alleyways and aisles is prohibited.
3. Riding with halters is prohibited.
4. Riding double is prohibited.
5. All horses shall be tied securely on a short (approximately 2 ft.) shank, with a safety knot, to an immobile object or a hitched trailer, at a safe distance from other horses. Horses may be tied only to latched stall doors or walls, or they may be tied to the top rail in Barn C. Horses shall not be tied by reins.
6. Buckets shall be tied at muzzle height and hay nets tied no lower than muzzle height. Remove all empty hay nets.
7. Riding boots and long pants are required. Shoes with heels, designed for riding, may be worn for practice.
8. All horses that are known to kick must be identified by a very visible red ribbon in the tail.
9. At least one horse length distance between horses shall be maintained whether mounted or unmounted.
10. Skateboards, bicycles, motored bikes, ATV's, hoverboards, and segways are not allowed at any 4-H horse show, clinic or work day.
11. Unleashed dogs are not allowed at any 4-H horse show, clinic or work day. No dogs will be permitted in the indoor arena during any horse event.
12. Small children and/or strollers shall not be left unattended or allowed within striking distance of horses to prevent personal injury.
13. Riding in an unlighted area after dark is prohibited.
14. In the parking areas and Barn C, horses will be ridden at only a walk.
15. ASTM certified safety helmets, with harness buckled securely, are required for all mounted events, for walk/trot riders, Unrated, Level I and all jumping or gymkhana riders. This includes but is not limited to shows, rideouts, warm up arenas and clinics. **Helmets are highly encouraged to be worn for all other levels and discipline riders.**
16. Horses shall not enter or exit through the pedestrian doors of the Boulder County Indoor Arena.
17. Unattended horses are not allowed at the wash racks.
18. Bathing of horses between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. is prohibited.
19. Mounted riders shall maintain proper riding posture at all times, with reins held in the rider's hands and legs down each side of the horse's barrel, and facing forward.
20. At 4-H events, all feed must be stored securely in an enclosed area.
21. Unweaned foals are prohibited at 4-H shows.
22. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND NON-MEDICAL DRUGS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT 4-H EVENTS.**

Members, parents and horse leaders must comply with safety rules and help with safety education and enforcement. Blatant disregard of the safety rules will be cause for dismissal from the show. All prizes and fees will be forfeited.