

BOULDER COUNTY 4-H FREESTYLE REINING RULES

(Revised 10/6/25, Approved: 11/03/25)

Boulder County Fair 4-H Horse Show Freestyle Reining will be judged on the basis of the 4-H Reining Rules with the following additions/modifications:

1. Must use your current 4-H ~~or FFA~~ project horse
2. May use one or two hands on the reins, regardless of the legal 4-H bit used
3. May change hand used to rein
4. Horse must remain bitted at all times (bridleless riding is not permitted), and one hand must maintain contact with the reins
5. Simple lead changes are allowed. Riders are encouraged to use the lead change corresponding to their Western riding level (for example, Level 1 and 2 riders should perform simple lead changes, Level 3 and 4 riders should perform flying lead changes). It is the judge's discretion to determine proper execution of the lead changes.

Required Maneuvers – extra maneuvers may be added but these maneuvers are required:

1. For Level 2 and above, two spins (360 degrees) each direction. These are not required to be consecutive, but there must be two spins to the right and two spins to the left. For Level 1, one spin (360 degrees) each direction, not required to be consecutive.
2. For Level 2 and above, one large fast circle in each direction (total of 2), and one small slow circle in each direction (total of 2). For Level 1, one large fast OR one small slow circle in each direction (total of 2).
3. Two lead changes (L to R and R to L)
4. For Level 2 and above, one roll-back in each direction (total of 2). Rollbacks are optional for Level 1.
5. One stop (sliding stop optional, but completion will be credited).
6. Back for at least 10 feet

Music:

- Must be appropriate for all ages. References to sex, drugs, alcohol, profanity, and violence will not be accepted.
- Riders are encouraged to use musical selections that permit them to show the athletic ability of the horse in a crowd-appealing manner
- Music shall be no more than 3.5 minutes in length for Level 3 and 4 riders, 3 minutes for Level 2 riders and 2 minutes for Level 1 riders. Presentation will be timed and music will be turned off at the time limit, if still playing.
- Creativity, originality, harmony between horse and rider, choreography, appropriateness of music to horse and rider and additional maneuvers will also be scored
- A copy of music must be submitted on a USB drive ("thumb drive") with no other music or files on the drive, or by email to the Horse Show office or Fair superintendent no later than the first morning of the horse show (Friday morning) at 9:00 am. With your music, you must include a hard copy/printed copy of the music's lyrics, for review of appropriateness. If music and lyrics are not submitted by this deadline, you will be scratched from the class.

Costume:

- Must wear Western or English boots, show attire not required.
- Creativity in costume will be credited, but costume must not impede the horse or create an unsafe situation

- Costumes must show respect for others and should not be insensitive and/or offensive to the diverse backgrounds represented by others. Costumes that could be offensive or perpetuate a stereotype of someone's culture, gender, heritage, or religion are not permitted.
- Freedom of the horse's movement is required
- All performers must follow the general 4-H dress code: <https://co4-H.colostate.edu/resources/ColoradoDressCode.pdf>
- Please contact the superintendent as early as possible with any questions regarding lyrics and costume.
- Judge's decision is final
- Ties will be broken by the higher artistic impression scores given by the judge