

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 any horse riding or handling activity on the grounds.
4. Age of the rider will be determined as of January 1 of the current year.
5. No Refunds for scratched or missed classes.
6. Insufficient check fee - \$30 plus the amount owed on the check; to be paid in cash.
 - a. If the individual named on the check is a member, they will not accumulate points until the fee is resolved.
 - b. The individual will be on a cash-only basis for the rest of the show season.
7. Boots or approved riding footwear is required when riding, no riding in tennis shoes.
8. Exhibitors under 18 years of age will not be permitted to show stallions.
9. Horses must be serviceably sound, sound of wind, and have vision in at least one eye.
10. A lame horse shall not place in any judged event.
11. In the event of a death, lameness, illness or injury of a horse, a member in good standing may continue accumulating points with a substitute horse.
 - a. Signed documentation from an Equine Specialist is required.
 - b. Usage of the original point horse may resume upon approval of the Equine Specialist.
 - c. A rider may qualify for this substitution once per season.
12. At no time may spurs be used forward of the cinch.
 - a. Excessive spurring (Example: drawing of blood on the horse) is not permissible.
13. Disqualification for any reason results in forfeiture of entry fee.
14. 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.
15. No open fires are allowed on the grounds.
16. Exhibitors must address any questions with the show chair before addressing the judge.
17. Showmanship classes will be run per the judge's discretion.
18. If a horse/rider leaves the ring without permission before a class is declared complete, they will be disqualified from the class.
19. If a horse and/or rider falls in a class the horse and rider will be disqualified from the class.
20. The same horse may be rode by multiple riders in different divisions at the same show.
21. If the horse/rider team changes division, points earned will stay in the declared division and they will start from zero in the new division.
22. Casual or formal attire is acceptable at all shows unless otherwise specified.
23. Long pants are required.
24. No halter tops, spaghetti straps, crop tops.
25. Helmet requirements:
 - a. All helmets must be properly secured
 - b. Helmets must always be worn by any Lead-line and Walk Only riders.
 - c. Helmets are required to be worn by riders 18 & under when mounted in English (Hunt/Saddle Seat), Bareback and Speed/Contesting classes.
26. Any horse with a tendency to kick or be unruly will be required to display a red ribbon in their tail for safety.
 - a. Other riders are required to remain a minimum of one horse length away from any horse with a red ribbon in their tail as a safety concern.
 - b. Riders failing to comply may be asked to leave the grounds.

27. Suggested changes or questions about RFSC will be presented at a general meeting.

28. Code of Conduct:

- a. Judges' decisions are final. Protests will not be accepted under any circumstances.
- b. Any harassment of officials or judges will result in denied entry to a class(es) by the show chair.
- c. Profanity of any kind will not be tolerated on the grounds.
- d. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the grounds.
- e. Inhumane or abusive treatment of a horse will result in disqualification and possible eviction from the grounds.
- f. No Smoking or Vaping allowed by the area or in spectator areas.

Judge's Criteria

1. Arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the show.
2. Judges will abide by the approved code of ethics/conduct.
3. 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).
4. A Judge may not judge any horse that he/she has owned, trained, or managed in any capacity within the previous three months.
5. A Judge shall exhibit professionalism in attire and conduct.
6. All complaints regarding judges should be forwarded to the RFSC board for review.
7. It is the responsibility of the Show Chair to make the judge aware of all judging criteria.
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. All Main Ring judges shall hold a valid judge's card.
11. Judges are encouraged to provide riders with comments.
12. Main Ring Judges are to provide RFSC with class patterns as requested.

Show Chair Criteria

1. Off-Season criteria
 - a. Hire Judges as needed.
 - b. Plan and purchase daily high point awards.
 - c. Receive feedback from exhibitors and present to the board for review.
 - d. Create and keep their respective series showbill up to date.
2. Day/Week before show criteria
 - a. Ensure grounds are mowed, arena dragged, and all buildings prepared for a show.
 - b. Evaluate the weather and make any necessary changes or cancellations.
 - c. Ensure all equipment needed for the day is accessible and ready to use.
 - d. Ensure laptops, radios, and sound systems are charged and in working order.
 - e. Check in with the judge to verify they are still available and request patterns as needed.
3. Day of show criteria
 - a. Arrive no later than 1 hour prior to the show start time to open the gates.
 - b. Prepare the entry booth for the show to start.
 - c. Open all buildings, including the entry booth, cookshack, and bathrooms.
 - d. Train volunteers as needed.
 - e. Put all entries in order and in the show software.
 - f. Ensure the show is running smoothly and on time.

- g. Pay the Judge.
 - h. Close and take care of all equipment at the end of the day.
 - i. Complete show paperwork at the end of the day.
4. Show Chairs are automatically considered Red Flannel members and do not have to pay for their single membership. If part of a Family Membership, they must pay the difference in the Single and Family Membership pricing. The member application form must still be filled out for records.
 5. Show Chairs will receive one exhibitor's worth of classes for free, per show that they chair. This can be used by the show chairs themselves, or by an immediate family member only.
 6. Coach and teach their representative Jr Board Member to assist in running their show series.

Junior Members at Large Criteria

1. Must attend all general meetings.
2. Aid the show chairs in all their duties for their respective show series.
3. Must arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of the show.
4. Be an active member and exhibitor at the show series they represent.
5. The membership application must be filled out and signed by a legal guardian/parent.

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. Communicate with the announcer, entry booth and ringmaster.
5. Count the number of riders entering the arena as needed.
6. Close and latch the gate upon the start of each class or exhibitor run.

Entry Booth Worker Criteria

1. Arrive no later than 1 hour prior to the start of the show.
2. Check in with a showchair immediately upon arrival to the grounds to receive any necessary training.
3. Per your training, collect money, review coggins, liability forms 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. Is responsible for keeping the show on time.
5. Always observe exhibitors in the arena for safety measures.
6. 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. Aid in taking orders and handling money as necessary.
4. Be able to be on your feet all or most of the day.
5. Keep all areas clean during the day and clean up at the end of the show.

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 st – 6 points	4 th – 3 points
2 nd – 5 points	5 th – 2 points
3 rd – 4 points	6 th – 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 1st, 25% to 2nd, and 10% to 3rd.
 - b. Are considered open classes and no points are given.
 - c. There must be 5 entries in the sweepstakes/payback classes, or they will be canceled and the entry fee will be refunded.
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. Show Chairs for each series must consist of a minimum of one RFSC Board Member.
7. Daily high point awards will be given. Membership not required.
8. **Casual Pleasure Series:** A member must show in **3 of the 4** shows to qualify for Year-End Awards in that series.
9. **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. Riders must use the same horse for pleasure and speed to qualify for daily and Year-End high point awards.

- c. Only one horse/rider combo per division 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.

10. **Speed Series:** A member must show in 3 of the 4 shows to qualify for Year-End Awards.

- a. No rider may attach themselves to their horse and/or saddle in any form (rubber bands, Velcro, resin, ties, etc.). Riders will be disqualified if found to be using anything to attach themselves to their horse and/or saddle.
- b. Electric timers will be used.
 - i. In the case of timer malfunction, the rider has the option to re-ride provided the first run was a qualified run.
 - 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 once the timer has been started.
- d. Any concerns regarding grounds, footing or pattern need to be addressed prior to crossing the timer.
- e. 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.
- f. For cloverleaf or poles there will be a five second penalty for each knocked down barrel/pole.
- g. 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 decided by the judge.
 - iii. If both contestants decline the run-off, they may flip a coin or concede to the other.
- h. Failure to complete a pattern properly results in disqualification.
- i. There will be no penalty for touching poles/barrels unless they need to be reset.
- j. 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.

11. **Year End Awards:** Grand Champion, Reserve Champion and Runner-Up awards given for each of the three series by division as qualified.

- a. Only age-division/level classes count toward year end and overall high point. Open classes do not apply to point accumulation for year end awards.
- b. Must be a member in good standing.

12. **Overall High Point Award:**

- a. Riders 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 declared on membership form.

13. A RFSC show may be canceled once it has begun if deemed unsafe for all.

- a. If inclement weather should occur during a show, the show may be delayed for a period of time determined by the showchair.
- b. In the event of lightning and/or thunder, the show will be paused immediately for a minimum of 20 minutes from the last seen lightning strike.
- c. Showchairs will determine if the show is to continue or be canceled.
- d. If the show is continued and a rider decides to not complete the show, no refunds will be given.
- e. If the show cancellation takes place and over 50% of classes have been completed, the points accumulated will count towards year end.
- f. If the show is less than 50% complete the points will not accumulate and the show will be rescheduled on one of the designated rain dates.

Lead-Line/Walk Only

1. Horse/rider combo cannot ride in any other division at the show.
2. Lead Line: Riders are evaluated but not placed (all 1st)
3. Walk Only: Riders will be placed to 6th.
4. Helmets are required.

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

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