

NHHSET Grooming Challenge

Objective:

The objective of the Grooming Box Challenge is to engage NHHSET's spirit members in an activity that expands their knowledge of the horse and horse showing. The structure of the Challenge is designed to encourage participation even if a participating school team has a limited number of spirit members.

Overview:

To participate in the Grooming Box Challenge, spirit member teams will prepare a team-selected horse of their choice for presentation to a judge. The selected horse will be groomed appropriate for the purpose of the presentation. Based on the criteria on the scoresheet, the spirit team will demonstrate and discuss their preparation tools and techniques used to get the horse ready to show. Teams will be judged on their knowledge of the tools and techniques, their presentation and teamwork, and safety when working around the horse.

Teams will be composed of at least one but not more than four spirit members. Where schools may have more than four spirit members, they may form more than one Challenge team. For teams having only one spirit member, that spirit member may be supported by an in-hand or under-saddle exhibitor. The basis for scoring a team with only one spirit member should place emphasis on the spirit member's presentation. Any in-hand or under-saddle exhibitor should have a limited role in the presentation outside of holding the horse to allow the spirit member to focus on the presentation. Excess reliance on the in-hand or under-saddle exhibitor should be penalized accordingly.

Judging:

Teams will be ready for their presentation at a predetermined time during the course of the show day, at the discretion of the district show management (ie – beginning of the show before classes start, after lunch break, at the conclusion of classes, etc). Districts will determine this time individually and communicate it before the start of the show to provide proper notice to participants.

To complete the Challenge, spirit teams will enter the ring with a horse and a grooming box outfitted with tools deemed necessary and appropriate to prepare for a show. The team will present their protocol to the judge one at a time. Only one team should be in the ring or designated presentation area at a time. Once completed, the judge will dismiss the team and complete scoring and notes accordingly before asking for the next team to present. The team's presentation should not exceed 10 minutes.

Teams should organize their presentation to cover the process of show preparation and the required tools. Teams should reference the attached scoresheet for direction in developing their presentation.

If the Challenge occurs after showing has commenced, judges are not to consider or deduct points for sweat and tack marks if a horse has competed during the course of the show day.

Scoring:

At each district meet, teams are ranked in order of points awarded by the judge to determine placings. To accumulate points and determine the two district teams that will move on to the State meet, districts should follow scoring used for classes, as detailed in the "Scoring" section of the NHHSET rulebook. At the conclusion of district meets, the top two teams in the district will move on to the State meet.

NHHSET Grooming Box Challenge Scoresheet

Team: _____ (maximum 4 participants per team)

Grooming: 30 points possible

Score: _____

Minimum: Use tools correctly, and in correct sequence on the body: Nearside: neck, back, girth, barrel, hindquarters, then Offside: neck, back, girth, barrel, hindquarters

- Tote or bucket to put tools in
- Curry combs – Use in a circular motion to lift dirt, flicking motion to remove dirt. Never use it on ears, or on legs below knees or hocks, or on mane and tail.
- Hard brushes (Dandy Brush) and Soft brushes (Body Brush) – Use short, brisk, flipping motion to remove dirt.
- Mane and tail comb or brush – Start brushing at bottom of hair and work up towards roots. Never start at the top.
- Hoof pick – Use on hooves from heel to toe to remove dirt and rocks.
- Rags – For use on the head and finishing touches on the coat.
- Presentation and discussion of grooming steps to prepare the horse.
- Excessive tools or steps deemed unnecessary should be penalized accordingly.

Teamwork 30 points possible

Score: _____

Based on how well the team is organized, each member has his own task to perform, each team member participating equally, and if the total job is finished in the allotted time.

- Be well organized. Each team member should have his own tasks.
- Space out to work. Never cluster around one area.
- Be pleasant to fellow team members.
- Do not talk with friends or parents in the audience or other teams. Excessive talking within a team may be marked down.

Equipment 5 points possible

Score: _____

Tack is clean, well-oiled, free from defects and in good condition. Tack is appropriately fitted to the horse.

Safety 35 points possible

Score: _____

Points awarded for properly following the rules of safety for working around a horse.

- Never stand or work in the “Danger Zone” which is directly in front and directly behind the horse.
- All team members will work on the same side of the horse.
- Never kneel or sit near the horse. When grooming legs, squat down so you can move quickly away if the horse moves. Never have all team members squatting at the same time.
- When crossing behind the horse, either cross out of range of hind legs or pass close with a hand on the horse.
- Never cross under lead rope between handler and horse.
- Work quietly. Any abuse or harsh treatment of the horse will result in disqualification of the team.

Total Score: _____