VT Policy Guidelines for Open vs. 4-H Horse Events
where live animals are on site

4-H Youth Only Horse Event:
- All participants must be enrolled in 4honline & verification complete, prior to the event.
- 4-H Helmet policy enforced for youth riders/4-H members (including 18 and 19 year olds).
- The 4-H equine waiver must be validated with 4honline or a new signed waiver is required at the event.
- Health History form is required to be on file at the event. This can be printed from 4honline or handwritten new.
- 4-H Age policies must be followed. Ages 5-8 (as of September 30) may not be in sole custody and control of the animal. Other youth participants are ages 9-19 as of September 30 of the 4-H year. For age 19, membership terminates on Dec. 31 of the calendar year they turn 19.
- No bareback or double riding classes are allowed.
- VT liability provides coverage for employees and enrolled, oriented, trained volunteers while acting within the scope of their duties and responsibilities as a representative of Virginia Tech and Virginia Cooperative Extension. Contact your unit Extension staff to request a Certificate of Insurance if the facility requires one, no less than two weeks in advance.
- Additional Special Activities Coverage for Accident or Illness insurance can be purchased through American Income Life. Work through your unit Extension staff to obtain coverage.
- Must use the indicia and ADA statement on every event document (digital or hard copy) and may use the 4-H Clover according to federal guidelines. Work through your unit Extension staff to obtain the most updated text and images.

Open Horse Events Managed or Sponsored by 4-H:
- 4-H Helmet policy enforced for all youth riders/4-H members (including 18 and 19 year olds). Helmet highly recommended for adult use with signature of adult non-helmet use statement on 4-H equine waiver required.
- The 4-H equine waiver is required for all participants.
- If a new or copy of a Health History form is required for 4-Hers to participate in this event, then a health history form must be required for non-4-Hers to participate. If we do not require an event specific health history
form from our 4-H’ers, then we don’t require one from non-4-Hers.

- **4-H Age policies must be followed for all participating youth. (see above specifics for 4-H Youth Only Horse Event).**
- **No bareback or double riding classes are allowed.**
- **VT liability plan provides coverage for employees and enrolled, oriented, trained volunteers while acting within the scope of their duties and responsibilities as a representative of Virginia Tech and Virginia Cooperative Extension. State funds cannot be used to buy additional liability insurance. Contact your unit Extension staff to request a Certificate of Insurance if the facility requires one, no less than two weeks in advance.**
- **Additional Special Activities Coverage for Accident or Illness insurance can be purchased through American Income Life. Work through your unit Extension staff to obtain coverage.**
- **Must use the indicia and ADA statement on every event document (digital or hard copy) and may use the 4-H Clover according to federal guidelines. Work through your unit Extension staff to obtain the most updated text and images.**

**Open Horse Events/Non 4-H Managed or Sponsored (may list that proceeds benefit a particular 4-H Club):**

- No policies specific to 4-H or VT apply.
- The clover cannot be used in advertising or for soliciting sponsors.
- NOT covered by VT liability
- **CANNOT use indicia/ADA statement on ANY document**

Further inquiries, contact Leona Ransdell, Youth Equine Specialist at leonar@vt.edu

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