

4-H Horse Judging Competitions

Cuts and Format
for Judges for
New England 4-H Horse Show

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Setting Up The Classes

Four Horses – designated 1-2-3-4 worn by exhibitor

Halter – same sex, breed, or orientation
Judged as you see them, since everyone is seeing the same class at the same time

Performance

Judged as seen (unsoundness penalized)
All tack and attire considered legal

Scoring

**Fifty (50) points shall
constitute a perfect mark on
placings**

**Placing scores determined by
official results and “*CUTS*”**

Scoring Examples

Placings

A class will have three pairs: a top, middle, and bottom.

Officials will assign “cuts” between pairs.

Cuts give a weighted penalty for misalignment of horses.

**Official Placing
Cuts**

**2 – 4 – 1 – 3
2 4 1**

**Contestants placing 4 – 2 – 3 – 1
Score = 47**

**Hormel Scoring Guides used for ease of
calculation**

Online Scoring:

www.worldaccessnet.com/~normans/hormel.html

Description of “Cut” Scale

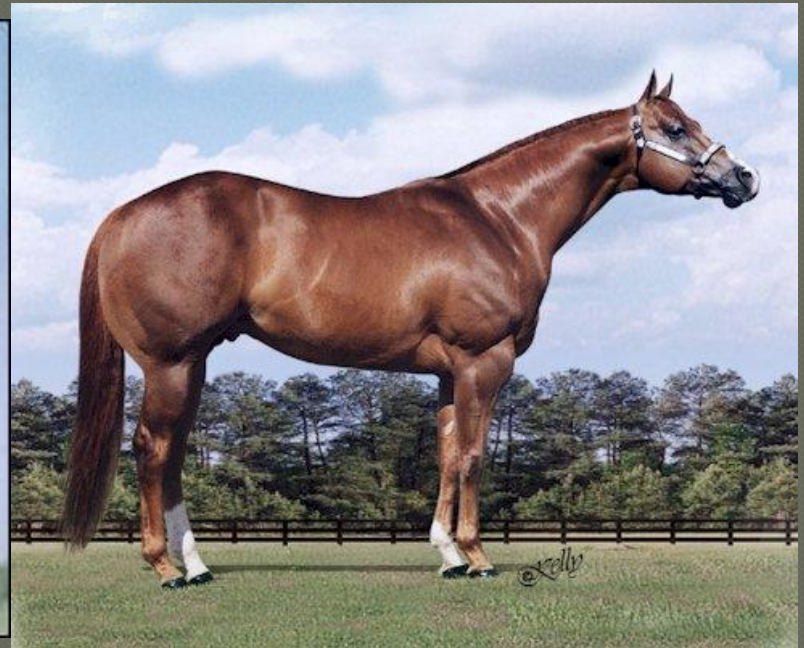
Cuts range from 1 point to 7 points

- 1 point cut is very close
- 7 point cut is very disparate

1 (one) Point Cut

- **Horses are extremely similar**
- **No obvious reason why one should be placed over the other - or**
- **Both horses have numerous faults and none supersedes the others**
- **Placing is strictly a matter of personal preference**
- **Placing varies among official judges**

One Point Cut



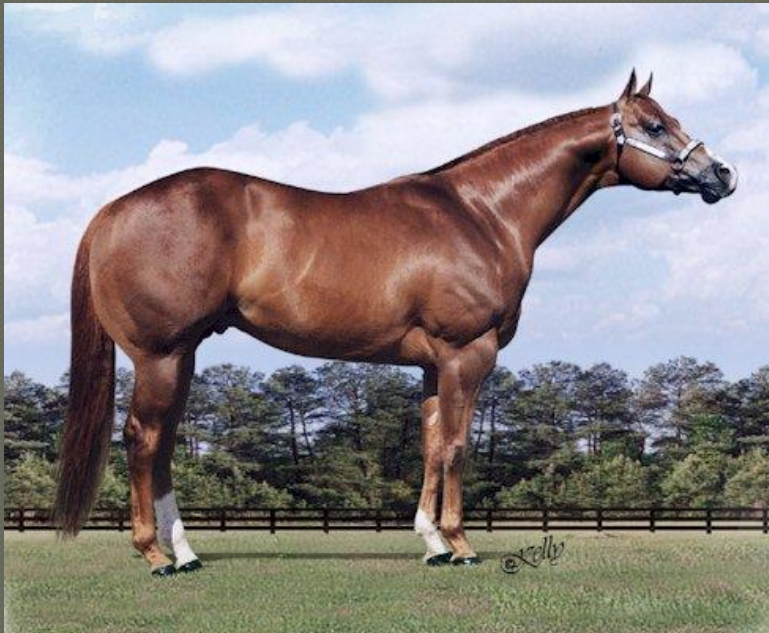
One Point Cut



2 (two) Point Cut

- **Horses are very close, but one horse has one or two qualitative or quantitative advantages**
- **The majority of official judges would not switch the pair, but half of the contestants could logically switch the pair.**

Two Point Cut



3 (Three) Point Cut

- **Horses are of unequal quality, logical placing in favor of one horse**
- **Either one horse has several faults or several advantages**
- **All official judges would agree on the placing**
- **No more than one third of contestants would be expected to switch the pair.**

Three Point Cut



Three Point Cut



4 (Four) Point Cut

- **Horses are not of similar quality; one horse has several decided advantages based on many points**
- **All experts would quickly see the placing**
- **No guesswork or personal preference required to make placing**
- **No more than 10% of contestants would be expected to switch the pair**

Four Point Cut



5 (five) Point Cut

- **Large number of extreme differences**
- **Placing is obvious to everyone on first, quick observation**
- **Careful study not required; pair consists of an inferior horse vs. a consistent winner**
- **Only very inexperienced, uninformed contestants would switch the pair**

Five Point Cut



Five Point Cut



6(six) Point Cut

- **Horses not even comparable**
- **Differences reflective of a champion quality horse or performance vs. a horse or performance that is not of show quality.**

Six Point Cut



7 (seven) Point Cut

- **Largest cut**
- **Differences reflective of a world-class halter horse vs. an extremely poor quality or lame horse - or**
- **A world-class performance vs. a disqualified performance**

Seven Point Cut



