

2025 Gogebic County Fair Horse Show Rules

1. A veterinarian can check each horse coming to the fair. If a veterinarian isn't present, the horse clerk will check Coggins tests before a horse can be stalled. Coggins can be emailed or messaged to the horse clerk (Stacie Rooni) before entry day.
2. Youth Exhibitors must stay all four days at the fair to be eligible for Danish youth classes. All exhibitors who stay all four days of the fair must reserve a stall for \$20. Stalls may be available for open exhibitors who come in for only certain days to stay overnight Thursday, Friday or Saturday. A \$20 stall fee will be charged for each stall reserved. Stall fees are payable to the Gogebic Horse Council by sending to Crystal Prust, 1802 Johnson Rd, Bessemer, MI 49911. The stall coordinator will make the final decision on stall assignments. There will be no refunds given. Stalls may only be reserved for horses – tack stall reservation is not allowed. No horses will be allowed in a stall until stall fees have been paid in full. The horse clerk will collect stall fees for those that have not been prepaid.
3. Animals must be humanely cared for and fed by 9 a.m. or an exhibitor will face possible eviction and penalty. This includes proper cleaning of stalls on a regular basis.
4. All horses must be in their stalls by dark. Grooming of horses will be done only in the wash area or in stalls. Horses will be walked—not ridden— to and from the show arena. All rules will be strictly enforced for everyone's safety.
5. A horse may only be shown once per class per age division, except for gymkhana games.
6. Training and mechanical devices are prohibited in equitation and pleasure classes.
7. Only humane bits, spurs, curbs, etc. shall be permitted.
8. Horses six (6) years old and older must be ridden in a shanked bit for performance classes, with the exception of Tiny Tot classes. Tiny Tots may use a snaffle and ride two handed on horses six and older. Game horses may be bitted, use a hackamore, or a bitless bridle. Sidepulls are not allowed.
9. Exhibitors must show within their appropriate age division, but youth may move up a division with parent's consent. Exhibitor age is as of January 1st of current year. An exhibitor is considered a youth if he/she is 19 yrs. of age or younger on January 1st. Tiny Tot exhibitors must be 3 years old by January 1st of the fair year.
10. Exhibitors entering classes must have proper attire for respective classes to include appropriate hat, long sleeve shirt, long pants, and boots. English classes must also include a jacket. Chaps are optional in all western classes. Attire for the speed and gymkhana games is long pants, boots, shirt with sleeves, and a helmet for youth. All participants in youth hunter classes and speed and gymkhana games are required to wear certified protective helmets. The Horse Council recommends youth participants wear helmets at all times when on a horse. Special needs exhibitors are strongly recommended to wear a helmet at all times when handling a horse.
11. Proper tack for the ranch horse classes is working tack. Minimal silver is permitted.
12. The Gogebic County Horse Council will hear grievances and make rulings on situations not covered by the premium list. The Council will meet as necessary at the Horse Barn Office to hear any grievances. Complaints must be filed with the Horse Superintendent within 24 hours of occurrence.
13. Failure to abide by rules and regulations may subject the exhibitor to eviction from the fairgrounds and loss of premium money. Any dismissal or eviction from a class will result in a loss of premium for that class.
14. Youth exhibitors do not pay entry fees for youth classes.
15. Entry fees for open classes for youth and adults will be \$2/class/judge. A youth cap will include all youth open classes for all three days. The adult cap will include all adult classes for both

judges for all three days. Tiny Tot and In-Hand classes will have caps also for open classes. If your entry fees are less than the cap, you will pay that fee.

16. The cost of awards/ribbons for the open show will be offset by entry fee money.
17. For those who trailer in for the day, trailers must be parked outside of the West gate of the Fairgrounds by the arena.
18. Exhibitors will pay the gate fee to enter the fairgrounds.
19. The Horse Show will start with the Tiny Tots at 10 a.m. Friday followed by halter, showmanship, English, jumping, & driving classes. Saturday will start at 8 a.m. with western, trail, and ranch classes. Sunday starts at 8 a.m. with adult/youth games, followed by Tiny Tot games.
20. The Horse Show is governed by Gogebic County Horse Council Rules.
21. Ponies must be 56" or less; mini horses must be 40" or less. Registered ponies must fit the size requirements for their breed.
22. Tiny Tot Class leadline exhibitors must be 8 & under (as of January 1st of current year) and exhibit only in Tiny Tot Classes and/or In-Hand classes if they show a pony. Tiny Tot off lead exhibitors must be 10 & under (as of January 1st of current year) and exhibit only in Tiny Tot off lead classes and/or In-Hand classes if they show a pony. Tiny Tot riders may show English or western in the Tiny Tot classes. Tiny Tot off lead exhibitors may have an adult with them in the arena, but they must ride on their own without the adult in close proximity.
23. Tiny Tot Simon Says class is a step-up developmental class where the rider will be asked to perform maneuvers without the aid of the leader for leadline riders and independently for off lead riders.
24. Walk-Trot HUS or Western Pleasure and Walk-Trot Equitation/Horsemanship classes are for entry level horses and/or riders that do not show in cantering classes. They are not eligible to show in any canter class.
25. Hunter-in-hand entries must show in an English performance class also, with the exception of young horses not yet riding. Minis are not eligible.
26. Ranch conformation entries must show in a ranch class also.
27. Points for hi-point awards are based on a horse and rider pair.
28. Halter points go with western awards or In-hand awards. Hunter-in-hand points go with English awards or In-Hand awards. Ranch Conformation points go with ranch awards.
29. Showmanship points go with western or In-hand points for high point awards. Driving points go with In-Hand awards.
30. In-Hand Jumping is for Minis and larger ponies not being ridden with the exception that Tiny Tots can show ponies they ride.
31. A rider must be in the arena with the gate closed before they can take off for their run in speed classes. They will stop after the run inside the arena and then will be let out.
32. Adult/Youth Walk/Trot exhibitors that game can only enter in walk/trot games.
33. Tiny Tot Off lead exhibitors may canter in games but must be in control. Horse clerks may stop them from cantering if they deem it unsafe.
34. In-hand driving horses/ponies must wear a bridle, driving reins, and a driving surcingle or collar. A saddle with long reins through the stirrups is not permitted.