New England 4-H Horse Project Helmet Rule

1. Effective January 1,2002 all youth under 19, participating in any 4-H equestrian activity, regardless of riding seat, shall wear a properly fitted equestrian helmet which carries a current ASTM/SEI approval with secured chin harness properly fastened at all times when mounted on an equine or in a vehicle being pulled by one or more equines.

2. It is the responsibility of the rider or the parent or guardian of the minor rider, to see to it that the headgear worn complies with such approved standards and carries the proper seals, and is properly fitted and in good condition. Due to degeneration concerns, equestrian and sport manufacturers recommend replacement every five years. The New England 4-H Council Horse Program, organizing committees, and licensed officials or leaders are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance. The New England 4-H Horse Program or said committees and officials and leaders make no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, about such headgear and cautions riders that serious injury may result despite wearing headgear, as no helmet can protect against all foreseeable injuries in equestrian activities.

3. At any 4-H equestrian activity, the official activity manager (e.g. show manager, clinic organizer, club leader) may, at his/her discretion, check a participant's equestrian helmet for proper standards. If the participant is found to be wearing an unapproved, defective or improperly fitted helmet, he/she will NOT be permitted to participate in any mounted or driving activities until proper headgear is acquired.

4. The approved helmet requirement supersedes all hat and helmet requirements as stated under appointments in the current set of rules and regulations.

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