

The Indiana Helmet Policy and 4-H Sponsored Open Shows

Indiana Helmet Safety Policy – Effective January 1, 2003

All 4-H members are required to wear a properly fitted ASTM or SEI standard F116 (or above) certified equestrian helmet whenever mounted, or driving, at a 4-H Horse and Pony event, show or activity. The 4-H member is responsible to see that this specified headgear is properly fitted with the approved harness fastened in place whenever mounted. Original tags must be present in all approved helmets. This policy will be in effect beginning with the 2003 program year and applies to all county, area, and state 4-H Horse and Pony events, shows, and activities.

If your 4-H club sponsors open horse shows, and there are participants in the show that are not 4-H'ers, then that is not a 4-H event. Therefore, participants in the open show are not bound by the State 4-H policy to wear helmets. However, I would recommend that you include on your entry form some verbiage that indicates that 4-H recommends the use of helmets in all mounted horse activities. Example verbiage is under the parent's signature on the enrollment forms.

Also, if you do not already have Equine Liability signs posted on your show grounds, and your 4-H club is sponsoring horse shows, you need to get them. Although the sign designates "equine professionals" the law also covers sponsors of equine events. However, the law is only brought into play if the signs are posted. The complete explanation of the Indiana Equine Liability law is available on the Indiana Horse Council website (www.indianahorsecouncil.org). Select Committees, Select Governmental Affairs, Select Equine Liability Sign. The Indiana Horse Council is also the source for acquiring new or additional signs. Just to make sure it is clear: *If the signs are not posted, you are not covered by the Equine Liability Law.*

Finally, the State 4-H Department recommends that all clubs purchase additional liability/accident coverage for any open show or even they sponsor that includes non-4-H members and does not follow ALL 4-H policies. The coverage through the 4-H program does not cover volunteers or 4-H members at these open events. You may wish to contact your local Fair Board/Association to see if the Horse and Pony club can get a rider on their policy to cover open shows at the county fairgrounds.

Helmet Order Information from Companies Giving Discounts to 4-H Members:

International Riding Helmets, Ltd.
1-800-435-6380

Safetech Injury Prevention Technologies
1-800-270-2526