

How to Score Livestock Judging Cards

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Official Placing and Cuts

Each placing class will have an official placing, to which all placing cards will be compared. Included in the official placing are “cuts” or deductions of points for placing’s not in agreement with the official placing.

Cuts are assigned to each of the three pairs and are the deduction is based on the difficulty of the placing as

determined by the officials (Table I) A cut represents the number of points that will be lost by the contestant if that particular pair is switched in comparison to the official placing. The smaller the cut value assigned by officials, the more difficult the placing. The sum value of the three cuts may not exceed 15 points, and no individual cut may exceed eight points.

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Type of Decision</i>
1-2 points	Difficult
3-4 points	Challenging, but sortable
5-6 points	Relatively easy
7-8 points	Extremely easy

How to Score Pair Switches

For single- or double-pair switches from the official, determination of the placing score is relatively straightforward. Simply subtract the cut value associated with that particular pair from the 50 points possible for the class. For example, if the official placing is 1-2-3-4 with cuts of 2-5-3 (1₂2₅3₃4) and the contestant placing is 2-1-3-4, the score equals 48. The contestant switched the top pair (2 over 1) The official cut the top pair 2 points. Therefore to calculate the final score deduct the cuts earned from 50. (50 – 2 = 48). If the contestant had switched the top and bottom pairs (2-1-4-3), the score would be 45. That individual lost two points for switching the top pair and three more points for switching the bottom pair.

How to Score a Bust

What if the contestant more severely scrambled or “busted” the class? To determine the score in this situation, a series of questions designed to compare the contestant placing to the official placing will be asked. If the answer to a particular question is “yes,” no points will be deducted. If the answer to a particular question is “no,” points will be deducted. Additionally, if an animal is out of place by more than one position compared to the official, the appropriate cut values will be added together. This is more easily explained using the following examples (*Tables II and III*).

Table II. Scoring Example 1 — Calculating a Simple Bust				
Official Placing:			1-2-3-4 with cuts of 2-5-3 (1 ₂ 2 ₅ 3 ₃ 4)	
Contestant Placing:			3-1-2-4	
<i>Questions to Ask (based upon official ranking)</i>	<i>Answer</i>	<i>Points Lost</i>	<i>Total Points Lost</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
Is 1 placed over 2?	Yes	0	0	It doesn't matter where the two animals are placed, provided 1 is placed over 2; if so, no points are lost.
Is 1 placed over 3?	No	-2, -5	-7	According to official, 1 should be placed two positions above 3. Cuts associated with these two positions were -2 and -5. Cuts are added together.
Is 1 placed over 4?	Yes	0	0	Again, it doesn't matter where the two animals are placed, provided 1 is placed over 4.
Is 2 placed over 3?	No	-5	-5	According to official, 2 should have been placed one position above 3. The cut associated with this pair switch provided a 5-point deduction.
Is 2 placed over 4?	Yes	0	0	
Is 3 placed over 4?	Yes	0	0	
Total Point Deductions			-12	All deductions are added together. This represents the number of points “dropped” on the class.
Final Score			38	To calculate the actual score, total deductions are subtracted from 50.

Table III. Scoring Example 2 — Calculating a Major Bust

Official Placing:				3-2-1-4 with cuts of 4-2-5 (3 ₄ 2 ₂ 1 ₅ 4)
Contestant Placing:				4-1-2-3
<i>Questions to Ask (based upon official ranking)</i>	<i>Answer</i>	<i>Points Lost</i>	<i>Total Points Lost</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
Is 3 placed over 2?	No	-4	-4	Please note: Comparative questions are determined by the official placing. According to official, 3 should be placed one position above 2. The cut associated with this pair switch provided a 4-point deduction.
Is 3 placed over 1?	No	-4, -2	-6	According to official, 3 should be placed two positions above 1. Cuts associated with these two positions are -4 and -2. Cuts are added together.
Is 3 placed over 4?	No	-4, -2, -5	-11	According to official, 3 should be placed three positions above 4. Cuts associated with these three positions are -4, -2, and -5. Cuts are added together.
Is 2 placed over 1?	No	-2	-2	According to official, 2 should be placed one position above 1. The cut associated with this pair switch provided a 2-point deduction.
Is 2 placed over 4?	No	-2, -5	-7	According to official, 2 should be placed two positions above 4. Cuts associated with these two positions are -2 and -5. Cuts are added together.
Is 1 placed over 4?	No	-5	-5	According to official, 1 should be placed one position above 4. The cut associated with this pair switch provided a 5-point deduction.
Total Point Deductions			-35	All deductions are added together. This represents the number of points “dropped” on the class.
Final Score			15	To calculate the actual score, total deductions are subtracted from 50.