

“H-O-R-S-E” – Shooting Drill



Horse is an age-old game that can be played with two or more players. The object of the game is to eliminate opponents by giving them letters to spell out the word “H-O-R-S-E” while avoiding getting letters at the same time. Letters are given as penalty to a player that cannot successfully duplicate a previous player’s shot. When in the lead, shooters have their choice of any shot, including trick shots, anywhere on the court.

The game starts with a predetermined order with the first player attempting to make a shot of their choice. If successful, the next player must duplicate the shot or receive a letter if they miss. The five letters, H – O – R – S – E, are award in order on missed shots. Once a player receives all five letters and spells out “horse,” they are eliminated from the game.

Anytime a shot is made and the next player is successful in duplicating the previous player’s shot, then the following (third) player in line must make the shot or receive a letter. When all players in the game successfully duplicate the shot, the original shooter then has the option of changing the shot.

Anytime a shooter misses their shot, the next player takes the lead and can shoot any shot of their choice. When in the lead, the shooter normally calls out the shot prior to attempting it. Play continues until only one player, the winner, remains in the game.

Note: If both-left and right-handed players are playing, when a right-handed player makes a shot and is followed by a left-handed player, the left handed player shoots the same shot from the opposite side of the court and visa versa.

Variation: a shorter version using three letters called “pig” (P – I – G) can be played.

Note: Physical limits do apply, such as dunking, if all of the players do not have the physical ability to duplicate the shot.