

NEW YORK STATE 4-H DRIVING DIVISION

I. PERSONAL ATTIRE AND APPOINTMENTS

A. Required

1. Approved protective helmet
2. Riding boots with distinguishable heel
3. Lap robe or apron
4. Gloves
5. Girls - skirt and blouse, dress, or dress slacks and blouse
6. Boys - shirt, tie and dress slacks

* Please note - If you are wearing personal attire and appointments that are appropriate to the seat that you ride, this will be acceptable as long as you use a lap robe or apron.

B. Optional

None

C. Prohibited

1. Period costumes
2. T-shirts, sweatshirts, tank tops or crew neck shirts
3. Open-toed shoes, sandals, sneakers, clogs, shoes or boots with heels greater than 2"
4. Clip-on spurs

II. TACK AND EQUIPMENT

A. Required

1. Appropriate 2- or 4-wheeled vehicle, stable and in good repair
2. Standard bridle with or without blinkers, however blinkers are strongly recommended
3. Snaffle or driving bit (i.e., liverpool or buxton) Bits may be covered with rubber or leather.
4. Cavesson or flash noseband
5. Breeching or cups
6. Whip
7. Checkreins (overcheck or sidecheck)
8. Driving harness

B. Optional

1. Driving martingales

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C. Prohibited

1. Racing sulkies and chariots
2. Quarter boots
3. Twisted wire or wire bits
4. Tail appliances other than a regular low crupper
5. Draw reins, side reins, chambon, nose reins, gogue and other similar training devices. **PLEASE NOTE:** This does not include the use of over check or side check in the Driving Division.

D. Allowed in practice and warm-up rings.

1. Same as show ring.

E. Specifications

1. Vehicle - Any appropriate 2- or 4-wheeled vehicle is acceptable as long as it is of good repair and stability, although it is suggested that Junior whips not use 4-wheeled vehicles if at all possible. It is the responsibility of each competitor to insure that harness and vehicle are in good repair and structurally sound.
2. Harness - There shall be no restrictions on the type of harness used as long as it is appropriate for the type of equine and vehicle used. Lines may be placed under the shoulder strap going to the beast collar.
3. Excess length of hooves and the use of other than standard shoes may be penalized at the judge's discretion.

III. GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

- A. Entries to be shown to a suitable 2- or 4-wheeled vehicle with an appropriate harness. Required gaits shall be the walk, working trot, and extended trot. When asked to extend the trot, entries should show both speed and form. The pleasure driving equine should be light mouthed and capable of being taken up at any time, willing to walk and stand quietly and to back easily and readily. All drivers (Jr. or Sr.) may have an adult passenger at their option. The adult passenger would be a knowledgeable adult, who is over 18 years of age. Any 4-Her 13 and under is recommended to have experienced adult passenger. Excluding mini based on size limitations. The accompanying adult may dismount and serve as a header, but shall render no other assistance except in an emergency. No pets shall be allowed in the cart. Seniors may use headers in the ring. Any communication with or attempt by the adult to influence the exhibitor in any way except in an emergency situation shall be cause for dismissal and disqualification of the entry at the discretion of the judge.
- B. Outside assistance in any class after the judging has begun entails disqualification.
- C. All classes shall be for a single equine. Light, draft or miniature equines may be shown.

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- D.** Equines should never be left unattended while put to a vehicle. Failure to observe this rule shall cause immediate elimination.
 - E.** Under no condition is a bridle to be removed from a equine while it is still put to a vehicle. If this occurs, it is an automatic elimination.
 - F.** A driver who leaves his or her cart except at the judge's direction shall be eliminated; at the judge's discretion the contestant may be permitted to complete the class, but not place.
 - G.** It is obvious that, however complete rules may be, they never can cover all possible situations which may arise. If a matter cannot be solved by interpreting the rules to the letter, the solution to be adopted by those responsible should lie in a principle which follows as nearly as possible the spirit of the rules.
 - H.** A Technical Delegate conversant with the 4-H Driving Division rules shall be present at all 4-H driving competitions. A Technical Delegate has no authority in connection with the judging of an event except as specifically noted. The TD shall point out in a diplomatic manner any instance where 4-H rules and directives are not enforced and shall have the authority to eliminate from that class and from the show, entries that fail to comply. The TD should not dictate to judges or management, but should immediately report to the appropriate officials any violations of the rules which might invalidate a class or induce disciplinary action. The TD should be made available to judges, exhibitors, and management at all times to clarify the application of 4-H rules and investigate any situation in which the rules are not upheld.
 - I.** Each exhibitor is responsible to present themselves and their turnout to the Technical Delegate at least 5 minutes prior to the start of each class for safety check of all tack and equipment and appointments. Failure to meet requirements shall result in immediate elimination by the TD.
 - J.** If during a class any breakage occurs to either the cart or harness, the exhibitor will be **eliminated** from that class.
- IV. CLARIFICATION OF GAITS** - The following descriptions constitute the approved standard for performance of each of the recommended gaits in the various divisions of a pleasure driving competition.
- A. **Walk**** - A free, regular, and unconstrained walk of moderate length is required. The equine should walk energetically but calmly, with even and determined steps.
 - B. **Slow Trot**** - A equine should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. The trot is slower and more collected, but not to the degree required in the Dressage collected trot. However, the equine should indicate willingness to be driven on the bit while maintaining a steady cadence (rhythmic flow).

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- C. **Working trot** - The equine should go forward freely and straight, engaging the hind legs with good hock action, on a taut but light rein, the position being balanced and unconstrained. The steps should be as even as possible. The hind feet touch the ground in the footprints of the fore feet. The degree of energy and impulsion displayed at the working trot denotes clearly the suppleness and balance of the equine.
- D. **Extended trot (trot on)** - Clear but not excessive increase in pace and lengthening of stride while remaining well balanced and showing appropriate lateral flexion on turns; light contact to be maintained. Excessive speed shall be penalized.
- E. **Halt** – Equine and vehicle should be brought to a complete square stop without abruptness or veering. At the halt, the equine should stand attentive, motionless and straight, with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs, and be ready to move off at the slightest indication from the driver.
- F. **Rein back** - This is backwards movement in which the legs are raised and set down simultaneously in diagonal pairs with the hind legs remaining well in line. To be performed in two parts: 1) rein back at least four steps, unhurried, with head flexed and straight, pushing back evenly in a straight line using light contact and quiet aids; and 2) move forward willingly to the former position using the same quiet aids.

V. CLASSES AND AGE DIVISIONS

A. Pleasure Driving, All Equines - Junior/Senior

1. All contestants to enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction at the walk until otherwise directed by the judge. They shall then be required to perform at each of the required gaits. They shall then be reversed at the walk or working trot and required to repeat the same procedure in that direction. It is suggested that the reverse be done by turning toward the center of the ring and then crossing diagonally to the other side of the ring, proceeding in the opposite direction.
2. After completing the procedure above, the judge shall ask exhibitors to line up, to rein back individually at the judge's command, and to stand quietly.
3. Equines should be shown on the rail at all times except when passing, and should go to the far end of every corner without side reining.
4. The driver shall not leave his vehicle without permission of the ring master, then only for necessary adjustments to harness.
5. In scoring, emphasis shall be placed on the suitability of the entry for pleasure driving rather than for use of the roadster or fine harness equine. Scoring to be based 80% on performance and manners, 10% on conformation and 10% on appointments.

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B. Pleasure Driving Reinsmanship, All Equines - Junior/Senior

1. A pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the ability and skill of the driver. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, working trot, and extended trot. Drivers shall be required to rein back. All drivers chosen for a workout must be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute a figure 8 and perform any other appropriate tests.
2. Scoring to be based 75% on handling of reins and whip, control, posture, and overall appearance of driver, and 25% on the condition of harness and vehicle, and neatness of attire.

C. Combination Class, Drive and Ride, All Equines - Junior/Senior

1. To be shown in two sections:
 - a. In harness - to be shown to a suitable pleasure driving vehicle, both ways of the arena at a walk, working trot, and extended trot. To stand quietly and to rein back.
 - b. Under saddle - to be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, trot or jog, and canter or lope. To stand quietly and to rein back.

The personal appointments of all contestants entered in these classes shall, in addition to those specified for driving, also correspond to those personal appointments specified for the equitation class of the appropriate seat.

2. Class routine shall include the following specifics:
 - a. In combination classes, each entry must be shown by the same person in all sections.
 - b. Two grooms or attendants may assist with unharnessing but shall not enter the ring until directed to do so.
 - c. Removal of the bridle while a equine is put to a vehicle calls for automatic elimination.
 - d. The vehicles are to be removed from the arena as soon as the unharnessing is completed.
3. Scoring to be based 50% on performance, manners, way of going, and suitability in harness; and 50% on performance, manners and way of going under saddle.

D. Obstacle Driving, All Equines - Junior/Senior

1. General course requirements shall include the following:
 - a. All obstacles driven over a prescribed course.
 - b. The maximum width of "L" and "U" shaped obstacles shall be 10' and 13', respectively, for equines; 8' and 10', respectively, for ponies.

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- c. While many devices prove useful as obstacle markers, the "traffic cones" are the most easily obtained and quickly set.
- d. A course diagram will be posted three hours before the start of the class.
- e. Competitors are prohibited from driving, leading, or riding their equines on any course at any time prior to the competition. It is advisable, however, for competitors to walk the course prior to the competition.

2) Scoring -
Obstacle Driving - To be driven as a performance class. To be driven at the trot over a prescribed course of obstacles. After passing the starting line, the competitor shall proceed through each obstacle to the designated finish line. Time will be used to break ties only. In the event of time ties, a drive-off will be required.

a. Penalties:

Knocking over start or finish marker	10 seconds
Knocking down or dislodging obstacle	10 seconds
First disobedience	10 seconds
Second disobedience	20 seconds
Third disobedience	Elimination
Starting before signal	Elimination
Failure to cross starting line w/in 1 min.	Elimination
Failure to cross starting or finish line	Elimination
Going off course (taking obstacles out of order)	Elimination
Outside assistance	Elimination
Failure to carry whip	Elimination
Breakage of harness or vehicle	Elimination
Breaking to canter	
First break from trot	10 seconds
Second break from trot	10 seconds
Third break from trot	Elimination
Prolonged canter	Elimination

b. Disobediences include:

- 1) Run-out - evading or passing an obstacle or the finish line.
- 2) Refusal - stopping for a prolonged time in front of an obstacle or stopping and then backing (even one step) in front of an obstacle. It is not considered a refusal if the equine stops and then immediately proceeds forward.
- 3) Any form of circle which causes a competitor to cross the original track between two consecutive obstacles, except to retake an obstacle after a refusal or run-out shall be penalized.

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E. Gambler's Choice – All Equines

1. Each whip has the same amount of time in which to negotiate as many obstacles as possible. Each obstacle is assigned a point value according to its degree of difficulty, the easier obstacles having a lesser value than the more difficult obstacles and each whip tries to obtain as high a point score as possible in the time allowed.
 - a. Obstacles may be driven in any order.
 - b. Each obstacle can be attempted twice and may be approached from either direction.
 - c. Competitors must attempt a different obstacle before returning to that obstacle for a second try.
 - d. Once an obstacle has been disrupted, it can no longer be attempted.
2. **If all obstacles are completed twice before the two minute time limit**, the competitor will exit through the finish line for the final point and time scoring.
3. A signal will show the end of two minutes, after the signal, the competitor must exit through the finish line. At that point the total time on the course will be recorded. Time allowed must be stated.
4. In the case of a competitor being committed to or in the process of negotiating an obstacle and if clean, will be awarded the points for that obstacle. Having completed the obstacle, the competitor must proceed through the finish line for the total time on course to be recorded. Whether or not the competitor was committed to the next obstacle at signal will be left to the discretion of the presiding official. No score will be awarded for an incorrectly completed obstacle.
5. In the event of equality of points, the fastest time recorded is the winner. If both of these are equal, the winner will be determined by a drive-off.
6. Penalties:
 - a. Knocking over start of finish marker **10 seconds**
 - b. First disobedience **10 seconds**
 - c. Second disobedience **10 seconds**
 - d. Third disobedience **Elimination**
 - e. Starting before signal **Elimination**
 - f. Failure to cross starting line within 1 minute **Elimination**
 - g. Failure to cross starting or finish line **Elimination**
 - h. Outside assistance **Elimination**
 - i. Failure to carry whip **Elimination**
 - j. Breakage of harness or vehicle **Elimination**
 - k. Breaking to canter
 1. First break **10 seconds**
 2. Second break **10 seconds**
 3. Third break **Elimination**
 - l. Prolonged Canter **Elimination**

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F. Carriage Driving – All Equines

1. The driving animal may be of any breed, color or size. Over 14.2 will be classified as a horse and under will be classified as a pony. The animal must be driven to an appropriate wooden wheel vehicle, “appropriate” to mean the size and type to appear pleasant and balanced. The harness must be a type appropriate to the type of vehicle used. It must be in good repair, clean, and fit properly. The whip (driver) and any passenger should be dressed conservatively according to the style of the present day. **THIS IS NOT A COSTUME CLASS.** Whips are to wear an apron or lap robe, gloves and hat. In general, equines should be driven with light contact of the reins on the mouth. Equines should be on the bit, but not pulling with their mouths. An appropriate driving whip **MUST** be carried at all times while driving.
2. The carriage driving class will require the following gaits: walk, collected trot, ordinary trot and extended trot both ways of the ring. All entries will be required to halt, back up and stand quietly. A groom is permitted at the equine’s head **BUT SHOULD NOT HOLD THE ANIMAL EXCEPT TO CONTROL UNRULINESS AND PREVENT AN ACCIDENT.**

G. Country Pleasure Driving – Mini

1. General
 - a. Country Pleasure driving is to be shown to a two wheel cart only. Bike tires or wooden wheels are permissible.
 - b. Harness in the country pleasure division must be of the light type. Breast collars or light collars are permissible, but no full harness allowed. Britching is optional. Side or overchecks are required. When shown, the equine must have blinders (round or square) and the check must be hooked. No other appliances may be used on a driving equine other than the harness. (Example: no fly nets on the ears, face, or body.)
 - c. Bits in the pleasure driving division shall be of the snaffle type. No Liverpool bits, curb chains or curb straps are allowed.
 - d. Martingales may or may not be used.
 - e. Check bits may be used but are not required.
2. Class Conditions
 - a. Ring Procedure: Country Pleasure Driving equines are to enter the ring counterclockwise (to the right) at a country pleasure trot. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, country pleasure trot and a extended trot. To stand quietly and to rein back. To be judged 60% on performance, manners and way of going, 30% on the condition, fit and appropriateness of attire and overall impression. Overchecks and side checks should be slightly loose, not snug. The head set should appear natural for the equine. Excessive knee action and speed to be penalized.

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- 1) Walk: A free, regular and forward moving four beat gait. The equine should walk energetically, but calmly, with an even and determined gait.
- 2) Country Pleasure Trot: A balanced, easy moving, relaxed two beat gait demonstrating forward movement.
- 3) Extended Trot: A clear increase in gait and length of stride. The equine should move freely on a taut, but light rein, while maintaining a balanced gait and forward movement. Excessive knee action and speed shall be penalized.

H. Roadster - Mini

1. General: The roadster equine may be of any type, any color of attractive appearance, balanced in conformation, and with manners which make a safe risk in the ring. Equines shall be serviceably sound.
2. Gait Requirements: The principal gait for the roadster is the trot. Equines shall be asked to trot at three different speeds: the slow jog trot, the faster road gait, and at a full extended “drive on” trot. Equines must not be asked to rein back.
3. Judging Procedure: Roadsters must enter the ring clockwise (to the left) at a jog trot; then show at the roadgait, jog trot and turn counter clockwise at the jog trot, show at the road gait, and trot at speed. At all speeds, equine should work in form. Breaks should not be penalized in a equine that demonstrated three distinct trots over a equine that has not demonstrated gait distinction. Equines should be shown on the rail at all times except when passing. Showing off the rail shall be penalized. Performance at all three gaits should be strongly considered. When equines are lined up, driver shall not leave vehicle except for necessary adjustments. Headers are allowed in roadster classes.
4. Harness: Harness shall be appropriate to the vehicle. Martingales are optional. No Liverpool bits are allowed. Harness must have blinders and either side check or over-check. The check must be used. Harness must be of the light type with breastcollar.
5. Vehicles: Bike (a two-wheeled cart with stirrups and no basket). Road bikes with tire guards (“closed wheel/arch”) are mandatory beginning with the 2001 AMHR National Show.
6. Attire: Exhibitors are required to wear stable colors, cap and jacket to match, of the type found on the trotting tracks of America.
7. Braids, matching the stable colors, one in the foretop and one immediately back of the bridle path as seen on the larger roadster equines is optional.
8. The exhibitor number must be worn on the exhibitor’s back. An optional supplementary number can be placed on the shafts.
9. Un-weighted bell type boots are optional in roadster classes only.

I. Park Harness – Mini

1. General: The equine is to give a brilliant performance with style, presence, finish, balance and cadence. Park equine to be neatly trimmed, well groomed, braided (same as USA Equestrian braid) with one braid in the foretop and one immediately back of the bridle path. Tail braces and false tails are optional. To be judged on brilliant performance, presence, quality, manners and conformation. Cross entries with the same equine are prohibited between the Park Harness, Pleasure and Country Pleasure Divisions at the same show.

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2. Gait requirements: Park equines are to enter the show ring at a trot going counter-clockwise (to the right) and be shown both ways of the ring at a walk and park trot. Park equines are not asked to back.
 - a) Walk: An animated walk is required. The motion should be brisk and vigorous with the equine showing animation and brilliance.
 - b) Park Trot: Extremely animated, cadenced trot, with impulsion and power. The trot is bold and brilliant with knees and hocks snapping high in expansive and dramatic style, creating an illusion of lightness with high-stepping action. Excessive speed shall be penalized.
3. Harness: Harness should be of the type used to show in the pleasure division. Martingales are optional.
4. Vehicle: Park harness equines are shown to a viceroy or a two wheeled vehicle.

J. Obstacle Driving – Mini

1. The obstacle course must be posted at the Show Office not less than two hours prior to the class. Equines must be at least three years old for obstacle driving. No one may show before a judge in classes where the exhibitor has designed the course in that class. An equine can only be shown by one exhibitor per class. All obstacles must be numbered on the course in order of sequence.
2. Classes will be judged 100% on the manner of the equine's performance through the course.
3. There is a sixty second time limit to complete each obstacle. After time is used, the exhibitor will be directed to the next obstacle. Refusals of three (3) obstacles shall be cause for disqualification.
4. Cantering penalized in obstacle driving.
5. Obstacle requirements.
 - a) Must be a minimum of 5 and maximum of 8 obstacles.
 - b) Tires and stair steps are prohibited.
 - c) Jumps are prohibited.
6. In shows where more than one obstacle class is offered at least three of the obstacles must be different or the manner of performance through obstacles must be varied for the class.
7. Edible treats to encourage an animal to perform one of the obstacles are not allowed.
8. All obstacles should be safe for exhibitors as well as for equines.
9. Off course will result in elimination from the class and no points, ribbons or awards will be presented. Off course is defined as:
 - a) Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.
 - b) Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side.
 - c) Skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge.
 - d) Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence.
 - e) No physically moving, or coercing the equine by touching. It is to be the judge's discretion to disqualify. Attendants 16 years of age and older may be allowed in the ring during Youth Halter Obstacle for safety purposes only. Attendant must not interfere with or influence individual's or equine's performance.
 - f) Miniature leaving the obstacle course.
10. Driving obstacle equines shall be shown in a suitable two-wheeled cart with basket.