



# ADHHA Open Pleasure Driving Rules

## Open Pleasure Driving:

The Open Pleasure Driving Horse should be a typical American Dutch Harness Horse Type with quality, style, presence and suitable conformation. The American Dutch Harness Horse should have easy, ground-covering action with natural animation. Manners and suitability as a Pleasure driving horse are paramount. Special emphasis is placed on a true, flat walk. Transitions from one gait to another should be smooth and effortless. **TO BE PENALIZED:** Laboring action; pulling, tossing head; going sideways and tail-switching. Classes are open to mares and geldings. Stallions are only permitted in breed specific ADHHA classes. Horses to be shown by Amateur or Professional.

1. The American Dutch Harness Horse Open Show Pleasure Driving horse generally has less animation than the Park and Fine Harness Performance horse but should be alert and responsive. Animated, natural, free-moving action is desirable. Laboring action due to excessive weight of shoes or length of foot is penalized.
2. Entries may be shown with full mane and tail. At ADHHA breed specific classes, horses may show with braided or unbraided manes.

## Appointments:

Shown to a suitable two-wheeled jog cart with driver only. Harness to be either Hackney style harness or Fine Harness. Hackney style harness consists of Liverpool bit, separate check bit, round blinker, side check and low crupper. Fine harness consists of a snaffle bit, separate overcheck bit with overcheck, square blinkers and low crupper.

**To Be Judged:** on manners, performance, presence and quality, Horse must stand quietly and back readily in the lineup

## Gaits:

Shown at a flat walk, trot and extended trot, speed to be penalized. Judged on manners, performance, presence and quality. Horses are to stand quietly in the lineup and back readily. Horses are to remain checked in the lineup.

**Flat Walk:** The flat walk should be an elastic, ground covering and collected four beat gait maintaining proper form and consistency in stride. It should display the horse's good manners, type of stride and attitude. The flat walk is relaxed.

**Trot:** A natural, two beat diagonal gait in which the front foot and the opposite hind foot take off from the ground in unison and land simultaneously. It is executed in a highly collected manner and should display the horse's athletic ability.

**Extended Trot:** The extended trot is faster, stronger and bolder; with a fuller extension of stride to obtain the desired speed.

**How shown:** To enter the ring at a trot in the counter clockwise direction, extended trot and flat walk. Must reverse at the flat walk. To be shown both ways of the ring at the same gaits. Horses must remain checked in the lineup. Horses must stand quietly and back readily. Headers are permitted and should be suitably attired, no jeans, shorts or t-shirts.

**Not Allowed:** Antique vehicles, boots.