



ADHHA Show Rules *(Revised 10/18)*

General Rules:

In order to compete, **all horses must be registered** with the American Dutch Harness Horse Association (ADHHA). Horses recorded with ADHHA are not eligible to compete in ADHHA sanctioned classes. All Owners and Trainers must be ADHHA members in good standing.

Type and Conformation:

The American Dutch Harness Horse is a powerful, expressive, high-action, animated horse of great character developed primarily for driving. The ideal is a horse of high quality, upright self-carriage, happiness, correctness of limbs and feet, soundness and suspension with high, open flexing front end motion driven by powerful impulsion from behind. The head should be attractive with alert eyes and ears. The well-muscled, arching neck is set on high with a flexible poll. The shoulder is clean and well laid back onto prominent withers that are higher than the back and croup. Croup should be neither too flat or too sloping and never inverted. Body is proportionate to horse's height and hindquarter shall have a powerful presentation. Legs are straight, clean and strong with well-muscled forearms and gaskins. Feet are large and round with well-sprung heels. Tail is carried high and straight. It is highly recommended that no tail alterations be made. Tail hair switches are allowed.

In Hand Classes:

The American Dutch Harness Horse should possess conformation that is functional for its job. Known as a powerful driving horse, the trot must have a lot of suspension; high, open motion in front and forceful impulsion from behind.

Appointments: to be shown in a suitable show halter or lead bridle and led individually. Weanlings must show without their dams in the ring.

To be judged: on performance, conformation and presence at the walk and at the trot.

How shown: to enter the ring at a trot, showing the horse to its best advantage; then return to the judge for conformation inspection. Horse to stand naturally for inspection. At the completion of inspection, horse is then to walk to the lineup. Two handlers allowed per horse; each handler may carry a whip. Whips may have small, unobtrusive bags or ribbons attached. **Open Horses: Must enter the ring clock wise showing at the trot and return to the judge for conformation inspection.**

Classes offered: Mares, Stallions, and Geldings. These classes may be divided by age if management deems necessary.

Open – may be divided into Mares, Stallions and Geldings, no weanlings allowed.

Junior – for horses 4 years of age and under

Novice – horses not to have won 3 blue ribbons at the close of entries

Limit – horses that have not won 6 blue ribbons at the close of entries

Junior, Limit and Novice classes may be combined at the discretion of show management and the agreement of all exhibitors concerned if management combines classes during the show.

ADHHA Show Rules *Continued*



Ladies, Gentleman, Amateur and Junior Exhibitor classes may also be offered.

Championship: Must have qualified in a previous class at the same show.

Weanling: *Must be shown with a roached mane and braid buttons or the appearance of a tightly braided mane.*

Attire: handlers should be neatly and appropriately attired, no blue jeans, shorts or t-shirts.

Harness Classes:

Appointments - Harness: Dutch Harness Horses may be shown in Traditional Dutch Harness, Hackney-style harness or fine harness. Hackney-style harness consists of Liverpool bit, separate check bit, black leather, round blinds, side check, at lines, at traces, low crupper or tail spoon. Fine harness consists of a snaffle bit, separate overcheck bit, black leather, square blinds, overdraw, martingale, round lines and round traces. No item may be used to alter natural ear usage.

Vehicles: Hackney-style harness shown to a viceroy. Fine harness shown to a four-wheeled, side bar buggy. All vehicles and equipment must be in serviceable condition. Any exhibitor using vehicles or equipment deemed to be disruptive to other exhibitors must be excused from the ring.

Not Allowed: Antique vehicles, Liverpools with martingales and boots.

Gaits: To be shown at an “animated walk,” “park trot” and “show your horse.”

Animated Walk: Highly collected, springy and energetic.

Park Trot: Collected trot showing animation and brilliance.

Show Your Horse: Designates the speed which shows the horse to its best advantage. Extension of gait is a distinctive characteristic of the breed; however, excessive speed and loss of form should be penalized.

How shown: To enter the ring at a “park trot” in the counter clockwise direction, to “show your horse” when called for, then to the “animated walk” before reversing. Reverse at the animated walk. To show both ways of the ring at the same gaits. Horses may be unchecked in the lineup or during a workout. Headers are optional. Headers should be suitably attired, no blue jeans, shorts or t-shirts.

To be judged: on performance, conformation, quality and manners. Horses shall not be asked to back.

Classes offered: Mares, Stallions and Geldings. These classes may be divided by age if management deems necessary.

Open – may be divided into Mares, Stallions and Geldings

Junior – for horses 4 years of age and under

Novice – horses not to have won 3 blue ribbons at the close of entries

Limit – horses that have not won 6 blue ribbons at the close of entries



ADHHA Show Rules *Continued*

Junior, Limit and Novice classes may be combined at the discretion of show management and the agreement of all exhibitors concerned if management combines classes during the show.

Ladies, Gentleman, Amateur and Junior Exhibitor classes may also be offered.

Championship: Must have qualified in a previous class at the same show.

Attire: Traditional show attire.

Roadster:

The fast, cadenced, in-form trot is the hallmark of a Roadster horse. The horse shall be asked to trot at three different speeds: the jog trot, the road gait and then at speed. At all gaits, the horse should perform in form and under control. Mixey-gaited horses that pace, or rack the turn, or that break and run shall be penalized. Exhibitors executing gaits that are not called for must be penalized.

Appointments:

Black leather, square blinds, overcheck, snaffle bit, check bit, martingale and boots. Shown to a two-wheel road bike. No racing bikes.

For Under Saddle classes horse to be ridden, the saddle should be of English-type with leather or web girth, martingale with a single or double reins and a single bit bridle with cavesson.

In Bike and Under Saddle classes exhibitors to wear stable colors, i.e. cap (for protective head gear) and jacket to match (racing silks). Number to be worn on the exhibitor's back.

How shown: Roadsters must enter ring in the clockwise direction at a jog trot, then shown at the road gait, return to the jog and reverse, show at the jog, the road gait and the trot to speed.

How judged: To be judged on performance, speed, quality and manners.

Classes offered: Roadster to Bike Open, Roadster Under Saddle.

Championship: Must have qualified in a previous class at the same show.

Park Undersaddle Classes:

The ADHHA Under Saddle Horse should be stylish with finish and quality. The performance should be animated and graceful in all gaits. Horses may show with a braided or full mane with natural tail carriage.

Appointments:

A double bridle consisting of snaffle and curb (double bridle) is preferred or pelham bit with 2 reins, with curb chain or leather curb strap. Horses under four years of age may be shown with a snaffle and running martingale. Breast plate, tie-down and german martingale are prohibited.

ADHHA Show Rules *Continued*



Gait Requirements:

To be shown at Park trot, Show your horse and Animated walk both ways of the ring.

How shown:

To enter the ring at a “park trot” in the counter clockwise direction, then to the “show your horse” and then “animated walk”. To show both ways of the ring at the same gaits.

Animated Walk: Highly collected, springy and energetic.

Park Trot: Collected trot showing animation and brilliance.

To be judged: To be judged on performance, presence, quality, manners and conformation.

Classes Offered: Mares, Stallions and Geldings. These classes may be divided by age if management deems necessary.

Open – may be divided into Mares, Stallions and Geldings

Junior – for horses 4 years of age and under

Novice – horses not to have won 3 blue ribbons at the close of entries

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Ladies, Gentleman, Amateur and Junior Exhibitor classes may also be offered.

Championship: Must have qualified in a previous class at the same show.

Attire:

Informal Saddle Seat attire for riders is required in morning and afternoon classes. Formal Saddle Seat attire or dark colored habit (with collars and lapels of same color) and accessories are optional for evening. Gaudy colors should be avoided.

Amateur: A person is an amateur regardless of one’s equestrian skills and/or accomplishments, so long as they are not engaged in any equine services deemed as a trainer and/or instructor identified as a professional working for monetary gain as a means of livelihood.

National Show Qualifications: All horses are welcome to show at the Nationals and qualifications are not required. However, to earn the prize money Open Horses and Roadsters must attend a minimum of two (2) qualifying shows and complete a total of four (4) classes; Junior Horses must attend a minimum of two (2) qualifying shows and complete a total of two (2) classes. Participation in other divisions counts - Harness, Roadster and Under Saddle classes. The Park Under Saddle, Open In-Hand and Open 3-Year-Old Harness classes are eligible for prize money without qualification. Futurity classes will follow Futurity Rules.

***If you cross enter divisions i.e. ADHHA to any USEF/Open sanctioned classes, USEF rules will apply including the USEF general rules.**

***Chains at any public event are prohibited.**

****No horse may compete in any American Dutch Harness Horse class with any chemical or other irritant of any kind present to alter the horse’s tail carriage.***