



ADHHA Show Rules

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.

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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.

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

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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 Under Saddle 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.

Gait Requirements:

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

Junior/Limit Park Under Saddle Open and Stake Class:

Appointments:

Horses may be shown in a single bit with a running martingale until August 1, 2022. Horses may also show (and encouraged) to show in a double bridle. Breast plate, tie down, and German martingale are prohibited.

- AFTER AUGUST 1, 2022, all horses must be shown in a full bridle, consisting of a snaffle and curb (or) a Pelham bit with 2 reins with a curb chain or leather chin strap.

Gait Requirements:

To be shown at Park trot, animated walk and a canter both ways of the show ring.

- 2022 CHALLENGE CUP HORSES must show in Jr/ Limit Park Under Saddle Stake (at the designated Challenge Cup shows.)

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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

Limit – horses not to have 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.

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.**



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NEWS FLASH!! NEWS FLASH!! Any open breed classes offered at the shows listed in our show schedule will count as a qualifier for Nationals.

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.



ADHHA Show Rules

NEW to ADHHA!! The English Pleasure Under Saddle Division!

ADHHA English Pleasure Under Saddle Division:

We are very about the evolution of the Dutch Harness Horse industry. More amateurs and junior exhibitors have found interest in the Dutch horses. With this comes opportunities for new classes to be added. As the organization has grown, there must be more expansion of the divisions offered. The main difference between this class and a park class is a pleasure horse generally has less animation, but should be alert and responsive. They should be well mannered with performance and quality. In this class, the horses are expected to do all three gaits-walk, trot, and canter. This includes a flat walk and an extended trot. They must be able to wear a full bridle, pelham, or curb. They should also be able to readily back in the lineup. For the rider, informal saddle seat attire must be worn with no gaudy colors. This class is made for amateurs and junior exhibitors only. Showing in any Open English pleasure class at any ADHHA approved show qualifies you for this class at The All American Classic ADHHA Nationals in September. We are proud that the association is becoming large enough to create more classes, which will continue the growth of the breed. The addition of this class will make more room for other types of horses to excel and succeed, bringing in more exhibitors. We look forward to future of the American Dutch Harness Horse.

The English Pleasure 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 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 prohibited. Horses to be shown by Amateur or Junior Exhibitor. The American Dutch Harness Horse English Pleasure Under Saddle horse generally has less animation than the Park under saddle horse but should be alert and responsive. Animated, natural, freemoving action is desirable. Laboring action due to excessive weight of shoes or length of foot is penalized.

Appointments:

- A full bridle, pelham or curb, English-type saddle (*No forward seat or dressage seat saddles allowed*). Horses must be shown with a full mane and tail without braids or ornamentation of any kind. For rider, informal saddle seat attire with coat and hat or protective headgear. In all classes, gloves, crop, and spurs are optional. Gaudy colors should be avoided. Prohibited: A single snaffle, hackamore, martingale, or tie-down.
- 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, extended trot, and canter. Judged on manners, performance, presence, and quality. Horses are to stand quietly in the lineup and back readily.

- **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.

Canter: Collected three beat gait. Incorrect leads and excessive speed to be penalized.

How shown: To enter the ring at a trot in the counter clockwise direction, extended trot, flat walk and canter. May be asked to reverse at the walk or trot. To be shown both ways of the ring at the same gaits. Horses must stand quietly and back readily.

Prohibited at Horse Show: Blinkers, Tail setting devices, Action Devices of any kind.