



# ADHHA Show Rules

As show season is approaching and with the popularity of the American Dutch Harness Horse, the ADHHA board has developed a set of guidelines for the growing number of ADHHA classes and shows. These guidelines are effective as of January 1st, 2023.

## **General Rules:**

### **Memberships:**

Memberships are required for any rider, driver, handler, owner, lessee, trainer, or coach who desires to participate with American Dutch Harness Horse Association at their National finals.

Non-member riders, drivers, handlers, owners, lessees, and agents must pay a Show Pass fee to compete at the American Dutch Harness Horse Finals. Lessees are considered owners with a membership requirement. If a horse(s) is owned by multiple individuals, farms, or entities, only one owner need be a member or pay a Show Pass fee.

### **Show Pass:**

American Dutch Harness Horse Association Show Pass: The amount of the Show Pass fee will be established annually by ADHHA. The fee must be collected at National before office packet is released. Eligible exhibitors are prohibited from obtaining more than one Show Pass per two years.

### **Registry:**

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. Horses must be entered to show in their full registered names with registration numbers and under the names of the current listed owner(s).

### **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 the horse's height and hindquarter shall have a powerful presentation. Legs are straight, clean and strong with well-muscled forearms and gaskins. Feet and heels to be well-maintained. Tail is carried high and straight. It is highly recommended that no tail alterations be made. Tail hair switches are allowed.

### **Age and Individual Titles:**

Individual

#### Adult

An individual who has reached their 18th birthday as of December 1st of the current competition year. Competitors shall compete as adults from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18.

#### Junior Exhibitor's/Youth

The age of an individual on December 1 will be maintained throughout the entire competition year following. Persons born on December 1 will assume the greater age on that date. If a competition is in progress on any November 30, an individual's age at the start of the competition will be maintained throughout the competition.

### **Equine:**

For competition purposes any horse is considered to be one year old on the first day of January following the actual date of foaling.

#### Mature Horse

A mature horse is one that is over four years of age.

#### Junior Horse

A mature horse is one that is over four years of age.



# ADHHA Show Rules, *continued*

## **Amateur:**

Amateur's may not receive any non-monetary token/ gift of appreciation or compensation more than \$1,000 annually. Amateurs are considered any exhibitors who are over the age of 17. Amateurs are allowed to accept payment for teaching beginner riding or driving lessons, excluding competitions, for fewer than 20 hours per week.

## **Amateur Restrictions:**

"Client" and "Clients" of a judge shall include:

1. any person who has received, or who has a member of their family that lives at the same address who has received, horse training or instruction in riding, driving or showing from the judge, whether or not such training or instruction took place at a Competition, within 30 days OR
2. any persons who pay horse board (excluding stud fees and broodmare board) or training to the judge within 30 days.

## **Professional:**

A coach is any adult(s) who receives payment for having or sharing the responsibility for instructing, teaching, or advising a rider, driver, or handler in equestrian skills.

## **Trainer:**

1. Any adult, or adults who has the responsibility for the care, training, custody, or performance of a horse.
2. The name of the trainer must be designated as such on the entry blank.

## **CLASSES, CLASS SPECIFICATIONS:**

### **Junior Horse:**

Junior horses are four years and younger.

### **Junior Exhibitor:**

Junior Exhibitor's are under the age of 18 years old.

### **Youth:**

Youth Exhibitor's are under the age of 22 years old.

### **Ladies:**

Ladies' classes may be restricted to riders, drivers, or handlers who are no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor. Ladies include female amateurs and professionals. Stallions are not permitted in the Ladies division. Ladies' classes may be offered in any division using the specifications set forth in the respective division rules.

### **Maiden:**

Maiden classes are open to horses or exhibitors which have not won one first place ribbon. Ribbons won within one division do count in reckoning Maiden status, if horse or exhibitor compete in a different division. Ribbons won in one-horse classes do not count in reckoning the Maiden status in any division.

### **Novice:**

Novice classes are open to horses or exhibitors which have not won three first place ribbons. Ribbons won within one division do count in reckoning Novice status, if horse or exhibitor compete in a different division. Ribbons won in one-horse classes do not count in reckoning the Novice status in any division.

### **Limit:**

Limit classes are open to horses or exhibitors which have not won six first place ribbons. Ribbons won within one division do count in reckoning Limit status, if horse or exhibitor compete in a different division. Ribbons won in one-horse classes do not count in reckoning the Limit status in any division.

### **Open:**

Open classes are open to all horses of any age or sex, regardless of previous awards received, in accordance with division rules. There is no qualification for the rider, driver, or handler except as specified in division rules.



# ADHHA Show Rules, *continued*

## CLASSES, AMERICAN DUTCH HARNESS:

### General:

1. The American Dutch Harness Horses are to be judged on 50% overall picture, 25% front end self carriage, and 25% back end self carriage.
2. The American Dutch Harness Horses must appear to have a long tail and have a tightly braided mane or a shaved mane with bobs.
3. Excessive speed is undesirable.
4. The Term "Drive on" is never to be used in regard to Dutch Harness Horses. The gaits for the American Dutch Harness Horses shall be "Park Trot," which is executed in a highly collected trot showing animation and brilliance, "Show Your Horses," which designates the speed which shows your horses to its best advantage, and "Animated Walk," which is performed in a highly collected "primp" gait at a slow speed. Excessive speed is undesirable and shall be penalized.
5. To enter the ring at a "Park Trot" in the counterclockwise 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. When called for the line up, exhibitors must remain going in the same direction; if not, the exhibitor should be severely penalized.
6. Horses are required to wear a sidecheck the full duration of the class.
7. Horses may be unchecked while lined up except in Ladies, Junior Exhibitor, and Amateur classes where horses must remain checked, but checks may be adjusted. In Ladies, Junior Exhibitor, and Amateur classes, an attendant may stand an entry on its feet and thereafter they shall remain at least two paces distant from the head. Horses may be unchecked during a workout.
8. Horses shall not be asked to back.
9. One attendant is allowed per horse. Attendant must be over the age of 15.
10. No item may be used to alter natural ear usage.

### Appointments:

1. To be shown to a viceroy. Vehicles and equipment must be in functioning condition. Any exhibitor using vehicles or equipment deemed to be disruptive to other exhibitors must be excused from the ring. Antique vehicles are not allowed.
2. Dutch Harness Horses must be shown in an attached sidecheck with round blinkers with a liverpool bit, flat traces, low crupper or tail spoon. A separate sidecheck bit is not required. If not proper equipment, entry must be severely penalized.
3. Tradition suggests the following appointments: apron, gloves and whip.

### Attire:

1. Appropriate apparel is required. Traditional show attire is encouraged.

### Class Specifications:

1. American Dutch Harness Horse: OPEN, MARES, STALLIONS, GELDINGS, MAIDEN, NOVICE, LIMIT, GENTLEMAN AND OWNERS. To be judged on performance, presence, quality, conformation and manners.
2. American Dutch Harness Horse Championship. To be eligible horses must be entered, shown and judged in any other single performance class in this section. To be judged on performance, presence, quality, conformation and manners.
3. Junior American Dutch Harness Horse: STALLIONS, MARES, GELDINGS. To be judged on performance, presence, quality, conformation, and manners.
4. Junior American Dutch Harness Horse Championship. To be eligible, horses must be entered, shown



# ADHHA Show Rules, *continued*

and judged in any other single performance class in this section To be judged on performance, presence, quality, conformation and manners.

5. American Dutch Harness Horse: AMATEURS, AMATEUR OWNERS, AMATEUR LADY TO DRIVE, AMATEUR GENTLEMAN TO DRIVE. To appear to have perfect mouths and must stand quietly. Horses must be checked, but the checks may be adjusted during the lineup. During a workout those remaining in the center of the ring may be unchecked. Not an appointments class. To be judged on manners, performance, presence, quality, and conformation.
6. American Dutch Harness Horse Championship: To be eligible horses must be entered, shown by an amateur and judged in a qualifying class designated by competition management in the prize list. Horses must stand quietly. To be judged on manners, performance, presence, quality, and conformation.
7. Ladies American Dutch Harness Horse: The horse must stand quietly. To be judged on manners, quality, presence, performance, and conformation.
8. Ladies American Dutch Harness Horse Championship: To be eligible horses must be entered, shown and judged in qualifying class restricted in a similar manner as the championship. The horse should stand quietly. To be judged on manners, quality, presence, performance, and conformation.
9. Junior Exhibitor American Dutch Harness Horse: Open to mares and geldings only. Manners are paramount in these classes. Horses should display a willingness to perform, suitability and balanced action. The horse must stand quietly. To be judged on manners, presence, quality, performance, and conformation. To be driven in the liverpool with sidechecks, appear to have perfect mouths. Horses must be checked, but the checks may be adjusted during the lineup. During a workout those remaining in the center of the ring may be unchecked.
10. Junior Exhibitor American Dutch Harness Horse Championship: To be eligible horses must be entered, shown and judged in qualifying classes designated by competition management in the prize list. If no junior exhibitor championship is offered, then the entry becomes eligible to show in the Amateur championship. If an amateur championship is not offered, junior exhibitors may compete in an open championship. The horse must stand quietly in the lineup. To be judged on manners, presence, quality, performance, and conformation. be adjusted during the lineup. During a workout those remaining in the center of the ring may be unchecked.
11. Junior Exhibitor American Dutch Harness Horse Championship: To be eligible horses must be entered, shown and judged in qualifying classes designated by competition management in the prize list. If no junior exhibitor championship is offered, then the entry becomes eligible to show in the Amateur championship. If an amateur championship is not offered, junior exhibitors may compete in an open championship. The horse must stand quietly in the lineup. To be judged on manners, presence, quality, performance, and conformation.

## **CLASSES, AMERICAN FINE HARNESS:**

### General:

1. The American Fine Harness Horses is to be judged 50% overall picture, 35% front end self carriage, and 15% back end self carriage.
2. The American Fine Harness Horse is exhibited with a long mane and long tail.
3. The Term "Drive on" is never to be used in regard to the American Fine Harness Horse. The gaits for the harness horses shall be "Park Trot," which is executed in a highly collected trot showing animation and brilliance, "Show Your Horses," which designates the speed which shows your horses to its best advantage, and "Animated Walk," which is performed in a highly collected "primp" gait at a slow speed. Excessive speed is undesirable and shall be penalized.
4. Horses may be unchecked while lined up except in Ladies, Junior Exhibitor, and Amateur classes where horses must remain checked, but checks may be adjusted. In Ladies, Junior Exhibitor, and Amateur



# ADHHA Show Rules, *continued*

classes, an attendant may stand an entry on its feet and thereafter they shall remain at least two paces distant from the head. Attendant must be 16 years or older.

5. Horses shall not be asked to back.
6. One attendant is allowed per horse.
7. No item may be used to alter natural ear usage.

## Appointments:

1. To be shown to a four-wheeled, side bar buggy.
2. Horses must be shown in a snaffle bit, separate overcheck bit (optional), black leather square blinds, martingale, and round traces.

## Attire:

1. Appropriate apparel is required. Traditional show attire is encouraged.
2. Tradition suggests the following appointments: apron, gloves and whip.

## Class Specifications:

1. American Fine Harness Horse: OPEN, MARES, STALLIONS, GELDINGS, MAIDEN, NOVICE, AND LIMIT. To be judged on presence, quality, performance, conformation and manners.
2. American Fine Harness Horse Championship: To be eligible horses must be entered, shown and judged in any other single performance class in this section. To be judged on presence, quality, performance, conformation and manners.
3. Junior American Fine Harness Horse: STALLIONS, MARES, GELDINGS. To be judged on presence, quality, performance, conformation and manners.
4. Junior American Fine Harness Horse Championship: To be eligible, horses must be entered, shown and judged in any other single performance class in this section. To be judged on presence, quality, performance, conformation and manners.
5. American Fine Harness Horse: AMATEURS, AMATEUR OWNERS, AMATEUR LADY TO DRIVE, AMATEUR GENTLEMAN TO DRIVE. To appear to have perfect mouths and must stand quietly. Horses must be checked, but the checks may be adjusted during the lineup. During a workout those remaining in the center of the ring may be unchecked. Not an appointments class. To be judged on manners, presence, quality, performance, and conformation.
6. American Fine Harness Horse Championship: To be eligible horses must be entered, shown by an amateur and judged in a qualifying class designated by competition management in the prize list. Horses must stand quietly. To be judged on manners, presence, quality, performance, and conformation.

## CLASSES, PARK:

### Description:

1. The American Dutch Park Horse should be elegant, well-mannered, with quality. Park Horses shall perform with animation and delightful in all gaits.
2. Horses may be shown with a full mane and tail or button braids and natural tail.
3. Park Horses are to be shown at the animated walk or flat foot "Walk" or "Park Walk", which is highly collected and springy; "Park Trot", which is collected, animated, and brilliant; and "Canter", which should be controlled and graceful. To enter the ring at a "Park Trot", in the counterclockwise direction. Horses should show all three gaites both directions on the ring.
4. Horses are to stand quietly in line-up and shall not back.



# ADHHA Show Rules, *continued*

## Appointments:

1. Park Horses are shown with an English saddle, leather or web girth, and a double bridle. Double bridles consist of snaffle, curb, curb chain, and two reins. No horse is permitted to show in a snaffle bit only, breast plate, tie-down, or martingale.

## Attire:

1. Informal Saddle Seat Attire is required in morning and afternoon classes. Formal Saddle Seat attire or dark colored habit, with collars and lapels of the same color, are required for classes after 6 p.m.
2. Gaudy colors should be avoided.
3. Clean riding boots required.
4. Gloves are encouraged.

## Class Specifications:

1. Three gaited Park: OPEN; JUNIOR, MAIDEN, NOVICE AND LIMIT. To be judged on performance, manners, presence, quality and conformation.
2. Three Gaited Park Championship. To be eligible horses must be entered, shown and judged in any other single performance class in this section. To be judged on performance, manners, presence, quality and conformation.

## **CLASSES, ROADSTER:**

### Description:

1. The Roadster Horse should have good American Dutch Harness Horse conformation and be shown with a full mane and tail. The roadster shall have a refined head, well placed ears, fine throat latch, refined neck, muscular chest, powerful shoulders, refined solid legs, and power hindquarters.
2. 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 speeds, Roadsters should work in form; chins set and legs working beneath them, going collectedly. Animation, brilliance and a competitive ring presence should be evident working at the jog-trot and road gait. The Roadster Horse should perform in form and under control at all gaits. 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. Roadster that are long, have sprawling front action, dragging or trailing hind legs and straddle-gait action behind, all of which indicate imbalance and are undesirable.
3. Roadster Horses to Bike should maintain form while performing strongly in three distinct speeds.
4. Roadster Horses Under saddle should naturally carry their head high and look pretty.
5. Roadster Horses to Wagon have the strength and scale to pull a wagon without losing form.
6. Tails must not be put in a tail brace or any other device.
7. Labored way of going should be penalized.
8. Roadsters must enter the ring clockwise, at a "jog" trot, then show at the "road gait." Before reversing, exhibitors will return to a jog. While going counterclockwise, horses will show at the "jog," "road gait," at "speed," before returning to the jog to go into the lineup. In the Wagon class, "at speed" is called "go for the doctor."
9. Horses must be shown on the rail at all times except when passing and should go to the far end on every corner without side-reining; should be light mouthed, capable of being taken up at any time, willing to walk and stand quietly when being judged in the lineup.
10. No exhibitor under the age of 15 years old is allowed to show in any road horse class.
11. Drivers are not permitted to leave their vehicle while in lineup, except for necessary adjustments.





# ADHHA Show Rules, *continued*

12. In the lineup, Open Roadster does not allow headers. Ladies, Youth, Amateur permit headers. One attendant per entry and attendants are only allowed to touch the horse for safety reasons. Entries are allowed to be unchecked, if not participating in the workout. However, when the workout is over the horse must be rechecked and the attendant must move away from the horse. The driver may, however, uncheck and stand at horse's head when left in the center of the ring while a part of the class is on the rail for a workout. In Roadster Horse to Bike and Roadster Horse to Wagon classes, the overcheck must remain attached to the water hook until class is tied. Attendance must be at least 16 years of age.
13. In the event that the check breaks or comes off, the entry must use a timeout to reattach the check. If the check breaks or comes off a second time the horse must not be allowed to continue performing unchecked and must be excused from the ring by the judge(s). If a horse is excused under these circumstances they will be qualified for the championship.
14. Stallions are prohibited in Ladies and Youth classes. Youth drivers are permitted to drive in the Amateur class if no Youth class is offered. If no amateur classes are offered, youth are permitted to drive in the Open class.
15. Any horse not in compliance, that is determined by the judge(s) to be a safety risk must be excused. Any driver, rider, or horse in the Roadster division exhibiting inappropriate or dangerous behavior or whose actions would in any way threaten the safety of any other exhibitor, their entries, or the safety of class officials must be immediately eliminated from the class by the judge. When eliminating a driver, rider, or horse due to inappropriate or dangerous behavior, the judge must call the class to a stop and excuse the relevant driver, rider, horse, from the ring. Once the eliminated driver, rider, or horse has exited the ring, the judge may resume the class. It is the judge's responsibility to ensure that safety requirements are followed at all times.
16. When showing a Roadster to Bike or Wagon, the driver must sit on the inside of the seat and hold the bight end of the reins in their hand. When showing to the bike, both feet must remain in the stirrups while showing, except for while standing in the lineup. Any driver who fails to comply with the above will be considered to be exhibiting dangerous behavior as described above and must immediately be eliminated from the class by the judge.
17. Saddle classes do not qualify a horse for Bike or Wagon Championship classes. Wagon classes will qualify for a Bike Stake if a Wagon Stake is not offered. In Amateur Championships, to bike or wagon, if qualifying classes are offered the horse must have been qualified by an Amateur in one other Amateur Bike or Wagon Class. Exception: Lady Amateurs may qualify for the Amateur Championship if they enter and show in a Ladies bike or Wagon class.
18. The use of leather straps without appendages of any kind are permitted as action devices in warm up areas on the competition grounds during or before a competition. Rubber or elastic exercising devices attached with a fixed ring on a plain leather strap are permitted. A wool or fleece protective covering is permitted. The use of elastic straps/devices attached to any part of the harness/bridle is prohibited. The use of chains or rollers as action devices on the competition grounds during or before a competition is prohibited.
19. ADHHA rules should follow The American Road Horse and Pony Association Rules.

## Appointments:

1. Roadsters to bike shall be shown to a bike with good appearance and stability. Harness includes: square blinkers, snaffle bit, attached overcheck (check bit is optional), breast collar, straight flaps, round traces with flat ends, and martingale. Horse Bikes must be of standard size of at least 48" width with a double seat. If the judge deems the vehicle to be unsafe, the entry must be excused from the ring by the judge(s). If the entry is excused under these circumstances they will be qualified for the championship.
2. Roadsters under saddle shall be shown with an English saddle, full martingale (no German martingale), open show bridle, snaffle bit, single or double rein(s) good appearance of equipment. Protective boots are permitted (i.e., quarter or bell boots).
  1. 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.



# ADHHA Show Rules, *continued*

3. Roadster to wagon shall be shown to a wagon with good appearance and stability. Wagons should have more scale and height than a roadster bike. Harness includes: square blinkers, snaffle bit, attached over check (check bit is optional), breast collar, straight flaps, round traces with flat ends, and martingale. Breeching is required in all wagon classes. If the judge deems the vehicle to be unsafe, the entry must be excused from the ring by the judge(s). If the entry is excused under these circumstances they will be qualified for the championship
  1. Encouraged appointments will include the following items: rasp, scrapper, hoof pick, screwdriver, farrier's knife, farrier's hammer, knife, goggles, matches, washers, spool wire, wrench, wire pliers, nippers, punch, oil can, horse shoes, horse shoe nails, blanket pins, whisk broom, flask, cooler, halter, raincoat/cover, curry comb, brush, lead strap, clock, and light.
4. Harness with martingale, low crupper breast collar with straight flaps, with traces made round with flat ends, shall consist of bridles with square blinkers, snaffle bit, and overcheck bit. Reins should be of dark leather and made round up to the handpieces. Protective boots are permitted (i.e., quarter or bell boots).

## Attire:

1. In bike or under saddle classes, exhibitors shall wear stable or personal colors, jacket and cap or helmet to match. Exhibitors should be in pants that are dark or match silks, and exhibitors shall wear boots. The show number must be worn on the exhibitor's back. Protective headgear may be worn without penalty and is encouraged.
2. Protective headgear is required for all Youth exhibitor's, no matter the class title. Youth exhibitors are under the age of 22 years old.
3. In Wagon classes, exhibitors shall wear a business suit with a hat. The show number must be worn on the exhibitor's back. Protective headgear may be worn without penalty and is encouraged.

## Class Specifications:

1. Roadster to Bike: OPEN, LIMIT, NOVICE. To be judged on performance, speed, presence, quality, conformation and manners.
2. Roadster to Bike Championship. To be eligible horses must be entered, shown and judged in another class in harness in this section. To be judged on performance, speed, presence, quality, conformation and manners.
3. Junior Roadster to Bike. To be judged on performance, speed, presence, quality, conformation and manners.
4. Junior Roadster to Bike Championship. To be eligible horses must be entered, shown and judged in another class in harness in this section. To be judged on performance, speed, presence, quality, conformation and manners.
5. Amateur Roadster to Bike. To be judged on manners, performance, speed, presence, quality, and conformation.
6. Amateur Roadster to Bike Championship. To be eligible horses must be entered, shown by a Youth, Amateur or Lady and judged in a qualifying class designated by competition management in the prize list per. To be judged on manners, performance, speed, presence, quality, and conformation.
7. Ladies Roadster to Bike. To be judged on manners, presence, quality, performance, speed, and conformation.
8. Ladies Roadster to Bike Championship. To be eligible horses must be entered, shown and judged in another class in harness in this section. To be judged on manners, presence, quality, performance, speed, and conformation.
9. Youth Roadster to Bike. To be judged on manners, presence, quality, performance, speed, and conformation.
10. Youth Roadster to Bike Championship. To be eligible horses must be entered, shown and judged in another class in harness in this section. To be judged on manners, presence, quality, performance, speed, and conformation.
11. Roadster Under Saddle. To be judged on manners, performance, speed, presence, quality, and conformation.





# ADHHA Show Rules, *continued*

12. Roadster Under Saddle Championship. To be eligible horses must be shown in a qualifying class designated by competition management in the prize list per. To be judged on manners, performance, speed, presence, quality, and conformation.
13. Roadster to Wagon. To be judged on performance, speed, presence, quality, manners, and conformation. If no championship is offered for this class it shall be considered as a qualifying class for the Roadster to Bike Championship.
14. Roadster to Wagon Championship. To be eligible horses must be shown in a qualifying class designated by competition management in the prize list per. To be judged on performance, speed, presence, quality, manners, and conformation.

## CLASSES, IN-HAND:

### Description:

1. The American Dutch Harness Horse should possess conformation that is functional for its job.
2. Known as a powerful driving horse, the trot must have a lot of suspension; high, open motion in front and forceful impulsion from behind.
3. Individually, exhibitors are to enter the ring counterclockwise at the trot, showing the horse to its best ability. Horses are to trot to halfpoint or the end of the straightaway, reverse and trot back to the judge(s). At the judge, the horse should stand square on all four feet, naturally or parked out for confirmation inspection. Front legs should be perpendicular to the ground. After judge inspection, horses should walk or trot to the lineup.
4. Two handlers allowed per horse and each handler may carry a whip. Whips may have small, unobtrusive bags or ribbons attached.
5. Horses are to be judged on 33% movement (50% front end self carriage and 50% back end carriage), 33% Dutch Harness type, and 33% confirmation. Defects must be penalized, and labored leg action must be severely penalized.

### Appointments:

1. Horses are to be shown in a suitable show halter or lead bridle and led individually.
2. All in-Hand horses must be bobbed or braided. No flowing manes permitted.
3. Weanlings must show without their dams in the ring.
4. Weanlings and Yearlings must show with unset and uncut tails.
5. Weanlings and Yearlings are prohibited to show in curb bits.
6. Weanlings and Yearlings allow at least half-cup blinker hoods, as long as forward vision is allowed.
7. Weanling and Yearlings are permitted to wear smooth, round leather straps. The use of artificial devices (i.e. chains, shackles, rubber bands, or blindfolds) are prohibited on Weanlings and Yearlings.

### Attire:

1. Handlers and trailers should be in traditional show attire or in business attire. Clothes are to be neat, clean, and appropriate. Clothes not permitted include blue jeans, shorts, athletic attire, or t-shirts. Shoes must be closed toed.

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

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

### Class Specifications:

1. **In-Hand:** OPEN, MARE, STALLIONS, GELDINGS, JUNIOR, AMATEUR, JUNIOR EXHIBITOR, & NOVICE. These classes may be divided by sex if management deems necessary. To be judged on 33% movement (50% front end self carriage and 50% back end carriage), 33% Dutch Harness type, and 33% conformation.



# ADHHA Show Rules, *continued*

2. **In-Hand Championship:** To be eligible horses must have been entered, shown and judged in qualifying classes designated by competition management in the prize list.
3. **Weanling Jackpot Futurity:** Must be shown with a roached mane and braid buttons or the appearance of a tightly braided mane. To be judged on 33% movement (50% front end self carriage and 50% back end carriage), 33% Dutch Harness type, and 33% conformation.
4. **Open Weanling Futurity:** To be judged on 33% movement (50% front end self carriage and 50% back end carriage), 33% Dutch Harness type, and 33% conformation.
5. **Open Yearling Futurity:** To be judged on 33% movement (50% front end self carriage and 50% back end carriage), 33% Dutch Harness type, and 33% confirmation.
6. **Two Year-Old Open Futurity:** To be judged on 33% movement (50% front end self carriage and 50% back end carriage), 33% Dutch Harness type, and 33% conformation.

## CLASSES, ENGLISH PLEASURE:

### Description:

1. The American Dutch Please Horse should possess quality, ease, and style. The horses should look pleasurable and comfortable, giving the clear impression it is a joy to show.
2. Manners and ease are paramount, and a true, flat walk is a must. Transitions should look effortless and smooth.
3. Horse's must be penalized for tail-swishing, tossing head, laboring action, pulling, and going sideways.
4. Entries must be shown with a full mane and tail. Tails are not permitted to be put into a brace or tail tied. Tails may be in a tail set or bustle.
5. Pleasure Horses are to be shown at flat foot "Walk", with special emphasis on the a straight and true flat foot walk; "Trot", which is pleasurable, natural, and with ease; and "Canter", which should be controlled and graceful. To enter the ring at a "Trot", in the counterclockwise direction. Horses should show all three gaits both directions of the ring.
6. The use of artificial devices (i.e. shackles, chains, rubber bands, blinkers, or blindfolds) are not permitted on competition grounds. Blinkers are permitted for driving. The use of protection equipment is permitted (i.e. shin boots, knee boots, non-weighted bell boots)
7. Pleasure is open to mares and geldings; Amateurs and Junior Exhibitors are only allowed to show in pleasure.
8. In Pleasure classes horses are allowed to use artificial tail switches.
9. In the lineup, horses are to stand quietly and back readily.

### Appointments:

1. Under saddle horses shall be shown in a double bridle, consisting of snaffle and curb bit. No horse shall be shown in single bit, breast plate, tiedown, or martingale. Horses shall be shown in English saddle, with a leather or web girth.

### Attire:

1. Riders shall wear informal attire with coat and hat or protective headgear.
2. Gaudy colors should be avoided.

### Class Specifications:

1. Three-gaited Show Pleasure: MAIDEN, LIMIT, AMATEUR, MASTERS, AND NOVICE. To be judged on manners, performance, presence and quality and conformation.



# ADHHA Show Rules, *continued*

2. Three-gaited Park Pleasure Championship. To be eligible horses must be entered, shown and judged in any other single performance class in this section. To be judged on manners, performance, presence and quality and conformation.
3. Junior Exhibitor Three-gaited Show Pleasure. To be judged on manners, performance, presence and quality and conformation.
4. Junior Exhibitor Three-gaited Show Pleasure Championship. To be eligible horses must be entered, shown and judged in any other single performance class in this section. To be judged on manners, performance, presence and quality and conformation.

## CLASSES, OPEN PLEASURE DRIVING:

### Description:

1. The American Dutch Pleasure Driving Horse should possess quality, ease, and style. The horses should look pleasurable and comfortable, giving the clear impression it is a joy to show.
2. Manners and ease are paramount, and a true, flat walk is a must. Transitions should look effortless and smooth.
3. Open Pleasure Driving Horses are to be shown at flat foot "Walk", with special emphasis on the a straight and true flat foot walk; "Trot", which is pleasurable, natural, and with ease; To enter the ring at a "Trot", in the counter clockwise direction. Horses should show both gaits both directions of the ring.
4. Horses must be penalized for tail-swishing, tossing head, laboring action, pulling, and going sideways.
5. Entries must be shown with a full mane and tail. Tails are not permitted to be put into a brace or tail tied. Tails may be in a tailset or bustle. Tail switches are permitted.
6. The use of artificial devices (i.e. shackles, chains, rubber bands, blinkers, or blindfolds) are not permitted on competition grounds. Blinkers are permitted for driving. The use of protection equipment is permitted (i.e. shin boots, knee boots, non weighted bell boots)
7. Open Pleasure driving allows one attendant in the line up. The header may not have a whip, stand three paces back from the horse, and only be allowed to touch the horse for safety. Horses are to remain checked and will allow an adjusted check.
8. In the lineup, horses are to stand quietly and back readily.

### Appointments :

1. Driving horses shall be shown in a two-wheeled pleasure cart, harness with blinkers, martingale, snaffle bit, half ckeek or bar bit and overcheck (overcheck bit is optional).
2. Full ckeek bits not permitted.

### Attire:

1. Appropriate apparel is required. Traditional show attire is encouraged. Jeans and gym shoe attire is prohibited.
2. Gloves are encouraged.

### Class Specifications:

1. **Show Pleasure Driving: AMATEUR.** To be judged on manners, performance, presence and quality and conformation.
2. **Show Pleasure Driving Championship:** To be eligible horses must be entered, shown and judged in any other single performance class in this section. To be judged on manners, performance, presence and quality and conformation.
3. **Junior Exhibitor Show Pleasure Driving:** To be judged on manners, performance, presence and quality and conformation.
4. **Junior Exhibitor Show Pleasure Driving Championship:** To be eligible horses must be entered, shown and judged in any other single performance class in this section. To be judged on manners, performance, presence and quality and conformation.



# ADHHA Show Rules, *continued*

## CLASSES: THREE YEAR OLD HARNESS FUTURITY

### General:

1. The Three-Year-Old Harness Futurity Horse is to be judged on overall picture, front end self carriage, and back end self carriage.
2. Excessive speed is undesirable.
3. The Term "Drive on" is never to be used in regard to Three Year Old Harness Futurity Horses. The gaits for the American Dutch Harness Horses shall be "Park Trot," which is executed in a highly collected trot showing animation and brilliance, "Show Your Horses," which designates the speed which shows your horses to its best advantage, and "Animated Walk," which is performed in a highly collected "primp" gait at a slow speed. Excessive speed is undesirable and shall be penalized.
4. To enter the ring at a "Park Trot" in the counterclockwise 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. When called for the line up, exhibitors must remain going in the same direction; if not, the exhibitor should be severely penalized.
5. Horses may be unchecked while lined up or the checks may be adjusted. An attendant may stand an entry on its feet and thereafter they shall remain at least two paces distant from the head.
6. Horses may be unchecked during a workout.
7. Horses shall not be asked to back.
8. One attendant is allowed per horse.
9. No item may be used to alter natural ear usage.
10. Entries must show in one style of appointments completely, without overlapping.

### Appointments:

1. The Three Year Old Harness Futurity Style A must appear to have a long tail and have a tightly braided mane or a shaved mane with bobs. Horses are required to wear a sidecheck the full duration of the class. Style A must be shown to a viceroy. Vehicles and equipment must be in functioning condition. Any exhibitor using vehicles or equipment deemed to be disruptive to other exhibitors must be excused from the ring. Antique vehicles are not allowed. Style A's Horses must be shown in an attached sidecheck with round blinkers with a liverpool bit, flat traces, low crupper or tail spoon. A separate sidecheck bit is not required. If not proper equipment, entry must be severely penalized.
2. The Three-Year-Old Harness Futurity Style B must exhibited with a long mane and long tail. Horse are to be shown to a four-wheeled, side bar buggy. Style B Horses must be shown in a snaffle bit, separate over check bit (optional), black leather square blinds, martingale, and round traces. A separate sidecheck bit is not required.

### Attire:

1. Appropriate apparel is required. Traditional show attire is encouraged.
2. Tradition suggests the following appointments: apron, gloves and whip.

### Class Specifications:

1. Three Year Old Harness Futurity Horse: To be judged on performance, presence, quality, conformation and manners.



# 2024 ADHHA Show Rules

## **CLASS: AMERICAN DUTCH HARNESS COUNTRY PLEASURE**

### **General:**

1. The American Dutch Harness Hunter Country Pleasure Horse should project a distinct sense of being a pleasure to ride, while maintaining a relaxed attitude. These horses are expected to exhibit a generally longer frame with a lower neck carriage and a more relaxed head position, avoiding excessive bending at the poll. Penalties apply for high-headed horses and those behind the vertical.
2. To be penalized for pulling, head tossing, laboring action, going sideways, tail-switching, and excessive speed at the extended canter. Transitions between gaits should be smooth and effortless. Horses must demonstrate obedience with prompt and smooth transitions. A true flat walk is mandatory.
3. Horses exhibit a conservative braided mane and tail. The use of devices altering tail carriage such as tailsets, bustles, or braces, is prohibited. Artificial manes are not allowed, but inconspicuously applied hair in the tail is permitted.
4. Professionals can compete in Hunter Country Pleasure Prospect or Open classes if one additional Hunter class, restricted to amateurs are offered at the same competition.
5. Manners and suitability as a pleasure mount take precedence.
6. Light contact with the horse's mouth must be maintained at all gaits. Judges must weigh the performance at each gait equally.

### **Appointments:**

1. Entries will be penalized for incomplete appointments and may face disqualification.
2. Shoeing: Hunter Country Pleasure horses may be plain shod or unshod. Permissible plain-shod features include a shoe (with caulks), which may be thicker at the heel and may include toe clips and side clips. Also acceptable is an egg bar shoe. Not allowed as plain shod are bands, bars, pads of any kind, wedges, lead, springs, or any attachment extending below the shoe, and any unapproved foreign substances. The frog of the foot must be visible. Horses with prohibited shoeing are disqualified from the competition, forfeiting entry fees and winnings.
3. Bridle: Hunter pleasure horses must use traditional hunter-style equipment, including a browband and hunter-type cavesson. Bit options include a pelham with two reins, kimberwick bit, or a full bridle (curb and snaffle bit). Full bridle bits must be of hunter style with curb shanks, and pelhams that must not exceed five and a half inches (5.5"). Breastplates are allowed, but martingales are prohibited.
4. Saddle: A forward or balance seat saddle is required.
5. Attire: Traditional hunter-style jacket, breeches or hunter jodhpurs, dark hunting cap, derby, or protective headgear, and appropriate boots. Paddock or jodhpur boots with matching half chaps are permitted. Traditional tall dress or tall field boots are preferred. A stock, choker, or four-in-hand tie with any color shirt is acceptable. Shadbellies are prohibited. Coat material should be suitable for hunting, with discrete patterns allowed. Ornamentations on attire items are prohibited, with exceptions for a stock or lapel pin, tie clip, number magnets, or tie tack. In all classes, gloves, a hunter crop or bat, spurs, and appointments are optional. Junior riders must wear headgear with a protective harness when mounted, and protective headgear may be worn without penalty. Members of the Armed Services or the Police may wear the Service Dress Uniform.

### **Gaits:**

1. Horses must be shown at a walk, trot (forward moving stride), extended trot, canter, extended canter both ways of the ring. The judge may limit the number of horses shown at an extended canter for safety reasons. Entries must be asked both ways of the ring to halt and stand quietly on the rail.



# 2024 ADHHA Show Rules

## Line Up:

1. In the lineup, horses must stand quietly with all four legs perpendicular to the ground (Hunter horses are not to be stretched), and back readily in the lineup. Hunter country pleasure horses may be asked to retire to the end of the ring.

## Prizes:

1. Prizes may be given from the line up or from the end of the ring.

## Classes and Specifications:

1. **OPEN, MAIDEN, LIMIT, AMATEUR, MASTERS, JUNIOR EXHIBITOR, AND NOVICE.** To be judged on manners, performance, suitability as a Hunter, quality, and conformation.  
**CHAMPIONSHIP.** To be judged on manners, performance, suitability as a Hunter, quality, and conformation.
2. **PROSPECT.** Open only to horses competing during their first or second competition years as Hunter Country Pleasure horses. May be shown by a professional, amateur, or junior exhibitor. To be judged on suitability as a Hunter, manners, performance, quality, and conformation.