

**NEW YORK STATE 4-H DRAFT HORSE DIVISION**  
**(not offered from 1992 to current year at the State Level)**

**I. PERSONAL ATTIRE AND APPOINTMENTS**

All drivers shall be neatly and conservatively attired. Exhibitors shall have gloves and an approved safety helmet. An appropriate driving whip should be carried at all times while driving or placed in whip socket. Consideration will be given to the correct use of the whip. A lap robe is optional.

**II. TACK AND EQUIPMENT**

**A. 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. Racing sulkies and chariots may not be used. It is the responsibility of each competitor to insure that harness and vehicle are in good repair and structurally sound.

**B. 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. A standard bridle with blinkers, a snaffle or driving bit is to be used. If a curb bit is used, the adjustment of the curb chain or strap should allow rotation of the bit in the mouth and having the equine "curbed down" must be avoided.

**C. Equines** may be shown shod or without shoes, but no boots or other appliances may be attached to the feet or legs.

**D.** Draw reins, side reins, nose reins, gogue and other similar training devices are prohibited. (This includes use for practice or warm-up).

**III. GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS**

**A.** Entries in this division in all classes other than fitting and showmanship are to be shown to a suitable 2- or 4-wheeled vehicle with an appropriate harness. Required gaits will include a walk and a trot. Equines should be light-mouthed, capable of being taken up at any time, willing to walk and stand quietly and to back easily and readily. Headers will be allowed in the ring at a line-up for safety but the necessity of the header to hold the equine shall be heavily penalized by the judge. Junior drivers (under 14) must be accompanied by an adult (groom) at all times. An accompanying adult (groom) may be optional for Senior drivers, and the driver shall not be penalized for accompaniment. There shall be no interaction between the driver and the accompanying adult (groom). This interaction might be considered "coaching". The judge shall be responsible for this determination. No animals may be transported in the cart or wagon during the classes.

- B. Any outside assistance in any class other than that specified above shall be a **disqualification**.
- C. All classes shall be for a single equine.
- D. Equines should never be left unattended while put to a cart. Failure to observe this rule shall be cause for immediate elimination.
- E. A Technical Delegate knowledgeable about draft equines and the 4-H Draft Horse Division rules shall be present during all competition in the division. It shall be the responsibility of the TD to assist both show management and exhibitors in the execution of the show.
- F. Equines must be serviceably sound.

#### IV. **CLASS DESCRIPTIONS**

##### **A. Draft Equine, Single to Wagon or Cart**

1. All contestants to enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction at the working trot 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. Drivers are encouraged not to pass, but if necessary, may cross the ring to allow for a more appropriate and less hazardous spacing of vehicles.
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. A header may enter the ring if it is deemed necessary for safety. Holding the equine will be severely penalized.
3. Equines should be shown on the rail at all times.
4. Minor adjustments to harness may be made on permission from the judge, by a groom, or ring steward. The driver is to remain in the vehicle at all times.
5. In scoring, emphasis will be placed on manners and way of going and on the suitability of the equine to be driven by youth. Scoring shall be 80% on performance, manners and way of going; 20% on appointments and equipment, which should be cleaned and fitted properly.

##### **B. Pleasure Driving Reinsmanship**

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 and working 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. Fitting and Showmanship**

1. This class is to be judged on the cleanliness and condition of the equine, the training and manners of the equine and the way in which the exhibitor presents the equine.
2. The basic score card and procedures to be used are as in the Fitting and Showmanship class description except:
  - a) Clipping shall be as appropriate for draft horses.
  - b) The tails only of mares are to be braided, both manes and tails of geldings are to be braided.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Refer to Fitting and Showmanship rules in the Cross Divisional section of this rule book.

