

West Central 4-H Light Horse Show Regulations

Driving

1. **Division of Large classes** – classes may be split by the judge or management committee. May be separated by single or multiple horse entries, separation of horses from ponies, separation of 2 from 4 wheeled vehicles.
2. **Driver's responsibility** – it is the responsibility of the driver to see that he/she and all attendants and passengers are appropriately attired for the class and that the horses are properly presented.

Excessive use of the driver's voice, shouting or whistling at the horse may be penalized at the judge's discretion.

The driver must be prepared to enter the ring when his/her class is called.

In the case of equipment failure and/or accident, which necessitates repair or readjustment, all grooms or passengers carried must dismount the vehicle. They should not remount until the problem has been corrected.

An appropriate whip shall be carried in hand at all times while the carriage is in motion.

3. **Attendant** – After judging begins, no attendant may enter the arena without the permission of the judge except in the case of an accident. Leading a turnout into the ring is considered outside assistance and is not permitted.

4. Description of Gaits

Walk: a free regular walk of moderate extension. The horse should walk energetically, but calmly, with even and determined pace.

Slot trot: The horse should keep up forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. The trot is slower and more collected, but not to the degree required in the dressage collected trot.

Working trot: The horse should go forward freely and straight; engaging the hind legs with good hock action on a taut but light rein. The steps should be as even as possible. The degree of energy and impulsion shown at the working trot indicated clearly the degree of suppleness and balance of the horse.

Strong trot: There should be a clear, but not excessive, increase in pace and lengthening of stride while remaining well balanced and showing correct lateral flexion on turns. Light contact should be maintained. Excessive speed will be penalized.

Halt: Horse and vehicle should be brought to a complete square stop without abruptness or veering. At the halt the horse should stand attentive and quietly, squarely on all 4 feet, ready to move off at the slightest request from the driver.

Rein back: A movement in which the horse steps backward with his legs moving in diagonal pairs. The horse should move the carriage back straight and evenly at least 4 steps. The driver should use quiet aids and light contact. They should move back to their former position with the same quiet aids.