



ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

Judges & Stewards

DRIVING

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CLASSES

The Arabian/Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Division offers exhibitors four different driving horse options:

1. Carriage Pleasure Driving,
 2. County Pleasure Driving,
 3. Formal Driving, and
 4. Pleasure Driving.
- Competitions may offer Combined Driving but these classes are judged by licensed Combined Driving judges so will not be addressed in this document.
 - Carriage Pleasure Driving will be addressed separately from the chart – see further in this document. Roadster classes are listed in the rulebook but are rarely offered so will not be included here, nor will Combination classes.
 - In all cases, the safety of exhibitors and ring personnel is paramount. If you are not already familiar with how a horse is to be correctly hitched, learn!!
 - A judge has the authority and responsibility to call a time out for the purposes of fixing a problem before it becomes a BIG problem. The time out may be assigned to the competitor and up to two outside individuals may enter the ring to assist the competitor. It is the judge’s

responsibility to stop the class and call attention to the problem but not to fix the problem for the exhibitor.

- An exhibitor can request a time out as well. Only one time out is allowed in a class, no matter if called by the exhibitor one time and the judge a second time.
- The following provisions shall apply to classes in Carriage Pleasure Driving Section, Formal Driving Section, Pleasure Driving Section, Country Pleasure Driving Section, Roadster Section, and Combination Class Section.
- When the judge calls for the lineup, exhibitors must continue in the same direction the class is working when bringing their entries to the lineup. Horses must come to the lineup at the gait requested. Judges must penalize entries that do not comply.
- The request to back should only be given while the horse is in the line-up. You should wait until the header is present and then ask the horse to back two or three steps. The horse should then return to its original place in the lineup. The back-up should be straight and unhurried.
- In driving classes requiring a reinback in the lineup, the over check or side check may be adjusted by the header but must remain fastened until the reinback has been completed.
- Cross entries are prohibited between the Arabian Pleasure Driving section and the Country Pleasure Driving and Arabian County Pleasure sections and/or Arabian Country Pleasure Combination classes at the same competition.
- If a competition offers a Combination class, the combinations are Country

English Pleasure/County Pleasure Driving, Park Horse/Formal Driving, and English Pleasure/Pleasure Driving. The prize list must specify whether or not the rider and driver must be the same individual.

against the lower mandible is permitted in the show ring for horses competing in Formal Driving, Pleasure Driving, and Country Pleasure Driving. See AR106.11 for complete rule. Effective 12/1/2023

- ***A single, inconspicuous tongue stabilizer made of soft, pliable material that gently secures the tongue in its normal position***

DRIVING CHART

| Topic | Country Pleasure Driving | Pleasure Driving |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Description | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • well-mannered with a willing attitude. • obedient and responsive to the driver's commands • should have balanced, cadenced motion. • frame should be well elevated, not heavy on the fore hand. • should move forward with ease through engagement & drive from the hindquarters and have a happy expression should give the appearance of being a pleasure to drive. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has an animated stride that moves forward with authority. The horse should have a balanced gait with good cadence • energy should originate from the horse's hindquarters propelling the horse forward to an upright carriage • hindquarters should drive the horse forward with power with no hesitation or interruption in its stride • both fore limbs should achieve equal elevation with good range of motion • should have elegance and grace • should be bright, confident, and responsive • should respond to the driver's commands with no hesitation or resistance • should be expressive with its ears giving the impression of loving its job • should perform all aspects of the class with willingness and ease |
| Gaits Judges are required to consider the performance of each gait equally | <p>All gaits must be performed with willingness and obvious ease, cadence, balance and smoothness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WALK a four-beat gait: To be true, flat-footed and ground covering. should be even and relaxed, straight and true. The walk should be a gait that you feel that you can trust that the horse will remain in until asked to do something else. • NORMAL TROT a two-beat gait: To be an overall balanced, relaxed, easy-going trot with elasticity and freedom of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WALK a four-beat gait; brisk, true and flat-footed with good reach; straight and true with no hesitation or break of gait; should move forward with even, deliberate strides; frame to be somewhat lower in the walk than it is in the trot. The walk has much less impulsion than the trot which makes it harder for a horse to carry as high of a frame • NORMAL TROT two-beat gait; performed at medium speed with moderate collection; must be mannerly, cadenced, balanced and free |

| Topic | Country Pleasure Driving | Pleasure Driving |
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| | <p>movement. High action MUST be penalized.</p> <p>The normal trot should show power and elegant carriage with the energy originating from the hindquarters. There should be even strides up front with good cadence at all times.</p> <p>The normal trot should never look forced, labored, or artificial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STRONG TROT a two-beat gait: To be faster with lengthened stride, maintaining balance, form, ease and freedom of movement at a rate of speed which may vary between horses since each horse should attain its own strong trot in harmony . High action MUST be penalized. Extreme speed resulting in loses of cadence, balance, or form should be penalized. • BACK Requested after horses are in lineup and headers in place. To stand quietly and back readily. <p>You should wait until the header is present and then ask the horse to back two or three steps. The horse should then return to its original place in the lineup. The back-up should be straight and unhurried</p> | <p>moving; should show elegant carriage with strength from behind; front end of the horse should be elevated giving it an uphill appearance; hindquarters should be the driving force pushing the horse forward to its head; all four legs should work together with even balanced strides giving the horse a consistent rhythm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STRONG TROT a two-beat gait; faster and stronger than the normal trot; performed with a lengthened stride, powerful and reaching, at a rate of speed which may vary between horses since each horse should attain its own strong trot in harmony with its own maximum natural stride. The horse must not be strung out behind; should show moderate collection without exaggeratedly high action in front; must present a willing attitude while maintaining form. The strong trot must be mannerly, cadenced, balanced and free-moving. • BACK must stand quietly and back readily. The request to back should only be given while the horse is in the lineup. You should wait until the header is present and then ask the horse to back two or three steps. The horse should then return to its original place in the line up. The back-up should be straight and unhurried |
| Headers | Allowed at the discretion of competition management. One per horse, property attire; plain unmarked smock, business attire or appropriate show attire required. | Allowed at the discretion of competition management. One per horse, property attire; plain unmarked smock, business attire or appropriate show attire required. |
| Harness | <p>To be shown in light show harness or harness appropriate for vehicle, bridle with blinkers, overcheck (with separate overcheck bit) or sidecheck (separate sidecheck bit optional), and snaffle bit (straight or jointed). Equipment to be in sound condition.</p> <p>In the interest of safety for horses with long tails, a short, inconspicuous braid or knot may be made in the end of the</p> | <p>To be shown in light show harness, bridle with blinkers, overcheck (with separate overcheck bit) or side check (separate sidecheck bit optional), and snaffle bit (straight or jointed). Equipment to be in sound condition.</p> <p>In the interest of safety for horses with long tails, a short, inconspicuous braid or knot may be made in the end of the</p> |

| Topic | Country Pleasure Driving | Pleasure Driving |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | tail, permitting it to be fastened to the show vehicle. | tail, permitting it to be fastened to the show vehicle. |
| Vehicle | A two-wheeled vehicle is required. Driver only is permitted in vehicle | Either a two or four-wheeled vehicle suitable to the horse is required. Use of a two wheeled vehicle is encouraged. |
| Class Specifications | <p>OPEN To be shown at the walk, normal trot and strong trot. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality and conformation. AMATEUR, LADIES, GENTLEMEN.</p> <p>To be shown at a walk, normal trot and strong trot. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality, conformation and suitability of horse to driver. JUNIOR HORSE.</p> <p>To be shown at a walk, normal trot and strong trot. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on attitude, manners, quality and performance.</p> | <p>OPEN, AMATEUR, LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be shown at a walk, normal trot and strong trot (Extreme speed to be penalized). To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on manners, performance and quality. JUNIOR HORSE. To be shown at a walk, normal trot, strong trot (Extreme speed to be penalized). To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on quality, manners, and performance. LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be shown at the walk, normal trot and strong trot. Extreme speed to be penalized . To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on manners, performance and quality.</p> |
| Conduct | Enter ring counterclockwise at normal trot. | Enter ring counterclockwise at normal trot. |
| Credits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety is a major concern. • horse must be properly hitched and obedient. • horse should show a bright and willing attitude with great expression. • horse needs a balanced and cadenced motion, quiet mouth, and quiet tail. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety is a major concern. • horse must be properly hitched and obedient. • horse should show a bright and willing attitude with great expression. • horse needs a balanced and cadenced motion, quiet mouth, and quiet tail |
| Faults | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not staying straight between the shafts, • being poorly hitched, • having poor quality of motion, • having a poor walk, refusing to back or charging backward are all considered faults. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not staying straight between the shafts • being poorly hitched • having poor quality of motion • having a poor walk, refusing to back or charging backward |

DEFINITIONS

ATTITUDE:

- The attitude refers to how the horse is doing its job. The horse should be willing relaxed with a soft expression. A quiet mouth and tail are important factors in determining a horse's attitude. The horse should easily respond to the drivers commands.

MANNERS:

- Manners are especially important in a Driving class. Manners are the conduct or behavior of the horse while performing the required gaits of the class. The horse must be obedient and responsive to the driver's commands. A poorly mannered horse is not only a danger to itself, but to the other exhibitors in the class.

QUALITY:

- Quality refers to the horse's conformation and beauty. Does the horse catch your eye as a beautiful horse? Quality also describes the horse's conditioning, balance, presence and carriage.

PERFORMANCE:

- Performance is determined by how well the horse performed the requirements of the class. How the horse executes transitions is also considered in evaluating the horse's performance.

CONFORMATION:

- Conformation is the correct structural form as it applies to the horse's ability to be a Driving horse.

SUITABILITY OF HORSE TO DRIVER:

- With safety being a main concern, is the horse suitable for an amateur to drive? A timid horse is appropriate with a timid driver; and a gamey/aggressive horse would be appropriate for an aggressive driver.

CLASS MANAGEMENT

- Watch your horses as they enter the ring and make sure they are all properly hitched. Be very aware of any potential problem horses and monitor them closely during the class.
- If a problem arises **do not hesitate** to excuse an unruly horse from the show ring. Once the class is safely in the line-up, request the headers to enter the arena.

DRIVING ACCIDENT GUIDELINES

The following directions are taken from the USEF Driving Competition Accident Guidelines, February 25, 2010.

During the Accident

- All individuals need to understand every incident is unique and has a life of its own. The announcer shall ask for everyone's attention, and:
- Direct inexperienced persons, including spectators, to step back for safety and not enter the area.
- Inform everyone to avoid stepping in front of the running animal.
- Notify willing assistants to wait for direction from the official in charge.
- Direct the closure of all perimeter exits.
- In an enclosed arena, ask all entries to walk and move to the center of the ring.
- In an open area, notify other drivers of the direction of the loose animal(s) and direct that they calmly move away from the accident area.
- Direct all Drivers to remain in the vehicle and in control of their animal(s).
- Suggest grooms or driver's assistant head the animal(s).
- Encourage only experienced horsemen enter the area carefully.
- Direct juniors, accompanied by an adult horseman on the vehicle, to hand over the reins as soon as it is safe. Juniors should not exit the carriage unless instructed by an official in charge.
- Immediately notify officials, the event office, announcers, medical and

veterinary personnel of the incident even if there are no obvious sign of injuries.

- Provide immediate attention and protection to any person down on the ground or obviously injured.
- When in an enclosed area, Ringmasters and other experienced horsemen should assist in keeping the loose animal(s) out by the rail and away from other animals or down personnel until they obviously tire.
- Avoid approaching the animal(s) in front to avoid personal injury.
- Do not force or move the animal(s) too close to the rail as that could cause the vehicle to hit the rail and overturn.
- As the animal(s) tires, they may attempt to join the other entries in the center. They may often come down to a walk or a halt and can be caught at that point.
- Keep in mind driving animal(s), may not take the width of their vehicle into account when judging where they can travel. Many situations are made worse when animal(s) try to 'escape' through perceived openings that are narrower than their vehicles. That includes the area between people trying to catch them and a fence. Nothing should be done that would unnecessarily scare the animal(s) more.
- Unless directed by an official, do not open event area gates to let animal(s) out.
- Once the animal(s) is captured, the person at the head of the animal(s) is in command of the animal(s) and all the persons assisting.
- Establish reliable control of the animal(s)'s head before any harness parts are undone.
- If unharnessing is necessary, coordinate to unhitch as quickly, orderly and quietly as possible.
- If there is more than one animal, do not remove any animal from the immediate area until all are free.
- Often the driver may be in shock and it should not be assumed he or she is capable of making good decisions.

- Turnouts in the vicinity, or in the arena, should move to a safe location before the ambulance is allowed in the area.

After the Accident

- Evaluate the accident for future reference.
- Prepare the required paperwork and documentation. (steward responsibility)
- Check back with involved persons to assure they have received proper care and assistance.

FORMAL DRIVING

- As in other driving classes, competitors enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction at a trot.
- At the discretion of the competition management, one header per horse may be utilized to ensure the safety of the exhibitors. Headers must be properly attired. A plain unmarked smock, business attire or appropriate show attire is required.
- Horses are to stand quietly and back readily.
- In driving classes requiring a reinback in the line-up, the over check or side check may be adjusted by the header but must remain fastened until the rein back has been completed.
- Tack & Equipment Horses are shown in a light show harness, bridle with blinkers, overcheck (with separate overcheck bit) or sidecheck (separate sidecheck bit optional) and snaffle bit (straight or jointed). Equipment to be in sound condition.
- A four-wheeled show vehicle is required.
- Qualifying Gaits
- Walk: A true, cadenced, four-beat walk, with horse collected. The motion should be brisk and vigorous with the horse showing animation and brilliance.
- Trot: Animated, natural and cadenced, with impulsion and power from behind, the front airy and light. The animated

natural trot is extremely bold and brilliant, characterized by free shoulder action. The trot should appear effortless and be executed willingly with apparent ease. The horse to have leg flexion with extension, (foreleg extending fully forward at full stretch with airy motion combined with hock action that is powerful and well raised, the hind leg being brought forward with a driving stride). The action should be balanced and cadenced. Loss of form due to excessive speed shall be penalized. The trot should be a true two-beat diagonal gait.

- Mixed gaits, pacing or racking must be considered major faults.
- Class Specifications OPEN, AMATEUR, LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be shown at a walk and trot. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on performance with proper cadence and balance, presence, manners, quality and conformation.

CARRIAGE PLEASURE DRIVING

- An Arabian licensed judge experienced in Carriage Pleasure Driving is permitted to officiate Carriage Pleasure Driving limited to Arabians/Half-Arabians/Anglo-Arabians although historically the competition will hire a CP or ADS Pleasure Driving Judge to officiate if more than just a very few classes are offered.
- IF you are asked to judge Carriage Driving, be honest with the competition management about your experience in this division. If you do accept the position to judge, study, study, and study some more before you get to the show.
- Be familiar with the terminology for this division as well as with the styles of harness and be able to identify the most common types of vehicles permitted in each class.
- Read the sections of the Carriage Pleasure Driving rules that pertain to the classes you will be judging. As with all driving

classes, SAFETY is of the utmost importance.



There are some important differences between main ring driving classes and Carriage Pleasure Driving classes.

- One very important difference between what is allowed in regular driving classes and what is allowed in CP classes relates to the horse's tail. While exhibitors are allowed to discretely tie a short, inconspicuous braid or knot in the end of the tail, permitting it to be fastened to the show vehicle in Country Pleasure Driving, Formal Driving, and Pleasure Driving, it is strictly against the rules in Carriage Pleasure Driving. It is prohibited to tie a tail to a vehicle or harness in Carriage Pleasure Driving – the penalty for this error of judgment is elimination.
- Black harness is considered appropriate with painted vehicles, with shaft and pole trimmings done in black. It is also considered appropriate with a natural wood vehicle with iron parts painted any color except brown.
- Russet harness is considered appropriate with natural wood vehicle with brown or black iron, painted vehicle with natural wood panels with any color iron or vehicle that is painted brown with brown iron.
- Check reins and martingales (except false martingales) are prohibited in Obstacle classes. Failure to comply incurs elimination.

Safety: CP105 Responsibility of Drivers and Officials and CP106 Responsibility Toward the Horse

Driver: CP107 Style of Driving, CP108 Use of the Whip; Performing a Salute, CP109 Outside Assistance, CP110 Waivers of Rules and CP111 Dress of Driver, Grooms and Passengers

Horse: CP113 Eligibility (except CP113.1 and 3) and CP115 Turnout for the Horse

Harness: CP116 Driver's Responsibility and CP117, Style of Harness

Vehicle: CP119 Driver's Responsibility and CP120 Style/Eligibility

Competitions: CP203 Entry, CP205 Driver's Responsibility, CP206 Vehicles, CP207 Turnout, CP208 Leaving Classes, and CP209 Groom/Passenger

Gaits: CP210 Description of Gaits and CP211 Break in Gaits (a good chart is part of CP2211)

Class Specifications: CP218 Turnout, CP219 Working, CP220 Ladies Driving, CP221 Gentlemen's Driving, CP222 Park, CP223 Reinsmanship

Unnatural Tail Carriage (defined in AR105.2b1) *A horse exhibiting an unnatural Arabian tail carriage must be penalized and positioned last in the class.*

CONCLUSION:

- Judging is not an absolute. It is a matter of observation and evaluation.
- Judging is based on certain established criteria and rules. However, in judging performance everything is relative.
- Each horse must be judged against the performance of the others in the class.
- Other criteria, such as manners, attitude and quality, must also be considered.
- All of the faults should be considered according to their severity and the depth of competition.
- Good judging depends upon correct observation of the finer points and the selection of the best horses for the purpose of the class.

- The best horse, performing the most correctly as established by the class criteria and specifications, should be the winner.

RESOURCES

- American Driving Society (ADS) <https://americandrivingsociety.org/>
- Carriage Association of American (CAA) – have pamphlets and books on driving <https://www.carriageassociationofamerica.com/>
- YouTube – various videos on carriage driving

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