

DRAFT HORSE DIVISION

NOTE: In this division, “draft animals” include draft horses, mammoth donkeys and heavy mules.

DRAFT HORSE CLASSES

FITTING & SHOWING

NOTE: See the Fitting and Showing Division near the front of this book for more information on fitting and showing.

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE – Horse should be shown in a white rope halter or flat nylon or leather halter with matching lead strap or appropriate white lead. Manes and tails should be combed out or decorated. No deductions are to be given to mares and fillies whose manes and tails have been decorated in the showmanship decorating class.

APPOINTMENTS OF EXHIBITOR – Exhibitors must be properly dressed, with neat, clean and strong footwear. Overalls, blue jeans and sneakers are prohibited. A hat, tam or other headgear is optional. Exhibitors may carry show sticks, but abusive use of show sticks will be penalized. Mammoth donkey and heavy mule exhibitors may carry crops.

Fitting & Showing Criteria	Points
Appearance of horse	40
Condition & thriftiness (15)	
Grooming (20)	
Tack (5)	
Showing the horse	50
Ring deportment/Leading (25)	
Actions (10)	
Posing (15)	
Exhibitor presentation	10
Attitude (5)	
Appearance (5)	
Total	100

CRITERIA EXPLANATION

APPEARANCE OF HORSE (40 points)

Condition and Thriftiness (15 points)

- See the “Appearance of Horse” section in the Fitting and Showing Division.

Grooming (20 points)

- See the “Appearance of the Horse” section in the Fitting and Showing Division.

Tack (5 points)

Must be clean, neat, supple and properly fitted.

SHOWING THE HORSE (50 points)

Ring deportment/Leading (25 points)

- Exhibitors should lead from the left side of the animal, holding the lead shank in the right hand about 6 to 12 inches from the halter. Smaller exhibitors may need a longer hold. Exhibitors of mammoth donkeys and heavy mules may carry a crop.
- The turn is made to the right the same as with light horses, but the turn is a keyhole loop instead of a pivot or tight turn.

Actions (10 points)

When moving, handlers should show off the animals’ knee and hock action. The action will be at a walk and a trot. Exhibitors of draft animals may use an adult trailer to make the horse move energetically forward when working individually for the judge. The trailer is selected by the exhibitor and must stay out of the way when not trailing.

Posing (15 points)

When posing, draft animals should stand quietly with their hocks close together. Exhibitors may use show sticks or hands on the animals’ shoulders to help place the feet when posing and to keep the animal’s attention. When posing at the end of the pattern, draft animals are usually posed at a three-quarter angle to the judge and with the animal facing uphill (see fig. 1). If showing with light horses, exhibitors should pose draft animals in the safest way possible.

EXHIBITOR PRESENTATION (10 points)

Attitude (5 points)

- Businesslike and friendly.
- Cooperates with the judge, ring steward and other exhibitors.
- Concentrates on showing the horse and is not distracted by people and events outside the ring.
- Courteous, attentive and maintains a sportsmanlike attitude toward officials and other exhibitors.
- Portrays confidence in the horse’s training and in their own ability to present the animal.

Appearance (5 points)

Properly attired, neat, clean and with strong footwear.

SHOWMANSHIP DECORATING

In this class, youth exhibitors are required to roll their own animals’ manes and tails and will be evaluated on their decoration skills. Senior exhibitors will have 20 minutes to complete this decoration. Junior exhibitors will have 25 minutes. An adult handler will be required to hold the horse, which may not be tied. Exhibitors must have all of the equipment they need with them as they begin this class. Exhibitors and handlers are not allowed to talk to each other or to anyone else during the class.

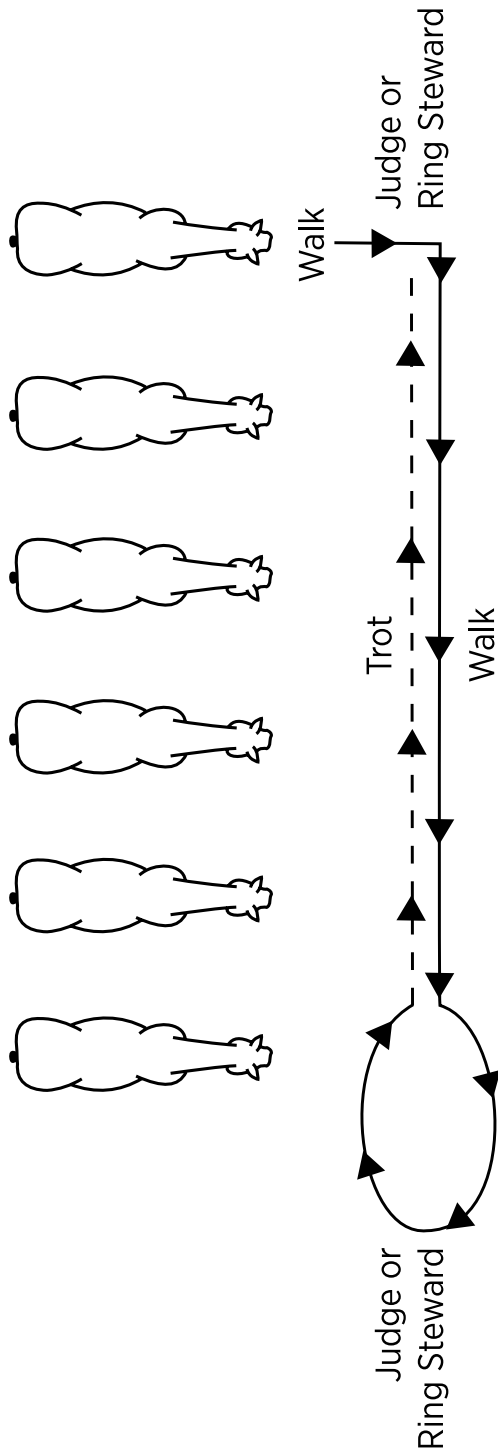


Figure 1. Sample fitting and showing pattern for draft animals.

Showmanship Decorating Criteria	Points
Appearance of horse	50
Creativity	25
Technique	25
Total	100

CRITERIA EXPLANATION

Appearance (50 points)

The mane and tail are completed with attractive braiding, plaiting and combing of the hair. The mane and tail enhance the animal’s overall image.

Creativity (25 points)

Effective use of color, braids, plaiting, scotch straws and sprigs, rosettes, flowers and ribbons.

Technique (25 points)

The mane and tail maintain their appearance due to proper, firm application of skills in the decorating process. The tail stays up, the mane roll stays straight with rosettes in proper position.

DRAFT HORSE PLEASURE DRIVING

The draft horse pleasure driving class is judged on the animal’s quality of gaits, manners and responsiveness. One animal is shown hitched to a suitable two-wheeled vehicle. The harness and vehicle must be safe, clean and in serviceable condition. The judge will dismiss any entry he or she feels is unsafe, whether the unsafe condition is due to equipment or to animal behavior.

No more than eight entries are permitted in the ring at the same time. Larger classes must be divided into sections. If entries permit, this class may be divided according to either the height of the animals or the age of the drivers, or in any other reasonable manner deemed appropriate by the superintendent.

PERFORMANCE - All entries will perform all gaits in both directions of the show ring, reversing on the diagonal at the trot (see fig. 2). All entries may be asked to back at the discretion of the judge. It is emphasized that this is a pleasure class and that a good entry is one that will provide a pleasant, responsive drive for a child driver.

APPOINTMENTS - Drivers must be neatly and appropriately dressed. Gloves are encouraged. A hat, tam or other headgear is optional. A whip must be carried in hand. An adult rider (swapper) is required for safety reasons.

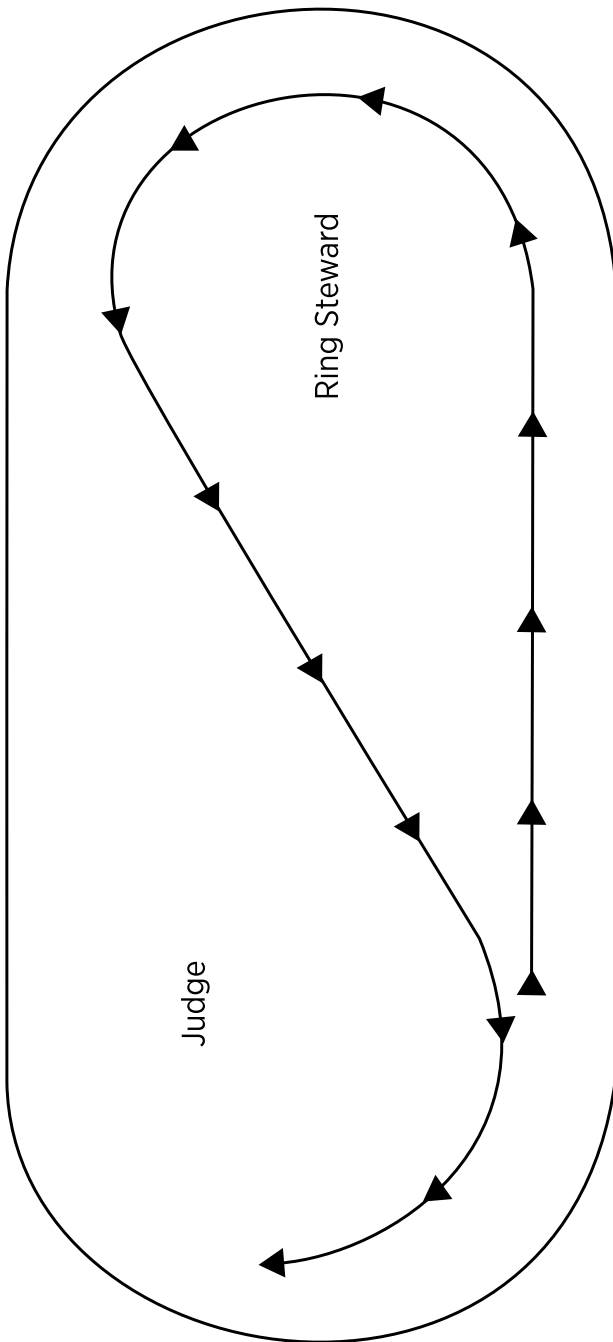


Figure 2. Reversing on the diagonal at the trot in draft horse pleasure driving.

Draft Horse Pleasure Driving Criteria	Points
Movement	60
The walk (10)	
The trot (30)	
Backing (20)	
Manners	20
Responsiveness	20
Total	100

CRITERIA EXPLANATION

MOVEMENT (60 points)

The Walk (10 points)

True, brisk and relaxed.

The Trot (30 points)

True, square, and brisk, but under full control at all times. Extreme speed will be penalized. Natural action is desirable.

Backing (20 points)

A smooth, collected and straight back.

MANNERS (20 points)

The horse should be quiet on the bit, under control and work willingly on command without being sour.

RESPONSIVENESS (20 points)

The horse should perform all transitions smoothly and willingly. The horse should back showing submission to the driver and in a straight line.

DRAFT HORSE DRIVING REINSMANSHIP

This class emphasizes the driver’s ability to control his or her animal on the rail and through obstacles and other tests of driving ability. The class should be first divided into junior and senior exhibitors and then by breeds if there are enough entries.

APPOINTMENTS OF ANIMAL AND DRIVER – Appointments of animal, driver and assistant driver or groom are the same as for draft horse pleasure driving.

Draft Horse Pleasure Driving Criteria	Points
Cleanliness & condition of horse, harness & vehicle	25
Rail work.....	25
Driving pattern	50
Total	100

CRITERIA EXPLANATION

CLEANLINESS & CONDITION OF HORSE, HARNESS & VEHICLE (25 points)

Horse is properly fitted, groomed and conditioned with a clean, crisp appearance. Attention is paid to the cleanliness of harness

and vehicle. Proper and safe vehicle trappings (such as slow-moving vehicle sign, side lamp, whip basket and tool kit) are allowed.

RAIL WORK (25 points)

DRIVING PATTERN (50 points)

Drivers will be required to complete a driving test consisting of one or more of the following maneuvers:

- Drive through or around obstacles.
- Perform a figure 8 or turns within a 30-foot parallel, right and left showing the consistency of the speed, willingness and flexing of the horse on the turns.
- Fan (sidepass the animal in one direction 90 degrees, then 180 degrees to the opposite side, then returning to the starting point showing control, willingness and smoothness).
- Back up to a certain point or to back through obstacles.

DRAFT HORSE DRIVING WORKING CLASS SINGLE

NOTE: This class may need to be divided by types of vehicles or number of horses in the hitch. Conformation will not be judged.

APPOINTMENTS OF DRIVER AND ASSISTANT DRIVER OR GROOM – Long pants, long dresses, skirts, hard-soled shoes or boots are required. Ties, hats, gloves and jackets are optional. Blue colored jeans, overalls, work shoes, shorts, dresses and skirts are prohibited.

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE – Any clean, safe and supple draft-type harness with breeching is acceptable. Rolled manes and scotch knot tails (when tails are docked) are recommended. Whips are mandatory. The driver of the vehicle will hold the whip. Unnecessary paraphernalia in the vehicle is prohibited.

ROLE OF ASSISTANT DRIVER OR GROOM – Each exhibitor must have an adult assistant driver or groom on the vehicle. The assistant must not give any voice cues or handle the reins or lines while moving to control the horse except in an emergency. The assistant driver or groom may dismount and help pose the horse or team of horses when coming into the lineup, but should stand at least two paces from the team during other class procedures.

the horse is pulled to the center of the arena and repair time begins when the assistant dismounts from the vehicle. Time ends when the assistant remounts the vehicle. Exhibitors will be excused from the class if the repairs cannot be done in the allotted time.

Gaits (50 points)

The horse or team will be shown at the walk and trot in both directions of the arena and will be reversed at both directions.

Performance (25 points)

The judge may ask all or part of the class to do any of the following workoffs to help place the class:

- Backing the vehicle.
- Performing a figure 8.
- Reworking any or all gaits, but must include work at both directions for any gaits used.

Be sure enough space is available for drivers to complete workoffs safely. If space is tight, some of the class may be excused from the arena and then recalled.

TURNOUT OF HORSE AND VEHICLE (25 points)

- The horse is properly bitted, harnessed and manageable to the vehicle.
- The vehicle is properly hitched to the horse. Neat, clean and of safe construction for the driver and groom or assistant driver.
- Neat, clean overall appearance that is pleasing to the judge. No added decorations, sound utensils or distracting elements on the horse, harness, driver, assistant driver, groom or vehicle are permitted.

Draft Horse Driving Working Class Single Criteria	Points
Performance & manners	75
Gaits (walk, trot, extended trot, jog trot) (50)	
Performance (25)	
Turnout of horse & vehicle	25
Total	100

CRITERIA EXPLANATION

PERFORMANCE AND MANNERS (75 points)

The driver has 3 minutes to enter the ring after the class is called. Each team is allowed up to two timeouts for a maximum combined allowance of 7 minutes of repair time. When a breakdown occurs,