

January 2024 - 2025

Quick Guide for Driving in Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Shows

This guide should be used in conjunction with the current *Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Show Rulebook* and any available supplement. See rulebook for additional details involving harness, bits and equipment for respective divisions and classes.

Because the Pennsylvania 4-H Horse Program is diverse in both its divisions and in the breeds that compete, it is difficult to generate a complete list of acceptable bits and equipment for driving use. Bits that are permitted by respective breed associations may be acceptable at the judge's discretion. A judge at his/her discretion can penalize a horse with non-conventional types of bits, nose bands or other equipment.

If exhibitors have questions concerning equipment they wish to use, and that specific equipment is not mentioned in the current rules or this quick guide, then exhibitors should ask the show stewards and/or the judge if the equipment is acceptable for that show. Exhibitors should have alternative equipment available so that they can make a change if it is determined by show officials that their preferred equipment is unacceptable for that show.

Each county, district or regional, and state show is officiated by different stewards and judges. Therefore, exhibitors must seek approval from show officials at each show before using the questionable equipment.

Members should consult with professionals in their riding discipline or contact the appropriate breed association for guidance in selecting equipment in order to find one that is both appropriate and acceptable for use in Pennsylvania 4-H shows.

Gaits

Walk - A free, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate extension is desired. The horses and ponies should walk energetically, but calmly, with an even and determined pace.

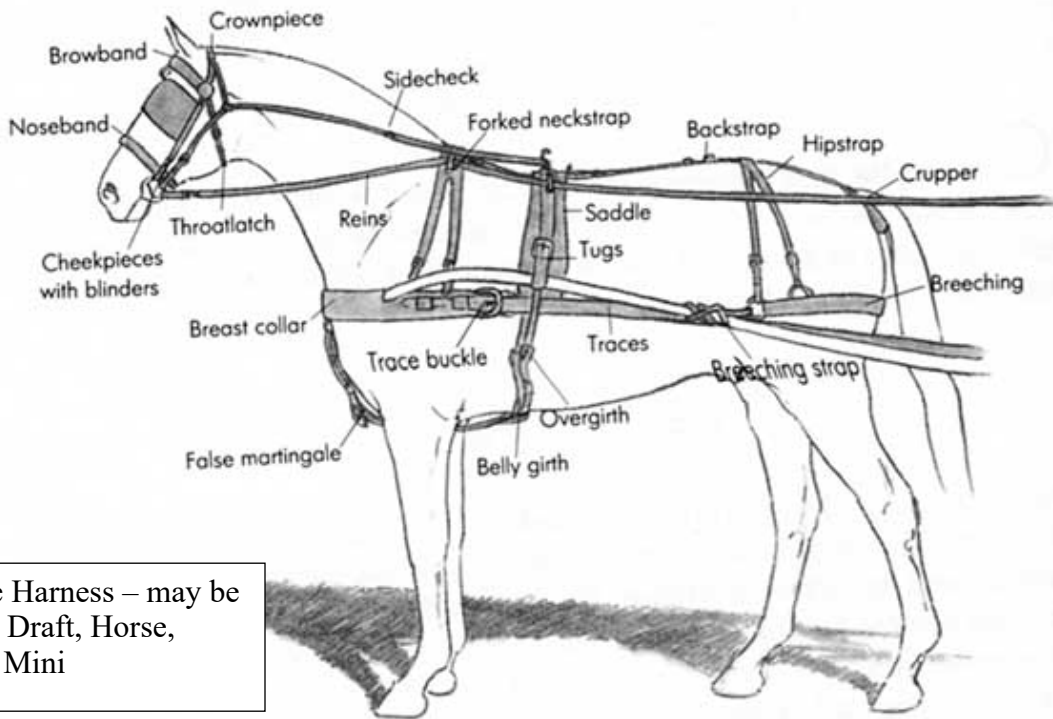
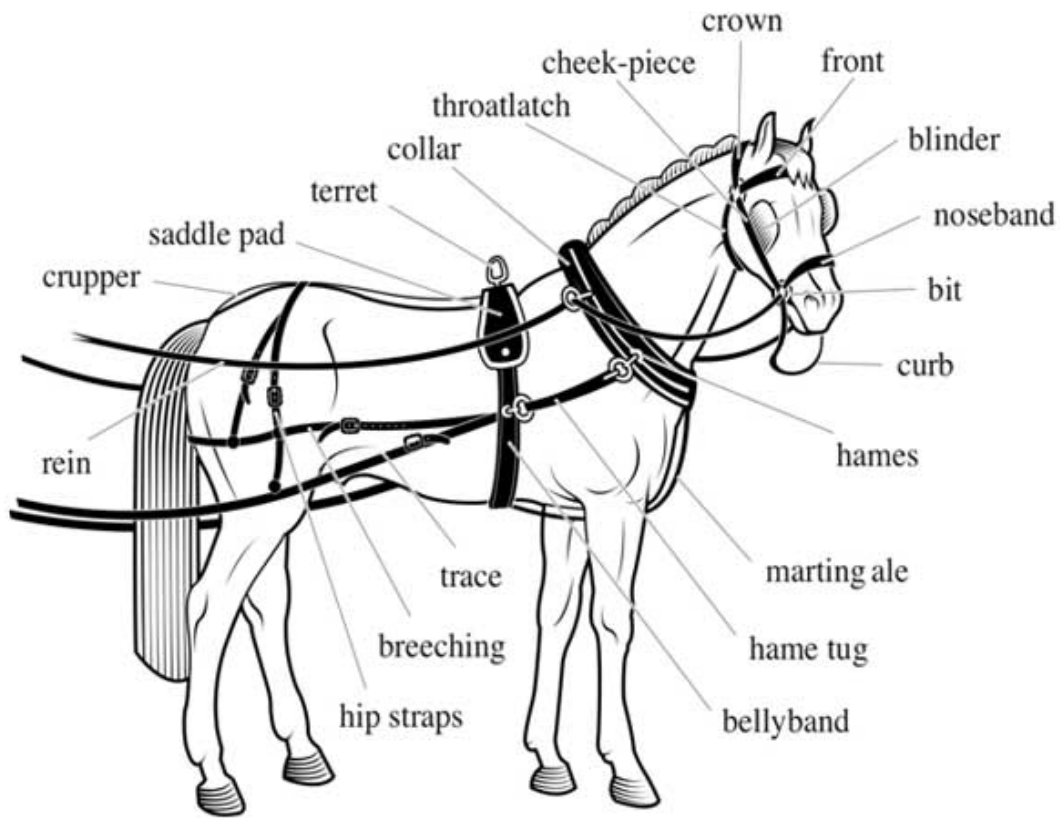
Working Trot - The horse or pony should go forward freely and straight, engaging the hind legs with good hock action, on a taut but light rein, the position being balanced and unconstrained. The steps should be as even as possible. The hind feet should touch the ground in the footprints of the fore feet. The degree of energy and impulsion displayed at the working trot denotes clearly the degree of suppleness and balance of the animal.

Strong Trot - Horses should demonstrate a clear but not excessive increase in pace and lengthening of stride while remaining well balanced and showing appropriate lateral flexion on turns; light contact to be maintained. Excessive speed will be penalized. The term used for calling this gait is strong trot.

Quick Guide to Driving Class requirements

Class	Mini	Pony	Horse	Draft
Gait				
Walk	x	x	x	x
Working Trot	x	x	x	
Strong Trot	x	x	x	
Trot				x
Reverse At	Walk	Walk	Walk	Trot
Line up	Walk	Walk	Walk	Trot
Passing	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not allowed

Class	Mini Jr Driver	Mini Sr Driver	Pony	Horse	Draft
Attendant(Additional person in cart. Must have reached 19 th birthday by Jan. 1)	Y	N(optional)	Y	Y	Y
Header(Can come from the rail in the line up)	N(an additional header is not required. Header will be attendant)	Y	N(an additional header is not required. Header will be attendant)	N(an additional header is not required. Header will be attendant)	Y
Gloves	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Whip	Reach left shoulder	Reach left shoulder	reach left shoulder	Reach left shoulder	Reach left hip
Cavesson	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Martingale	With jog cart	With jog cart	With jog cart	With jog cart	Decorative
Collar	Y Comfy/Euro	Y Comfy/Euro	Y not scotch	Y not scotch	Y
Side Check	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Over Check	Y with jog cart	Y with jog cart	Y with jog cart	Y with jog cart	Y



Pleasure Harness – may be used for Draft, Horse, Pony or Mini



Fine Harness



Pleasure Harness
with Collar



Draft Pleasure
Harness



Pony
Harness



Left – Scotch Collar
Right- Show Collar



Draft Harness with
Scotch Collar

Harness must have either



A. Breeching with Hold Back straps attached to loop in shafts



B. Breeching with Thimbles



C. Fine Harness with fixed attachments to shafts



Side Check



Over Check



Running Martingale – only
with jog cart, not with
leverage bits

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