

## **Boulder County 4-H DRIVING RULES**

(Revised 10/7/02; Reviewed 10/01/07)

1. Horses/ponies/teams will be shown at a flat-footed walk, a working trot and a trot-on both ways of the ring. Horses/ponies/teams should stand quietly and back readily.
2. To be judged on the individual and collective response of the animal(s) to the driver's verbal and manual signals, ability of driver, the ease with which he/she puts the animal(s) through their paces and their response, and the working relationship between the driver and animal(s).
3. An adult (18 or over) must accompany any 4-H member under 18 in the vehicle at all times, but should not take the reins unless necessary to control the horse/pony/team or to prevent an accident, or to warm up before the start of the actual class. Vehicle should have appropriate room for two. No one other than the designated adult and 4-H member may be in the vehicle at any time.
4. It is the responsibility of each competitor to insure that harness and vehicle are in good repair and structurally sound. No stirrup-type carts or sulkies will be allowed.
5. Equipment to be used: a whip suitable to vehicle, a collar or breast collar harness, a standard bridle and a snaffle or curb bit. If using a curb bit, the curb chain must meet the judge's approval. Such chains must lay flat against the jaw and must be at least 1/2" in width. Breeching or thimble brakes required. Check reins, martingales, nosebands, or blinkers may be used at the exhibitor's option. No wire curb straps, padded or covered, or any other artificial appliances will be allowed.
6. The exhibitor shall be neatly attired. The basic driver's outfit calls for a conservative pant or skirt, a hat, gloves, sturdy shoes or boots, and if wearing a short skirt, an apron or lap robe. Correct color or attire is one that closely matches the coat color of the driver's horses or a part of the vehicle, such as the upholstery or body color. English or Western show attire may be worn.
7. A designated warm up area will be announced.
8. Bridle should fit properly to prevent catching on a vehicle or other piece of harness and under no conditions should a bridle be removed from a horse while it is still hitched to a vehicle.
9. Horses/ponies/teams should never be left unattended while hitched.
10. A driver should never allow passengers to enter a vehicle until he/she is seated with reins in hand and must never dismount while passengers are in the vehicle.
11. The judge must excuse from competition any unsafe vehicle or any unruly horse/pony/team. Drivers should remain a safe distance from other vehicles. Any driver endangering the safety of other participants and unable to control his/her horse/pony/team will be disqualified. A vehicle/harness inspection will be held prior to class entry.

12. All officials should be constantly on the lookout for unsafe actions by any participant or unsafe harness and vehicles and report them to management.
13. Parade or silver equipment is permitted, but shall not count over normal working equipment.
14. Change of direction shall be accomplished by the entries walking across the diagonal at the direction of the ring steward.