

## Erie County Novice Division Horse Show Rules

1. This division is intended as a step up from Walk/Trot and a good beginning class for green riders of any age.
2. In an effort to encourage young riders' participation and safety it is strongly recommended and expected that a Novice Division of classes will be offered at every Erie County 4-H show.
3. To qualify for the Novice division you must be between the ages 9-19 as of January 1st of the current horse show year. Novice riders are required to ride in the Novice division only – they may not ride in any other 4-H Horse show division.
4. The Novice division is intended for green riders and not intended for green horses. Safety is our main concern.
5. Exhibitors may remain in the Novice Division for a maximum of two calendar years.
6. The Novice Division will be a pointed division for the Erie County Year End Awards.
7. If a Novice rider receives a Grand Champion or Reserve Champion award in the performance division at Year End Awards, they will be expected to be reevaluated to move up to the Junior or Senior Division the following horse show year.
8. The Novice Division will be subdivided into the following divisions:
  - a) Fitting and Showmanship-English
  - b) Fitting and Showmanship-Western
  - c) English (Hunt Seat or Saddleseat) Performance
    - to include, at a minimum; Equitation, Pleasure, and Command classes.
  - d) Western Performance
    - to include, at a minimum; Equitation, Pleasure, and Command classes.
  - e) Games
  - f) Trail
9. In all performance classes Novice riders will be expected to walk, trot (jog), and canter (lope) both ways in the horse show ring. Riders will Canter/Lope individually on the rail.
10. A novice exhibitor may be re-evaluated throughout the show season to move up to the Junior or Senior division, as long as it is before the fair entry date. Under no circumstances shall a novice rider be allowed to move down to Walk/Trot at any time
11. A novice Exhibitor's horse cannot be ridden, schooled or trained by an adult (parent, trainer, etc.) or a non-4-H Exhibitor, unless given special permission by the Horse Show Manager. The exception is that horses can be lunged by an adult or older 4-H member.
12. The Novice Division is an Erie County horse show division only. There will not be a Novice Division offered at the regional or state levels.

13. All rules regarding a rider's eligibility for the Walk-trot division are subject to override by the Erie County 4-H Horse Leaders Committees.