

Erie County Walk /Trot Horse Show Rules

1. In an effort to encourage young riders' early participation and safety it is highly recommended and expected that a Walk/Trot division of classes will be offered at every Erie County 4-H Horse show.
2. Walk/Trot exhibitors need to be at least 8 years or older as of January 1st of that calendar year. Walk/Trot are required to ride Walk/Trot only – they may not ride in any other 4-H Horse show division.
3. Exhibitors may remain in the Walk-Trot Division for a maximum of 2 calendar years.
4. If an exhibitor wins Grand or Reserve Champion in any performance division at Year End Awards, they are expected to be evaluated the following year and move up to the Novice or Junior Performance Division for the next calendar year.
5. Walk-Trot Exhibitors cannot canter (lope) at any 4-H horse show at any time on the horse show grounds; if an exhibitor is found cantering (loping) they will be asked to withdraw from the rest of the show and no refund will be given for classes missed.
6. A walk/trot exhibitor may be re-evaluated throughout the show season to move up to the novice division, as long as it is before the fair entry date.
7. A Walk-Trot 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.
8. The Walk-Trot 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. Exhibitors may participate in any or all Walk-trot divisions. Points will be allocated accordingly.
10. During the Walk-Trot game classes the following rule will be enforced. If an exhibitor's horse breaks into a canter (lope) the exhibitor will automatically receive a time penalty of 5 seconds for most circumstances, unless the judge perceives the rider is intentionally cantering and not maintaining a walk/trot pace.
11. 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.