

RULES FOR VSEs (2023)

GENERAL

All turnouts drive at Pre-Novice level.

SIZES OF PONIES

Very Small Ponies (VSEs) – to a maximum height of 112cm (10.2hh approx.)

VEHICLES

Singles – 2- or 4-wheel vehicles are allowed.

Multiples – must drive a 4 wheeled vehicle.

Minimum width 125cms for all vehicles in all competitions. Solid rubber wheels or pneumatics tyres are allowed.

GROOMS

SINGLES - Groom on the vehicle optional for two & four wheel vehicles. Where a groom is not carried, a groom must be beside the arena/obstacle wearing an identifying tabard with the competitor's number.

PAIRS and MULTIPLES must carry a groom(s)

"Groom Down" penalties will be applied where the groom needs to assist the turnout during the dressage test or cones course.

For the marathon, the groom must be at **each** obstacle and make themselves known to the obstacle stewards, or the turnout will not be permitted to enter the obstacle. If the groom is needed to assist the turnout within the obstacle, penalties for 'groom down' will apply.

Two grooms per competitor to cover marathon obstacles will be permitted, provided that they make themselves known to the administration and are wearing identifying tabards.

EXCEPTIONS – Juniors must carry a groom in accordance with Carriage Driving Ireland/British Carriage Driving ("BC") rules regardless of the size of the pony.

DRESSAGE

The test to be driven will be determined at the start of each season and competitors notified.

This will be a Pre-Novice test in either an 80 x40m arena or at the discretion of the organiser, a 40 x 20m arena.

MARATHON

Section A. Where this applies the distance covered will be at the discretion of the event organiser. This to serve as a warmup.

As an alternative option to Section A, a controlled warm-up area may be used by organisers with a time allowed of up to 30 minutes. This may be driven at any pace.

Turnouts will drive the full Section B marathon whenever possible, but depending on circumstances such as terrain and overall distance this may be shortened at the discretion of the event organiser.

Orange route markers will be used for the Section B course. Penalties will apply for missed markers. The overall time taken between obstacles from the start to finish of section B will be measured and time penalties will be applied as needed.

A maximum of 5 obstacles, with Gates A – D are to be driven. If there are more than 5 obstacles at the event, which ones are to be driven is at the organiser's discretion and will be published prior to the marathon being open for walking. Obstacle Stewards will time each competitor.

This information must be posted at the event before the beginning of the first competition, along with the following speeds and distances.

- Section A - 9 kilometres per hour; Minimum distance 1 kilometre.
- Section B – 8 kilometres per hour; Distance between 5 – 6 kilometres

CONES

Speeds and Distances

Singles and Pairs: 200 metres per minute

Multiples: 190 metres per minute

15 cones to be driven and between 375 metres and 600 metres (at organiser/course designer's discretion).

Time penalties and knockdown penalties will apply.

Groom Down penalties will apply if assistance is required.

***Full list of full penalties that may be applied can be found
with the current BC rule book.***