



Rules for Competitors



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INTRODUCTION

This book contains the Horse Sport Ireland Carriage Driving Section rules for Horse Driving Trials effective from 1 January 2025. As from this date, all other texts covering the same matter issued previously are superseded. Carriage Driving Ireland is a Horse Sport Ireland affiliated Club Section and operates under their supervision. Matters not covered in this book must be dealt with by Horse Sport Ireland regulations. If an incident occurs that is not covered by a specific rule the President of the Jury and Technical Delegate will determine any penalty that may be necessary. Any incident will be considered in 'The Spirit of the Sport'. They will report the specific incident to Horse Sport Ireland office in their post event report for consideration by the Rules Committee. Carriage Driving Ireland is committed to genuine equality of opportunity. This means that we treat all members irrespective of ethnic, origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age, religion or disability. Throughout this publication the word 'horse' shall mean horse and/or pony.

<https://www.horsesportireland.ie/disciplines/carriage-driving/>



<https://www.facebook.com/HSICarriageDrivingSection/>



1. CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

1. Agreement to be bound by the Rules

Every member of Horse Sport Ireland, Carriage Driving Section (also known as Carriage Driving Ireland heretofore) has by joining Carriage Driving Ireland agreed to be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association and all rules, regulations and by-laws made thereunder and has agreed that the decisions of the Committee and other competent authorities of Horse Sport Ireland given in accordance therewith shall be final and binding upon them.

- 1.1. Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, rules, regulations and by-laws passed from time to time can be obtained from the Horse Sport Ireland office.

2. General Rules of Conduct

No member nor any person for whom they are in law or under these rules responsible shall at or in relation to a Driving Trial or Show or at or in relation to any training, coaching or any other kind of event organised by Carriage Driving Ireland:

- 2.1 Commit any act or conduct themselves in a manner which is in the reasonable opinion of the HSI/CDI Committee:
 - 2.1.1 unsportsmanlike
 - 2.1.2 inconsiderate or discourteous
 - 2.1.3 prejudicial to the interests of HSI/CDI
 - 2.1.4 detrimental to the reputation of HSI/CDI
- 2.2 Conduct themselves in a manner which is improper, abusive, offensive or violent toward a member of the public or to the public in general or liable to bring HSI CDI and/or the sport of Horse Driving Trials into disrepute;
- 2.3 Disobey or deliberately ignore any reasonable instruction given by the organiser of an event or any Judge, Official or Safety Officer or do anything which is liable to disrupt the competition;
- 2.4 Argue with, or use abusive language or behave with incivility or contempt toward an organiser of an event or any Judge, Official or Safety Officer;
- 2.5 Publish any defamatory or malicious criticism of HSI/CDI, its Committee or an organiser of an event, Judge, Official or Safety Officer;
- 2.6 Offer any bribe, payment or inducement to a Judge, Official or Member of HSI CDI with a view to affecting the outcome of any entry to or outcome of a competition or selection for any team;
- 2.7 Discriminate against any other person (whether a member of HSI/CDI or not) on

the grounds of their age, gender (including gender reassignment), sexual orientation , race , ethnic origin , nationality , parental , marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, religious beliefs or of any disability.

- 2.8 Contravene HSI/CDI Equality Policy or Horse Sport Ireland Safeguarding Policies which have been adopted by the Carriage Driving Ireland Section
- 2.9 Use any drone or remote or radio controlled aircraft of any kind unless with the permission of the event organiser or the President of the Jury.

3. Driving Rules of Conduct

No member nor any person for whom they are in law or under these Rules responsible shall at any Driving Trial or Show or at a training or other event organised by Carriage Driving Ireland:

- 3.1 Drive recklessly or dangerously
- 3.2 Misuse the whip or ill-treat any horse or pony
- 3.3 Compete with a horse or pony which is lame, sick or exhausted
- 3.4 Excessively press an exhausted horse or pony
- 3.5 Allow a horse or pony for which they are responsible as an owner and/or driver to compete under the influence of any forbidden substance. Such a member shall be in breach of this rule if an analysis of a sample taken from the horse or pony shows the presence in its body fluids of any prohibited quantity of any substance which is either a forbidden substance or one of its metabolites or a substance which cannot be raced to normal and ordinary feeding and which by its nature is likely to affect the performance of that animal.
- 3.6 Unreasonably refuse to allow a horse or pony which has or is about to compete in any competition to undergo any properly authorised test or examination if requested to do so by a duly authorised official of Horse Sport Ireland or the Organising Committee.
- 3.7 Conduct themselves in such a manner that they have or may have committed or have or may have been party or privy to any breach of the Memorandum and Articles of Association or of any rule, regulation or bylaw of Horse Sport Ireland. A member shall be in breach of this Rule in the event that any person who assists, represents or acts on behalf of or is in the employment of such member during the course of any Driving Trial or Show , conducts themselves in such a manner that were they a member of Carriage Driving Ireland they would be in breach any of these rules.
- 3.8 Unreasonably fail or refuse to assist a duly authorised official of Carriage Driving Ireland or the Organising Committee in their investigations of complaints of misconduct or ill-discipline by any member;
- 3.9 Make any statement either orally or in writing to any duly authorised official of Carriage Driving Ireland or of the Organising Committee which they knew or have reasonable cause to suspect is untrue or incomplete.

4. Discipline

- 4.1 The President of the Ground Jury (or their appointee) will act as Disciplinary Steward at the Driving Trial or Show for which they are appointed. If, in the reasonable opinion of the Disciplinary Steward, any member and/or athlete has acted in breach of these rules whilst at a Driving Trial or Show, or the Disciplinary Steward shall receive a complaint in writing alleging such a breach, then the Disciplinary Steward shall convene a Committee of Inquiry as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 4.2 The Committee shall consist of any member of the 'Council' present at that event, a member of the Organising Committee and shall be chaired by the Disciplinary Steward.
- 4.3 No member of the Committee shall have been involved in the matters forming the basis of the complaint.
- 4.4 The Committee of Inquiry shall call for the member against whom the breach has been alleged ("the Member") to attend before it, together with any witnesses or any person whom the Committee of Inquiry feel in their reasonable discretion could assist in its deliberations;
 - 4.4.1 Any unreasonable refusal to attend shall be treated as a breach of Rule 3.8 above;
- 4.5 The Committee of Inquiry shall provide the Member with a written statement of the substance of the complaint;
- 4.6 In the presence of the Member, any witness or other person called to assist the Committee of Inquiry shall be called to give their evidence or assistance;
 - 4.6.1 The Member shall be entitled to ask any such witness or person any reasonable questions relevant to the complaint;
- 4.7 Once the Committee of Inquiry has satisfied itself that it has heard all relevant evidence reasonably capable of being adduced, it shall invite the Member to put forward their own defence;
 - 4.7.1 The Member may present oral or written evidence and may call and examine witnesses, but shall not be entitled to legal representation;
- 4.8 Once the Committee of Inquiry has heard the Member's representations it shall ask the Member to withdraw, to enable it to conduct its deliberations;
- 4.9 As soon as reasonably practicable the Committee of Inquiry will reconvene and call the Member before it and announce its decision;
- 4.10 The Committee of Inquiry may impose any of the following penalties:
 - 4.10.1 Dismiss the complaint
 - 4.10.2 Take no action with regard to the complaint
 - 4.10.3 Deliver a reprimand
 - 4.10.4 Suspend the Member and/or horse(s) or pony(s) from taking any further part in the event

- 4.10.5 Disqualify the Member and/or horse(s) or pony(s) from any part of the event
- 4.10.6 If, in the opinion of the Committee of Inquiry, the Member has been guilty of a breach of the rules set out in this annex, it may report the matter to the Council and advise the Member that details of the complaint and evidence brought before it will be forwarded to the Council for further action.

5. The Council

5.1 The disciplinary procedure set out below will apply if:

- 5.1.1 It appears to the Council that any person may, at any time, have been guilty of a breach of the rules set out in this annex or of the Horse Sport Ireland Equality Policy or the Horse Sport Ireland Safeguarding Policies;
- 5.1.2 A report is received by the Council from a Disciplinary Steward;
- 5.1.3 A report from its elected members a complaint is received by the Council against a member of Carriage Driving Ireland, or any person assisting a member, as a result of which the Council considers that any person (hereafter “the Member”) may, at any time, have been guilty of a breach of the rules set out in this annex, or of the Horse Sport Ireland Equality Policy or the Horse Sport Ireland Safeguarding Policies.

5.2 In the circumstances referred to above:

- 5.2.1 The Council shall appoint from its elected members no fewer than three persons who shall comprise the Disciplinary Committee.
- 5.2.2 No member of the Committee shall have been involved in the matters forming the basis of the complaint;
- 5.2.3 The Disciplinary Committee shall appoint from its own number a Chairman.
- 5.2.4 All decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall be decided by simple majority of the members of it.

5.3 The Council shall circulate to the members of the Disciplinary Committee the substance of the allegations or of the complaint or, if from a Committee of Inquiry, the report of the Disciplinary Steward:

- 5.3.1 The Disciplinary Committee shall in its absolute discretion be entitled to make any enquiries it deems fit.

- 5.3.2 If as a result of making any such enquiries, evidence is obtained upon which the Disciplinary Committee intends to rely, the substance of such evidence will be communicated to the Member.
- 5.3 If, having considered the Report of the Disciplinary Steward and/or the complaint made to the Council, and conducted such enquiries as it thinks are appropriate, the members of the Disciplinary Committee are satisfied that there has been no breach of the rules set out in this annex or of the Horse Sport Ireland Equality Policy or Horse Sport Ireland's Safeguarding Policies then it shall notify (1) the Council, (2) the Disciplinary Steward and/or the person making the complaint (if any) and (3) the Member against whom the disciplinary procedure has been invoked, providing brief reasons for the decision.
- 5.4 If the Members of the Disciplinary Committee are satisfied that the Member against whom the disciplinary procedure has been invoked may at any time, have been guilty of a breach of the rule set out in this annex or of the Horse Sport Ireland Equality Policy or Horse Sport Ireland's Safeguarding Policies then a Disciplinary Hearing will be arranged.
- 5.5 Not less than 21 days prior to the Disciplinary Hearing the Member shall be notified in writing of the date and venue of the meeting and of the substance of the allegations of the complaint, or in the case of a referral by a Committee of Inquiry, the Member shall receive a copy of the Report of the Disciplinary Steward.
- 5.6 The Member may appear in person to answer the allegations of breach and/or complaint and may present at the meeting oral or written evidence and may call and examine witnesses, but shall not be entitled to legal representation.
- 5.7 The Member may also submit written evidence and statements for consideration in their absence.
- 5.8 If the Member fails to appear at the disciplinary Hearing the Disciplinary Committee shall be entitled to reach a decision and, if appropriate, impose a penalty in the absence of the Member.
- 5.9 The Disciplinary Committee shall dismiss the complaint and conclude the Disciplinary procedure unless it is satisfied that the Member has been guilty of a breach of the rules set out in this annex or of the Horse Sport Ireland Equality Policy or of Horse Sport Ireland Safeguarding Policies, in which case the Disciplinary Committee shall notify the Member of its decision in writing, giving brief reasons, and can impose any of the following penalties:
- 5.9.1 Take no action with regard to the complaint
- 5.9.2 Suspend the Member and/or horse(s) and pony(s) from taking part in any affiliated event to which these rules apply for a period not exceeding three months. The period of suspension to take effect from such date as the Disciplinary Committee shall decide, being a date not more than five months from the date of the Disciplinary Committee's decision.
- 5.9.3 Disqualify the Member and/or horse(s) or pony(s) from any part or all of the event
- 5.9.4 Impose a fine of up to €100. If a fine is imposed under this rule the Member shall not participate in any affiliated event to which these rules apply until the fine is paid in full.

- 5.9.5 Suspend the Member from Membership of HSI/CDI
- 5.9.6 Expel the Member from membership of HSI/CDI
- 5.10 In the absence of manifest error, the findings and penalties imposed by the Disciplinary Committee shall be final and binding on the Member and the person making the complaint.

6. Appeal

- 6.1 Any Member whose conduct has been referred to a Disciplinary Committee and who is dissatisfied with the Disciplinary Committee's decision may appeal to Horse Sport Ireland Appeal Committee subject to Horse Sport Ireland's terms of reference.

7. Promulgation

- 7.1 The Council may in its absolute discretion publish any disciplinary findings, ruling or direction concerning any person or matter in such manner as it thinks fit, whether in the public press or otherwise and every member of the Association shall be deemed to have consented thereto.

8. Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication

- 8.1 It is forbidden for a driver to use, or to administer to any of his horses/ponies or for any person to distribute to a driver, any forbidden substance.
- 8.2 The Equine Anti-Doping Rules for Carriage Driving Ireland are the National Rules of Horse Sport Ireland, in particular, without limitation, National Rules 1.2, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
<http://www.horsesportireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/HSI-General-Rules-01-03-2012.pdf>
and the Appendix, as may be amended from time to time, and these National Rules are and shall be construed as the rules of Carriage Driving Ireland and apply to and are effective and binding on all Members and by participating in the sport at the national level, all members shall be deemed to have agreed to be bound by and to comply strictly with the applicable National Rules. The list of prohibited substances has been compiled to include all categories of pharmacological action. Carriage Driving Ireland complies with Horse Sport Ireland Equine Anti-Doping and Equine

Controlled Medical Rules and with the FEI Veterinary Rule on Prohibited Substances.
The list can be found at:
<http://www.FEIcleansport.org>

The presence of a prohibited substance constitutes a doping violation – if the horse has a positive anti-doping violation, the published result for that horse on the day of the anti-doping test will become invalid and the horse will show as Eliminated - PDT

9. Definitions

- 9.1. A member is a person who has been properly proposed and ratified by Committee and whose fees are fully paid up to date. They will obtain a **Driver Number** upon first registering for their membership, which they must display on their turnout at any HSI CD or NICDA event in all phases if they wish to compete. Drivers are responsible for providing their own number holders and bibs. HSI CD events will be open to Republic of Ireland residents who are members of HSI Driving Section. Non-ROI residents who are members of HSI CD/NICDA/BCD with appropriate insurance are also invited to enter.
- 9.2. Membership categories:
 - 9.2.1. Adult membership
 - 9.2.2. Junior membership
 - 9.2.3. Supporting membership
 - 9.2.4. International membership
- 9.3. Members are Junior Members until the end of the year in which they attain their 18th birthday and must have at least one parent/guardian as a paid-up adult member. All ages refer to the year (from 1st January to 31st December) in which that age is attained.
- 9.4. Junior Drivers
- 9.5. Drivers with Disabilities
- 9.6. Road cars are vehicles which have pneumatic tyres fitted on the wheels.
- 9.7. Club events include combined driving, pleasure drives and all other activities except National Driving Trials as defined below.
- 9.8. For the purposes of these rules and recommendations animal means horse, pony, mule or donkey.
- 9.9. The term turnout is used to cover an animal/animals harnessed to a vehicle.
- 9.10. An enclosed area is a field, show ring or arena.

- 9.11. A hard hat is a skull cap or hard hat with a flexible peak with a chin strap that must be kept fastened at all times. This must conform to EN1384 with Kitemark or SEI ; PAS 015 with Kitemark or SEI; ASTM F1163 with SEI or any standards which supersede these.
- 9.12. Drivers wishing to compete abroad representing Ireland need to be members of the
- 9.12.1. Carriage Driving Section of Horse Sport Ireland and pay international annual fee.

10.Organisation

- 10.1. The Judge/TD/CD Steward has the right to enforce the CD rules and conditions specified in the schedule under which the event is running.
- 10.2. For all except Club events, a schedule must be available to those Members who wish to enter. This schedule must specify which rules the event is running under.
- 10.3. In the event of an accident at a HSI fixture the CD Section or Chairman must be informed by *phone/email within 48 hours by the event organiser and the TD whether there are any injuries to horse or person/s*, and in writing within seven days.
- 10.4. Drivers with Disabilities may be required to satisfy a nominated member of their competence.
- 10.5. Juniors new to membership will be required to undertake an assessment and test. See *Rules for Young Drivers*.
- 10.6. The driving activities of the Carriage Driving Section shall for the purposes of these rules be classified as follows:
- 10.6.1. International Driving Trials - To be run under the rules of the FEI.
- 10.6.2. National One, Two- or Three-Day Driving Trials - To be run under the rules of the
- 10.6.3. FEI and/or that of British Carriage Driving hereafter called BC except for:
- 10.6.4. The organiser can proceed with less than the required number of personnel/stewards as set down in the BC rules.
- 10.6.5. There may be local conditions which will be posted at the event.
- 10.6.6. One Day/Two/Three Day Driving Trials - To be run as above except the ages of junior drivers and grooms may be as below.
- 10.6.7. Club events - which are all driving events except those specified above.

11.Categories and Classes

Please refer to Progression Chart

- ❖ Crystal
- ❖ Very Small Equines (VSE) up to 10.3 hands
- ❖ Small Equines (SE) between 11-11.3 hands

- ❖ Pre-Novice Pony (up to 148 cm)/Horse Single
- ❖ Novice Pony (up to 148 cm)/Horse Single /after 25 points same combination have to move up to Open Class/
- ❖ Novice Pony (up to 148 cm)/Horse Pairs /after 25 points same combination have to move up to Open Class/
- ❖ Open Pony (up to 148 cm)/Horse Single
- ❖ Open Pony (up to 148 cm)/Horse Pairs
- ❖ Advanced Pony (up to 148 cm)/Horse Single
- ❖ Advanced Pony (up to 148 cm)/Horse Pairs
- ❖ Pony (up to 148 cm)/Horse Tandem
- ❖ Pony (up to 148 cm)/Horse Team

12.Class and Entry Fees

Drivers can compete in any class for which they are eligible. All entry fees must be paid upon entering online (including Hors Concours H/C). The entry fee is to be determined by the Event Organiser.

13.Withdrawals

Once an entry has been accepted and paid for, the driver will be assumed to be competing unless the organiser is notified as follows: before the official closing date of entry, when a full refund of the entry fee will be given or by the official withdrawal date as stated in the individual event schedule. Refund of all or part of the entry fee at this stage is entirely at the discretion of the organiser. Drivers withdrawing after the withdrawal date will forfeit their fees.

14.Minimum age of Drivers and Grooms

14.1. Age of Driver

Junior members may drive at club events only when all the following conditions are fully complied with:

- 14.1.1. There will be two age divisions for Juniors. 8 – 11 and 12 to 14. Juniors wishing to drive must complete the assessment and test before their membership is accepted.
- 14.1.2. The groom must be an experienced adult driver (18 or over) capable of taking complete control at all times.

- 14.1.3. For juniors aged 8 - 11 years, the animal being driven must be 130cms or less and have safely completed a minimum of two and be known to a member of the Committee.
- 14.1.4. From the age of 14 a junior driver may drive a pony pair provided that the ponies are known to a member of the committee and all other conditions are complied with.
- 14.1.5. From the age of 14 a junior member may drive a horse provided that the horse is known to a member of the committee and all other conditions are complied with.
- 14.1.6. A junior member under 14 years may only drive a single turnout.

14.2. Age of Groom/Passenger

- 14.2.1. Club Driving Trials: A junior of 12 years old may groom for an adult driver for ponies 148cms or under.
- 14.2.2. A parent may take their own child from 8 years old and over as groom in a non-competitive event when driving a pony 138cms or under.
- 14.2.3. Grooms under the age of 14 may only groom for single turnouts.
- 14.2.4. A consent form must be handed to the organisation before the start of the competition and be signed prior to the start of each event when the groom is not the child's parent.

Class	Driver	Groom (refers to adult drivers only)
Crystal	8 years	18 years
VSE/SE	8 years	12 years
Pony Single	8 years	12 years
Horse Single	14 years	14 years
Pony Pairs	14 years	14 years
Horse Pairs	16 years	14 years
Pony/Horse Team	18 years	14 years
Pony/Horse Tandem	18 years	14 years

Age is determined from the beginning of the calendar year in which the driver and grooms reach the designated age. Drivers under the age of 18 years must be accompanied by a groom(s) of 18 years or older. Para Drivers grooms must be 18 years or older. All grooms should have knowledge and experience of driving and be physically fit to perform the role. For young drivers and pony combinations please refer to Young Drivers Rules.

15. Drivers with Disabilities

15.1. Drivers with disabilities fall into two categories:

15.1.1. Para Drivers (Classified)

15.1.2. Non-classified Driver with Disabilities (non-classified)

Drivers with disabilities must apply to HSI/CDI for permission to use Compensating aids or other reasonable adjustments to assist them to compete in able-bodied competitions or other designated classes.

Compensating aids may include:

1. Lap belt held by groom or with quick release mechanism
2. Approved harness with quick release mechanism
3. Brake operated by groom
4. No or adapted gloves
5. Connecting rein bar
6. Whip held/used by groom
7. Finger loop held by groom
8. Performing a one-handed movement with two hands
9. Second reins
10. Approved headphones or dressage caller
11. Second groom provided it does not compromise horse welfare
12. Mobility vehicle to walk the course

16. Animal Welfare

- 16.1. No turnout may be left unattended at any time.
- 16.2. No animal may be harnessed to a vehicle without wearing a driving bridle (with or without blinkers) with reins attached.
- 16.3. No animal may be tethered to a fence, tree or other structure other than a horsebox or lorry.
- 16.4. No animal may be left loose at any time, day or night, unless behind a safe structure
- 16.5. All animals must be led in the correct manner by a competent person.
- 16.6. Animals must not be required to pull too heavy a load.
- 16.7. All animals must always be treated in a humane manner.

- 16.8. No horse under 5 may compete in all phases. 4 years old horse(s) may compete in dressage and cones only or in an indoor/arena event.

2.COMPETITION PHASES

1. Dressage

1.1. The Objective of Dressage

The objective of the Driven Dressage Test is to

- 1.1.1. Judge the freedom, regularity of paces, harmony, impulsion, suppleness, lightness, ease of movement and correct bending of the horses on the move.
- 1.1.2. Drivers will also be judged on style, accuracy, and general control of their horses, and also on their dress, condition of their harness and carriage and the presentation of their whole turnout.

The Driven Dressage Test must be driven from memory. Speaking or indication given by a groom will incur Elimination Exception – Junior classes.

All drivers in Novice, Very Small Equine and Gateway classes must present their turnout for a safety check during the warmup for dressage. This will be carried out by a member of the Ground Jury or a suitably experienced individual. The penalty for not presenting themselves is Elimination.

Class	Dressage test
Crystal	Crystal
VSE/SE	BC Pre-Novice 2025
Pre-Novice Single Pony/Horse	BC Pre-Novice 2025
Novice Single Pony/Horse	BC Novice A (entry) or B (exit) 2023
Novice Pair Pony/Horse	BC Novice A (entry) or B (exit) 2023

Open Single Pony/Horse	Open Single A (entry) 2023 or FEI Test 2* HP1 (exit) 2021
Open Pair Pony/Horse	Open Pairs A (entry) 2023 or FEI Test H2-P2 (exit) 2025
Advanced Single Pony/Horse	FEI Test 3* HP1 2021
Advanced Pair Pony/Horse	FEI Test 3* H2-P2 2025
Tandem/Team Pony/Horse	BC Novice A 2023 / FEI Test 3* H4-P4 (80mx40m arena) 2025

These tests may be changed. Any changes will be notified before the start of the upcoming season.

1.2. Movements and their descriptions

1.2.1. Halt

The Horse must stand square, straight and motionless, remaining on the bit.

1.2.2. Walk

With a regular four-beat movement, the Horse, remaining in a light contact, walks energetically, supple, with even and determined strides with the hind feet touching the ground in front of the footprints of the fore feet and stretching forwards downwards.

1.2.3. Free Walk

Same definition as for the Walk, but in addition, gaining ground as much as possible, clearly lengthening the frame and stretching forwards downwards.

1.2.4. Extended walk

The Horse covers as much ground as possible, without haste and without losing the regularity of the steps. The hind feet touch the ground clearly in front of the hoof prints of the fore feet. The Athlete allows the Horse to stretch out the head and neck (forward and downwards) without losing contact with the mouth and control of the poll. The nose must be clearly in front of the vertical.

1.2.5. Working Trot

A forward, active regular trot, with the Horse on the bit, carrying himself in balance and rhythm with even, elastic steps, good hock action and clear impulsion. The steps of the hind feet must at least be touching the ground in the footprints of the fore feet.

1.2.6. Collected Trot

The Horse remains on the bit and moves energetically forward with a greater degree of engagement, leading to an increased flexion of the hocks and fetlock joints and raising up with the forehand, thus allowing for more mobility and elevation of the strides. The neck will be raised and more arched, with the poll the highest part. The nose should not be behind the vertical, or the neck restricted. The hind legs should take more weight and cadence should be visible.

1.2.7. Extended Trot

The Horse lengthens its stride to cover as much ground as possible resulting from greater impulsion from the hindquarters. The Athlete allows the Horse, remaining “on the bit” without leaning on it, to lengthen its frame to gain ground, with the nose slightly

in front of the vertical. The hind feet must clearly over track the footprints made by the fore feet.

The Horse must remain in balance while maintaining the same rhythm with strides of equal size. Hurried strides are discouraged, and result in severe faults.

1.2.8. Medium Trot

A pace between the defined Working Trot and Extended Trot. The Horse lengthens his stride to cover less ground than asked for in the Extended Trot but more ground than asked for in the Working Trot as a result of greater impulsion coming from the hindquarters. The Athlete allows the Horse, remaining 'on the bit' without leaning on it, to lengthen the frame to gain ground, with the nose slightly in front of the vertical. The hind feet should overtrack the footprints made by the fore feet. The Horse must remain in balance while maintaining the same rhythm with strides of equal size. Hurried strides are not encouraged and result in severe faults.

1.2.9. Working Canter

A forward, active pace with regular strides of a three beat time. The Horse, showing good balance, remains on the bit without leaning on the hand, and going forward with light cadenced strides and good hock action.

A Canter to the right, for instance, will have the footfalls follow one another in the following sequence: left hind, left diagonal (simultaneously left fore and right hind), right fore, followed by a moment of suspension with all four feet off the ground before the next stride begins.

The quality of the Canter is judged by the general impression, and the regularity and lightness of the three-beat pace in a clear uphill tendency. The Horse must be on the bit, well engaged in the hindquarters with good hock action, and must have the ability to maintain its rhythm and natural balance throughout the movement and the transition. The Horse must remain straight on straight lines and correctly bent on curved lines.

1.2.10. Collected Canter

The Horses strides are shorter than in working canter with the hocks maintain a clear impulsion and the hind legs take more weight; the point of gravity is moving backwards and the neck and poll increasingly coming up with the nose slightly in front of the vertical demonstrating a clear uphill tendency and self-carriage. The basic pace is clearly three beats with a light steady contact that demonstrates the Horses suppleness and elasticity.

1.2.11. Extended Canter

In the extended canter, the Horse covers as much ground as possible with obviously lengthened strides and frame; no hurried strides, the nose always in front of the vertical, and maintaining balance and uphill tendency. There should be clear transitions into and out of the extended canter.

1.2.12. Simple change of leg at the canter

This is a movement in which, after a direct transition out of the canter the Horse changes movement into a trot with three (3) to five (5) clearly defined steps followed immediately by a transition to the other canter lead.

1.2.13. Reinback

The Horse must walk backwards in a straight line, with the legs being lifted and set down in diagonal pairs. The Horse must remain on the bit, be straight in the body, not evade or resist the contact, and the poll should remain the highest point. Transition to the next movement must be immediate and smooth.

1.2.14. Shoulder-In

For Four-In-Hand:

Shoulder-In for the Driven Horse is performed in Collected Trot. The leaders are positioned so that the outside leader's tail is in front of the head of the pole. The leaders' shoulders are taken to the inside with a constant angle of approximately 30 degrees and a slight but consistent bend in the neck. The inside hind leg strides forward into the line of the outside front leg so that the Horses are working on three tracks. Impulsion, rhythm and engagement must be maintained throughout. Too much bend in the neck results in loss of rhythm and suppleness. The wheelers must remain straight with no counter bend.

For Single:

The Shoulder-In is performed in Collected trot. The Horse is driven with a slight but uniform bend maintaining engagement, cadence, and a constant angle of approx. thirty (30) degrees. The Horse's inside foreleg passes and crosses in front of the outside foreleg and the inside hind leg steps forward under the Horse's body weight following the same track of the outside foreleg with the lowering of the inside hip. The Horse is bent away from the direction in which it is moving.

1.2.15. Diagonal Yield

The Horse is nearly parallel to the Center line and crossing its legs diagonally, the hind direction on a diagonal and front together, and a slight flexion to the inside.

1.2.16. Stretching the frame

Athletes lengthen the reins gradually to the Horse(s) using a guided hand, to encourage and enable the Horse's neck to stretch forwards and downwards. As the neck stretches forwards and downwards, the Horse's mouth should reach the horizontal line corresponding with, but not lower than, the top point of the shoulder. An elastic and consistent contact with the Athlete's hands must be maintained and at no point should slack or loose rein be visible during the exercise. The same rhythm and impulsion will be maintained and the Horse should remain light in the shoulders with the hind legs well-engaged. As soon as stretching of the frame has been demonstrated, the Athlete will bring the Horse(s) back to the preceding head carriage by retaking the reins during which the Horse must accept the contact without resistance in the mouth or poll.

1.2.17. Transitions

Changes of pace must always be made smoothly and promptly with the Horse remaining in balance and on the bit. A transition must be completed as the nose of the Horse arrives at the prescribed marker, unless otherwise stated.

1.2.18. Change of Pace and Movement

Changes of pace and movement are made when the heads of the leaders reach the prescribed marker as indicated in the test.

1.3. Terminology

The following must be considered when judging Driven Dressage movements:

1.3.1. Obedience and Lightness

A willing response to aids without resistance and correctness of bend.

1.3.2. Regularity

The regularity, evenness and rhythm with which the Horse puts his feet to the ground.

1.3.3. Contact

The connection through the reins between the Athlete's hands and the Horse's mouth. It should be soft and steady at all times.

1.3.4. Impulsion

The willingness of the Horse to go forward energetically at all times and to respond quickly and evenly to changes of pace. The Horse must remain in balance while maintaining the same tempo with strides of equal size.

1.3.5. Straightness

Carrying the head, neck and body in a straight line with the weight evenly divided among the legs. On curved lines the hind legs need to follow the footprints of the fore feet without escaping or swinging out.

1.3.6. Collection

Roundness and engagement with good hock action, elevated poll allowing the shoulders to move with ease. The Horse's energy is contained in a more deliberate pace than the Working Trot. The haunches are more compressed, the croup is lowered and the forehand elevated to the same degree. The stride is shorter and more powerful than the Working Trot but the front legs move from the shoulder with greater agility resulting in lightness and greater mobility throughout. The neck should be more arched. The shortening of the frame is not and never should be a result of pulling back but rather of asking and allowing the Horse to move forward into the Athlete's hand.

1.3.7. Accuracy

Correctness; roundness; and accurately sized figures, and corners as indicated in the Test.

1.4. General Impression

1.4.1. Principle

There are two boxes at the end of the Judges Score Sheets for marks on: Athlete and General Impression & Presentation observed by the judges throughout the whole test.

1.4.2. Athlete

- 4.2.1. Use of aids, handling of reins and whip, position on the box, accuracy of figures. The mark must reflect the consistent level of accuracy and quality of transitions.
- 4.2.2. Para Driving Athletes in able-bodied competitions Athletes may salute with a nod of their head only. Hats must not be removed at the salute so that the contact must be maintained on the reins during the halt and salute.
- 4.2.3. Para Driving Athletes are allowed to do one handed movements with two hands, when mentioned in the Classification Master List of active Para Driving Athletes following the classification of the Athlete. The maximal points attributed to the Athlete shall be 4, if the movement is correctly executed.

1.4.3. General impression & Presentation

Appearance of driver Athlete and grooms, correctness, cleanliness harmonizing with harness and carriage. Fitness, matching and condition of Horse(s), balanced picture of the complete turnout. Clearance and fit of harness. Harmony between Horse(s) and Athlete.

1.5. Scoring

1.5.1. Marks

Marks out of 10 will be awarded for each numbered movement and for each heading under General Impression on the following basis:

- **10:** Excellent
- **9.0:** Very Good
- **8.0:** Good
- **7.0:** Fairly Good
- **6.0:** Satisfactory
- **5.0:** Sufficient
- **4.0:** Insufficient
- **3.0:** Fairly Bad
- **2.0:** Bad
- **1.0:** Very Bad
- **0:** Not Executed

Half marks may be awarded.

1.5.2. Error of Test

If an Athlete attempts to perform a movement, or attempts to maintain the pace required, and fails to do so, but does not deviate from the track, the President of the Ground Jury may either treat it as an "Error of Course" (see below) or may decide to leave the Judges to give the movement an appropriate mark. If an Athlete makes no effort to perform a movement in a Test then it may either be treated as an Error of Test or as an Error of Course at the discretion of the President of the Jury.

1.5.3. Error of Course

An "Error of Course" is when an Athlete deviates from the required track or when a movement is performed at the wrong pace or omitted altogether.

In the event of an Athlete making an Error of Course, the President of the Ground Jury will ring the bell and stop the Athlete. The Athlete must then resume the Test from the beginning of the movement where the error was made. If the Athlete is in any doubt, the Athlete may ask the President of the Ground Jury for guidance, without incurring any penalties.

1.5.4. Disconnected or Broken Harness

If the reins, pole strap, chains or trace become disconnected or broken, or should the Horse get a leg over the pole, trace or shaft, the President of the Ground Jury must ring the bell, and a Groom(s) must dismount and re-connect or repair as appropriate. The Athlete will be penalised for a Groom(s) dismounting.

1.5.5. Disobedience

Any resistance in the forward movement, kicking or rearing is considered to be disobedience and will be penalised by the Judge at C, as follows: 1st Incident 5 penalties, 2nd Incident 10 penalties, 3rd Incident Elimination

1.5.6. Carriage overturn

A Carriage overturning is elimination.

1.6. Classification

1.6.1. Total Marks

- 1.6.1.1. The individual marks awarded by each Judge for each movement and for General Impression will be added together and divided by the number of Judges to obtain the average score.
- 1.6.1.2. In case a "live scoring system" is used during the Dressage competition, it must only publish the evolution of the percentage during the dressage test and not the marks by judges.
- 1.6.1.3. In order to adjust the influence of Driven Dressage on the whole Event, where the total possible marks for the Test are greater than 160, the average score will be multiplied by the coefficient printed on the score sheet to obtain the adjusted average score to be used in the results.
- 1.6.1.4. Penalties are only awarded by the President of the Ground Jury at C. Any penalties will be deducted from the adjusted average score and the final total will be deducted from 160 to obtain the penalties for the Test.

1.6.2. Scores will be calculated to two decimal places.

1.6.3. The Athlete with the lowest score in penalties will be the winner of Driven Dressage

2. Marathon

- The objective of the Marathon is to test the fitness, stamina and training of the horses, and the driving skill and general horsemanship of the driver.

- The maximum number of obstacles, natural or artificial, is 4 for VSE, 6 for Pre-Novice Classes, and 8 for all other classes.
- Water obstacles, if any, should be highlighted in the event schedule.
- Every obstacle is marked with red and white gates A up to F, which must be driven in alphabetical order, red marker on the right hand side and white marker on the left hand side.
- Obstacles can contain dislodgeable elements.
- VSE, Pre-Novice and Young drivers may only drive gates A-D.

2.1. Briefing for Drivers and observers

- 2.1.1. The Technical Delegate must arrange a briefing for members of the Ground Jury and prior to the official opening of the Course.
- 2.1.2. Copies of maps of the entire Course must be available at the briefing, for those requiring them. The maps must show each Section, the location of all the Obstacles and numbered compulsory turning flags, kilometre markers, and any areas of the Course which are closed to motor vehicles.
- 2.1.3. Ground Observers, Obstacle observers and time keepers must be briefed by the Technical Delegate or their designated representative before the start of Marathon.

2.2. Marathon Sections

- 2.2.1. Where it is not possible to have Section A, a controlled Warm-Up area should replace it. Drivers should warm up for at least 30 minutes before starting Section B.
- 2.2.2. There will be a Neutral zone between Sections A and B.
- 2.2.3. Drivers should be at the start of Section A or Warm-Up area at least 10 minutes before their published Start Time.
- 2.2.4. Drivers must start each section from the halt with the leading horse behind the start line.
- 2.2.5. At least 48 hours before the first Driver is due to start Marathon, the whole Course must be open for inspection by the Drivers, except under exceptional circumstances, when Organisers have the option not to open Sections A for inspection, with the agreement of the Technical Delegate.
- 2.2.6. The Technical Delegate may impose restrictions on the means of access to certain parts of the Course.
- 2.2.7. The course is closed for inspection from the time the first Driver starts Section A or Controlled Warm-Up. The Obstacles in Section B may be left open until the first Driver starts Section B.
- 2.2.8. Drivers using motor vehicles must remain on the roads and tracks designated by the Technical Delegate.
- 2.2.9. The Obstacles may only be inspected on foot. No motor vehicles or bicycles may be taken inside any part of an Obstacle and the Controlled Warm-Up if specifically stated in the schedule. Failure to comply will be penalised by the issue of a Warning for the first infringement and a Yellow Warning Card for the second. Para Drivers may use a Motor Vehicle to walk the course.

- 2.2.10. Whips, if carried, may only be used by the Athlete. Failure to comply will incur 20 penalties.
- 2.2.11. Para Drivers may compete with the whip held /used by Groom but must have this notified the President of Jury
- 2.2.12. Drivers may use any pace in the Obstacles.
- 2.2.13. Upon finishing section B, all drivers must go into a controlled Cool Down area for a minimum of 15 minutes. Groom can be on the ground, may walk besides the Carriage and horse boots can be removed by Groom. Drivers should remain on the carriage all the time. Hard hats and body protectors can not be removed.
- 2.2.14. The timing of the section ends when the nose of the leading horse has passed the finish line. Section penalties will apply until the whole turnout has passed the finish line.
- 2.2.15. In Section A, Controlled Warm-Up and Section B, Drivers will be penalised 0.25 of a penalty per second for exceeding the Time Allowed.
- 2.2.16. Drivers completing Section A, Controlled Warm-Up and B in less than the minimum time will be penalised 0.25 of a penalty point for each second they are early.
- 2.2.17. On allocated Championships venues, Drivers must not ride a Horse or drive any Horse drawn vehicle through the Obstacles in the 30 days prior to the Event in which they are competing.

2.3. Error of Course

- 2.3.1. If a Driver fails to pass through a compulsory turning flag (CTF) in the designated sequence, the Driver may return to the point of error and drive the CTF, provided the Driver has not driven the following CTF or the next Obstacle.
- 2.3.2. A Driver who fails to pass through a CTF or a multiple CTF which is to be driven several times with different numbers, in the published sequence and direction as indicated on the Course plan will be Eliminated.

2.4. Dismounting in the sections

- 2.4.1. During Section A, Controlled Warm-Up and Section B (except inside the Obstacles), Grooms and Drivers are not allowed to dismount unless the Carriage is stationary. If the carriage is not stationary, either or both Groom(s) dismounting will incur five penalties. The Driver dismounting will incur 20 penalties.
- 2.4.2. In the Cool Down area, only Grooms may walk besides the Carriage.
- 2.4.3. The Driver and all Grooms must be on the carriage as it crosses the Start and Finish Line and passes through the compulsory turning flags in each Section (Section A, Controlled Warm-Up and Section B). Failure to do so incurs 5 penalty points for Grooms and 20 penalty points for the Driver on each occasion.
- 2.4.4. In exceptional circumstances, if warranted due to the condition of the terrain or weather, the Technical Delegate and the President of the Ground Jury may permit Grooms in Competitions for Ponies and Single Horses to run behind their carriage on designated parts of the Course.

2.5. Stopping

- 2.5.1. Drivers may stop for repairs to carriages or harness or for any reason beyond the Driver's control anywhere on the course other than while negotiating an obstacle without incurring penalties, other than loss of time
- 2.5.2. Drivers will incur one penalty point for each commenced ten seconds that they remain stopped on the course in Section B for any other reason.
- 2.5.3. If an Obstacle is situated within 300m of the finish line, an Driver is allowed to stop to carry out necessary repairs to the harness or carriage (missing or disconnected trace, pole strap or reins) without penalty as long as the Driver stops within the signed 30 metres after leaving the last Obstacle
- 2.5.4. Stopping for any other reason between the last Obstacle or the 300 metres sign, whichever is closer to the finish line in Section B, will incur 10 penalties for each occurrence.

2.6. Damaged Carriage/Harness

- 2.6.1. At the finish of Section B any missing or disconnected trace, pole strap or reins will incur 10 penalties for each occurrence.
- 2.6.2. At the finish of Section B a broken or disconnected pole or shaft or bit will incur Elimination.
- 2.6.3. Carriages must pass the finish of Section B drawn by the number of Horses required for the designated class and on the designated number of wheels. Failure to comply will incur Elimination. Broken or missing tyres are acceptable.
- 2.6.4. If the carriage overturns either on the warm-up obstacle, Marathon course or in an Obstacle, the penalty is Elimination and the Driver may not continue on the Marathon

2.7. Deviation from the Course

- 2.7.1. Athletes must not deviate from the track for the last 300 metres.
- 2.7.2. Athletes who stop, circle, zig- zag or leave the track in any other way will incur 10 penalties for each occurrence.

2.8. Incorrect pace

- 2.8.1. Should one or more Horses break into a canter within the last 300 m before the finish and this is not corrected within five seconds, the Athlete will incur one penalty for every occurrence.
- 2.8.2. If the break continues, the Athlete will incur one penalty for every additional completed period of five seconds.

2.9. Distance of the Sections

Section	Min. distance	Max. distance
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A	3 km	9 km
B	5 km	9 km
VSE (only Section B)	2 km	6 km

2.10. Speed km/hour

VSE/SE/Crystal:

Section A: N/A

Section B: 9

Pony:

Section A: 11-14

Section B: 13

Horse:

Section A: 12-15

Section B: 14

2.11. Welfare of the Horse

- 2.11.1. It is the responsibility of the Driver to stop immediately and put a Groom or Grooms down whenever a Horse has its leg over a pole, shaft, when a wheeler has a leg over the lead bar or the leader's trace, or when a Horse is down and remains down. Also, the Driver must stop when instructed to make necessary repairs by a member of the Ground Jury or Obstacle observer. However a trace down or a pole strap disconnected needs no repair inside an Obstacle. The time will continue to run.
- 2.11.2. Failure to stop and put the Groom down to correct the situation before leaving the Obstacle will incur Elimination.
- 2.11.3. It is the responsibility of the Driver to stop immediately and put a Groom or Grooms down whenever a Horse has a leg over a Trace. Also, the Driver must stop when instructed to correct the situation by a member of the Ground Jury or Obstacle observer. Failure to stop and put the Groom down to correct the situation before leaving the Obstacle will incur 30 penalties. The time will continue to run.

2.12. Timetable

- 2.12.1. A timetable showing the start of Section A or Controlled Warm-Up and the timetable of each Section, including the halt, must be drawn up for the Ground Jury and Technical Delegate.
- 2.12.2. It must be adjusted in the event of unforeseen circumstances and redistributed.
- 2.12.3. A timetable showing the starting time for each Athlete on Section A or Controlled Warm-Up must be provided to the Drivers and the timekeeper at the start of Section A.

- 2.12.4. Running order lists must be provided to all other timekeepers, ground observers and Obstacle observers

2.13. Times in Sections

- 2.13.1. The Time Allowed in all Sections is calculated according to the average speed selected for that Section.
- 2.13.2. The Minimum Time in Section A is two minutes less than the Time Allowed.
- 2.13.3. The Minimum Time in a Controlled Warm-Up is two minutes less than the Time Allowed.
- 2.13.4. The Minimum Time for Section B is three minutes less than the Time Allowed.
- 2.13.5. The Time Limit for Section A and Controlled Warm-Up is the Time Allowed plus 20%. The Time Limit for Section B is twice the Time Allowed.
- 2.13.6. The Time Limit in the Cool Down area is minimum 10 minutes and maximum 15 minutes.

A Driver who exceeds the Time Limit in any section will be Eliminated.

2.14. Timing

- 2.14.1. Electronic timing equipment should be used for the timing of Drivers in each Section and the Obstacles, whenever possible.
- 2.14.2. Time Keepers at the start and finish of each Section must record the start and finishing times for each Driver on the Section Timer Record and enter the time on the Driver's Marathon (Green) Time Card.
- 2.14.3. Start and finish (Section A, Controlled Warm-Up, B and Cool Down)
- 2.14.4. Drivers should be at the start of Section A or the Controlled Warm-up at least 10 minutes before their published Start Time.

2.15. Conversion of time to penalties

- 2.15.1. The total time taken by the Athlete in the Obstacles will be recorded to hundredths second, and penalties will be calculated to two decimal places. Any time over the Time Allowed in each of the Sections, will be multiplied by 0.25. Any time under the Minimum Time in Sections A and B will be multiplied by 0.25. There shall be no rounding of times. The penalties for under Minimum Time plus penalties for over Time Allowed and the total Obstacle times shall be added to any other driving penalties received to determine the final score for each Athlete in Marathon.
- 2.15.2. The Athlete with the lowest number of penalties will be the winner of the Competition.
- 2.15.3. In the event of an equality of penalties, the Athletes will be placed on equal rank.

2.16. Obstacle observers

- 2.16.1. There must be one Obstacle observer at each Obstacle. Each Obstacle observer must have at least two assistants. The Obstacle observer must be given a whistle and two stopwatches and instructed in their use by the Technical Delegate or their Assistant. They must record the exact time to hundredths of a second taken by each Driver through the Obstacle.
- 2.16.2. Obstacle observers must be given a starting order listing all Athletes together with sufficient copies of Obstacle reports and diagrams to record each Driver's time and the sequence of the gates through the Obstacle as driven.
- 2.16.3. In case of incorrect sequence, a drawing of the route must be recorded.
- 2.16.4. Obstacle observers must record and report all incidents to a member of the Ground Jury, as soon as possible after the incident occurred.
- 2.16.5. After the Competition, Obstacle observers must remain in the vicinity of the Secretary's Office until dismissed by the President of the Ground Jury.

3. Cones

The Cones Competition is to test the fitness, obedience and suppleness of the horses, and the skill and competence of the drivers.

- The Course Designer is responsible, under the supervision of the Technical Delegate, for laying out, marking and measuring the Course and building the Obstacles. The Course Designer must indicate with a dotted line on the course plan how the length of the Course was measured. The President of the Ground Jury must ensure that the length of the Course was measured accurately.
- Only the Course Designer and their staff may alter or work on any part of the Course. If any Driver, or any person associated with, alters the Course in any way, the Driver will be Disqualified.
- The Arena should be not less than 5000 m² with a minimum width of 40 m or an equivalent area. Should this not be possible the number of Obstacles must be reduced accordingly, unless an exception is granted by the Technical Delegate.
- There must be at least one suitable warm-up area which must be at least 3200 m².
- It is conducted on the basis of penalties for obstacles knocked down and for exceeding the Time Allowed.
- The starting and finishing lines may not be more than 40 m nor less than 20 m from the first and last Obstacles respectively.
- The number of Obstacles may not exceed 20 and for VSE/Crystal/Pre-Novice, the number may not exceed 15.
- The length of the Course must be between 500 m and 800 m, for VSE/Crystal/Pre-Novice it may be shorter.

- The Obstacles may only be inspected on foot. No motor vehicles or bicycles may be taken inside any part of the course. Failure to comply will be penalised by the issue of a Warning for the first infringement and a Yellow Warning Card for the second. Para Drivers may use a Motor Vehicle to walk the course.
- The Course must be open for inspection at least 1 hour and 45 minutes before the start of the Competition.
- Drivers and one accompanying person per Driver at a time are allowed to inspect the Course on foot and they must be correctly and smartly dressed. Drivers and their accompanying person are not permitted to use measuring wheels when inspecting the Course. At an Event, a warning will be issued for the first offence and a Yellow Warning Card from the President of the Ground Jury for subsequent offences
- The course is closed for inspection 15 minutes before the first Drivers starts.
- All Obstacles should be visible from the Judges' boxes.
- Electronic timing equipment should be used for the timing of Drivers.
- The score from this round will always be used solely to decide the final classification in all events.
- Cones with Reduced width: The width of up to 5 single obstacles can be reduced by 5cm for Pairs and Four in Hand classes and up to 10 single obstacles for Single classes. a. Such obstacles must be marked differently (colour of cones).
- Alternative options: A maximum of 2 single obstacles may offer an alternative single option.
- The Cones forming an Obstacle must be at least 30 cm high and made of indestructible plastic material. A weighted ball must be placed in the hollow on top of the Cone, so that it falls down only if the Cone is touched.
- All Obstacles consisting of a single pair or double pair (Oxer) of Cones will constitute a Single Obstacle.
- The Obstacle includes: Cones, red and white markers, numbers and letters.
- The position of one of the pair of Cones must be marked on the ground so that a constant position of the Obstacle is maintained throughout the Competition. Where practicable a line will also be drawn to ensure that the other Cone is maintained at the correct angle.
- Obstacles that entail reining back are not permitted.
- An Oxer will be composed of two pairs of cones in a straight line. The distance between the first set of cones and the second set will be between 1.5 and 3 metres, at the discretion of the Course Designer. The Oxer counts as a single obstacle and the maximum penalty points for knocking down up to 4 balls is 3 penalty points in total. The first set of cones will have the number of the obstacle and be marked with red and white signs and the second set of cones will be marked with only red and white signs.
- A maximum of five oxers are allowed in a Cones course.
- Multiple Obstacles must conform to the design principles.
- A Multiple Obstacle may be constructed of markers or horizontal rails, elevated to a minimum of 40 cm and maximum of 60 cm in height.
- Each group of Cones or Elements must be clearly separated and associated with one of the sections of the Multiple.

- A Multiple Obstacle, other than a “Serpentine”, “Zig- Zag”, a “Double Box”, a “Double U” or a “Wave” must not consist of more than three pairs of Cones or Dislodgeable Elements.
- Other than Serpentes, Zig-Zags, Double Boxes, Waves and Double Us, a Multiple Obstacle may not be longer than 30 m measured along the centre line through the Obstacle.
- There may not be more than three Multiple Obstacles in any course.
- In Multiple Obstacles Athletes can only incur a maximum of 6 penalties in a Double (A & B), 9 penalties in a Triple (A, B & C) and 12 penalties in a Serpentine, Zig-zag, Double Box, Wave or Double U (A, B, C & D), per attempt plus any penalties for a rebuild as well as penalties for Disobedience.
- A Serpentine consists of four cones in a straight line facing in alternate directions lettered A, B, C, D.
- A Zig-Zag consists of not more than four pairs of Cones, with alternate left and right Cones in a straight line (refer to the Website). All centre line Cones must be placed in a straight line, either at the front, middle or rear of the Cone.
- Where Water Obstacles and Bridge Obstacles are included in the course, prior notification must be given in the Schedule for the Event.
- Water Obstacles must be at least 3 m wide, with a depth between 20 and 40 cm and sloping sides. There must be a pair of Cones at the Entrance (flag lettered A) and Exit (flag lettered B) with the Cones 2.0 m apart.
- Knocking down a ball or balls on either A or B will be penalised as three penalties for each pair of cones.
- Wooden bridges, or bridges of similar suitable construction approved by the Technical Delegate, with fan shaped wings at the entrance, with the bridge surface not more than 35 cm above the ground, with a usable width of three metres, and a maximum length of ten metres are permitted and boarded or rail sides are essential. The Technical Delegate may grant exceptions if the Bridge is of a permanent solid construction with strong side rails. There must be a pair of Cones at the entrance (flag lettered A) and exit (flag lettered B) with the Cones at least 2.0m apart.
- Each Obstacle is defined by a pair of markers; a red marker on the right hand side and a white marker on the left hand side as Driver approach the obstacle. They are placed not more than 15 cm outside the elements which form the Single and Multiple obstacles.
- The whole turnout must pass between the markers. Failure is considered as Disobedience.
- Decorations, and obstructions must be placed on the Course before the official course walk. No penalty is incurred if they are touched, displaced or knocked over.
- All Obstacles on the Course must be numbered in the sequence in which they are to be driven. The number of each Obstacle must be indicated on a board placed at the Entrance to each Single and Multiple Obstacle.
- Each distinct section of a Closed multiple Obstacle (Ls, Us and Boxes) must be clearly marked, in different colours. The whole turnout must pass between these markers in the correct alphabetical order.
- The red and white markers and the numbered and lettered boards may be combined, so that the numbers and letters appear on the same posts as the red and white markers, or they may

be on separate boards or discs. If possible the numbers of the Obstacles should be placed so that Drivers can see them as they leave the previous Obstacle.

3.1. Obstacle Errors & Rebuilds

- 3.1.1. If a driver knocks down or dislodges any part of an obstacle which has already been driven, he will incur penalties.
- 3.1.2. If any part of an obstacle in advance of the one being driven is dislodged or knocked down, the President of the Ground Jury will ring the bell and stop the clock for the obstacle to be re-built. a. The bell will be rung to indicate to the driver that the course is ready, and the clock will restart when the driver reaches the next obstacle on course to continue his round.
- 3.1.3. If the driver knocks down any part of an obstacle in the process of a disobedience or refusal, the bell will be rung and the clock stopped for the obstacle to be rebuilt and 10 seconds will be added to the driver's time, along with any penalties for disobedience (but not for the elements knocked down at the time of disobedience).
 - 3.1.3.1. When the obstacle is rebuilt, the bell is rung again, and the driver must then retake the complete obstacle and continue his round.
 - 3.1.3.2. The clock will restart when the driver reaches the re-built obstacle.
 - 3.1.3.3. The penalty for starting before the bell is elimination.
- 3.1.4. If a driver knocks down any part of a multiple obstacle in advance of the element he is driving, or if he breaks out of the multiple obstacles and knocks down an element, then the bell will be rung and the clock stopped while the obstacle is rebuilt, and 10 seconds added to the total time taken. a. He will be penalised for disobedience but not for the elements knocked down at the time of disobedience.

3.2. Speed,distance and cones width

Class	Speed m/min	Distance	Width in cm
VSE/SE/Crystal	200	375-600	150
Pre-Novice Pony	200	500-800	165
Pre-Novice Horse	200	500-800	165
Novice Single Pony	220	500-800	165
Novice Single Horse	220	500-800	165
Novice Pairs Pony/Horse	230	500-800	170
Open Single Pony	245	500-800	160
Open Single Horse	240	500-800	160

Open Pairs Pony	240	500-800	160
Open Pairs Horse	240	500-800	170
Advanced Single Pony	260	500-800	160
Advanced Single Horse	250	500-800	160
Advanced Pairs Pony	250	500-800	160
Advanced Pairs Horse	250	500-800	170
Team Pony	240	500-800	170
Team Horse	240	500-800	185
Tandem Pony	240	500-800	165
Tandem Horse	230	500-800	170

DRIVERS AND GROOMS

1. Dress, Safety and Driving Aids

Earphones and/or electronic communication device may never be worn during Dressage and Cones Competitions. Drivers, Grooms or any other person may wear one earphone at any other time while on Carriage or mounted.

1.1. Dress in Dressage and Cones

- 1.1.1. The dress of drivers and grooms should conform to the style of the carriage and harness used.
- 1.1.2. Jackets, driving aprons, hats and gloves are obligatory for drivers.
- 1.1.3. Grooms must wear jackets, hats and gloves.
- 1.1.4. The President of the Ground Jury may decide that:
- 1.1.5. Jackets may be removed in excessively hot and humid weather.
- 1.1.6. Wet weather clothing may be worn and aprons not required.

- 1.1.7. During Cones it is compulsory and during Dressage highly advisable for all persons to wear properly fastened protective headgear (hard hat)

1.2. Dress in Marathon and Combined Marathon

- 1.2.1. Less formal dress is acceptable in the marathon for the driver and grooms.
- 1.2.2. Shorts are not permitted.
- 1.2.3. Drivers and grooms must wear securely fastened protective headgear and a suitable back/body protector on all sections of the marathon.

1.3. Dress for under 18s

- 1.3.1. At all times, whilst on a carriage, all under 18s must wear a body protector and securely fastened protective headgear.

1.4. Driving Aid for Dressage and Cones

- 1.4.1. The driver must carry a driving aid. (Whip)
- 1.4.2. The driving aid, if dropped, need not be replaced and the driver may finish without a driving aid. However, the groom may hand the driver a spare driving aid.

1.5. Driving Aid for Marathon and Combined Marathon

- 1.5.1. The driving aid can only be used by the driver.
- 1.5.2. Use of a driving aid on the marathon and in the Combined Marathon is optional.

4. EQUIPMENT

1. Harness

- Can be breast collar or full collar.
- Must be complete with saddle and full breeching (for singles) including crupper, driving bridle with/or without blinkers and bit, correctly sized driving reins.
- Harness must be suitable for the purpose for which it is being used and be in a
- sound safe condition and be fitted correctly.
- Harness for single horses/ponies must include breeching.
- A swingle tree must be fitted to the vehicle when a breast collar is used.
- Pads, liners and covers can be used for the comfort of the pony.
- Bearing reins and check reins are prohibited.

2. Carriage

- Can have 2 wheels (Groom can sit beside Driver) or 4 wheels (Groom must sit at the back).

- Must have working brakes.
- Must have functional driver's seat on front.
- On a 4-wheeler vehicle must have a centre spaced groom seat at the back.
- Should be in a safe and serviced condition with no faulty parts.
- Must be attached to the horse(s) safely and correctly.
- Exercise carts or other vehicles with pneumatic tyres may be used for all club days and may be used in a confined class at a national event.
- Minimum track width 125cms.
- Hackney show wagons, viceroys and sulkies are not allowed.

3. Specifications

3.1. Carriage for Dressage and Cones:

Class	Wheels	Groom	Minimum width
VSE/SE/Crystal	2 or 4	1 beside/behind or on foot	125 cm
Pony Single/Tandem	2 or 4	1 behind	138 cm
Horse Single/Tandem	2 or 4	1 behind	138 cm
Pony Pairs	4	1 behind	138 cm
Horse Pairs	4	1 behind	148 cm
Pony Team	4	2 behind	138 cm
Horse Team	4	2 behind	158 cm

3.2. Carriage for marathon:

All types of marathon carriages must have a minimum back axle width of 125 cm

Class	Wheels	Groom	Minimum weight
VSE/SE/Crystal	2 or 4	1 beside/behind or on foot	60 kg
Pony Single/Tandem	2 or 4	1 behind	90 kg
Horse Single/Tandem	2 or 4	1 behind	150 kg
Pony Pairs	4	1 behind	225 kg
Horse Pairs	4	1 behind	350 kg
Pony Team	4	2 behind	300 kg
Horse Team	4	2 behind	600 kg

4. Driving bits

- All bitless bridles and hackamores (even combined with any kind of bits) are not permitted when the horse/pony is harnessed to a carriage.
- All bits must be correctly fitted, to avoid the risk of pain or injury.
- Only one sort of bit lifter per pony may be used at a time.
- Any sort of bits can be used with mouthpiece over 11 mm width, straight bars with or without tongue ports or broken with or without plates/lozenges.
- Chain and wire mouthpieces are not permitted in any forms.
- Sides can be loose ring, D-ring, Eggbutt, Baucher, kimblewick, full cheek, Gag bits, Butterfly, Liverpool or any sort of Myler bits.
- Bits with ropes across the nose are not permitted (e.g. Mikmar bits).
- Butterfly and Liverpool bits can be fitted with chain under chin with appropriate tightness and chain cover can be used.

5. SUMMARY OF DRIVEN DRESSAGE PENALTIES

Description	Penalties
Part of the turnout leaves the arena during a movement	Mark down for inaccuracy
The whole turnout leaving the arena	Elimination
Driver dismounting	20 penalties
Entering the arena without a driving aid	5 penalties
Dropping or putting down a driving aid	5 penalties

No breeching if carriage has no brakes	Elimination
No breeching for Single	Elimination
Use of bandages or brushing boots (Horse to be inspected after Test)	10 penalties
Contravening the Rules on Advertising	Yellow Warning Card
Person tied to the carriage	Elimination
Groom handles the reins, brake or uses the driving a	20 penalties
Groom speaking or giving indications (except young drivers)	Elimination
Physical outside assistance	Elimination
Groom(s) dismounting	1st incident - 5 penalties 2nd incident - 10 penalties 3rd incident – Elimination
Early or late entry	Possible elimination
Lame horse	Disqualification of the Horse and elimination of the Driver
Incomplete presentation (Driver, Groom)	5 penalties
Errors of course:	1st incident - 5 penalties 2nd incident - 10 penalties 3rd incident – Elimination
Disobedience:	1st incident - 5 penalties 2nd incident - 10 penalties 3rd incident – Elimination
Carriage overturn	Elimination

6. SUMMARY OF MARATHON PENALTIES

Description	Penalties
Driver or Groom wearing shorts	10 penalties per person
No protective headgear or no back/body protector on Marathon	Elimination followed by Disqualification
Finishing Section B with fewer Horses than require	Elimination
No breeching with a carriage with no brakes	Elimination
No breeching for Singles	Elimination
Contravening the rules on advertising	Warning Yellow Card
Substitution of a Groom (except following an HIA)	Elimination
Groom handling reins, or using driving aid or brakes when carriage not stationary	20 penalties
Person tied to the carriage	Elimination
Outside Assistance	Elimination
Groom leading a Horse through an obstacle	25 penalties
Incorrect pace	1 penalty for every 5 sec.
Dislodging a dislodgeable Element	2 penalties per occurrence

Preventing a dislodgeable element from being dislodged	10 penalties
Motorised vehicles or bicycles in obstacle	First Incident - Warning Second Incident - Yellow card
Carriages under weight at end of B or under width at start of B	Elimination
Total time over Time Allowed in all Sections	0.25 penalties/sec.
Total time under Minimum Time in Section A and B	0.25 penalties/sec.
Total time in obstacles	0.25 penalties/sec.
Driver fails to stop when recalled	Elimination
Not ready to Start Section A	0.25 penalties/sec.
Contravening the rule on the use of the driving aid	20 penalties
Each deviation from Course after last obstacle	10 penalties
Required persons not on carriage passing through a compulsory turning flag, or the start and finish of each Section, each occasion	5 penalties
Grooms Dismounting while moving in Section B	5 penalties
Driver Dismounting while moving in Section B	20 penalties
Finishing Section B with missing or disconnected polestrap, trace or reins for each occurrence	10 penalties
Failing to pass through compulsory turning flags and obstacles in correct sequence and direction	Elimination

Finishing Section B with missing wheel	Elimination
Finishing Section B with broken or disconnected pole or shaft	Elimination
Failing to pass through entry flags of an obstacle	Elimination
Groom(s) not on the carriage when crossing start of an obstacle	5 penalties
Grooms not remounting on the carriage immediately outside of an obstacle (per incident)	5 penalties
Failing to pass through exit flags of an obstacle within 5 minutes	Elimination
For correcting each error of Course in an obstacle	20 penalties
Passing between exit flags before completing an obstacle	Elimination
Groom(s) dismounting in an obstacle, each occasion	5 penalties
Driver dismounting in an obstacle	20 penalties
Two feet on an element of obstacle	5 penalties
Groom climbing over horse back or down the pole in an obstacle	20 penalties
Disconnecting and leading through an Obstacle	Elimination

Failing to stop for leg over pole, lead bar or shaft	Elimination
Failing to stop for leg over trace	30 penalties
Carriage overturn	Elimination
Exceeding the time limit in obstacles (5 mins)	Elimination
Horses unfit to continue in rest area	Elimination
Exceeding the Time Limit in all Sections	Elimination

7. SUMMARY OF CONES PENALTIES

Description	Fault competition
Driver entering arena without protective headgear, jacket, gloves or apron	5 penalties
Groom entering arena without jacket, protective headgear or gloves	5 penalties
Groom(s) not in position First breach Second breach Third breach	5 Penalties 10 Penalties Elimination
Driving without a driving aid in the competition	5 penalties
Dropping or putting down the driving aid	5 penalties
No breeching with a carriage with no brakes	Elimination
No breeching in Singles	Elimination
If a Groom handles the reins, brake or uses the driving aid before the Driver has crossed the finish line	20 penalties
Person tied to the carriage	Elimination
Prohibited outside assistance	Elimination

Failing to start within 45 seconds of bell ring	Timing starts
Starting and passing through an obstacle before the bell is rung	10 penalties and restart.
Failing to pass through start or finish lines	Elimination
For knocking down one, two, or more balls in the same single obstacle (including an oxer)	3 penalties
For knocking down an element of a Multiple obstacle	3 penalties
For knocking down any part of an obstacle after it has already been driven	3 penalties
Carriage overturn	Elimination
If any part of an obstacle in advance of the one being driven is knocked down, the bell will be rung for the obstacle to be rebuilt	3 penalties and add 10 seconds
Taking an obstacle out of sequence	Elimination
Failure to halt after the bell is rung a second time	Elimination
For causing an obstacle, or part of a multiple to be rebuilt	3 penalties and add 10 seconds
Starting before the bell after an obstacle is rebuilt	Elimination
Driver dismounting	20 penalties
Groom(s) dismounting 1 st incident 2 nd incident 3 rd incident	5 penalties 10 penalties Elimination
Groom leading a Horse through an obstacle	25 penalties
Disobedience 1 st incident 2 nd incident 3 rd incident	5 penalties 10 penalties Elimination
For exceeding the Time Allowed	Exceeded time multiplied by 0.5
Exceeding the Time Limit	Elimination
Grooms standing between the start and finish lines	5 penalties



Rules for VSE/SE



1. General

- All turnouts drive at Pre-Novice level.

2. Sizes of Ponies

- Very Small Ponies (VSEs) – to a maximum height of 105 cm (10.3 hh approx)
- Small Ponies (SEs) - to a maximum height of 115 cm (11.3 hh approx)

3. 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.

4. Grooms

4.1. Single

- Groom on the vehicle optional for two wheelers.
- Groom on the vehicle is required for a 4-wheeler. An exception can be made once approved by HSI Carriage Driving Section Committee, upon receipt of written request to waive this requirement. Animal welfare is the only grounds for consideration of waiving this rule.
- Where a groom is not carried, a groom must be beside the arena/obstacle wearing an identifying tabard with the competitor's number.
- Standing grooms must wear a fastened hard hat during the cones and marathon stages.

4.2. 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.

4.3. Exceptions

- Juniors must carry a groom in accordance with HSI CD rules regardless of the size of the pony.

5. Dressage

- The test to be driven will be determined at the start of each season and competitors notified.
- Will be a Pre-Novice test in either an 80 x 40m arena or at the discretion of the organiser, a 40 x 20m arena.

6. Marathon

6.1. Section A

- Where this applies the distance covered will be at the discretion of the event organiser. This serves 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.

6.2. Section B

- 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 4 obstacles, with Gates A – D are to be driven.
- If there are more than 4 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.

7. Times, distances and speed

7.1. Section B

- 9 kilometres per hour
- Distance between 2 – 6 kilometres

7.2. Cones

- 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 all penalties can be found in General Rules and all apply to VSE/SE.

Rules for Young Drivers

Introduction

Competitive Carriage driving in Ireland was established in the 1970s. At the time it was much more complex than nowadays. Now we have three phase horse driving trials in 3 days or 2 days events including driven dressage in a marked 80 meter by 40 meter arena, cross country driving in an open field with hazards and obstacle driving driven through between a number of cones. Also have indoor driving trials usually one day with or without dressage, driving between cones and obstacles in an enclosed arena. There are different types of turnouts, single (1 equine), pair or tandem (2 equines) and team (4 equines). Also different categories to compete, Crystal, VSE (Very Small Equine), SE (Small Equine), Pre-Novice, Novice, Open and Advanced. Single and multiple turnouts do not compete against each other. Children can drive Pre-Novice dressage test, cones course up to 15 cones and marathon obstacles in two age groups. Before a child, between the age of 8 and 18 years, starts competing they must pass a Driving Assessment which includes some verbal and practical exams in two levels, in the presence of 2 full members (1 member of the committee and 1 other experienced member). Must register for the Assessment prior on the Horse Sport Ireland Carriage Driving website. Full details can be found in the Assessment for Young Drivers Booklet.

1. Age groups

1.1. 8 years – 11 years

- For children turning 8 years old that year up to the year they are turning 11 years old.
- Before competing, must complete and pass LEVEL 1 Assessment. (listed in the Assessment for Young Drivers booklet)
- Driving dressage and cones, marathon driving VSE course.
- Single pony up to 130 cm, safe to drive and known to at least one committee member.
- Vehicle can be 2 wheelers or 4 wheelers.
- Groom (over 18) must be on the carriage all the time.
- Optionally can have a second set of reins attached to the pony.
- Dressage test: BC Pre-Novice (can be called out during test driving)
- 15 cones to be driven.

1.2. 12 years – 14 years (up to 18 years)

- For children turning 12 years old that year up to the year they are turning 14 years old .(Or up to the age of 18 years if wish to remain in the Pre-Novice Class)
- Over 14 years old Drivers may compete in the Pre-Novice Class or move up according to the Progression Chart.
- Before competing, if never completed and passed LEVEL 1, must complete and pass LEVEL 2 Assessment up to the age of 18 years old.
- Those who already completed and passed LEVEL 1 before and actively competing, passing LEVEL 2 Assessment is not required.
- Driving dressage and cones, marathon driving Pre-Novice course.

- Single pony up to 148 cm, safe to drive or over 14 years olds may drive single horse or pony pairs.
- 16 year olds may drive horse pairs.
- Vehicle can be 2-wheelers or 4-wheelers
- Groom (over 18) must be on the carriage all the time.
- Dressage test: BC Pre-Novice (can be called out during test driving) or according to their Class
- 15 cones to be driven.

2. Carriage

- Can have 2 wheels or 4 wheels.
- Must have working breaks.
- Must have a functional driver's seat on front.
- On a 4-wheeler vehicle must have a centre spaced, safely attached groom seat at the back, which must not interfere with the safety and balance of the vehicle.
- Must have a swingle tree where the traces must be attached and 2 reasonably sized shafts.
- Should be in a safe and serviced condition with no faulty parts.
- Must be attached to the pony safely and correctly.
- Must have a minimum of 125 cm axle width.

3. Harness

- Can be a breast collar or a full collar.
- Must be complete with saddle and full breaching including crupper, driving bridle with blinkers and bit, correctly sized driving reins.
- All parts must be in safe condition and adjusted to the pony and vehicle correctly without causing any harm.
- Pads, liners and covers can be used for the comfort of the pony.

4. Driving gear

- **Hard hat**
 - Must be a properly fitted up to current safety standard riding hat.
 - Must be worn in all phases.
- **Body protector**
 - Must be a properly fitted up to current safety standard riding body protector.
 - Must be worn in all phases.
- **Driving gloves**
 - Must be properly fitted and must be worn in Dressage, Cones and optional for Marathon.
- **Driving apron**

- Must be properly fitted and to be worn in Dressage and Cones.
- **Driving whip**
 - Must be an approved driving whip appropriate to the height of the animal.
 - Must be in hand for Dressage and Cones.
- **Smart apparel**
 - Must be worn in Dressage and Cones.
 - Outfit includes a shirt, tie and a suitable show jacket.

5. Dressage

- A child can drive the BC Pre-Novice dressage test or over 14 years olds according to their Class. Driven in an 80 meter by 40 meter arena.
- Dressage judge will call the competitor in by ringing a bell (or use a car's horn).
- Starting order must be followed. All relevant protection gear and smart outfit must be worn.
- Pony cannot wear any leg protection.
- Fly veils can be worn but not attached to the noseband.
- Pads, liners and covers can be used for the comfort of the pony.
- Must use an approved driving bit (listed at the end) Must hold a driving whip.
- For age group 8-11 years (or for special needs children) the groom can hold an extra set of reins attached to the pony.
- Test judged with points (1-10) for each movement listed on the test sheet and the result will be calculated by adding them together and turned into penalties.
- For errors in the test also penalty points will be given.
- After the 3rd error or leaving the arena during the test the competitor will be eliminated.
- Whoever has the least penalty points will win their class.
- Vehicle must have at least 125 cm back axle width which will be measured after completing the dressage test.

6. Cones

- Pre-Novice cones course to be driven by a child which includes 15 obstacles laid out with yellow balls on top of each cones. Over 14 years old can drive a full cones course according to their class.
- Obstacles can be single gates, double gates (called oxer), serpentine or zig-zags (4 gates). Also bridges can be used.
- The aim is to try not dislodging any balls and complete the course inside the minimum allowed time (which will be shared in advance).
- Failing to do results in penalties and whoever has the least amount of penalty points will win their class.
- Course can be walked on foot prior to start.
- Starting orders must be followed.
- Cones judges will call competitors in by using a horn or whistle.
- Driver must start the course within 45 seconds after the judge gives a signal.

- To start the course, the driver must pass through the start gate with red flag on the right hand and white flag on the left.
- Course must be driven through in numerical order, finishing the course by driving through the finish line with red flag on the right and white on the left.
- Failing to drive in numerical order or to drive a gate backwards can result in elimination.
- Pony can wear any leg protection.
- Pads, liners and covers can be used for the comfort of the pony.
- Dress code, safety gear and fly veil as per dressage.
- Vehicle must have at least 125 cm back axle width which will be measured after completing the cones course.

7. Marathon

- Cross country course to be driven on an open field with a maximum of 8 hazards (obstacles) (from Novice Class and upwards) and two sections (Section A or warm up in a designated area and section B with obstacles).
- Course can be walked as per General Rules up until the first Driver goes out on Section B.
- Starting order (shared previously by organiser) must be followed.
- Each obstacle has gates which must be driven in alphabetical order, red marker on the right hand side and white marker on the left.
- Age group 8-11 years old must drive the VSE (Very Small Equine) course without section A, up to 4 obstacles and gates A-D only.
- Age group 12-14 years old must drive the Pre-Novice course, all obstacles, gates A-D.
- Over 14 years olds may drive a full marathon course according to their class.
- Groom (over 18 years old) must be on the carriage all the time.
- Some obstacles may have balls fitted to knock down, called dislodgeable elements.
- Penalties as per General Rules.
- Fastest turnout and least penalties (for errors or knockdowns) will win the class.
- Hard hat and body protector must be worn by driver and groom (over 18 years old) too.
- Pony can wear leg protection and fly veil.
- Pads, liners and covers can be used for the comfort of the pony.
- Driver can carry a whip and use it if necessary but penalties can occur in case of 'overuse of whip' at the discretion of the TD/Ground Jury.
- Vehicle must have at least 125 cm back axle width.

8. Driving bits

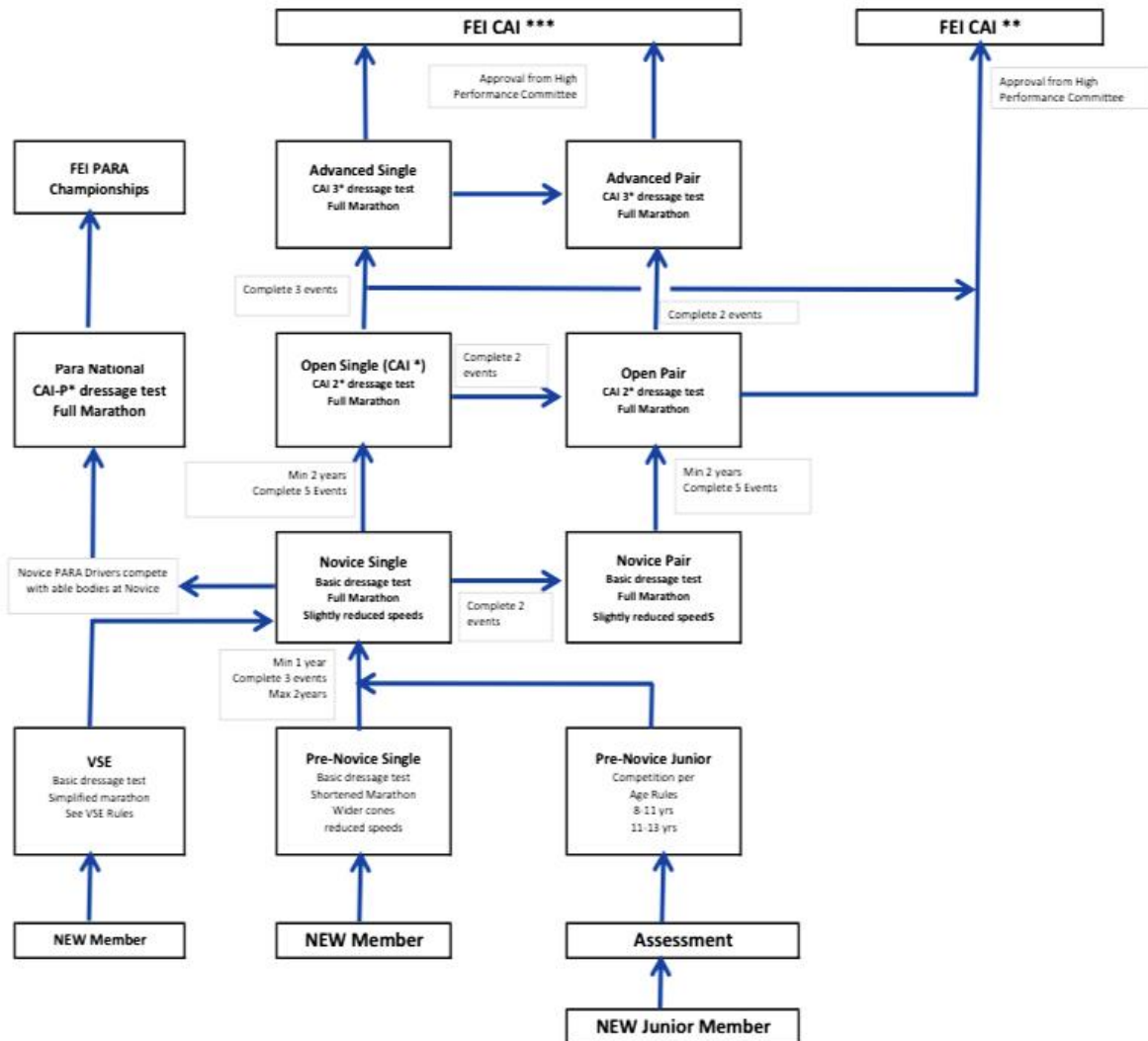
- All bitless bridles and hackamores (even combined with any kind of bits) are not permitted when the horse/pony is harnessed to a carriage.
- All bits must be correctly fitted, to avoid the risk of pain or injury.
- Only one sort of bit lifter per pony may be used at a time.
- Any sort of bits can be used with a mouthpiece over 11 mm thickness, straight bars with or without tongue ports or broken with or without plates/lozenges.

- Chain and wire mouthpieces are not permitted in any forms.
- Sides can be loose ring, D-ring, Eggbutt, Baucher, kimblewick, full cheek, Gag bits, Butterfly, Liverpool or any sort of Myler bits.
- Bits with ropes across the nose are not permitted (e.g. Mikmar bits).
- Butterfly and Liverpool bits can be fitted with a chain under the chin with appropriate tightness and chain cover can be used.

Full list of all penalties can be found in General Rules and all apply to Young Drivers unless marked as excluded for them.

PROGRESSION CHART

CLASS PROGRESSION



AMENDMENTS

- ★ 22/01/25 - corrected error VSE vehicles and grooms on pg 42
- ★ 22/01/25 - amended age of grooms/drivers to comply with BC rules on pg 14
- ★ 06/02/25 - sections numbered
- ★ 01/03/25 - amended age of groom for under 18 on pg 13
 - Assessment clarified ,age group adjusted for clear view,amendment for progression path over 14, pair driving minimum age pg 45
 - grammar, size of driving whip pg 46
 - progression update for over 14, grammar pg 47
 - clarification on number of obstacle according to class, grammar, amendment of who can decide on overuse of whip