

# HORSE COUNCIL BC

## 2023 Driving Rules

Driving: Section 2

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## Driving: Section 2

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### 2.1 GENERAL DRIVING RULES

1. The Rules as described must be adhered to unless modifications are required to accommodate facilities or unforeseen circumstance
2. Changes must be published and approved by the Judge or if attending the Provincial Rules Official
3. Any changes made must be done so with the safety and welfare first and foremost of all participants, competitors and equine alike
4. Local clubs or Competition Organizers may use modified club rules or tests, provided any modifications are clearly stated in the Prize List

#### 2.1(a) Ages

Youth/Junior will be as follows:

*Junior A, B, C) The competition age of an individual will be the age reached during the current calendar year.*

- **Junior A** - *competition age 10 years old and under.*

Junior A drivers may not compete in any classes held outside of a securely enclosed arena and must be accompanied at all times by a knowledgeable horseperson over the age of 18 years who is capable of driving the Turnout (aka hitch) and aiding when necessary or in the case of an emergency.

In classes requiring a header, an additional appropriately attired, capable individual over the age of 18 must come from the rail so that the driver is at no time alone in the vehicle.

- **Junior B** - *competition age 11- 13 years old*

Junior B drivers must be accompanied at all times by a knowledgeable horse person over the age of 18 years who is capable of driving the Turnout (aka hitch) and aiding when necessary or in the case of an emergency.

In classes requiring a header, an additional appropriately attired, capable individual over the age of 18 must come from the rail so that the driver is at no time alone in the vehicle.

*EXCEPTION:* At the discretion of their parent or legal guardian (unless required by show management) Junior "B" drivers competing with a single Very Small Equine (VSE) turnout in a securely enclosed arena need not be accompanied by a knowledgeable adult horseman. This exception is NOT applicable to Field Driving Trials.

- **Junior C** - *competition age 14 – 18 years old*

Junior C drivers competing with a single horse/pony/VSE turnout need not carry a groom (at the discretion of their parent or legal guardian, unless required by class specifications).

## 2.1 GENERAL DRIVING RULES

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### 2.1(b) Attire

1. Drivers shall dress conservatively and in keeping with current styles.
2. An approved helmet designed specifically for equestrian activities must be worn. Helmets are mandatory for all drivers and passengers when on the vehicle that is put to an Equine while on the show grounds
3. Brown or dark colour gloves are required for Dressage, Cones and Pleasure classes. Any colour gloves are acceptable for Marathon
4. Aprons and Lap robes are required
5. Gentlemen are required to wear a jacket and tie. Dress pants should be worn for Dressage, Cones and Pleasure Classes unless otherwise specified in the Prize List
6. Ladies should wear long sleeve blouse or blazer, knee length skirt or full-length trousers for Dressage, Cones and Pleasure Classes unless otherwise specified in the Prize List
7. A groom/header riding on the vehicle must wear appropriate attire to compliment the Turnout (aka hitch) they are attending.
8. Protective vests are encouraged.
9. Wet weather attire may be worn
10. Aprons are not required in wet weather (there will be no penalty for not wearing an apron in wet weather)

### 2.1(c) Classes

1. Command Driving
2. Driving Barrels
3. Driving Pole Bending
4. Driving Reinsmanship
5. Working Pleasure Driving

### 2.1(d) Class Splits: All classes may be split or divided based on the following:

1. Ages (Youth, Junior, Senior)
2. Two wheel or four-wheel vehicles
3. Equine height
  - **Very Small Equine (VSE)** up to 39" / 9.3 hands high / 99cm
  - **Pony** over 9.3hands high / 99cm and up to 14.2 hands high / 148 cm
  - **Horse** over 14.2 hands high / 148cm

### 2.1 (e) Driven Dressage Tests

1. HCBC Driven Dressage Tests may be found on the HCBC website and are available for use at no charge

## 2.1 GENERAL DRIVING RULES

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### 2.1(f) Equipment

1. The driver must carry a whip, in their hand, that is long enough to reach the shoulder of the horse, when the vehicle is in motion. The whip must not be carried in the whip holder. The whip must touch the far side of a pair and the far side of the lead equine in a four
2. Brushing boots are allowed for games only and are prohibited otherwise.
3. Bandages are prohibited

### 2.1(g) Harness

1. The Harness must fit properly and be in good, clean condition with no evidence of any cracks, dryness or breaks in the stitching. Harness fit may be checked by the Provincial Rules Official if in attendance.
2. Harness may be either Full Collar or Breast type collar and made of leather or synthetic materials
3. Raw Nylon web type harnesses are not allowed
4. Nosebands are required
5. Blinders are recommended
6. Kicking straps may be used
7. Tongue tying is prohibited
8. Traditional driving bits and snaffle bits are permitted.
9. Twisted wire, burr or gag bits are prohibited
10. Overchecks, side-checks, drop nosebands, tiedowns, standing or running martingales are prohibited in Driving Trials (*exception: overchecks may be allowed at the discretion of show management*)

### 2.1(h) Headers

1. The use of a header is optional in Pleasure classes
2. Headers may ride on the Vehicle or wait outside of the ring
3. Headers may enter the ring or dismount from the vehicle when it is safe to do so or at the direction of the ring steward
4. Headers shall stand quietly, positioned two (2) to three (3) feet in front and to the left side of the Equine and shall only interact when needed
5. Judges shall penalize an entry whose Header disturbs or distracts any other Equine
6. Judges shall penalize any entry where it becomes necessary to restrain a horse prior to the completion of judging.

## 2.1 GENERAL DRIVING RULES

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### 2.1(i) Officials

1. Horse Council BC (HCBC) Driving and general Performance Judges may be used
2. An experienced person with Driving history and knowledge of Driving may be used as a Guest Carded Official
3. One judge is a requirement, but multiple judges may be used at Show Managements' discretion
4. Technical Delegates and Course Designers are not required. Provincial Rules Officials may attend
5. Officials must check the course and facilities for safety adherence to HCBC Rules prior to the start of each class or phase of competition
6. The Judge, Provincial Rules Official and or Show Management has the authority to disallow participation by any competitor who's harness or vehicle is deemed unsafe or unsuitable
7. At Field Driving Trial (FDT) and at Combined Driving Events (CDE), the judge must not leave the Competition grounds until they have signed off on the score sheets and checked in with Show Management

### 2.1(j) Safety Check

1. The Safety Check will take place prior to the first class of the day and before Marathon.
2. If Presentation is being scored, this will also be done at Safety Check

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## 2.2 COMMAND DRIVING RULES

*This is a competition to show the abilities of a well-trained, responsive Driving Horse*

1. Open to singles and pairs or multiple turnouts
2. Entries are at no time judged individually
3. To be shown both directions of the ring
4. The following gaits may be called for by the Judge: working walk, strong or extended walk, collected trot, working trot, strong trot, halt and rein back
5. The call to halt on the rail may only be given once each direction. When asking for rein back, drivers must first be requested to pull away from the rail a minimum of four (4 feet) and must space themselves sufficiently from other Drivers in the class. A rein back of no more than three (3) steps shall be requested.
6. Entries are eliminated one at a time at the discretion of the judge if commands are not executed to the judge's liking
7. Once an entry has been eliminated, that entry will no longer be judged and will be called to the center of the ring, space and conditions permitting

### Causes for Elimination

- Breaking gait
- Equine resisting at the rein back
- Not executing the required command

## **2.3 DRIVING BARREL RULES**

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*This is a timed event that is run the same as ridden barrels*

1. Barrels must be placed a minimum of eight (8) meters from the arena rail
  2. Canterng may be allowed, arena must be secure with all gates kept closed when competitors are in the ring
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## **2.4 POLE BENDING**

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*This is a timed event that is run the same as ridden pole bending*

1. Poles must be placed a minimum of eight (8) meters apart
  2. Canterng may be allowed, arena must be secure with all gates kept closed when competitors are in the ring
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## **2.5 DRIVING REINMANSHIP**

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*This is a Pleasure Driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the ability and skill of the driver*

1. Open to single or multiple turnouts
  2. Drivers may use either a two- handed or one-handed method of driving without penalty
  3. To be shown both ways of the ring at: walk, working walk, working trot, strong trot. To stand quietly and back readily. Drivers may be asked to perform a test while driving with one hand
  4. To be judged 75% handling and control of the reins, whip use of voice commands, posture and drivers' skill. To be judged 25% on attire, cleanliness and condition of vehicle and harness.
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## **2.6 WORKING PLEASURE DRIVING**

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*Consideration shall be given to the fact that a pleasure driving horse is just that, a horse that is pleasurable and enjoyable to drive.*

1. Open to single or multiple turnouts
  2. Single turnouts may be combined with multiple turnouts in the same class at the discretion of Show Management
  3. To be shown both ways of the ring at: walk, working walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. To stand quietly and back readily
  4. Maximum credit will be given to an Equine that moves straight with free movement, exhibits good manners and a bright expression
  5. Drivers may use either a two-handed or a one-handed method of driving without penalty
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## **2.6 WORKING PLEASURE DRIVING** (cont'd)

6. Entries to be judged: 70% on performance, way of going and the ability to show that the Equine is a pleasure to drive. 20% on condition and proper fit and suitability of the harness and vehicle to the Equine. 10% on neatness, appropriate attire of the driver and groom/header

### **Faults**

- Excessive speed at any gait
- Exaggerated animation
- Breaking gait
- Pulling on the bit
- Head tossing
- Excessive tail swishing
- Disobedience

### **Severe Penalties**

- Head carriage behind the vertical
- Over flexing
- Excessive nose out
- Poll to low (below withers)

**\*\* PLEASE SEE APPENDIX #1 PAGE 22 \*\***

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## **2.7 ARENA DRIVING TRIALS**

*Rules for Arena Driving Trials are based on proven practice from past competitions*

*Certain modifications may be required to accommodate facility dimensions, any modified Competition Rules must be clearly noted in the Prize List*

### **2.7 (a) Classes**

1. At the discretion of Show Management classes may be divided by: horse, pony, mule, equine size, turnout type (single/multiple), driver experience, level or Dressage test
2. Classes may be split or combined as entries warrant and at the discretion of Show Management

### **2.7 (b) Classification**

1. Competitors will be ranked by class in reverse order of total penalty points accumulated in all three phases

### **2.7(c) Drivers and Grooms**

1. May participate with more than one entry

## **2.7 ARENA DRIVING TRIALS (cont'd)**

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### **2.7(c) Drivers and Grooms**

2. During Dressage or Cones competitions, grooms giving verbal or physical directions to the driver or sliding, lifting or moving the vehicle in any way will incur 10 penalties per **occurrence**
3. One groom is required for single, pairs and tandem turnouts
4. Teams of four (4) require two Grooms
5. Teams of four (4) VSE require one (1) Groom
6. Single VSE and small ponies do not require a Groom

### **2.7(d) Facilities**

1. The Arena Driving Trials may be held in a suitable sized arena or outdoors in an enclosed, safe and secure area
2. The size of the competition arena will be at the discretion of Show Management

### **2.7(e) Levels**

1. Competition Organizers may offer one or two levels of competition. Levels offered must be listed in the Prize List
2. Training Level – Suitable for beginner drivers or Equines
3. Preliminary Level – Suitable for competitors with more than two years competition experience

### **2.7(f) Pace**

1. Cantering may be allowed at Training Level cones and or obstacles at the discretion of Competition Management and the Judge and must be listed in the Prize List

### **2.7(g) Presentation**

1. May be scored, but must be listed in the Prize List. Wearing appropriate neat and clean Driving attire is encouraged at all competitions

### **2.7(h) Vehicles**

1. Two (2) or four wheeled vehicles are permitted at any Level
  2. Pneumatic tires with wire spoke wheels are permitted at Training Level
  3. Pneumatic tires with solid spoke wheels are permitted at Preliminary Level
  4. Sulky or stirrup type racing carts will not be allowed.
  5. All vehicles must have a solid floor.
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## **2.7 ARENA DRIVING TRIALS**

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### **2.7/1 Driven Dressage**

1. The Dressage Arena should be placed on suitable and as level ground as possible
2. Recommended arena sizes are: large arena 100m long x 40m wide, small arena 80m long x 40m wide
3. Letters A and C should be placed mid-point of the short side of the arena
4. Letters B and E should be placed mid-point of the long side of the arena
5. Letters H, M, K and F should be measured 10 meters from the corners of the arena
6. Test of Choice may be used but must be listed in the Prize List
7. When sufficient room is not available for warmup outside of the arena perimeters, Show Management with the Judges' approval may allow competitors to warm up inside the arena either before the start of the class or approximately one (1) minute of warm up inside the arena after the previous competitor has exited.
8. Competitors must be notified of the warm up schedule before the start of the class
9. Warm up time should be clearly posted at the show office or at the arena

### **2.7/1(a) Scoring**

1. A scribe will be used to record the Judges' scores
2. Scoring will be done as indicted on the Dressage tests and converted into penalty points
3. Presentation may be scored but must be listed in the Prize List as such. Appropriate Driving attire is encouraged

### **2.7/1(b) Scribes**

1. Scribes should arrive at least 45 minutes before the start of the competition, this will allow for enough time to gather the paperwork/tests/bell/whistle/pens from the competition office and allow for time to go over scribing details with the judge.
2. Pens (at least two of each color) should be either blue or black and at least two red pens for errors.
3. When possible, a scribe should not be an owner, coach, trainer, or family member of a competitor and/or a horse in the class(es) in which they are scribing.
4. Cell phones (or any other electronic device) must be turned off while working in the booth.
5. All test sheets must be completed in ink. Pencil is not permitted.
6. The Scribe must check that the test sheets include the competitor's entry number, competition name, date, and judge's name.
7. Any changes in the marks given by the judge must be initialed by the judge and be in ink.
8. Before the test sheet is handed in for totaling, the scribe must give the test sheet to the judge to review to ensure all movements have been scored, comments filled in and is then signed by the judge.
9. If possible, Scribes should have knowledge of the tests being judged.

## 2.7 ARENA DRIVING TRIALS

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### 2.7/1 Driven Dressage (cont'd)

#### 2.7/1(b) Scribes

1. Whenever possible, it is best to assign one scribe for the day to the judge. If necessary, there can be a change of scribe during the day (usually during the lunch break).
2. Scribes must be appropriately dressed (Clean and neat, not cut offs, tank tops, etc.).

#### 2.7/1(c) Test Callers

1. Test calling is permitted at Training Level. Tests should be called with the caller standing at B or E
2. If a competitor requires a test caller, it is their responsibility to provide one.
3. Calling the test is limited to reading the movement a maximum of twice without adding anything else which might assist the competitor. Elimination of the competitor may happen should there be failure to comply by the caller.
4. Permitted dress for a Caller is considered "smart casual," such as jeans, slacks, mid length shorts. Tank tops, flip flops, short shorts, sandals, etc. are not allowed. Inappropriately dressed callers may not be allowed to call a test.
5. Callers may not wear two-way personal electronic communication devices, e.g., Bluetooth, headphones, etc. while calling a test. They may however, read tests from any form of media device. **Exception:** Callers for competitors with documented hearing impairment may use a two-way communication device provided the paperwork has been submitted and if at the competition the PRO (Provincial Rules Official) and the Judge have been advised.
6. Callers must position themselves so not obstruct the judge's view. (Best to stand at either E or B)

#### 2.7/2 Arena Obstacle Cones

1. The Dressage Arena or an adjacent arena may be used
2. The number of cones/ gates used will be determined by and at the discretion of the Competition Management and based on the ability of the course to flow well within the space that is available
3. Not to exceed 14 obstacles
4. One multiple element of up to four (4) cones may be used (one oxer may be used)
5. The start line may not be less than 10 meters from the first gate
6. The finish line may not be less than 10 meters from the last gate
7. There is no set distance required between gates, but the design of the course should promote even pace throughout
8. Course inspection/walk must be announced prior to the start of competition
9. Course maps should be available to competitors and posted at the arena (typically at the ingate)
10. Course maps must indicate distance, speed, and time allowed per turnouts and Level

## 2.7 ARENA DRIVING TRIALS

### 2.7/2 Obstacle Cones (cont'd)

#### 2.7/2(a) Course

1. Obstacle Cones may be set using the following for each Level, cones must be reset between levels: Horses / Ponies / VSE
2. Training Level: 35cm + track width, Horses / Ponies, 30cm VSE
3. Preliminary Level: 30cm + track width VSE 25cm \*increases by 10cm for tandems and teams of four\*
4. At the discretion of Competition Management, carriages within 5cm of width measurement may use the same clearance
5. At the discretion of Competition Management, gates may be numbered with red and white markers placed on the cones themselves in lieu of markers on the ground. Whenever possible, one of the numbers should be positioned in such a way to allow competitors to see it from the previous gate
6. Track width is measured from ground level on the widest track width of the vehicle
7. A ball must be placed on the top of each cone in each gate
8. The course must be measured with a measuring wheel starting from the middle of the start gate, through the center of each gate on course, via the shortest, drivable route, finishing through the center of the finish gate. This measurement will determine the time allowed, based on the size of Equine
9. Where alternative routes are being used, the shortest distance will be measured
10. Bridges may be used, but an alternative route must be available for Training Level
11. Water may not be used

#### 2.7/2(b) Penalties

- Dislodging a ball = 3 penalties
- Disobedience = 5 penalties
- Exceeding time allowed = 0.5 penalties
- Cantering (if not allowed as per Prize List) = 1 point for the first five (5) seconds of canter, then 1 point for every subsequent second
- Groom speaking to their Driver while competing = 10 penalties per occurrence
- Missing a gate = Elimination
- Off course = Elimination

### 2.7/2 Arena Obstacle Cones (cont'd)

#### 2.7/2(c) Speed

Division	Single, Pair	Tandem, Teams of Four
Training VSE	160 mpm	150 mpm
Training Horse / Pony	180 mpm	170 mpm
Preliminary VSE	180 mpm	170 mpm
Preliminary Horse / Pony	200 mpm	190 mpm

## 2.7 ARENA DRIVING TRIALS

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### 2.7/2 Obstacle Cones (cont'd)

#### 2.7/2(d) Time Allowed

Length of course = \_\_\_\_\_ meters,  
divided by speed in meters per minute = \_\_\_\_\_ minutes:  
Remainder x 60 = \_\_\_\_\_ seconds = Time Allowed

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### 2.7/3 Marathon Obstacles

1. The Dressage Arena or an adjacent arena may be used
2. Course inspection/walk will be open 10 minutes prior to the start of the competition
3. Course maps should be available to competitors and posted at the arena (typically at the ingate)
4. There must be four (4) obstacles, no more than two (2) will be constructed in a conventional arena at one time
5. Training Level must have a maximum of three (3) gates
6. Preliminary must have a maximum of four (4) gates
7. All gates must be a minimum of 2.5 meters wide
8. One three (3) meter entry / exit gate must be used
9. Clearly numbered gates (cones) must define each obstacle from start to finish

#### 2.7/3(a) Course

At the discretion of the organizer, the course may be run in either of the following ways:

1. Start to Finish (*including the obstacles known as Obstacle 1 and Obstacle 2*)
  - Each level to pass through all required obstacles in the correct order. The obstacles are then re lettered in a different configuration and will be then known as Obstacle 3 and Obstacle 4 to be run again by each competitor.
  - The Judge will signal the competitor with either a bell or whistle to start the course
  - Timing will start (whichever comes first) when the nose of the Equine crosses the start gate, or sixty (60) seconds after the Judges' signal
  - Timing stops when the nose of the Equine crosses the finish gate
2. The course is run as: after completing the course and crossing through the finish gate, the driver continues immediately repeating the course. Two timers are required for this competition option.
  - The Judge will signal the competitor with either a bell or whistle to start the course

## 2.7 ARENA DRIVING TRIALS

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### 2.7/3 Marathon Obstacles

#### 2.7/3(a) Course (cont'd)

- Timing will start (whichever comes first) when the nose of the Equine crosses the start gate, or sixty (60) seconds after the Judges' signal
- Timing for the first round will stop when the nose of the Equine crosses the finish gate, the second timer will start immediately to time the second round and will stop when the nose of the Equine crosses the finish gate.
- If a competitor dislodges any of the elements/obstacles during the first go, the whistle will be blown after the competitor crosses the finish line. The competitor then returns to the start line waits for the course to be rebuilt and then will be started for their second go

#### 2.7/3 (b) Penalties

- Penalties apply both on the perimeter course and the obstacles at 0.25 penalties per second
- Dislodged element = 5 penalties per
- Putting whip down = 5 penalties
- Cantering when not allowed = 5 penalty points for the first 5 seconds then 1 penalty point for every subsequent second
- Groom off vehicle (both feet) in an obstacle = 10 penalties
- Correction of course = 20 penalties
- Driver off vehicle (both feet) in an obstacle = 30 penalties
- Failing to correct a course = Elimination
- Overturned vehicle = Elimination
- Disconnecting and leading through an obstacle = Elimination
- Failing to pass through start or finish gates = Elimination

#### 2.7/3 (c) Time Allowed

1. Time for each round of the Marathon course shall be recorded in minutes, seconds,
2. and hundredths of seconds
3. Minutes will be converted into seconds and then added: example, 1:20.56 becomes 80.56
4. To obtain the total time penalties for Marathon phases with more than one round, converted times are added together and multiplied by 0.25

#### 2.7/3 (d) Final Scoring

1. Penalties from the dressage phase, cones phase and Marathon phase are added together for total competition penalties
2. Placings are awarded in reverse order – Lowest number of penalties = highest placing

## **2.8 FIELD DRIVING TRIALS (FDT)**

*The purpose of Field Driving Trials is to provide a bridge between Arena Driving Trials (held entirely in one enclosed area) and other forms of combined driving including Horse Driving Trials and Combined Driving 2- and 3-day events*

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### **2.8 (a) Attire**

1. Appropriate Driving attire is required for Dressage and Cones unless otherwise stated in the Prize List.
2. Marathon attire may be worn at all times; however, for Dressage and Cones gloves are required for both driver and groom(s) Gloves are optional for Navigators / grooms for Marathon phase
3. Marathon attire consists of ankle length and durable pants, boots, gloves, a polo shirt, Tee shirt or fitted long sleeve shirt. Helmets are required
4. Protective vests may be worn without penalty for Dressage and Cones and are mandatory for Marathon
5. Shorts are not permitted
6. Inflatable vests are not considered safe for driving

### **2.8 (b) Classes and Levels**

1. Competition Organizers' may offer one (1) or two (2) levels of competition
2. Training Level – Suitable for beginner drivers or Equines with under two years of competition experience
3. Preliminary - Suitable for competitors with competition experience
4. Competition Organizers' may divide classes by:
5. Equine size (horse, pony, vse), Single or multiple turnout, competitor experience or by Dressage tests used
6. Classes may be split or combined at Competition Managements' discretion

### **2.8 (c) Drivers and Grooms**

1. If multiple entries are allowed, this must be clearly stated in the Prize List
2. Schedule permitting, drivers and grooms may compete with multiple entries.
3. Grooms/ Navigators are optional in Dressage and Cones for single turnouts
4. One groom/navigator is required at all times for Pairs and Tandems
5. Two (2) grooms/navigators are required for Unicorns and Teams of Four
6. Only one (1) groom/navigator is required for VSE Unicorns and Teams of Four

## **2.8 FIELD DRIVING TRIALS (FDT)**

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### **2.8 (d) Facilities**

1. The Dressage test is to be driven in an arena. The size of the arena will be determined by the Competition Organizer
2. The Marathon Phase is to be held in an arena large enough to allow three (3) to four (4) natural or man-made obstacles
3. The obstacles Cone Phase is to be held in an arena large enough to accommodate a maximum of 14 gates that may include two (2) multiples consisting of up to four (4 ) gates each

### **2.8 (e) Format**

1. Field Driving Trials (FDT) will consist of three phases of competition, Driven Dressage Phase, Field Marathon Phase and an Obstacle Cones Phase
2. The order of the three phases shall be Dressage, Marathon and then Obstacle Cones
3. At the discretion of the Competition Organizer Obstacle Cones may directly follow the Dressage Phase
4. Penalty point accumulated during each phase will be totaled at the completion of all three phases
5. Competitors will be placed in reverse order of penalty points (lowest point = highest placing) and by division and class

### **2.8 (f) Paces**

1. Canter in the Marathon Obstacles or Obstacle Cones will be allowed at the discretion of Competition Management and Judge and must be stated in the Prize List
2. It is recommended that Training level drivers be restricted to walk/trot in all phases
3. Preliminary drivers will be allowed to show at any pace in the Marathon and Obstacle Cones Phase
4. Both Training level and Preliminary level drivers in the Field Marathon Phase must compete at walk or trot between the start and the first obstacle and between obstacles. From the last obstacle to the finish line they may walk or trot with no deviation from the prescribed track

### **2.8 (g) Vehicles**

1. All vehicles must be in safe and good working condition.
2. Two or four wheeled vehicles are permitted
3. At Training Level pneumatic tires with wire spoked wheels are permitted
4. At Preliminary Level pneumatic tires with solid spoked wheels are permitted
5. Breeching may be used on single turnouts in Marathon if the vehicle is not equipped with brakes
6. Sulky or stirrup type racing carts will not be allowed.

7. All vehicles must have a solid floor.

## 2.8 FIELD DRIVING TRIALS (FDT)

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### 2.8/1 Driven Dressage

1. For Singles: Ideally the arena should be 40 meters x80 meters (standard size) with standard letter spacing
2. For Tandems, Unicorns or Teams of Four: Ideally the arena should be 40 meters x 100 meters
3. Classes with VSE only may use a smaller arena
4. VSE Singles: (30 meters x 60 meters)
5. VSE Tandem, Unicorn and Teams of Four: 30 meters x75 meters)
6. Should a small arena be used, the letters should be placed H, M, F should be situated 10 meters from the corners
7. Training Level tests to be used for Training Level
8. Preliminary tests to be used for Preliminary Level
9. Test of Choice may be used and must be listed in the Prize List
10. Presentation not to be judged but appropriate diving attire is required, unless otherwise stated in the Prize List
11. On a test where presentation is listed, a score of 10 shall be given

### 2.8/2 Field Marathon

#### 2.8/2 (a) Course

1. The course will be run from start to finish once
2. Courses under 2km will consist of three (3) obstacles
3. Courses between two (2) and four (4) km will use a minimum of three (3) obstacles and a maximum of four (4) obstacles
4. The course will be measured from the start line to the finish line, measuring the shortest drivable route through each obstacle. Slight deviations to accommodate conditions may be allowed at the judges' discretion
5. The distance from the starting line to the entry gate of the first obstacle, and from the exit gate of the last obstacle to the finish line must be a minimum of 50 meters
6. The exit gate of an obstacle must be a minimum of 50 meters from the entry gate of the next obstacle
7. Three (3) gates a minimum of three (3) meters wide shall be lettered A, B, C for Training Level. (*natural gates may be a minimum of 2.5 meters wide*)
8. Four (4) gates a minimum of three (3) meters wide shall be lettered A, B, C, D for Preliminary Level. (*natural gates may be a minimum of 2.5 meters wide*)
9. All gates on course including the start /finish line must be a minimum of three (3) meters wide and must be numbered sequentially
10. Lettered gates must be driven in alphabetical order
11. The Start/Finish line must be marked with lettered signs
12. Gates will be marked with a red letter positioned to the right of the gate and a



corresponding white letter to the left of the gate

## **2.8 FIELD DRIVING TRIALS (FDT)**

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### **2.8/2 Field Marathon**

#### **2.8/2 (a) Course**

13. The route from one obstacle to another and in between must be delineated with pairs of cones or other suitable markers

#### **Obstacles**

1. Obstacles may be natural or man made and must be constructed in a solid fashion so as to avoid disassembly in the case of contact by a turnout
2. Obstacle must be constructed with the safety of both participants and Equines in mind
3. Nothing may be placed in, on or around an obstacle with the intention of frightening the Equine

#### **2.8/2 (b) Penalties**

1. Time penalties along with any other course penalties shall form the score for the Field Marathon Phase
2. If the obstacle gates have been driven in the correct order, the competitor must leave the obstacle area.
3. Driving obstacles more than once or staying inside a hazard or circling at the last hazard will be determined as delay of play and will result in 25 penalties per occurrence
4. Every second or portion thereof while on course +/- time allowed = 0.25 penalties
5. Each element dislodged = 5 penalties
6. Putting the whip down (while on course = 5 penalties
7. Break of pace when not allowed = 5 penalties for the first full 5 seconds of incorrect pace, then one penalty for each subsequent second of incorrect pace
8. Groom off of the vehicle in an obstacle = 10 penalties
9. Driver off of the vehicle in an obstacle = 20 penalties
10. Correcting course = 20 penalties
11. Failing to correct course = Elimination
12. Overturned vehicle on course = Elimination
13. Disconnecting and leading through an obstacle = Elimination
14. Failing to pass through the start or finish gate = Elimination

#### **2.8/2 (c) Time Calculation**

1. Competitors' elapsed time on course shall be recorded in minutes, seconds and hundredths of a second
2. Time +/- time allowed will be multiplied by 0.25 per second or elapsed portion of a second and any points for rule infractions will be then added to that total. The resulting number forms the score for the Field Marathon phase
3. Time allowed shall be calculated for each level and Equine size and will be posted in minutes and seconds with an allowed window of minus 30 seconds
4. Drivers who are competing with Draft Horses may compete at Horse speed with the

approval of Show Management  
**2.8 FIELD DRIVING TRIALS (FDT)**

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**2.8/2 Field Marathon**

**2.8/2 (c) Time Calculation**

<b>VSD (under 99cm)</b>	<b>8 kph</b>
<b>VSE (under 99cm) Training</b>	<b>9 kph</b>
<b>VSE Preliminary</b>	<b>10 kph</b>
<b>Standard Donkey (over 99cm) Training</b>	<b>10 kph</b>
<b>Standard Donkey Preliminary</b>	<b>11 kph</b>
<b>Small Pony (over 99cm and under 120cm)</b>	<b>11 kph</b>
<b>Medium Pony (over 120cm and under 137cm)</b>	<b>12 kph</b>
<b>Large Pony (over 137cm &amp; under 148cm)</b>	<b>13 kph</b>
<b>Draft Horse</b>	<b>13 kph</b>
<b>Horse (over 148cm)</b>	<b>14 kph</b>

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**2.8/3 Field Obstacle Cones**

**2.8/3 (a) Course**

1. The cones course will consist of pairs of numbered cones to a maximum of 14 obstacles. To allow for a more creative course design, two obstacles may be multiples
2. While no minimum distance between sets of elements is required, the course must be designed in such a way as to allow competitors to drive in a smooth, forward and controlled fashion through the course
3. Where alternate routes are being used, the shorter distance will be measured
4. The minimum distance between the start line and the first obstacle and between the last obstacle and the finish line shall be a minimum of 10 meters
5. Pairs of cones will be numbered sequentially, with a red number on the right-hand cone and a white number on the left-hand cone of each pair. Free standing numbers may be used, or numbered sleeves may be placed over the cones themselves.
6. Where appropriate letters will be used to designate the elements of a multiple obstacle.
7. Wherever possible the numbers should be positioned so that at least one number from each obstacle is visible from the previous.
8. Up to two (2) oxers may be used and are not considered multiples. They must be spaced a minimum of 1.5 to 3 meters apart and the second set must be flagged red and white
9. Bridges may be used in either Level, but an alternative route must be made available for Training Level

## 2.8 FIELD DRIVING TRIALS (FDT)

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### 2.8/3 Field Obstacle Cones

#### 2.8/3 (a) Course

10. Wooden bridges must have a bridge surface not more than 35cm above the ground with a usable width of three (3) meters and a maximum length of 5 meters are permitted. Boarded or rail sides are required. There must be a pair of cones at the entrance (flag lettered A) and exit (flag lettered B) with the cones at least 2.0 meters apart
11. Water may not be used

#### 2.8/3 (b) Penalties

1. Knocking down one or two balls in the same obstacle = 3 points
2. Knocking down any number of elements in a multiple obstacle = 3 penalties
3. Knocking down any part of any obstacle after it has already been driven = 3 penalties
4. If any part of an obstacle in advance of the one being driven is knocked down by the competitor, the bell will be rung, and the competitor must stop for the obstacle to be rebuilt = 3 penalties and add 10 seconds
5. Failing to start within 60 seconds of the bell being rung = 5 penalties
6. Starting and passing through an obstacle before the bell is rung = 10 penalties and must re-start
7. Refusals or disobediences = 5 penalties
8. Exceeding time allowed 0.5 points per second
9. Exceeding time allowed by more than double the time allowed = Elimination
10. Taking an obstacle out of sequence or in the wrong direction = Elimination
11. Failing to pass through start or finish lines = Elimination

#### 2.8/3 (c) Time Calculation

1. Time allowed will be determined by measuring the shortest drivable distance
2. Distance must be measured by an official

	<b>VSE Singles &amp; Pairs</b>	<b>VSE Tandem &amp; Fours</b>	<b>Horse / Pony Singles &amp; Pairs</b>	<b>Horse / Pony Tandem &amp; Fours</b>
Training Level	160 mpm	150 mpm	180 mpm	170 mpm
Preliminary Level	180 mpm	170 mpm	200 mpm	190 mpm

## **2.8 FIELD DRIVING TRIALS (FDT)**

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### **2.8/3 Field Obstacle Cones**

#### **2.8/3 (d) Wheel Measurement**

1. The ground measurement of the wheels of the widest axle will be measured prior to the beginning of the competition
  2. For Training Level horses/ponies and singles/pairs, the distance between pairs of cones will be the wheel track plus 35 cm
  3. For Training Level, tandem/fours and horses/ponies the measurement will be 45 cm
  4. For Preliminary Level horses/ponies and singles/pairs, the measurement will be 30 cm
  5. For Preliminary Level, tandem/fours and horses/ponies the measurement will be 40 cm
  6. For VSE all measurements will be reduced by 5cm
  7. Cone pairs will be reset between each competitor, however at the discretion of Competition Management, cone pair clearances may be ignored for differences of 5cm or less between turnouts
- 

## **2.9 EXTENDED FIELD DRIVING TRIALS**

*A Driving Trial consists of three phases: Dressage, Marathon and Cones*

*Rules for Field Driving Trials to be used but to include the following modifications*

1. A veterinarian is not required to be onsite during the competition but one must be on call and available on short notice
2. Trained medical personal (First aid Level 1 or higher) must be onsite during the competition.
3. Proper medical transportation must be available on short notice
4. Presentation will not be judged, however appropriate driving attire should be worn

#### **2.9 (a) Dressage**

1. Field Driving Rules apply
2. One Provincially recorded or guest carded judge is required. Additional Judges may be used

#### **2.9 (b) Marathon**

1. Maximum distances are as follows: Training 6.0 kms, Preliminary 7.5 kms
2. For all divisions the number of obstacles should not exceed the number of KMs
3. Distance from the start line to the first obstacle should not be less than 500m
4. Distances between obstacles should not be less than 300m
5. Training Level obstacles are not timed, except for a maximum time allowed
6. Time allowed in an obstacle is 5 minutes, all other penalties apply as per Field Driving Rules

## **2.9 EXTENDED FIELD DRIVING TRIALS (FDT)**

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### **2.9 (b) Marathon (cont'd)**

7. Preliminary time allowed in obstacles is accumulated and penalized at a rate of .25 penalties per second, all other penalties apply as per Field Driving Rules
8. Time allowed window shall be 2 minutes under time allowed
9. Time calculations as per 2.8/3 (c)
10. Permitted gaits for Training Level are walk and trot
11. Permitted gaits for Preliminary Level are: walk, trot. Canter is allowed in obstacles
12. No deviation of course is allowed between gates (no circling etc.)
13. The finish line shall not be more than 300 meters from the last obstacle
14. A Provincial Rules Official is required to attend the competition and will perform a safety check prior to the start of the Marathon phase of the Competition
15. Competitors are to accurately complete a Safety Check list (provided by the Competition organizer)

### **2.9 (c) Cones**

1. Time and penalty calculations will be as per Field Driving Trials
2. One Provincially recorded or guest carded judge is required.
3. Drivers and Grooms may compete with more than one entry (schedule permitting)
4. It is recommended that the Dressage Phase be immediately followed by the Cone Phase, then after a scheduled break the Marathon Phase be held

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## **3.0 COMBINED DRIVING DERBY**

*This event shall be run as a timed event, in an enclosed arena with a combination of marathon and cone obstacles combined into one course. At the discretion of competition organizer and subject to entries this class may be divided by equine size classification into two or more groups of small horses 14.2 hands and under, including VSE, small, medium and large ponies; or horses over 14.2 hands in height*

### **3.0 (a) Rules**

1. The course must be open for walking at least 30 minutes before the start of the class
2. The course is to be timed from when the Equines' nose crosses the start line, to when the Equines' nose crosses the finish line
3. Driving through obstacle gates in the wrong order is considered off course. Going off course may be corrected by returning to the missed gate and resuming the course correctly before approaching the next obstacle
4. The competitor must cross the start line and drive each of the numbered obstacles in the proper direction and in the correct numerical order and cross the finish line to stop the time

### **3.0 COMBINED DRIVING DERBY**

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#### **3.0 (a) Rules** (cont'd)

5. Entry with the fastest time wins
6. The least penalty seconds incurred will break a tie
7. The fastest times are placed in descending order for class placings

#### **3.0 (b) Penalties**

1. The total penalty seconds incurred on course are added to the time taken to complete the course, resulting in a total penalty score
  2. Dislodge or knockdown ball = 5 seconds
  3. Dropping or putting down whip = 5 seconds
  4. Canter when not allowed (for three strides or more) = 5 second penalty for each occurrence
  5. Preventing a ball from being knocked down or falling = 10 seconds
  6. One refusal = 10 seconds, two refusals = 10 seconds, three refusals = Elimination
  7. Off course correction = 20 seconds
  8. Driver off of vehicle = 20 seconds
  9. Off course not corrected = Elimination
  10. Continuing course without whip = Elimination
  11. Crossing finish line before completing course = Elimination
  12. Starting before signal or failing to cross the start or finish line = Elimination
-

**\*\*Appendix #1\*\***

The following penalties apply for Arena Driving Trials, Field Driving Trials and Extended Field Driving Trials unless otherwise specified

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**. Dressage**

Part of the turnout leaving the arena	Mark down for inaccuracy
Incorrect attire of driver and/or groom No Gloves	5 penalties (each)
Incorrect attire of driver and/or groom No lap robe (when required)	5 penalties
Groom dismounting turnout 1 <sup>st</sup> instance	5 penalties
Groom dismounting turnout 2nd instance	10 penalties
Groom dismounting turnout 3rd instance	Elimination
Error on course 1 <sup>st</sup> instance	5 penalties
Error on course 2nd instance	10 penalties
Error on course 3 <sup>rd</sup> instance	Elimination
Disobedience 1 <sup>st</sup> instance	5 penalties
Disobedience 2nd instance	10 penalties
Disobedience 3 <sup>rd</sup> instance	Elimination
Incorrect attire of driver and/or groom No helmet	Elimination
The whole turnout leaving the arena	Elimination
Carriage overturning	Elimination

**\*\*Appendix #1\*\***

The following penalties apply for Arena Driving Trials, Field Driving Trials and Extended Field Driving Trials unless otherwise specified.

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**Marathon**

Over time allowed	.25 penalties per second
Under time allowed	.25 penalties per second
Stopping on course for reasons other than harness repairs	1 penalty per 10 seconds
Groom dismounting in an obstacle	5 penalties per occurrence
Incorrect attire of driver and/or groom	10 penalties per person
Deviation from course after the last obstacle or last 300m	10 penalties per occurrence
Driver dismounting in an obstacle	20 penalties
Correcting each error of course in an obstacle	20 penalties
Driver and Groom not on turnout passing through a compulsory turning gate, or start and finish of each obstacle	Driver 20 penalties each occurrence Groom 5 penalties each occurrence
Groom leading horse or horses through an obstacle	25 penalties per occurrence
Failing to stop for a leg over a trace	30 penalties
No body protector or helmet	Elimination
No breeching on a turnout without brakes	Elimination
No breeching for singles	Elimination
Failing to pass thru entry of exit flags of an obstacle	Elimination
Failing to pass through a compulsory turning flag and or obstacles in the correct order	Elimination
Finishing with a broken wheel, or broken/disconnected pole or shaft, or missing or broken pieces of harness	Elimination
Failing to correct an error of course in an obstacle	Elimination
Exceeding time allowed in obstacles (5 minutes)	Elimination
Exceeding section time limit	Elimination
Disconnecting and leading a horse through an obstacle	Elimination
Failing to stop because of a leg over pole, lead bar or shaft	Elimination



**\*\*Appendix #1\*\***

The following penalties apply for Arena Driving Trials, Field Driving Trials and Extended Field Driving Trials unless otherwise specified.

**Marathon (Cont'd)**

Overtured turnout	Elimination
1 <sup>st</sup> Disobedience	5 penalties
2nd Disobedience	10 penalties
3 <sup>rd</sup> Disobedience	Elimination

**Cones**

Exceeding time allowed	.5 penalties per second
Knocking down 1 or 2 balls in the same single obstacle	3 penalties
Causing an element or part of a multiple to be rebuilt	3 penalties & 10 seconds added to time
Improper attire	5 penalties per item
Grooms standing on course without prior permission from the judge	5 penalties
Groom dismounting 1 <sup>st</sup> instance	5 penalties
Groom dismounting turnout 2nd instance	10 penalties
Entering the arena and driving without a whip or dropping the whip	10 penalties
Groom speaking to or indicating the course to the driver in any way	10 penalties per occurrence
Knocking down any part of an element after it has already been driven	10 penalties
Driver dismounting	20 penalties
Groom dismounting turnout 3rd instance	Elimination
No breeching when required	Elimination
Outside assistance	Elimination
Failing to pass thru start or finish lines	Elimination
Taking an element out of sequence	Elimination
Exceeding the time limit by double the time allowed	Elimination
1 <sup>st</sup> Disobedience	5 penalties
2nd Disobedience	10 penalties
3 <sup>rd</sup> Disobedience	Elimination

# General Rules

## HORSE COUNCIL BC

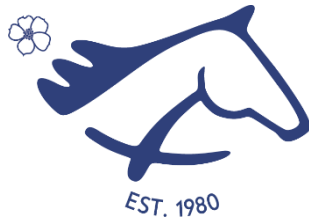
2023 general rules

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Horse Council BC  
gratefully acknowledges the financial support  
of the  
Province of British Columbia  
through the  
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport.



**Horse Council BC (HCBC)**  
is recognized by the Government of British Columbia as the official  
organization for Equestrian Sport in BC.

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these rules.

It is the duty of the officials and the competition management to make informed decisions in a fair and sporting spirit, approaching as near as possible the intention of these rules, and in doing so protecting the reputation of the sport and the welfare of the horse.

All Competition Organizers hosting HCBC sanctioned competitions, should be familiar with the HCBC rules and policies and should have copies available for the use of exhibitors, parents, volunteers and officials.

The HCBC Rules are reviewed annually and posted on the HCBC website. Submissions for recommended rule changes will be considered until October 1st annually for the following year.

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## Aims Goals and Objectives

To ensure that Competition Organizers have the tools and support they need to operate within the recognized sport framework, follow current safety rules and guidelines and be aware of the risk management that is necessary and of the utmost importance for hosting a well-planned, successful competition.

To provide HCBC sanctioned competitions the support and governance of the current Horse Council BC Rule Book.

To develop, grow and retain a deep pool of well-educated and knowledgeable officials.

To capture the activity that demonstrates the value of Equestrian Sport to government at all levels.

To provide, through education, participation in a quality structured, grass roots competition system and a well-planned development pathway, a feeder system that will grow and strengthen the development of the discipline sports and equestrian athletes.

To align with Long Term Equestrian Development (LTED)

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Horse Council BC welcomes and encourages all grass roots and entry level competition organizers to sanction their show with us. By doing so we can work together to ensure a fun, affordable environment within a fair playing field that will aid towards the growth and success of Equestrian Sport in BC.

## HORSE WELFARE STATEMENT

Horse Council BC members are responsible for the well-being and humane treatment of any equine entrusted to their care. Every horse at an HCBC approved event shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect, and compassion. The welfare of the horse is paramount. Any inhumane treatment or the abuse of a horse by any person at an approved HCBC show is forbidden. The obligation and responsibility to handle horses you own, use or that are in your care, with skill and compassion ensuring, regardless of value that they are not subjected to abuse, neglect or mistreatment. Horses used in competition, spectator events, shows, or exhibitions must not be subjected to unscrupulous use of medications, non-nutritive agents, equipment or procedures that may alter performance, appearance or natural function.

The standard by which conduct or treatment will be measured is that which a person who is informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and competition practices would determine to be neither cruel, abusive, nor inhumane.

It is recommended that competition management publish a statement in their show program regarding the commitment to humane treatment of horses with the penalties to be imposed for confirmed abuse of horses at a recognized event.

It is strongly recommended that horses be up to date on vaccinations and in good health to perform.

For more information on bio security practice please visit

<https://hcbc.ca/equine-welfare/biosecurity/>

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## HELMET POLICY

Horse Council BC strongly recommends that anyone riding or driving a horse should wear BSI, SEI or ASTM approved protective headgear, specifically designed for equestrian activities. The helmet should be properly fitted with safety harness correctly secured at all times, while mounted, riding or driving, with the exception of the discipline of vaulting. Every time, every ride, all riders/drivers.

Youth competitors must wear properly fitted approved BSI or ASTM protective headgear, with safety harness correctly secured at all times while mounted on the competition or event grounds and in ALL classes and Performance Divisions.

The wearing of religious headwear will be accepted for adult riders/drivers without penalty. The option to wear an approved helmet with a sports turban is advised

***Exception: Vaulting***

## CONCUSSION POLICY

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Resources: For concussion education and awareness resources, please visit the Concussion Awareness page on the HCBC website [www.hcbc.ca](http://www.hcbc.ca).

Definition: A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury (or TBI), caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head that can change the way the brain normally works. Concussions can also occur from a fall or a blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. All concussions are serious.

Policy Statement: Anyone participating in an activity with horses should understand the signs, symptoms and implications of sustaining a concussion.

It is recommended by health care professionals that anyone presenting symptoms or suspected of sustaining a concussion should cease the activity until they have been evaluated and cleared by medical personnel.

Anyone having contact with or handling horses is responsible to educate themselves on the prevention and proper management of concussion related injuries.

All Coaches and Instructors recognized by Horse Council BC will be required to participate in concussion awareness training once in every three-year period in order to maintain current certification status.

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## LIABILITY

The Horse Council BC (HCBC) Competition Committee, HCBC and co-sponsoring organization, if any, will not be responsible for any accident, injury or loss that may occur to, or be caused by, any horse exhibited at the show; or any article of any kind or nature that may be lost or destroyed or in any way damaged.

Each exhibitor or agent or owner of horse will be responsible for any injury that may be occasioned to any person or animal or damage to any property while on the event grounds, by any horse owned, exhibited or in his custody or control and shall indemnify and hold harmless HCBC, its officials, staff and Directors individually and collectively, and any co-sponsoring organization, from and against any and all claims, demands, cause of action costs, charges and expenses of every kind or nature whatsoever arising out of, or which may be caused by, or incurred by, reason of the ownership, exhibition, custody or control of any animal exhibited.

HCBC will not be responsible for any financial arrangements between show management, exhibitors, owners, agents, or Officials.

All federal, provincial and city laws will be adhered to and shall supersede these rules.

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## SAFETY

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It is essential that every sanctioned competition/event have an emergency action plan in place.

A First Aid kit should be readily available at all times for minor incidents.

A competition or event must have qualified medical personnel appointed for the duration of the show who is trained in First Aid Emergency Medical treatment. Qualified Medical personnel are defined as either a:

- Doctor
- Professional emergency personnel; such as EMT or Paramedic
- An adult with recognized and valid First Aid certification who is not competing. This individual may act in some other capacity at the competition providing this does not restrict their availability to all areas on the competition grounds.

It is recommended that the minimum certification required for qualified medical personnel be Standard First Aid certification.

The facility address, emergency contact name and phone number should be posted at the show office and in other appropriate locations for the benefit of the exhibitors and public at any time.

Emergency phone numbers; veterinarian, farrier, hospital name and address should be posted at the show office and in other appropriate locations for the benefit of the exhibitors and public at any time.

It is recommended that all shows arrange for a veterinarian and Farrier to be available either on– call or on the show grounds for the duration of the show.

In the event where an accident occurs at an HCBC sanctioned competition or event, Accident Report Forms must be filled out and returned to HCBC. Accident Forms will be emailed to all organizers as part of the sanctioning package, but can be found on the HCBC website at <https://hcbc.ca/competitions/competition-documents/>

## ADMINISTRATION

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### **SANCTIONING**

Any organization, club, individual or group may apply to Horse Council British Columbia (HCBC) to sanction a HCBC competition or recognized event.

The Person Responsible listed on application must be a current HCBC member and is responsible for the conduct of the competition in accordance with the current Horse Council BC Rule Book.

Organizers must apply through the HCBC Online Event Sanctioning portal which can be found at [www.hcbc.ca/competitions/organizers](http://www.hcbc.ca/competitions/organizers)

The competition application and all required information must be uploaded through the online system within a minimum of one month prior to the competition or event date(s) and before publishing, posting online or distributing the prize list.

All required information, prize list, entry forms and a current, endorsed certificate of insurance must be provided.

Every competition must obtain a Certificate of Insurance endorsed by the insurance carrier to cover law suits, claims or judgment for bodily injury or property damage sustained by spectators, participants, or others arising out of the use of the show grounds or operation necessary or incidental to the show and naming Horse Council of British Columbia as an additional insured.

Instructions for Login and links to the online application process can be found on the Competition page of the HCBC website <https://hcbc.ca/competitions/organizers/>.

All approved competitions will be emailed a Competition Package including a HCBC Certificate of Sanction which is to be printed and displayed in the Competition Office, or other clearly visible location.

The Organizer is required to provide a copy of the approved Competition Prize List to the Official(s).

Recognized Events should not start earlier than the time listed in prize list or advertised in the schedule.

Competitions sanctioned with another discipline or breed association may apply for dual sanctioning with Horse Council BC for specific divisions. Discipline or Breed Association rules may supersede HCBC rules at a dual sanctioned show in some divisions.

Clubs may include local club rules provided the local rules do not compromise the integrity and safety standards of Horse Council BC sanctioned competition.

All local rules must be stated clearly in the Prize List and be approved by Horse Council BC during the application process.



## ADMINISTRATION

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### SANCTIONING FEES

Please check the competition page of the HCBC website for the current schedule of permit fees.

Payment of fees can be processed by credit card through the [HCBC Online Sanctioning Portal](#) or by mailing a cheque to the HCBC office.

Permit fees are not refundable.

An NSF charge of \$25.00 will be applied for any returned cheques.

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### PRIZE LIST

All Prize Lists must contain the following disclaimer:

*Due to COVID 19, It is the responsibility of the show/event committee, or competition organizers and the facility owners and managers to ensure that all BC Health Authority and WorkSafeBC directives are followed and enforced. Horse Council is not a regulatory body and it is understood and agreed that sanctioning and approval of a HCBC Provincial competition /event relates to the use of the rule book and approved officials only*

*This Competition is a Horse Council BC provincially sanctioned competition and will be governed in accordance with the Horse Council BC Rule Book. Knowledge of the rules is the responsibility of Competition Management, Officials and Competitors.*

*The Horse Council BC Rule Book, can be found at [www.hcbc.ca](http://www.hcbc.ca)*

*<https://hcbc.ca/competitions/competition-documents/>*

*Neither Horse Council BC, its Board of Directors, organizing committee, staff, volunteers, officials, or employees of the horse show, will be responsible in any way, for damage, injury, or loss to persons, horses or property of exhibitors, spectators, owners, riders, trainers, or grooms. All competitors and owners of horses must be members of Horse Council BC to participate.”*

If prize money is offered in any classes, the amounts and class entry fee must be specified. Prize money distribution by total percentage breakdown or dollar amount by placings for each class where prize money is offered must be shown.

Show management must make the full payment of prize monies as specified in the competition Prize List.

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# ADMINISTRATION

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## PRIZES AND AWARDS

If High Point Awards are to be presented at the competition, the method of tabulating points for such awards is at the discretion of show management and must be stated in the Prize List.

The following schedule of ribbons is recommended:



First Place	Red
Second place	Blue
Third Place	White
Fourth Place	Yellow
Fifth Place	Green
Sixth Place	Pink
Seventh Place	Purple
Eighth Place	Brown
Champion	Red, Blue, White
Reserve Champion	Blue, White, Yellow

The following point scale may be used for tabulating High Point Awards:

# in class	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
1	1							
2	2	1						
3	3	2	1					
4	4	3	2	1				
5	5	4	3	2	1			
6	6	5	4	3	2	1		
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
9 - 15	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
16 - 20	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
21 - 25	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
26- 30	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
31 - 35	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
36 - 40	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7

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# 1.0 GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

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## 1.1 ENTRIES

All exhibitors are required to be current Horse Council BC members when participating in HCBC sanctioned events.

Exception: Lead Line class competitors 6yrs of age and under. Lead Line competitors must be accompanied by an adult holding current HCBC membership

In the event of failure to sign the entry form, the exhibitors' first entry into the ring shall be deemed in acceptance of these rules.

### 1.1 a) HORS CONCOURS (H/C) ENTRIES:

Hors Concours entries may be accepted at the discretion of the organizing committee. The competition's policy regarding Hors Concours entries must be clearly stated in the prize list.

Hors Concours entries must pay the same entry fee as regular entries (unless otherwise stated in the prize list) and are subject to the same conditions and rules which apply to regular entries.

Hors Concours entries are not eligible for prizes or awards.

### 1.1 b) YOUTH ENTRIES

The age limit for a youth competitor is 18 years of age or younger as of January 1st of the current year. A person born on January 1st shall assume the older age as of that date.

Proof of youth's age may be required on entry forms at HCBC sanctioned competitions.

All entry forms for a youth exhibitors 18 years of age and under must be signed by parent or legal guardian.

Youth competitors must wear properly fitted approved BSI or ASTM protective headgear, with safety harness correctly secured at all times while mounted on the competition or event grounds and in ALL classes and Performance Divisions.

#### ***Exception: Vaulting***

The Youth competitor need not own or lease the horse he or she is competing with to enter any class.

A horse may be entered in any or all Youth age divisions, but not more than once in each class a Youth competitor may not show a stallion in any class, regardless of the age or size of the stallion.

# 1.0 GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

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## 1.2 COMPETITION NUMBERS

Competition numbers will be issued by the Show Secretary to all entries and must be visible at all times while competing.

Competition numbers are available for purchase through the HCBC website <https://store.hcbc.ca/>

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## 1.3 OFFICIALS

Horse Council BC sanctioned events must use current, certified Provincial Officials when possible.

Officials with expired status or other recognized officials may be used, with a guest card, provided they meet the requirements for that discipline as set out by the provincial body responsible for said discipline.

All officials must be current members of Horse Council BC and be listed on the competition or event application. In the event that an official must be substituted, Horse Council BC is to be notified immediately and provided with the name and contact info of the substitute.

It is strongly recommended that for the protection of both the Official and the show management, a written contract be completed between both parties. A sample contract is available on the HCBC website /Competition Documents.

Officials should be on the competition grounds at least one hour before the first class begins.

The Judge's decision is considered as final in all classes.

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## 1.4 GUEST CARDS

Un-recorded HCBC Officials may be used at sanctioned competitions under the following conditions;

- Individuals must have extensive experience and knowledge of the discipline being judged and of the current HCBC Rule Book.
  - Uncertified Officials may be requested to provide the HCBC office with a minimum of two references.
  - Guest Card application must be completed during the competition approval application process. HCBC will approve a maximum of three Guest Cards to an un-recorded Official After that a fee of \$25.00 will be charged to the competition and the Official will be encouraged to participate in the HCBC Officials Program to become recorded.
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# 1.0 GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

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## 1.5 OFFICIALS PROTOCOL / CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A Judge may not act as course designer in the same competition in which he or she is the judge.

An Official shall not discuss with any exhibitor the purchase, sale or lease of a horse during a show at which that Judge is officiating.

An Official shall not be an exhibitor, rider, driver, trainer, coach, handler, manager, or conditioner of any horse at any show or event at which they are officiating.

No horse may be shown under an Official that has acted in the capacity as an owner, coach, trainer, agent, or conditioner of the horse, within 30 days prior to the event, 14 days if Official is presiding over a virtual/online event and is not judging entries in person.

The Official must comply with class specifications and rules governing individual classes. Class specifications should be noted and included on all class judge's cards where possible.

Officials are prohibited from using tobacco and/or alcohol products, cellular phones, pagers or electronic communication devices in the arena or Judges' Booth

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## 1.6 ELIMINATION

Any artificial appliance prohibited in any class, or any incident in contravention of the HCBC Horse Welfare Statement may at the Judge's discretion result in disqualification of the competitor from participating in the remainder of the competition

After an entry enters the arena, if either the horse or the exhibitor becomes ill or is injured and cannot continue, the entry shall be eliminated from that class.

Lack of complying to required appointments for a class will result in elimination of the competitor in that class specifying required appointments.

The Judge shall have the authority to eliminate any entry from a class who at their discretion is not under sufficient control and or considered by the Judge to be a safety risk.

The Judge, and/or competition management, have the authority to eliminate from the competition / event, any exhibitor, owner, or agent, for cruelty to or the abuse of a horse.

Obvious lameness is cause for elimination in all classes. The Judge has the sole authority to make this decision which is final, with no right to appeal or protest.

All horses must be serviceably sound. Any horse showing lameness, broken wind, or impairment of vision shall be refused an award

# 1.0 GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

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## 1.7 UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Any unsportsmanlike conduct by an owner, exhibitor, agent, or spectator including but not limited to abuse of one's horse, excessive use of foul language, intoxication anywhere on the grounds of the event, blatant disrespect for any other attendee at the event, or any other detrimental conduct shall jeopardize their right to further exhibit at the show.

At any time, the Judge, and/or show management, may issue a first warning to any exhibitor, owner, or agent for any unsportsmanlike conduct. Upon failure to comply with this warning, the exhibitor, owner, agent, or spectator shall be disqualified from any further competition in the show.

Any disqualification from a class or sanctioned competition for unsportsmanlike conduct by any person may be reviewed by the disciplinary committee of HCBC and or applicable breed or discipline association.

No points or awards may be given to any person or person's horses if they are disqualified from a sanctioned competition or event for any unsportsmanlike conduct.

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## 1.8 Protests

Protests for any violation of HCBC competition /event rules at any HCBC sanctioned competition/event may be filed by an exhibitor, owner, trainer, spectator and or parent of a youth exhibitor at that show.

Inquiries must be made through a member of the show committee regarding a decision. Should the competitor not be satisfied with the result of the inquiry, an official protest must be lodged. At no time may the Judge be approached directly, unless the competition specifically prints an exception to this policy. In the event contact with the Judge is permitted, at no time will abusive or confrontational language or gesturing be tolerated, under penalty of elimination and possible further disciplinary action initiated.

The person lodging the protest shall do so in writing within 12 hours of the time of the cause of the protest, and submit the protest to the Show Secretary.

No protest will be recognized unless it is accompanied by a deposit of \$50.00 in cash, which shall be forfeited if the protest is not sustained.

Neither HCBC nor any organization committee of the show will recognize any protest that is not in writing, not signed, or not accompanied by the protest fee.

Any protest shall be adjudicated by a Protest Committee, consisting of two show officials not involved in the dispute and a committee representative also not involved in the dispute.

An official of the competition / event, a Director of HCBC, or Provincial Rules Official may file a charge at any HCBC sanctioned competition / event to either the show committee or the Board of Directors of HCBC for any violation of HCBC recognized event rules.

# 1.0 GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

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## 1.8 Protests (cont'd)

The Judge's decision representing his or her individual preference may not be protested unless it is in clear violation of the recognized event rules. A Judge's decision will be considered final.

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## 1.9 Procedure

The Protest Committee receiving a protest or a charge shall promptly hold a hearing and obtain from any witnesses, entry blanks, and other sources, all necessary information and evidence.

All persons directly involved and concerned shall be immediately notified and given opportunity to attend a hearing.

The Protest Committee shall then adjudicate the issue impartially, make effective its decision upon the parties of interest and report its decision to the parties of interest. A report of the decision shall also be given to the HCBC Competition Manager

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## 1.10 Appeals

An appeal of a Protest Committee's decision may be made to the HCBC Officer specializing in Competition and Sport.

Appeals must be made in writing within 20 days of the date of the Protest Committee's decision, and must be accompanied by an appeal fee of \$300.00 payable to Horse Council BC.

The hearing on the appeal shall be heard within a 30-day period from date of filing

The Appeal Committee of the Board of Directors of HCBC shall consist of two members of the HCBC Board plus one member from the show committee

Shows sanctioned under NRHA and or WCRA will follow their respective rules and policies regarding protests / appeals.

The show committee of a competition at which a protest is lodged and upheld, must hold all awards, points and prize money for the protested classes in escrow for a placed horse and all following horses, until after a 20-day appeal deadline has passed.

If no appeal is filed, then such awards, points and/or prize money will be awarded at the end of the appeal deadline.

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