

WHITE HORSE HARNESS CLUB RULES



Content endorsed by:

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Club Secretary

Authorised for issue by:

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Club Chairman

Dated:
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INTRODUCTION

This booklet contains the rules which apply to events organised by the WHITE HORSE HARNESS CLUB (WHHC). They are generally similar to the National rules of the British Horse Driving Trials Association (BHDTA), which in turn closely follow the FEI rules for international events. There are however a few differences which we consider to be more appropriate for use in the running of Club events.

For the elimination of doubt BHDTA and Indoor Horse Driving Trials Club (IHDTA) rules prevail except where a club rule is in place.

On page four (4) of this Rulebook are some basic common sense Safety Rules which it is most important that all drivers, grooms and passengers remember and observe at all times while they are present at any event. You should know them already but, however experienced you may be, please read them and remember them. They are particularly drawn for the attention of newcomers to the sport.

In the interests of safety, new members and those new to competing are strongly recommended to attend at least one of the training days organised by WHHC before entering any competitions and then to start with the smaller informal one day events. It is up to you to learn as much as you can before starting to compete and there is no better way of doing this than to get involved in the sport as a steward or to groom a few times.

Current editions of rules and further information can be found on the following websites:

BHDTA	British Horse Driving Trials Association	www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk
IHDTA	Indoor Driving Trials Club	www.indoordriving.com
WHHC	White Horse Harness Club	www.whitehorseharnessclub.com
FEI	Federation Equestrian International	www.horsesport.org

Above all we want you to enjoy your sport and be safe.

Remember, if in doubt ask!

Revision record

DATE	DETAILS OF AMENDMENTS	NAME
Sept 2007	Complete review and reissue	M J Willis
Dec 2015	Reformat and addition of back protector rules	K A Pritchard

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RESERVATIONS OF RIGHTS

The Committee has the right to:

- Cancel a class or event
- Divide or combine any class (subject to competitors being informed and given the chance to withdraw or change classes)
- Alter advertised times
- Refuse entry (with or without stating the reason)

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Neither the Organising Committee of any Horse Driving Trials to which these Rules apply or nor The British Horse Driving Trials Association, nor any land owner, nor any agent, employee or representative of these bodies, save for the death or personal injury caused by negligence of the Organisers or anyone for whom they are in law responsible, accepts any liability for any damage, injury or illness to horses, owners, drivers, grooms, spectators, land or any other person or property whatsoever, whether caused by negligence, breach of contract or in any other way whatsoever.

1. SAFETY RULES

Driving Trials may not be very high on the list of dangerous activities, but, nevertheless, there is always scope for accidents to happen when a lot of people and horses are gathered together in a confined space. Such accidents as do happen, however, are usually the result of someone failing to observe the simple and sensible safety rules that we should have all learnt before we ever contemplated taking part in such events. The following is a summary of some of the more important rules that everyone should observe at all times:-

- 1.1** From 1st January 2016 all on a carriage will be required to wear back protectors whilst competing; for all three phases of indoor driving and for the marathon/obstacle section of all outdoor competitions.
- 1.2** Never leave a horse or pony harnessed to a vehicle without either a driver in control of the reins or a groom holding the bridle.
- 1.3** Never tie up a horse or pony while harnessed to a vehicle.
- 1.4** Never remove the reins or any part of the bridle of any horse or pony while it is harnessed to a vehicle. Whereas a loose horse running free in a crowded horsebox park may be something of a hazard, one racing around with a cart behind it is positively lethal.
- 1.5** A competent driver must be on the box and in full control of the reins before anyone else gets on board and until everyone else has alighted from the vehicle.
- 1.6** Do not put your horse to until you are ready to drive and take it out as soon as you have finished driving. The traces should always be secured before and undone after, the breeching and any other connections.
- 1.7** Always proceed at a walk in the horsebox park and any other crowded areas.
- 1.8** Check your harness before every event to ensure it is sound and unlikely to break. Always get your harness and vehicle properly adjusted before coming to the event: you should know it is going to fit properly as soon as you put it on. Messing about trying to adjust your harness while the horse is all keyed up and keen to go is always a risky occupation.
- 1.9** Always remember that a horse or pony which has limited experience of coming to events is likely to get excited: there is a lot going on that is unfamiliar to it so do not assume it will behave as predictably as it does at home! Try to pick a quiet corner of the horsebox park if your animal is inexperienced.
- 1.10** If you have the misfortune to get tipped out during the competition (something that happens to most of us at one time or another), concentrate on keeping a hold on the reins: so long as you have them in your hands, you have some chance of regaining control.

1.11 Never strap small children into a vehicle: you may think it will stop them falling out but if the driver gets tipped out, falling out will be the least of their problems!

2. CONSTITUTION OF WHITE HORSE HARNESS CLUB

Name: The Club shall be called “The White Horse Harness Club.”

Aims: (i) To encourage and further the art and sport of driving. (The term driving in this constitution shall be deemed to mean any use of horse, pony, mule or donkey-drawn vehicles.)
(ii) To raise funds for the club or any charity nominated by the committee provided the club shall not engage in any permanent activity.
(iii) To promote social activities in the furtherance of the clubs aims.

Membership: Membership shall be open to persons fourteen years or older who shall make application to the club committee together with the appropriate subscription. The committee have the rights to refuse or terminate membership.

Subscription: Annual subscription (at a level set by the committee) shall be paid by 15th February each year. Only fully paid up members shall be entitled to vote by show of hands, written proxy or by letter.

Committee: The club shall consist of honorary officers being Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and up to eight additional members. Any of the official posts may be combined. Members may be appointed to the committee, after being proposed and seconded by two paid-up members followed by an affirmative majority of votes at the Club’s Annual General Meeting. All retiring committee may stand for immediate re-election. Members (e.g. with specialised knowledge) may be co-opted on to the committee for a period agreed by the committee. Co-opted members may not vote at committee meetings.

Registration: A committee shall vacate office (i) by notice in writing to the secretary, (ii) if a resolution is passed by three quarters of members at an AGM, (iii) if he or she fails to attend three consecutive committee meetings without an acceptable reason.

AGM: The Annual General Meeting shall be held once every calendar year at a time and place to be made known to every paid up member at least 21 days prior to the date of the meeting. The AGM shall receive the annual report and audited accounts of the club for the previous year and shall deal with such business or resolutions which members may wish to raise. Resolutions at the AGM shall be passed by simple majority of those present or by proxy voting to be received in writing to the secretary prior to the AGM. In the case of equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

President or Vice Persons of ‘merit’ may be asked by the committee to accept the office of President or Vice President holding that office until that person resigns or dies.

President: No subscription shall be paid by the President or Vice President.

Winding Up: If a special resolution to wind up the affairs of the club shall have been duly proposed at a general meeting by at least two-thirds of those present, so much of the clubs assets shall be realised as may be necessary to discharge the liabilities of the club and all the remaining assets shall be made over to such charity or charities as the committee shall decide.

3. GENERAL

Throughout these Rules use of the masculine implies also the feminine, the singular, the plural and vice versa. Also unless the context clearly implies otherwise use of the word "horse" shall be deemed to include also "pony".

Unless otherwise indicated in the schedules, competitors in all events must be members of the WHHC. Membership of the BHDTA is not obligatory. However, any competitor who is not a member of the BHDTA must ensure that he or she has adequate public liability insurance cover. Competitors must be in possession of documentary evidence of insurance cover at all events; evidence of membership of the BHDTA at Associate Level or higher (but not BDS) will be acceptable for this purpose. Beware that commercially available equestrian insurance is unlikely to cover you at events.

- 3.1** A groom or passenger must be carried in all competitions and on all Club events. In Dressage and Cones phases the groom or passenger must be properly seated. At Indoor and Inside-Out events it is permissible for the groom to stand during all phases.
- 3.2** Juniors from the beginning of the year they reach the age of 10 to the end of the year they are 18 may compete in singles classes at WHHC, provided they are accompanied by a competent adult aged 18 or over who is capable of taking control in an emergency and must be on the vehicle at all times whilst the junior is in control, whether competing or not. All persons under the age of 18 travelling on a competing vehicle on which neither parent nor guardian is present must have signed, written authority of a parent or guardian.
- 3.3** A competitor may drive more than one entry at any Event with the second entry being "hors de concours" (HC).
- 3.4** No person may take part in Marathon stage more than once, whether as driver, groom or passenger. Should any driver or any groom or passenger on his vehicle have already been round the course, he may be permitted by the Organiser to take part under certain circumstances. Whether or not he is required to compete "hors de concours" will be at the discretion of the Show Organiser.
- 3.5** In Marathon/Obstacle phases, grooms are required to wear numbered bibs. In Dressage and Cones phases, number cards should be attached to the vehicle.

- 3.6** Elimination from any Competition will not entail elimination from the whole Event. In the Competition from which the competitor is eliminated, he will be credited with 1.25 times the highest un-eliminated score in his class in that Competition. However, in the final placing, a competitor who has been eliminated in any Competition shall not be placed above a competitor who has not been eliminated, whatever their respective scores.
- 3.7** Any competitor who has reason to dispute or query any judgement, time or result, should refer the matter to the President of the Jury or Technical Delegate (who will be identified in the final instructions) at the earliest possible opportunity and, in any event, not later than 30 minutes after the end of the Event, or 10 minutes after the result queried has been made known, if this be later. In order to make this rule practical, having regard to the limited time available at one day events, details of all cases of elimination will be posted as promptly as possible on a notice board adjacent to the score board.
- 3.8** Drivers of motorised vehicles at the Event must be in possession of a current driving licence appropriate to the vehicle being driven, in accordance with the Road Traffic Act must also be covered by third party insurance. If the driver fails to comply with either requirement, he will be required to stop driving the vehicle immediately. Riders of motor cycles, mopeds, ATVs etc must wear helmets. Only authorised disabled competitors and officials may drive any kind of motor vehicle at the venue of an event except in the designated horsebox park and on public roads.
- 3.9** In order to protect the good relationships of the WHHC with the landowners who very kindly permit us to use their land and other facilities, the owners of dogs must keep them on a lead at all times when they are not confined within a secure enclosure. The owners of dogs found roaming around at any event may be excluded from taking any further part in the event. This rule applies to dogs brought to events by competitors, grooms, stewards, judges, helpers, spectators or anyone else who is present in connection with the event.
- 3.10** Anyone riding a horse or pony at an event, whether in an official capacity or not, is required to wear a properly secured hard riding hat.

4. *HARNESS*

- 4.1** Working harness in leather, webbing or other materials may be used in all Competitions, provided it is clean, safe, a good fit and in good condition. Auxiliary reins and martingales attached to reins are not permitted.
- 4.2** In the Marathon/Obstacle phase, horses and ponies must wear head collars under their bridles.

5. VEHICLES

- 5.1 Vehicles fitted with pneumatic tyres are permitted (but not recommended).
- 5.2 For Cones phases, vehicles must conform to the minimum widths specified in the BHDTA National Rules.
- 5.3 No allowance will be made to cone settings for vehicles which exceed these minima.
- 5.4 Lamps are not compulsory in any competition.
- 5.5 The same vehicle must be used for Dressage and Cones phases but, if lamps are fitted for Dressage, they must be removed for Cones.
- 5.6 Scurry bars are not permitted.

6. HORSES AND PONIES

- 6.1 Any animal which is more than 14.3 hands high (149cm) with shoes on is classified as a horse and any animal 11 hands high and under is classified as a "small pony". However, the WHHC reserve the right to divide classes as the Organisers see fit.
- 6.2 At National Qualifier Events, competitors will be required to produce an up-to-date Certificate of Vaccination against equine influenza, correctly completed for the animal in question and signed by a veterinary surgeon. Competitors are asked not to bring any animal to an Event which has, or is suspected of having any infectious condition. The Organiser has the authority to require the immediate removal of any animal which gives cause for believing it has any infectious condition or for which an up-to-date vaccination certificate cannot be produced upon request.
- 6.3 No horse or pony may compete in Marathon/Obstacle phase more than once at any Event. Except at Inside-Out and Indoor Events.
- 6.4 To be eligible for overall event awards, competitors in singles classes must use the same pony or horse in all three competitions. Pair, tandem and team entries are permitted to make one substitution of one animal between competitions. The substitution shall be reversible. In pair's classes, both animals must either be horses or ponies but, in classes run under WHHC rules, mixed tandems are permitted.

7. DRIVER CLASSIFICATION

7.1 A Novice driver who competes with a pair at any competition loses their Novice status immediately for ALL competitions.

7.2 Novice status is:

7.2.1 One Day Events:

Anyone who has not been placed first in a 'Full' One Day Event, or driven any National competition prior to the 1st January of the current year. (Not to include IDHDT competitions)

7.2.2 Two Day Events:

Anyone who has not been placed first in a 'Full' Two Day Event, or any National competition prior to the 1st January of the current year. (Therefore someone who is out of Novice One Day Events can still be Novice at Two Day Events)

7.2.3 Inside-Out Events:

Anyone in their first season of carriage driving competitions, or someone in their second year who have never been placed first in this type of event. (Not to include IDHDT competitions)

7.3 Open status is:

Is everyone else.

8. DRESSAGE

8.1 Competitors are required to enter the arena within one minute of being given the signal (usually by car horn or visual sign) by the judge at position C. Failure to enter within this time may result in penalties being awarded.

8.2 The test must be driven from memory. No prompting is allowed by groom or outside supporters. The penalty for infringement of this rule is elimination.

9. MARATHON/OBSTACLES

- 9.1** If a veterinary surgeon advises a judge, the Technical Delegate or any authorised official that a horse or pony has not recovered sufficiently by the end of a rest halt or is unfit to continue at any stage of the Marathon, that horse or pony must be withdrawn from the competition.
- 9.2** Competitors are required to report to the steward controlling the start not less than ten minutes before their specified start time. The steward's duties include inspection of the turnout for safety and welfare of the animals.
- 9.3** A competitor who reports late may be delayed in starting but will be timed from his specified start time except that, if the starter holds him to avoid congestion with the next competitor, the time between coming under starter's orders and being released will be taken into consideration. (Note: a competitor is not deemed to come under starter's orders until the start steward has completed his inspection).

10. CONES

- 10.1** At WHHC events are scored at 5 penalties per knockdown.
- 10.2** At "Qualifier" events are scored as per the BHDTA/IDHDT Club rules.

NOTES: