



Carriage Pleasure Driving

What you always wanted to know about Carriage Pleasure Driving, but were afraid to ask...



Terminology: The Driver

- Refers to the person controlling the reins and whip.
- The driver should be seated comfortably on the box.
- The driver should be relaxed and effective.



The Driver continued...

Hands and Arms

- Either a one or two handed method of driving is acceptable.
- Common to both methods the elbows and arms should be close to the body.
- The driver should have sympathetic hands, able to feel the horse's mouth.
- Drivers should not be penalized or rewarded for using one style over the other.



Method 5

- Achenbach Method
- Two handed





The Driver continued...

- During the Pleasure Driving rail classes (Turnout, Working and Reinsmanship) it is preferred that the driver shall sit on the right side of the vehicle, unless construction of the vehicle prevents this.



The Whip

- **CP 207.2**

A whip should be carried in hand at all times while driving. A driver not in compliance may be eliminated or disqualified. The thong of the whip should be long enough to reach the shoulder of the farther horse. A driver not in compliance with the above may be penalized. A whip with its thong tied in a manner which renders it incapable of reaching the farthest horse is not allowed. Failure to comply must be severely penalized.



Outside Assistance

- Only the driver may handle the reins, whip or brake during a class. *Failure to comply incurs elimination.*
- Drivers received outside assistance after the judging has begun will be disqualified at the judge's discretion unless the assistance has specifically been allowed (groom/passenger heading a horse in the line up or groom down on an obstacle course or marathon).



Outside Assistance cont...

- Outside Assistance which requires elimination includes, but is not limited to:
 - The use of communications devices of any kind between the driver and anyone else.
 - The use of electrical devices on the carriage intended to give the driver an advantage.
 - Directing the driver in anyway during a dressage test or on an obstacle course.
- See **CP 519.1**



Dress for the Driver

- Drivers and passengers should be dressed conservatively according to the style of present day.
- Dress should conform to the type of vehicle. (ie., Formal, Park, Country, Sporting)
- Unless otherwise specified the driver shall wear a hat, an apron or knee rug and gloves. *Protective head gear may be worn without penalty.*
- Long sleeves and brown gloves are suggested for all drivers and passengers in Carriage Pleasure Driving classes.



Gentleman's Attire

- Gentlemen must wear a coat or jacket during a class unless excused from doing so by judge and/or management.
- When accepting awards, gentlemen are requested to remove their hats.





Ladies Attire

- Ladies must wear a conservative dress, tailored suit or slacks.
- Floppy hats are discouraged.





Number of Grooms on Vehicle

- A groom is optional for a single horse turnout.
- A pair or tandem is required to carry one groom to assist in case of difficulty.
- Two grooms are required on four-in-hands or unicorns to assist in difficulty.



Dress for Grooms

- Grooms may wear stable livery in any, but the more formal vehicles where full livery is appropriate. Grooms shall wear a hat.





Stable Livery

- **CP 207b.1.a,b,c**
 - A conservative suit, white shirt, dark tie, derby, dark shoes and leather gloves – or –
 - A conservative jacket, jodhpurs or drill trousers, jodhpurs or paddock boots, white shirt, stock or four-in-hand tie, leather gloves, derby or conservative cap – or –
 - Hunting attire with a hunting derby or bowler.



Full Livery

CP 207b.1.d

- Full Livery consists of a close-fitting body coat with buttons of yellow or white metal to match the furnishings of the harness used (if possible), white breeches, black boots with tan tops, white stock, black top hat and brown leather gloves. The color of the coat remains the owner's preference, but preferred colors are conservative in nature and, where possible, complementary to the color of the vehicle.



Groom in Full Livery





The Horse

- The minimum age for a carriage pleasure driving horse is 3 years of age.
- Horses must be serviceably sound. They must not show evidence of lameness, broken wind or impairment of vision in both eyes.
- Stallions are prohibited in all classes restricted to Juniors, and classes restricted to Maiden, Novice and Limit drivers.



Turnout of the Horse

CP 115

1. Braiding of the mane is optional. Any mane, tail or fetlock trimming may conform to breed standards. Tails are not braided.
2. The application of supplemental hair to mane or tail is prohibited. A tail set or use of any foreign substance to induce a high tail carriage is prohibited.
3. It is prohibited to tie a tail to a vehicle or harness.
4. If shod, horses should be suitably shod for pleasure driving.
5. Boots – Bell boots, shin boots and wraps are allowed in Pleasure Drive classes and may be allowed at the discretion of the judge in other classes due to local conditions, except Driven, Dressage. Boots protecting the sole of the foot are allowed in any pleasure class. Also see Appendix CP – C.



The Harness

- Driver's Responsibility is to see the harness is in good condition, clean and fits properly.
- Specific national types of harness are permitted.
- Bridles:
 - Should be adjusted to fit snugly
 - A bridle with reins attached and passed through the saddle terrets must be in place whenever the horse is put to a vehicle.



The Harness continued...

- A throatlatch and a noseband or cavesson is mandatory.
- **Safety Issue:** Under NO conditions shall a bridle be removed from a horse that is still “put to a vehicle.”
- Failure to comply = elimination



Black Harness

- Appropriate with painted vehicles with shaft and pole trimmings done in black.
- Considered appropriate with a natural wood vehicle with iron trimmings painted any color other brown.
- Shaft and pole trimmings, dash and fenders are done in black.





Russet (Brown) Harness

- Natural wood vehicle with brown or black iron.
- Painted vehicle with natural wood panels with any color iron.
- Vehicles that is painted brown with brown iron. Shaft and pole trimmings should match the harness.





Harness Collars

- All metal furnishings should match, be secured, and polished.
- Collars
 - Breast Collars: are appropriate with light weight vehicles.
 - Full Collars: are suggested for heavy carriages such as coaches, brakes, phaetons, dog carts, etc.
 - In all pleasure driving classes, collars on four-in-hand leaders are not to be tied together.



Harness Saddles

- A correctly fitted harness saddle is very important for the comfort of the horse.
- A wide saddle is suggested for two wheel vehicles as more weight rests on the horse's back.
- A narrower saddle is more appropriate for four wheel vehicles as less weight rests on the horses back.



Martingales & Overchecks

- Are permitted only if appropriate for a vehicle being used. (eg. standing martingales are only appropriate for a Stanhope Gig or a George IV Phaeton).
- **CP 118.10** - Check reins and martingales (except false martingales) are prohibited in obstacle classes. Failure to comply incurs elimination. In other classes, check reins and martingales may be appropriate for certain vehicles.



Harness Rules

- A tongue tie is prohibited.
- The use of a kicking strap is considered permissible in pleasure driving, but they should match the harness being used.
- Flash nosebands are strongly discouraged in pleasure driving.



Bits

- Burr, gag and twisted wire bits are not permitted.
- Refer to Appenidx CP-C for bits appropriate to vehicles used.



Responsibility

- All person's involved in the competition, drivers, passengers, grooms, officials, spectators, etc., should keep safety foremost in their minds.
- Having the horse under control at all times not only safeguards the driver and passengers, but everyone else that is present.



Vehicle

- Style of Vehicle – Drivers should strive to have an appropriate turnout.
 - “Appropriate” indicates the balanced and pleasing appearance of the combination of horse and vehicle.
 - Factors determining the above include:
 - Compatible size, type and weight of horse and vehicle.
 - The way of going of the horse may also affect the overall appearance, ie. a high action is more suitable for a formal vehicle.
 - The low ground covering horse presents a more pleasing appearance for a road cart or country type vehicle.



Vehicle continued...

- Wire wheeled and pneumatic tires are permitted in the following classes (at management's discretion) provided it is stated in the prize list or omnibus.
 - If it is a competition's first year as a recognized competition.
 - In all pleasure driving classes, if the vehicle is an antique wire wheeled vehicle (long wire spokes and hard rubber tires).
 - In maiden, novice or junior pleasure driving classes
- Vehicles designed to be a servant driven or commercial vehicles and harness are only eligible in classes restricted to their type unless indicated in the prize list.



Entry

- An entry is defined as a combination of horse(s), vehicle and driver and must be assigned a specific entry number.
- If a championship based on the USEF rules is offered, a change of any part of the combination constitutes a different turnout and must be assigned a separate number.



Entry continued...

- Management may allow changes of an entry (using a different vehicle for cones) while still counting towards compiling points towards a Championship. This must be clearly spelled out in the prize list and/or Omnibus.



Driver Responsibility

- In the case of an accident or equipment failure which necessitates repair or readjustment, all grooms and passengers carried on the vehicle must dismount the vehicle. The exception would be a minor adjustment (ie. trace down) and then only the necessary groom need to be put down. Appropriate penalties will be assessed according to the class specifications.



Driver Responsibility cont...

CP 104.3

- The Federation neither encourages nor discourages dogs accompanying an entry. Unless allowed by class rules, dogs are not allowed to run alongside, behind or under the vehicle during competition. In no circumstances may a dog be tied or in any way attached to the vehicle.



Groom/Passenger

CP 205.4

No turnout should rely solely on a groom or other attendant standing on the ground to control the horse/horses with the exception of hitching and/or unhitching. If a driver dismount for any reason other than to make other adjustments to harness, carriage or to unhitch, the reins should be given to the driver seated on the vehicle.

CP 205.10

Drivers receiving outside assistance after the judging has begun will be penalized at the judge's discretion or as specified by class rules unless that assistance has been specifically allowed (example: assistance of groom/passenger heading a horse in a line-up or groom/navigator on marathon).



Groom/Passenger cont...

- Leading a turnout into the ring or obstacle course start is considered outside assistance and not permitted.
- Grooms may not stand behind the driver. If the vehicle does not permit the groom to sit down behind the driver, permission must be obtained to allow the groom to sit beside the driver in obstacle classes.
- In pleasure driving ring classes (turnout, working and reinsmanship) a groom/passenger may sit beside the driver.



Groom/Passenger cont...

- When a groom or passenger is put down to head the horse or horses during a line-up, he or she must remount when the driver moves off. This includes individual tests. Exception: for receiving awards. Failure to comply should be penalized.



Leaving Classes

CP 208

1. No entry may leave the class after judging begun without permission from the judge.
2. Entries excused from any class must leave as instructed by the ringmaster or judge.
3. Disqualify – A competitor, horse or entry may be disqualified for being in violation of the rules at any time.
 - a) Those who have been disqualified are prohibited from taking further part in the event and may be required to forfeit all prizes won at the event.
 - b) Subsequent disciplinary action may be taken by the Federation.



Leaving Classes continued...

4. Eliminate – An entry may be eliminated from a competition as a penalty for contravening certain rules.
 - a) Elimination is listed with other penalties, but it should be assumed that it may be applied where no other specific penalty is prescribed.
 - b) An eliminated entry is not eligible for an award in the competition form which it is eliminated; however, the entry remains eligible to compete in the remaining competitions of the show.



Leaving Classes continued...

5. Retire – An entry not wishing to continue in any competition for any reason may ask the judge for permission to retire. A retired entry is not eligible for an award in the competition form which it has retired; however, the entry remains eligible to compete in the remaining competitions of the show.
6. Withdraw – An entry not wishing to continue for any reason may withdraw from the show. A withdrawn entry is not eligible to compete in the remaining competitions of the show.



Clarification of Gaits

WALK:

A free, regular and unconstrained walk with moderate extension is required. The horse(s) should walk energetically, but calmly, with even and determined pace. A walk is a four beat gait.

SLOW TROT:

The horse should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. The trot is slower and more collected, but not to the degree required in the dressage collected trot. The horse should indicate willingness to be driven on the bit while maintaining a steady cadence.



Clarification of Gaits continued...

WORKING TROT

This is a pace between the strong trot and slow trot and more round than the strong trot. The horses go forward freely and straight; engaging the hind legs with good hock action; on a taut, but light rein; the position being balance and unconstrained. The steps should be as even as possible. The hind foot should touch the ground in the foot prints of the forefeet. The degree of energy and impulsion display at the working trot denotes clearly the degree of suppleness and balance of the horse(s).



Clarification of Gaits continued...

STRONG TROT

This is a clear, but not excessive increase in pace and lengthening of stride while remaining well balanced and showing appropriate lateral flexion on turns. Light contact to be maintained. Excessive speed will be penalized.

HALT

Horse(s) and vehicle should be brought to a complete square stop without abruptness and veering. At the halt, the horse(s) should stand attentive, motionless and straight with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs and be ready to move off at the slightest indication from the driver.



Clarification of Gaits continued...

REIN BACK

Is defined as a backward movement in which the legs are raised and set down simultaneously in diagonal pairs with the hind legs remaining well in line. Two be performed in two parts:

- The horse(s) move backward at least four steps in an unhurried manner with head flexed and straight, pushing the carriage back evenly in a straight line.
- Move forward willingly to former position using the same quiet aids.
- Road Coach and Park Drags should not be asked to back.



Class Specifications

Pleasure Driving Turnout is a carriage pleasure driving class that is judged primarily on the performance and quality of each turnout.

- To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. To stand quietly and to rein back (done in the line up).
- To be judged:
 - 70% on the condition, fit and appropriateness of attire and overall impression;
 - 30% on performance, manners and way of going.



Class Specifications

Pleasure Driving Workout is a carriage pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the suitability of the horse to provide a pleasant drive.

- To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot , working trot and strong trot.
- To stand quietly, both on the rail and while lined up, and to rein back.
- To be judged:
 - 70% on performance, manners and way of going of the horse(s);
 - 20% on the condition and fit of harness and vehicle;
 - 10% on neatness and attire



Class Specifications

Pleasure Driving Reinsmanship is a carriage pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the ability and skill of the driver.

- Either the one or two handed method of driving is acceptable.
- Common to both methods, the elbows and arms should be close to the body with an allowing, but steady hand enabling a consistent “feel” with the horse’s mouth.
- Drivers should not be penalized or rewarded for using one style over another.
- In order to evaluate a driver’s versatility, the judge may request a test involving driving with one hand.



Reinsmanship continued...

- To be shown at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. Drivers shall be required to rein back.
- All drivers chosen for a workout may be worked at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute a figure of eight and/or perform other appropriate tests.
- To be judged:
 - 75% on the handling of reins and whip, control, posture and overall appearance of the driver;
 - 25% on the condition of harness and vehicle and neatness of attire.



Class Specifications

Combination Classes

- Entries may be shown by one person in all sections, or by different exhibitors in each section at the discretion of the management. (Must be clearly explained in the prize list)
- Up to two grooms or attendants may assist with unharnessing and saddling.



Class Specifications

Drive and Ride: Single horse to be shown in two concurrent sections:

- In Harness: To be shown to a suitable pleasure driving vehicle, both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. To stand quietly and to rein back (in the line up).
- Under Saddle: To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, trot and canter. To stand quietly and to rein back.

To be judged:

- 50% on performance, manners, way of going and suitability in harness;
- 50% on performance, manners and way of going under saddle.



Class Specifications

Concours D'Elegance:

The essence of the competition is the word “Elegance”. The winner will be the turnout which presents the most elegant effect. This will include vehicle, harness, appointments, horse, driver, passengers, grooms, etc., but above all, general impression is most important. Period costumes are prohibited, unless otherwise stated in the prize list. Performance will not be judged unless it detracts from the elegance of the turnout.



Concours D'Elegance continued...

The class may be judged:

- As a separated class (entry fee applies)
- In conjunction with the marathon
- By overall impression throughout the competition.
(recommended no entry fee apply in #2 and #3).

Whichever method is to be used it must be clearly stated in the prize list.

Management may invite a local dignitary or celebrity to act as honorary judge; an USEF or ADS recognized judge must also be in the ring.



Class Specifications

Picnic Class – CP 233

A picnic appropriate to the turnout and number of participants must be carried on the vehicle. All picnic participants must be on the carriage during the ring section of the class and be present in the staging section.

To be judged:

- 25% on performance, manners and overall impression.
- 75% on quality of picnic presentation.



Class Specifications

Obstacle Driving:

- A horse may not be entered more than once in the same obstacle class, except as part of a pair or multiple.
- A groom/passenger may compete as a driver on the same course.
- For schooling entries, see CP 237.



Obstacle Driving continued...

■ Course Walk

- Drivers must be allowed time to walk the course prior to the start of a class and to inspect each obstacle.
- Drivers shall not alter, adjust or in anyway move an obstacle or any part thereof.
- Should a competitor have any questions regarding a specific obstacle, he should call it to the attention of the TD for clarification and/or adjustment.



Obstacle Driving continued...

■ Schooling

- A practice obstacle must be providing for use in a specific area.
- Drivers are prohibited from driving, leading or riding horses or from allowing horses to be driven, lead or ridden on any course at any time prior to the competition. Failure to comply incurs elimination.



The Obstacle Course

1. The course may consist of Start and Finish markers, decorative materials and drive-able obstacles consisting number markers and paired cones or other materials such as rails, fence panels, barrels, etc. Cone pairs may be numbered with red and white markers placed on the cones themselves.



The Obstacle Course continued...

2. Unless otherwise specified in class rules cone pairs must be consecutively numbered with red markers on right, white on left (see exceptions). In reverse Psychology and Double Jeopardy classes a different colored set of numbers may be placed to indicate the reverse course. Any obstacle that cannot be clearly marked, for example, a figure of eight or an obstacle that requires a reinback, must have a clearly drawn pattern explaining the correct entrance, exit and required path on the course diagram. Within courses that consist of numbered obstacles, it is suggested that the number of an obstacle should be visible from the obstacle before it; ie., #3 from #2. Only in Gamblers Choice Obstacle classes are point values displayed.



The Obstacle Course continued...

3. Obstacles requiring a halt or a reinback are not permitted except in a Gambler's Choice Obstacle class.
4. If any part of an obstacle is, at any time, disturbed or dislodged out of its sequence or if any obstacle or start or finish line is driven in reverse direction, out of sequence or driven twice, it will be considered driving of the start and finish lines for Scurry Obstacles, Pick your Route Obstacles, Gambler's Choice Obstacles and Double Jeopardy Obstacles classes.



The Obstacle Course continued...

■ CP 244 Off-Course

- Unless otherwise specified in individual class rules, a driver is off-course when driving an obstacle in the incorrect sequence or direction or when failing to drive a required obstacle.
- For a Start or Finish line or an obstacle to be completed, the entire turnout (all horses and all wheels of the vehicle) must pass through the obstacle or the start/finish markers.
- Straddling an obstacle marker, regardless of an actual disturbance, will be scored as a dislodgment.
- Straddling a Start or Finish marker will be considered off course.





The Obstacle Course continued...

6. When a disturbance or dislodgement occurs at a complicated obstacle (figure of eight, U-turn, L-turn, etc.), the intended pattern must be completed as closely as the disturbance or dislodgement will allow or the obstacle will be considered driven incorrectly and scored under the rules for each specific class.



The Obstacle Course continued...

7. An obstacle course will be considered “different” if its pattern is reversed or its obstacle sequence is altered (30% or more of the obstacles have their sequence changed or reversed) or 30% or more of the obstacles are new to the course. Removing or adding obstacles at the beginning or end of a diagrammed pattern does not constitute a course change.



The Obstacle Course continued...

8. A course diagram and applicable time allowed must be posted at least two hours before the start of the class.
9. Start and finish lines for all obstacle courses should be a minimum of 10 feet (3 meters) wide.

