

Equus Survival Trust

SANA Driving Regulations - last updated March 1, 2024

A suitable vehicle and properly fitting harness are vitally important accoutrements and should complement the entry. While the vehicle, driver, and equipment will not be judged, safe and proper fit will be; a pleasing turnout is encouraged.



DRIVING RULES/REGULATIONS

- Open to all pneumatic, wooden and steel wheeled vehicles - English or Western
- Whip in hand is mandatory in all driving classes including obstacles (cones)
- Optional: hats, gloves, apron and other traditional dress are encouraged
- Helmet required for junior exhibitors; Youth exhibitors 14 and under must have adult passenger
- The judge may require three trots (slow trot, working trot, strong trot) a walk and a rein back. The same speed changes apply to gaited breeds
- Removal of the bridle while the horse/pony is between the shafts means instant elimination.
- No horse(s) hitched to a vehicle shall be tied and left unattended
- Equine leg protection permissible in Obstacle classes
- Exhibitor may show more than one entry in the same obstacle class
- Multiples are required to have a passenger or groom
- Driving Definitions are by height:
 - PONY: 14.2 and under
 - HORSE: above 14.2
- Youth Driver -Driver less than 18 years old as of date of show.
- Multiples -More than one equine hitched and driven to a wheeled vehicle.
- If any questions or safety issues arise, the judge(s) are the final deciding factors.
- The whip is MANDATORY and should be of the appropriate style and length for the turnout. Whips should be held in the hand throughout; whips for pairs and singles should remain unfurled

DRIVEN BREED CLASSES: SINGLES/PAIRS

Breed classes stress the quality of the entry's breed type and movement as a driving horse/pony. Entries will be judged on performance & manners with emphasis on traditional breed type and breed movement.

RECREATIONAL DRIVING PERFORMANCE

The judge is looking for an entry that is going forward in correct outline in a rhythmic, balanced manner showing good movement with hind legs well engaged. Sound with regular strides and able to show at least two clearly defined trot paces - normal and strong. The entry must be under control at all times.

Multiples should be working together and straight. Tandems should be on one track and the leader should be forward going but out of draught.

RECREATIONAL FAULTS

Minor faults: breaks of pace that are quickly controlled. Lack of extension. A little on the forehand. Outline not quite correct – nose a little poked or slightly overbent. Not always straight. Slight fidgeting in halt. Rein back not straight or not far enough. Not tracking up in walk.

Cause for expulsion from the ring: Lameness, Uncontrolled behavior e.g. kicking, rearing, etc.
Serious Performance Faults: Uneven gait. Head to one side. Above the bit. inability to stand still. Excessive pulling. Anticipation or resistance to rein back. Refusal to walk.

Minor Driving faults: Poor rein handling, e.g. right hand not used sufficiently to assist left. Position of whip incorrect or not suitable for turnout. Passenger not remaining seated.

Serious Driving faults: Loss of control. Restricting the horse's forward movement. Chasing horse out of its natural rhythm. Whip not carried. Slouching. Two handed driving (acceptable in trade classes).

Minor Harness Safety faults: Bit too high in the mouth or too wide. The swell of the pad not long enough to accommodate tug correctly. Breeching slightly ill fitting. Crupper slightly too loose. Reins incorrect color or material. Breast collar with a bearing surface that is too narrow. Bellyband too loose. Hames that are not quite correctly fitting to collar. Buckles to wrong side. Harness or bits that are ill-fitting.

Serious Vehicle Safety faults: Loose spokes and/or too much play in wheels. Cracked shafts. Cracked leather on C springs and swingletree straps. Vehicle not balanced correctly. Size of vehicle unsuitable for horse. Shafts too long or too short. Incorrect attachment of the pair to the pole.

Serious Equipment Safety faults: Collar/breast harness ill fitting. Dried out or cracked leather. Pad ill-fitting and/or incorrect position. Belly band too tight. Breeching significantly too low or high, too big or small, significantly tight or loose. Bridle ill-fitting, in particular blinkers and nosebands that do not fit. Throat lash too tight or too loose. Bit too low or narrow. Incorrect line of draught. No swingletree with breast harness. Multiples & Pairs: harness buckles to inside of pair. Coupling reins to outside. No martingales when breeching not used. Tandem: lead traces too long or too short.

NON-JUDGED Driving Items

Vehicle Recommendations: Any safe, suitable two or 4 wheeled vehicles. Entries are encouraged to present appropriate turnouts - English or Western. Judges will not assess these items except as they relate to safety.

Harness Recommendations: Good quality, brown or black sound harness, leather, nylon, or patent leather, that is clean, fits well, and is appropriate for the overall turnout.

SPARES: Typically, subject to a random check with only the following to be considered: trace, rein, hame strap (if full collar), knife, string.

Dress code Recommendations for Driving: Dress will not be judged, but drivers should be neat. Helmets are preferred. Traditional English driving dress includes brown gloves, long sleeves, and a long driving apron, but these will not be required for this show. Dark or khaki pants and a long-sleeved blouse, shirt or jacket make a nice turnout. Western theme - collared shirt, jean cut pants, western boots & hat, bolo or bandana, etc. - is also acceptable

Groom Recommendation: should be tidy, alert and look like part of the turnout.

Passenger recommendation: must remain in the vehicle and should wear an apron.