

British Horse Driving Trials Association
Guidelines for Presentation
2011

These guidelines cannot cover all points. Eventualities should be interpreted with intelligence and in the spirit of the sport and read in conjunction with The British Horse Driving Trials Association Rules.

For Novice Classes, only experienced judges or competitors with at least 5 years experience should be used.

This is not a show class. Type, breed and conformation of the horse/pony presented should not be taken into consideration. Presentation is designed to encourage drivers to achieve a standard. It is possible that many entries in a class could achieve the same high standard and gain the same number of penalty points.

The inspection of the turnout should not take longer than five minutes.

1. Driver and Groom

It is important that the driver and groom's appearance should be suitable to the type of carriage presented, whether this is a traditional type presentation vehicle, a three phase vehicle, or, at Club level, a modified marathon carriage. The overall cleanliness and smartness of the turnout should be taken into account. The groom's dress should compliment the driver's turnout, and again, be in keeping with the type of carriage used. The whip should be of a suitable length for the turnout and should be held correctly.

Care must be taken that personal taste in terms of colour scheme and trim must not be allowed to influence the judge's marks, provided that the driver and the groom are dressed appropriately to their turnout.

The handling of the horse/pony by the groom and the driver should be taken into consideration. An apron, gloves and hat must be worn.

2. Horse/Pony

The horse/pony must be clean and should appear in a sufficiently fit condition to partake in the competition. Any condition such as girth galls, sore withers or cracked heels etc. should be penalised. Manes, if not plaited, should be level, and lie flat. Feet should be clean and shoeing must be to a good standard.

3. Harness

Harness should be in good condition, sound, clean and should fit correctly. Harness made from modern materials is perfectly acceptable. New harness should not necessarily receive higher marks than older harness, provided that the conditions stated above apply. If full collar harness is used the hame strap must be fitted with the point to the off side. No strap, including traces, should be fitted using the last hole, as there would be no room for adjustment. The judge should pay particular attention to the condition of any strap where the tongue of the buckle is fitted.

4. Vehicle

Ideally the size of the carriage should be in proportion to the size of the horse/pony. Bearing in mind that the majority of competitors at Club and Novice level may well be using three phase carriages or modified marathon carriages, some leeway is acceptable when considering the proportions between the horse/pony and the vehicle to which he is harnessed. The seating position must allow the driver to sit up properly and care should be taken that when the groom is seated on the vehicle it is still balanced and the front wheels are not being lifted off the ground. The spares kit must contain a spare rein, spare trace, and, if applicable, a spare hame strap, and these essential spares must fit the harness and vehicle. Any extra spare equipment presented does not necessarily merit extra marks, and again, must be suitable to the harness and vehicle. All spares presented must be sound, clean and suitable. Lamps, although desirable, need not be fitted at Pre Novice and Novice level.

No preference should be given to traditional type vehicles over modern carriages provided they are produced to the same standard.

5. General Impression

To be judged on the dress and bearing of the driver and groom, and the suitability of the horse/pony and harness for the carriage.

If a mark of 5 or below is given the judge must indicate the reason.

When determining cleanliness, judges must make allowance for the weather conditions. It is not difficult to distinguish new mud from old!

Minor faults can be pointed out to the competitor at the time, or can be written on the back of the judge's sheet. These comments must be positive and helpful to the competitor.