



The British Masters 4-in-Hand Driving Series Rule Book

Effective from August 1st 2016

The British Masters 4-in-Hand Driving Series Rule Book is based on the 2015 The FEI World Cup™ Driving Rules (effective for the season 2015-2016) and retains the FEI numbering where possible for ease of cross reference.

The FEI Driving Rules and FEI General Regulations referenced in this rulebook are available from Fédération Equestre Internationale and can be downloaded from www.fei.org or from www.britishcarriagedriving.co.uk information section.

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Preamble

This book contains the rules for The British Masters Series effective for the season 2016-2017. As from this date, all other texts covering the same matter issued previously are superseded. The rules are based on the 2015 The FEI World Cup™ Driving Rules (effective for the season 2015-2016). Although this book contains the rules governing The British Masters Series, it should be read in conjunction with the FEI Statutes, General Regulations and Veterinary Regulations.

These rules cannot provide for every eventuality. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances it is the duty of the Ground Jury to reach a decision in the spirit of the sport, taking into consideration whether advantage has been gained and the Welfare of the Horse. Their decision should reflect as closely as possible the intention of these rules and the FEI General Regulations.

British Carriagedriving is committed to genuine equality of opportunity. This means that we treat all members fairly irrespective of ethnic origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age, religion or disability. The masculine pronoun shall also include the feminine and the singular the plural, unless otherwise stated in a specific rule.

The British Masters 4-in-Hand Driving Series Rules

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1. Introduction / General

1.1. These Rules have to be read in conjunction with the FEI Rules and Regulations such as but not only the FEI General Regulations, the FEI Driving Rules, FEI World Cup™ Driving Rules, the FEI Veterinary Regulations, the Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations and the Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes.

1.2. The present Rules shall apply to the category of Horses Four-in-Hand.

1.3. The British 4-in-Hand Masters Driving Series (hereinafter the "Series") is divided into 2 parts: the British 4-in-Hand Masters Driving Legs (hereinafter the "Legs") and the British 4-in-Hand Masters Driving Final (hereinafter the "Final").

British 4-in-Hand Masters Driving Series Structure

1.3.1. There will be a minimum of 2 Legs held in any one season in the lead up to the British 4-in-Hand Masters Final

1.3.2. Any Athlete can enter any of the Legs; although priority will be given to drivers with FEI World Cup points. Any athlete can enter the Final although priority will be given to the top 6 athletes as at the end of the last Leg.

1.4. In the event that two or more Athletes are placed in 6th position, having equal points, the available position in the Final will be given to the Athlete with the highest number of first places achieved at the Legs. If the Athletes are still tied with equal first places then the number of second places will decide, and so on until the tie is broken.

1.5. At each Leg, 1 Competition is held and there may, in addition, be a Drive-Off.

1.6. The Competition will determine the starting order of the Drive-Off 1 (if any). If there is a preliminary warm-up Competition before the Competition, the preliminary warm up Competition will determine the starting order in the Competition.

1.7. The Final and Legs are each held over 1 day (including Trot-up/Vetcheck).

1.7.1. The Final runs to the same format as the Legs as per Rule 1.5.

2. The Eligibility for the Series

2.1. The qualification for the Series is based on the experience of the Athletes, as shown by their Competition history at approved CAI2*, CAI3*, CAI4*, CH-EU-A4 and CH-M-A4 events. The minimum requirement is that all Athletes must have completed a Horse Four class at two National events in the preceding outdoor season (season just finished).

2.1.1. The eligibility period for the Series season starts on 1st October and ends on 30th September, preceding the relevant British 4-in-Hand Masters.

2.2 All Athletes and Grooms must hold the relevant BC Memberships.

2.8.. If an Athlete withdraws from the Series it must be communicated to the BC Competitions Committee, at the latest, 14 days after the last Leg. The next Athlete in the ranking shall replace the Athlete that has withdrawn at the Final subject to the criteria as set forth in these rules.

2.11. At each Leg, the only limitation on number of Athletes competing is the discretion of the Leg Organiser. However this limitation must be approved by the BC Competitions Committee.

2.12. The Athletes may choose which Legs they want to enter subject to Rule 1.3.2.

3. The Wild Cards

3.1. Any Athlete who competes at the Final is eligible to secure the Wild Card available for the CAI-W FEI World Cup™ Leg in London (Olympia International Horse Show), provided they are eligible to do so as per the FEI World Cup™ Driving Rules. The Wild Card is secured by attaining the most points in the series as per Rule 9.2. Please note that the Wild Card available is a home nation Wild Card in the eyes of the FEI World Cup™ Organising Committee. As such it can only be secured by the British Driver with the highest number of points attained in the British 4-in-Hand Masters Series. International drivers are welcome to compete in the series; however they will not be eligible to secure the Wild Card.

4. The Course

4.1. The Series is held over courses with:

- A maximum of four Marathon type obstacles;
- A Bridge (optional). The bridge may not be shorter than 6 m. or higher than 20 cm. There must be wings and they must clearly be an aid to guide the horses and be safe for the horses;
- The Bridge can only be crossed in a straight line direction with no turns or knockdowns applicable;
- 8 - 12 cone-type obstacles (depending on the size of the arena).

4.2. A Marathon type obstacle may have up to a maximum of 5 gates.

4.3. The Bridge may be used from both sides as a single obstacle, also, as part of a combination with a Marathon type obstacle.

4.3.1 One pair of cones must be part of the bridge; their width must be minimum 1.90 m and maximum 2.00 m.

4.3.2 As an option there may be a double bridge, i.e. with passages from all four sides.

4.4 The distance between the last cone and the finish line should be at least 15 m.

5. The British 4-in-Hand Masters Driving Events

5.1. In principle both the Legs and the Final are run as time competitions, with penalties converted to seconds with one penalty equal to one second.

5.1.1. In principle the course is the same for the Legs and the Final.

5.2. The Drive-Off 1(if any), shall be open to all Athletes. The Drive-Off 1(if any) shall be on an altered or shortened Course.

5.2.1. The Athletes will have to receive the course plan in advance. There will be no course walk for the Drive-Off (if any).

5.2.2 The time of the Drive-Off (if any) is added to the time of the first round

5.5. In a Marathon type obstacle each gate becomes individually open once it has been passed. The parts without gates are free after the bell has rung and the Athlete crossed the start line.

5.6. If an obstacle (marathon-type, bridge or cone) has been passed it is open and can be passed again. Dislodging or knocking down an element (including the obstacle structure, even if the dislodgeable element belonging to it has already been knocked down), however, count as penalties.

5.7. Equipment: Marathon harness and carriage are required as per Articles of the FEI Driving Rules.

5.8. Advertising - as per the FEI Driving Rules and FEI General Regulations.

5.9. A Carriage must carry three people, one Athlete and two grooms, while competing.

5.10. Each Athlete may enter five horses. Horses must be at least 6 years old.

5.10.1. Two Athletes may enter a joint 5th horse, i.e. the two enter nine horses together.

5.10.2. If an Athlete is left with only three horses, he may borrow the 5th horse from another Athlete. This borrowed horse may not have been driven yet in the Event.

5.10.3. Such horse may only be driven by that one Athlete thereafter.

5.10.4. All entries must be made through the British 4-in-Hand Masters Entry Form.

5.11. The Series is open for horses only.

5.12. If two Athletes have the same result, money and points shall be combined together and shared equally.

5.13. The starting order in the Competition shall be decided by a draw as per the schedule unless there is a warm up Competition. The starting order in the Drive-Off (if any) is according to the reverse order of merits from the Competition.

5.14. Athletes who have been eliminated in the Competition may start in the Drive-Off and will start in first positions.

6. The British 4-in-Hand Masters Driving Final

6.1. In the Final, the starting order for the Final is in reverse order of standings after Part 1 (Legs).

6.1.1. Should there be a tie, the starting order of the tied Athletes will be decided by draw. The draw will be done by the PGJ.

6.3. The starting order the Drive-Off (if any) is in reverse order of standings after the Competition of the Final.

6.4. The Drive-Off must be run on an altered or shortened course. The Athletes will have to receive the course plan in advance. There will be no course walk just before the Drive-Off (if any).

6.5. In the Final, Athletes who have been eliminated in the Competition may start in the Drive-Off (if any) at the Organiser's discretion.

7. General

7.1. The time of the Horse Inspection should be in relation to the time of the Competition. The Horse Inspection has to be in accordance with the principles set out in the FEI Veterinary Regulations and should be conducted on a safe and suitable surface. If the Competition takes place in the evening, the Horse Inspection should not be held the previous day, but if possible, within three to four hours of the Competition.

7.1.1 In principle competitions should not start later than 10.30 pm to allow proper rest periods overnight for competing horses.

7.2. The meeting of the Organisers, the Officials and the Athletes should be held immediately after the Horse Inspection.

8. Penalties

8.1. Penalty points

- Dislodging a ball in a single obstacle	5
- Knocking over or down any element of a Marathon type obstacle	5
- Causing an obstacle to be rebuilt (clock stops) The clock starts again when the Driver approaches the next obstacle.	10
- Groom (s) dismounting 1 st or 2 nd time (clock does not stop) - Driver dismounting	5 (per incident) 20
- Groom uses the reins or the carriage wheel brakes	20
- Wrong course in a Marathon type obstacle, corrected	20
- wrong gate (sequence or direction) with the entire turnout or part of the turnout, without dislodging an element (no clock stop)	20
- Wrong gate (sequence or direction) with part of the turnout and dislodging an element (clock stops and obstacle is rebuilt)	35 (in total per incident)
- Dislodging a ball from a wrong gate (sequence or direction) with a horse jumping into a cone, without passing through the gate (clock stops and obstacle is rebuilt)	15 (in total per incident)
- First or second disobedience	No penalties

8.2. Eliminations

- Groom(s) or driver dismounting 3 rd incident	Elim.
- Third disobedience	Elim.
- Wrong course, not corrected, in Marathon type obstacles	Elim.
- Failing to pass through starting or finishing flags	Elim.
- Carriage turnover	Elim.
- Active use of the whip by the groom	Elim.

8.3. If a ball is dislodged or a wooden block or a dislodgeable element is knocked down by any means, the penalty of 5 seconds is applied.

8.4. In a Marathon type obstacle the lettered gates marked with red and white flags are to be driven in the right direction and sequence. Passing a compulsory gate in the wrong direction or sequence means elimination, unless the Athlete corrects this error of course. They are no entrance and exit gates.

8.5. The following count as disobediences:

8.5.1. When an Athlete attempts to pass through an obstacle and his horses shy away from the obstacle at the latest moment, without hitting any part of the obstacle.

8.5.2. When the horses run away, or when, in the opinion of the President of the Jury, the Athlete has lost effective control.

8.6. Both grooms must be on the carriage when the carriage passes the finish. If not the team is eliminated.

8.7. After ringing the bell the Athlete has 45 seconds to start his course. If he has not started, the clock starts to run.

8.8. When there is excessive use of the whip in training arena or competition arena, the Athlete must be called publicly to the Jury Box.

8.9 An Athlete who is eliminated in a Drive-Off will be placed after all the Athletes who have completed the Drive-Off. If more than one Driver is eliminated in the Drive off, the rankings of the first round will be decisive.

9. The Point System

9.1. In all British 4-in-Hand Masters Driving Legs points are given as follows:

1st	10 pts
2nd	7 pts
3rd	5 pts
4th	3 pts
5th	2 pts
6th	1 pt

If an Athlete does not finish a Leg because the Athlete retires, is disqualified, is eliminated or for any other reason, the Athletes in question receives 0 points. Exception: see Article 8.9

9.2. The total points in the series for each driver will be the points from the Final plus the points from ONE Leg. In the event of a tie, the results from the Final will decide the overall points league winner as required for Rule 3.1.

9.3. Results are “official” once they have been signed by the President of the Ground Jury. Any corrections may only be made with the approval and signature of the PGJ.

10. The Officials

10.1. All Officials are appointed by the OC and must be BC approved.

10.2. The President of the Ground Jury must be an FEI Driving Judge, Level 3 or above, with experience of Indoor World Cup Competition.

10.3. There must be two field Judges in the arena during the competitions. One has to be an FEI Driving Judge, Level 2 or above, and the second Judge can be a national Judge, the TD or the Course Designer. These Judges must be in direct contact with the Judge’s Box through the use of electronic communication equipment to include headset and microphone. No other persons are allowed in the arena during the competitions. One Field Judge should be at the bridge, the other at the side of the arena. The Field Judges are equipped with red flags.

10.4. A second Driving Judge (can be a National Judge) is required in the Judge’s Box.

10.5. The Course Designer may be appointed by the OC and can also act as the Field Judge.

10.6. A Technical Delegate must check all technical aspects of the Competition. The OC may invite a TD or the PGJ will also act as TD.

10.7. There must be at least one Steward in attendance at all times in the warm up areas.

11. The Entry Fee/Prize Money

11.1. An OC can, if they wish, charge a combined entry/stable fee.

11.2. The prize money at all regular Legs and the Final is at the discretion of the OC.

12. Specifications to the Rules

12.1. All balls, wooden blocks or other dislodgeable elements which are knocked down, remain on the ground until the Athlete has finished his course, unless the President of the Jury has rung the bell and the single obstacle or element(s) of the Marathon type obstacle have to be rebuilt, or the exit or the entrance are knocked down from the bridge. In this last situation the cones have to be rebuilt without the bell being rung (see 12.13).

12.2. If in the course of the competition one ball of a single obstacle has been dislodged (a 5 second penalty is incurred), an additional 5 second penalty is given if the other ball on the same obstacle is dislodged later by whatever means.

12.3. If an Athlete displaces a ball of a single obstacle or collides significantly with an element of a Marathon type obstacle by any means, before the obstacle is driven, the President of the Jury rings the bell. The clock is stopped, at the most convenient time for the Athlete, before the obstacle in question is approached, to allow the resetting of the obstacle. In this situation a 10 second penalty is incurred for rebuilding an obstacle in addition to 5 penalty seconds for dislodging the ball, wooden block or whatever from the obstacle that has been replaced. No time correction.

12.4. Significantly colliding with an element of a Marathon type obstacle means that the element is moved or knocked over in a way that the Athlete has no possibility to continue his course through the lettered gates, or the obligatory gate is clearly changed in position and original width. In this case the President of the Jury must ring the bell.
If not significantly displaced, the President of the Jury does not ring the bell and the Athlete has to continue his course.

12.5. When the Marathon type obstacle is significantly changed and the Athlete cannot continue his course, the President of the Jury rings the bell immediately and stops the clock. After the obstacle is rebuilt he rings the bell again. The Athlete has to start the obstacle by the first obligatory gate (A) again. The clock starts as the Athlete passes this first obligatory gate. For each knocked down element a 5 seconds penalty and for rebuilding, each time, an additional 10 seconds penalty is added.

12.6. If an Athlete corrects a wrong course he has to restart at the gate he missed. Such as: if he went from A to C, then realises it, he restarts from B. The time runs on, no bell is rung.

12.7. When an Athlete has completed a Marathon type obstacle with or without knocking down one or more balls, wooden blocks or other type of dislodgeable elements (excluding the letters), and later on in the course, by whatever means, he knocks down one or more balls, blocks or other dislodgeable elements of this Marathon type obstacle (including the obstacle structure, even if the dislodgeable element belonging to it has already been knocked down), an additional 5 seconds penalty is incurred.

12.8. An Athlete must proceed directly between obstacles attempting to pass through such obstacles in the correct numbered order.

12.9. A Cone-type obstacle must be driven through by at least one wheel of the carriage. If one or two balls are dislodged, 5 seconds penalty per ball is incurred. It is not necessary for the horses to pass through the cones.

12.10. Should the reins, pole straps or traces become disconnected or broken or the carriage seriously damaged; or should a horse get a leg over the trace, pole or bar, the President of the Ground Jury must ring the bell and a groom(s) must dismount and reconnect or repair. The Athlete will be given a 5 seconds penalty for groom(s) dismounting. The clock will be stopped.

12.11. In case of obvious cruelty the President of the Ground Jury has the duty to ring the bell and disqualify the Athlete from the Event.

12.12. The width of the cones may be 1.90 m or 2.00 m. The width of all gates in marathon type obstacles (excluding the bridge) must be the same but may be adjusted after the Competition. If there is a Drive-Off

12.13. If the Bridge is passed through from both sides, such as No. 4 from the right and No. 12 from the left, the exit side is NOT neutralised, i.e. penalties can be incurred on both sides. If the ball of the cone is displaced when the carriage leaves the Bridge, the obstacle should be rebuilt without the bell being rung.

12.14. If the Athlete is on course and the bell is rung the Athlete must stop. If he does not stop after a repeated ringing of the bell he will be eliminated. The OC should have a bell, which is loud enough for the Athletes to hear, even with loud music.

12.15. The two Judges in the Judge's box and the Field Judges in the arena will meet following all Events to discuss and make changes if required.

12.16. Video recording of the course, in accordance with the GRs Art. 157.4, is recommended for direct use of the President of the Ground Jury in the Judge's box.

12.17. All Athletes and Grooms must wear an approved Equestrian Safety Helmet (correctly fastened) whenever driving in the competition arena and in the warm-up arena before competition in all paces other than walk. Infringement will incur a Yellow Warning Card. A second offence will incur disqualification.

12.18. Grooms must wear a back protector in competition.

12.19. The cones forming an obstacle must be at least 30cm high and made of indestructible plastic material. The minimum weight for the cone is 2,5 kg (recommended weight range 2,5 to 4 kg) and the minimum weight for the balls is 200 gr (recommended weight range: 200 to 300 gr). The weight and dimensions of the cones and balls must be approved by the CD and/or the PGJ.

13. Organisation Matters

13.1. No passengers under the age of 14 years will be permitted on the carriage during the Prize Giving Ceremony, especially not as grooms.

13.2. Accreditations:

Each participating Athlete receives accreditations for himself and partner, four grooms and four owners.

13.5. Each participating Athlete may receive assistance with travel expenses at the discretion of the OC.

13.6. A Smart, Clean Dress Code is implemented. Required are colours (contrasting) for:

Long trousers (if jeans, must be dark coloured)

Shirt with long sleeves, including a collar

Vest or body warmer, including a collar

Approved Equestrian Safety Helmet

13.8. The draw must be in the presence of the Athletes.

13.10. At the Prize Giving Ceremony the Judges are the last to congratulate the winner and the placed.