



## **BC CLASSES – 2025**

A compendium of all the British Carriagedriving classes that may be offered at BC Outdoor Events in 2025.

The class levels are designed to allow the natural progression of the equine(s), and drivers, through the levels.

For all turnouts – from Gateway to Advanced.

\*\*\*\*\*

Qualification for BC National Championships at National Events are as follows unless stated otherwise in the individual class level.

<b>Number of competitors in the class</b>	<b>Qualification Criteria</b>
5 or more	The highest two disregarding those already qualified from the first eight places.
1 to 4	The highest placed disregarding those already qualified.
In addition	Any competitor who has completed two National events in the same class.

CLASS	<h1 style="margin: 0;">Gateway Newcomers</h1> <span style="float: right; margin-right: 20px;">Singles or Pairs</span>		
<b>Eligibility</b>	<p>Designed for Newcomers to the sport of Competition Carriage Driving with little or no outdoor competition experience or for those moving to outdoor competition.</p> <p>An Introductory Safety &amp; Competence Assessment must have been completed prior to attending the first event unless experienced at Indoor events <a href="http://britishcarriagedriving.co.uk">Driver assessment (britishcarriagedriving.co.uk)</a></p>		
<b>Safety</b>	<p>Safety check prior to competition to check</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fit, safety &amp; cleanliness of vehicle and harness</li> <li>• Suitability of equine(s), vehicle, driver and groom</li> <li>• Children. If a driver is aged 6 to 12 inclusive the turnout must be capable of accommodating a competent adult on the carriage.</li> <li>• Grooms may stand throughout. (See guidelines for VSE &amp; SE for smaller equines.)</li> <li>• If a turnout has been unharnessed between any phases of the competition a further safety check must be made.</li> </ul>		
<b>Excluded</b>	<p>Vehicles with wire wheels.</p>		
<b>Gateway Shapes</b>	<p>A simple series of movements judged on Rhythm, Suppleness and Contact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arena size - 80m x 40m; 60m x 40m; 40m x 40m; or 40m x 20m</li> <li>• Test can be called by the groom/backstepper</li> </ul>		
<b>Cones</b>	<p>Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum 15 pairs of cones</li> <li>• May include a maximum of 2 difficulties – oxer, zig-zag, etc.</li> <li>• Speed – 200 m/min</li> <li>• Gate width – 155 cm</li> </ul>		
<b>Obstacles</b>	<p>Maximum 4 obstacles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gated to D or E</li> <li>• 2 obstacles driven twice</li> </ul>		
<b>Progression</b>	<p>Competitors must progress out of Gateway Newcomers after 2 years. They can either progress into Gateway Allcomers or to full competition at any time subject to their eligibility for the class entered. They must progress to Allcomers after winning the National Championships or after 2 years at this level.</p>		
<b>National Championship Qualification.</b>  (Possible from National and Club events.)	<p>British Carriagedriving National Championships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The winner of each class will qualify for the National Championships.</li> <li>• Qualification will pass down the line if the winner has already qualified (to 3rd place).</li> <li>• It is the qualified driver's responsibility to notify the BC office that they have qualified, on what date and at which competition, if the competition was not at a National event Email notification to <a href="mailto:email@britishcarriagedriving.co.uk">email@britishcarriagedriving.co.uk</a></li> </ul>		

CLASS	<h1 style="text-align: center;">Gateway Allcomers</h1> <p style="text-align: right;">Singles or pairs</p>		
<b>Eligibility</b>	<p>The class is designed for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gateway Newcomers to progress into</li> <li>• Competitors who are bringing on a new single equine or starting a pair</li> <li>• Experienced indoor and inside/out competitors may start in this class or Newcomers as they wish.</li> <li>• Young Horses – a competitor wishing to compete at International Young Horse competitions may use this class to achieve approval to do so.</li> </ul>		
<b>Safety</b>	<p>Safety check prior to competition to check</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fit, safety &amp; cleanliness of vehicle and harness</li> <li>• Suitability of equine(s), vehicle, driver and groom</li> <li>• Children. If a driver is aged 6 to 12 inclusive the turnout must be capable of accommodating a competent adult on the carriage.</li> <li>• Grooms may stand throughout. (See guidelines for VSE &amp; SE for smaller equines if applicable.)</li> <li>• If a turnout has been unharnessed between any phases of the competition a further safety check must be made.</li> </ul>		
<b>Gateway Dressage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Pre-Novice (2025)</li> <li>• Arena 80m x 40m (or 60m x 40m)</li> <li>• The test may be called by the groom/backstepper</li> </ul>		
<b>Cones</b>	<p>Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum 15 pairs of cones</li> <li>• May include a maximum of 2 difficulties – oxer, zig-zag, etc.</li> <li>• Speed – 210 m/min</li> <li>• Gate width – 155 cm</li> </ul>		
<b>Obstacles</b>	<p>Maximum 4 obstacles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gated to D or E</li> <li>• 2 obstacles driven twice</li> </ul>		
<b>Progression</b>	<p>Competitors can progress to full competition at any time subject to their eligibility for the class entered. They can continue in the Allcomers class indefinitely.</p>		
<b>National Championship Qualification.</b>  (Possible from National and Club events.)	<p>British Carriagedriving National Championships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The winner of each class will qualify for the National Championships.</li> <li>• Qualification will pass down the line if the winner has already qualified (to 3rd place).               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Previous national championship winners will be excluded for calculation purposes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The turnout cannot attend the Allcomers Championships if they have previously been the class champion at this level.</li> <li>• It is the qualified driver's responsibility to notify the BC office that they have qualified, on what date and at which competition, if the competition was not a National event. Email notification to <a href="mailto:email@britishcarriagedriving.co.uk">email@britishcarriagedriving.co.uk</a></li> </ul>		

CLASS	Pre-Novice Singles		
Eligibility	<p>Pre-Novice is designed for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• competitors progressing from Gateway classes</li> <li>• competitors new to the sport who wish to start at this level outdoors</li> <li>• competitors new to outdoor competition having competed at Indoor and inside/out level.</li> </ul> <p>New competitors wishing to enter Pre-Novice at National competitions must have a BC competence certificate signed at two club events with a marathon. <a href="https://www.britishcarriagedriving.co.uk/driver-competence-form.pdf">driver competence form.pdf (britishcarriagedriving.co.uk)</a></p>		
Classification	Classes will be split by height only – horse and pony.		
Safety/Presentation	<p>Safety check prior to dressage and marathon to check</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fit, safety &amp; cleanliness of vehicle and harness</li> <li>• Suitability of equine, vehicle, driver and groom/backstepper</li> <li>• Grooms may stand throughout all phases</li> <li>• Carriage Width - 125cm for all phases</li> </ul>		
Dressage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Pre-Novice (2025)</li> <li>• Arena 80m x 40m (60m x 40m may also be used)</li> <li>• Test can be called by groom on the carriage</li> </ul>		
Marathon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section B only</li> <li>• Max 6 obstacles. If Obstacle No.1 is less than 1km from the start of Sec B then it will not be driven.</li> </ul>		
Cones	<p>Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum 20 pairs of cones</li> <li>• Speed – 210 m/min</li> <li>• Gate width – 155 cm</li> </ul>		
Progression	<p>Progression to Novice Singles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A competitor who has won a National Pre-Novice in which 3 or more competitors started the Event, on two occasions, will progress to Novice. Pre-Novice status is retained until the end of the season.</li> <li>• A competitor may choose to move to Novice after they have completed 2 Pre-Novice National Events without elimination, with a dressage mark of 60 or less.</li> <li>• The competitor may move to Novice during the season if they wish, but if they qualify at Novice for the National Championships the Novice class will be the one contested there.</li> <li>• A turnout (driver and equine) that wins the Pre-Novice National Championships will move to Novice for any competition following the Championships.</li> </ul>		

CLASS	Novice Singles		
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competitors progressing from Gateway or Pre-Novice classes</li> <li>• Competitors new to the sport who wish to start at this level outdoors</li> <li>• Competitors new to outdoor competition having competed at Indoor and inside/out competitions.</li> <li>• A competitor from a higher class level may compete in this class with a young or inexperienced equine that has not competed above Novice level. They must return to the Open Class at the end of the season in which they win their first event and will not be eligible to qualify for the National Novice Championship.</li> </ul> <p>New competitors wishing to enter this class at a National competition, without first competing Nationally at Pre-Novice, must have a BC competence certificate signed at two club events with a marathon.</p> <p><a href="#">driver competence form.pdf (britishcarriagedriving.co.uk)</a></p>		
Safety/Presentation	<p>Safety check prior to dressage and marathon to check</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fit, safety &amp; cleanliness of vehicle and harness</li> <li>• Suitability of equine, vehicle, driver and groom/backstepper</li> </ul>		
Classification	Classes will be split by height only – horse and pony.		
Dressage	BC Novice A; BC Novice B (2025)		
Marathon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 sections</li> <li>• 6 obstacles</li> </ul>		
Cones	<p>Carriage width – 138cm</p> <p>Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum 20 pairs of cones</li> <li>• Speed – 220 m/min</li> <li>• Gate width - 165 cm</li> </ul>		
Progression	<p>Progression to Open</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A competitor who has won a National Novice in which 3 or more competitors completed the Event, on two occasions, may progress to Open. They may remain in Novice for a further season if they wish.</li> <li>• A competitor may choose to move to Open after they have completed 2 Novice National Events without elimination, with a dressage mark of 60 or less.</li> <li>• The competitor may move to Open during the season if they wish, but if they qualify at Open for the National Championships the Open class will be the one contested there.</li> <li>• A turnout (driver and equine) that wins the Novice National Championships will move to Open for any competition following the Championships.</li> </ul>		

CLASS	<b>Open</b> Singles, Pairs, Tandem & Teams
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The winner of the Novice National Championship</li> <li>• A competitor who has won a National Novice class, in which 3 or more competitors completed the Event, on two occasions.</li> <li>• A competitor may progress to the Open Class after they have completed 2 Novice National Events without elimination, with a dressage mark of 60 or less.</li> <li>• A driver of a multiple turnout may enter this class following an assessment and having completed a minimum of 2 events at club level with the turnout.</li> </ul>
Safety/Presentation	<p>Safety check for any competitor competing for the first time at this level prior to dressage and marathon to check</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fit, safety &amp; cleanliness of vehicle and harness</li> <li>• Suitability of equine(s), vehicle, driver and groom/backstepper</li> </ul>
Presentation	On the move
Classification	Classes will be split by height, single, pairs and tandems (6 classes) Teams, if competing, will be combined with the tandem classes. Organisers may, at their discretion, combine pairs, tandems and teams.
Dressage	BC Open Singles A (2025); Singles FEI 2*; BC Open Pairs A (2025); Pairs FEI 2*; BC Tandems (2025); Teams FEI 2*.
Marathon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 sections</li> <li>• 6 or 7 obstacles</li> <li>• Majority gated to F</li> </ul>
Cones	<p>Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum 20 pairs of cones</li> <li>• Speed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Horse Tandem – 230 m/min</li> <li>○ Open Pony single – 245 m/min</li> <li>○ All other classes – 240 m/min</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Gate width <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Horse Team – 185 cm</li> <li>○ Horse Pair – 170 cm</li> <li>○ Pony Tandem - 165 cm</li> <li>○ All other classes – 160 cm</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Progression	A competitor may progress to the Advanced Class after they have completed 3 Open National Events without elimination and with a dressage mark of 60 or less at one of these events.

CLASS	<b>Advanced</b> International Level for Singles, Pairs & Teams
Eligibility	A competitor/athlete may progress to the Advanced Class after they have completed 3 Open National Events without elimination, with a dressage mark of 60 or less at one of these events.
Presentation	Judged on the move during dressage
Dressage	FEI 3* tests
Marathon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 sections</li> <li>• 6 to 8 obstacles</li> <li>• Majority gated to F</li> </ul>
Cones	<p>Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum 20 pairs of cones</li> <li>• Speed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Horse Single, Horse &amp; Pony Pairs - 250 m/min</li> <li>○ Pony Single – 260 m/min</li> <li>○ Horse &amp; Pony Teams – 240 m/min</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Gate width <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Singles &amp; Pony Pairs – 160 cm</li> <li>○ Horse Pair – 170 cm</li> <li>○ Horse Teams – 185 cm</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Progression	<p>Competitors who have progressed to the Advanced classes may return to the Open Class at any time and still retain their eligibility to return to the Advanced class when they wish, without the need to re-qualify.</p> <p>Competitors at this level, competing at events overseas, may pay two start fees to BC from two events they complete to enable qualification to the BC National Championships.</p>
National Championship Qualification.	<p>British Carriagedriving National Championships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualification can be achieved as stated for all classes</li> <li>• In addition competitors competing abroad may pay a National start fee to BC for 2 completed events at the appropriate level.</li> </ul>

CLASS	<b>Very Small Equine</b> Singles, Pairs, Tandem & Teams		
Eligibility	Any turnout 11hh (112cm) and under. The Organiser will monitor weight of carriage and driver/grooms, being conscious of the welfare of the equine(s) at all times. Guidance can be found at <a href="http://www.britishcarriagedriving.co.uk/guidelines_for_horse_and_pony_weights.pdf">guidelines for horse and pony weights.pdf (britishcarriagedriving.co.uk)</a>		
Safety/Presentation	<p>Safety check prior to dressage and marathon to check</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fit, safety &amp; cleanliness of vehicle and harness</li> <li>• Suitability of equine, vehicle, driver and groom</li> <li>• Groom on the carriage may stand throughout</li> </ul> <p>Preferred Carriage Width - 125cm for all phases. Narrower carriage – please inform organiser at time of entry.</p>		
Grooms	<p>Note: <b>Driver 6 to 12 years must have a competent adult on the carriage. See Competitors Rule Book, Page 8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 wheeler. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Groom must be in close attendance throughout all phases (including the marathon section) being able to render assistance if required. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May be on foot, sitting alongside or on backstep (if fitted).</li> <li>▪ May travel on marathon between obstacles on foot, by bike, or quad (if allowed by organiser)</li> <li>▪ If on backstep, they can stand in dressage and cones.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• 4 wheeler    single &amp; tandem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Groom on back step of carriage.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 4 wheeler    pair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Groom on backstep of carriage</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 4 wheeler    Team – 2 grooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ One Groom can be on foot in close attendance being able to render assistance if required.</li> <li>○ Minimum One groom to be on carriage in all phases.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
Dressage	BC Novice Test		
Marathon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part of Section B – max 4 kilometres</li> <li>• 4 obstacles</li> <li>• 10 km/h, 6 minutes per km.</li> </ul>		
Cones	<p>Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum 20 pairs of cones</li> <li>• Speed - 200 m/min</li> <li>• Gate width – 155 cm</li> </ul>		
Progression	A competitor may remain indefinitely in VSE or progress to Small Equine or other classes for which they are eligible. VSE competitors are not restricted to this class and may enter SE or other classes. If entering eligible classes they will start at Novice level unless previously qualified to a higher level.		



CLASS	<b>Small Equine</b> Singles, Pairs, Tandem & Teams
Eligibility	Any turnout 12.2hh (127cm) and under. The Organiser and Judges will monitor weight of carriage and driver/grooms, being conscious of the welfare of the equine(s) at all times. Guidance can be found at <a href="http://www.britishcarriagedriving.co.uk/guidelines%20for%20horse%20and%20pony%20weights.pdf">guidelines for horse and pony weights.pdf (britishcarriagedriving.co.uk)</a>
Safety/Presentation  Note: <b>Driver 6 to 12 years must have a competent adult on the carriage. See Competitors Rule Book, Page 8</b>	Safety check prior to dressage and marathon to check <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fit, safety &amp; cleanliness of vehicle and harness</li> <li>• Suitability of equine, vehicle, driver and groom</li> <li>• Carriage Width - 125cm for all phases.</li> <li>• Grooms may stand throughout.</li> </ul>
Grooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 wheeler. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Groom must be on the carriage throughout all phases</li> <li>○ May sit alongside driver or be on backstep (if fitted).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 4 wheeler single &amp; tandem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Groom on backstep of carriage.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 4 wheeler pair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Groom on backstep of carriage</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 4 wheeler Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2 grooms on carriage</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Dressage	BC Novice Test
Marathon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section B</li> <li>• 6 obstacles. Max 6 obstacles. If Obstacle No.1 is less than 1km from the start of Sec B then it will not be driven.</li> <li>• 11 km/h, 5.45 minutes per km.</li> </ul>
Cones	Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum 20 pairs of cones</li> <li>• Speed - 220 m/min</li> <li>• Gate width – 155 cm</li> </ul>
Progression	SE competitors are not restricted to this class and may enter any class for which they are eligible. They may remain in this class indefinitely. If entering eligible classes they will start at Novice level.

CLASS	<b>Para Drivers</b> Singles & Pairs
Eligibility	Any driver who has completed the Drivers with Disabilities Protocol <a href="#">Drivers with disabilities protocol.pdf (britishcarriagedriving.co.uk)</a> and has been classified <a href="#">Drivers with Disabilities Approval Application Form.pdf (britishcarriagedriving.co.uk)</a>
Safety/Presentation	Safety check may be required depending on experience prior to dressage to check <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fit, safety &amp; cleanliness of vehicle and harness</li> <li>• Suitability of equine, vehicle, driver and groom</li> <li>• Suitability of any safety harness</li> </ul>
See FEI rules	<a href="#">FEI - Driving Rules 2024 Clean-11.04.pdf</a> (updated 2025 if applicable)
Grooms	See BC protocol.
Dressage	To be confirmed
Marathon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 sections</li> <li>• 6 obstacles</li> <li>• Gates driven to E only</li> </ul>
Cones	Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum 20 pairs of cones</li> <li>• Speed - 230 m/min</li> <li>• Gate width – 160 cm</li> </ul>
Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para Drivers may compete in any class for which they are eligible.</li> <li>• If a competition is organising a Para only class the para driver may choose to compete in that class Para class or not.</li> <li>• Para classes will be run within the main class structure with adjustments made as necessary to accommodate the Para drivers.</li> </ul>

CLASS	<h1>Young Drivers encompassing Children, Juniors &amp; Under 25</h1>		
			Single, Pair
Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young Drivers will drive in the BC class for which they are eligible.</li> <li>• They will drive the dressage test required by that class.</li> <li>• In addition they may wish to drive their relevant Young Drivers FEI test at the end of the day.</li> </ul>		
Eligibility	<p>Determined by age of driver.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children – Single pony – Driver age 12-14 years</li> <li>• Juniors – Single Horse &amp; Pony – 14-18 years</li> <li>• Juniors – Horse Pair – 16-18 years</li> <li>• Under 25 – Singles &amp; Horse Pair – 16-25 years</li> <li>• Under 25 – Horse 4s – 18-25 years</li> </ul>		
Grooms	See FEI rules <a href="#">FEI - Driving Rules 2024 Clean-11.04.pdf</a> (updated 2025 if applicable)		
Dressage	To be confirmed		
Marathon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 sections</li> <li>• Children - 5 obstacles             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gated to D</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Juniors and Under 25 – 6 obstacles             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Majority gated to F</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
Cones	<p>Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children – 15 pairs of cones             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Speed 220 m/min</li> <li>○ Width 20 cm over carriage width</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Juniors and Under 25 – 20 pairs of cones             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Speed                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Single Horse, Horse &amp; Pony Pair – 250 m/min</li> <li>▪ Pony single – 260 m/min</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Width                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Horse Pair – 170 cm</li> <li>▪ All other classes – 160 cm</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>		