

British Carriagedriving

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBSTACLE OBSERVERS

1. Please remember your main objective is to **Observe and Record Correctly**. Throughout the day remain consistent - do the same for all Athletes. Agree between team members, what was observed and in the case of a contentious point please make sure **all are agreed** on what happened. Then it is essential to call for the Technical Delegate or a Member of the Ground Jury; a number of whom are situated around the Obstacles.
 2. You will be supplied with a number of Red Dot Labels with your paperwork. If you have an Athlete Incident; a Red Dot is to be applied to the Obstacle Observers Drawing Sheet, If the Incident is an Error of Course or a Corrected Course; immediately call or Radio for a Jury Member to confirm this with you and get them to sign the Red Dot before handing the Sheet to the Score Collector.
 3. Obstacle Observers should not write down an Athletes' number until **they see and confirm that the Athlete has entered the Obstacle**.
 4. Please give all the **Obstacle Observer Report Sheets** to the Score Collector, but you must retain your copy of the **Control Sheet**.
 5. The Athlete's time should be recorded in **Minutes, Seconds and Hundredths of seconds**: exactly as it appears on the master stopwatch, or the electronic timing device. The timing takes place from the moment the **nose of the leading Horse** crosses the Entry Flags, until the nose of the leading Horse crosses the Exit Flags.
 6. With the exception of the timing, the Athlete is under your control **AND INCURS PENALTIES** from the moment the **nose of the leading Horse** crosses the Entry Flags, until the **Complete Turnout** has passed through the Exit Flags. Groom(s) must be on the Vehicle as it enters the Obstacle, but do not need to be on the Vehicle when it leaves the Obstacle; however, they must be back on the Vehicle before passing the 30 metre marker, positioned outside the Obstacle. Once clear of the Obstacle **Groom(s) may re-enter of foot** for any purpose.
 7. To drive the Obstacle correctly the Athlete must first pass through the Entry Flags and then through **each pair of lettered gates** in the correct sequence and direction and finally through the Exit Flags. It follows that an Athlete who drives part way into a gate in error, stops and reverses out has not made an Error of Course.
 8. If a gate is driven out of sequence the Athlete must return and correct the mistake.
Thus: A,B,D,E,F is a **wrong course**
A,B,D,C,D,E,F is a **corrected course**
- Once an Athlete has "Gone Wrong" **All Gates are "NEUTRALISED" until the Athlete corrects himself.**
9. Once a gate has been negotiated correctly it is considered "free" and may be driven again in either direction.
 10. **Record the sequence of gates** including gates driven in reverse on the **Obstacle Observer Report Sheet**. If there is an Error of Course or a Corrected Course apply a Red Dot to the Obstacle Observer Report Sheet.
 11. Should an Athlete remain within the Obstacle for more than 5 minutes, the **Whistle must be blown** twice. The Athlete must leave the Obstacle immediately, with help if necessary, and should return to the Stables.
 12. The only person to handle the Reins, Whip or Brake is the Athlete; however the Groom(s) may handle the Reins if the Vehicle is stationary. Groom(s) may give assistance to an Athlete to prevent him from falling out of the Vehicle.
 13. It is the responsibility of the Athlete to stop immediately and put a Groom(s) down whenever a **Horse has its leg over a pole, lead bar or shaft** and correct the situation. He must stop to rectify this problem when instructed by the Obstacle Observer in charge of the Obstacle.
 14. It is the responsibility of the Athlete to stop immediately and put a Groom(s) down whenever **a Horse has its leg over a trace** and correct the situation. He must stop to rectify this problem when instructed by the Obstacle Observer in charge of the Obstacle.
 15. Should a Dislodgeable/Detachable Element be dislodged/ detached; it will incur a penalty and Groom(s) may not stop a Dislodgeable/Detachable Element from being moved.
 16. If a Groom(s) puts two (2) feet on the Ground or on any part of an Obstacle, penalties will be incurred.
 17. Outside Assistance is allowed to right an overturned Vehicle or help as a **result of an accident**, providing the Groom(s) are dismounted. Maintain control of the situation until the Technical Delegate arrives and takes control.
 18. Should an Athlete damage part of an Obstacle, blocking his intended route: the Athlete must put a Groom down to remove the obstruction. The Obstacle Observers should NOT assist, even if requested.
 19. Obstacle Observers should report, any excessive use of the whip or pressing of exhausted Horses by Radio. They should also record any unusual occurrences.
 20. After leaving the Final Obstacle, **Athletes may only stop to make repairs within 30 metres of the Obstacle**. They may only Walk or Trot to the Finish. Record the time of any Stops, Cantering or Galloping, whatever the duration, between the Exit Flags of the Final Obstacle (or the last 300m) and the Finish. Also record any stops, circles or deviations from the marked course.