



AUSTRALIAN CARRIAGE DRIVING SOCIETY INC.

GRADED DRIVEN DRESSAGE RULES and GUIDELINES

3rd Edition | Effective 01 Jan 2023



Boyd Exell OAM | Multi-World Champion

Photo courtesy: Krisztina Horvath

Australian Carriage Driving Society (ACDS)

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Preamble

This Graded Driven Dressage Rules and Guidelines Book applies to all levels of Graded Driven Dressage Qualifiers (GDDQs) and Championships.

Any other Dressage events (non GDDQs) may be held; however, attendance will not count toward qualifications for any Championships. (Refer Rule 11.1)

To qualify for State or National Championships, a horse must complete the requirements stated in these Rules. These Rules must be followed, including the use of the standard proformas available on the Australian Carriage Driving Society (ACDS) Federal Website.

Results of any other Dressage events (unofficial training/competition days, rally/club days, etc), will not qualify the horse for a Championship and, subsequently, do not need to be forwarded to the ACDS Federal Grading Officer.

Rules cannot provide for every eventuality. As a result, this Rule Book is designed to be flexible and adapt to this developing discipline by referring in appropriate circumstances to Annexes for guidance, information, suggestions and recommendations on how to safely manage this discipline at events.

In any *unforeseen or exceptional circumstances*, it is the duty of the Head Judge (Judge at C) and/or a nominated Chief Judge (if two arenas are used or judges' positions are swapped around) to make ethical decisions in a sporting spirit and as near as possible to the intention of these Rules, By-laws and other publications of the ACDS.

Throughout this publication, the word "horse" shall mean horse, pony or donkey.

It is recognised that for practical reasons, officials at Graded Driven Dressage Qualifiers and Championships may also be connected with drivers who may enter. Officials are always required to show a high standard of fairness and to minimise any conflicts of interest, especially on subjective decisions.

Owing to the relatively small pool of interested, willing and competent people available, it is not practical to rule out trainers, family or even Drivers from helping and acting as officials (except as a judge) at Graded Driven Dressage Qualifiers and Championships. Nonetheless, organisers are urged to ensure GDDQ and Graded Driven Dressage Championships are both run impartially and clearly seen to be fair. It is important to stick exactly to clear Rules the same for all.

ACDS HORSE WELFARE POLICY

The Australian Carriage Driving Society places the utmost importance on the welfare of the Horse as the primary consideration in all carriage driving activities.

Horse welfare must never be compromised by competitive or commercial interests and all ACDS members are expected to accept and abide by this principle.

ACDS Rules, Guidelines and Risk Management Policies are intended to improve Horse welfare standards. The Rules, Guidelines and Policies are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure effective promotion and implementation of best-practice Horse welfare by ACDS Members.

Regardless of the carriage driving activity or discipline, the following over-arching Horse welfare principles apply:

- **At all stages during preparation, training and use of carriage Horses & ponies, welfare must take precedence over other demands.**

This includes ensuring good Horse management; using training methods which are appropriate to the physical and mental capabilities of the Horse and which do not result in pain or fear; use of harness and carriages which are correctly fitted and do not cause pain or injury; a high standard of farriery and foot care; and appropriate methods of transport.

- **Horses & ponies must be fit, competent and capable and in good health, appropriate to the type of activity and the specific demands.**

This includes ensuring an adequate level of fitness for the activity, applying appropriate Horse-health and bio-security practices; and allowing adequate recovery time following veterinary treatment.

- **Activities must not prejudice Horse welfare.**

Venues, stabling / yards, courses and their components must be designed and maintained with the safety of the Horse in mind. Competitions and activities must take into consideration the best interests of the Horses involved. The effects of extreme weather must be taken into account and mitigated as appropriate.

- **Every effort must be made to ensure Horses & ponies receive proper and humane treatment during their lives.**

This includes provision of adequate veterinary and health care; the prompt and appropriate treatment of injury or illness; sympathetic and humane treatment during retirement; and where necessary, appropriate methods of euthanasia to minimise suffering.

The ACDS supports the ongoing awareness and skills development of its members in relation to Horse welfare and encourages all those involved in equestrian sport to attain the highest levels of knowledge in relation to care & management of the Horse.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Purpose of the Code

This Code of Conduct is intended to outline the behaviour expectations for Members of the Australian Carriage Driving Society Inc. (ACDS) and those associated with members at ACDS activities. Federal Council recognises that the ACDS is made up of incorporated bodies and clubs in each State of Australia and that each State has laws that may be relevant to a Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct is intended to set broad over-arching principles, which shall be incorporated into each State's/Club's Code of Conduct, subject to these principles complying with the laws applicable to the relevant State.

This Code of Conduct is to be read in conjunction with the ACDS Constitution, By-laws, Regulations and Policies as applicable from time to time.

Expectations

Members of the ACDS and their associates are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the best interests of the ACDS and is commensurate with the expectations of the broader membership, community standards and the law. Members are encouraged to develop and maintain an inclusive environment that promotes participation.

Behaviour, which may be considered as discriminatory, bullying, intimidatory, violent or of a harassing (sexual or otherwise) nature will not be tolerated. Unjust or intemperate criticism of other members or behaviour that brings the Society and/or sport into disrepute is similarly not acceptable.

Of principle expectation for all ACDS Members and those associated with Members, is compliance with the Rules and Regulations of the ACDS and the Society's Horse Welfare Policy.

More Specifically:

Athletes/Participants and their Associates are expected to behave in a courteous, respectful and sporting manner; comply with the Rules of the relevant activity and any reasonable direction from an official. Horse welfare considerations shall always take priority over competitive or commercial interests.

Officials and Volunteers are expected to conduct themselves professionally; be respectful towards participants and other officials/volunteers; take all reasonable steps to ensure activities are conducted in a safe and fair manner and comply with the ACDS's Conflict of Interest Policy.

Office Bearers at a Club, State and Federal Level are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner; take all reasonable steps to ensure the ACDS is meeting its legal and constitutional obligations; declare any conflict of interest that may arise in the course of fulfilling their role and, in all decisions, act in the best interests of the ACDS and its membership.

Coaches and Trainers are expected to adhere to and promote best-practice in horse welfare; at all times act in the best interests of their client, comply with the ACDS's Conflict of Interest Policy and take all reasonable steps to ensure the training process is conducted in a safe and positive environment.

Compliance with the Rules and Regulations of the ACDS, State Branch and the respective affiliated club is a condition of Membership.

Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action against the member in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Rules and Regulations.

Non-members who are deemed to have breached the Code of Conduct, may be asked by a representative of the Society to leave the ACDS activity and may be refused entry to future ACDS activities.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 By definition, the aim of Driven Dressage is to achieve the harmonious development of the physique and ability of the horse through progressive training.
- 1.2 The objective of Graded Driven Dressage is to achieve freedom, regularity of paces, harmony, impulsion, suppleness, lightness, ease of movement and correct bending of the horse/s on the move.
- 1.3 The grading system in Graded Driven Dressage encourages correct training and the development of the horse while offering achievable goals for the Driver. Graded Driven Dressage is training-based, where the horse's level of training is judged.
- 1.4 These Rules cover Graded Driven Dressage and other aspects associated with Driven Dressage and are a reference for judges in the first instance and the information contained will also benefit Drivers to appreciate what judges are expecting them to produce. The movements and gaits judges will be looking for are explained in '*Movements, Terminology, General Impression, Definitions and Terms*' (Refer to Table of Contents – Guidelines on Page 6 of this document.)
- 1.5 All Graded Driven Dressage Qualifiers (GDDQs) and Graded Driven Dressage Championships must adhere to these Rules, however, if something outside the Rules needs a decision, it is the duty of the Head Judge, in consultation with other judge/s, to make ethical decisions in the spirit of the sport, adhering as closely as possible to these Rules.

2. JUDGES CODE OF CONDUCT

2.1 Prohibited from Judging

The following may not serve as judges at an event:

- The owner, or close relative of the owner, of a horse taking part in a class they are to judge
 - A Driver, or close relative, taking part in the class they are to judge
 - The regular trainer of the Driver or horse they are to judge (regular is defined as training within a month of the event)
- 2.2 An owner, consultant, practical coach, instructor or trainer of a Driver or horse cannot serve as a judge within 30 days of the last tutorial in either an individual or group lesson, excluding casual conversations.

3. FINANCIAL & CURRENCY STATUS OF JUDGES

- 3.1 To retain accreditation, all ACDS judges must be at least an Active (non-driving) Member of the ACDS and must attend a workshop every three years.

4. REGISTRATION – HORSES AND DRIVERS

- 4.1 The ACDS One Activity Membership is available for non-members enabling them to drive ACDS registered or unregistered horses. Unregistered horses may only be entered in a Hors Concours class.
- 4.2 All horses **MUST** be ACDS registered to qualify for GDD Championships (Refer 7.6.1). The horse will qualify for Championships if it is driven by an ACDS member or a non-ACDS member with a One Day Activity Membership.
- 4.3 **ALL** horses **MUST** be ACDS registered and all Drivers must be members of the ACDS to compete at Championships.

5. THE GRADING SYSTEM

- 5.1 The grading system is structured to guide the horse and Driver through training in a continuous, systematic and progressive manner. The goal is to achieve a calm, supple and obedient horse that is also confident, attentive and willing to please in their work. **NB:** Heights are **NOT** applicable in Graded Driven Dressage.
- 5.2 The current levels for Graded Driven Dressage are Preliminary, Novice, Elementary, Intermediate, Open and Advanced.
- 5.3 Singles and Multiples have separate classes at all levels.
- 5.4 To enter Preliminary Classes, horses must be at least three (3) years old. To enter at all other levels, horses must be at least four (4) years old. Age for all horses is taken at 1st of August each year.
- 5.5 Annex A, on page 26, details the specifications of requirements for possible movements for each level. The tests currently being used fit the levels described. Additional tests can be developed to fit within the parameters of the movements of each level outlined.
- 5.6 All tests are to be driven in a 100 x 40m arena unless lack of space prevents this. If most of the entries are in the Preliminary/Novice classes, an 80 x 40m arena can be used. A diagram of the 100 x 40m dressage arena is shown at Annex B, on page 28, and a diagram of the 80 x 40m layout is shown at Annex C on page 29.

5.7 Grading

- 5.7.1 Grading points will **NOT** be awarded at any Graded Driven Dressage Qualifiers or State or National Graded Driven Dressage Championships
- 5.7.2 It is the **HORSE**, or the same combination in multiples, that is graded, **NOT** the Driver.
- 5.7.3 Multiples may start at any level and consist of:
- Pairs and Tandems – three nominated horses; or
 - Four-in-Hand – six nominated horses.

For the purpose of clarification, if a combination of two (2) horses (as a pair or tandem combination) or team of four (4) horses or pony team has previously been driven at a GDDQ or Championship and one or more horses are removed from that combination and new horses are included in that combination, it is deemed a 'new combination'. The new combination is treated separately for the purpose of grading.

5.7.4 Any of the nominated horses may be substituted into the multiple at a GDDQ.

5.7.5 At all GDDQs, horses must complete the tests for that year as per the following:

- Two tests at the horse's graded level; or
- One test at the horse's graded level and one test at the level immediately above.

5.8 Upgrading

5.8.1 Drivers may choose to voluntarily 'upgrade' their horse/s at any time.

5.8.2 A horse **or combination** will be automatically upgraded, if at a National or State Graded Driven Dressage Championship, they are the Champion at that Graded Level AND achieve 75%

5.8.3 A horse is unable to return to its current graded level if:

- the horse is driven in two (2) tests at any level above its graded level at one GDDQ;

OR

- the Driver elects to enter the horse at a higher level.

5.9 Downgrading

5.9.1 A horse may be downgraded if subsequently purchased/leased or if a horse is returning after a long break of two (2) years or more.

5.9.2 A horse can only be downgraded by one level and only on written application to the relevant State Dressage Panel. All applications will be dealt with according to their merits.

5.9.3 The State Dressage Panel must consult the Federal Driven Dressage Convenor (FDDC) and inform the Federal Grading Officer of any approved downgrade.

6 ANNUAL GRADED SEASON

6.1 The Graded Driven Dressage season year will officially commence on January 1 each year and end on December 31 of that same year. The qualification is valid for that year only, based on the approved tests being driven.

6.2 Horse/s may compete in any National and/or State Graded Driven Dressage Championships held in that calendar year, provided they have qualified.

6.3 In the event of a National or State GDD Championship not being held in any year, the qualification period will re-commence from the next year.

7 GRADED DRIVEN DRESSAGE QUALIFIERS

- 7.1 For all GDDQs, a copy of the Graded Driven Dressage Qualifier Schedule must be sent to the State Dressage Convenor prior to the Qualifier to allow for ratification by the State Panel. Timelines will vary according to State requirements.
- 7.2 The Graded Driven Dressage Qualifier Schedule, including an Entry Form is on the ACDS Website and this Schedule and Entry Form must be used for all GDDQs.
- 7.3 At a GDDQ, all horses must complete the tests selected by the National Dressage Panel in consultation with State Dressage Panel. Refer to Rule 5.7.5.
- 7.4 Drivers wishing to, **may** enter horses as Hors Concours (HC) at any GDDQ. Driving HC does not qualify horse/s for Championships.

7.5 Awards

- 7.5.1 At GDDQs, awards may be made at the discretion of the Organising Committee.

7.6 Qualifying for Championships

- 7.6.1 All horses must have completed a minimum of two GDDQs annually to qualify for that year's Championships. (See Grading 5.7.5)
- 7.6.2 Horses may only compete at the Championships in their graded level, as at the close of entries.

8 GRADED DRIVEN DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS (STATE & NATIONAL)

- 8.1 A Club wishing to host the **State Driven Dressage Championships** should have held a GDDQ during the current year.
- 8.2 Applications to host the State Driven Dressage Championships must be made through the State Dressage Panel prior to ratification by the State Branch. The application must include a Draft Schedule and Entry Form. Timelines are applicable to State requirements.
- 8.3 For **National Driven Dressage Championships** (as designated by the rota), a Draft Schedule is created by the FDDC in consultation with the relevant State Dressage Convenor. The Draft Schedule and Entry Form is sent to the Federal Secretary six months before the event for ratification by Federal Council. The State Dressage Convenor then presents it to their State Branch meeting for approval to run the event.
- 8.4 The Draft Schedule and Entry Form for State or National Championships, available from State Dressage Convenors and the Federal Dressage Convenor.
- 8.5 At all State and National Championships, horses must complete a new test, driven twice. The new test is selected annually by the National Dressage Panel a minimum of two (2) months prior to the State or National Championships. *The purpose of this is to see if the Driver can present their horse in a new test having prepared it on their own (or with the assistance from a coach)*

8.6 Awards

8.6.1 For State and National Graded Driven Dressage Championships:

- All graded levels will be offered at Championships;
- Rosettes/Sashes will be awarded;
- Each level will have a Champion and Reserve Champion for both single and multiples;
- Awards will be given to third (3rd) place (more if numbers warrant) in each level;
- The Champion in each level is the horse with the highest aggregate gained from the two (2) tests driven; and
- The Freestyle will have a Champion for Singles and a Champion for Multiples.

9 DRIVING THE TEST

9.1 Marks out of 10 will be awarded for each numbered movement and for each heading under General Impression on the following basis:

10: Excellent	4: Insufficient
9: Very Good	3: Fairly Bad
8: Good	2: Bad
7: Fairly Good	1: Very Bad
6: Satisfactory	0: Not Executed
5: Sufficient	

Half (½) marks may be awarded.

- 9.2 A Driver who enters the arena before the starting signal or who fails to enter the arena within 90 seconds of the starting signal may be eliminated, at the discretion of the Judge at C. Before entering the arena, the Driver should report to the Dressage Marshalling Steward (DMS) or as otherwise directed.
- 9.3 Dressage tests are not timed. Scoring commences as the Driver enters the arena and ends on completion of the second salute, thereafter the Driver should go forward at a working trot, turn left or right, towards either 'E' or 'B' or through 'X', then exits at 'A'. Saluting the Judge at C at the start and finish of each dressage test is mandatory for all Drivers.
- 9.4 Part of the turnout leaving the arena during a movement will be marked down for inaccuracy.
- 9.5 The whole turnout leaving the arena will incur elimination.

9.6 Error of Test

- 9.6.1 There is no separate penalty for an Error of Test, it is merely marked down by all judges. If a Driver attempts to perform a movement or attempts to maintain the pace required and fails to do so, **but does not deviate from the track**, the Judge at 'C' must treat it as an "Error of Test" and give the movement an appropriate mark.

9.7 Error of Course

- 9.7.1 An "Error of Course" is when a Driver deviates markedly from the required track or when a movement is omitted altogether.
- 9.7.2 The bell **must** be rung to record an Error of Course and the competitor should drive up to the judge at 'C' and ask or wait for clarification, even if the competitor appreciates where they have gone wrong. The test must continue from the **beginning** of the movement where the Error of Course was made. If an Error of Course occurs in movement 1, the competitor **must not leave the arena**, but recommence at the centre line at A, **inside the arena**.
- 9.7.3 An 'Error of Course' incurs penalties recorded by the Head Judge only. The side judge/s note the Error of Course but do not award penalties, however, their score and comments should reflect the Error of Course.
- 9.7.4 The judge at 'C' must record a concise explanation of where the Error of Course occurred, in case of protests. The side judge(s) should do the same, but not award a penalty.
- 9.7.5 Competitors should, when the bell is rung for an Error of Course, drive up to the judge at 'C' and ask or wait for clarification, even if the competitor appreciates where they have gone wrong. The competitor will then be certain at which point the judge wishes the test to be resumed and the judge will have time to return to their judging position at 'C'.
- 9.7.6 If the driver, upon hearing the bell, realises the mistake immediately and indicates that they can rectify the mistake correctly, the judge will let them continue. If the competitor is incorrect, the judge must ring the bell again and a second Error of Course will apply.
- 9.7.7 If the head judge hesitates when there has been an Error of Course and does not ring the bell, by at least the end of the following movement, it cannot be recorded as an Error of Course. The head judge must mark it as an inaccuracy.
- 9.7.8 If the head judge at 'C' has not noted an error at all, the competitor has the benefit of the doubt. It cannot be recorded as an Error of Course by the other judge/s; however, it can be reflected in their scores. The official score of the Judge at 'C' cannot be changed even if witnessed by other judges, spectators or recorded by camera.
- 9.7.9 Should the judge ring the bell when it should not have been, they should apologise to the competitor and will not penalise as an Error of Course.

9.7.10 For an Error of Course, penalties will be distributed as follows:

- First occasion: 5 penalties
- Second occasion: 10 penalties
- Third occasion: Elimination

9.8 Disobedience

9.8.1 Any resistance in the forward movement, kicking or rearing is considered to be disobedience and will be penalised by the Judge at C, as follows:

- 1st Occasion 5 penalties
- 2nd Occasion 10 penalties
- 3rd Occasion Elimination

9.9 Carriage Overturn

9.9.1 A carriage overturning is elimination

10 FREESTYLE TO MUSIC

10.1 In the Freestyle there will be two (2) classes. One class for SINGLES and one class for MULTIPLES. Pas de deux (two carriages) are permitted.

10.2 The arena size is 100m x 40m.

10.3 Time allowed is 4 – 6 minutes. The time and scoring starts from the entry at 'A'. The salute at 'X' is optional. Time and scoring finishes with a salute to indicate the end of the test. Movements performed after the prescribed time will not be scored.

10.4 Freestyle Music

10.4.1 Any type of music may be selected. A cohesive musical theme will be scored higher than a disjointed arrangement of music. Vocals are not recommended (but permitted). A simple guide is – if vocals are used, they should be used with discretion. The music is the focus. For an effective freestyle, the tempo of the music should match the tempo of the horse's gaits.

10.4.2 Drivers are to supply music on a clearly labelled recording device and must be supplied to the Event Organising Committee at the close of entries so the device can be tested with the equipment being used. If driving more than one test, a separate device for each test must be supplied. No exit music (i.e., no music after the end salute) is to be included. Music will be turned off at the end salute.

10.4.3 Prior to entering the arena, each Driver must indicate to the Marshall when they require their music to commence.

10.5 Attire

- 10.5.1 Appropriate attire is considered to be dressage attire or an outfit befitting the music's theme, however, if a themed outfit is to be worn it must be safe and secure and the horse is used to it.

10.6 Required Movements

- 10.6.1 As a minimum the following movements are to be included in the test:
- Walk – 50m minimum;
 - Working Trot – left and right rein;
 - Lengthened stride and/or extended trot – minimum of 30m; and
 - Circles – must show at least one on each rein with a minimum diameter of 20m.
- 10.6.2 Any other movements or paces may include canter, collection, deviations etc. and will be scored accordingly.

10.7 Points Awarded

- 10.7.1 Points will be awarded in two sections:
- Technical execution of movements – 70 points; and
 - Artistic presentation – 90 points.
 - Total – 160 or 170 points, dependent upon extra movements applied above the 'Required Movements' (refer 10.6.2).
- 10.8 The Freestyle to Music Judging Sheet is on the ACDS Website.

10.9 Safety

- 10.9.1 For safety reasons, Drivers are not to include rearing, kicking out, galloping or any other unsafe practice as part of their routine. Actions deemed as unsafe acts by the Judge at 'C' will result in elimination.

11 OTHER DRESSAGE EVENTS

- 11.1 Any other dressage events (non GDDQs) may be held; however, attendance will not count toward qualifications for any Championships.

12 ORGANISATION

12.1 Entries

- 12.1.1 The annual Graded Driven Dressage Qualifier Pro-Forma Schedule and the Entry Form are available on the ACDS Website and must be used for all Graded Driven Dressage Qualifiers. The annual State and National GDD Championship Schedules and Entry Forms are available from the FDDC and/or State Dressage Convenors.

12.1.2 Entries are only accepted if prepaid and on the appropriate forms.

12.1.3 The organisers reserve the right to refuse any entry with or without stating a reason.

12.2 Officials

12.2.1 **Event Manager** – The organising and overall running of a GDDQ or Graded Driven Dressage Championship rests with the Event Manager. They may delegate duties to an Event Secretary and marshals considered competent. An Event Manager's duties do not include any judging decisions.

12.2.2 **Dressage Judges** – there shall be a minimum of two judges per dressage arena, preferably three and the following applies:

For Graded Driven Dressage Qualifiers

- For Preliminary, Novice and Elementary levels, one of these judges must be selected from the ACDS judges' list.
- At Intermediate, Open and Advanced levels, one of the two judges must be an ACDS advanced judge.
- In exceptional circumstances a candidate judge, or a ridden dressage judge, who is familiar with carriage driving, may be used as a side judge. A candidate judge and a ridden judge should not be used together. All judges must be a member of the ACDS.
- Judges must have knowledge of the requirements, movements and specifications of each level, particularly at the lower levels where it is important to be realistic and encouraging.

For Graded Driven Dressage Championships

- All judges must be selected from the ACDS judges' list, one of which must be an Advanced Judge.
 - Different judges must be used for the second test. In instances where this is not possible (distance, availability, cost), the judges must be in a different position for the second test. The Head Judge must be the Advanced Judge. This applies to all levels.
- 12.2.3 **Penciller** – One penciller must be allocated to each Judge. Judges are to brief pencillers as to their requirements. Abbreviations for use by pencillers are shown at Annex D on page 30.
- 12.2.4 **Dressage Marshalling Steward (DMS)** – One DMS should be allocated to each arena and must be briefed by the Judge at 'C' prior to the commencement of activities.
- 12.2.5 **Scorer** – a dedicated Scorer must be allocated for each event.

12.3 Scoring System

- 12.3.1 Half (½) marks may be awarded.
- 12.3.2 All scores are calculated in positive points and converted to a percentage (See Annex E on page 31).
- 12.3.3 Results from GDDQs and Graded Driven Dressage Championships are to be sent to the ACDS Federal Grading Officer at acdsresults@gmail.com and the relevant State Convenor **within seven (7) days** and will be retained for attendance and grading purposes.
- 12.3.4 Grading lists are on the Federal Website.

13 DRIVERS AND GROOMS

- 13.1 Before entering any Graded Driven Dressage Championship, all Drivers must be current financial members of the ACDS. Grooms do not need to be ACDS members.
- 13.2 Grooms are optional for adult Drivers of singles; however, multiples must have the required number of Grooms, which are:

- Pairs – one (1) Groom;
- Tandem – one (1) Groom; and
- Four-in-hand – two (2) Grooms

Grooms must have attained their 10th birthday for singles and 14th birthday for multiples to participate in GDD events.

- 13.7 In multiple classes the Groom/s must sit behind the Driver in a four-wheeled carriage and beside the Driver in a two-wheeled carriage.
- 13.4 Grooms must remain seated in their proper positions between entering and leaving the arena (groom standing will incur 5 penalties applied once per test). They are not permitted to handle the reins or the whip (will incur 20 penalties) nor speak or indicate the course to the Driver (will incur 10 penalties once per test). The Groom may handle the reins or the whip without penalty provided the carriage remains stationary.
- 13.5 A helmet is not compulsory in Graded Driven Dressage other than for Drivers/Grooms under the age of 18 years. Helmets must comply with the ACDS By-law 14.11.

13.6 Junior Drivers

- 13.6.1 Junior Definition – A person who has not attained the age of 18 years.

13.6.2 Junior Drivers may participate in accordance with the ACDS By-Law 14.8, as follows:

- Youngest Driving Age – (single horse or pony). A Junior Driver aged 6 – 7 years (inclusive) must be accompanied in the vehicle by an ACDS adult member (an experienced driving person) seated alongside at all times and holding a second pair of reins attached to the bit.
- A Junior Driver aged 8 – 15 years inclusive must be accompanied in the vehicle by an ACDS adult member (an experienced driving person), who must be facing forward.
- Stallions – Junior Drivers under 18 years of age are not allowed to drive stallions at ACDS events.
- Junior Multiple Drivers – a Junior Driver aged 16-17 years (inclusive) may drive a pair or tandem or team of ponies. They must be accompanied in the vehicle by an ACDS adult member (an experienced driving person). A Junior driver cannot drive a horse multiple (pair, tandem four-in-hand) until they turn 18 years of age.

13.7 Memory

13.7.1 The Driven Dressage Test should be driven from memory. Speaking or indication given by a groom will incur 10 penalties (10 penalties can only be given once per test). Displaying a copy of the dressage test or diagram on the dashboard of a carriage is permitted, without penalty.

13.8 Assistance

13.8.1 Provision is made for Drivers in ALL classes to have a caller at a GDDQ if required, however, there is a 10-point penalty deducted from the final score. The caller may be on the carriage or on the side of the arena. Prior to the commencement of the event, organisers and judges **must** be informed if a caller is being used.

13.8.2 Any physical intervention by a third party, not riding on the carriage, whether solicited or not, with the object of facilitating the task of the Driver or helping the horse/s, is considered to be outside assistance. Any Driver who has received outside assistance incurs 5 penalties in the first occasion, 10 penalties in the second occasion and elimination in the third occasion.

13.9 Dismounting

13.9.1 Each time a Driver dismounts during the test they will incur 20 penalties.

13.9.2 Drivers will incur penalties each time one or both Grooms dismount during the test. Five (5) penalties on the first occasion, ten (10) penalties on the second occasion. On the third occasion the Driver is Eliminated.

14. ATTIRE AND APPEARANCE

14.1 Presentation is not scored at GDDQs; however, a whip is compulsory. A hat or helmet, apron and gloves are expected for all Drivers. A neat tidy appearance is also expected. Club uniforms are acceptable.

14.2 At GDDQs, as a minimum, Grooms must wear a hat or helmet and gloves. A helmet is compulsory for Juniors.

14.3 At **National Graded Driven Dressage Championships**, a BEST PRESENTED AWARD will be given. This award is scored independently from the horse's test and will be decided by the judges. A whip is compulsory and a more formal attire is expected. Hat, gloves, apron and jacket, with long sleeves are expected for all drivers. Depending on weather conditions and if recommended by the Chief Judge and the Organising Committee, during hot weather, jackets may be removed and a long-sleeved blouse/shirt may be worn. During inclement weather, wet weather clothing may be worn.

14.3.1 **At State Graded Driven Dressage Championships** it is up to each individual State whether to offer a BEST PRESENTED AWARD – as per 14.3.

14.4 At all Championships, a more formal attire for Grooms is also expected, including hat or helmet, jacket and gloves. A helmet is compulsory for Juniors.

14.5 Safety helmets and body protectors may be worn at any time during GDDQs or Championships.

14.6 Whip for Dressage

14.6.1 The Driver must carry a driving whip with a lash.

14.6.2 A Driver must enter the arena with a whip in hand or incur 10 penalty points.

14.6.3 If a Driver drops, puts down their whip or if it is not held in the hand when in the arena, they will incur 10 penalty points.

14.6.4 The whip, if dropped, need not be replaced and the Driver may finish without a whip, however, the Groom may hand the Driver a spare whip without any further penalty.

14.7 Horses

14.7.1 Horses should be clean

14.7.2 There is no minimum or maximum height

14.7.3 If a case of 'marked unevenness' is observed, it is to be marked down as 'uneven in paces' and scored accordingly by all judges. It is the Head Judge's decision on whether or not the horse continues.

14.8 Bandages and Brushing Boots

14.8.1 Bandages and Brushing Boots are not permitted in Driven Dressage. Failure to comply will result in 10 penalty points from the Head Judge.

14.9 Carriages

14.9.1 Carriages must be safe and should be clean.

14.9.2 The competitor number must be clearly visible.

14.9.3 Pneumatic tyres are permitted. Carriages may have two or four wheels.

14.9.4 Viceroy's are permitted in Graded Driven Dressage for single horses only. **NO** groom/passenger is permitted on a viceroy.

14.10 Harness

14.10.1 Any correctly fitting type of harness is allowed provided it is safe and appropriate for the welfare of the horse.

14.10.2 In all classes, if the carriage has no brakes, breeching is compulsory. Failure to comply will result in Elimination. Breeching is compulsory for the wheeler in a tandem. (Breeching is only optional for Viceroy's).

14.10.3 Auxiliary reins (including any type of check reins) are not permitted when in harness, except dual reins for junior drivers or disabled drivers. Failure to comply will result in Elimination.

14.10.4 Bitless bridles (hackamores) are not permitted when the horse is harnessed to a carriage. Failure to comply will result in Elimination.

14.10.5 All rings, terrets and/or other types of device, which have an extreme leverage effect on reins or bits, are forbidden. Failure to comply will result in Elimination.

15. SUMMARY OF GRADED DRIVEN DRESSAGE PENALTIES

Description	Ref. Article	Penalties
Early or late entry	9.2	Possible Elimination
Part of the turnout leaving the arena during a movement	9.4	Mark down for inaccuracy
The whole turnout leaving the arena	9.5	Elimination
Error of Course	9.7.10	
First occasion		5 penalties
Second occasion		10 penalties
Third occasion		Elimination
Disobedience	9.8.1	
First occasion		5 penalties
Second occasion		10 penalties
Third occasion		Elimination
Carriage overturn	9.9.1	Elimination
Groom/s does not remain seated in proper position between entering and leaving the arena	13.4	5 penalties (once per test)
Groom speaks/indicates direction	13.4 & 13.8.1	10 penalties (once per test)
Groom handles the reins, brake or uses the whip whilst the carriage is moving	13.4	20 penalties
Use of a caller (pre-arranged)	13.8.1	10 penalties
*Physical outside assistance	13.8.2	
First occasion		5 penalties
Second occasion		10 penalties
Third occasion		Elimination
Driver dismounting	13.9.1	20 penalties (per occasion)
Groom(s) dismounting	13.9.2	
First occasion		5 penalties
Second occasion		10 penalties
Third occasion		Elimination
Entering the arena without a whip	14.1, 14.3 and 14.6.2	10 penalties
Dropping or putting down a whip	14.6.3	10 penalties
Use of bandage or brushing boots	14.8.1	10 penalties
No breeching if carriage has no brakes	14.10.2	Elimination
No breeching for tandem wheeler	14.10.2	Elimination
Auxiliary reins (including any type of check reins)	14.10.3	Elimination
Bitless bridles (hackamores)	14.10.4	Elimination
Leverage Devices	14.10.5	Elimination

***NOTE:** For those single Drivers without a Groom, outside assistance carries the same penalties as for Groom(s) Dismounting.

If a case of 'marked unevenness' lameness is observed, it is to be marked down as 'uneven in paces' and scored accordingly by all judges. (14.7.3)

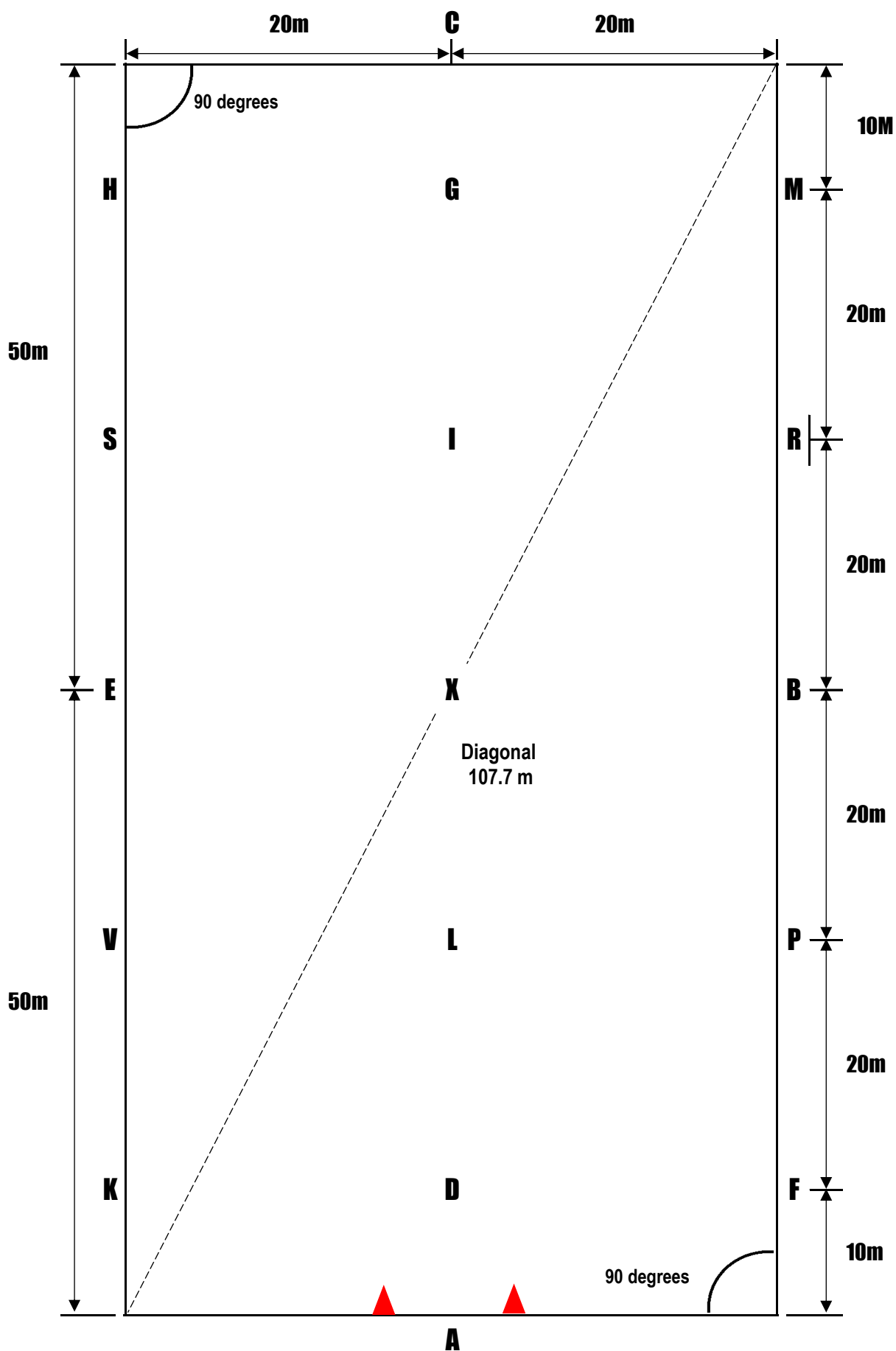
POSSIBLE MOVEMENTS

NB: This is an “**indication only**” of movements that may “**possibly**” be included at each level

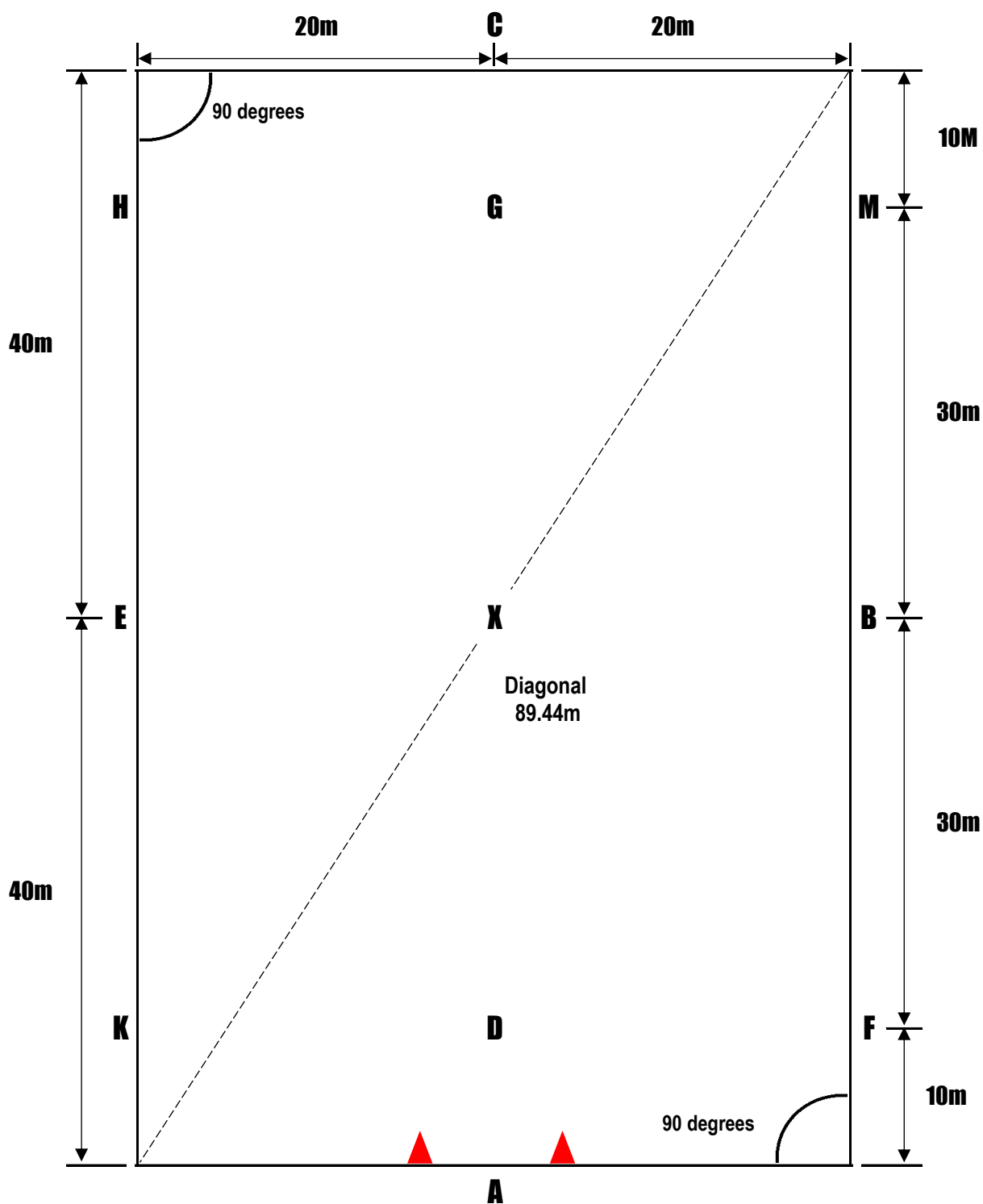
Level	Arena	Movements	Requirements for Each Level
Preliminary	100 x 40 or 80 x 40	Working trot - no lengthening. 40m circle. Halt through the walk 3-4 secs Walk stretching the frame Rein-back 2-3 steps.	Horse should show basics of correct training: calmness, obedience, balance, forward movement maintaining rhythm and relaxation through the back and neck and acceptance of the bit. It should track up in trot and show some lateral bend. Straightness improving. The walk should be free with neck stretching down and forward into the bit on soft contact, while the steps should be energetic and unconstrained. Preparation for both upward and downward transitions by utilising the walk.
Novice	100 x 40 or 80 x 40	Lengthened Walk Working trot. A few steps of lengthened stride. 20m & 30m circle. Halt through the walk 4-5 secs. Rein-back 3-4 steps. Walk stretching the frame with a short distance of walk to contact. Serpentine (3 or 5 loop) at a working trot.	In addition to the above Preliminary requirements, the horse should now show more impulsion and activity of the hindquarters, more engagement from behind. There should be increased lateral bend and flexion on corners and circles with improved suppleness and balance. The horse should work more consistently on the bit and straightness is becoming much more established. It is now able to show some lengthened strides. The outline should be more rounded and the forehand a little lighter. Transitions should be becoming smoother, utilising the walk in both upward and downward transitions.
Elementary	100 x 40	Walk and Trot paces as above plus more distance of lengthening Medium Trot 15m circle 20m ½ circles Halt 5-6 seconds Rein back 5-6 steps Serpentine 5 loops	Including the above movements in Novice, the working trot in Elementary is essentially looking for consistency, acceptance of the bit, more engagement of hindquarters and rounding of the frame, as required in the Medium trot. Regularity, rhythm and tempo should be well established within the paces, along with both straightness and correctness of bend at all times. Accuracy of figures should also be established. Transitions should be balanced, smooth and accurate. Reins in one hand is introduced.

Level	Arena	Movements	Requirements for Each Level
Intermediate	100 x 40	Working trot. Lengthened trot across diagonal of moderate extension. Collected trot on curve or ½ circle. Deviation and loops. 20m circle. Halt 6-8 secs. Rein-back 4-6 steps. Serpentine. Reins in one hand	While showing that the Elementary training is established, the horse needs to have more consistent paces, straightness, suppleness, balance and acceptance of the bit. There should be more engagement of the hindquarters and the forehand lighter and higher. More lift and cadence throughout. Transitions should be balanced, smooth and accurate. Developing Collected trot – is introduced. Reins in one hand is expected with more control from the driver at this level.
Open	100 x 40	Working trot. Medium trot Collected trot. Extended trot. Deviations and loops. Reins in one hand 20m circle and deviations. 15m circles. Halt 10 secs. Rein-back 3m. Canter	As per GDD Rules and Guidelines – including the movements from the levels prior. Show that the horse has established a greater degree of balance, suppleness and engagement of quarters while remaining lightly and consistently on the bit. The horse should be able to produce more impulsion and lift in the collected trot. Transitions should be balanced, smooth and accurate. Transition to Canter is required at this level with the correct leading leg.
Advanced	100 x 40	As above Diagonal Yield	As per GDD Rules and Guidelines.

DRESSAGE ARENA SETUP 100m X 40m



DRESSAGE ARENA SETUP 80m X 40m



SCORE SHEET ABBREVIATIONS

The following list of abbreviations is designed to enable pencillers to keep up when writing the comments required by the judge, within the limited space on the dressage test score sheet (judges must be sure their pencillers are familiar with this list).

AoF	accuracy of figure
CL	centre line
O	circle
CT	collected trot
diag	diagonal
⇓ trans	downward transition
ext	extended, extension
ET	extended trot
Ht	halt
hur	hurried
imp	impulsion
inattn	inattentive, inattention
insuff	insufficient
L	left
OH	one-handed
RB	rein-back
reg	regular, regularity
R	right
sal	salute
serp	serpentine
□	square
stst	straight
trans	transition
⇑ trans	upward transition
WT	working trot
NW or LW	near wheeler or left wheeler
OW or RW	off wheeler or right wheeler
NL or LL	near leader or left leader
OL or RL	off leader or right leader

Judges may have many more, or alternative, abbreviations, but their penciller may not know them. There is an advantage in having your own penciller who is familiar with your abbreviations and who prints legibly and quickly.

SCORING GRADED DRESSAGE TESTS TO OBTAIN A POSITIVE PERCENTAGE

(NOT USED FOR Combined Driving Events)

1. Add up the score for each test. **(DO NOT INCLUDE PRESENTATION MARKS)**
2. Add together the score from each judge.
3. Divide the total by the number of judges.
4. Deduct from this result any penalties given by the judge at C (e.g. 1st occasion error of course is - 5 penalties). **Note:** there will not necessarily be any error of course.
5. Take the result from 4 above and divide by the total possible score for that test and multiply by 100 to obtain a percentage.

Example:

Total points: 120 from judge at 'C'

Total points: 115 from judge at 'B'

Total: 235

Divide by 2: 117.5

Penalty: minus (-) 5 for error of course

New Total: 112.5

Possible score for the relevant test: 150 **(DO NOT** include presentation marks)

Percentage Calculation: $\frac{112.5}{150} \times 100 = 75\%$

At GDDQs, each test driven is scored on its merits. They are **NOT** added together for an overall result.

- At Championships, overall results are determined from the **AGGREGATE SCORE**.
- To obtain the Aggregate Score, add the final scores of tests one and two together.
- Highest to lowest score determines placings.

ACCREDITATION SCHEME FOR NOVICE & ADVANCED DRIVEN DRESSAGE JUDGES

INTRODUCTION

The accreditation scheme for novice and advanced driven dressage judges is a National scheme and:

- All State Driven Dressage Panels form an integral part of this scheme.
- Accredited judges must, as a minimum, be a current Active (non-driving) Member of the ACDS.
- Judges are accredited by the ACDS as Advanced (qualified to judge all levels, both single and multiple) or Novice (qualified to judge preliminary, novice, elementary singles and preliminary and novice multiples).
- Candidate novice judges or novice judges qualified to be upgraded to advanced judges may do so in any State, regardless of their State of residence.

WORKSHOPS

The training of judges shall comply with the ACDS National Accreditation Scheme for Dressage Judges.

NOVICE DRIVEN DRESSAGE JUDGES

Candidates must apply to a State Branch Convenor for the current Application Form.

A two (2) year timeline will exist for all candidates from the date of the initial application to the end of the process.

The completed form/s should be forwarded by applicants to the State Convenor ~~panel~~ prior to attending a workshop. Candidates must keep a record (Logbook) of driven dressage judging experiences, even prior to any accreditation. Such experience should include event date, test, number of entries judged and preferably, it should be signed by the Head Judge. The Logbook shown on the ACDS Website should be used.

People wishing to qualify for acceptance as an ACDS candidate novice driven dressage judge will find it advantageous to:

- have had experience as a judge's penciller or observer (ridden or driven);
- know the Rules for Driving, especially those Rules related directly to driven dressage; and
- have driving experience, or at least a close association with driving.

EA ridden dressage judges of E level, preliminary/novice, D level, elementary and pony club dressage judges must apply for candidate status on the recognised ACDS Application Form and fulfil all novice training requirements. (Exceptions: See Special Recommendations for top level ridden dressage judges and qualified overseas driven dressage judges later in this chapter).

Within 12 months of submitting the Application Form, candidate novice driven dressage judges, where possible, must attend one driven dressage judges' workshop covering:

- dressage theory and practical judging of minimum of 10 complete tests under supervision, with discussion;
- current Rules for Driving; and
- practical judging of presentation on the move if possible.

It may not always be practical for candidate judges to judge a minimum of ten complete driven dressage tests at workshops. It is recommended that candidate judges be appointed as shadow judges at events to gain a more varied experience. Such appointments may be tutored by other experienced judges at that event.

When assessing the novice candidate judge's score sheet, a driven dressage assessor must be in attendance and check on the constructive nature of comments. For the purpose of assessment, comments must be given for all movements and scores awarded.

Prior to undertaking practical judging, a written assessment should be attempted covering theory and Driving Rules. In keeping with current educational practice, the assessment will be open-book and can be undertaken at home. The written assessment, once completed, is to be sent directly to the Federal Driven Dressage Convenor, who will organise it to be evaluated by an independent assessor. A minimum mark of 90% is required for this test; preferably before being practically assessed.

Assessors may approve an oral assessment. An approved oral assessment must be recorded on an appropriate recording device and a copy given to the assessor and candidate.

If the candidate is deemed Not Yet Competent (NYC) for the novice accreditation, the driven dressage assessor will determine the required procedure, e.g., an assessment (written or oral) and/or further supervised judging, rejection due to general inexperience (for an allocated time for further training) or unsuitability. The candidate can be advised in person, but must be advised in writing of the reasons for the decision.

Names of candidate novice judges who have been deemed competent are notified by the State Convenor and may judge immediately. The State Convenor completes the Officials Accreditation Notification Form and forwards to the FDDC, the State Secretary (for information) and the Federal Secretary for ratification by the ACDS Federal Council. The Federal Secretary will confirm the appointment is appropriate with the Federal Convenor and then request the Federal Executive to ratify the accreditation. They will then be placed on the ACDS Dressage Judges List.

Successful novice candidates are encouraged to judge open and intermediate tests (including multiples) as a side judge in an official capacity with an advanced judge at C.

ADVANCED DRIVEN DRESSAGE JUDGES

Candidates must apply to a State Dressage Convenor for the current Application Form.

A two (2) year timeline will exist for all candidates from the date of the initial application to the end of the process.

The completed Application Form should be forwarded by applicants to the State Convenor prior to attending a workshop. Candidates must keep a record (Logbook) of driven dressage judging experiences, even prior to any accreditation. Such experience should include event date, test, number of entries judged and preferably, it should be signed by the Head Judge. The Logbook shown on the ACDS Website should be used.

The candidate advanced driven dressage judge must:

- complete the Application Form and complete a Logbook;
- attend a workshop where examples of multiples are discussed and/or driven;
- have pencilled for, or observed an advanced judge judging multiples;
- achieve an 90% pass mark on a written advanced judges' exam;
- complete unofficial judging at a workshop or event; and
- receive instruction from a suitably experienced multiples driver or have suitable personal experience as a driver.

Note: The written assessment, once completed, is to be sent directly to the Federal Driven Dressage Convenor, who will organise it to be evaluated by an independent assessor.

If candidates have minimal multiple driving experience, they may be given the opportunity to increase their knowledge and judging skills at a workshop, or by sitting with a driver and driving if the situation allows.

A candidate must judge a minimum of 10 open tests. These tests must include singles and multiples where an assessor is officiating or as an official side judge at the same event. A minimum of five (5) multiples, ideally made up of tandems, pairs and teams, should be included in those tests, from one or more events within a two-year period.

The assessor will compare their own score sheets with the candidate judges' score sheets for analysis.

If an advanced candidate is unsuccessful with the advanced written assessment, the assessor will request the candidate to undertake the assessment again and/or practical judging. The unsuccessful candidate must be advised in writing the reasons for the decision. Candidates can request a review.

Names of candidate advanced judges who have been deemed competent are notified by the State Convenor and may judge immediately. The State Convenor completes the Officials Accreditation Notification Form and forwards to the FDDC, the State Secretary (for information) and the Federal Secretary for ratification by the ACDS Federal Council. The Federal Secretary will confirm the appointment is appropriate with the Federal Convenor and then request the Federal Executive to ratify the accreditation. They will then be placed on the ACDS Dressage Judges List.

Judges are expected to continue ongoing study, which involves reading and writing skills, assisting pencilers and mentoring, encouraging and supporting other less confident judges.

RETENTION OF ACCREDITATION

To retain driven dressage judges' accreditation, judges must:

- as a minimum, be a current Active (non-driving) Member of the ACDS;
- attend a workshop every three years:
 - If judges decline to attend a workshop with insufficient justification, the State driven dressage panel may recommend their name be removed from the judging lists subject to consultation with the Federal Driven Dressage Convenor (FDDC). If removal is justified, the FDDC will recommend to Federal Council that their name be removed.
 - Judges who have not attended a workshop within a three-year period should not be appointed as President of the Jury or Head Judge at any competition, however, judges may apply for leave of absence and be reinstated as determined by the State driven dressage panels, provided they are current members of the ACDS and have attended a workshop within the last three (3) years.
- judge events outside of the normal club environment; and
- be willing to travel.

DRESSAGE JUDGE ASSESSORS

The Driven Dressage Judge Assessor is an ACDS Federal Council appointed position and is a formal role within the ACDS Official's Accreditation Scheme. The aim is for a consistent standard to be applied Australia wide.

The Driven Dressage Judge Assessor will be invited, by way of nomination onto the National Assessor Panel. Recommendations for appointment are forwarded to Federal Council by the Federal Dressage Convenor after consultation with the National Assessor Panel.

As a minimum, potential Assessors must:

- be an 'Active (non-driving) Member of the ACDS.

- have been an Advanced Driven Dressage judge for a *minimum of five years* and, as a *minimum*, have experience judging at least three level one CDE events or Graded Driven Dressage State or National Championships.
- have judged at least two CDE or Graded Driven Dressage competitions, at any level over the previous 12 months.

An Assessor obtains qualifications through the Recognition of Current Competency (RCC) process. Dressage Judge Assessors will be appointed for a maximum period of 3 years, whereupon they are eligible to be re-nominated.

Regardless of the candidate's State of residence, assessors will:

- evaluate/correct candidate judge's open book theory exams;
- evaluate candidate driven dressage practical judging at competitions, to enable the candidate to experience actual competition conditions, prior to completing accreditation; and
- determine whether candidates are Competent (C) or Not Yet Competent (NYC).

Only one assessor per evaluation is required. Candidates may request a review.

It is the role of an assessor to give constructive feedback, however, it is not their role to comment on the judge's performance or to counsel judges. Should there be any concerns, the FDDC should be contacted in writing and matters will be attended to and actioned.

ASSESSING COMPETENCE

Competent

A competent person is someone who has the necessary knowledge, skills and attitude to do a task or a set number of tasks successfully, according to a predetermined standard. The assessor gathers evidence and makes judgment about whether the standards specified have been met and whether the evidence is sufficient to indicate competence.

A Dressage Judge Assessor is provided with a checklist to ensure all aspects of tasks required of novice and advanced judges are acquired prior to deeming a person competent.

Not Yet Competent

Assessors should be aware of the pressures to give people a competent rating when the candidate is in fact Not Yet Competent.

A skill can only be competently acquired through repeated practice, not by talking about it or a one-off demonstration. The number of practices recommended for Driven Dressage Judges prior to assessment is a minimum of 10 complete dressage tests.

A skill can also be lost if it is not practiced. To maintain their skills, a Dressage Judge should judge a proper competition, at their level (novice, intermediate or open tests), at least once per year. If the skill is not maintained, then the Judge needs to be re-assessed to ensure that competence is maintained.

This also applies to Dressage Judge Assessors. A person can only assess someone if they have the skills to which they are assessing. An assessor must maintain their practical judging skills and must judge open and novice tests in a proper competition at least once a year. This should be cumulative, that is, if a person is to be granted assessor status for a three-year period, they must judge at least once a year at a proper competition for each year of their appointment.

No Longer Competent

In some unfortunate circumstances, age or attitude can be a factor that needs to be considered when assessing a person's physical or mental capacity to complete tasks competently. If a State Dressage Convenor has cause for concern regarding a person's capacity to properly judge at a competition, then this matter is to be brought forward to the FDDC for consideration. The person in question may be asked to be formally assessed to determine their suitability as a judge.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 'OUTSIDE' JUDGES

Currently Qualified EA Ridden Dressage Judges, with or without theoretical or practical experience of judging driven dressage:

- must obtain permission from FDDC to judge at an ACDS event;
- must be granted deemed membership from Federal Council for the period of the sanctioned event/s or may become at least an Active (non-driving) Member of the ACDS; and
- may be required to receive instruction from a suitably experienced multiples driver and/or drive a multiple or sit beside a driver or view specific videos on judging multiples in driven dressage.

International Driven Dressage Judges. FEI driven dressage judges or other overseas driven dressage judges who hold judging qualifications equivalent to novice and/or open/advanced are able to judge at ACDS events.

MOVEMENTS, TERMINOLOGY, GENERAL IMPRESSION, DEFINITIONS AND TERMS

MOVEMENTS

The Salute

Saluting the Judge at C is mandatory for all drivers at the start and finish of each dressage test. It is recommended that a gentleman driver should take the reins and whip in one hand and raise his hat with his other hand (no need to bow his head). With reins in either hand, the lady driver should raise her whip to a horizontal position, so that her elbow is tipped upward, and may bow her head. Grooms must not salute. It is courteous for the driver to acknowledge other judges while exiting. The judge at C shall acknowledge all salutes.

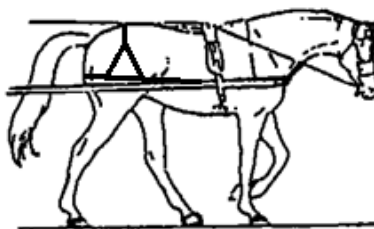
Halt

At the halt, the horse must stand square and straight with the weight evenly distributed between all four legs. The horse must remain attentive, motionless and straight, ready to move off at the slightest indication from the driver. If a pair or multiple, all must be square and aligned with one another.

Walk into the Halt

Preliminary and Novice horses may take two to three strides into and out of the halt without penalty, thus preventing rushed and inaccurate halts and upward transitions from the halt.

The Walk



The Walk

The walk is a marching pace in which the footfalls of the horse's feet follow one another in a regular four-beat time. The horse is calm, remains in a light contact and steps are energetic, well-marked and maintained at all times. Ambling and/or pacing, when both legs on the same side (lateral pairs) move in unison, or approximate unison must be heavily faulted; it is neither a true walk nor trot.

The following walks are recognised:

- **Working Walk** - A regular and unconstrained walk. The horse should walk energetically but calmly with even and determined steps with distinct, marked, four equally spaced beats.

The driver should maintain a light and steady contact with the horse's mouth. It is desirable to have the horse's hind hooves touch the ground in front of the prints of the front hooves. A regular unconstrained walk of moderate length. The horse, remaining in a light steady contact with the bit, walks energetically but calmly with even and determined steps with the hind feet touching the ground in front of the footprints of the forefeet.

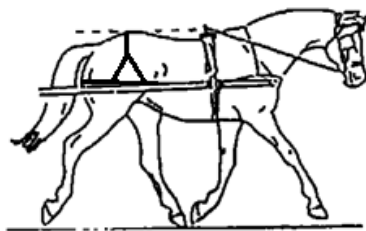
- **Free Walk** - Same definition as for the working walk, but in addition, gaining ground as much as possible, clearly lengthening the frame and stretching the neck forwards and downwards.
- **Lengthened Walk** - This a more determined and ground-covering walk than the working walk. The main difference between the free walk and the lengthened walk is that the driver now actively asks the horse to produce more push from behind and thus lengthen his stride. The horse must flex its poll somewhat and is expected to work into the bit on a soft contact. The horse should not stretch as long and as low as in the free walk but has to show a definite lengthening and lowering of the frame compared to the working walk. Some over-track is expected.

Trot

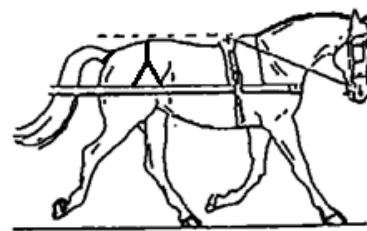
The trot is a two-time pace on alternate diagonal legs, separated by a moment of suspension. The transition from walk to trot should be moved into without hesitation i.e., 2-3 walk paces is acceptable at lower levels. The quality of the trot is judged by the general impression, the regularity and elasticity of the steps, originating from a supple back and well engaged hindquarters, and by the ability to maintain the same rhythm and natural balance, even after a transition from one trot to another.

The recognised trots are working, collected and extended. Novice horses performing in Novice tests will not be expected to display the more advanced outline and paces, but certainly will not be penalised if they do. They will not be expected to go deeply into corners and novice horses need not have heads held higher. An advanced well-schooled horse is expected to have more engagement of hindquarters, hold themselves in an advanced frame and be driven more deeply into corners.

Driven horses may properly display knee action at the trot that would be undesirable in horses performing ridden dressage tests. This is entirely acceptable provided that the horse's hocks are also well flexed to balance the flexion of its knees and the resultant action is progressive so as to result in strides which cover as much ground as those of horses which do not bend their knees so noticeably.



Working Trot



Higher Degree of Working Trot

- **Working Trot.** A forward, active trot with the horse on the bit, carrying itself in balance and rhythm with even, elastic steps and good hock action. The steps of the hind feet must at least be touching the ground in the footprints of the forefeet. The steps should be as even as possible. Some slight overstepping may be exhibited depending on horse conformation. The degree of energy and impulsion displayed at the working trot clearly denotes the degree of suppleness and balance of the horse.

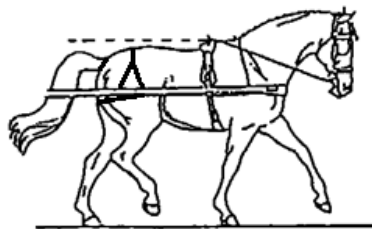
Develop Working Trot. A test may stipulate a distance within which the driver can achieve a working trot e.g., 'Between 'E' & 'K' develop a working trot'. This allows a horse at a preliminary and novice level of training to gradually develop a working trot.

- **Lengthened Trot.** The horse is required to cover more ground with longer strides while maintaining the same rhythm, balance and contact – the phase of suspension will be longer and the feet touch the ground for less amount of time. Just going faster is a severe fault. In order to lengthen correctly, the frame has to lengthen and lower (compared to working trot) and use their hind legs with more energy. At the same time their front end can elevate to allow more freedom and reach of the front legs, which is essential for correct lengthening.

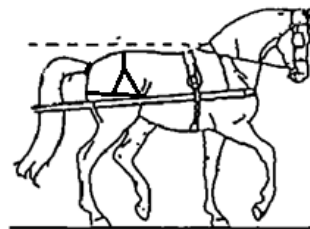
Lengthened trot is a longer stride with more power than the working trot, but of the same rhythm. It is the initial training prior to the extended trot and is asked for in novice tests. The horse must lengthen stride and lower its croup, while remaining on a light contact.

Unless the horse can do this, the front end will remain heavy and when asked for increased strides, the front legs can't move sufficiently and a quickness of rhythm is the result. The lengthened trot is hard on the horse's hind leg joints and should not be practiced too frequently. It is a good exercise when used with frequent transitions to working trot.

- **Medium Trot.** Between the defined Working Trot and Extended Trot. The Horse lengthens their stride to cover less ground than asked for in the Extended Trot but more ground than asked for in the Working Trot as a result of greater impulsion from the hindquarters. The Driver allows the Horse, remaining 'on the bit' without leaning on it, to lengthen the frame to gain ground, with the nose slightly in front of the vertical. The hind feet should over track the footprints made by the fore feet. The Horse must remain in balance while maintaining the same rhythm with strides of equal size. Hurried strides are not asked for and are a severe fault.



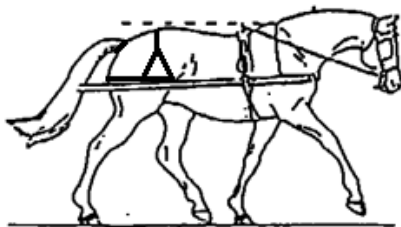
Collected Trot



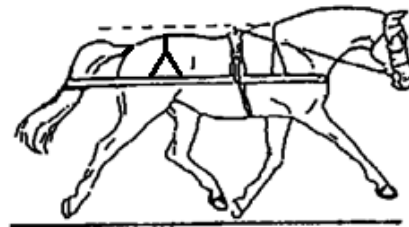
Higher Degree Collected Trot

- **Collected Trot.** The horse remains on the bit and moves energetically forward with a greater degree of engagement, leading to an increased flexion of the hocks and fetlock joints and a lightening of the shoulders, thus allowing for more mobility and elevation of the steps. The neck will be raised and more arched, with the poll the highest part, the nose should not be behind the vertical, over-bent or the neck restricted. The horse's steps are shorter than the working trot, but they are lighter and may be more elevated and mobile. A collected trot is never achieved by a horse pulling hard on the bit. He is then inevitably too heavy on the forehand. A collected trot is not a slow trot involving a slowed rhythm. The shortened higher stride of the collected trot must have the same speed of rhythm (tempo) as the working trot. Only moderate collection is to be expected from the driving horse due to the harness and vehicle weight.

Develop Collected Trot. A test may stipulate a distance within which the driver can achieve collection e.g., 'Between C & M develop collected trot'. This allows a horse at a novice elementary and intermediate level (not advanced) of training to gradually develop collected trot.



Lengthening Toward Extended Trot

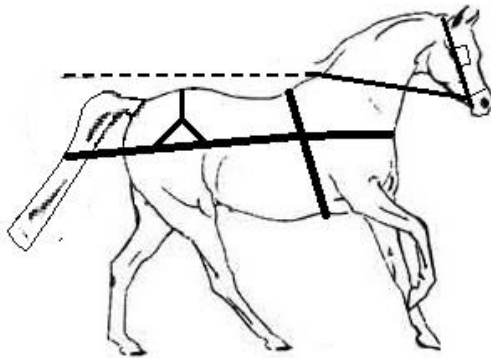


Extended Trot

- **Extended Trot.** The horse lengthens their stride to cover as much ground as possible as a result of greater impulsion from the hindquarters. The driver allows the horse, remaining on the bit without leaning on it, to lengthen its frame to cover ground, with the nose slightly in front of the vertical.

The hind feet must clearly over-track the prints made by the forefeet. The horse must remain in balance while maintaining the same rhythm with steps of equal size. Going faster is not asked for and is a severe fault. A light contact is desirable. The neck is extended and as a result of greater impulsion from the hindquarters, the horse uses their shoulders, covering more ground at each step without action becoming higher. Hind legs must be as strongly engaged as the forelegs. If the horse runs, he must be slowed down and the rhythm corrected, however horses must show some engagement of hindquarters otherwise they will be penalised for running.

Canter



Canter

A working canter is defined as a forward, active pace with regular steps of three time beat. The horse, showing good balance, remains on the bit without leaning on the hand, and goes forward with light cadenced steps and good hock action. A canter to the right, for instance, will have the footfalls follow one another in the following sequence: left hind, left diagonal (simultaneously left fore and right hind), right fore, followed by a moment of suspension with all four feet off the ground before the next stride begins. The canter is to be performed on the lead that is the direction of travel. The quality of the canter is judged by the general impression, and the regularity and lightness of the three-beat pace. The horse must be on the bit and well engaged in the hindquarters with good hock action and must have the ability to maintain their rhythm and natural balance throughout the movement and the transitions. The horse must remain straight on straight lines and correctly bent on curved lines.

- **Collected Canter** - Horses stride is shorter than in working canter, the hocks maintain a clear impulsion and the hind legs take more weight; the point of gravity is moving backwards and the neck and poll coming up more and more with the nose always a bit in front of the vertical showing a clear uphill tendency and self-carriage; the basic is a clear three beat and a light steady contact with suppleness and elasticity
- **Extended Canter** - In extended canter the Horse covers as much ground as possible with obviously lengthened strides and frame; there should be no hurried strides and the nose should be always in front of the vertical not losing balance and uphill tendency. There should be clear transitions into and out of the extended canter.

Rein Back

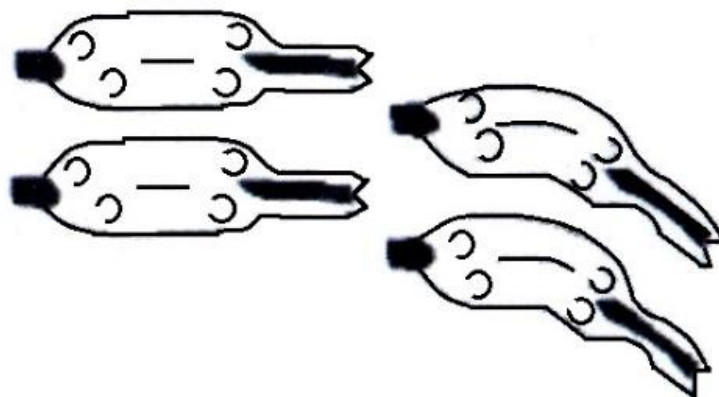
The horse must walk backwards in a straight line, with the legs being lifted and set down in diagonal pairs. The horse must remain on the bit, straight and not evade or resist the contact. The legs do not move in the sequence of the walk, but in that of the trot. The rein-back footfall sequence is correct if the horse lifts its diagonal feet off the ground at the same time and puts them down again in unison. Transition to the next movement must be immediate and smooth. Anticipation of the movement, resistance to or evasion of the driver, deviation of the hindquarters from the straight line, spreading or inactive hind legs and dragging forefeet are faulted.

The reason for vehicle crookedness can be determined from the halt itself, vehicle construction, uneven ground or driver error.

Stretching the Frame (for all paces)

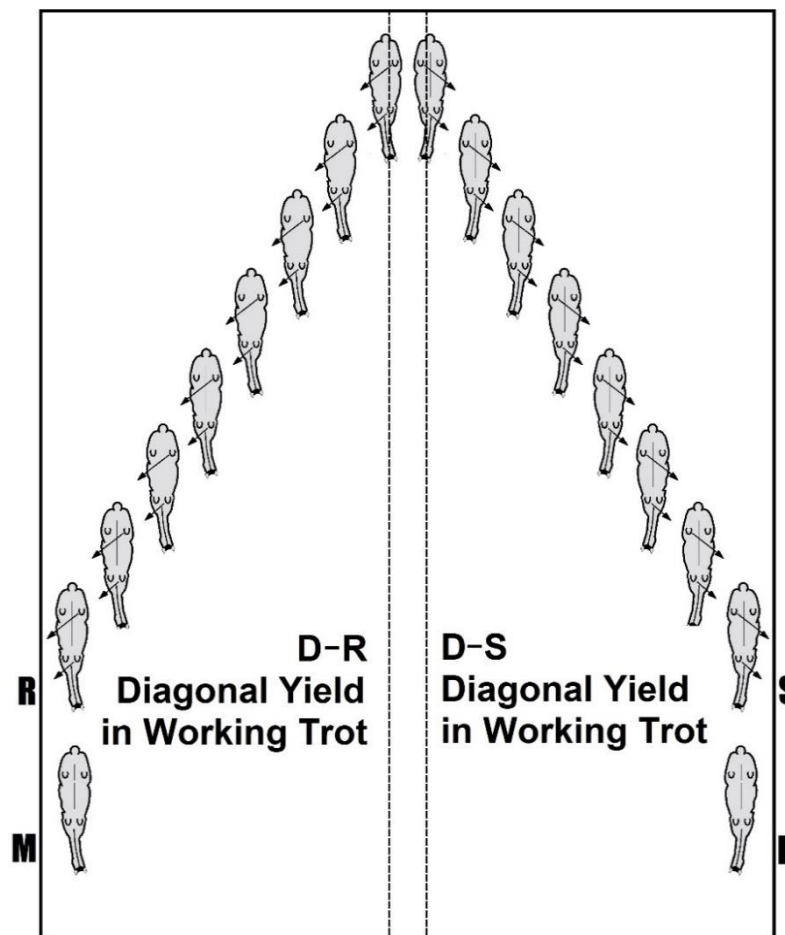
Allowing the horse to take the reins, stretching long and low – forward and downward at least to the point of the shoulder over the back while keeping the same rhythm and impulsion. The Driver must keep the reins without losing the contact. It is desirable that the hind hooves touch the ground in front of the prints of the front hooves.

Shoulder In



Shoulder in for the Driven Horse is performed in Collected Trot. The leaders are positioned so that the outside leader's tail is in front of the head of the pole. The leaders' shoulders are taken to the inside with a constant angle of approximately 30 degrees and a slight but consistent bend in the neck. The inside hind leg strides forward into the line of the outside front leg so that the Horses are working on three tracks. Impulsion, rhythm and engagement must be maintained throughout. Too much bend in the neck results in loss of rhythm and suppleness. The wheelers must remain straight with no counter bend.

Diagonal Yield



Diagonal Yield is the lateral movement performed with the horse that moves forward and sideways at the same time.

What Judges are Looking For?

1. The horse should stay parallel to the centre line.
2. Rhythm, regularity and forward moving.
3. Slightly flexed against the direction of travel.
4. Inner legs crossing in front of the outer leg.
5. Contact and acceptance of the bit.

All aspects fulfilled – **Very Good**

Other Guidelines for Marking

Satisfactory

Horse not totally parallel and straight – front legs leading – much flexion on the poll, only little crossing but regular.

Insufficient

Poll and neck over flexed – little bending inside – little crossing – losing rhythm, falling to the forehand, hind legs leading.

Bad

Flexion and/or bend in the direction of travel (i.e., completely wrong), irregular against the bit

Transitions

Changes of pace must always be made smoothly and promptly and not abruptly with the horse remaining in balance and on the bit. A transition must be completed as the nose of the horse arrives at the prescribed marker, unless otherwise stated. The cadence (expression of light exuberance, an airy lightness of footfall) of a pace should be maintained up to the moment when the pace is changed or the horse halts. The horse remains light in hand, calm and maintained in a correct position. Two to three paces may be allowed to establish a new pace fully, e.g., walking through the trot or walking into the halt.

The driver should aim to reach the prescribed marker slightly before the marker to place the horse on the track. The horse should be balanced for at least one stride before the marker and therefore the driver executes the transition prior to reaching the marker.

Some tests require a transition to take place **between or developed between** two letters. This means that the transition is not made at the marker, but **'between them'**.

One-handed driving, where specified in a test, must commence by the time the heads of the leaders (or single horse) are at the stated letter and continue until the heads of the leaders are at the letter indicating reins at will.

Note: Four-in-hand and Tandems. The transition to one handed circles takes place when the driver is on the marker and finishes when the leader's nose reaches the marker. This is specified in the directives on the actual dressage sheet (e.g., start driver on X, finish first horse on X).

TERMINOLOGY

The following must be considered when judging driven dressage movements:

- **Obedience and Lightness** – willing response to aids without resistance and with correctness of bend.
- **Regularity** – the regularity, evenness and rhythm with which the horse puts their feet to the ground.
- **Contact** – the connection through the reins between the driver's hands and the horse's mouth. It should be light and flexible and maintained at all times.
- **Impulsion** – the willingness of the horse to go forward energetically at all times and to respond quickly and evenly to changes of pace. The horse must remain in balance while maintaining the same rhythm with steps of equal size within the pace (see also impulsion in general impression).
- **Straightness** – carrying the head, neck and body in a straight line with the weight evenly divided between the legs, travelling on one track whether on a straight line or curved.
- **Collection** – roundness and engagement with good hock action, elevated poll allowing the shoulders to move with ease. The horse's energy contained in a more deliberate pace than the working trot. The haunches are more compressed, the croup is lowered and the forequarter elevated to the same degree. The stride is shorter but more powerful than the working trot and the front legs will move from the shoulder with greater agility resulting in lightness and greater mobility throughout. The neck should be more arched. The shortening of the frame is not and never should be a result of pulling back but rather of asking and allowing the horse to move forward into the driver's hand.
- **Accuracy** – accuracy of turns, circles, serpentine, alongside rails, deviations.
- A **Serpentine** with 5 loops, each having a diameter of 20m, is driven on a 100m x 40m arena. A serpentine with three loops, each loop having a diameter of 26m, is driven in an 80m x 40m arena. (3m after M/F/K/H).
- **Transitions** – refer to page 44.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Principle

There are five boxes at the end of the Judges Score Sheets for marks on General Impression. The following points should be considered when judging:

- Accuracy
- Lateral Bend
- Paces
- Longitudinal Bend (Frame)
- Regularity
- Obedience and Lightness
- Freedom
- Impulsion and engagement
- Straightness
- Transitions
- Resistance

Paces

"Regularity and freedom (if four-in-hand, pair or tandem, maintenance of pace by all horses/ponies)". The quality of paces in each movement is marked under the appropriate movement. The mark for the general impression should reflect paces and transitions during the whole test.

Judges should take into consideration – paces, regularity, freedom, straightness, even stride, longitudinal bend.

Impulsion

Impulsion is shown when energy from the hindquarters is received into and contained by the hands of the driver, who then controls and directs it by means of the reins and voice (if four-in-hand, pair or tandem, all horses/ponies working). The horse/s desires to go forward with controlled energy and a supple back, engaged hocks and steps that show elasticity. It shows a positive willingness and real effort to get on with the job obediently and responsively. Impulsion is not speed and is not a horse trying to tear along, pulling too hard and thus excessively on the forehand or above the bit. Rhythm and tempo must be maintained.

The level of impulsion may vary between movements, but the mark for impulsion should reflect the performance of the horses/ponies throughout the test.

Judges should take into consideration – impulsion, rhythm of paces, longitudinal balance.

Obedience and Lightness

'Response to aids, willing and without resistance'. 'Correctness of bend'. 'Suppleness'. 'Acceptance of the bit (connection)'. Judges should take into consideration – obedience, lightness, transitions, and calmness.

Driver

"Use of aids, handling of reins and whip, position on the box, accuracy of figures". The mark should reflect the performance of the horses/ponies throughout the test.

Judges should take into consideration – consistent level of accuracy, driving straight, quality of transitions, maintenance of paces and being in harmony with the horse.

Presentation

National Graded Driven Dressage Championships, a BEST PRESENTED AWARD will be given. This award is scored independently from the horse's test and will be decided by the judges. Refer to Rule 14 Attire and Appearance.

State Graded Driven Dressage Championships it is up to each individual State whether or not to offer a BEST PRESENTED AWARD – This award is scored independently from the horse's test and will be decided by the judges. Refer to Rule 14 Attire and Appearance.

DEFINITIONS OF SOME BASIC DRESSAGE TERMS

There are many dressage books and articles, both ridden and driven dressage, with various definitions and interpretations of the same terms. Do not be dismayed. Study, observe, ask questions, compete, gain experience and instruction and read further.

Judges must note that the column "to be judged" (or "judging directives") does not cover all concepts to be considered and judged during a test.

As singles and multiples may be driven, certain concepts in driven dressage may vary e.g., the contact with the bit concept can be somewhat different when comparing a single and a four-in-hand, although all horses should be on the bit.

Driven dressage judges and drivers can learn from ridden dressage judges, but not be swamped by them. As is often said about working with horses, "The more you know, the more you realise how little you know". Both ridden and driven dressage disciplines have much to offer each other and should always listen intently to one another.

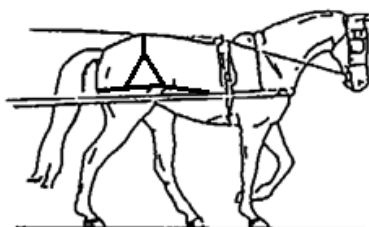
Calm

The horse is mentally relaxed yet alert, keen and attentive, not dull or lazy.

Supple

The horse is physically relaxed, with flexibility, both longitudinally (frame) and laterally (bend on the curve). A horse is supple when it is flexible and gymnastically strong, enabling him to swing in his back and allowing the horse to travel free of tension with cadence in the movement.

Contact 'With the Bit' or 'On the Bit' (Connection)



Walk 'On the Bit'

The horse is going freely forward, calm and attentive with a steady head and light, even contact on the bit. The horse accepts the bit without resistance and works in an outline consistent with their stage of training i.e., novice or open frame. The horse is up to the bit and not leaning on it i.e., pulling the vehicle on the reins.

When the horse is **Above the Bit**, it is working with its head held high and the nose is too far in front of the vertical. Its back will also tend to hollow. The horse is **Behind the Bit** when it is carrying its head too low i.e., poll not highest point, and its nose is behind the vertical.

Balance

Balance is the horse's ability to control its own centre of gravity and therefore maximise the ease and efficiency of its movement. While a horse has natural balance when moving freely in the paddock, it must find a new balance with more weight on its haunches when pushing/pulling a vehicle. The horse will then move forward with more purpose and freedom.

Resistance

Resistance is a reaction against the application of pressure on the bit and can also be an unwillingness to go forward up to the bit or to turn. Disobedience is a more deliberate resistance, an unwillingness to respond to the given aids.

The Half-Halt

The half-halt is a hardly visible action, achieved by reins, whip, and voice. It is the application of slight forward driving aids followed by a momentary gentle restraining through the reins. The half-halt is used to increase the attention and balance of the horse and to increase the activity of the hindquarters, generate impulsion and lighten the forehand. It produces an increased activity of the hind legs without a speed increase. Through the application of the half-halt, there should be no loss of calmness, regularity or impulsion. There is no need for constant half-halts to adjust the horse's balance. It is the horse's job, not yours, to hold himself. The half-halt is likened to a subtle momentary check and prepares for a corner or a turn.

Rhythm

Each pace has its own rhythm. There must be the correct order or sequence of footfall. The walk is a four-beat movement, the trot two beat, and the canter three beat. It is important for correct rhythm to be maintained in all paces. **Tempo** is the speed of the rhythm or the time it takes for the sequence of footfalls to occur. In variations of pace (e.g., from working to collected trot), the tempo should remain the same with only the length of stride altering.

Regularity

Regularity is the consistent maintenance of the rhythm of the pace e.g., at the trot the two hoof beats should be heard with the legs moving in alternative diagonal pairs with a regular unchanging tempo.

Straightness and Bend (Lateral Bend)

A horse is said to be straight if its body (head to tail) is straight, on a straight line or when it is curved or bent on a circle or turn. The hind feet follow the track of the forefeet in both instances. Some use the head to tail word "straight" on the straight only and "bend" for the head to tail curve. If the horse bends laterally at the poll or gullet it is often called flexion.

The word flexion is sometimes interchanged with the word bend. The Rules for Driving only use the term bend, with no explanation. The bend, or arc to the inside, is very slight in driven dressage as circles and turns are minimal; not excessive. The position of the driven dressage horse's head should be such that the driver is just able to see the side of the horse's inside winker or eye. Some say this is sufficient bend. Remember, the neck should not be bent more than the whole body.

Cadence

Cadence is when a pace has pronounced rhythm. The horse has freedom of its shoulder, springiness to its stride through greater flexion of the joints and engagement of the hindquarters, and the period of suspension is pronounced.

JUDGING DRIVEN DRESSAGE TESTS

Judging Guidelines and Scoring Advice

General Considerations

Dressage judges (and any person who is aspiring to become a judge) should be aware of the impact their decisions and opinions can have on the sport and the direction it will take.

Judging a dressage test is very different from judging any other equestrian performance; just following and applying the rules is only a small part of the process. The main objective of a dressage competition is to evaluate the correctness of each horse's training. Therefore, judging a dressage class is almost entirely subject to the judge's opinion. Being a responsible and competent dressage judge requires a great measure of ethical and technical qualities and a strong and courageous but humble personality.

A responsible judge must:

- understand the philosophy and know and understand the rules and requirements of the sport.
- be absolutely dedicated and committed to the purity of the dressage principles and to the well-being of the horses.
- be absolutely sincere; to continuously improve on one's skills and to stay current through reading, attending forums, etc.
- have the courage to stand on one's own convictions and judgement beyond the influence of anyone and have confidence and firmness in one's abilities and decisions.
- help maintain and/or improve on the existing standard of the sport through thorough, considerate and honest evaluation of performances.
- be aware that given scores and comments could likely influence the Competitor's future training program.
- help the competitor improve their performance through comments that are clear, precise, constructive, objective and unemotional.
- judge the training of the horse, regardless of who is driving.
- judge only what one sees in the ring during the test and not compare the horse to possible previous performances or according to a horse's reputation.
- be mindful not to fraternise with exhibitors at any competition when officiating.
- be most courteous and professional when dealing with competitors, event committee members and fellow judges.
- be neatly and appropriately attired in a style suitable for the competition.

- have at least some driving experiences in order to be able to relate to the difficulty of the task and consequently assess a competitor more rationally and sympathetically.

Judging Requirements

Preparation **PRIOR to the EVENT** should include:

- Secure knowledge of the tests to be judged. This includes knowing the pattern of the test as well as the exact content of each movement. Drawing multi-coloured diagrams, or tip cards, beforehand is a very helpful method.
- A good understanding of the current Rule Book and where to look for answers to specific problems.
- CONFIRM prior to event – number of competitors; starting time & test(s) being used.

Preparation **at the EVENT** should include:

- Judges should arrive early. They should meet the penciller and discuss ground rules for abbreviations, procedures, limits on conversation, etc. This is the time to find out if the penciller is equal to the job, and if not, request that the event committee provide another. If a penciller cannot reliably put down on paper what the judge wants to say to the competitor, all efforts involved are useless and the competitor goes home with a poor opinion about the event and the judge and/or possibly having received wrong advice due to the poor performance of the penciller. It is the responsibility of the judge, however, to develop a very precise and "shorthand" language so the penciller can fit the comments into the small spaces.
- Instructing the event committee about particular requests, e.g., keeping anybody out of hearing distance from the judging booth/area, no interruptions while judging, keeping spectators at required distance, etc.
- Bring everything that might be needed during the day (Rule Book, pencils, sharpener, bell/whistle, sunscreen, extra clothes, rain gear, extra tests, etc.).

Judging the Test

The competitor deserves the judge's full and undivided attention, from the entrance into the ring to the exit. Anything less is not acceptable.

The judge must evaluate every step of each movement and each movement as a whole for all the required dressage principles plus the required path and accuracy and has to decide quickly at the end of each movement what score to give and what comments to make. This requires the judge to know exactly what the competitor has to do, what it should look like and how it should be done.

While fully concentrating on the competitor, the judge has to try to maintain exactly the same standard of evaluation from beginning to end, between one horse and another and for all the movements made by each individual horse. The mark of eight, for instance, must have exactly the same meaning for each and every horse. Many factors will tempt the judge to vary their standards as the hours go by and as many different types of horses and turnouts come before them.

The judge must be fair and not partial to one breed or type of animal. ***What is to be judged is the training of the animal, not its beauty or natural ability.*** They must at all times carry a picture in their mind of what a horse should look like that is exhibiting all the important principles, that is, suppleness, regularity, straightness and engagement and they must be able to adjust this picture to the various breeds, sizes and types of horses and the particular conformation of each animal. The judge should not have one ideal horse (e.g., Warmblood, Arabian or Hackney) in a certain frame in their mind and penalise every horse that does not look like this image. This is especially important in driving as there are so many different breeds competing in one class, however, if a talented horse of any breed shows the same correct training as a less talented horse and its (the first horse's) performance clearly exemplifies a higher quality movement, it must be rewarded for it.

While evaluating the ongoing test in the ring the judge must be very careful to keep faults in perspective. For instance, was it the driver's mistake that caused an abrupt transition or is the horse's basic training at fault? If a problem appears repeatedly, it must be considered a lack of training (or driver skill) and needs to be marked down each time it occurs and also in the collective marks. If it happens only once, it can be considered as a slip and should have very little impact on the collective marks.

While the horse is in the ring the judge has to try to gather, through thorough observation, any possible information about the horse. When giving the collective marks and final comments, any little gesture of the horse is important (e.g., the expression of the face, the motions of the mouth, the way the horse moves his ears and carries his tail) and all these factors have to be taken into consideration.

The judge should make as many comments as possible so the competitor can recreate the test and see it through the judge's eyes. In order to fit into the small spaces provided, however, comments must be brief and clear.

Every comment given should be as positive as possible without minimising a major training problem.

Each score should be explained through comments. If only explaining scores of five and below, the overall evaluation of the test may appear very negative as these scores reveal lots of problems. A competitor must also be told what was good and should be informed equally why he received an eight or nine, but not a ten.

After each test the judge has to totally clear their mind for the next competitor.

Accuracy

Accuracy is an essential element of a test performance as it is to a large extent synonymous with obedience, responsiveness and submission; however, it should not be allowed to take priority over a number of other factors that embody the very essence of dressage training. The emphasis should be on the basic training principles rather than on total accuracy.

For instance, one competitor's horse is relaxed, supple and rhythmic, bends properly around turns and shows smooth transitions, but the driver is, at times, two feet off the rail and does not drive the figures very accurately. A second competitor drives six inches from the rail and drives a very accurate pattern, but the horse is tense, looks to the outside during turns and throws the head up in almost every transition.

- The first driver needs to receive some markdown for inaccuracy, but the training of the horse is progressing correctly and therefore the future training of the horse is not jeopardised. This competitor can easily improve on the accuracy as the horse is supple and flexible.
- The second horse shows insufficient or faulty training and dressage has been misunderstood as a mere pattern driving rather than the gymnastic development of the horse. This driver is on the wrong track and any future training of the horse is greatly in jeopardy. Correcting this horse may mean starting the training all over again. The scores and comments must reflect this major problem.

As the horse moves up to open/advanced levels, a high degree of accuracy must be expected. However, the same principles still apply. Incorrect training must still be penalised more severely than inaccuracy.

Transitions

Transitions reveal more about the training of the horse than the actual movement and must be strongly considered when scoring a movement.

For instance, when lengthening the stride across the diagonal, the up and down transitions (and in some tests the corner before and after) have to receive the same importance as the actual lengthening. Therefore, a horse exhibiting an engaged, powerful and regular lengthening with poor transitions has to receive the same or even a lower score than a horse with smooth and correct transitions, but only a very moderate lengthening.

Correct Lateral Bend

Correct dressage training is most evident in a properly executed lateral bend when going through a turn. A horse that bends properly to each side must have been trained according to the dressage principles.

Horses that bend only in one direction and not at all in the other direction must be watched very carefully as they may not be bending truly at all. They may just be very crooked and appear to be bent, however the inside hind leg is not following the track of the inside front leg.

If in doubt, straight lines will usually tell about the true nature of a bend. If the horse moves perfectly straight on a straight line, it cannot be assumed that he does bend correctly both ways.

Longitudinal Bend – Frame

This is a relationship that must exist between engagement of the hindquarters and the resulting elevation in front. It is not a static and right position maintained through tenseness but rather the balanced self-carriage of a correctly trained horse. Herein lies the ability and knowledge of a judge to see what is good or bad. For judging purposes, we firmly accept the notion that we can describe or define – “This is a *novice* level frame, this is an *open* level frame, etc.”

The judge has to decide for themselves about every horse at any given level if this horse is in the appropriate frame (posture) in relation to his conformation and type for this specific level.

Scoring a Test

A score is the sum of information that results from the evaluation of many different components.

All the important principles like freedom and regularity of the paces, good balance and rhythm, lightness of the forehand and engagement of the hindquarters, willing submission and obedience etc. must find recognition in each given score.

By following these principles, judges will be able to remind competitors that the ultimate aims are to produce an obedient, smooth and supple horse that is pleasant in his paces as well as a pleasure to drive.

Equally important is the consideration of the level that is being judged, as different problems will call for different scores in each level and how many components of each movement have been mastered successfully by the horse.

When scoring movements with several components, each one should receive a mark in the judge's mind, as each segment is equally important. The average of these mental marks should account for the total score.

A similar consideration should be given when, for instance, the first half of a trot lengthening was very poor with several canter strides, but the second half was good. In the judge's mind, this movement should be divided into a bad part and a good part and the score should reflect these considerations.

Scores and comments must complement each other. For instance, it would be very wrong to score a seven for a rein back and comment on it as a "very good rein back". Very good means a '9'.

SCALE OF MARKS

These useful guidelines on using the Scale of Marks were originally produced by Stephen Clarke GB, FEI Official International Judge, to help ridden dressage judges. With his permission these have been changed so that they apply to the driven horse. I hope that you will find them helpful.

Diana Brownlie, FEI 'O' International Judge (Driving)

Our job as Judges is to be as fair and clear with the marks as possible. If we see a "very good" or "excellent" movement we should be brave enough to reward the competitor, however, if the movement is only worth a 6, then only give a 6. We can only mark what we see – not guess what the movement may look like. Reward the well driven movements and give a low mark with helpful and constructive comments to a lesser performance.

0 – Not Executed

This mark is given very rarely and only when a **complete** movement is not executed. The Judge at 'C' should ring the bell for Error of Course, a penalty awarded and ask for the movement to be driven. ***If there is a fragment of the movement performed, a mark above zero is in order.*** For example, zero does not apply where a working trot instead of a collected trot is driven.

1 – Very Bad & 2 – Bad

These marks are about severe resistance or very poor execution. If a Horse stops, runs back, kicks, rears, bucks or is disobedient.

3 – Fairly Bad

This could be given if there is fairly bad resistance, or a resistance combined with a lack of quality and/or mistakes or poor execution/accuracy of the movement a lack of obedience/harmony with little regularity or maintenance of pace. If there is a total lack of quality and mistakes it would also be possible to give a 3 or even a 2.

4 – Insufficient

The most important thing when giving a 4 is that one thinks of the movement as “insufficient”. If in the quality area the horse loses the regularity throughout the movement caused by stiffness or resistance rather than unsoundness. In cases of “Error of Test” when an attempt at a movement has been made but is not successful (collected/extended trot), this would be appropriate. If bending is not consistent throughout the test, then the mark should be 4 or possibly 5.

5 – Sufficient

If the movement has been achieved, even if somewhat restricted, earthbound, lacking suppleness or impulsion, as long as regularity is clear and the figure is fairly accurate it can warrant a 5. Clearly state in your remarks why the movement is not ‘satisfactory’. When there is nothing wrong with the quality, such as in a rein back, where the quality is good but there were too many or too few steps back, or on the other hand if the steps back were as required but the quality was poor such as not backing straight, the mark is 5. Consider though – that if in the too few steps example, the quality is poor, a 4 is appropriate as a 6 when quality is good. If a horse is falling in on the corners and circles on only one rein but is otherwise able to hold his balance and rhythm, a 5 may be an appropriate mark.

6 – Satisfactory

Covers a very wide spectrum. When the movement is basically correct but lacking in quality – not supple enough, needing more engagement and balance, or maybe the contact is inconsistent. This can also be for a high quality of movement with a small mistake or inaccuracy. For example, a good collection in a circle that is “too big”. Straightness (direction or bend) issues often result in 6’s as long as the quality is otherwise good.

7 – Fairly Good

There is usually nothing to really complain about with a 7. Normally everything needs a little more impulsion, suppleness, expression and/or cadence. The basic qualities are clear and show a certain amount of harmony and ease within the movement itself.

8 – Good

There must be no basic problems. The movement has been properly executed. Maybe there was an extended trot that was worth a 9 but came down to 8 because the transition was not good enough. Usually, it is the secondary part of the movement that stops it being 9, like a transition, or the following collected/working trot on the short side. A 30m working trot circle may be balanced and regular but could do with some more impulsion and elasticity.

9 – Very Good

“Goose bump material”, with most of the movement being excellent.

10 – Excellent

Perfection – correctly executed with great quality – no room for improvement. It is something very special to give a 10 and if awarded too lightly will lose its significance.

HALF (1/2) marks may be awarded

Dressage scoring is extremely complex, requiring knowledgeable analysis of all the components that make up a performance. The goal of scoring is to place appropriate judgement on each movement and the overall test itself. This goal means that scores must be given with great consideration and common sense and the judge should mark each movement exactly the way they see it, regardless of the person who is showing the horse and regardless of possible criticism by colleagues or show management.

Using scores only in the range between four and seven will not advance the sport and may not be fair to the horse and competitor. It takes courage and knowledge to use high and low scores and support them with comments that are the result of correct observation. A poor performance must receive a low mark, while a really good performance must receive a nine or ten, regardless of who is showing the horse. There is an enormous pressure on a judge sometimes, but honesty must prevail if driven dressage is to advance.

JUDGING MULTIPLES

General

Horses need not match in size, stride, temperament, movement or type. Horses must not be antagonistic toward each other.

Horses must be comfortable and harnessed correctly as per the Rules for Driving, that is:

- The pole must be of a correct length and horses must have enough space alongside it; (in a four-in-hand, wheelers not reaching the leader bars).
- Individual pole straps must be long enough to allow the horse to turn correctly.
- Swingletrees must be long enough and pivot to enable horses to move unrestricted.
- Traces must be of proper length (specified in Rules of Driving with Australian Variations).

The driver must be seated as per the Rules for Driving, with good rein contact and horses lightly on the bit. The brake can be used to facilitate a smooth test, but prolonged locking should be avoided. Breeching is not often used on wheelers, but is an acceptable addition.

The driver must use their voice and whip to advantage when necessary. The whip is used as a leg aid for the horse to bend around.

Movements

During the entire dressage test, wheelers take the weight of the carriage while the leaders are virtually out of draught with traces slightly bowed.

All horses should move forward with good impulsion.

All movements must be smooth and in unison, including transitions and rein-back.

Horses are judged as a team during the test and not as individual horses.

The driver makes the change of movement at the time the leaders head reaches the point indicated on the test, (unless otherwise stated). Because of the length of the turnout, the pace changes may be a little slow with the driver allowing all horses to be balanced before attempting the change of pace (especially relevant on diagonal extensions) or halting and moving off again.

All horses should bend on circles and turns.

The wheeler(s) of both four-in-hands and tandems must learn not to turn as soon as they see the leader(s) turning. It must be momentarily delayed.

Wheelers should follow the line of the leaders' track and not cut corners on circles and turns.

All horses should move straight and not lean into or pull away from each other.

A clear change of flexion when changing direction is required by all horses.

Judging Tandems

Both horses should be judged as one. It should be expected of both horses to perform each movement with obedience, lightness and maintenance of pace. If one horse breaks pace or does not achieve a pace, it is considered that the tandem made the error.

Judges should be especially conscious that the wheeler is collecting and extending. The wheeler is also expected to be on the bit and in the correct frame. The wheeler following and falling in and not being on the bit is very often missed because the judge is too involved with the leader only. If the wheeler is not performing the movement, the tandem must be penalised accordingly.

The leader should not go into draught. Corners cannot be driven correctly with a leader in draught. The wheeler will be pulled into a shorter line. Maintenance of pace cannot be achieved if a leader is going in and out of draught. In all parts of the test the horses must be driven on the bit so the combination can maintain rhythm and balance.

Judges should watch rein-backs with sympathy. It is a very difficult movement for a tandem to be straight. It is very rare to see a correct rein-back however marks must be available to reward the achievement. Judges should watch for the wheeler dragging the leader backwards.

This will keep the tandem in line but should not be considered correct. Horses should rein-back in unison, without resistance as a single is expected to do.

Tandems should make each change of pace on the leader's head (unless otherwise stated), as with a single. We often see tandems driving around the arena in the correct frame but not actually changing pace. This can sometimes look good to an inexperienced judge as no pressure is applied to the horses; no resistance or breaks of pace take place. They drive well around the corners with nice straight lines. Often this sort of test scores well against a driver who is putting pressure on their horses to obtain collection or extension and maybe they get some resistance or the odd break of pace. It is up to the judges to ensure flat tests with no change of pace do not become contagious. Correct footfall, maintenance of rhythm, obedience and lightness with horses on the bit in the correct frame, working together as a tandem, must be the expectation of judges.

One-handed movements with tandems are difficult but not impossible. Judges should expect these movements to be driven with accuracy. A large number of drivers can do this. When driving a one-handed movement, the reins should be in the left hand with the right hand carrying the whip. The whip and voice may be used as an aid when required and not penalised. The driver's voice should not be penalised. Figures should be accurately driven with correct use made of the arena.

Judges should look for horses being driven in correct tandem formation with the leader and wheeler using the same track, on the straight and around the corners. Both horses should have the correct frame. Paces should be judged in the same manner for tandems as for singles. Both horses must achieve each pace with elasticity, obedience and lightness to achieve a good score – if only one horse is correct the combination must be marked down. Don't forget the wheeler. Watch that the wheeler is not falling in – flexion should be expected from both horses.

Tandem driving is difficult and requires a lot of work to achieve a reasonable result. Be as constructive with comments as possible. Be careful to put the correct mark to the comment and don't be afraid to use all marks from one to ten.

RIDDEN AND DRIVEN DRESSAGE – IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

It can be unnerving to drive a horse when you have always ridden one. You only have long, relatively heavy reins, a long whip you cannot manage and the sudden realisation that the horse cannot understand your voice and is too far away to pat. Involuntarily you give useless leg aids and wonder what on earth you will do if the horse takes off, as his turning circle has now a far greater diameter than under saddle. You have been informed that dressage training should be the same whether the horse is ridden or driven. The horse should execute a collected trot, working trot plus an extended trot and it should show all the dressage features of relaxation, straightness/bend, outline, rhythm, impulsion, obedience, etc.

The ultimate goals of training are not as high in driven dressage, but the basic training principles are the same.

Balance and Weight

The horse naturally carries more of his body weight on his front legs, with some variation due to conformation. To achieve good balance, ridden or driven, the aim is to encourage the horse to place more weight on his hindquarters. He becomes lighter in the forehand, more agile and comfortable.

Dr. H.K.M. Van Schaik, in an article reproduced in the ACDS Journal Volume 5, No. 17 of December 1983, wrote that “The horse(s) balance is not the same when it is ridden as when it is driven (singles and wheelers). Ridden dressage schooling teaches the horse to carry more of the weight with the haunches, lightening the forehand and pushing with the hindquarters to do this. In pulling a light vehicle the horse shifts less towards its forehand (than if it were pulling a really heavy vehicle), but as long as it is in draught (pulling), it cannot carry weight with the haunches to the same degree that a ridden horse is able to do. Extended gaits, though maybe not a classically perfect extension, should be possible with a light vehicle. It is not expected to see real collected gaits because these require a shifting of balance towards the haunches, which is not compatible with pulling. In real collection the horse is able to be light and dancing in front because the hindquarters carry the weight rather than push. This cannot be done in draught. The weight of a pushed vehicle inhibits the reach of the front legs and the harness restricts shoulder freedom, hence we rarely, if ever, see a harness horse in a collected trot moving in an uphill manner”.

To collect, we ask the horse to “work forward and upward, but the carriage still needs to be moved only forward, because we cannot alter the centre of gravity of a vehicle as we can with a rider. When the horse attempts collection, its workload actually increases”. (Carriage Driving, by Heike Bean and Sarah Blanchard, p.215). It is far more difficult for the driven horse than the ridden horse. “Driving horses then, in our opinion, are really only required to show a light degree of collection and the lowering of the haunches is minimal.” (Carriage Driving, p.216).

The Influence of Driving Aids

The driver has his voice, reins and whip to influence his horse(s) in the arena and to a certain degree the influences of earlier training under saddle or in long reins. Driving reins are longer and heavier than riding reins, possibly giving a more remote control with slightly slower operational time. To achieve contact with individual members of a multiple is not so easily achieved as with a single. Four-in-hands should not display overall strong contact as the horses could become uncontrollable. Keeping the leaders of a four-in-hand out of draught, with traces straight but not taut can assist overall balance of the horses, as the wheelers are pushing and the leaders free.

Possibly less lateral bend is expected with the driving horse, due to pushed weight, a lack of rider's seat and leg aids and the less tight curves and circles required in driven dressage tests.

Avoidable Factors that Inhibit Paces of the Driven Horse

The horse may or may not be comfortable being strapped into the vehicle because of various reasons, including:

- Is the breeching too loose, which could accentuate his loss of balance?
- Is the breeching too tight, inhibiting the extended trot?

- Is the breastplate too low, making pulling (or pushing) of the vehicle extremely annoying or difficult?
- Is the two-wheeled vehicle balanced? Even if balanced, the shafts could, on uneven ground, tend to move up or down producing a sudden weight on the saddle or a slap up under the belly. An unbalanced vehicle with too much weight forward could produce a consistent vibration on the saddle or cause the shafts to sway from side to side. Too much weight back may cause the shaft points to rise, which is most unsightly and could inhibit bend.
- An uneven arena can cause the shafts of a two wheeled vehicle (and to a lesser extent the pole of the four wheeled vehicle) to somewhat deflect a horse from being straight at any pace and during transitions. To be straight, the horse's hind feet should follow exactly the track of the forefeet and his spine should adjust to the exact line the horse is following, whether moving in a straight or curved line. The horse must be steady with even rhythm. All distractions need to be eliminated to achieve this purpose.
- There are mechanical reasons to generally favour short coupling (between the front and larger diameter rear wheels) of four wheeled vehicles, that is, they are easier to pull. Draught is also influenced by where the load is carried on the vehicle. Generally, if the rear, larger diameter wheels carry the most weight, the draught will lessen. The roll of the wheel depends on the road surface, the load carried and the diameter of the wheel. It has been said that doubling the diameter of the wheel halves the draught required to pull a given load (in an article by Dr. Gordon Cantle, Horse International, December 1986).
- Draught is easier if traces are straight from breastplate or collar to the vehicle.
- The width between the shafts and the width of the swingletree influence lateral bend for singles and wheelers. The width between the shafts for singles must allow room for bend on circles and corners. The horse's inside shoulder will move closer to the inside shaft and its outside haunches will move closer to the outside shaft. If the horse has insufficient room, his inside hind leg will remain too far to the inside of the bend or circle and he will not track or bend correctly.
- Concerning the width of the swingletree, whilst bending, the outside of a horse's body becomes longer. If the swingletree cannot pivot sufficiently, the outside trace cannot lengthen (move forward) and the horse is inhibited, regardless of the width between the shafts.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

These points are of great interest to all drivers (and horses) and should be carefully considered:

- It should be noted that knee action and high head carriage are expected from some harness horses, e.g., Hackneys and Friesians. They can still show extension even if their head carriage is acceptably higher. They might be said to have a slightly hollow back, which is, if not rigid and tense, acceptable.
- We may not have a Grand Prix driven dressage horse, but we can have the test movements as an exhibition of beauty, control and power. Judges should judge as per ACDS Driven Dressage guidelines.

AIDE MEMOIRE FOR DRIVEN DRESSAGE JUDGES

BEFORE THE COMPETITION

Ensure your membership to the ACDS is current. Do not accept a judging appointment unless you have attended a workshop within the previous three (3) years.

Before acceptance of an appointment, it is essential that judges advise the organising committee of their needs regarding accommodation, travel expenses etc.

Remember, never leave home without your-up-to date ACDS Rules for Combined Driving Events and Graded Driven Dressage.

You are responsible for checking that the arena is correctly set up. Arrive in time to check this and make any necessary change/s.

Talk to your penciller before judging begins. Run through the test together and explain what you want them to do. Remind the penciller not to discuss the tests with anyone outside.

THE ARENA

The arena for Preliminary and Novice levels may be 80m x 40m or 100m x 40m. The arena for Elementary to Advanced levels (inclusive) must be 100m x 40m.

The arena should be level and separated from the public (including photographers and video operators) by a recommended distance of 5m – 10m. Judges should be 2 – 3m from the arena boundary and seated as high as possible. When there are two judges, they must sit at 'C' and 'B' or 'E', in a high-seated vehicle or platform. When there are three judges, they must be at 'C', 'B' and 'E'. When there are five judges, they must be at 'C', 'R', 'S', 'V' and 'P'.

Judges should inspect the arena and surrounding area to ensure the driver can safely enter and exit and that all is correct. The arena may have a low, continuous or partial, surround (e.g., white timber or plastic). A gap of at least two (2) metres each side of the centre line should be left at 'A' to form an entrance, to be closed by the Dressage Marshalling Steward (DMS) while a test is in progress. The 'A' marker must be placed far enough back from the arena to allow horses to enter on a straight track. It is helpful to place a marker for 'A' on the arena boundary (e.g., lime, paint, sawdust).

The letters outside the arena may be placed at 50cm from the arena boundary and be clearly marked. Supports must not involve star pickets or an equivalent. Letters may be placed on the edge of the arena if there is no continuous or partial fence.

The arena must be measured and marked per the Rules, that is, for a large arena, (100m x 40m), as shown at Annex B on page 28 and for a small arena, (80m x 40m), as shown at Annex C on page 29 of the GDD Rules.

The centre line at 'X' must be marked and the two points 'D' and 'G' should be marked. It is helpful to also mark 'I' and 'L' for some tests. Use sawdust, lime, flour, road marking paint, sand or an equivalent. Renew this, if necessary, after every six competitors.

Furthermore, the Judge at 'C', responsible for noting Errors of Course, may find it difficult to see if competitors change pace, or halt, or change direction at designated central letters, if those central letters are not marked.

The Dressage Marshalling Steward may position a marker at 'A' after closing the entry gate.

Due to the size of the dressage arena, it is often only possible to place arenas close together (at least five (5) metres apart) but they should never have a common boundary. Competitors should be informed of what their signal (sound) will be, e.g., foghorn, car horn, whistle, bell, etc. The problem of entry bells with similar sounds can be overcome with the judge at 'C' waving a hand, flashing car headlights or using a 'Walkie Talkie' to the DMS, but Errors of Course can cause more of a difficulty if bell tones are similar when arenas are close together.

Practice Zones. It is recommended that a practice arena (minimum 80m x 40m) is made available or, at the very least, centre line marking (road marking paint, lime, sand etc.). More than one competitor can practice within an arena at the same time, at the discretion of the Organising Committee.

DRESSAGE MARSHALLING STEWARD

It is recommended that a Dressage Marshalling Steward (DMS) is appointed. Competitors will present to the DMS prior to commencing their dressage test. The judge at 'C' will signal the DMS when the judges are ready for a competitor to enter the arena and commence a test.

The role of the DMS is to:

1. Ensure the competitor recognises the sound of the judge's bell/signal, especially if several dressage arenas are close together.
2. Ensure the competitor recognises the judge's signal for entry (walkie talkie, flashing headlights, bell, etc.).
3. Open and close the entry gate if fitted.
4. Adequately maintain centre line markings (after approx. 6-8 tests - if necessary).
5. Ensure spectators and photographers are at least 5m from the arena border and do not interrupt the judges.
6. If there is a lameness problem, follow instructions from the judge at 'C'.
7. Rectify arena damage or distractions, e.g., letters, pot plants or arena railing blown over, dogs or flying rubbish;
8. If there is a delay, the Judge at 'C' should be informed and, if possible, the announcer, so that subsequent competitors may be advised of adjusted times.

PRESENTATION

At Graded Driven Dressage Qualifiers **Presentation' is NOT SCORED.**

At **National** GDD Championships a '**BEST PRESENTED AWARD**' (decided by the **Judges**) will be scored but **completely-separate from the GDD Test scores.**

At **State** GDD Championships a '**BEST PRESENTED AWARD**' is **optional (decided by the Judges)** will be scored but **completely-separate from the GDD scores.** (Refer to Rule 14)

DRIVER and GROOM

Drivers must be members of the ACDS.

The Driver must carry a driving whip with a lash. The whip may be used as an aid at any time, including one-handed circles, deviations, etc.

The driver may use any method or style of driving. In some tests, one-handed rein control is specified for certain movements and is expected during the salute. At all other times, either one or two-handed rein control is permitted.

Presenting for Judging

Judges will be given a list of competitor numbers, starting times and the test to be driven by each competitor. Competitors must present for judging prior to the allocated time and commence within 90 seconds of the bell being rung or they may be eliminated. The judge at 'C' will record if a competitor is late, for possible penalty.

The Test

The test should be driven from memory. Speaking or indication given by a groom will incur 10 penalties (10 penalties can only be given once per test). Displaying a copy of the dressage test or diagram on the dashboard of a carriage is permitted, without penalty.

The driver should sit well balanced, upright with knees and feet together and preferably sit high enough to avoid rein contact with the horse's hindquarters. All movements should be obtained without apparent effort.

The driver may use their voice and whip as a driving aid at any time. Only the driver may use the reins, whip or brake.

Outside assistance is forbidden under penalty of elimination. Doubtful decisions are clarified by the Ground Jury, however, if an accident is imminent or has occurred and the driver calls for assistance, or is incapable, or are too pre-occupied to do so, then outside assistance may be provided without penalty.

"Use of aids, handling of reins and whip, position on the box, accuracy of figures". The mark should reflect the performance of the horses/ponies throughout the test.

Judges should take into consideration – accuracy, driving straight, precision, achievement and being in harmony with the horse. Maintenance of pace.

Singles

In Graded Driven Dressage Qualifiers or GDD Championships, a groom is NOT required for single ponies or horses, unless the Driver is a Junior Driver.

In Combined Driving Events, a groom must be carried by singles in all classes, in either two or four-wheeled vehicles, except in the 91cm – under 124cm class.

All grooms on any vehicle during a competition must be at least 10 years old for singles or 14 years old for multiples.

Grooms must remain seated in their proper place between entering and leaving the arena (5 penalties) and grooms must not speak, indicate direction (10 penalties), handle the reins or whip (20 penalties). Only the Judge at 'C' may give penalties.

Pairs and Tandems

Pairs and Tandems must carry the driver and one groom. No passengers are to be carried. Groom for pairs must sit behind the driver. Grooms for tandem may sit beside (two wheeled vehicle) or behind the driver (four wheeled vehicle).

Four-in-Hand

Four-in-hand must carry the driver and two grooms. No passengers are to be carried. Grooms must sit behind the driver.

Junior Drivers

Refer to Rule 13.6.2 for the minimum age of drivers and combinations.

JUDGES

All judges must be current members of the ACDS.

Judges must arrive early to ensure their pencillers know exactly what is expected of them, when they have not brought their own pencillers. Judges may be asked to allow candidate judges to observe how they judge.

Judging the Test

The judges will allocate their marks individually and there will be no consultation among judges once the class has commenced.

Judges should avoid speaking to spectators or visiting/casual enquirers during or between classes.

You must keep to time as far as possible, so don't waste time and don't take too long writing up your sheets.

Don't forget to sign each sheet and initial changes.

Don't mark differently for novices. Don't reward mediocrity. Do, however, try to make more comments for novices and be as helpful in your comments as you can.

High marks speak for themselves and so you need not comment. Low marks must have comments so that the competitor will be able to tell what was wrong.

Half marks may be awarded.

Remember; all dressage requires the horse(s) to willingly conduct what is required of them, therefore if you see resistance, you must mark it down.

Mark what you see. If the work is poor, mark accordingly and vice versa, but always keep in mind straightness (correct flexion) and regularity, as well as accuracy.

Don't forget to watch the driver as well as the horse(s). Two hands on the reins during the one-handed circle, or two hands on the reins late (unpreparedness) or early (inability to maintain the circle), must be noticed by you.

Remember that lameness should preferably be marked down for irregularity throughout the test.

If a single is not carrying a groom and gets into difficulties and requires assistance from outside the arena, you will mark as for a groom dismounting.

If judges have to be changed (for whatever reason) during the day, don't allow that change until the completion of a class, e.g., at the end of the Open Horse class.

If you have to ask a competitor to leave the arena (elimination), remember to be polite but firm.

Don't allow your prejudices to show. There are good and bad in every breed. Many breeds are used in driving and you must keep an open mind about all of them.

Although the voice is a recognised aid in driving, it should not be obtrusive during a test.

Keep the scores and their meanings (Scale of Marks – Rule 9.1) on a small sheet in front of you, as long periods of concentration are tiring and you may want to check, for example, that four is "insufficient".

Try to judge to a standard all day. Don't start high unless you see good or very good work, otherwise you may find later, when something with class appears, you cannot reward it.

If you have given very poor marks and hard comments to a novice, always try to put something encouraging at the bottom of the sheet. "Don't despair", "keep trying", "persevere", etc. can help to cheer when everything else seems bad.

Basic faults caused by the driver:

- inaccurate movements;
- lack of preparation before transitions/corners, changes of direction, etc.;
- not sitting straight, balanced and upright in the vehicle and jamming hands and fingers;
- not truly going with the horse, especially in extension;
- not checking horse's straightness and balance before transitions, especially before extended or collected work; and
- whip and hands not working in harmony with horse.

Horse faults (usually created by poor driving):

- unsteady outline and unbalanced;
- stride irregular and uneven, especially in transitions;
- lacking impulsion;
- lacking straightness; and
- not flexing/incorrect bend to inside on curved lines.

Error of Test and Error of Course

Error of Test

There is no separate penalty for an Error of Test, it is merely marked down by all judges. If a Driver attempts to perform a movement or attempts to maintain the pace required and fails to do so, **but does not deviate from the track**, the Judge at 'C' must treat it as an "Error of Test" and give the movement an appropriate mark.

Error of Course

An "Error of Course" is when a Driver deviates markedly from the required track or when a movement is omitted altogether.

The bell **must** be rung to record an Error of Course and the competitor should drive up to the judge at 'C' and ask or wait for clarification, even if the competitor appreciates where they have gone wrong. The test must continue from the **beginning** of the movement where the Error of Course was made. If an Error of Course occurs in movement 1, the competitor **must not leave the arena**, but recommence at the centre line at A, **inside the arena**.

An 'Error of Course' incurs penalties recorded by the Head Judge only. The side judge/s note the Error of Course but do not award penalties, however, their score and comments should reflect the Error of Course.

The judge at 'C' must record a concise explanation of where the Error of Course occurred, in case of protests. The side judge(s) should do the same, but not award a penalty.

Competitors should, when the bell is rung for an Error of Course, drive up to the judge at 'C' and ask or wait for clarification, even if the competitor appreciates where they have gone wrong. The competitor will then be certain at which point the judge wishes the test to be resumed and the judge will have time to return to their judging position at 'C'.

If the driver, upon hearing the bell, realises the mistake immediately and indicates that they are able to rectify the mistake correctly, the judge will let them continue. If the competitor is incorrect, the judge must ring the bell again and a second Error of Course will apply.

If the head judge hesitates when there has been an Error of Course and does not ring the bell, by at least the end of the following movement, it cannot be recorded as an Error of Course. The head judge must mark it as an inaccuracy.

If the head judge at 'C' has not noted an error at all, the competitor has the benefit of the doubt. It cannot be recorded as an Error of Course by the other judge/s; however, it can be reflected in their scores. The official score of the Judge at 'C' cannot be changed even if witnessed by other judges, spectators or recorded by camera.

Should the judge ring the bell when it should not have been, they should apologise to the competitor and will not penalise as an Error of Course.

For an Error of Course, penalties will be distributed as follows:

- First occasion: 5 penalties
- Second occasion: 10 penalties
- Third occasion: Elimination

THE DRIVEN DRESSAGE PENCILLER

On the Day of the Event

On the day of the event, the penciller should:

- meet your judge half an hour (at least) before the start of the competition. You will be given a clipboard, pen, list of competitor's numbers and dressage score sheets.
- be confident you can spell and print neatly and quickly. Do not volunteer to pencil if you cannot fulfil these requirements.
- record the competitor's number at the top of the sheet. The number will be tied to the back of the vehicle (or somewhere!). If by any chance there is no number, write a description of the turnout at the top of the sheet, to enable the competitor to be identified.
- write the judge's comments, which refer to the movement being performed, in the correct column. One to three lines of writing may be required per movement, so be sure to allow enough space to accommodate this.
- ask the judge (before the competition commences) what their likely comments are going to consist of, or their most frequently used words, so that you are happy about spelling those words, such as rhythm, or that you know the accepted abbreviations.

- write neatly so that competitors are able to read the comments.
- ask your judge for a numerical mark when the movement has been completed, if they have failed to give you one.

A steward will (generally) collect your sheets in batches. Before parting with them, make sure that:

- there is a mark against every movement, even if there is no comment;
- if there are Errors of Course, there are penalties noted on the sheet in the relevant space;
- each test has your judge's signature and printed surname on it; and
- the position your judge is judging from is recorded in the relevant space.

If the last sheets have not been collected, take them to the secretary's office, together with your clipboard, pen and extra score sheets.

Do Not

- Voice an opinion on a movement, however tempting it may be to do so.
- Chat. The judge has an exacting job and must not be distracted.
- Calculate the point score totals for a test yourself. That is the job of the official scorer.

Score Sheet Comments

Judges are advised to be familiar with the accepted penciller abbreviations. Pencillers should be familiar with these abbreviations also, so they will know, for example, to write "poor O" when "poor circle" is commented on. Judges may have some difficulty at times, making short or precise comments to cover some aspect of a movement or performance, however, there will be times when a sentence is necessary to explain a point.

The following are some suggested comments (these make use of the accepted abbreviations):

- unsteady halt; halt not sustained; restless at halt; hurried, rushed or tense halt; halt too abrupt; unbalanced halt calm, responsive, balanced, square, smooth halt; excellent or rock-like halt;
- good move-off crooked RB; supple RB rushed CT, WT or ET losing rhythm on O;
- irregular shape O; O too small/big; dropping in on O; correct bend on O head looking out on O, flexing well to inside of turn; not flexing on O;
- supple change of rein through X (re figure of eight); good flexion (bend) change at X fair or some attempt at ET; lengthening insuff; running or no ET; some lengthening; skipping in ET; broke pace in ET; reins in one hand not sustained;
- late trans; abrupt trans; rough trans; more prep needed prior to trans, change of movement anticipating trans; good trans; acc, responsive trans, no definition of paces;

- insufficient; not enough; heavy on forehand, lacking impulsion, could be lighter in front coming well from behind; well trained, skilled, educated; tense;
- resisting through jaw; resisting bit; head unsteady; tipping or tilting head consistent good head position; steady head;
- hurried; over-eager; fell into walk; irregular walk; not true walk; early into walk, trot, etc.; lost impulsion;
- overstepping well at walk;
- not straight up CL, not travelling straight; wandering or meandering down CL; drifting off CL; straight and regular up CL;
- outline well maintained, consistent outline using quarters well; quarters not engaged;
- cutting corners, falling in, dropping in; loops not equal (especially on serpentine);
- little above the bit;
- attentive; working well as pair/four-in-hand/tandem; not working as team; sufficient, adequate, dull, abysmal; and/or
- quality, commendable, accurate, active, enjoy.

It can be difficult to write specific comments for collective marks when there is an overall error. Space and time are limited. Some judges write a summary however this is not encouraged as judges are there to judge what they see, not to give a lesson. Short constructive comments are recommended. Event organisers need judges to keep to a scheduled time.

Also refer to Annex D on Page 30 – ‘Score Sheet Abbreviations’.

GUIDELINES FOR STATE DRIVEN DRESSAGE PANELS

Requirements

All State driven dressage panels are to work in accordance with the principles laid down by the ACDS Federal Council, National Driven Dressage Rules and Guidelines.

Panel Membership – Rules and By-laws on the election of panels vary from State to State:

- State driven dressage panels will be elected annually in each State by the State ACDS Branch. These panels should consist of three (3) – five (5) ACDS members.
- Nominations to the State Branch are to be taken from individual members.
- State Branches will further elect panel members. The panel Convenor may be elected by the State Branch or by the panel members (constitutions vary between States) and must be a current accredited judge.
- The panel Convenor is to be a current accredited driven dressage judge (unless a person with this accreditation is not available).
- Any three members of the panel will constitute a meeting quorum, including via electronic media. Panel members have equal voting rights.
- If panels do not have full membership or cannot raise a quorum at meetings, their minutes should still be recorded.
- All panel members are to be, as a minimum, an Active (Non-Driving) member, preferably with driving experience and/or a currently qualified driven dressage judge.

Specific Role of the Convenor (or temporary delegated panel member).

The Convenor's responsibilities are as follows:

- Convene meetings and determine agenda with the State Panel and/or emails as required.
- Record minutes and present a report to State Branch meetings.
- Attend State combined driving committee meetings where applicable.
- Present an annual report to the State Branch annual general meeting.
- Receive GDD Schedules for panels to ratify in a timely manner.
- First point of contact regarding GDD Qualifiers or Championships.

- Forward the annual report to the Federal Driven Dressage Convenor (FDDC), for presentation to the ACDS annual general meeting.
- Maintain close communication with the FDDC with reference to State activities, problem resolutions, tests, new ideas, etc.
- Request candidate judge's exams from the FDDC when appropriate.
- Encourage distribution of the ACDS Graded Driven Dressage Rule Book and Guidelines.
- Publicity – publicising the value of dressage via State Branch newsletters or a state driven dressage newsletter. Assist the FDDC with articles for the ACDS Journal.
- Refer to assessors if clarification/explanation on certain issues are required.

General Role and Functions of the Panels

The role and functions of the State Driven Dressage Panel includes:

- Assist the State Driven Dressage Panel Convenor as required.
- Educate on Ground Jury responsibilities in conjunction with combined driving committees.
- Maintain a register of candidate and accredited state novice and advanced judges and their involvement in an official capacity at competitions – forward updated information to the FDDC.
- Assist with finding judges for event organisers in emergencies.
- Advise event organisers, clubs, combined driving committees, etc., on appropriate driven dressage tests to be used.
- Encourage driven dressage competition within the State.
- In conjunction with the FDDC, consider any future needs to improve or modify the ACDS Graded Driven Dressage Rules and Guidelines or CDE Rule Book.
- Recommendation of potential suitable assessors to the FDDC.

CLARIFICATION OF RULES FOR DRIVEN DRESSAGE AT COMBINED DRIVING EVENTS

**Applicable to Combined Driving Driven Dressage in Conjunction with
the current ACDS Combined Driving Events Rule Book**

OBJECTIVE AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The objective of the dressage test is to judge the freedom, regularity of pace, harmony, impulsion, suppleness, lightness, ease of movement and correct bending of horses and ponies on the move. These qualities are revealed by:

- harmony, lightness and ease of movements;
- lightness of the forehand and engagement of the hindquarters, originating in a lively impulsion at higher levels; and
- acceptance of the bridle, with submissiveness throughout and without any tenseness or resistance.

The competitor will also be judged on their style, accuracy and general command of their horse(s) and on the presentation of the turnout.

Horses and ponies will be judged as single or multiple (2 or 4) and not as individual horses e.g., if one horse breaks pace in a multiple, it is judged as if the whole turnout has broken pace. The definition of paces must apply to all horses.

Accuracy of figure shapes is very important. Circles and half circles which require crossing X or the centre line should be driven in such a manner that the centre line is between the wheels of the carriage, i.e., either in line with the pole or with the centre of the shafts in the case of a single or tandem. When changing direction, the horse(s) should adjust to the curvature of the line they follow – bend or flexion. For minimal correctness, the horse(s) must look in the direction of travel. The horse(s) must not drop its inside shoulder and fall into the circle, with its head turned out.

Sponsors' logos are allowed on the turnout.

Any driver or groom showing cruelty shall be penalised by disqualification by the Ground Jury.

PRESENTATION

"Appearance of the driver and groom(s), cleanliness, fitness, matching and condition of horses/ponies, vehicle and harness." Bandages and brushing boots are not permitted under any circumstances in Competition A. Failure to comply incurs 10 penalties. If the competitor, groom(s), vehicle or harness do not comply with these Rules, or equipment or clothing is missing, the President of the Ground Jury (POJ) will award penalty points. At the discretion of the POJ, the driver may be requested to remove the bandages or brushing boots etc. to ensure they are not masking an injury.

All judges are to judge presentation on the move. First impressions are important, however judges must check to see if competitors have hat, gloves, whip, apron, reflectors and lamps, if the vehicle is fitted for them. Grooms must wear gloves. As competitors pass judges, it can be observed if the turnout is clean and appropriate. The fit of the harness can be observed during the tests.

DRIVER AND GROOM

Drivers must be members of the ACDS. For Junior drivers/grooms, please refer to the ACDS By-law 14.8 and the current ACDS CDE Rules Article 912.

Attire

The attire of drivers and grooms must conform to the style of the carriage and harness used. In dressage, the driver must wear a driving apron over the jacket, hat and gloves and carry a whip in hand. Not carrying a whip is 10 penalties. If any of the other three items are not worn by the driver, a maximum of 5 penalties. Grooms must wear hats and gloves. Only the judge at 'C' may award penalty points.

The Driver must carry a driving whip with a lash. When not in use, the whip should be carried at a 45° angle to the vertical (or less) either in the left or right hand. The whip may be used as an aid at any time, including one-handed circles, deviations, etc.

The driver may use any method or style of driving. In some tests, one-handed rein control is specified for certain movements and is expected during the salute. At all other times, either one or two-handed rein control is permitted.

Presenting for Judging

Judges will be given a list of competitor numbers, starting times and the test to be driven by each competitor. Competitors must present for judging prior to the allocated time and commence within 90 seconds of the bell being rung or they may be eliminated. The judge at 'C' will record if a competitor is late, for possible penalty.

The Test

The Driven Dressage Test *should* be driven from memory. Speaking or indication given by a groom will incur 10 penalties (10 penalties can only be given once per test). *Displaying a copy of the dressage test or diagram on the dashboard of a carriage is permitted, without penalty.*

The driver should sit well balanced, upright with knees and feet together and preferably sit high enough to avoid rein contact with the horse's hindquarters. All movements should be obtained without apparent effort.

The driver may use their voice and whip as a driving aid at any time. Only the driver may use the reins, whip or brake.

Outside assistance is forbidden under penalty of elimination. Doubtful decisions are clarified by the Ground Jury, however, if an accident is imminent or has occurred and the driver calls for assistance, or is incapable, or are too pre-occupied to do so, then outside assistance may be provided without penalty.

"Use of aids, handling of reins and whip, position on the box, accuracy of figures". The mark should reflect the performance of the horses/ponies throughout the test.

Judges should take into consideration – accuracy, driving straight, precision, maintenance of pace and being in harmony with the horse.

Singles

Grooms must be carried by singles in all classes, in either two or four-wheeled vehicle, except in the 91cm – under 124cm class.

If a groom is carried, they may sit beside the driver in a two-wheeler or behind in a four-wheeler. If the two-wheeler has a back step, the step may remain in place although not used.

All grooms on any vehicle during a competition must be at least 10 years old for singles or 14 years old for multiples.

Grooms must remain seated in their proper place between entering and leaving the arena (groom standing will incur 5 penalties applied once per test). They are not permitted to handle the reins or whip (20 penalties) or speak or indicate direction to the driver (10 penalties, once per test). Only the Judge at 'C' may give penalties. A groom, who is an ACDS member, may handle the reins, whip and brake without penalty, provided the vehicle remains stationary.

Single drivers must be at least 12 years of age. All competitors under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a competent adult ACDS member.

Pairs and Tandems

Pairs and Tandems must carry the driver and one groom. No passengers are to be carried. Groom for pairs must sit behind the driver. Grooms for tandem may sit beside (two wheeled vehicle) or behind the driver (four wheeled vehicle).

Horse Pair and Tandem drivers must be at least 18 years old. Pony pair and tandem drivers must be at least 16 years old.

Four-in-Hand

Four-in-hand must carry the driver and two grooms. No passengers are to be carried. Grooms must sit behind the driver. Horse four-in-hand drivers must be at least 18 years old and pony four-in-hand drivers must be 16 years.

VEHICLES

Vehicles for four-in-hands and pairs must be four-wheeled. In all classes (other than singles), if the vehicle has no brakes, breeching is compulsory. Failure to comply entails 10 penalties. Breeching is compulsory for all singles. Failure to comply is elimination.

Vehicles for singles and tandems may be two or four-wheeled. For Level 1 and 2 events, only solid rubber or iron tyres are permitted. For Level 3 and 4 events, pneumatic tyres may be used in a class of their own. Viceroy's are not permitted in CDEs.

Vehicles must be clean and sound.

Reflectors are compulsory in Competitions A and C. Lamps are optional in Competition C even if lamp holders are fitted.

Vehicle wheel widths are specified; however, vehicles are not weighed.

No person may be tied to the vehicle in any way during the competitions. A competitor may be secured by rope, webbing or belt provided one end is held by a groom and not wrapped or fastened to the vehicle in any way. Failure to comply will incur elimination.

HARNESS

Harness must be safe, clean and in good condition. It should be uniform in appearance (leather or synthetic) and of an appropriate style. Horses must be correctly harnessed.

Different bits (not identical) or not necessarily recognised driving bits with multiples are acceptable. Misuse or cruelty in the use of a bit may incur disqualification. Bitless bridles are not permitted. Failure to comply will incur elimination. It is forbidden to tie down the tongue of a horse. Failure to comply will incur elimination.

For four-in-hands and pairs, only the connecting straps between collars or breast collars are allowed. The leaders may not be connected to each other in any manner whatsoever, other than by the connecting reins. Auxiliary reins, including any type of check reins or straps, are not allowed. These include bearing reins, overhead (trotting) checks, running and standing martingales, side reins and running reins. Failure to comply will incur elimination.

All rings, terrets and/or other devices on a harness causing extreme leverage effect on the reins are forbidden. Drivers contravening this Rule incur elimination.

Permitted types of nosebands are cavesson, dropped, cross-over type (also known as Grackle or Mexican noseband) and flash type (also known as Hanoverian). Use of chains or equivalent under nosebands or hay band nosebands are to be construed as cruelty, in the opinion of the Ground Jury and penalised by disqualification from the event.

In case of broken or disconnected equipment, or if the horse steps over a trace, pole or shaft, the judge at 'C' will ring the bell. The driver must stop and put a groom down (or in the case of the 91cm under 124cm class, call a groom/or assistant in) to affect a repair. Penalties will be awarded as per Rules (1st occasion – 5 penalties; 2nd occasion – 10 penalties; 3rd occasion – elimination).

HORSES AND PONIES

Horses and ponies must be at least four years of age for all events. Failure to comply entails elimination.

Any animal of more than 148cm measured without shoes, and more than 149cm measured with shoes, is classified as a horse. Any animal, 148cm without shoes or 149cm with shoes and below, may only take part in classes for ponies.

The class in which a multiple is entered will be determined by the height of the largest animal.

Horses may be measured at the discretion of the Organising Committee.

Horses may be shod with any type of conventional shoe. It is not compulsory for horses to be shod.

Hoof Boots are permitted.

Bandages and brushing/protection boots are not permitted. Failure to comply incurs 10 penalties. Action, if worn – upon leaving the arena, the bandages or brushing must be removed and the horse(s) inspected by a vet or accredited steward who will report to the President of the Ground Jury. The inspection is to ascertain whether they are masking an injury etc.

Tails may not be tied or attached to any part of the harness or vehicles, with the exception of a recognised tail guard. No other ancillary device which restricts the free movement of the horse's tail is permitted.

JUDGING AND SCORING

Judges

All judges must be as a minimum a current Active (non-driving) Member of the ACDS. Open single and multiple tests should be judged by ACDS accredited advanced judges. Novice single tests may be judged by ACDS accredited advanced or novice judges. It is helpful for novice judges to judge with an advanced judge.

Lameness

In case of very marked lameness, the President of the Ground Jury or the judge at 'C' must ring the bell and inform the competitor that the horse is disqualified and the competitor is eliminated. Alternatively, the judge at 'C' can allow the driver to complete the test and then request the driver report to the attending vet, if in attendance, for inspection in harness. The penalty is possible elimination.

Error of Test and Error of Course

Refer to Error of Test and Error of Course in Rules 9.6 and 9.7

Other Penalties

Refer to the Summary of Driven Dressage Penalties, in the current Rules for ACDS Combined Driving Events.

Conflict of Interest

The following may not serve as judges at an event:

- The owner, or close relative of the owner, of a horse taking part in a class they are to judge
- A competitor, or close relative, taking part in the class they are to judge
- The regular trainer of the competitor or horse they are to judge (regular is defined as training within a month of the event)
- A consultant, practical coach, trainer or instructor of a competitor or horse cannot serve as a judge within 30 days of the last tutorial in either an individual or group lesson, excluding casual conversations. Casual conversations are permitted – this implies informal conversations, without the horse being ridden or driven.

Should no driven dressage judges be available for your event, contact the State Dressage Convenor or the Federal Driven Dressage Convenor (FDDC).