

Australian Carriage Driving Society (ACDS)

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Table of Contents - Rules

Preamble	9
ACDS Horse Welfare Policy	10
ACDS Code of Conduct	11
1. Introduction	12
1.1 Aim	12
1.2 Objective	12
1.3 Training	12
1.4 References	12
1.5 Adherence to Rules	12
2. Judges Code of Conduct	12
2.1 Prohibited from Judging	12
2.2 Owner, Consultants, Coaches and Instructors	12
3. Financial and Currency Status	12
3.1 Membership and Attendance to Workshops	12
4. Registration – Horses and Drivers	13
4.1 Non-members and Unregistered Horse/s	13
4.2 Qualification for Championships	13
4.3 ACDS Registered	13
5. The Grading System	13
5.1 Structure	13
5.2 Levels	13
5.3 Singles and Multiples	13
5.4 Age	13
5.5 Movements at Each Level	13
5.6 Arena	13
5.7 Grading	13
5.7.1 Grading Points	13
5.7.2 Horses Grading	13
5.7.3 Multiples (includes clarification)	14
5.7.4 Substitution in a Multiple	14
5.7.5 Qualifiers	14
5.8 Upgrading	14
5.8.1 Voluntary Upgrade	14
5.8.2 Earned Upgrade	14
5.8.3 Returning to Current Level	14
5.9 Downgrading	14
5.9.1 Purchasing Horse and Long Breaks	14
5.9.2 Application for Downgrade	14
5.9.3 Approval to Downgrade	14
6. Annual Graded Year	14
6.1 GDD Year	14

7.	Graded Driven Dressage Qualifiers	15
7.1	Ratification of GDDQ Schedule	15
7.2	ACDS Website Forms	15
7.3	Complete Tests	15
7.4	Hors Concours	15
7.5	Awards	15
7.5.1	Organising Committee	15
7.6	Qualifying for Championships	15
7.6.1	Completion of GDDQs	15
7.6.2	Competing at Championships	15
8.	Graded Driven Dressage Championships (State and National)	15
8.1	Hosting	15
8.2	Application to Host a State Championship	15
8.3	Application to Host a National Championship	15
8.4	Location of Schedule and Entry Forms	15
8.5	Conduct of National Championships	15
8.6	Awards	16
8.6.1	State and National Championships	16
9.	Driving the Test	16
9.1	Marks	16
9.2	Entering the Arena	16
9.3	Start and End of Test	16
9.4	Part of Turnout Leaving the Arena	16
9.5	Whole Turnout Leaving the Arena	16
9.6	Error of Test	17
9.6.1	Attempts Movement or Pace	17
9.7	Error of Course	17
9.7.1	Deviation	17
9.7.2	Stopping the Driver	17
9.7.3	Penalties from Head Judge	17
9.7.4	Recording explanation	17
9.7.5	Driver approaches Head Judge	17
9.7.6	Driver doesn't approach Head Judge	17
9.7.7	Judge Hesitation	17
9.7.8	Error not Noted	17
9.7.9	Judge Error	17
9.7.10	Penalties for Error of Course	18
9.8	Disobedience	18
9.8.1	Penalties for Disobedience	18
9.9	Carriage Turnover	18
9.9.1	Penalty	18
10.	Freestyle to Music	18
10.1	Classes	18
10.2	Arena Size	18
10.3	Time and Scoring	18
10.4	Freestyle Music	18
10.4.1	Selection of Music	18
10.4.2	Supply of Music	18
10.4.3	Music Start	18
10.5	Attire	19
10.5.1	Appropriate Attire	19
10.6	Required Movements	19
10.6.1	Minimum	19
10.6.2	Other Movements	19

10.7	Points Awarded	19
10.7.1	Sections	19
10.8	Judging Sheet Location	19
10.9	Safety	19
10.9.1	Safety Aspects	19
11.	Other Dressage Events	19
11.1	Non GDDQs	19
12.	Organisation	19
12.1	Entries	19
12.1.1	Location of Entry Form	19
12.1.2	Acceptance	20
12.1.3	Refusing an Entry	20
12.2	Officials	20
12.2.1	Event Manager	20
12.2.2	Dressage Judges	20
12.2.3	Penciller	20
12.2.4	Dressage Marshalling Steward (DMS)	20
12.2.5	Scorer	20
12.3	Scoring System	21
12.3.1	Half (½) Marks	21
12.3.2	Points converted to Percentage	21
12.3.3	Results to Grading Officer and State Convenor	21
12.3.4	Grading List	21
13.	Drivers and Grooms	21
13.1	ACDS Membership	21
13.2	Number and Age of Grooms	21
13.3	Grooms and Multiples	21
13.4	Action of Grooms	21
13.5	Helmet	21
13.6	Junior Drivers	21
13.6.1	Definition	21
13.6.2	Participation	22
13.7	Memory	22
13.7.1	Driven from Memory & Displaying Test on the Dash	22
13.8	Assistance	22
13.8.1	Caller	22
13.8.2	Outside Assistance	22
13.9	Dismounting	22
13.9.1	Driver	22
13.9.2	Groom/s	22
14.	Attire and Appearance	22
14.1	GDDQ	22
14.2	Minimum attire for Grooms	23
14.3	National Championships	23
14.3.1	State Championship	23
14.4	Grooms at Championships	23
14.5	Helmets and Body Protectors	23
14.6	Whip	23
14.6.1	Whip Style	23
14.6.2	Whips in Hand	23
14.6.3	Drop or Put Down Whip	23
14.6.4	Spare Whip	23
14.7	Horses	23
14.7.1	Clean	23

14.7.2	Height	23
14.7.3	Unevenness	23
14.8	Bandages and Brushing Boots	23
14.8.1	Not Permitted	23
14.9	Carriages	23
14.9.1	Safe and Clean	23
14.9.2	Carriage Number	23
14.9.3	Tyres and Wheels	24
14.9.4	Viceroy's	24
14.10	Harness	24
14.10.1	Safe and Appropriate	24
14.10.2	Brakes and Breeching	24
14.10.3	Auxiliary Reins	24
14.10.4	Bitless Bridle	24
14.10.5	Leverage Effect on Reins	24
15.	Summary of Driven Dressage Penalties	25

Annexes:

Annex A:	Possible Movements	26
Annex B:	Dressage Arena Setup 100m x 40m	28
Annex C:	Dressage Arena Setup 80m x 40m	29
Annex D:	Score Sheet Abbreviations	30
Annex E:	Scoring Graded Dressage Tests to Obtain a Positive Percentage	31

Table of Contents – Guidelines

Accreditation Scheme for Novice & Advanced Driven Dressage Judges	32
Introduction	32
Workshops	32
Novice Driven Dressage Judges	32
Advanced Driven Dressage Judges	34
Retention of Accreditation	35
Dressage Judge Assessors	35
Assessing Competence	36
Competent	36
Not Yet Competent	36
No Longer Competent	37
Recommendation for 'Outside' Judges	37
Currently Qualified EA Ridden Dressage Judges	37
International Driven Dressage Judges	37
 Movements, Terminology, General Impression, Definitions and Terms	 38
Movements	38
The Salute	38
Halt	38
Walk Into the Halt	38
The Walk	38
Working Walk	39
Free Walk	39
Lengthened Walk	39
Trot	39
Working Trot	40
Develop Working Trot	40
Lengthened Trot	40
Medium Trot	40
Collected Trot	41
Develop Collected Trot	41
Extended Trot	41
Canter	42
Collected Canter	42
Extended Canter	42
Rein Back	42
Stretching the Frame (for all paces)	43
Shoulder In	43
Diagonal Yield	44
Transitions	44
Terminology	45
Obedience and Lightness	45
Regularity	45
Contact	45
Impulsion	45
Straightness	45
Collection	45
Accuracy	45
Serpentine	45
Transitions	45
General Impressions	46
Principles	46
Paces	46

Impulsion	46
Obedience and Lightness	47
Driver	47
Presentation	47
Definitions of Some Basic Dressage Terms	47
Calm	48
Supple	48
Contact 'With the Bit' or 'On the Bit' (Connection)	48
Balance	48
Resistance	48
The Half-Halt	49
Rhythm	49
Regularity	49
Straightness and Bend (Lateral Bend)	49
Cadence	49
Judging Driven Dressage Tests	50
Judging Guidelines and Scoring Advice	50
General Considerations	50
Judging Requirements	51
Prior to the Event	51
At the Event	51
Judging the Test	51
Accuracy	52
Transitions	53
Correct Lateral Bend	53
Longitudinal Bend – Frame	53
Scoring a Test	54
Scale of Marks	54
0 – Not Executed	54
1 – Very Bad & 2 – Bad	55
3 – Fairly Bad	55
4 – Insufficient	55
5 – Sufficient	55
6 – Satisfactory	55
7 – Fairly Good	55
8 – Good	56
9 – Very Good	56
10 – Excellent	56
Judging Multiples	56
General	56
Movements	57
Judging Tandems	57
Ridden and Driven Dressage – Is There a Difference?	58
Balance and Weight	59
The Influence of Driving Aids	59
Avoidable Factors that Inhibit Paces of the Driven Horse	59
Points to Consider	60
Aide Memoire for Driven Dressage Judges	61
Before the Competition	61
The Arena	61
Practice Zones	62
Dressage Marshalling Steward	62
Presentation	63
Driver and Groom	63

Presenting for Judging	63
The Test	63
Singles	64
Pairs and Tandems	64
Four-in-Hand	64
Junior Drivers	64
Judges	64
Judging the Test	64
Error of Test and Error of Course	66
Error of Test	66
Error of Course	66
The Driven Dressage Penciller	67
On the Day of the Event	67
Do Not	68
Score Sheet Comments	68
Guidelines for State Driven Dressage Panels	70
Requirements	70
Specific Role of the Convenor (or temporary delegated Panel member)	70
General Role and Functions of the Panels	71
Clarification of Rules for Driven Dressage at Combined Driving Events	72
Objective and General Principles	72
Presentation	73
Driver and Groom	73
Attire	73
Presenting for Judging	73
The Test	73
Singles	74
Pairs and Tandems	74
Four-in-Hand	75
Vehicles	75
Harness	75
Horses and Ponies	76
Judging and Scoring	76
Judges	76
Lameness	77
Error of Test and Error of Course	77
Other Penalties	77
Conflict of Interest	77

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.~~ **The competitor must apply to the State Dressage Panel for any changes or substitutions to the horses entered, due to uneven or illness of a horse in a multiple for the State Championship (or Federal Convenor for a National Championship)**

~~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.

5.7.6 At a GDDQ each horse is allowed a maximum of four tests per day which shall be calculated to include HC, single or multiple.

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 **run from Championship to Championship in each State.** ~~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 **for that State's designated number of qualifiers** .
- 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.~~ **the qualifying period for the next Championship will be from the last relevant State Championship to the next relevant State Championship.**

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 Dressage 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~~ **their States nominated number of GDD qualifiers** GDDQs annually to qualify for that year's **State** 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. **Horses may enter their class once at the Championship at their graded level. In the case of pairs and single they may enter both single and multiple classes if qualified.**

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.
- 8.3.1 **In 2025, Federal Council abolished the National Driven Dressage Championships as there were insufficient entries from out of the State hosting the Championship for it to be designated a National Championship.**
- 8.3.2 **In special circumstances, a State may apply to Federal Council for permission to run a National Driven Dressage Championship. The request is to come from a State Branch.**
- 8.3.3 **If Federal Council grant permission to run a National Driven Dressage Championship, the sections that relate to the running a National Driven Dressage Championship in clauses 8.4 to 8.6 apply.**
- 8.4 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 State Dressage Convenor then presents it to their State Branch meeting for approval to run the event. Full particulars of the National Championship, including details of the officials proposed to be involved in the Championship, a budget, the Draft Schedule and Entry Form is sent by the State Branch 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.~~

- 8.5 The Draft Schedule and Entry Form for State or National Championships, available from State Dressage Convenors and the Federal Dressage Convenor.
- 8.6 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~~ **may** 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~~ **may**, 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~~) **Viceroy's must present in correct harness (no breeching and tilbury tugs).**

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 devices, 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
Incorrect harness for Viceroy	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)