



NEDTL RULES AND GUIDANCE



GENERAL

NEDTL endeavour to run all events as near as possible to BC rules, but some rules have been introduced to recognize the difference between National and Club events.

It is important to familiarize yourself with the 2024 BC Rules for Competitors published on the BC website. <https://britishcarriagedriving.co.uk/rules/index.htm>

The following information provides details of the Club rules and guidance either in addition or in contrast to BC Rules, or just as a reminder. The main object is for everyone to enjoy events in as safe an environment as is reasonably possible.

If you have any queries about the rules and guidance, please contact a committee member.

WELFARE

At all NEDTL events, the welfare of the horse is paramount and must take precedence over all other demands. It will encompass good horse management, farriery and fit of harness and carriage. Mainly all horses must be fit, sound and competent before they are allowed to compete.

THE COMPETITION

Presentation in dressage is judged on the move for all classes. Novice drivers to have safety check 30 minutes prior to their dressage time.

Dressage

Tests are available on the website <https://www.nedtl.co.uk/information/dressage-tests/>

Information about the Event schedule can be accessed when you select the Event in the calendar page <https://www.nedtl.co.uk/events/calendar/>

Tests may be read out to the driver during the first year of competing, but without advice as to how to drive the test!

Marathon

There are two sections (A and B) to the marathon plus the transfer.

Speeds for Section A are 14 km/hour for ponies and 15 for horses and for Section B 13km/h for ponies and 14km/h for horses. The Transfer is timed with ample time to enable it to be completed in walk.

There is a short format marathon which is usually between 4-5km and includes obstacles. This could be a good introduction for new drivers.

Cones

The cones are run as per the BC rules. However grooms may stand for novices in their first year of competing without penalty but must stand still. Competitors with carriages that are under the compulsory width may still compete but must state this on the entry form and will then be subject to a penalty of 20 points.

The decision of the Technical Delegate/Judges is final. Objections must be made with a deposit of £10 to the Event Organiser or the TD within half an hour of scores being posted.

The organisers reserve the right to cancel, divide or combine any classes or refuse any entry with or without stating the reason.

All drivers must be EITHER a fully paid up member of NEDTL or another Affiliated Driving Club or be a BC Full Member.

No Entry will be accepted without the Entries Secretary receiving a completed entry form and payment by the closing date of the competition.

Anyone who has not paid their fee with entry by the closing date and all late entries must pay a £20 surcharge. No refunds for withdrawals after 12 noon on the Monday prior to the event.

Parents/Guardians must give written consent for all drivers and grooms under the age of 18 to allow them to take part in the competition.



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THE EVENT also see the Health and Safety Guidance

<https://www.nedtl.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/GUIDANCE-NOTES-ON-HEALTH-AND-SAFETY-FOR-MEMBERS-AND-COMPETITORS.pdf>

Horses must be fit enough to complete the marathon without showing signs of distress. Competitors driving distressed animals will be retired.

There will be a safety check at the start of the marathon where appropriate.

Entrants must report to the relevant stewards for dressage and marathon at least 10 minutes before the allotted time, and proceed directly from dressage to cones. Lateness for dressage may result in elimination and for the marathon. Drivers will incur 0.25 penalties for every second over time where appropriate.

The Ground Jury will consist of 3 independent committee members and if this is not possible, the Event Organiser may nominate members.

NEDTL members are considered to be held responsible for any misconduct by their grooms or others within their entourage. The Committee will consider the consequences of the misconduct.

NEDTL allows the imposition of 20 penalty points for infringements of rules, including those in respect of motor vehicles and dogs. The penalty will be applied for a second infringement after due warning.

All dogs must be kept on leads.

PARKING AND STABLING

All caravans and horses boxes with living accommodation must carry a 3kg fire extinguisher which should be placed on the near side of the main vehicle in each camp, near the entrance to the living area.

A clear gap of 6m must be left between each unit – a unit being one competitor's box/stable/caravan complex.

A roadway of 10m must be kept clear at all times between the rows of parked vehicles to enable the use of emergency services.

Electric fencing is allowed with several restrictions (see H and S). Matting is not required.

No tethering or loose-hobbling. See H and S in connection with tying of horses to lorry/trailer.

No paper bedding.

Competitors are responsible for ensuring all stable and domestic rubbish is removed and cleared up. Failure to comply may result in suspension from future events.

Cars, motor cycles and ATVs may be used for access to obstacles at the discretion of the Event Organiser. It is strongly recommended that properly secured hard hats be worn at all times when using motor cycles, mopeds, ATVs. Riders of motor cycles and mopeds must be over 16 and ATVs over 17 and must have the appropriate licence and public liability insurance.

DRIVERS/GROOMS

All drivers and grooms must wear suitable, properly secured hard hats during the cones and marathon phases. These can be worn for dressage without penalty in presentation. Back/Body Protectors must be worn by all drivers and grooms/backsteppers during the marathon phase of an outdoor event and for the obstacle phase of an indoor or arena challenge event. All those aged under 18 must wear a body protector and securely fastened protective headgear at all times whilst on a carriage.

All grooms must wear approved tabard number bibs for the marathon, displaying the competitor number both front and back. Numbers may be attached to the carriage for dressage and cones provided they are clearly visible.

It is the responsibility of the Driver to ensure that their groom is fit and capable of rendering assistance at any time. Any official may at any time stop a competitor whose groom in their opinion appears unfit or incapable.

New drivers must be assessed in accordance with BC guidance before competing. Young Drivers between the ages of 10 and 18 will be assessed by NEDTL (H and S Section)

Young Drivers of 12 and over must be accompanied by a competent adult 18 or over, with Young Drivers from aged 10 must be accompanied by a competent adult 21 or over.



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See H and S section for details of competition requirements/eligibility for Young Drivers.
Grooms who have attained the age of 14 may compete on vehicles driven by adults with those grooms aged 12 and 13 being able to compete as dressage and cones grooms in a singles class driven by an adult 18 years or over.