



A GUIDE TO PRESENTATION DRESS FOR DRIVER AND GROOM

Presentation of the turnout for the driver and horse is marked on the move during the dressage test. Judges are encouraged to use the full range of marks available to them from 1 to 10 when marking presentation, so if you want to help your dressage score then make sure carriage and horse are clean and the overall impression of your turnout is smart and co-ordinated to achieve the best possible mark available. If your nearest rival achieves a 10 for presentation and you only achieve a 3, this could put you at a great disadvantage in the first phase of the event!

Pre-novice and novice drivers will now have a harness check before their dressage.

The turnout is judged AS A WHOLE and everything should be appropriate for the level of the vehicle.

Please see below some rules and advice on what to wear:-

1. The dress of the driver and groom should conform to the style of carriage being used.
2. RULE - Hard safety hats are compulsory for cones now so at Club events a lot of drivers and grooms wear smart clean hard hats for dressage as well.
3. If you want to wear a non-hard hat for dressage, then a small brimmed hat is best so it is safe on windy days. A flashy hat with feathers may spoil the whole outfit.
4. RULE - Both the driver and groom need to wear brown gloves for dressage and cones.
5. RULE - The driver needs to wear an apron over their legs.
6. RULE – You need to carry your driving aid in dressage and cones (whip)
7. Make sure your footwear is clean, it's no good having everything else ultra-smart and then driver and groom having grubby boots. Heels should be minimal.
8. Avoid wrinkles where possible, not easy when living out of a horsebox, by hanging everything up.
9. Grooms need to be dressed to blend in with the turnout. Often the more 'mature' groom can look very smart in beige trousers and tweed jacket ('stable dress').
10. Button holes should not be worn and jewellery should be subtle to the point of being almost invisible
11. Try to avoid a big gap between the bottom of your trousers and your footwear – lots of flesh or show of lurid coloured socks will spoil the overall impression!



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12. If your groom is wearing riding gear, long boots are advised not jodhpur boots, unless your groom is a junior.
13. If it is raining then for dressage and cones you will need smart matching waterproof clothes.
14. Make sure your horse/pony is clean and well groomed and their harness is clean. Quite a lot of drivers have pads under their saddles so make sure the colour matches your outfit. The same as well if you use a flyveil.
15. To plait or not plait. Native and traditional breeds are alright to be left unplaited but must be smart and clean. Other breeds it is suggested to plait as this gives a better overall impression.
16. Finally make sure your carriage is clean.



Alan McIndoe – photo by Tom Kolour



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Christine Haddock – photo by Tom Kolour



Melody Jones photo by Donna Joyce



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Charmian Haigh and Carol Scott modelling matching wet weather gear – photo by Melody Jones