



GUIDANCE NOTES ON HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR MEMBERS AND COMPETITORS

1) Introduction:

The North Eastern Driving Trials Ltd (NEDTL) has developed a Health and Safety Policy and associated Manual of which this is a part. The full documents are available from the Secretary or can be seen at the Event office.

The Policy and Manual are your documents, and this section is only a summary of the more relevant items. If you have any questions or suggestions on the documentation these will be most welcome, and they should be addressed to NEDTL Secretary in the first case. If you have any Health and Safety concerns of an immediate nature these should be discussed with the Event H&S Officer.

2) Important Statements:

"The North Eastern Driving Trials Ltd have taken reasonable precautions to ensure the health and safety of everyone present. For these measures to be effective everyone must take all reasonable precautions to avoid and prevent accidents occurring and must obey all reasonable instructions of the Event organiser, officials, and stewards."

"The North Eastern Driving Trials Ltd.'s statement on Health and Safety states that NEDTL is committed to fulfilling its obligations under the Health and Safety legislation!"

A list of officials and local emergency services is posted on each Event Notice Board.

The following items are for your general guidance (for details see the Manual).

3) Competence and Training:

No competitor will be allowed to compete at any NEDTL event unless they have been assessed by NEDTL or by a club affiliated to the BC (this will be verified).

Members who are competing in a club event must be competent for the class entered.

New drivers (including Young Drivers) must be assessed in accordance to BC Annex 15

4) Young drivers and Young Grooms:

Young Drivers must drive at least two Indoor events, without elimination, with the horse/pony with which they were assessed. Any change of animal must be notified to the Assessment Officer.

Grooms on vehicles driven by an adult must be 14 years of age for the marathon and 12 years of age for dressage and cones.

Class – Outdoor Minimum age at National Events	Athlete	Body protector	Groom	Body protector
Horse Fours / Horse Pairs / Horse Tandems	18 years		14 years	Yes - all phases
Horse pairs	16-17 years	Yes - all phases	18 years	



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Horse single and all Pony class	18 years		14 years	Yes - all phases
Horse single and all Pony class	14-17 years	Yes - all phases	18 years	
Single pony	12-14 years	Yes - all phases	18 years	
Gateway & VSE – all classes	10 – 12 years	Yes - all phases	21 years	
Gateway & VSE – all classes - multiples	12-13 years	Yes - all phases	18 years	
INDOOR Carriage driving				
Single pony	8-12 years	Yes - all phase	21 years	
Single pony	12-17 years	Yes - all phases	18 years	

Age is determined from the beginning of the calendar year in which the athlete and groom(s) reach the designated age.

4.1 Assessment of Young Drivers

Young drivers need to be fully assessed before driving at an event alongside the competent experienced adult (see above table), who will be accompanying the driver and driving the pony that they will be competing with for their first 3 events. So, for H&S reasons the whole turnout is assessed. If the pony is changed then permission to compete must be requested to determine if reassessment is needed.

4.2 Body Protectors

Young Drivers and Young Grooms under the age of 18 years of age must wear back/body protectors at all times whilst on the carriage.

4.3 Young Drivers at Indoor Events or Manor Grange Events

Young Drivers from 10 years of age can compete at indoor and Manor Grange events.

Young drivers from 10-12 must be accompanied by a competent experienced driver as groom, aged over 21 years of age.

4.4 Young Drivers at Outdoor 3 Phase events

Young drivers from 12- 17 years of age can compete at three phase events in single pony classes and must be accompanied by an adult over 18 years of age.

5) Risk Assessments:

The Event Organiser will have completed Risk Assessments and will have summarised these identifying significant/unusual aspects of the event. This summary is posted on the Event Notice Board, and **you should read this and take the appropriate actions.**

If you have any concerns about the marathon then they can be discussed at the TD briefing on the Saturday evening.

6) All Terrain Vehicles and Motorcycles:

ATVs and motorbikes must only carry the number of people for which they are designed and must not be ridden by children. NEDTL Safety Policy Statement must be followed, and it is strongly recommended that suitable and properly secured hard hats should be worn. Any ATV or motorbike driven on a public highway at an event must be road legal and any person driving an ATV or motorbike on a public highway must have the benefit of adequate and valid



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third-party liability insurance.

They must be driven in accordance with license and insurance restraints.

All drivers must be 17 years of age or over for ATVs and 16 years of age for motorcycles. Passengers must not be carried unless the vehicle is designed or adapted for that purpose except in an emergency.

It is recommended that drivers/riders/passengers should wear appropriate safety helmets.

7) Children:

Please ensure that they are under appropriate supervision.

Children (except for junior competitors aged 10 and over) are not allowed on carriages at any time during the event.

All drivers and grooms under the age of 18 must wear Safety hats, body protectors whenever they are on a carriage i.e. when exercising, during dressage, cones and on the marathon and also whilst competing indoors and at Arena Challenges.

NEDTL follows the guidance of the BC with respect to Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Persons.

8) Competitors:

- Hard hats to be worn at all times at competitions including exercising. Your head is precious and accidents can happen so easily.
 - The hard hat must conform to the same hat standards of other British Equestrian Standards Member bodies.
 - No recording device is to be fitted to the hat.
 - Make sure your hat fits correctly. The hat should not move on your head especially if you tilt your head forward.
 - Hats should be replaced after a severe impact as subsequent protection may be compromised. Damage after an impact is not obvious and the shell could be cracked.
 - Hats deteriorate with age and should be replaced every 3 to 5 years dependent on use.
 - The TD or Event Organiser may disqualify a competitor if they are driving on the competition field, even if just exercising, if they are not wearing a hat or their hat is not securely fastened, or their hat does not comply with the standards.
- All drivers and grooms must wear body protectors (recommend level 3) in the marathon phase at outdoor events and the obstacle phase for indoor or 1-day events. See point above for children.
- Drivers must ensure that grooms are fit to render assistance in case of emergency.
- Drivers must ensure that their turnout and harness is in such condition that it is



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suitable and safe for each phase of the event.

- Drivers must inspect the obstacles for unmarked elements such as roots, tree stumps, ruts, boulders, etc and then determine their safest route compatible with their anticipated speed.
- Any issues e.g. holes report to the event organiser.
- Securely fastened protective headgear must be worn when riding.
- Young Drivers and Young Grooms must wear body protectors at all times whilst on the carriage.
- Grooms on vehicles, driven by an adult, must be 14 years of age for the marathon and 12 years of age for dressage or cones, and wear a body protector and hard hat for all phases.

9) Dogs:

All dogs must be kept on leads at all times.

10) Harness:

Harness must be safe and may be subject to inspection at the start of the marathon.

11) Horses:

Never leave a horse harnessed to a vehicle without a driver in control of the reins or a groom holding the bridle.

Never tie up a horse whilst it is harnessed to a vehicle.

Never remove the reins or the bridle of any horse whilst it is harnessed to a vehicle.

12) Stable Area:

For Two-Day Events, the Stable Area will be open from 12.00 hours on the Friday till 18.00 hours on the Sunday. Competitors arriving before or leaving after these hours do so at their own risk. Speed limit of 10mph for motorised vehicles must be observed.

As a fire precaution, to prevent the spread of fire between parked vehicles, appropriate gaps must be maintained. **Gaps of 6 metres between encampments** and a minimum of 3 metres between units in that encampment are recommended.

All caravans and horse boxes must each carry a 3 kilo Fire extinguisher.

Keep all roadways clear to allow passage of emergency

vehicles. Always proceed at the walk in the stable area and

in crowded areas.

Tethering/Hobbling are not allowed.



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Open-railed corralled fencing is not allowed.

13) Electric fencing

Restrictions which you must comply with:

- Maximum area to be length of truck/trailer and depth (from side of truck/trailer to be 4 metres. (This is for one animal, 8 metres for two animals)
- Fencing to have proper signage to advise that it is live.
- Please ensure that it does not constitute a trip hazard in the dark

14) Horses tied to lorry by halter:

Should a horse be identified as having a history of breaking its halter rope, it will not be accepted for future events unless an alternative method of “stabling” is provided.

15) Air Ambulance:

Should an Air Ambulance be required the TD will instruct the competition to cease immediately and only the TD will determine when it can be resumed.

All walking handlers must return to their animals in the stable area immediately and those in carriages are strongly recommended to uncouple immediately and lead their animals to a “safer” location.

See Form 3 Appendix A for details In the main NEDTL Health and Safety Manual (Procedure if Air ambulance is required).

16) Defibrillator

The Club has a defibrillator that is at all competitions. The location will be notified on the Notice Board. At 2-day Outdoor Events it will be with the Event Secretary. At 1 Day events and Indoor Events the person who has the defibrillator will be identified.

Please remember that YOUR ACTIONS are the key to a SAFE EVENT – PLEASE BE CAREFUL.