

Why have ICD introduced an Advanced Class ?

ICD is open to everyone, and we want every driver to have the chance to reach the Championships.

Grassroots driving is at the heart of what we do.

The new Advanced class gives Intermediate drivers more room to grow and frees up the Open class, which can otherwise be dominated by our strongest competitors season after season.

ICD are excited to see how this class will develop!

What is difference between Open and Advanced ?

The Advanced class runs exactly the same competition format as the Open Pony: identical qualifying P&P test, cones timings, obstacles, and the Open Championship P&P test.

The distinction lies solely in the competitor line-up.

The Advanced Pony Champion will progress to the Supreme Championship, joining the Open, Multiples, and Veterans champions.

Why is it only the Pony Class in the 2026 / 2027 season ?

Across all regions, the Pony classes attract the highest number of competitors. If horse and small-pony entries grow over time, we'd be keen to introduce an Advanced class for those groups too. One of our key priorities is keeping classes well-supported so every division offers a genuine, competitive experience.

How did ICD decide which Drivers become Advanced ?

ICD spent a great deal of time working out the best way to introduce this new class. We asked the Regions for feedback and analysed results from recent seasons. We knew we needed a pool of top drivers at the start of this class, and a gradual, controlled way of moving drivers from Open into Advanced — without creating a new bottleneck by shifting too many up every year.

Our Supreme and Reserve Supreme Champions are consistently the strongest ICD drivers, so they will move to Advanced each year, even if they are not pony drivers (see *What if I drive a horse or multiple turnout as well or instead?*).

The Open Pony Champion is also the leading pony driver, so they will move up annually.

We also wanted to recognise BC outdoor achievements. Advanced-level drivers outdoors will be Advanced-level indoors, and this applies from the 2022 outdoor season onwards.

Once a driver becomes Advanced, they will not automatically return to Open if they stop competing at Advanced level outdoors — they would need to apply to ICD.

From the 2026 / 2027 ICD season onwards, an Open Pony driver who tops their regional league table for three consecutive years will also move to Advanced. In practice, this is unlikely to take effect until the 2029 / 2030 season.

Advanced Pony Drivers can only enter the Advanced Pony Class at the Championships.

What if I drive a horse or multiple turnout as well or instead ?

Drivers aren't tied to one turnout type forever and may move between pony, horse, and multiples. This flexibility is why the Supreme and Reserve Supreme Champions are classed as Advanced Drivers.

Advanced Drivers enter Advanced Pony when driving a pony turnout, but if they compete with a small pony, horse, pair, tandem, or team, they enter the relevant Open / Multiple class instead.

ICD - Advanced Class FAQ's September 2026 v1



What if I don't have an Advanced Pony or I have a youngster this season ?

ICD (and BC) do not take the age or experience of the equine into account. All classes are based solely on the driver's achievements. It is not against the rules for a driver to compete with different animals at each qualifier and another at the Championships.

Example: An Advanced driver appealed to move down to Open because they had a novice turnout but then chose to take an experienced pony to the Championships in the Open class. This is an extreme case, but it is still permitted under the ICD rulebook.

Because the competition format is identical across all classes, the main difference will be the scores a driver can expect to achieve depending on the experience of their turnout — which naturally affects their placings.

Performance doesn't always translate between environments; a pony that excels indoors may not shine as brightly outdoors, and vice versa.

Can I change back to Open instead?

Drivers can apply to ICD (through the Secretary) to request a class change before 1st November of the current ICD season. Upon receiving the request, ICD will examine the driver's competition record and seek input from the relevant regional organisers and, where appropriate, other experienced drivers in those regions before reaching a decision.

Still have questions ?

Please email ICD Secretary Kayti Harvey (kayti.e.harvey@gmail.com) as social media messages can sometimes go astray!