



INDOOR CARRIAGE DRIVING UK

Rules 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 These Rules supersede all previous issues of the Rules and apply to Indoor Carriage Driving (ICD) events. They are based on rules of British Carriage Driving (BC) and have been adapted for the indoor environment. In all cases BC rules apply unless within these adapted ICD Rules.
- 1.2 The welfare of the horse is paramount and all must adhere to the [FEI Code of Conduct for the welfare of the horse](#) and, where appropriate for driving, the BHS code of practice for the welfare of horses and ponies at events.
- 1.3 All qualifying events must adhere to these rules. However, if something outside the rules needs a decision it is the duty of the Event Manager to make a decision in the spirit of the sport, adhering as closely as possible to these rules and using the BC rules applying at 1st October of the season where appropriate for aspects not covered here.

2. ORGANISATION

2.1 ENTRIES

- 2.1.1 The schedule of events and entry forms are published by ICD. Entries are only accepted if prepaid and in this form.
- 2.1.2 The organiser reserves the right to refuse any entry with or without stating a reason.
- 2.1.3 Any sharing of vehicles or grooms is accepted at the organiser's discretion and where practical, but must be declared on the entry form.

2.2 OFFICIALS

- 2.2.1 Each region has an Organiser appointed by ICD. The Organiser is responsible for the events in their region, including ensuring events are run to the agreed ICD rules and policies, and appointing or acting as an Event Manager for each event.
- 2.2.2 The control of an event rests with the Event Manager whose decisions are final. The Event Manager may delegate any duties to stewards he or she considers competent.

2.3 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 2.3.1 It is recognised that for practical reasons officials at indoor events may also be connected with competitors who may compete. Officials are always required to show a high standard of fairness and to minimise any conflicts of interest especially on subjective decisions.
- 2.3.2 It is not practical to rule out trainers, family or even competitors from helping out and acting as officials at indoor events, owing the relatively small pool of interested, willing and competent people available. Nonetheless organisers are urged to ensure events are both run scrupulously fairly and clearly seen to be fair. It is important to stick exactly to clear rules, the same for all. If potentially controversial decisions arise, try to ensure a person unconnected with any affected party is consulted.

2.4 DRIVERS AND GROOMS

- 2.4.1 All drivers must be members of Indoor Carriage Driving UK before competing in a qualifying class at any event. ICD reserves the right to refuse any membership without stating a reason. For club and any other classes, drivers must be members of an affiliated club or have appropriate competition insurance.
- 2.4.2 Grooms – backsteppers need not be ICD Members but are advised to carry their own Personal Accident Insurance.
Grooms for Phase 1 & 2 Must be capable of assisting and at least 13 years of age on the day of the event.
Grooms for Phase 3 Obstacles: Must be capable of assisting and at least 14 years old on the day of the event.
- 2.4.3 Junior Drivers are competitors under the age of 18 years on the 1st of October of that winter's season. The minimum age of a driver is 6 years on the day of the event.
If necessary, a second set of reins may be attached to the bit if held by a groom who is a competent driver and seated on the carriage next to the driver. These may be used to provide assistance only if the need arises, with no penalty incurred.
Junior Drivers must have a competent groom of at least 18 years of age.
- 2.4.4 Pony Teams must have a driver and two grooms. All other classes must have a driver and one groom. Extra people are not allowed on the vehicle, except multiples who wish to may in addition carry one further person as a passenger if the Event Manager agrees.
- 2.4.5 A small pony driven to a 2-wheeler may compete without a groom/backstepper on the vehicle provided a groom stays in close attendance to assist immediately if needed. However Junior Drivers under the age of 13 years old must have a competent groom on the carriage at all times.
- A small pony team may compete with one groom/backstepper on the vehicle provided the second groom stays in close attendance to assist immediately if needed.
- 2.4.6 For singles driven to a 2-wheeler, the groom may sit beside the driver or stand on the back step and for vehicles with a second set of reins, the groom must sit beside the driver. In all other classes the groom must stand on the back step.
- 2.4.7 The normal class progression is Novice, Intermediate, Open. It is based on results in ICD competitions. Drivers entering an ICD event for the first time or after an absence of more than five years, and who have competed in outdoor affiliated events, will be assigned an ICD class by ICD, generally the same as their outdoor class. Subsequent ICD class progressions are determined by ICD results as below.

NOVICE: Novice Drivers who qualify for the Indoor Championships in Novice class in two successive seasons but have not competed in their qualification class at those championships will be upgraded to Intermediate.

INTERMEDIATE: Drivers who have finished in the top 50% of competitors in a Novice class at a British Indoor Carriage Driving Final but not yet qualified as Open.

Novice Junior drivers in the top 50% of Novice Junior will only be upgraded if their score is also above the lowest score in the top 50% of Novice Pony.

Drivers who qualify for the Indoor Championships in Intermediate class in two successive seasons but have not competed in their qualification class at those championships will be upgraded to Open.

OPEN: Drivers who have competed in open classes in ICD competitions or who have finished in the top 50% of competitors in an Intermediate class at an Indoor Championships. Note that all multiples classes are considered open classes, excepting only multiples in 'club' (introductory) classes or h/c where these are run at ICD events.

A driver over the age of 18 years on the 1st October of that season progresses into the corresponding adult class. Novice Junior becomes Novice.

A driver who wishes to progress class but has not qualified, or downgrade class for example on changing to a larger animal class, may apply to ICD, with reasons, to be changed.

2.4.8 Drivers may compete in up to two classes at an event and can qualify from both.

A driver may also compete twice in one class, in which case only one of their two entries in the class will count for the points league. When entering, the driver must nominate which of their entries this is to be and the organiser must schedule this entry so in each phase it runs earlier than the second entry. Both entries count for local placings.

2.4.9 Drivers who are 65 years or older on the 1st October of that season or who have competed in an ICD Veteran class in a previous season can enter Veterans classes and qualify for the Veterans class at the Indoor Championships.

2.4.10 Drivers, backsteppers, grooms and riders must wear a suitable, secured, approved protective hard hat in all phases and in warming up including riding under saddle. This includes grooms nearby for assistance (2.4.5). Body or back protectors are obligatory for juniors and highly recommended for all in all phases of an event and obligatory in the obstacles phase for everyone on the carriage.

2.4.11 Marathon dress for horse, driver and groom/back stepper.

2.4.12 In all phases a number must be clearly displayed in the front and back of number bibs worn by the groom (or driver where no groom is carried).

2.4.13 Grooms are not allowed to slide, lift or move the vehicle in any way during precision and paces or cones except as allowed in 5.6. Contravening this will incur 20 penalties for their competitor for each incident.

2.4.14 Disabled drivers may compete at any indoor event providing they are accompanied on the carriage by an experienced/competent groom/back stepper. A second set of reins is acceptable and may be used without penalty by a groom seated next to the driver to prevent an accident occurring. Disabled drivers need not carry a whip unless they can do so safely.

3. CLASSES AT QUALIFIERS

- 3.1 Novice Single Pony - Open Single Pony - Novice Single Horse - Open Single Horse Combined Multiples to include (Pony or Horse) Pair, Tandem, Pony Unicorn, and Pony Team Classes may be divided or amalgamated according to entries aiming for a minimum of three in a class at the organiser's discretion.
Junior and Small Pony classes may be run at the organiser's discretion if numbers permit. Drivers will be included in their championship class for the points league.
- 3.2 A 'Club' class may be held at the discretion of the organisers. This is intended for newcomers to the sport or new horses. It does not count towards qualification for the championships and rules may be relaxed for this class. A groom is allowed to prompt the driver for precision and paces test. The driver must be a member of ICD or another affiliated club or have appropriate insurance before competing.
- 3.3 Small pony drivers at a qualifier event compete in Novice Pony or Open Pony local class unless numbers justify running Small Pony class(es). The organiser will determine which local class according to the driver's class. Novice Juniors compete in Novice locally except where a local event has a large enough entry to support Novice and Novice Junior classes.

3.4 CLASSES AT THE BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS ONLY

Novice Junior - Novice Single Pony – Intermediate Single Pony - Open Single Pony - Novice Single Horse - Intermediate Single Horse - Open Single Horse - Pony Pair – Horse Pair – Tandem – Pony Unicorn or Pony Team - Novice Small Pony - Intermediate Small Pony - Open Small Pony - Small Pony Pair - Veteran Driver.

Junior Intermediate and Open drivers are included in the Intermediate or Open classes and are eligible for the Supreme Championship. Novice Juniors compete in Novice Junior class.

4 HORSES

- 4.1 All animals must be at least 4 years old to compete.
- 4.2 Animals' passports must be available for inspection at events and all animals must have up to date equine influenza vaccination.
- 4.3 An equine which is more than 148 cm high without shoes or more than 149 cm with shoes is classified as horse. Below this is classified as pony. Small pony is 11 hands and under (112cm without shoes, 113 cm with shoes). Ponies up to height limit will be required to provide a letter from a Veterinarian stating size of pony with/without shoes.
- 4.4 There is no minimum or maximum height.
- 4.5 Where a height class is available, animals may only compete in their appropriate height class, i.e small pony in small pony class, pony in pony, horse in horse.
- 4.6 Animals may wear boots and/or bandages during all phases of the competition. These must be removed for inspection if an official requires.
- 4.7 Any animal may compete up to a maximum of twice at any event provided the organiser can fit this in the schedule This includes competing twice in the same class but in that case only if with two different drivers.

5 VEHICLES

- 5.1 Vehicles will be of a marathon or three-phase type. Pneumatic tyres are permitted but scurry vehicles are NOT permitted. Vehicles may have two or four wheels.
- 5.2 Minimum weights do not apply but all vehicles must be of a construction suitable for the competition.
- 5.3 The minimum width for all phases of the competition is 125cm. This is measured at ground level on the widest part of the rear wheels.
- 5.4 There is no maximum width requirement, but note that cones widths will not be increased for any over-width vehicles.
- 5.5 Vehicles may be measured at any stage during the competition.
- 5.6 If any arena equipment becomes lodged under the vehicle at any time, it is the driver's responsibility to stop to allow the obstruction to be dislodged. Outside assistance may be called for without penalty. The clock will continue running.

6. HARNESS

- 6.1 Any type of harness is allowed provided it is safe and appropriate for the welfare of the horse.
- 6.2 Auxiliary reins (including any type of check reins, grass reins, bearing reins) are not permitted, except for a second set of reins for young or disabled drivers.
- 6.3 If the carriage has no brakes, breeching is compulsory. In all single classes, breeching is compulsory.
- 6.4 Bitless bridles (hackamore) are not permitted.
- 6.5 All rings, terrets and/or other types of device which have an extreme leverage effect on reins or bits are forbidden.

COMPETITIONS

7 Phase 1 – Precision and Paces

- 7.1 The arena will be 50 x 20 metres and the markers will be equally spaced apart, 8.33m apart on the long sides, 10m on the short sides.
- 7.2 Only approved ICD Tests will be used.
- 7.3 All judges' scores will be indicated to and recorded by the scorer at the end of each movement. Judges are not expected to record comments on the movements.
- 7.4 The scores in precision and paces for each movement will be made available to the competitors after their tests and before the obstacles phase.
- 7.5 Two judges must be used. Judges to be named on the scoresheet and published results. One judge assesses and marks the paces, which count for 50% of the score while the other assesses and

marks the precision of the movements executed, these scores contributing the other 50% toward the total.

- 7.6 Marks out of 10 will be awarded for each numbered movement.
- 7.7 The score for a test is calculated as follows:
Add up all the marks for one judge.
Subtract the result from the score you would get for 10 points for each movement– normally 100 multiply this by 0.5.
Do the same for both precision and paces; add both scores for your P&P Score.
- 7.8 Errors of course or instances of rule breaking will be indicated, recorded and reported to the scorer by the judge responsible for marking precision.
- 7.9 The judges for this section do not need to be BC panel judges but must be competent and suitably experienced.
- 7.10 The test must be driven from memory except in club classes.
- 7.11 The definitions of walk, trot and other paces are as in the FEI rules.
- 7.12 Changes of pace must always be made smoothly and promptly with the horse remaining in balance and on the bit. A transition must be completed as the nose of the horse arrives at the prescribed marker.
- 7.13 A halt must be made so that the leading horse's nose is at the marker, unless specified otherwise in the test.
- 7.14 It is an "Error of Course" when a competitor does the wrong movement or when a movement is omitted altogether.
- 7.15 If a competitor makes an Error of Course, the precision Judge will stop the competitor (via a bell, whistle or the commentator). The competitor must then resume the test from the beginning of the movement where the error was made. If the competitor is in any doubt, he/she may approach the precision Judge for instructions.
- 7.16 Entering the arena without a whip, losing or putting down whip 5 penalties.

8 PHASE 2 - CONES

- 8.1 There will be up to ten obstacles.
- 8.2 Each obstacle will be a pair of cones, oxer or a multiple obstacle.
- 8.3 The course may include up to three multiple obstacles subject to drivers being able to maintain pace (8.8).
- 8.4 Gate markers will be numbered sequentially with a number on a white background on each left cone, from 1 up to the number of gates, with elements of multiples being lettered, e.g. 6A, B, C, D, 7, 8....
- 8.5 Official BC type cones need not be used but all elements must have a dislodgeable element.
- 8.6 The starting line must not be less than 5 metres from the first obstacle.
- 8.7 The finishing line must not be less than 5 metres from the final obstacle.

- 8.8 There is no set minimum or maximum distance between obstacles but the design should enable drivers to maintain an even pace throughout the majority of the course.
- 8.9 Drivers may take whatever line they wish but must take each obstacle in sequence. The entire turnout must pass between the cones.
- 8.10 Driving any obstacle out of sequence results in elimination. This includes driving any cone which is not the next one to drive, including a cone which has already been driven.
- 8.11 Drivers may cross their own line between obstacles without penalty.
- 8.12 Knocking down a previously driven obstacle or obstacle yet to be driven will incur 5 penalties. The obstacle will not be rebuilt during the driver's round.
- 8.13 The time allowed will be calculated from a speed of 220 metres per minute.
- 8.14 Competitors will be told the time allowed for the course but are reminded that stopwatches and/or other timing aids are strictly forbidden. Outside assistance could lead to disqualification. Grooms may speak or indicate to assist the driver but may not use timing devices.
- 8.15 A competitor will incur one penalty point for each commenced second above or below the time allowed and 5 penalties for dislodging one or both balls of a pair of cones or one to four balls of an oxer (of 4 cones).
- 8.16 Entering the arena without a whip or losing or putting down whip 5 penalties
- 8.17 There are no added penalties for refusals or disobedience.
- 8.18 The standard width is 145cm between a pair of cones. This can be larger or smaller at the course designer and organiser's discretion.

9 PHASE 3 – OBSTACLES

- 9.1 Each competitor will drive four marathon type obstacles.
- 9.2 Two obstacles will be erected in the arena at any one time and will have a maximum of five flagged gates A-E (up to six gates A-F at the championships and at qualifiers in each region from 1st January onwards at the course designer and organiser's discretion).
- 9.3 Local organisers may use obstacles 1 & 2 twice with the whole class driving the first two obstacles and then re-driving them as obstacles 3 & 4, or obstacles 1 & 2 are reflagged or totally replaced to form obstacles 3 & 4 which are then driven by each competitor. (At the championships four different obstacles may be used.)
- 9.4 Obstacles may have one knockdown per element. For attached elements only one knockdown counts per incident.
- 9.5 Start and finish gates will be positioned between the obstacles and will be common to both obstacles.
- 9.6 The competitor must go through the start, then through the lettered gates in sequence and in the correct direction, then through the finish. Once a lettered gate has been driven in the correct sequence it is 'free' and may be driven again in either direction. If a competitor drives a gate out of sequence or in the wrong direction they incur 20 points for an Error of Course. No gates then

count until they drive the correct next gate. If the error is not corrected, the competitor is eliminated.

- 9.7 A gate is driven when the entire turnout crosses the line of the gate.
- 9.8 One penalty point will be awarded per second spent in each obstacle, recorded and scored to two decimal places (hundredths of seconds). Each obstacle is timed individually.
- 9.9 This timing is made from the when the nose of the first horse crosses the start line until the nose of the first horse crosses the finish line.
- 9.10 Each knockdown incurs 5 penalties whenever knocked down, including for cones in a cones course during the obstacles phase, and for obstacles during the cones phase.
- 9.11 A whip need not be carried

THE BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS only

- 9.12 Obstacles 1 & 2 will be driven in reverse order of the combined scores after phases 1 & 2 (Precision & Paces + Cones) the best going last.
- 9.13 Obstacles 3 & 4 will be driven in reverse order of the combined scores after phases 1 & 2 plus obstacles 1 & 2 if practicable, the best going last.

10. QUALIFICATION.

- 10.1 Each competitor, in each qualifying event, in each region will gain points that reflect the position in which the competitor finishes within their championships qualifying class each time they complete. One point will be awarded for each event completed if not placed. We also record the competitor's best 'percent' score of the season in each class in each region.

One competitor, with the highest points disregarding any former champions eligible to requalify (10.6), will be eligible to qualify from each class in each region provided they have also achieved a best percent score of at least 75% in that class and region and competed in at least 50% plus one of the events, (eg minimum 4 events in a region which organises 5 or 6 events).

In any region that has an average of 10 entries or more within one class over the duration of the season the competitor with the second highest points from that class will also be eligible to qualify, provided they have also achieved a best percent score of at least 75% in that class and region.

For any region with less than 10 competitors per event on average, and for classes with less than 4 competitors on average, ICD will judge which competitors to invite.

- 10.2 ICD will allocate each event to a region or regions.
- 10.3 Competitors may not transfer points between regions
- 10.4 All qualifying events must run to the official ICD rules and event organisers must report all competitors' final scores and placings as soon as possible after the event to ICD.
- 10.5 The scores will be calculated as follows: the points gained from the placings in the qualifying events in any one region, up to a maximum of 5 scores. i.e. in a region with 6 or more qualifying events, the total of a competitor's best 5 scores will count, for regions with less than six qualifying events all event points will count. Points are counted as: 10 for first, 8 for second, 6 for third, then 5,4,3,2

Tie breaker in an equal score in a qualifying event will be the obstacles overall score, if still on equal score then the P&P will be the tie breaker. Points will be awarded accordingly. If this results in a tie, the remaining event score if any will be used as a tie-breaker.

- 10.6 All the previous season's British Indoor Champions and the Reserve Supreme Champion have the right to defend their titles and do not have to re-qualify provided they compete at 50% of the events in their one nominated region and class in the current season.
- 10.7 Past British Supreme Champions are qualified for all future British Indoor Carriage Driving Championships provided they compete at 50% of the events in their one nominated region and class in the current season. They may compete in classes other than those of their Championship win.
- 10.8 ICD, as the organisers of the British Indoor Carriage Driving Championships, reserves the right to issue invitations to qualified competitors and further competitors as they see fit.
- 10.9 If a driver qualifies for the same class in more than one region: if one of these regions is the 'preferred' region the driver has nominated before their first event, they will qualify from that region, otherwise their earliest qualification counts. Their points scores are disregarded in other regions for qualifications for that class (e.g. the second driver by points may qualify in the second region).

11 HEALTH & SAFETY

- 11.1 Health and Safety standards will be in force always. The organisers of Indoor Carriage Driving events 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 the instructions of the organisers and all officials and stewards. All persons on any show ground or course, etc will be held responsible to complying with these standards at all times and will not put themselves or any other person at risk in any way whatsoever. Any accident shall be reported to the Event Manager at the time of the occurrence. A report shall be entered into the Accident Report Book and the relevant forms completed (a copy shall be retained by ICD) and returned to the Insurers (via British Carriagedriving if applicable.)

12 DISCLAIMER

- 12.1 Neither the organisers nor the sponsors nor the Club(s) nor the landowner nor any agent, employee or representative of these bodies accepts any liability for any loss, damage, injury, illness to horses, owners, drivers, grooms, spectators nor any person whatsoever, whether caused by their negligence, breach of contract, or in any other way whatsoever, save for the death or personal injury caused by the Club's negligence.

13 CODE OF CONDUCT

ICD subscribes to the BC rules of conduct and discipline, BC Rulebook Annex 13.

We would like to draw attention to:

2. General Rules of Conduct – excerpt of some key points

Nobody shall:

2.1 commit any act or conduct themselves in a manner which is in the reasonable opinion of the ICD Committee:

2.1.1 unsportsmanlike;

2.1.2 ungentlemanly;

2.1.3 prejudicial to the interests of ICD;

2.1.4 detrimental to the reputation of ICD;

2.1.5 liable to bring ICD and/or the sport of Horse Driving Trials into disrepute.

2.2. conduct themselves at a Driving Trial or Show in a manner which is improper, abusive, offensive or violent toward a member of the public or to the public in general;

2.3 disobey or deliberately ignore any reasonable instruction given by the organiser of an event, Judge, Official or Safety Officer or do anything which is liable to disrupt the competition.

2.4 argue with or use abusive language or behave with incivility or contempt toward any organiser of an event, Judge, Official or Safety Officer.

3. Driving Rules of Conduct

No member nor any person for whom they are in law responsible shall at any event:

3.1 drive recklessly or dangerously;

3.2 misuse the whip or ill-treat any horse or pony;

3.3 compete with a horse or pony which is lame, sick or exhausted;

3.4 excessively press an exhausted horse or pony.

3.5 allow a horse or pony for which they are responsible as owner and/or driver to compete under the influence of any forbidden substance.

14 SUMMARY OF MARKS & PENALTIES

Precision and Paces Marking.

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>10</u>		<u>Insufficient</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Very good</u>	<u>9</u>		<u>Fairly bad</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Good</u>	<u>8</u>		<u>Bad</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Fairly good</u>	<u>7</u>		<u>Very bad</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>6</u>		<u>Not executed</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Sufficient</u>	<u>5</u>			

Half points are allowed, 9.5, 8.5 etc.

General penalties. All phases.	
Vehicle overturning	Elimination
Driver dismounting	20 penalties
Groom(s) dismounting (one or both)	
1st incident	5 penalties
2nd incident	10 penalties
3rd and subsequent incidents, each:	15 penalties
Lame horse	Disqualification
Physical outside assistance	Elimination except to avoid an accident or rule 5.6
<u>Precision and Paces</u>	
Entering the arena without a whip or losing or putting down	5 penalties
Part of turnout leaving the arena during a movement	Marked down for inaccuracy
Error of Course: on each occasion	5 penalties
<u>Cones</u>	
Error of course	Elimination
One or two balls of cones pair down, one to four in an oxer	5 penalties
Per second over time allowed or under minimum time	1 penalty to two decimal places
<u>Obstacles</u>	
Error of course	Elimination
Corrected error of course	20 penalties
Per knockdown	5 penalties
Per second in the obstacle	1 penalty to two decimal places