

Indoor Horse Driving Trials UK Rules

(December 2009) Issue 5

1 Introduction

- 1.1 These rules apply for Indoor Horse Driving Trials. They are based on rules of outdoor horse driving trials. While these rules try to cover all normal cases, if more technical detail is needed the Rules for Driving Events laid down by the FEI apply, as in force at the beginning of the current indoor season.
- 1.2 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.

2 Organisation

2.1 Entries

- 2.1.1 The schedule of events and entry forms are published by the IHDT. Entries are only accepted if prepaid and in this form.
- 2.1.2 The organizer reserves the right to refuse any entry with or without stating a reason.

2.2 Officials

- 2.2.1 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 or may compete. Officials are always required to show a high standard of fairness and to minimise any conflicts of interest especially on subjective decisions.

2.4 Drivers and Grooms

- 2.4.1 All drivers must be members of the IHDT.
- 2.4.2 The minimum age of a driver or groom is 10 years on the day of the event, but at least one person on the vehicle must be a competent adult aged 18 years or over. Also, 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 Organisers may accept younger drivers subject strictly to rules for young drivers, including being covered by independent liability insurance [not covered by IHDT UK].
- 2.4.4 Pony and horse fours 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.
A small pony driven to a 2 wheeler may compete without a groom/backstepper on the vehicle provided a groom stays nearby to assist immediately if needed.
- 2.4.5 For singles, the groom may sit beside the driver or stand on the back step. In all other classes the groom must stand on the back step.
- 2.4.6 JUNIORS: Competitors under the age of 18 years on the 1st of October of that winter's season.
- 2.4.7 OPEN: Competitors who have competed in Open or Intermediate classes in BHDTA national horse driving trials competitions or open classes in IHDT competitions or who have finished in the top 50% of competitors in a Novice class at a National Indoor Horse Driving Trials Final in either of the previous two seasons. Note that all multiples classes are considered open classes, excepting only multiples in 'club' (introductory) classes where these are run at IHDT events.
- INTERMEDIATE: This class is for the indoor finals only: competitors who have finished in the top 50% of competitors in a Novice class at the Indoor Horse Driving Trials Final in either of the previous two seasons.
- 2.4.8 Drivers may compete in two classes at an event and can qualify from both.
- 2.4.9 Drivers who are 60 years old on the first of October of that winter's season can qualify for the Veterans class at the Indoor Finals.
- 2.4.10 Everyone on the vehicle must wear a suitable, secured, approved protective hard hat in all phases and in warming up. Body protectors are recommended.
- 2.4.11 There is no dress code.
- 2.4.12 In all phases a number must be clearly displayed. These will either be numbers provided for the vehicle or number bibs worn by the groom (number bibs are normally provided by IHDT).
- 2.4.13 Grooms and passengers are not allowed to give assistance, including verbal or physical directions; sliding, lifting or moving the vehicle in any way during precision and paces or cones. 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.

3 Classes

- (1) Novice Single Pony (2) Open Single Pony
- (3) Novice Single Horse (4) Open Single Horse
- (5) Multiples, Pairs (6) Multiples, Tandems, Unicorns, Teams
- (7) Intermediate (finals only) (8) Seniors (finals only)
- (9) Small Ponies – if sufficient numbers at the Finals and organiser's discretion.

- 3.1.2 A Junior class may be run at the discretion of organisers. This may be split by age at the finals.
- 3.1.3 Classes 5 and 6 will be combined at qualifiers but will be separate at the finals.
- 3.1.4 Other classes may be introduced at a later time.
- 3.1.5 Classes may be combined at the discretion of the organisers.
- 3.1.6 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 to allow for example, a groom to prompt the driver for paces and precision test.

4 Horses

- 4.1 All animals must be at least 4 years old to compete.
- 4.2 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).
- 4.3 There is no minimum or maximum height.
- 4.4 Animals may wear boots and/or bandages during all phases of the competition. These must be removed for inspection if an official requires.
- 4.5 If the Event Manager observes a case of marked lameness, he must eliminate the competitor. In doubtful cases, the horse may be checked outside the arena immediately after the competitor has finished the phase.

5 Vehicles

- 5.1 The competitor will use the same vehicle for all three phases.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 Grooms are recommended to stand on the back step in the obstacles and must do so on four wheel vehicles.

- 5.4 Minimum weights do not apply but all vehicles must be of a construction suitable for the competition.
- 5.5 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. Width extension by 'wheel hoops' or 'scurry bars' is not allowed.
- 5.6 There is no maximum width requirement, but note that cones widths will not be increased for any over-width vehicles.
- 5.7 Vehicles may be measured at any stage during the competition.

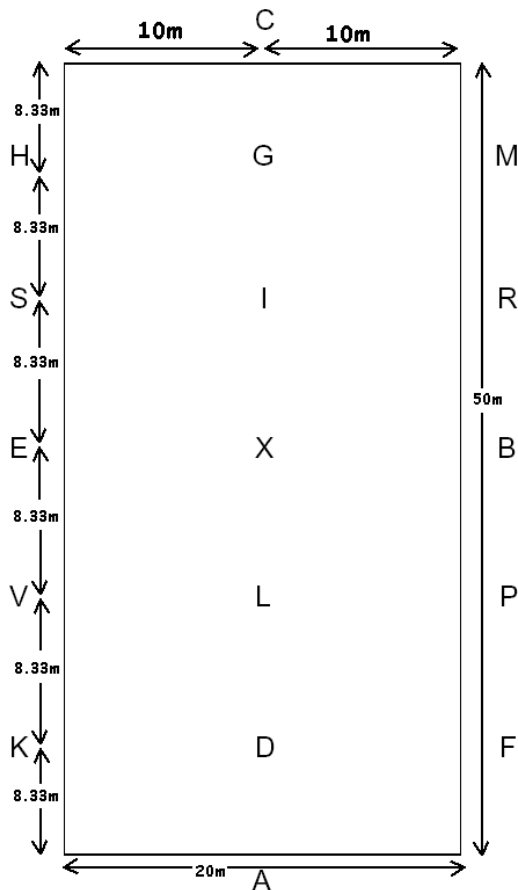
6 *Harness*

- 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) are not permitted, except for dual reins for very young or disabled drivers.
- 6.3 The harness must have breeching if the vehicle does not have brakes.
- 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 IHDT 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 are used. 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 on the following basis:

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

- 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 paces and precision.

- 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 BHDTA panel judges but must be competent and suitably experienced.
- 7.10 The test must be driven from memory.
- 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 mark, unless specified otherwise in the test.
- 7.14 It is an "Error of Course" when a competitor deviates from the required track or when a movement is omitted altogether.
- 7.15 If a competitor makes an Error of Course, the precision Judge will ring the bell and stop the competitor. 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 Other penalties in Precision and Paces

Entering the arena without a whip or losing or putting down a whip	5 penalties
Vehicle overturning	Elimination
Groom (s) dismounting (one or both)	1st incident 5 penalties
	2nd incident 10 penalties
	3rd incident Elimination
Competitor dismounting	20 penalties
Lame horse	Disqualification
Outside assistance	Elimination
Error of Course:	First occasion: 5 penalties
	Second occasion 10 penalties
	Third Occasion Elimination
Part of the turnout leaving the arena during a movement:	mark down for inaccuracy
The whole turnout leaving the arena:	Elimination

8 Phase 2 - Cones

- 8.1 There will be up to ten obstacles.
- 8.2 Each obstacle will be a pair of cones or a multiple obstacle.
- 8.3 The course may include at most one multiple obstacle.
- 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.
- 8.5 Official BHDTA type cones need not be used but all elements must have a dislodgeable element.
- 8.6 The starting line may not be less than 5 metres from the first obstacle.
- 8.7 The finishing line may 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, including an obstacle which has already been driven, results in elimination.
- 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.
- 8.13 The target time 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.
- 8.15 A competitor will incur one penalty point for each commenced second above or below the target time and 5 penalties for dislodging one or both balls of a single obstacle.

8.16 Other penalties in Cones

Entering the arena without a whip or losing or putting down a whip	5 penalties
Vehicle overturning	Elimination
Groom (s) dismounting (one or both)	1st incident 5 penalties
	2nd incident 10 penalties

	3rd incident	Elimination
Competitor dismounting		20 penalties
Lame horse		Disqualification
Outside assistance		Elimination

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 5 flagged gates.
- 9.3 Obstacles 1 & 2 shall be driven by each competitor from all classes.
- 9.4 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 re-flagged or totally replaced to form obstacles 3 & 4 which are then driven by each competitor. (At the finals four different obstacles will be used.)
- 9.5 Obstacles may have one knockdown per element.
- 9.6 Start and finish gates will be positioned between the obstacles and will be common to both obstacles.
- 9.7 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.
- 9.8 A gate is driven when the entire rear axle crosses the line of the gate.
- 9.9 One penalty point will be awarded for each commenced second spent in each obstacle (this may be to 1/100th of a second at the discretion of Event Manager if suitable timing gear is used). Each obstacle is timed individually.
- 9.10 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.
- 9.11 For the National Finals timing will be made to 1/100th of a second.
- 9.12 Each knockdown incurs 5 penalty points.
- 9.13 Obstacles 1 & 2 will be driven in reverse order of the combined scores after phases 1 & 2 Precision & Paces + Cones) the best going last.
- 9.14 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.

9.15 Other penalties in Obstacles phase

Entering the arena without a whip or losing or putting down a whip	5 penalties
Vehicle overturning	60 penalties
Groom (s) dismounting (one or both) per incident	10 penalties
Competitor dismounting	20 penalties
Lame horse	Disqualification
Outside assistance	Elimination

10 National Finals Qualification System

10.1 Each competitor, in each event, in each region will gain points on the scale shown below. These points reflect the position in which the competitor finishes within their class each time they complete.

1st place	10	2nd	8	3rd	6
4th	5	5th	4	6 th	3

10.2 IHDT UK will allocate each event to a region or regions.

10.3 Competitors may not transfer points between regions unless an event is specified as being multi-regional in the schedule.

10.4 In combined classes, points will be awarded separately to both classes.

10.5 All qualifying events **MUST** run to the official IHDT rules and event organisers must report all competitors' final scores and placings as soon as possible after the event to IHDT UK.

10.6 National Finals qualifications; one competitor, with the highest points, will qualify from each class in each area.

10.7 The scores will be calculated as follows: the points gained from the placings in the qualifying events in any one region, less one (e.g. in a region with 6 qualifying events, the total of a competitor's best 5 scores will count). If this results in a tie, the remaining score will be used as a tie-breaker.

10.8 (deleted)

10.9 All the previous season's National 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 AREA & CLASS in the current season.

10.10 Past National Supreme Champions are qualified for all future National Indoor Championship Finals provided they compete at 50% of the events in their one nominated AREA & CLASS in the current season. They may compete in classes other than those of their Championship win.

- 10.11 IHDT UK, as the organisers of the Championship Finals, reserve the right to issue invitations to further competitors as they see fit.

11 Notes to the Rules

Competitors

- 11.1 All competitors must belong to the IHDT. This gives third party insurance for the driver at the event. It does not give personal insurance – take this out separately if required.
- 11.2 Grooms do not need to join IHDT, though they are welcome to.
- 11.3 There is no dress code – drivers and grooms normally wear ‘marathon’ gear, i.e. warm weatherproof clothing.

12 *Conflict of interest*

- 12.1 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.

13 *Health & Safety*

- 13.1 Health and Safety standards will be in force always. 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 Health and Safety Office or Event Manager at the time of the occurrence. A report shall be entered into the Accident Report Book and the relevant forms completed.

14 *Disclaimer*

- 14.1 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.

Changes and clarifications

Recent changes: December 2009.

Clarification:

4.2 Small pony is 11 hands and under (112cm without shoes, 113 cm with shoes).

Recent changes: September 2009.

7 onwards renumbered – previously numbers jumped 7-8.

7.5, 7.7 Paces and precision now each contribute 50% to the final penalties (was 60% & 40%).

10.1 Points system – you no longer get 1 point simply for completing an event.

10.8 Note on qualification for intermediate class at finals deleted.

10.9, 10.10 To qualify automatically, previous champions must now nominate an area and class and compete in at least 50% of events in that area and class in the current season. (previously they only had to compete in at least one event).

Recent changes: September 2008.

2.1.2 The organizer reserves the right to refuse any entry with or without stating a reason. (This is taken straight from the BHDTA general regulations, included for clarity).

2.4.4 Add: A small pony can compete without a groom as long as it's to a two wheeler and groom at hand.

2.4.7 Clarify Intermediate class at Indoor Finals (competitors who have finished in the top 50% of a Novice class at indoor finals in either of the last two seasons.

Note also that 2.4.7 means that competitors who compete in any multiples class are classified as **open** drivers and cannot later compete as novices (multiples drivers are expected to be experienced).

2.4.9 Seniors renamed Veterans.

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.

3.1 Classes – add Small Ponies class if sufficient numbers at finals and at organiser's discretion.