



## International Carriage Drivers Association

**To:** Károly Fugli, Chairman FEI Technical Committee Driving  
Manuel Bandeira de Melo, FEI Director of Driving

**Copy:** Committee members ICDA  
Athletes CAIO Aachen 2023

**From:** ICDA, on behalf of athletes listed on page 2

**Date:** Aachen, June 30/July 4, 2023

**Subject:** **Driving Dressage Tests Modification Policy**

Dear Manuel & Károly,

An athletes meeting was held at CHIO Aachen on Wednesday June 28, 2023. The meeting was well attended and the majority of the competing athletes were present, as well as officials, chefs d'équipe and representatives of national federations. The meeting was hosted by ICDA.

The principal topic of discussion was the publication of the Driving Dressage Tests Modification Policy on June 5, 2023. Those present welcome the principle of having a structure for modification of dressage tests for all classes. However a number of concerns were expressed with regard to the process and the content of this proposal.

In earlier discussions with representatives of the Driving Technical Committee it was clearly understood that athletes were to be chosen automatically from the top-5 of the FEI World rankings in descending order, creating confidence in the process of developing new dressage tests. This applies to all classes and all athletes.

The current rules provide for 100x40 meter arenas for driving championships (in combination with a choice for OCs by 80x40 or 100x40 meter arena for other competitions). The proposed policy commits the working groups solely to design for a 80x40 meter arena. Although at the meeting only one athlete was open to discussing regarding to an 80x40 meter arena, the majority of those present at the meeting clearly believe that the 100x40 meters is the most appropriate for four-in-hands of horses,. Secondly the proposed time table only works if there is a rule change before the introduction of the test after the World Championships in 2024. As this implies a major rule change, it is our understanding that this cannot be introduced before 2026 and therefore would not meet the 2-year qualification period conditions required for new tests before a world championship.

Our proposal is:

1. To put on hold the application process for applications from athletes.
2. A revised selection procedure needs to be agreed in line with earlier discussions with FEI representatives to ensure that athletes – either the top level athletes (starting with the top 5 and not the suggested top 20) in dressage and/or world ranking – are part of the working group.
3. Terms of reference have to be agreed up front, specifically the 3\* test has to comply with the current rules for 100x40 arenas for driving championships. The 2\* and 3\* tests need to work for both 100x40 and 80x40 arenas, therefore meeting the requirements for both four-in-hand classes (horses and ponies).
4. ICDA proposes to recommend athletes to become members of the different working groups.



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We are open to a zoom meeting with the FEI and René Poensgen, Glenn Geerts, Koos de Ronde and Boyd Exell (four-in-hand drivers ICDA representatives) in the coming days to discuss the next steps.

Best regards.

ICDA, on behalf of the following athletes present at CAIO Aachen 2023

Boyd Exell	AUS	
Tor van den Berge	AUS	
Daniel Schneiders	AUT	
Dries Degrieck	BEL	
Glenn Geerts	BEL	
Tom Stokmans	BEL	
Jiri Nesvacil jr	CZE	
Jiri Nesvacil sr	CZE	
Radek Nesvacil	CZE	
Anthony Horde	FRA	
Maxime Maricourt	FRA	
Daniel Naprous	GBR	
Mark Carruthers	GBR	
Georg von Stein	GER	
Mareike Harm	GER	
Michael Brauchle	GER	
Janosz Papp	HUN	
Joseph Dobrovitz jr	HUN	
Joseph Dobrovitz sr	HUN	
Bram Chardon	NED	With the remark that with a proper test a 40x80 meter arena is possible
IJsbrand Chardon	NED	
Koos de Ronde	NED	
Jerome Voutaz	SUI	With the remark that not only top-5 athletes should be invited for designing new tests
Fredrik Persson	SWE	
René Poensgen		
ICDA committee member, rep. four-in-hand horses	GER	