



FEI™ SPORTS FORUM

31 MAR - 01 APR 2025 – IMD, Lausanne (SUI)

DRIVING

Rules full Revision



INTRODUCTION

Main items under discussion

- Additions to the rulebook
- Officials
- Young Horses
- Dressage
- Marathon
- Cones
- Championships
- Other items discussed at the FEI Driving Forum
- Medical





Additions to the rulebook

New formats in CAIs

- Extreme Driving
- Top Score
- Head-to-Head





FEI Driving Young Horses Competitions

Championship	CAI-YHs
Day 1 : Dressage & Cones	Day 1: Dressage & Cones
Day 2 : Combined Cones / Marathon (depending on age category)	Day 2: Cones as per standardised course plan
Day 3 : “Open” Dressage & Cones	
Open Dressage include a pre-defined flow of movements, difficulty increasing with the Horses’ age, with a fixed time limit	To increase athlete participation at CAI-YHs, a Young Horse will be allowed to compete at a CAI competition
Inclusion of Young Ponies in the competitions	
Officials	
Creation of a Dedicated Pool of Officials: Approximately 8 Judges selected for Young Horse Championships.	Only one Officials from the dedicated pool of officials required, ensuring opportunity for other officials



Officials

- Shortage of TDs:
 - TDs to be removed from CAIs 1*, 2*, 3*
- TDs will remain only for:
 - CAI3* World Cup™ Qualifiers
 - CAIOs
 - Championships
 - PGJ responsible for all other events (To be reflected in the Education System)



Dressage Draw for the Championships & CAIOs

Proposal to change from current block system to a randomised, physical draw

Outcome from the FEI Driving Forum:

Overall support for the proposal, with a request to allow flexibility in cases where multiple Drivers from the same National Team are drawn close together.





Outcome of the FEI Driving Forum – Dressage



Rotation of the Dressage Tests

Questioning about frequency of new tests

FEI Driving Forum:

Every 6 years, continue with the modification policy

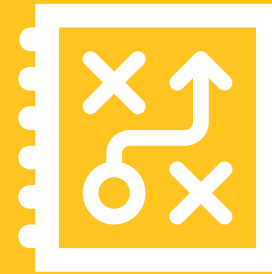


Length of the Dressage Tests

Shortening the length of the Dressage tests

FEI Driving Forum:

Understanding of the challenges, needs further discussion



Arena Size and Position of the Judges

Proposal for a mandatory 80x40m for H4

FEI Driving Forum:

For H4: 100x40 remains, but a new test is required



Outcome of the FEI Driving Forum – Marathon

Section A/ Controlled Warm-up



Proposal to remove the Section A and Controlled Warm Up

FEI Driving Forum:

Retain Section A if no suitable Warm-Up Arena is available. Remove the Controlled Warm-Up in favour of a free warm-up.

Section B



Adjust penalty seconds based on obstacle count.
Reducing obstacles for H1/P1.

FEI Driving Forum:

Agreement to reduce the number of obstacles to 7 for H1/P1 classes.
Support for the adjustment of penalty seconds

Cool Down



Minimise Rules in Cool Down

FEI Driving Forum:

Cool Down no longer required in an arena.
Flexible Horse/Pony presentation post-Marathon



Cones – Challenges

On some sand surfaces, cones may be hit without the ball falling due to the surface properties

Cone width may increase during the competition due to sand shifting



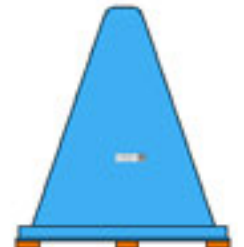


Cones – The proposed solution



Option: 7

Plastic filler blocks 3x in the bottom of the cone to make a tilting point





Cones – Results of testing (Deurne (NED), 15.03.25)

- The ball will fall when the cone is hit.
- Using three devices ensures the cones remain upright and the ball stays balanced in the centre.
- Greater ball sensitivity allows for more flowing course designs.
- Devices with a 4 cm height solve measurement issues caused by carriage where the rubber is cut on the outside.
- The sand now moves under the cone and reduces the effect on the width.

Feedback from the FEI Driving Forum: The community feels confident that this could be the solution, however requests it to be tested out at 2* events.



FEI Driving Championship Survey insights

- **296 respondents:** Athletes, National Federations, Officials, Trainers, Organisers
- Survey conducted: **September–October 2023**
- Aim: Review of the FEI Driving Championship format
- Key Result 1: current format of World Championships gives overall satisfaction
- Key Result 2: clear wish/demand for expanded/combined Continental/European Championships including Pairs and Singles
- Full Results of the survey can be found on the FEI Website.



Expanding Continental Championships to all Classes

Opportunities

- Expanding European/Continental Championships to H1/H2
- Combined event H4/H2/H1
- Increase participation and visibility across more categories
- Foster the development of the sport globally

Concerns

- Calendar of championships years to be adjusted
- Increased cost implications for organisers and National Federations
- Logistical challenges in hosting combined Championship
- Risk of lower participation in H2/H1 in diluting athlete entries

Feedback from the FEI Driving Forum: Divided in this matter.



Additional Individual Entries

Proposal

- Removal of Additional Individual Entries
- Nominated Entries = 3 times the number of team members instead of the current double
- More flexibility in selecting the final team
- Definite Entries: Any athlete from the nominated entries can be included in the team



Additional Individual Entries

Example with CH-M-A2

Current System	Proposed System
Nominated Entries: 2x team members (6 Athletes)	Nominated Entries : 3x team members (9 Athletes)
Additional Entries: Up to 6 Individuals	No Additional Entries
Definite Entries: 3 team members selected from Nominated Athletes	Definite Entries: 3 team members selected from Nominated Athletes
Individual Entries: Depending on the OC (stated in the schedule), up to 6 Athletes. Entries can be from Nominated or Additional Entries.	Individual Entries: Depending on the OC (stated in the schedule), up to 6 Athletes. Only remaining Nominated Athletes may compete as Individuals. No Additional Entry Date.
Total Athletes: Maximum of 9 (only nominated Athletes can be part of the team)	Total Athletes: Maximum of 9 (all Athletes can be part of the team)



Other items discussed at the FEI Driving Forum

- Horse Inspection
- Stewards' Per Diem
- Scoring System





Questions?



Rule proposals as per Medical Committee recommendations for enhanced athlete safety at competitions



Medical committee's recommendations – overview



1.

Driving-specific
medical services
requirements



2.

Driver/Grooms
post-fall medical
assessment



3.

Protective
Headgear
requirements



Why introduce specific medical services requirements in Driving?

- Article 109.10.1, FEI General Regulations, and the [General Medical Coverage requirements for FEI Events in accordance with article 109.10.1](#) outline the basic requirements for medical coverage at all FEI Events.
- More specific requirements are needed to ensure a medical response tailored to the type of injuries that occur in each Discipline.
- This approach already exists in the Eventing Rules (Annex D).



Key points in the current proposal for Driving-specific medical services

1. Minimum requirements, based on practical considerations and achievable everywhere.
2. Clear indications on the skills required from the medical personnel (i.e. the medical team must be able to perform certain medical actions).
3. Two types of medical response teams (basic/advanced) are identified in the document depending on the injury risk and type for the competition considered (Marathon, Driven Dressage & Cones). The difference is skills based and number of people required in the team.
4. Strongly recommended maximum response times from notification of the accident are indicated.
5. Requirements for the removal of injured Drivers and Grooms from the field of play and their transportation to a medical facility.



Key points in the current proposal for Driving-specific medical services (2)

To ensure the implementation of the medical services requirements, a Chief Medical Officer (CMO) must be appointed by the OC well in advance of the event to plan and organise the medical coverage.

The CMO does not have to be a physician, but is suitably experienced in the planning of medical coverage for equestrian events and has knowledge of the available local emergency medical resources and applicable local regulations.



COMPETITION	MEDICAL PERSONNEL REQUIRED & AVAILABILITY	NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN EACH TEAM	SKILLS REQUIRED
MARATHON	<p>At least one (1) team: Advanced Medical Response Team</p> <p>Response times: strongly recommended: maximum five (5) minutes from notification of accident.</p>	At least: two (2)	<p>1. At least: one (1) member with the minimum necessary skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. perform advanced airway management b. decompress a tension pneumothorax; c. acquire intravenous access, d. apply cervical and spinal stabilization and place suitable splints for fractures. <p>2. Training in basic life support and appropriate equipment for airway support, bleeding and fracture management.</p>
DRIVEN DRESSAGE & CONES	<p>At least one (1) team: Basic Medical Response Team.</p> <p>Response time: strongly recommended: maximum three (3) minutes from notification of accident</p>	<p>Minimum: one (1) Ideally: two (2)</p>	<p>At least 1 member with the minimum necessary skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. perform airway management b. apply cervical and spinal stabilization.
TRANSPORTATION			
<p>1. A medically appropriate vehicle shall be on site or available on call for the transportation of seriously injured or sick Drivers/Grooms to a medical facility.</p> <p>2. A system must be in place for the safe removal of injured Drivers/Grooms from the field of play.</p> <p>3. The personnel must be adequately trained to use the available equipment.</p>			



Driver/grooms post-fall medical assessment

1. Currently the Driving rules do not make it possible for Drivers and Grooms to be checked by the medical services after a fall. This creates a safety risk (including child safety – given the minimum age for participation in Driving).
2. Medical Committee's recommendation: a protocol must be introduced in the Driving Rules to ensure that Drivers and Grooms are checked after a fall
3. The protocol must standardise the “trigger” for a medical check (i.e. must not rely on perceptions from Officials or the fallen Driver/Groom).
4. The Medical Committee understands the complexity of devising falls rules in Driving. For example:
 - Different people with different roles are concerned (Driver, Grooms).
 - Falls can happen at 8 different obstacles.
 - No replacement is permitted if a Groom cannot go back on the carriage



Strengthening the protective headgear requirements

CURRENT DRIVING RULES REQUIREMENT	SAFETY CONCERN	PROPOSAL FOR ENHANCED SAFETY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Driven Dressage, Protective Headgear is not compulsory for Athletes and Grooms over 18. • During Horse inspections, it is strongly recommended for Athletes and Grooms under the age of 18 to wear securely fastened Protective Headgear. 	<p>Age-related differences in Protective Headgear requirements have no safety backing. A head injury can be life altering regardless of the person's age.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A properly fastened Protective Headgear (as defined in the FEI General Regulations) must be worn by all Athletes (as well as any other person) at all times when sitting in a carriage or mounted on a horse. 2. At Horse Inspections, wearing a properly fastened Protective Headgear is mandatory for any person presenting the Horse(s) and is strongly recommended for FEI Officials .



Questions?



FEI™ SPORTS FORUM

31 March – 1 April 2025, IMD Lausanne

THANK YOU