



Fédération Equestre Internationale
Attn. Ms Molly Day
Director, Eventing & Driving

By email to molly.day@fei.org

5 February 2026

Use of Protective Headgear for Drivers, Grooms and Passengers outside the Marathon and Cones Phases

Dear Ms Day,

In our role as members of the German elite squads in Four-in-Hand and Pairs Driving, we wish to direct your attention to the recently modified Article 928 “Dress, safety and whips **Headgear requirements**” of the FEI Driving Rules.

We ask to delete para 1.2 of Article 928 and would like to present several arguments in support of maintaining the optional use of protective headgear for drivers, grooms and passengers at Driving competitions, except during the specific phases of Marathon and Cones.

The mandatory use of headgear should only apply to those competition phases that involve timed performance, speed and fast turns, i. e. the Marathon and Cones phases and the related warm-up. Outside these high-speed phases, however, such requirements in our view are neither reasonable nor appropriate.

It is essential to preserve the traditional appearance of Drivers, Grooms, and passengers. It is a characteristic of Driving and an integral part of the sport’s identity. The use of helmets would not align with this traditional presentation and would, in many cases, contradict it.

In daily training sessions of dressage work rather than preparing for Marathon or Cones, the mandatory use of headgear is difficult to implement. Frequent changes of grooms or trainers stepping onto the carriage for short periods make obligatory use of headgear impractical.

Honorary guests or sponsors participating in laps of honour following award ceremonies cannot be expected to wear helmets. This flexibility is a distinctive advantage of Driving compared to other equestrian disciplines.

It should also be noted that the public’s perception of a Driver differs fundamentally from that of a rider. In Driving, the headgear is not a necessary or defining element of the Athlete’s appearance. The nature of the sport does not create the same type of immediate risks as horseback riding. A Horse cannot “unseat” a Driver in the same way it may a rider.

Additionally, in the sectors of recreational Driving, pleasure Driving (Fiaker/Kremser) and traditional carriage Driving, the use of protective headgear has not been regarded as fundamentally necessary and underlines that it is not required outside specific competitive environments.

Finally, the mandatory use of protective headgear in Youth Driving has been well received, even without a role model function from the over 25 categories. This demonstrates that age specific safety rules can be successfully implemented independently of adult regulations.

Our National Federation supports our wish to ask for deletion of the second para of Article 928 and is going to submit the above-mentioned rule change proposal.

Kind regards

Kader Fahren Zweispänner 2026

Championatskader

N. N.

Kader Fahren Zweispänner 2026 (erfolgsorientiert)

N. N.

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