# International Carriage Drivers Association

## COMMITTEE MEETING (online)

**Minutes**

**Date** : **February 17, 2025**

**Present**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Four-in-hand horses | : | Boyd Exell (BE – president), Koos de Ronde (KdR - partly), Glenn Geerts (GG) & René Poensgen (RP) |
| Pair horses | : | Jacob Arnold, (JA - partly), |
| Single horses | : | Kelly Houtappels-Bruder (KHB) |
| Ponies | : | Maria Buchwald (MB) |
| U25 | : | Kris Rohrssen (KR) & Elise Strauss (ES) |
| FEI Athletes Rep. | : | Franz Schiltz (FS) |
| ICDA Special Advisor | : | Hugh Scott-Barrett (HSB) |
| ICDA Marketing & adm. | : | Denise Hertroijs (DH) |
| ICDA General Secretary | : | Marie de Ronde-Oudemans (MdRO) |

**Not present**

Franck Grimonprez (FG), Martin Hölle (MHö), Rosanna Walters-Symons (RWS), Jacques Poppen (JP), Lea Schmidlin (LS), Maria Henriksson (MHe) & Bartlomej Kwiatek (BK)

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1. **Welcome**

   BE opens the meeting and introduces Denise Hertroijs who will be helping ICDA with marketing and administration / website activities.

   A few actions have been taken by ICDA:

   - *Letter regarding the measurement carriage width*: Thanks to the ICDA letter together with the information of several carriage builders, Annex 11 & 12 will be not effective in 2025. This was an excellent example of different parties within the driving world working together.

   - *Letter regarding nose band measuring device*: No response yet from the FEI. FS mentioned one potential amendment for driving which would allow nervous horses ponies to be checked in a quiet area / stable area. The process started to distribute the device amongst stewards. The device was tested / used during an event last weekend in Florida. JA – competing at this event – mentioned that with the use of bit lifters and calming mask and the type of leather of the bridle could influence the use of the device. JA will produce a small report on this.

2. **ICDA Survey on the FEI Rules Revision 2025-2026**

   The ICDA Survey on the FEI Rules Revision was conducted in January 2025. The response was overwhelming: 353 respondents of which 216 active athletes.
   Members overwhelmingly are not looking for radical change and support the current class and championship structure. Members however believe that there are a number of ways in which the rules can be adapted at all levels of competition better to reflect the economics of driving (large support teams, extended trips away from home and limited prize money). A summary will be shared this week.
   KHB notes that it would have been better to discuss the content of the survey first by the committee before sending out.

## 3. FEI Rules Revision 2025-2026, important topics / ICDA proposals

- *General*
  - *Judge Supervision Panel* – formed approx. 8 years ago. It would be good for the sport if this group could be more active. ICDA and FS will take action towards FEI.
  - *Scoring / Balance phases*: dressage 30%, marathon 40%, cones 30% - with the proposal to change the scoring system, there should be more balance between the phases, but also to review this yearly, would help to guard the balance.
    Regarding scoring some results from the ICDA Survey which will be implemented in the proposals for the rules revision:
    - Dressage: scores in percentages (easier to understand, balancing scores)
    - Marathon: less obstacles, increase penalties (8 obst.: 0.25 pen., 7 obst.: 0.3 pen. etc.)
    - Cones: possibility to change allowed time after 3 competitors

- *First Horse Inspection (Art. 935.2.)*
  - All present agree with the proposal to have the FHI for events up to 3* (before dressage) in harness (cost saving for OCs and athletes).

- *Starting order Dressage (Art. 948.2.1. and 2.)*
  - Already on the agenda Full Rules Revision 2021, but then rejected at the General Assemblee. All present agree that a free draw is the most fair way.

- *Minimum age Children class (Art. 912.4.)*
  - All present agree on lowering the minimum age of the children class.
  - MB, KR and ES emphasize that the levels went up every championship, the difference in level and development between the juniors and U25 is too big. The proposal is therefore to have more balance in the age limits of both groups.

1. **Under 25 (U25) Classes**

| Class | Athlete Age Class | PROPOSAL ICDA |
|---|---|---|
| Horses Four-in-Hand | 18 - 25 years | 18 - 25 years |
| Horse Pairs | 16 – 25 years | 18 – 25 years |
| Horse Single | 16 – 25 years | 18 – 25 years |
| All Pony Classes | 16 – 25 years | 18 – 25 years |

2. **Juniors Classes**

| Class | Athlete Age Class | PROPOSAL ICDA |
|---|---|---|
| Horse Pairs | 16 -18 years | 16 -18 years |
| Horse Single | 14 – 18 years | 14 – 18 years |
| All Pony Classes | 14 – 18 years | 14 – 18 years |

3. **Children Classes**

| Class | Athlete Age Class | PROPOSAL ICDA |
|---|---|---|
| Single Pony | 12 -14 years | 10 -14 years |

  - MdRO will forward a list of participants in each class of the past Championships (see attached included additional feedback from ES, KR, MB & GG).

- *Entries World Pony Driving Championships (Art. 923)*
  - FS notes that the issue has been solved (more individual participating athletes when a nation does not have a team)

- *Entries World Driving Singles Championship for Para Driving (Art. 925)*
    - All present agree with the proposal to change the team format at Para Championships (1 Grade 1 Athlete)

- *Additional entries for Championships and CAIOs (Art. 927)*
    - All present agree with the proposal to simplify the procedure of nominated entry / additional entries – an NF should be able to choose a team out of all Athletes participating.

- *Outside assistance (Art. 945.1.1.)*
    - An interesting discussion amongst committee members about the definition of 'physical', 'third party', handing or putting on the ground. The unanimous outcome is that all agree that the sport is evolving, nowadays radio contact is allowed during the marathon. The suggestion is to delete this Article or at least be more clear on help from 'third party' and physical outside assistance.

- *Marathon – controlled warmup / cooldown (Art. 959)*
    - All present agree with the proposal to skip the controlled warmup and cooldown. The in harness inspection before section B / obstacle section should be done like the in harness inspection before cones.

- *Annex 11*
    - All present agree with the proposal to do the measurement always on the same surface as the competition – blocks, focus on cones design rather than changes on the carriages.

- *Annex 12*
    - All present agree with the proposal to allow all kind of profiles – evolution of the sport.

## 4. Other items to be discussed

- *Driving Forum in Exloo (NED)*
    - Tuesday March 25, 2025 (afternoon)
    - Wednesday March 26, 2025 (morning)
    - FS said that ICDA will be invited to take part in one of the forums – the draft programme will be sent out
    - It should be nice if ICDA Committee members will be present – so mark your agenda!!!!

## 5. NEXT ICDA COMMITTEE MEETING:

**Tuesday April 8, 2025**
19:30 – 21:00 h CET
Online

*February 24, 2025 / MdRO*