International Carriage Drivers Association

COMMITTEE MEETING (online)

Minutes

Date	:	**Monday February 16, 2026 (19:30 – 21:00 h.)**
Present		
Four-in-hand horses	:	Koos de Ronde (KdR)
Pair horses	:	Jacob Arnold (JA)
Ponies	:	Rosanna Walters-Symons (RWS), Lea Schmidlin (LS) & Maria Buchwald (MB)
U25	:	Kris Rohrssen (KR) & Elise Strauss (ES)
FEI Athletes Rep.	:	Franz Schiltz (FS)
Special Advisor	:	Hugh Scott-Barrett (HSB)
ICDA PR	:	Denise Hertroijs (DH)
General Secretary	:	Marie de Ronde-Oudemans (MdRO)
Not present	:	Boyd Exell (BE), Glenn Geerts (GG) & René Poensgen (RP), Franck Grimonprez (FG) & Martin Hölle (MHö), Kelly Bruder (KB) & Bartlomej Kwiatek (BK), Jacques Poppen (JP) & Maria Henriksson (MHe)

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1. Welcome

Action

In the absence of the chair, MdRO warmly welcomes those present to the 10th online ICDA committee meeting.

2. Minutes ICDA committee meeting November 25, 2025

There are no additions or comments regarding the minutes of the previous meeting.

3. ICDA Survey 2026 – Protective Headgear & Body protection

The results of the survey have been shared with the committee members and will also been published in the member zone of the ICDA website. The response as in 2025 was promising (434 responses from 21 nations).

Protective headgear: The outcome of the survey shows that the majority (68.2%) of respondents are against the new rule to be introduced in 2027.

During the discussion, the proposed rules (proposed Rules changes to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2025, dated October 10, 2025) are also reviewed. It appears that, contrary to what was previously reported, a number of NFs indeed did respond—although not so much to the content, but rather to the fact that the proposal could not be a rule, as “highly recommended” does not belong in the FEI Driving Rules. Furthermore both the US and the GER athletes sent a letter to the FEI with the request not to have the mandatory helmet rule from 2027.

Given all the commotion surrounding the last-minute introduction of this rule, and the perceived loss of the tradition and beauty of carriage driving, this gives ICDA reason to reopen the discussion on this rule.
Action to all: have your NF send in a rule proposal or at less question the way of implementing (before March 1). All

Body protection: The outcome of the survey will be used by the FEI Workgroup on Safety Vest. ICDA / the driving world is represented by GG in this workgroup. GG

4. Calendar 2026 – Calendar management

MdRO shares an overview of the competitions in 2026. This shows that most competitions take place in the first months of the competition season. Some remarks from the committee:

- CAI Morkov has chosen to move the event to early August (normally start May). With the addition of Oberhausen to the calendar (one week earlier), the OC of Morkov is somewhat under pressure.
- CAI Beekbergen / CAIO Rastede: As Rastede was approved in December as a CAIO (on a one-time basis because Aachen will organize a CAIO again in 2027), Beekbergen has been forced to forgo organizing an event in 2026.

All remarks noted, the conclusion is that there should be more calendar management from either the FEI or the Equestrian Organizers. On February 24, HSB and MdRO will have an online meeting with the new director of driving Molly Day and calendar management will be one of the topics to be discussed. HSB/ MdRO

5. Proposed Rules by ICDA

The FEI has a strict policy for proposed amendments for the Rules Revision Process 2026 (for driving rules), such as: urgent repairs, correction of inconsistencies, new or recently introduced rules that have proven problematic in their implementation, implementation of new technological developments & policies from the IOC, IPC, WADA, ASOIF and other scenarios not foreseen by the policy, as considered and approved by the Board.

With this policy in mind ICDA is recommending the following regarding the **FEI Driving Rules:** ICDA

- Protective headgear: a rule change not based on recommendations
- First Horse Inspection before dressage in harness (in conjunction with the proposal VR (see below).
- Scoring: The slides presented in Hong Kong are different from the mandate of the working group scoring. The original presentation was noted that implementation (points -> percentage) could be possible in 2027. The mandate of this working group has now been broadened to review the entire scoring method, with any potential adjustments not expected before 2029. The ICDA believes that dressage scoring is an independent component and should be separated out to avoid delays. The ICDA will address this with the FEI. ICDA
- Combined Championships: a good discussion of the pros and cons. The general conclusion is that introducing a combined championship will not help the sport grow and especially the para class will get less exposure. It will only allow a limited number of the European H1 & H2 an extra championship. All those present agree that separate championships for singles and pairs would be a much better suggestion, although FS notes that the FEI is not in favor of this. Nevertheless ICDA will submit a proposal on this. ICDA
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For the **FEI Veterinary Regulations** (full rules revision) ICDA will make recommendations regarding:

- Pony measurement (more easier to have pony measurement during competition season)
- 1st Horse Inspection for CAIs (in harness before dressage)

6. Other topics to be discussed

No further topics were discussed. It was a good meeting where—despite the low attendance—many ideas were discussed.

7. Next meeting

The next online ICDA committee meeting is scheduled: **TBC!!**
20:00 – 21:00 h CET

Draft agenda topics:
- Feedback Veterinary Commission on First Inspection (in hand / in harness)
- Workgroup Scoring (HSB) & Workgroup Safety Vests (GG)

February 23, 2026 / MdRO