International Carriage Drivers Association

MINUTES

MEETING: FOUR-IN-HAND DRIVERS

Date	:	**Saturday May 30, 2026, 10:00 – 10:30 am**
Place	:	Saumur (FRA)
Invitees	:	All four-in-hand drivers present at CAI Saumur, chefs d'equipe
Topics	:	1. Aachen 2026 – Entries 2. Multi-Discipline Horse Condition Task Force 3. Combined European Championship

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General

During CAI Saumur (FRA), a number of four-in-hand drivers requested the ICDA for a meeting. The main topic was participation in the World Championships in Aachen, although several other matters were also briefly discussed.
The meeting was productive, and if the competitors consider it worthwhile, similar meetings will be organized at future events.

1. Aachen 2026 – Entries

Due to the maximum number of 8 athletes per nation specified in the schedule for the World Championships in Aachen, there has been significant interest in participation in 2025 and this season, which has also provided a boost to the number of four-in-hand drivers.
At the same time, it has been stated that the Aachen Organising Committee (OC) can accommodate only 50 participants due to limited parking and stabling capacity.

The four-in-hand drivers, together with the ICDA as a stakeholder of the FEI and ICDA, would like to bring the following points to the attention of the organisers:

- By limiting the number of athletes per nation, the strongest nations, such as Germany, the Netherlands and Hungary, are particularly disadvantaged. For example: provided the maximum number of entries remains at 50, three German athletes within the world's top 20 are unable to participate.
- Considering the future development of four-in-hand driving, it is important that these top athletes are also given the opportunity to compete.
- The attached table illustrates the possible participation scenarios with 3, 4, 5 and 6 athletes per nation.

Scenarios *(based on qualification)*

- Invitation 7 or 8 athletes per nation: max. 62 entries
- Invitation 6 athletes per nation: max. 59 entries
- Invitation 5 athletes per nation: max. 56 entries
- Invitation 4 athletes per nation: max. 52 entries
- Invitation 3 athletes per nation: max. 43 entries

AACHEN 2026 - POTENTIAL ENTRIES

nations		ALL	3x	4x	5x	6x
1	AUS	2	2	2	2	2
2	AUT	4	3	4	4	4
3	BEL	4	3	4	4	4
4	CZE	3	3	3	3	3
5	DEN	1	1	1	1	1
6	ESP	2	2	2	2	2
7	FRA	4	3	4	4	4
8	GBR	5	3	4	5	5
9	GER	7	3	4	5	6
10	HUN	7	3	4	5	6
11	ITA	1	1	1	1	1
12	NED	7	3	4	5	6
13	POL	2	2	2	2	2
14	ROU	2	2	2	2	2
15	RSA	1	1	1	1	1
16	SUI	4	3	4	4	4
17	SWE	1	1	1	1	1
18	URU	1	1	1	1	1
19	USA	4	3	4	4	4
		62	43	52	56	59

ICDA therefore proposes the following:

- Allow a maximum of 6 athletes per nation, with a total maximum of 60 participants.
- Competitor parking area: Parking facilities in Aachen have traditionally been very spacious. By limiting the allocated space per participant to 10 x 20 metres, sufficient / extra capacity can be created.
- Stabling: The OC of Aachen always provides an additional tack box. If this is limited to one tack box per nation (or per three athletes), this would result in a saving of at least 25 boxes with 50 participants, equivalent to the space required for approximately five additional athletes.

Actions:

- Boyd will contact Birgit Rosenberg (OC Aachen) to discuss all options.
- All four-in-hand athletes will forward the minutes to their NF in order to have the same request sent out to the OC of Aachen.
- Marie will forward the minutes to Quentin Simonet (EEF).

2. Multi-Discipline Horse Condition Task Force

Following the FEI GA in 2025 and the requests from several NFs for a more hamonised approach regarding the presence of blood on a horse accross all disciplines the FEI Board has approved the creation of a multi-discipline Horse Condition Task Force. ICDA as official FEI Stakeholder is requested to nominate a representative to participate in the task force.
All athletes present were in favor to nominate the German teamvet Dr. Mathilde Pluim.

3. Combined European Championship

All athletes present agreed that the proposal to introduce a combined European Championship as per 2029 would represent a devaluation of the driving sport.
It is therefore proposed that this concern be highlighted once again during the next round of rule amendments.
The preferred approach would be to allow each discipline (single horses, pairs and four-in-hand) to have its own European Championship. This would enable the maximum number of athletes to participate, rather than being restricted by the current limitation of only two competitors per nation.

Boyd Exell, president ICDA
Marie de Ronde-Oudemans, secretary general ICDA