

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	1/31/2024	

Rule Change Intent

In order to streamline the sharing system of both carriages and grooms, this change allows reasonable accommodation without delaying the competition schedule. By allowing scheduling flexibility, competitors are granted the opportunity to assist others during the Marathon competition.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Driving	Anna Brooks Thomas abthomas@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
--------------	----------

Committee Actions

DC928 Participation

1. Method of Driving
Athletes may use any method or style of driving.
2. The Athletes and Grooms
 - 2.1 Each athlete must drive the same horse(s) in all phases of the competition, except where a substitution was decided in compliance with the rules. See DC931.
 - 2.1.1 In National Championships, an athlete or groom may compete only one turnout in a USEF National Championship. If a driver wishes to enter more than one turnout in a USEF National Championship class, one hour before the beginning of the scheduled first horse inspection ("the jog"), the competitor must declare which of their turnouts is participating in the Championship.
 - 2.1.2 When participating in a National Championship, athletes and grooms with multiple entries must complete the Championship entry before the non-Championship entry in Marathon. Accepting multiple entries will be at the discretion of the Organizer, if scheduling permits.
 - 2.2 For Intermediate, Preliminary, Training, and Beginner levels, the requirement for a groom with a Single or VSE turnout is at the discretion of the Organizer. Exception: All Para-Driving turnouts must always have a groom while on the carriage.
 - ~~2.3 Depending on the schedule, an athlete can compete twice and in addition, they can act as groom. Athletes can compete more than once as athlete or groom, subject to event scheduling requirements. ***In Dressage and Cones, Athletes may compete more than once as athlete or groom, subject to event scheduling requirements. In Marathon, no individual person may complete the course more than twice in the role of Athlete or Groom.***~~
 - ~~2.3.1 At Short Format Driving Events, there is no limit to the participation of athletes or grooms other than what the Organizer can accommodate in the schedule. ***In Marathon Short Format Driving Events, no individual person may complete the course more than three times in the role of Athlete or Groom.***~~
 - 2.4 Groom(s) may participate several times in all competitions, as per 2.3.
 - 2.5 The athlete is the only person allowed to handle the reins, use whip and brake throughout each competition. Each contravention of this rule, even if to prevent an accident, will result in 20 penalties. However, a groom may handle the reins and brake without penalty in all competitions provided the vehicle remains stationary.
 - 2.5.1 Para Driving Athletes from nominated profiles may compete with the whip held or used by groom, the brake operated by the groom, and the groom holding the finger loop but must have this noted on the FEI Masterlist or their Federation dispensation following classification evaluation.
 - 2.6 No person may be tied to the carriage in any way during the competitions. An athlete may be secured by rope, webbing or belt provided one end is held by a groom and not wrapped or fastened to the carriage in any way. Failure to comply will result in elimination.
 - 2.6.1 Para Driving: A Para Driver may be attached on the carriage for support with a lap belt or a 4 point belt, but there must be a quick release system attended by a groom at all times. For Para-Equestrian drivers, in addition refer to Annex 10.
 - 2.7 Substitution of a groom during the Marathon competition is not permitted under any circumstances, and will incur elimination of the athlete.
 - 2.8 In Dressage (as part of the test) and Cones, athletes will be required to salute the Jury, unless time or layout of the course prevents it.
 - 2.9 Passengers may not ride on the carriage during any competition.
 - 2.10 Each time an athlete dismounts they will incur 20 penalties.

- 2.11 Athletes will incur penalties each time one or both grooms dismount. 5 penalties on the first occasion, 10 penalties on the second occasion, on the third occasion the athlete is eliminated, except in Marathon (see DC948).
- 2.12 Para-equestrian athletes are allowed to compete using compensating aids in accordance with their respective degree of disability, with degree of disability as certified by the Federation. See Annex 10.
- 2.13 Prize-giving ceremonies might be done either on the carriages or on foot, according to the approved Prize List.