



Proposed USEF Extraordinary Rule Changes

Adopted from the 2020 FEI rule changes for Driving

Still subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors

DC905 Official Results	Results are “official” as soon as they have been confirmed and signed by the President of the Ground Jury and published on the official board at the Show Office.
DC 906 Principles	2. Yellow Warning Card Where there is abuse of Horses in any form or incorrect behavior towards the Event, Officials, or any other party connected with the Event, non-compliance with driving rules , the President of the Ground Jury, or the Technical Delegate, and if appointed the President of the Appeal Committee and the Chief Steward, as an alternative to instituting the procedures foreseen in the legal system, may deliver to the Person Responsible a Yellow Warning Card.
Subchapter DC-5	ATHLETES AND GROOMS
DC 913 Dress, safety and whips	1. Dress in Dressage and Cones on a Dressage Carriage 1.1 The dress of Athletes and Grooms must conform to the style of the Carriage and harness used. 1.2 Jackets or national dress, driving aprons, hats and gloves are obligatory for Athletes. Para Driving Athletes from nominated profiles may compete with no gloves or adapted gloves but must have this noted on the FEI Masterlist or their USEF dispensation following classification evaluation. 1.3 Grooms must wear jackets or national dress, hats and gloves. 1.4 In Cones, Grooms must remain seated in their proper position(s) between the start line and the finish line. 1.4 1.5 The President of the Ground Jury may decide that: Jackets may be removed in excessively hot and humid weather; Jackets are not required in special circumstances; Wet weather clothing may be worn and aprons not required in wet weather. ... 4. Whip for Dressage and Cones 4.1 The Athlete must carry a driving whip. of traditional style. The lash, which may be tied to the stick, must be capable of release, and must be long enough to reach all the Horses. 4.2 An Athlete must enter the arena with a whip in hand or incur 5 penalty points. 4.3 If an Athlete drops or puts down his whip, when in the arena, or if it is not held in the hand, he will incur 5 penalty points. 4.4 The whip, if dropped, need not be replaced and the Athlete may finish without a whip. However the Groom may hand the Athlete a spare whip and without any further penalty. 4.5 Para Driving Athletes from nominated profiles may compete with the whip held / used by a groom, but must have this noted on the FEI Masterlist or their USEF dispensation following classification evaluation.



	<p>5. Whip for Marathon and Combined Marathon The whip can only be used by the Athlete. Failure to comply will incur 20 penalties.</p> <p>5.1. Para Driving Athlete from nominated profiles may compete with the whip held /used by groom but must have this noted on the FEI Masterlist or their USEF dispensation following classification evaluation.</p>
DC916 Number of Horses	<p>1. The correct number of Horses stipulated for each class must be driven throughout each Competition. Athletes may not remove one or more Horses during a Competition and continue with less than the number stipulated for their Class.</p> <p>2. A Horse may only take part once in each Competition.</p> <p>3. Failure to comply any part of this DC will result in Elimination Disqualification.</p>
DC 920 Examinations and Inspections of Horses	<p>3. In-Harness Horse Inspection 3.1 This must take place at all Events during, and at the site of, the 10-minute Compulsory Rest prior to the start of Section B of Marathon. One Veterinarian is responsible for this Inspection. It must be performed carefully but rapidly so that the Athlete has time to care for his horses before the start of Section B. When the Section A is a controlled Warm-Up, the compulsory rest may be shortened to 5 minutes before the Start of B.</p> <p>...</p> <p>5. In-Harness Inspection before Cones 5.1 The In-Harness Inspection must be carried out before the turnout any horse starts the Cones test, only when Cones follows Marathon. It must be performed by an Inspecting Committee consisting of one member of the Ground Jury together with the Veterinary Delegate, or the Veterinary Commission. The Inspection is obligatory at all Events when Cones follow Marathon. The Horse(s) must be presented by the Athlete himself; Competing without presenting will result in an Elimination.</p>
DC 923 Equipment	<p>1. For Advanced level only, Dressage Carriages may must be fitted with forward facing lamps and rear lamps or reflectors in Dressage (penalties: see DC941). Lamps or reflectors are not compulsory in Cones.</p>
DC 925 Participation	<p>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.</p> <p>2.5.1 Para Driving Athletes from nominated profiles may compete with the whip held /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 USEF dispensation following classification evaluation.</p> <p>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.</p>



	<p>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. For Para-Equestrian drivers, in addition refer to Annex 10.</p> <p>2.6.2 An Athlete with disabilities may be attached for support, but must have a method for quick release.</p>
<p>DC 930 Outside assistance</p>	<p>2. Prohibited outside assistance</p> <p>2.1 Dressage and Cones:</p> <p>2.1.1 Any Athlete who has received physical outside assistance may be eliminated by the Ground Jury.</p> <p>2.1.2 In Dressage and Cones, Grooms must remain seated in their proper positions between entering and leaving the Arena They are not permitted to handle the reins or the whip (will incur 20 penalties). For Dressage, Grooms are not allowed to speak or indicate the course to the Athlete (will incur 10 penalties). However the Groom may handle the reins, whip and brake without penalty provided the carriage remains stationary.</p> <p>2.1.3 Exception: If the bell has been rung by the President of the Jury and the Athlete has failed to hear the bell; the Groom may advise the Athlete that the bell has been rung.</p> <p>2.1.4 Athletes and Grooms may not use any form of electronic communication equipment during Dressage and Cones, subject to elimination.</p> <p>2.1.5 Para Driving Athletes from nominated profiles may compete with the whip held /used by groom, and/or the groom holding the finger loop but must have this noted on the FEI Masterlist or their USEF dispensation following classification evaluation.</p> <p>2.1.6 Grooms of Para Driving Athletes must sit so that he/she can help in case of need. The Technical Delegate has the right to disapprove the position of the groom on the vehicle.</p>
<p>DC 931 Substitutions</p>	<p>2. Substitutions during an Event</p> <p>2.1 Substitution of Horses or Athletes during a Competition is not permitted. The penalty will be Disqualification. Substitution is allowed in case of a Horse that is not fit to compete, as decided during the In-Harness Horse Inspection before Cones (DC 920.5.3).</p> <p>2.2 Athletes in Four-in-Hand classes may start each Competition with any four (4) of their five (5) declared entries.</p> <p>2.2 2.3 Athletes in Pair classes may start each Competition with any two (2) of their three (3) declared entries.</p> <p>2.3 2.4 Athletes in Single classes must start each Competition with their single declared entry.</p> <p>2.4 2.5 A horse may be used by another Athlete in the same class after the first Horse Inspection if that Athlete has not presented a spare horse and providing the borrowed horse has not already been used in a Competition at the Event. This horse must then stay with that new Athlete for the whole Event. In CAIOs and Championships, such Horse must be entered by the same NF as the competing Athlete.</p>



<p>DC 932 Starting Order</p>	<p>The method of determining the order of starting for Driven Dressage will be at a time determined by the Organizer and published in the Prize List/Omnibus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Random computer generation used in the electronic scoring program. b) A draw wherein Athletes will pull a number from a receptacle containing time for the starting positions. This may be done at the either the time of Registration or at the First Horse Inspection. <p>1.1.2 Starting Order for the Marathon and Cones competition: The Athletes will go in reverse order of the results in the previous competition(s) or half split as has been done previously. The starting order will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Athletes competing twice with their turnout in the highest placing, followed by b) Retired Athletes, followed by c) b) Eliminated Athletes, followed by c) The Athletes competing twice with their turnout in the highest placing, followed by d) The remaining Athletes, commencing with the highest number of penalties, so that Athletes with the least number of penalties achieved without Retirement or Elimination will start last. In the Event of Athletes having equal scores, the procedure set out in the above paragraph will apply. <p>All Cone-Driving outside a combined competition starts with a draw.</p>
<p>DC 934 The Arena</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Driven Dressage arena must be 100m x 40m or 80m x 40m, depending on the Test, and laid out in accordance with Annex 1, 2, or 3. 2. A smaller arena, measuring 80m x 40m and laid out in accordance with the Annexes, may be used for all classes of Singles, and Pairs, and Pony Four-in-hand, in which case the loops of the serpentine must be reduced from five to three. 3. Organisers must ensure that arrangements are in place so that spectators cannot approach closer than 5 meters from the edge of the arena.
<p>DC 939 General Impression</p>	<p>1. For FEI Driven Dressage tests:</p> <p>4.4-Principle There are two boxes at the end of the Judges Score Sheets for marks on: Athlete and General Impression & Presentation observed by the judges throughout the whole test.</p> <p>4.2: 2. Athlete</p> <p>2.1 Use of aids, handling of reins and whip, position on the box, accuracy of figures. The mark must reflect the consistent level of accuracy and quality of transitions.</p> <p>4.3 2.2 Para-Driving Athletes in able-bodies competitions Athletes may salute with a nod of their head only. Hats must not be removed at the salute, and contact must be maintained on the reins during the halt and salute.</p> <p>2.3 Para Driving Athletes are allowed to do one handed movements with two hands, when mentioned in the FEI Classification Master List of active Para Driving Athletes or their USEF dispensation following the</p>



	<p>classification of the Athlete. The maximal points attributed to the Athlete shall be 4, if the movement is correctly executed.</p> <p>4.4 3. General impression & Presentation Appearance of driver Athlete and grooms, correctness, cleanliness harmonizing with of harness and carriage. Fitness, matching and condition of Horse(s), balanced picture of the complete turnout. Clearance and fit of harness. Harmony between Horse(s) and Athlete.</p>
Subchapter DC-12 MARATHON	<p>DC 943 General DC943 General The objective of Marathon is to test the fitness, stamina and training of the Horses, and the driving skill, judgment of pace and general horsemanship of the Athlete.</p>
DC 944 The Course	<p>3. Compulsory rests A safety check of the turnout must be made before the start of Marathon and during the 10 minute hold at the end of the Transfer Section (Option 1) or Section A (Option 2). Compulsory rests.</p> <p>3.1 There must be a compulsory rest of not less than 10 minutes in the designated rest area prior to the start of Section B. When Section A is a "controlled Warm-Up", the compulsory rest may be reduced to 5 minutes. The rest is not compulsory in the "controlled warm-up" option, but horse/bit/harness inspection is still required.</p> <p>3.2 The area of the compulsory rest should, if possible, provide some shade and must be large enough to accommodate three turnouts at once and have room for additional motor vehicles.</p> <p>3.3 Water must be provided at the rest area for the Horses.</p> <p>3.4 For at least the Advanced level, a A farrier must be available at the rest area. If the Athlete has to wait for the Farrier for any reason beyond his control, then the Athlete will be credited with that time.</p> <p>3.5 Para Driving: quick release systems to secure a wheelchair and lap belts or 4 points belts with a quick release system must be checked by the Technical Delegate before the start of the marathon.</p> <p>3.5 3.6 In exceptional circumstances, the minimum time required for the Compulsory Rest may be increased by the President of the Jury in consultation with the Technical Delegate</p> <p>3.6 3.7 If a Horse is not accepted by the Veterinarian at the rest area after 10 minutes, or 5 minutes if used for a "Controlled Warm-up", the Horse and Athlete will be Eliminated.</p> <p>3.7 3.8 Turnouts may only stand, or walk, or trot within the rest area.</p> <p>...</p> <p>6. Paces</p> <p>6.1 The finish of Section B must not be more than 300 m from the exit of the last Obstacle unless the Technical Delegate grants an exception. If the last obstacle is situated within 300m of the finish, the Athletes may stop within 30m of the out gate of the obstacle to repair a broken or detached harness without penalty. A 30m marker will be placed on the track to indicate this point if the last obstacle is within 300m of the finish.</p>



	<p>6.2 Between the 30 meter sign of the last obstacle (or 300m) and finish, pace must be trot or walk only. The Athlete will accumulate one penalty point for each 5 seconds the turnout is not at the walk or trot.</p>
DC 948 Penalties on the Marathon Course	<p>1. Whips Whips, if carried, can only be used by the Athlete. Failure to comply will incur 20 penalties.</p> <p>1.1 Para Driving Athletes from nominated profiles may compete with the whip held /used by groom but must have this noted on the FEI Masterlist or their USEF dispensation following classification evaluation.</p>
DC 949 Obstacle Penalties	<p>2.6 An Athlete is not considered to have passed through a Compulsory gate in an obstacle until the whole complete turnout has passed between the flags denoting the Compulsory gate.</p>
DC 950 Judges	<p>1. Positions 1.1 The Judge should act on the advice of the Veterinary Delegate to decide whether the horses are in a fit condition to continue the competition. The judge must also supervise the measuring of the carriages and correctness of the Harnessing. See DC922 & 925.</p>
DC 956 The Course	<p>1. Building and Measuring the Course 1.1 The Course Designer is responsible, under the supervision of the Technical Delegate, for laying out, marking and measuring the course and building the obstacles. The Course Designer may indicate with a dotted line on the course plan how the length of the Course was measured. The President of the Ground Jury must ensure that the length of the Course was measured accurately.</p> <p>1.2 The arena should be not less than 70m x 120m 5000 m2 with a minimum width of 40 m or an equivalent area. Should this not be possible the number of obstacles must be reduced accordingly unless an exception is granted by the Technical Delegate. A size-adjusted arena for VSE's may be offered.</p> <p>...</p> <p>1.8 The President of the Ground Jury must walk the course to inspect it before the start of the Competition. The course is the track, which the driving Athlete must follow when competing from passing the start in the correct direction up to the finish. The length must be measured accurately to the nearest metre taking account, particularly on the turns, the normal line to be followed by the Horse(s). This normal line must pass through the middle of the obstacles. If there is an alternative obstacle, the official distance has to be measured by the longest route.</p>
DC 957 Obstacles	<p>5. Markers 5.1 Each obstacle is defined by a pair of markers: a red marker on the right hand side and a white marker on the left hand side as Athletes approach the obstacle. They are placed not more than 15 cm outside the elements, which form the single and multiple obstacles.</p> <p>5.2 The whole entire turnout must pass between these markers. Failure is considered as Disobedience. (See DC959.7.3 and 959.7.6.)</p>



	<p>5.3 Turning posts and Decorations and obstructions must be placed on the course before the official course walk. No penalty is incurred if they are touched, displaced or knocked over.</p> <p>5.4 All obstacles in the course must be numbered in the sequence in which they are to be driven. The number of each obstacle must be indicated on a board placed at the entrance to each single and Multiple Obstacle.</p> <p>5.5 Each distinct section of a closed Multiple Obstacle (Ls, Us and Boxes) must be clearly marked in different colours. (See Annexes) The whole entire turnout must pass between these markers in the correct alphabetical order.</p> <p>5.6 The red and white markers and the numbered and lettered boards may be combined, so that the numbers and letters appear on the same posts as the red and white markers, or they may be on separate boards or discs. If possible the numbers of the obstacles should be placed so that Athletes can see them as they leave the previous obstacle.</p>
<p>DC 959 Judging Cones Competition</p>	<p>6. Athletes and Grooms Dismounting</p> <p>6.1 Each time an Athlete dismounts he will incur 20 penalties.</p> <p>6.2 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.</p> <p>6.3 The Grooms must be on the carriage when going through each Obstacle. For a Groom(s) dismounting to assist through an obstacle by leading the horse by the bridle ends of the reins while the horse is still attached to the carriage see penalties for leading and dismounting in DC965. The Groom(s) must be on join the carriage before the next Obstacle.</p>
<p>DC 966 Expenses</p>	<p>1. The OC is responsible for the travel, meals and accommodations expenses of the Ground Jury, Appeal Committee, the Veterinary Commission or FEI Veterinary Delegate, the Technical Delegate, the FEI Chief Driving Steward and the Course Designer.</p>
<p>DC 967 Transportation during the Event</p>	<p>If the situation necessitates, the OC must provide transportation for the President and Members of the Ground Jury, Appeal Committee, Veterinary Commission, Technical Delegate, and Course Designer.</p>
<p>DC974 Appeal Committee</p>	<p>1. An Appeal Committee consisting of a President and two or three members may be appointed, at the discretion of the Organizer, to hear appeals or objections. When necessary, the Veterinary Official must be in attendance in an advisory capacity.</p> <p>2. Appointment Members of an Appeal Committee may be chosen from among the list of USEF Driving officials, or other knowledgeable, technically qualified horsemen, at the discretion of the Organizing Committee.</p> <p>3. Meetings 3.1 Appeals must be heard by all the Members sitting together. The President will decide the time and place of the Meeting. 3.2 The Committee must hear both sides of the case in appeals against decisions by individual Judges and Officials, and in cases referred to it by the Ground Jury in accordance with FEI GRs, Articles 160 and 165.</p> <p>4. Decisions The decisions of the Appeal Committee are final, except in cases where monetary penalties have been awarded.</p>



	<p>4.1 At USEF-licensed National Events (CAN), there is no appeal against technical decisions under these Rules or for Driven Dressage test marks given by the Ground Jury during a competition.</p> <p>5. Conflict of Interest See DC968 of these Driving Rules. 6. Procedures for Objections and Appeals: A deposit of \$50 must accompany an appeal before it can be dealt with by the Ground Jury or Appeal Committee. The deposit is refunded if the appeal is upheld. If the appeal is not allowed, the deposit is forfeited to the Organizing Committee.</p>
DC 975 974 Veterinary Delegate and Veterinary Commission	The OC must appoint a Veterinary Delegate selected from the List of Event Veterinarians in accordance with the VRs.
DC 976 Para-Equestrian Driving Classifiers	<p>1. Championships At least two international FEI Status Classifiers from different nations shall be appointed by FEI.</p> <p>2. CPEAs For International competitions the OC, in consultation with FEI, shall appoint at least two classifiers of different nationalities, with one of these classifiers being of international FEI status.</p>
DC 977 975 Rotation of Officials	Rotation of Officials: a Judge/Technical Delegate/Course Designer may not have been the Judge/Technical Delegate/ Course Designer at the same event for more than 3 consecutive years without taking at least one year break.
Annex 6 Cones Obstacles	The Bridge and the water obstacle (DC 973.4 957.4)

The Driving Sport Committee approved these proposed changes on December 13, 2019 to align with the changes for the FEI Driving rules for 2020. *Not all rules were adopted*; refer to the FEI website for complete 2020 FEI rule changes.

These rules are still subject to final approval of the USEF Board of Directors.