



Summary of 2019 USEF Rule Changes for Combined Driving (DC) Chapter

<https://www.usef.org/compete/resources-forms/rules-regulations/rulebook>

select the 2019 rule book

Sub-Chapter	Article	Rule Change in BOLD
DC-2 STRUCTURE OF COMPETITIONS	DC 901.1-2 Categories and Levels	<p>1. Classes: All, or any, of the following classes may be held at the same Event, but each must be classified separately: Horse: Single (H1), Pair (H2), Tandem (HT2), Unicorn (HU3), and Four-in-Hand (H4) Pony: Single (P1), Pair (P2), Tandem (PT2), Unicorn (PU3), and Four-in-Hand (P4)</p> <p>In Preliminary and Intermediate only: Very Small Equine: Single (VSE1), Pair (VSE2), Tandem (VSET2), Unicorn (VSEU3), and Four-in-Hand (VSE4)</p> <p>2. Levels of difficulty: The levels of difficulty are defined by a progressive rating system ranging from the lowest level Preliminary, to Intermediate, then to the highest level Advanced. <i>BOD 8/27/18 Effective 12/1/18</i></p>
DC-4 ELIGIBILITY	DC 911.2-3 Entries	<p>2. Entry forms for Horses must include the name/names, breed, sex, age, color, passport number and/or USEF number, and where appropriate, qualifications.</p> <p>3. Refunds need not be given for no-shows or withdrawals after the closing date of entries, however, this information must be posted in the prize list and/or ADS Omnibus. <i>BOD 8/27/18 Effective 12/1/18</i></p>
	DC 912 Schedule of the Event	<p>When applicable, the FEI Approved Schedule applies to FEI divisions which are also USEF Advanced. All other USEF divisions will follow the official Prize List or the American Driving Society Omnibus, which must be in accordance with USEF rules. <i>BOD 8/27/18 Effective 12/1/18</i></p>
DC-6 HORSES	DC 915.4 Height	<p>4. A mixed height turnout is not allowed. Large Pony 120 cm -148 cm without shoes or 149 cm. with shoes Small Pony 99 cm- under 120 cm with or without shoes Very Small Equine Under 99 cm. <i>BOD 8/27/18 Effective 12/1/18</i></p>
	DC 919.1.3-5 Stable Security	<p>1.3 Stable arrangements and security are at the discretion of the Organizer and shall be approved by of the Technical Delegate. Arrangements must be published with the Prize List.</p> <p>1.4 Security fences are not obligatory, but fences and gates may be installed for safety and security reasons at the discretion the OC.</p> <p>1.5 No Horse may be stabled overnight inside a truck or trailer. Only the Technical Delegate in consultation with the Official Veterinarian may grant exceptions in extreme circumstances or wet ground conditions in the stable area. <i>BOD 8/27/18 Effective 12/1/18</i></p>
FEI change	DC 920.5.3 & DC 931.2.1 Examinations and Inspections of Horses	<p>5.3 Only the Ground Jury member has the authority to disqualify the horse if considered to be unfit to continue the event. It is permitted to substitute a Horse who has failed the In-Harness Inspection before Cones, upon re-presentation, the Athlete may start the Cones Competition and therefore change the declaration.</p> <hr/> <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>
FEI change	DC 925.11.2 Harness, Carriage and Horses	<p>11.2 Ear hoods and plugs are permitted. Ear hoods may not be attached to the noseband and must allow free movement of the ears of the Horse. Failure to comply will result in 5 penalty points.</p>



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DC-8 CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION	DC 928.2.1- 2.2 Participation <i>Regarding National Championships</i>	<p>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.</p> <p>2.2.1 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 his turnouts is participating in the Championship.</p> <p>2.2.2 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 OC, if scheduling permits. BOD 8/27/18 Effective 12/1/18</p>																																																																																												
DC-11 DRIVEN DRESSAGE FEI change	DC 939 General Impression <i>Only changes for Advanced division using FEI tests. No change for Prelim./Inter.</i>	<p>1. For FEI Driven Dressage tests:</p> <p>1.1 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>1.2 Athlete 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>1.3 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>1.4 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> <p>2. For ADS Driven Dressage tests: ... <i>[original General Impression rule continues as written]</i></p>																																																																																												
DC-12 MARATHON	DC 944.2 The Course	<p>2. Marathon: Combined Driving Event <i>[Three Section] Intermediate</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Section</th> <th rowspan="2">Maximum distance</th> <th rowspan="2">Minimum distance</th> <th rowspan="2">Pace</th> <th colspan="4">Speed km/hr</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Horse</th> <th>Pony</th> <th>Small Pony</th> <th>VSE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>7000m</td> <td>5000m</td> <td>free</td> <td>15</td> <td>14</td> <td>13</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transfer</td> <td>1500m</td> <td>800m</td> <td>free</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>7000m</td> <td>5000m</td> <td>free</td> <td>14</td> <td>13</td> <td>12</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>...</p> <p>Two Section Marathon: Preliminary</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Section</th> <th rowspan="2">Maximum distance</th> <th rowspan="2">Minimum distance</th> <th rowspan="2">Pace</th> <th colspan="4">Speed km/hr</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Horse</th> <th>Pony</th> <th>Small Pony</th> <th>VSE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>7000m</td> <td>6500m</td> <td>free</td> <td>12</td> <td>11</td> <td>10</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>7000m</td> <td>5000m</td> <td>free</td> <td>14</td> <td>13</td> <td>12</td> <td>9.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Two Section Marathon: Intermediate</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Section</th> <th rowspan="2">Maximum distance</th> <th rowspan="2">Minimum distance</th> <th rowspan="2">Pace</th> <th colspan="4">Speed km/hr</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Horse</th> <th>Pony</th> <th>Small Pony</th> <th>VSE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>8000m</td> <td>6500m</td> <td>free</td> <td>13</td> <td>12</td> <td>11</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>7000m</td> <td>5000m</td> <td>free</td> <td>14</td> <td>13</td> <td>12</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>BOD 11/14/18 Effective 12/1/18</i></p>	Section	Maximum distance	Minimum distance	Pace	Speed km/hr				Horse	Pony	Small Pony	VSE	A	7000m	5000m	free	15	14	13	10	Transfer	1500m	800m	free					B	7000m	5000m	free	14	13	12	10	Section	Maximum distance	Minimum distance	Pace	Speed km/hr				Horse	Pony	Small Pony	VSE	A	7000m	6500m	free	12	11	10	8	B	7000m	5000m	free	14	13	12	9.5	Section	Maximum distance	Minimum distance	Pace	Speed km/hr				Horse	Pony	Small Pony	VSE	A	8000m	6500m	free	13	12	11	8	B	7000m	5000m	free	14	13	12	10
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DC-13 CONES FEI change	DC 957.4.4 Water and bridges	4.4 Wooden bridges, or bridges of similar suitable construction approved by the Technical Delegate, with fan shaped wings at the entrance, with the bridge surface not more than 35 cm above the ground with a usable width of three metres and a maximum length of ten metres are permitted, boarded or rail sides are essential. The Technical Delegates may grant an exception if the bridge is of a permanent solid construction with strong side rails. There must be a pair of cones at the entrance (flag lettered A) and exit (flag lettered B) with the cones at least 2.0m apart.																																																															
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Annex 8 FEI change	Annex 8.1 Cones Oxer	8.1 An oxer will be composed of 2 pairs of cones in a straight line. The distance between the first set of cones and the second set will be between 1.5 and 3 metres, at the option of the Course Designer. The oxer counts as a single obstacle and the maximum penalty points for knocking down up to 4 balls is 3 penalty points in total. The first set of cones will have the number of the obstacle and be marked with red and white flags and the second set of cones will be marked with red and white flags. This obstacle will be judged as a single obstacle. The oxer may be crossed. A maximum of five oxers are allowed in a Cones course. The distance between the two pairs of cones has to be measured from the balls.
APPENDIX DC-A MEASUREMENT OF COMBINED DRIVING PONIES	Appendix DC-A.1-6 <i>Pony Measurement cards only required in Advanced. Still suggested for Prelim./Inter.</i>	<p>1. For the Advanced division, the USEF Measurement Card will be presented at the First Veterinary Inspection. If a pony is not in possession of a fully and correctly completed Measurement Card, the Ground Jury may order the pony to be measured by a certified measuring official and the Competition Veterinarian and/or a Judge, pursuant to Chapter 5, Subchapter 5-C in General Regulations. Failure to allow the pony to be remeasured will result in the pony being disqualified at that competition. The remeasurement must be reported to the Ground Jury, which must then disqualify the pony from the competition if it is over height (see DC915.1-4).</p> <p>2. Ponies in the Advanced division without Measurement cards will be measured before the First Horse Inspection at their first competition of the year.</p> <p>3. Measurement will be conducted by a certified measuring official and the Competition Veterinarian and/or a Judge.</p> <p>4. The measurement specifications will be recorded on a USEF measurement form. A copy of this form will be given to the competitor at the time of measurement.</p> <p>5. Measurement will be required yearly until the pony has reached the age of eight years. Animals four through seven years old will be issued an annual Temporary Measurement card. Animals eight years and older will be issued Permanent Measurement cards which will not need to be renewed.</p> <p>6. If the Ground Jury questions the height of a pony and the pony is in possession of a fully and correctly completed Measurement card, the Ground Jury may request through the Federation, that the pony be remeasured by a certified measuring official and a Veterinarian who are approved by the Federation, pursuant to Chapter 5, Subchapter 5-C in General Regulations. Remeasurement must be made within 30 days of the request. <i>BOD 8/27/18 Effective 12/1/18</i></p>

The 2019 USEF rule changes reflect *most of the applicable 2019 FEI rule changes, but not all.* Please refer to both published rule books for complete details.

