Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
DC 901.1	135-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Driving Sport Committee	Approved (6/16/2026)

DC901.1 Tracking #135-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/6/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Remove all Small Pony classes and remove VSE classes and Novice Advanced and Open Advanced levels. The Small Pony division dilutes the population of pony drivers when they could be combined with the regular ponies. It is not in the interest of safety and horse welfare to have VSE's competing at the Novice Advanced and Open Advanced level due to the length and speeds of the marathon with the requirements of grooms being on the carriage at that level.

Proponent Details

Driving Sport Committee

Contact Information

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Linked Rules

Comments

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026

Driving

Member Comments

DC901 Categories and Levels

1. Classes:

1.1. 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), and Four-in-Hand (H4)

Pony: Single (P1), Pair (P2), and Four-in-Hand (P4)

1.2. In Beginner, Training, Preliminary, and Intermediate only:

~~***Small Pony: Single (SP1), Pair (SP2), and Four-in-Hand (SP4)***~~

Very Small Equine: Single (VSE1), Pair (VSE2), and Four-in-Hand (VSE4) ***at Intermediate and below levels.***

DC915 Height

See Appendix DC-A for measurement of combined driving ponies.

1. Driving ponies must not exceed 148cm without shoes, or 149cm with shoes. Above these heights, they are classified as horses. ***Very Small Equines must be under 99cm.***

2. A mixed height turnout is not allowed.

~~***Large pony 120cm -148cm without shoes or 149cm with shoes***~~

~~***Small pony 99cm- under 120cm with or without shoes***~~

~~***Very Small Equine - under 99cm***~~

DC922 Weights and Dimensions

3. Carriages used in Dressage and Cones must comply with the following: 3.1 For Intermediate, Preliminary, Training, and Beginner levels, the requirement for a groom with a single turnout is at the discretion of the Organizer. Exception: All Para-Driving turnouts must always have a groom while on the carriage.

Class	Wheels	Grooms	Minimum Width for Advanced
Horse Four-in-Hand	4	2 behind	158cm
Pony Four-in-Hand	4	2 behind	138cm
~~***Small Pony or***~~ VSE Four-in-Hand	4	1 behind	n/a
Horse Pair	4	1 behind	148cm
Pony Pair	4	1 behind	138cm
Horse Single	2 or 4	1 behind or beside	138cm

Pony Single	2 or 4	1 behind or beside	138cm
~~***Small Pony or***~~ VSE Single	2 or 4	1 behind or beside, if used (ref. DC 922.3)	n/a

4. Carriages used in Marathon must comply with the following:

Class	Wheels	Minimum Weight for Advanced	Grooms	Minimum Width for Advanced
Horse Four-in-Hand	4	600kg	2 behind	125cm
Pony Four-in-Hand	4	300kg	2 behind	125cm
~~***Small Pony or***~~ VSE Four-in-Hand	4	n/a	1 behind	n/a
Horse Pair	4	350kg	1 behind	125cm
Pony Pair	4	225kg	1 behind	125cm
Horse Single	4	150kg	1 behind	125cm
Pony Single	2 or 4	90kg	1 behind or beside	138cm
~~***Small Pony or***~~ VSE Single	2 or 4	n/a	1 behind or beside	n/a

DC944 The Course

2. Marathon: Combined Driving Event sections

DIVISION	Section A					Controlled Warm-up		Section B						
	Distance km	Horse Speeds	Pony Speeds	~~***Sm. Pony***~~	VSE	Time	Distance km	Horse Speeds	Pony Speeds	~~***Sm. Pony***~~	VSE	# Obstacles	# of Gates in an Obstacle	Course Marker
Open Advanced	5-9	12-14	11-13	~~***11-13***~~	~~***8-10***~~	Up to 30 minutes	5-9	14	13	~~***13***~~	~~***8-10***~~	7	6	Blue Triangle
Novice Advanced	5-9	11-13	10-12	~~***10-12***~~	~~***8-10***~~	Up to 30 minutes	5-9	12-14	11-13	~~***11-13***~~	~~***8-10***~~	6	6	Orange Keystone
Intermediat	5 – 8	10-12	9-11	~~***8-10***~~	6-8	Up to 30 minutes	5-9	12-14	11-13	~~***10-12***~~	8-10	6	5	Red Circle

e														
Preliminary	4 – 6	10-12	9-11	~~8-10~~	6-8	Up to 30 minutes	5-7	12-14	11-13	~~10-12~~	8-10	6	4	Green Square
Training	3 – 5	9-11	8-10	~~7-9~~	5-7	Up to 30 minutes	5-7	11-13	10-12	~~9-11~~	7-9	5	3	Black Diamond
Beginner						Up to 30 minutes	4-6	11-13	10-12	~~9-11~~	7-9	5	3	White Square
Para	5 – 8	10-12	9 – 11			Up to 30 minutes	5-9	12-14	11-13			6	5	Red Circle

3. Short Format Driving Events – Modified Marathon Section(s)

Division	Controlled Warm-up (optional)	Distance km	Horse speeds	Pony speeds	~~Sm. Pony speeds~~	VSE speeds	# of Obstacles	# of Gates in an Obstacle	Course Marker
Open Advanced	Up to 30 minutes	3.5 – 7	13-14	12-13	~~12-13~~	~~8-10~~	5	6	Blue Triangle
Novice Advanced	Up to 30 minutes	3.5 – 7	12-14	11-13	~~11-13~~	~~8-10~~	5	6	Orange Keystone
Intermediate	Up to 30 minutes	3.5 – 7	12-14	11-13	~~10-12~~	8-10	5	5	Red Circle
Preliminary	Up to 30 minutes	3 – 6	12-14	11-13	~~10-12~~	8-10	4	4	Green Square
Training	Up to 30 minutes	3 – 6	11-13	10-12	~~9-11~~	7-9	4	3	Black Diamond
Beginner	Up to 30 minutes	3 – 6	11-13	10-12	~~9-11~~	7-9	3	3	White Square
Para	Up to 30 minutes	3.5-7	12-14	11-13			3-5	5	Red Circle

DC958 Cones Competition

1. Single Obstacles and Open Multiple obstacles settings.

	Division Class	Advanced Speed M/min	Advanced Cones Width (cm)	Serpentine	Zig-Zag (m)	Wave	Distance between obstacles (m)
Horse	Four-in-hand	240	185	10-12	11-13	10/12	15
	Pair	250	170	6-8	10-12	8/10	12

	Single	250	160	6-8	10-12	8/10	12
	Para-Driving	230	160	6-8	10-12	8/10	12
Pony	Four-in-hand	240	160	8-10	9-11	8/10	12
	Pair	250	160	6-8	9-11	8/10	12
	Single	260	160	6-8	9-11	8/10	12
	Para-Driving	230	160	6-8	9-11	8/10	12
VSE	Pair/Multiple	~~200~~	~~+15cm~~	9	9	8/10	12
	Single	~~240~~	~~+15cm~~	6	8	8/10	9

1.1.2 Paces

DIVISION		Single or Pair		Four-in-hand
Beginner/Training	VSE	150mpm		170mpm
	Horse/Pony	180mpm		190mpm
Preliminary	VSE	180mpm		170mpm
	Horse/Pony	200mpm		190mpm
Intermediate	VSE	190mpm		180mpm
	Horse/Pony	220mpm		210mpm
Advanced		Single	Pair	Four-in-Hand
	~~VSE~~	~~170mpm~~	~~170mpm~~	~~160mpm~~
	Pony	260mpm	250mpm	240mpm
	Horse	250mpm	250mpm	240mpm
Para Driving	Horse/Pony	230mpm		