

CARRIAGE DRIVING FIELD GUIDE

PARAMETERS FOR THE COMPETITION

Carriage classes may be held within the umbrella of the overall competition or as open carriage classes which are not breed limited.

STEWARD OR CARRIAGE PLEASURE TECHNICAL DELEGATE?

Category 2 Stewards can officiate all carriage classes at regular competitions if there are fewer than 15 carriage classes.

PRIZE LIST

The prize list may allow for or disallow certain types of tires and/or vehicles in certain classes. Check for any limitations or allowances. See CP120.

COMMON RAIL CLASSES HELD

- Working
- Reinsmanship
- Turnout
- Drive and Ride

COMMON OBSTACLE CLASSES HELD

- **Timed** – a prescribed, numbered course of no more than 20 obstacles. Penalty seconds are added to the elapsed time. Placings are determined on lowest total time. Need wheel measurements.
- **Scurry** – an unnumbered course containing balls and cones not to exceed 10 obstacles. Driver must proceed through each obstacle, once, in any order. Penalty seconds are added to the elapsed time. Placings are determined on the lowest total time. Need wheel measurements.
- **Pick Your Route** -an unnumbered course of no more than 20 obstacles. Penalty seconds are added to the elapsed time. Placings determined on the lowest total

time. Typically, wheel measurements are not needed. Obstacles set at 80”.

- **Progressive** – a prescribed, number course of six obstacles. Each obstacle is set with different clearances. Progressively getting narrower. Need wheel measurements.

PERSONNEL REQUIRED OBSTACLE CLASSES

- Timer
- Backup timer
- Scribe
- Ring personnel.

WARMUP

A practice obstacle similar to the course must be provided in a specified area. The organizer may control the times for using the area.

REMINDERS

- It is prohibited to tie a tail to a vehicle or harness.
- Only the driver may handle the reins, whip, or brake during a competition. Failure to comply incurs elimination.
- The tying of tongues is prohibited.
- Nasal strips are prohibited.
- Leading a turnout into the ring or obstacle course start is considered outside assistance and is not permitted.

TIMING

- Using a stopwatch, hold your arm straight out in front of you at the start finish line. Make sure a backup timer is utilized.
- For most classes, time starts and finishes as the horse’s nose crosses the start/finish lines. Check class specifications.

- If using electronic timers, time is taken when the beam is broken by the first part of the turnout (horse's chest).

COURSES/MEASURING OBSTACLES

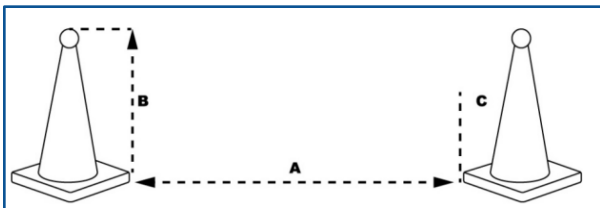
Prescribed, numbered courses are set with red, numbered flags and white, unnumbered flags.



The correct direction to approach an obstacle is with the red flag on the driver's right.

Remember – “Red is on the right.”

If using traffic cones, make sure you measure from the outside corner. This allows clearance for the hubs. See CP237 for additional explanation.



Suggested obstacle clearances:

- Classes emphasizing precision 8”-10” (20-25 cm) Classes emphasizing speed 12”-16” (30-40 cm)
- The track width + allowance = obstacle width
- Each vehicle in the class needs to be measured and the applicable allowance added. Obstacles need to be set /re-set for each vehicle.

MEASURING WHEELS

Depending on the show and staff available, the steward and/or the driving advisor/staff needs to measure the track width at ground level on the widest track width of the vehicle. Measure from the outside edges of the wheels, not the hub. *With the wheels straight, place a cone on the outside of each wheel, with the outer edge of the cones touching the wheels. Move the cart forward, measure the distance between the inner edge of the cone to determine the track width of the vehicle.*



RESOURCES

- USEF Carriage Pleasure Chapter
- Appendix CP-C Turnout and Appointments
- USEF Driving Accident Protocol (being revised by USEF - not currently available - watch for it in the future)
- American Driving Society - <https://www.americandrivingsociety.org/>
- Carriage Association of American (CAA) – have pamphlets and books on driving <https://www.carriageassociationofamerica.com/>
- YouTube – various videos on carriage driving