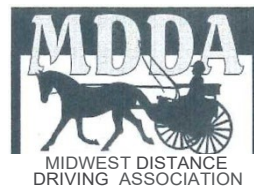


Competitive Driving Rules . . .

(revised May 24, 2016)



Distance Driving Horses will follow the same rules as UMECRA Competitive Horses with the following exceptions.

A. General Rules

1. The pace for a drive is between 5 and 7 mph. The pace will be determined by the drive management. Factors determining the pace will be heat, humidity, difficulty of the terrain, and conditions of the trail.
2. Mileage of Distance Drives shall not be less than 5 miles, but may be any greater distance that provides a safe and practical venue for driving. Longer distances are encouraged.
3. Junior drivers (less than 18 years old) must be accompanied by a sponsor in the carriage from start to finish, who will assume full responsibility of the turnout.
4. Drivers will be started at specified intervals, usually 5-10 minutes,
5. When scoring multiple horses, each horse shall be scored individually; however, their individual scores are averaged to determine the final score.
6. Drivers can be accompanied by a groom, or have a groom meet them at vet checks, who can assist in all aspects of the competition, except driving. (See Rules for drivers for more information.) Multiples must have a groom.
7. Natural water at water crossings can be offered by the groom from a bucket
8. Drivers will have 15 minutes to present their horses to the veterinarian for pulse and respiration at the vet checks and at the end of the drive.

B. Rules for Drivers

1. Removal of the bridle while a horse or pony is attached to a carriage is cause for instant elimination and the driver will be excused from the grounds
2. Horses will not be left unattended while put to a carriage. They cannot be left tied to a trailer unattended while put to a carriage.
3. A Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) sign must be on the rear of the carriage and displayed at least 3 feet from the ground. The driver must have a whip in the cart, but not during the pre and post drive veterinary exams.
5. Breeching or a brake is required, unless a racing type harness is used with a lightweight two wheel vehicle.
6. Helmets for drivers and grooms are mandatory.
7. Pair or multiples carriages must have a groom. Duties of the groom include assisting the driver in hitching and unhitching, cooling out, holding and helping in the care of the horses. The groom is not allowed to share the driving. The groom may give the driver directions on the trail.
8. Single drivers may carry a groom. The duties of the groom would be the same as for the pairs.
9. At no time during the competition may the groom/passenger or others along the route hold back the carriage going down a hill or push the carriage up a hill. Failure to comply will result in immediate elimination.
10. Safety Check. There will be a safety check prior to the start of the drive to inspect harness and vehicle.
11. Bicycle type wheels are not allowed. Pneumatic tires on automobile or heavy duty spoke wheels, such as those used on motorcycles are acceptable.



C. Spares Kit

A Spares Kit is required on every cart/carriage. They must include:

- Halter and lead per horse,
- Cooler or quarter sheet for each horse,
- Knife,
- Screw Driver,
- Pliers,
- Small hammer,
- Leather Punch,
- Hoof Pick,
- Wheel Wrench to fit axle,
- Length of Rawhide, string, or wire,
- A Hames strap if applicable,
- Spare rein or splice,
- Spare Trace or Splice.

Additional items which have been useful:

- Duct tape,
- Cell phone,
- Zip ties,
- Extra bolts
- Any additional spare parts of harness you wish

Harness & Vehicle Safety . . .

Harnessing:

- Keep your horse safely under control while harnessing . Even if he stands without being tied for harnessing at home, don't expect the same cooperation at an event!
- Be sure to have the bridle on the horse and the lines attached before putting to the vehicle.

Harness :

- Inspect your harness for wear and cracks.
- Be sure all buckle tongues are solid and not bent.
- All strap ends should be properly placed through keepers.
- Check stitching for fraying or breaks.
- Check for proper collar placement on the horse. Keep it above the point of the shoulder and below the windpipe. With a neck collar be sure that the hames are properly set into the collar and that both the top and bottom straps are solid and secure.
- Verify that the traces are securely attached to the single tree and run without interference from the collar to the single tree.
- The breeching should be adjusted to the proper height (on the flat of the rump) and have about 1" of slack when the traces are in draft.
- The breeching hold back straps should be secure and approximately level with the breeching so the breeching will not be pulled up or down when the breeching is engaged.
- The point of the shaft (unless a short shaft vehicle) should come to the point of the shoulder and the shaft should be properly wrapped and buckled or the shaft loop should be buckled down to avoid the shaft flipping up.

Vehicle:

- The vehicle should be checked for loose bolts and cracks that interfere with the integrity/strength of the vehicle.
- Verify that the single tree bolt is without excess play and that the nut is in place. Also check that the safety straps on the single tree do not excessively restrict its back and forth movement. *Restricted movement could cause the collar to move and result in sore shoulders.*
- Wheels should be checked for tight spokes and axles.
- Verify that a slow moving vehicle (SMV) sign is in place.
- Verify that spares kit is in the vehicle and contains the necessary components (see rules).
- Verify presence of helmet and whip.

Horse Camping 101 . . .

Every year horses get loose or tangled at the campsite .A number of methods may be used for confining a horse over night. For each method there are some considerations to keep in mind.

Tied to trailer or post provided :

Tie high to avoid wrapping around legs. Adjust halter so it can't be slipped. Consider adding a neck collar for added safety.

Corral panels:

Check for protrusions that may lacerate the horse. Be sure that fasteners are secure and horse proof .

Electric corral:

Make sure the horse is trained to electric fence prior to event.

Tie lines/Picket lines:

Be sure they are secure and at the proper height.

Hay nets:

If a hay net is used be sure to tie it high and include the bottom of the net in the tie so that it will not sag as it empties and provide a place for the horse to catch a hoof.

Campfires:

Build fires only in approved containers and do not leave them unattended. Most campgrounds have restrictions on from where the fire wood may be sourced.

Clean Up:

We are almost always in public facilities and we are expected to leave the area as we found it . . . ready for use by the next camper.

Be sure and place waste and manure in designated locations, or be prepared to carry them home with you.

Clean up leftover hay.

Additional Guidelines for Drivers . . .

DO wear a helmet, if you value your brain! (It only takes a second to change your way of life forever!)

DO remember to grab your gloves and whip before you put to.

DO double check all your buckles before getting into the cart.

DO have the bridle and lines in place before you put to.

DO check your vehicle bolts, wheels, brakes, etc. for obvious stress or damage on a routine basis .

DO fix anything needing attention BEFORE you drive.

DO carry a spares kit that covers your basic needs. This must include a halter/lead rope.

DO wear visible safety gear when out on the roads with traffic (reflectors, SMV sign, orange vest, bike flag, etc.)

DO be courteous to other whips—the dust you make today may be on the wheels you have to polish tomorrow!

DO step in and help if you see someone making a mistake, or breaking a club rule. A few words of constructive wisdom at the right time may avoid a nasty accident, and many hard feelings'

DON'T leave a hitched horse unattended.

DON'T tie a hitched horse to any portable object; this includes fences, gates, horse trailers, etc..

DON'T yell at the judges, officials, or volunteers. DO tell them what a wonderful job they are doing, and how much you appreciate their hard work!

DON' T bring a dog to an event if the rules specifically forbid it. No dogs means, "NO DOGS!"

DON'T be afraid to ask for help if you need it.

DON'T forget to have fun!

BEFORE THE DRIVE- SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Safety triangle displayed (SMV)
- Breeching on harness or carriage brake
- Driver and any passenger(s) wearing helmet
- Whip in whip holder
- Spares kit (recommend driver carry knife)
- Halter and lead rope in cart or on horse
- Wheels are sturdy (no wire wheels unless motorcycle/BMX type)
- Girth and shaft tie-downs buckled. Shafts through both loops?
- Traces securely fastened and correct length?
- Holdbacks fastened?
- Reins through all terrets and fastened to bit?
- Blinders not rubbing eyes?
- Do you have your map? Cell phone(optional)?
- No help except for groom. Groom cannot drive. If you do not have a groom you may commandeer one to help you.
- If applicable: Groom riding in carriage has signed ride waiver.
- Horse must have bridle/reins on at all times when hitched. Do not leave horse tied unattended while hitched. This is cause for disqualification.
- Check wheel nuts, singletree bolts, etc.
- If you didn't pre register, register with ride management and sign waiver
- Complete pre-ride vet check and horse numbering
- Set out water bucket, fly spray, etc. at vet area if you aren't able to unhitch at your trailer
- Allow enough time for harnessing, hitching, and safety check.
- Get Driver Time card signed at safety check
- Turn in time card to timer at the start of the drive

ON THE TRAIL

- Window concept: finishing 5 minutes before or after ideal time = no time penalty. May come in up to one hour early/late and still complete.
- Must stay in cart at all times when moving forward .
- Common Trail etiquette: ask if OK to pass another carriage
- Drivers must stop for riders on the trail, and should ask if it is alright to proceed.
- May drink or sponge from natural water or tanks on trail (carry people water OK)
- 2 mile marker: Must maintain forward motion after this point. No stopping or going back. Exceptions are to stop for riders, for the horse to drink from natural water, or for the horse to urinate.
- Ride camp phone number: _____

BACK AT CAMP:

- Receive card from timer.
- Unhitch, unharness, allow horse to drink. No sponging/hosing until after full vet check, unless the vets allow it. As a courtesy to vets and volunteers, pick burrs off of horse's legs.
- If it is cold, you may blanket your horse, but keep it loose so vets can do their exam.
- You have exactly 15 minutes to pulse down, and present horse to vet
- Speak up when it is time for your P&R check if the vets haven't spoken with you.
- Get P&R taken (get in line and stand still for a few minutes prior). BE ON TIME.
- Full vet exam includes lameness and metabolic exam, as well as fatigue and attitude assessment.
- You're done! Yeah you! Take care of your horse and relax until award time.