

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	1/31/2024	

Rule Change Intent

This rule change would allow more options for groom locations on different types of carriages. By doing this, we would encourage more Drivers to use grooms for safety and potential assistance where applicable in the rules.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Driving	Anna Brooks Thomas abthomas@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions

DC913 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 Federation 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 dedicated seat. The first infraction of this rule will incur 5 penalties, second infraction will incur 10 penalties and the third infraction will result in Elimination.
 - 1.4.1 ~~For Beginner, Training, Preliminary, and Intermediate levels when a marathon carriage is used in cones, the groom can either sit or can stand centered behind the driver and must remain stationary in that position throughout the course.~~ **For Beginner, Training, Preliminary, and Intermediate levels when a marathon carriage is used in dressage or cones, the groom may either sit or stand centered behind the driver and must remain stationary in that position throughout the test/course.**
 - 1.5 The President of the Ground Jury may decide that:
 - Jackets may be removed in excessively hot and humid weather; cooling vests may be worn in excessively hot weather at except at the times when body protectors are mandatory; or
 - Wet weather clothing may be worn and aprons not required in wet weather.
 - 1.6 Penalties for improper dress are stated under Rules DC941 and DC965. In Cones, it is compulsory for all persons to wear a properly fastened protective headgear. Failure to comply results in immediate Elimination from the Cones competition. See GR801. An athlete and/or groom who loses their headgear or whose chin strap becomes unfastened while on course must recover and replace it, and/or immediately refasten it. In such case, the jury will sound the whistle/bell, and stop the time. The athlete will receive 5 penalties and must halt to retrieve their headgear and/or refasten the chin strap. An athlete who continues with a chin strap incorrectly fastened or unfastened will be eliminated unless the circumstances rendered it unsafe for the athlete to immediately stop in order to correct the issue.
 - 1.7 At Short Format Driving Events, DC 913.1.1 – 1.3 & 1.5 do not apply as formal attire is not required. Neat attire is required; and shorts are not permitted in any phase.
2. Dress in Marathon and Combined Marathon
 - 2.1 Less formal dress is acceptable in Marathon for the athlete and grooms. Shorts are not permitted. Infringement will incur 10 penalties per person.
 - 2.2 From the In-Harness horse inspection until the end of the Cool down, athletes and grooms must wear securely fastened protective headgear, and a back protector in the Marathon Sections. See GR801.
 - 2.3 During the Section A, Controlled Warm-up, Warm-up Obstacle and Section B, failure to wear such Protective Headgear and back/body protector will result in elimination.
 - 2.4 During the In-Harness Inspection, Halt area and Cool Down area, failure to wear such Protective Headgear and back/body protector where and when required after being notified by an Official to do so, will result in a Yellow Warning Card being issued to the athlete.
 - 2.5 Medical armbands are strongly recommended.
 - 2.6 When a body/back protector is required, air protector can be used combined with a real back or body protector but never without.
3. Dress for Juniors

- 3.1 At all times, while on a carriage, junior athletes must wear a body protector and a securely fastened protective headgear. Infringement will result in elimination. See GR801.
- 3.2 During horse inspections, it is strongly recommended for juniors to wear securely fastened protective headgear.
4. Whip for Dressage and Cones
 - 4.1 The athlete must carry a driving whip.
 - 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 their whip, when in the arena, or if it is not held in the hand, they 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 or used by a groom, but must have this noted on the FEI Masterlist or their Federation dispensation following classification evaluation.
5. Whip for Marathon, Modified Marathon and Combined Marathon

The whip can only be used by the athlete. Failure to comply will incur 20 penalties.

 - 5.1 Para Driving athlete from nominated profiles may compete with the whip held or used by groom but must have this noted on the FEI Masterlist or their Federation dispensation following classification evaluation.