



The American Driving Society, Inc.

Approved Rule Changes for the 2021 ADS Rulebook:

RCP1

GR 2.7 Junior and adult competition participants, e.g., anyone who rides on a vehicle at any time at an event, are defined as follows:

- a. The “competition age” of an individual will be the age reached during the current calendar year.
- b. “Junior A” – competition age: 10 and below. Junior A drivers must be accompanied by a knowledgeable adult horseman at all times.
- c. “Junior B” – competition age 11, 12, 13. Junior B drivers must be accompanied by a knowledgeable adult horseman at all times.

EXCEPTION: Junior “B” drivers competing with a single Very Small Equine (VSE) turnout in a securely enclosed arena need not be accompanied by a knowledgeable adult horseman unless required by the organizer.

- d. “Junior C” – competition age 14, 15, 16, 17, 18. Junior C drivers competing with a single horse/pony turnout at their discretion need not carry a groom/passenger unless required by the competition.
- e. .Otherwise defined: Competition age under 19.
- f. “Adult” – Competition age 19 and over.

g: The knowledgeable adult horseman, as requested under item b & c above, may be the groom, when one is required, or may be an additional person – in which case that person is subject to the same requirements and penalties as a groom.

RCP2

Appendix GR-A. Officials Requirement Summary

Organizers of ADS-approved events must secure the services of at least one ADS-licensed official. Exception: Sleigh Rallies.

RCP3

Appendix GR-B. ADS Pony Measurement Program

ADS Ponies are 120cm to 148cm; with or without shoes; 149cm with shoes.

1.1 ADS Small Ponies are 99cm to less than 120cm; with or without shoes.

1.2 ADS VSEs are less than 99cm; with or without shoes.



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- 1.3 Animals will be measured prior to their first competition of each year until reaching the competition age of 8 years, after which they will receive a Permanent Card.
- 1.4 Measurement Cards are for the exclusive use of ADS competitions.
- 1.5 The height of animals with a current, valid ADS Measurement Card cannot be protested.
- 1.6 The measurer must not measure animals owned or trained by a member of the measurer's immediate family, a person living under the same roof, nor a person with whom the measurer (exception : veterinarians) has a financial relationship, including a lease.

RCP4

Delete all English measurements in the Pleasure Driving Section and leave all Metric measurements.

Art 238.4 Leave conversion chart except remove conversions for Pounds and Kilograms.

RCP5

Article 231 Carriage Dog Class

a: The dog should be standing, lying down, or seated on the vehicle., ~~or should run behind, beside or at the axle of the vehicle.~~

RCP6

(COACHING)

Article 306 Obstacles

306.1 **FAULT** OBSTACLES

a. Drivers negotiate a course of paired markers set at the widest wheel track width of the driver's vehicle, plus 20 inches. The course should be posted at least two hours in advance and is to be driven from memory.

b. To test the accuracy of the halt, the driver halts the team, at the end of the course, with the vehicle's front hub in line between a pair of designated markers. A measurement is then taken and five faults are assessed for each foot, or any part thereof that the hub is off the line in either direction.

c. Two or more horses cantering or galloping at the same time for 4 or more strides will be considered a break in gait.



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A prolonged canter or gallop is 6 or more full strides by two or more horses.

d. Faults are assessed as follows:

- o Distance from halt marker -5 faults/foot or part off
- o 1st Break to canter or gallop 10 Faults
- o 2nd Break to a canter or gallop 10 faults
- o 3rd break to a canter or gallop 10 faults
- o 4th break to a canter or gallop Elimination
- o Prolonged canter or gallop Elimination
- Knocking down or dislodging obstacle or course marker 10 faults
- Groom down (first 2 times) 20 faults/occurrence
- Groom down 3rd time Elimination
- Off course Elimination

306.2 TIMED OBSTACLES

a. To be judged over a course in the ring consisting of paired markers, set 20 inches wider than the widest

wheel track of each driver's vehicle. The course is to be posted in advance and must be driven from memory, at a trot.

b. Two or more horses cantering or galloping at the same time for 4 or more strides will be considered a break in gait.

A prolonged canter or gallop is 6 or more full strides by two or more horses.

c. Penalties are assessed as follows:

- Knocking down or dislodging obstacle or course marker10 seconds
- Break of gait to canter or gallop:
 - o 1st Break to canter or gallop 10 Seconds
 - o 2nd Break to a canter or gallop 10 Seconds
 - o 3rd break to a canter or gallop 10 Seconds
 - o 4th break to a canter or gallop Elimination
 - o Prolonged canter or gallop Elimination
- Groom down (first 2 times) 20 faults seconds/occurrence
- Groom down 3rd time Elimination
- Off course Elimination



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RCP7 DID NOT PASS

Added under existing chart: [\(See Art. CD-943.2.14\)](#)

RCP8 DID NOT PASS

RCP9

Article 939 Tires

~~At ADS-recognized competitions for Training division only, pneumatic tires and/or wire wheels may be allowed at the discretion of the Organizing Committee. Pneumatic tires may be used in Training, Preliminary and Intermediate provided that the wheel on which they are mounted is engineered for use on a carriage. Tire tread type is optional. The use of wire spoke wheels is limited to use in the Training division, at the discretion of the Organizing committee and approved as safe by the event TD and Ground Jury.~~ (See Appendix CD-E. Quick Reference Guide for CDEs.)

RCP10 DID NOT PASS. This was passed in its place:

Change the language of 940.2.1, 523.6b and 529.2 to:

Bandages and Brushing Boots are not permitted in Dressage. Failure to comply will result in 10 penalty points.

At ADS Recognized Events, this also applies to overreach boots. Hoof boots that cover the sole of the hoof are permitted.

RCP11

GR 5.11

At all times while on a carriage or riding an equine, all Juniors must wear properly fastened headgear which meet or exceeds current ASTM...



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RCP12

GR 8.1

An appropriate whip should **must** be carried in hand at all times while driving. The thong on the whip should be long enough to reach the shoulder of the farthest horse.

FEI RULE CHANGES:

- Article 913-Remain ADS exception
- Article 916- Remains ADS exception
- Article 919- Remains ADS exception
- Article 927- Remain ADS exception
- Article 992- Remains ADS exception.

Article 930 Height

4. For Driving Ponies **maximum height and measuring**, please refer to the FEI Veterinary Regulations CHAPTER IX - PONY MEASURING. ~~must not exceed 148 cm without shoes, or 149 cm with shoes. Above these heights, they are considered as a Horse~~

ADS Exception

1. For driving ponies maximum height and measuring please refer to the FEI Veterinary Regulations CHAPTER IX- PONY MEASURING.

At ADS Recognized Events refer to Appendix GR-B ADS Measurement Program.

Article 991

Keep ADS exception with the deletion of the last sentence regarding standing presentation. ***At ADS-recognized events an ad hoc Appeal Committee consisting of a President and two or three members may be appointed by the Organizer at the time an appeal is filed. When necessary, the Veterinary Official must be in attendance in an advisory capacity.*** ~~***A member of the Appeal Committee may judge Presentation at the halt for Training and Preliminary divisions.***~~

f. Championship and CAIO

- The composition and appointment of the Veterinary Commission, which is compulsory for Championships and CAIO Events, ~~and the appointment of its President and Members~~ must be in accordance with the ~~current~~ Veterinary Regulations Chapter V "APPOINTMENT OF FEI VETERINARIANS AT EVENTS".

o CAIs

- The OC must appoint a Veterinary Delegate ~~selected from the List of Event Veterinarians~~ in accordance with the Veterinary Regulations.