



A Sporting Day of Traditional Driving

The purpose of *A Sporting Day of Traditional Driving* is to preserve that style of carriage driving of bygone days which encompasses horsemanship, driving acumen, care and preservation of carriage and harness, and the intangible qualities of good sportsmanship.

The Day includes three phases: a Turnout Inspection, a Country Drive, and Cones. Traditional driving, as we define it, makes use of one of the recognized styles of driving—English Classical (or its German modification known as Achenbach), Hungarian, or American—whichever is appropriate for the type of carriage, horse, and harness being used. All types of carriages are accepted, but antique vehicles or traditional reproductions of the same are preferred.

The entry number must be clearly visible on the carriage. The driver must carry a whip throughout the day while driving.

A Sporting Day of Traditional Driving is based on a score of 100, broken down into 50 points for the Turnout Inspection, 25 for the Country Drive, and 25 for the Cones phase. The organizers may choose to present any number of awards; one winner per class is the standard.

Any situation not covered in the Guidelines will be referred to the judges, and the judges' decision is final. The judges will eliminate unqualified or dangerous entries.

GUIDELINES

TURNOUT INSPECTION

The CAA publishes standard references for traditional drivers and these should be referred to for specific information on turnout.

•Specifications

- a) The turnouts are judged at the halt and in motion, by one to three judges.
- b) Inspection at the halt will be judged for the quality, cleanliness, safety, and general impression given by the horses, driver (and passengers and grooms), harness, and carriage. Particular attention should be given to the driver's secure and well-balanced position on the box.
- c) The English classical or Achenbach style of driving is expected for drivers of all carriages except for American runabouts or road wagons or typically-Hungarian carriages. If the Hungarian style is followed, the harness, and particularly the reins, must be of Hungarian pattern.
- d) Harness should be suitable for the carriage; it must be heavy enough and it should employ the right kind of collar and saddle. Harness must be clean, complete, in good condition and properly adjusted.
- e) Horses must be clean. No boots or bandages may be used during the Turnout Inspection.
- f) All carriages are accepted but antique carriages or replicas of traditional vehicles are preferred.
- g) Park or town turnouts should preferably use black leather harness. Passengers should be dressed in town attire. Grooms should be in formal or stable livery depending on the type of vehicle being driven. It is strongly recommended, but not required, that single turnouts carry one groom. Pairs require one groom, tandems require one groom, and four-in-hands and unicorns require two grooms.
- h) Country turnouts may use black or russet leather harness. Passengers should be in country attire. Grooms should be in stable livery or dressed as a family member in country attire.
- i) The drivers of coachman-driven vehicles must be suitably attired as a coachman. Black or russet leather harness may be used to suit the vehicle. Passengers, drivers, and grooms should be dressed appropriately for the turnout.
- j) Family carriages may use black or russet leather harness to suit the vehicle. Passengers must dress in accordance with the vehicle and its turnout.
- k) Park drags use black leather harness with full collars; breeching on wheelers is permitted. It is appropriate to use bright metal pole chains and Buxton bits, and harness furniture of the same metal as door handles; bearing reins are optional. Coachman and passengers should be appropriately dressed for the park drag and two grooms in livery should be carried.
- l) Road coach harness is sturdier and many straps are single (not lined and stitched). Full collars are used, which may be black leather or russet or basil-lined and faced. Coaching bits include Liverpool bits with bars or elbow bits. Pole chains which may be painted black (in which case the pole head should also be black) should be used. The driver should wear a grey top hat and appropriate clothing. Passengers should wear hats and country clothes. The guard wears a guard's outfit with a top hat, which may be brown long-hair beaver or grey. Another groom in undress or stable livery may also be carried. A private road coach may be turned out as a park drag or road coach, and it will be judged as presented.
- m) If lamps are carried, they must be in good usable condition and suitable as to pattern and size.
- n) General impression will take into account cleanliness of the whole turnout, suitability of horse(s) to vehicle, and dress and deportment of driver and passengers.

•Scoring

A Sporting Day of Traditional Driving is based on a score of 100, with 50 points awarded in the Turnout phase. Each of the six specified categories are given a score ranging from 1 to 10, with 10 being "of exemplary quality" and 1 being "extremely poor." The total number of points earned will be the score for that competitor. Scores from more than one judge will be averaged. (See sample score sheet.)

GUIDELINES

COUNTRY DRIVE

This phase exhibits the driver's ability to drive his or her carriage safely in different conditions and situations. The rules of the road (using signals, asking permission to pass) are to be observed.

•Specifications

- a) The driver may halt, walk, or trot at will. Walk and trot are the acceptable gaits and the driver should choose the gait that is appropriate for the terrain. Participants will be eliminated for unsafe or reckless driving.
- b) The driver must show his ability to keep his horses in a steady, safe pace so as to complete the course within the time allowed. Times allowed, and a two-to-four minute allowable margin, will be set by the organizer.
- c) The route chosen should be suitable for the carriages that will be competing.
- d) The distance can be **up to ten miles**.
- e) The course may include up to five simple Driver's Tests, either man-made or natural. The passages or tests should be at least 10 feet wide. They are to be completed within the overall time allowed and should not be hazardous in any way.
- f) There will be numbered mandatory course gates on the Country Drive. The purpose of these gates is to maintain the integrity of the course and to prevent the drivers from taking shortcuts. The gates must be a minimum of 10 feet wide, with a red flag on the right side and a white flag on the left side.

•Range of Suggested Speeds for the Course

The organizers may modify the speeds and margins for the course to suit the terrain, weather, and conditions. Recommended times are shown.

	Speed (<i>mph</i>)	Speed (<i>kph, approx.</i>)
Horses	7-9 mph	11-14 kph
Ponies	6-8 mph	9-13 kph
Coaches	5-7 mph	8-11 kph
Heavy Horses	4-6 mph	6.5-9 kph
Donkeys	3-5 mph	5-8 kph

(Modified or shortened courses may be used for specific turnouts such as coaches or those drawn by donkeys.)

•Driver's Tests

Examples of Driver's Tests, performed on a pass or fail basis:

- a) Drive up to a red carpet, halt, and take up or let off a passenger.
- b) Drive up to a gate, stop, put a groom down, groom opens gate, turnout drives through, stops, groom closes gate and remounts vehicle.
- c) Rein back.
- d) Demonstrate appropriate road signals.
- e) Drive over a bridge.
- f) Demonstrate correct use of the whip (road signals, correcting and signaling the horse)
- g) Show a repair in case of a breakage.
- h) Drive at a fast trot up to a cone and stop with the front hub in line with the cone.

•Scoring

A Sporting Day of Traditional Driving is based on a score of 100, with 25 points awarded in the Country Drive.

Points will be deducted as follows:

- 1) 2 points for each failed Driver's Test.
- 2) 5 points for not completing the course within the prescribed window.
- 3) 5 points per occurrence for not going through a mandatory gate (with a maximum of 25 points).

Note: Participants will be eliminated for unsafe or reckless driving.

GUIDELINES

CONES COURSE

The Cones phase allows the driver to demonstrate his ability to drive through a set course of cones, and to demonstrate the training of his horse(s). Cones driving need only be completed within the prescribed time allowed, as it is not a speed test.

•Specifications

- a) The prescribed pace for the Cones Course is a trot. The judges will eliminate a participant at any time for reckless or unsafe driving.
- b) The organizers determine the length and speed of the course and the order of go. This information, along with a course map, should be posted several hours before the Cones phase.
- c) The Cones course should be on a flat area. A nearby warm-up area of sufficient size for several participants to drive at the same time is recommended. The footing in both areas should be suitable for carriage driving.
- d) A maximum of 10 gates including multiple obstacles is recommended. The first cone will be the start and the last cone will be the finish.
- e) The axle width will be measured during the Turnout Inspection. The cones will be set at 12" wider than the axle width for two-wheeled and shorter-based four-wheeled vehicles. For larger vehicles (those four-wheeled vehicles longer than six feet from front axle to rear axle), the cones will be set 16" wider than the vehicle's axle width. For entries exhibiting three horses abreast, the distance between cones will be set at a minimum of 84".
- f) The participant should salute the judges before he begins the course but it is not necessary to salute at the end of the course.
- g) The bell is rung by the judges when the participant may begin the course. The bell may also be rung if the participant breaks part of his equipment or his harness requires attention while on course, whereupon the participant may halt, make the necessary repair and continue the course, at the discretion of the judge. The judge will adjust the time accordingly.

•Range of Suggested Speeds for the Cones Course

The organizers may modify the speeds and margins for the course to suit the terrain, weather, and conditions.

Recommended times are shown.

	Speed (<i>feet per minute</i>)	Speed (<i>meters per minute</i>)
Horses	615-790 fpm	180-230 mpm
Ponies	525-700 fpm	150-215 mpm
Coaches	440-615 fpm	135-180 mph
Heavy Horses	350-525 fpm	110-150 mpm
Donkeys	265-440 fpm	85-135 mpm

(Modified or shortened courses may be used for specific turnouts such as coaches or those drawn by donkeys.)

•Scoring

A Sporting Day of Traditional Driving is based on a score of 100, with 25 points awarded in the Cones phase.

Points will be deducted as follows:

- 1) 2 points for knocking down a ball from the cones.
- 2) 2 points for cantering (each occasion).
- 3) 5 points for exceeding the time allowed.
- 4) 5 points for repairable equipment breakage (continuation at the discretion of the judge).
- 5) 10 points for taking a set of cones out of order.
- 6) 10 points for failure to go through a set of cones.

Note: Participants will be eliminated for unsafe or reckless driving.