



Equestrian Australia Driving Rule Summary – Effective 1st January 2026

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
1.0	Preamble		<p>1.0 Preamble</p> <p>The following rules have been adopted by Equestrian Australia (EA) and must be followed by all affiliated organisations conducting Driving events or training activities on behalf of EA or under EA rules. This includes Competitor, Participant, Club or Restricted activities in accordance with Articles 100 and 104 of the EA Regulations. They follow closely the principles of the rules of the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) for Driving.</p> <p>These rules are built around the three central pillars of:</p> <p class="list-item-l1">1. Safety</p> <p class="list-item-l1">2. Horse welfare, and</p> <p class="list-item-l1">3. Skills development of the Athlete, the horse/s and the Navigator/Backstepper</p> <p>Some FEI rules have been modified to suit Australian conditions. If issues arise which are not covered in the EA rules then the FEI rules apply.</p> <p>The Driving Rules should also be read in conjunction with relevant EA policies and procedures as listed but not limited to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EA General Regulations• EA National Horse Health, Safety and Welfare Policy• EA Medication Control Program• EA Hot Weather Policy• EA National Disciplinary Procedures <p>EA subscribes to the FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse and strongly endorses the notion that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount. EA wishes to remind all members and those involved in Equestrian Sport that any attempt to alter the normal sensation of the horse for performance enhancement will not be tolerated.</p> <p>The rules are intended to standardise EA Driving Events (Competitor and Participant) as far as is possible, so that the</p>

Where relevant, these rules also apply to all affiliate clubs conducting club or restricted activities in accordance with Articles 100 and 104 of the EA General Regulations.

~~The Rules cannot provide for all eventualities, and it is up to the event Organising Committee (OC) and the appropriate Judges and Officials to make decisions in a sporting spirit, after consulting the FEI Driving Rules for direction.~~

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In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the appropriate official to decide based on common sense and fair play reflecting as closely as possible the intention of these rules and the rules of the FEI.

More information can be found on the Equestrian Australia website: - <https://www.equestrian.org.au/horse-welfare>

The Equestrian Australia Driving Committee (EADC) operates under the powers delegated to it by Section 2 of the EA Committee By-Law. This Committee reports to the EA Board.

It has the following responsibilities:

- a) to formulate the strategic direction of the sport of Driving in Australia and facilitate its implementation
- b) to advise and offer recommendations to the Board on national rules and policies for the sport of Driving (including Para and Disability Driving)
- c) to implement FEI policy and rules applicable to the sport as it sees appropriate and in conjunction with the National Driving Rules
- d) in conjunction with the National Education Guidelines, maintain, train and appoint adequate numbers of National Officials, who must be Members of EA
- e) to facilitate the development of the sport for all participants, from beginner and youth drivers to international level
- f) to support the development of skills aligned with the national and international direction of the sport
- g) taking a leadership role in development of safety within the sport in conjunction with the EA Safety Officer
- h) taking a leadership role in promoting and supporting horse welfare as per the FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse

12.0	Dress	<p>12.1 Drive-1 and Drive-2 Classes</p> <p>a) Dress for all on the carriage should be neat, tidy, sun-safe, and should conform to the style of the carriage and harness used.</p> <p>b) Shorts are not acceptable for anyone on the carriage.</p> <p>c) Jackets are not compulsory, especially in hot and humid weather.</p> <p>d) EA accredited helmets are compulsory for all on the carriage, at any time. Helmets are to be EA tagged from 1 July 2022. Refer Annex 9</p> <p>e) A body protector (as per EA standards) is compulsory for anyone on the carriage under the age of 18 years.</p> <p>f) Body protectors for all competition levels are encouraged for those 18 and over, on a carriage.</p> <p>g) If a competitor wishes to wear an air vest it must be worn over the top of a body protector</p>
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~~and not on its own, where a body protector is compulsory. Body protectors are compulsory for Marathon. A body protector manufactured after 2009 and labelled as complying to one of the following standards is mandatory:~~

~~• EN13158:2009 Level 3~~

~~• BETA 2009 Level 3~~

~~• EN13158:2018 Level 3~~

~~• BETA 2018 Level 3~~

~~• An accredited Level TWO body protector of any standards listed above, but ONLY~~

~~WHERE IT IS DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR CARRIAGE DRIVERS and labelled as such.~~

~~h) e) Aprons are optional for Drive-1 and Drive-2.~~

~~i) f) Gloves should be worn by everyone on the carriage. Failure of the Athlete and/or the Navigator/Backstepper/s to wear gloves will result in deductions.~~

~~j) g) There must be a whip on the carriage, but there is no deduction for not using it in Drive-1 and Drive-2 classes. Failure to have a whip on the carriage will incur a penalty.~~

9.3	Safety	<p>New item (9.3.9) to be added to this rule bringing items proposed to move from rule 12.</p>	<p>9.3.9</p> <p>a) A body protector (as per EA standards) is compulsory for anyone on the carriage under the age of 18 years.</p> <p>b) Body protectors for all competition levels are encouraged for those 18 and over, on a carriage.</p> <p>c) Where an Air vest is used it must be worn over the top of a body protector unless they are hybrid.</p> <p>d) Body protectors are compulsory for competing in Marathon obstacles. Note: It is also highly recommended that a body protector be worn when Athletes are training in obstacles.</p> <p>e) A body protector manufactured after 2009 and labelled as complying to one of the following standards is mandatory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EN13158:2009 Level 3 • BETA 2009 Level 3 • EN13158:2018 Level 3 • BETA 2018 Level 3 • An accredited Level TWO body protector of any standards listed above, but ONLY WHERE IT IS DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR CARRIAGE DRIVERS and labelled as such. <p>e) Back protectors are not considered body protectors.</p>
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16.0	Harness	16.13 add rule regarding nosebands with amendment that also includes use of the nose measuring tool and wording as per FEI Veterinary Regulations ruling 1044.8	<p>16.13 Any nosebands, attachments or ancillary equipment which impede or are likely to impede the free intake of air into the nostrils of the Horse are not permitted.</p> <p>16.14 Effective 1 May 2025, the following provisions apply regarding the Noseband Tightness: The noseband must be adjusted with sufficient laxity, as determined by an EA (FEI) approved Measuring Device. The rule applies to all types of nosebands. The detailed protocol for measuring the tightness of noseband(s) is provided for in the (Discipline specific) Noseband Tightness Measuring Protocol(s). Excessively tightened noseband(s), as determined by an EA (FEI) approved Measuring Device, shall incur the following consequences:</p> <p>*Pre-Competition: The Horse and the Athlete combination is not allowed to start unless the noseband is re-adjusted to allow enough laxity.</p> <p>*During the Competition: The Horse and Athlete combination is eliminated from the Competition in question and the Athlete is issued with a Yellow Warning Card.</p>
17.3	EA Competition Format	17.3.3 amend to include FEI rules to provide link for CAN1* and Can2* competitions	17.3.3 The formats of the EA CAN1* and EA CAN2* events competitions are described more fully in the FEI Rule Book Article 901 categories and levels and Article 913 for minimum eligibility requirements FEI - Driving Rules 2025 Clean

Annex 8 Page 62	Education	Amend Education Pathway statement at the end to be more current	An education pathway is currently being developed for Driving Judges, TD,CD and Stewards.
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ANNEX 6	Role of Driving Officials Change he or she to they.	<p><u>Technical Delegate Duties and Responsibilities</u></p> <p>Technical Delegates are required to approve administrative arrangements for an Event from the time of their appointment until the end of the Event. They will commence their duties early enough to be able to satisfy themselves that the accommodation and the stabling for the horses, and the training area etc, are suitable in all respects.</p> <p>The Technical Delegate should be at the venue of the Event at least on the day before the start of the first Competition.</p> <p>A Technical Delegate is appointed by EA Sport Committees for EA National Championship Events, and are to be selected from the official EA lists.</p> <p>For State Championship Events, the appointment of a Technical Delegate is not compulsory but is recommended.</p> <p>For other events, a Technical Delegate is not compulsory unless stated otherwise in the rules, but OC's are encouraged to appoint a person selected from the EA list of Technical Delegates to assist in the preparation and conduct of the Events.</p> <p>The Technical Delegate has the following duties and responsibilities at the Event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To inspect the course and arenas and to ensure that the technical details are in accordance with the Regulations and Rules. • To be satisfied that the course is fair and that knowledge of local conditions would not give an unfair advantage. • To advise the OC and instruct the Course Designer to make any alterations to the arena or the course, or to any technical detail associated with the conduct of the Competition that he or she they considers necessary. • To help the Ground Jury to supervise the technical conduct of the Competition after indicating to the Chief Judge satisfaction with the arrangements • Technical Delegates appointed by EA Sport Committees are required to send a report to that committee at the conclusion of the Event. <p>All Technical Delegates must hold either EA Competitor or Supporter membership.</p>
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