

Chapter 2

The Australian Carriage Driving Society Inc. (ACDS) includes Show Driving as one of its disciplines. It is necessary to define certain standards for this discipline, which allows all competitors to receive due consideration at any ACDS approved event.

Drivers should, at all times, accept the judge's opinion with sportsmanlike behaviour and present themselves, their horses, harness and vehicles to the judge, displaying an attitude that enhances the image of show driving.

RULES FOR SHOW DRIVING COMPETITORS

These Show Driving Rules are to provide a standard for all ACDS organised events and events organised by other organisations such as agricultural shows that desire to use ACDS accredited judges, and to promote safety in the show ring.

In situations not specifically covered in the Handbook, or by direct interpretations of the Show Driving Rules, the spirit or intent of the rules should be upheld.

All the Show Driving Rules as stated here are intended to apply to all competitors.

1. All drivers at ACDS approved showing events must be current ACDS members or pay the One Activity Membership Fee.
2. Adult drivers are aged 18 years of age and over.
3. A Junior driver is a person who has not attained the age of 18 years (under 18 years).
 - a. Junior drivers 6-10 years of age inclusive must be accompanied by an ACDS adult member (an experienced driving person) as passenger seated along and holding a second pair of reins attached to the bit.
 - b. Junior driver 11-15 years of age inclusive must be accompanied by a ACDS adult member (an experienced driving person) as passenger seated along side at all times. (it is optional for a second pair of reins attached to the bit.)
 - c. Junior drivers 16-17 years of age inclusive competing with a single horse or pony carry a groom or passenger at their discretion.
 - d. Junior Multiple drivers – Junior drivers 16-17 years of age inclusive may drive a pair of ponies, but not horse or a larger combination.
 - e. Junior drivers who are 16-17 years of age may be allowed to drive stallions at ACDS showing events at the discretion of the organisers.
 - f. The ACDS recommends that all Junior drivers and Junior passengers wear approved accredited safety standard protective helmets.
4. All drivers at ACDS approved showing events are responsible for knowledge of, and compliance with, the Show Driving Rules.
5. All participants in an ACDS approved showing event are obliged to conduct themselves in an orderly manner and in the best interest of the ACDS. Any incident may be reported in writing to the ACDS State Branch for any further disciplinary action deemed necessary.

6. Competitors should not address the judge by their given name; all contact with the judge should be through the steward.
7. Disciplinary action – refer to ACDS Rules and Regulations Section 12 – Disciplining of Members.
8. All horse/pony or derivatives must compete drug free. Random swabbing may take place in accordance with Rules and Regulations of the ACDS (refer to Chapter 6 for further information on swabbing).
9. A competitor or exhibitor can lodge a protest for alleged breach of the ACDS rules. Protests of a general nature can be made through the same method. Protests shall be made in accordance with the procedure set down in the showing schedule (Refer to Chapter 6 on Protests for further information).
10. In the event of any inconsistency between the disciplinary procedures and competition rules, the competition rules shall override.
11. Show driving horse/pony or derivative must be at least (3) years of age to compete in ACDS show driving events.
12. Cruelty to, or the abuse of any animal, by any person at an approved ACDS showing event is forbidden and an offender is subject to being withdrawn from further event classes.
13. All animals should appear sound, and must not show evidence of lameness, exhaustion or in distress or otherwise not being reasonably fit for competition.
14. Permitted nosebands in ACDS show events are cavesson, dropped, cross-over type (also known as Grakle or Mexican noseband or flash-type (also known as Hanoverian)).
15. Tails tied to vehicles or harness are not permitted in show classes.
16. Running or standing martingales, side reins, trotting type overchecks and running reins are not permitted in show classes.
17. Bitless bridles are not permitted in show classes.
18. All horse/pony or derivatives must wear blinkers in show classes.
19. Bandages and boots are not permitted in show classes.