



THE BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS ASSOCIATION

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBSTACLE OBSERVERS

1. Please remember your main objective is to **Observe and Record Correctly**. Throughout the day remain consistent - do the same for all Competitors. Agree between team members, what was observed and in the case of contentious points please make sure all are agreed on what happened. Then it is essential to call for the Technical Delegate or a Member of the Ground Jury, a number of whom are situated around the Obstacles.
2. You will be supplied with a number of Red Dot Labels with your paperwork. These are to be applied to the Obstacle Observers Drawing Sheet, if you have a Competitor Incident. If the fault is an Error of Course or a Corrected Course; call or Radio for a Judge to confirm this with you and get them to sign the Red Dot before handing the Sheet to the Score Collector.
3. Obstacle Observers should not write down a Competitors number until **they see and confirm that the Competitor has entered the Obstacle**.
4. Please give all the **Obstacle Observer Report Sheets** to the Score Collector, but you must retain your copy of the **Control Sheet**.
5. The Competitors time should be recorded in **(Mins) , Seconds and Hundreths of seconds** exactly as it appears on the master stopwatch, or the electronic timing device. The timing takes place from the moment the **nose of the leading Horse** crosses the Entry Flags, until the nose of the leading Horse crosses the Exit Flags.
6. With the exception of the timing, the Competitor is under your control **AND INCURS PENALTIES** from the moment the **nose of the leading Horse** crosses the Entry Flags, until the **complete Turnout** has passed through the Exit Flags. Once clear of the Obstacle **Grooms may re-enter of foot** for any purpose,
7. To drive the Obstacle correctly the Competitor must pass through **each pair of lettered gates** in the correct sequence and direction. It follows that a Competitor who drives part way into the gate in error, stops and reverses out has not made an Error of Course.
8. If a gate is driven out of sequence the Competitor must return and correct the mistake.
Thus: A,B,D,E,F is a **wrong course**
A,B,D,C,D,E,F is a **corrected course**
9. Once a gate has been negotiated correctly it is considered "free" and may be driven again in either direction.
10. **Record the sequence of gates** including gates driven in reverse on the **Obstacle Observer Report Sheet**. If there is an Error of Course or a Corrected Course apply a Red Dot to the Obstacle Observer Report Sheet.
11. Should a Competitor remain within the Obstacle for more than 5 minutes, the **Whistle must be blown** twice. The Competitor must leave the Obstacle immediately, with help if necessary, and should return to the Stables.
12. The only person to handle the Reins, Whip or Brake is the Driver, however the Groom may handle the Reins if the Vehicle is stationary. Grooms may give assistance to a Driver to prevent him from falling out of the vehicle.
13. It is the responsibility of the Competitor to stop immediately and put a Groom(s) down whenever a **Horse has its leg over a pole, lead bar or shaft** and correct the situation. He must stop to rectify this problem when instructed by the Obstacle Observer.
14. It is the responsibility of the Competitor to stop immediately and put a Groom(s) down whenever **a Horse has its leg over a trace** and correct the situation. He must stop to rectify this problem when instructed by the Obstacle Observer..
15. Should a Dislodgeable Element be moved in any way it will incur a penalty and Grooms may not stop a Dislodgeable Element from being moved.
16. If a Groom(s) put 2 feet on the Ground or on any part of an Obstacle, they will incur penalties.
17. Outside Assistance is allowed to right an overturned vehicle or help as a **result of an accident**, providing the grooms are dismounted. Maintain control of the situation until the Technical Delegate arrives and takes control.
18. Obstacle Observers should report, any excessive use of the whip or pressing of exhausted Horses by Radio. They should also record any unusual occurrences.
19. After leaving the Final Obstacle, **Competitors may only stop to make repairs within 30 metres of the Obstacle**. They may only Walk or Trot to the Finish. Record the time of any Stops, Cantering or Galloping, whatever the duration, between the Exit Flags of the Final Obstacle (or the last 500m) and the Finish. Also record any stops, circles or deviations from the marked course.