

THE BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS ASSOCIATION

GUIDELINES for ORGANISERS

NATIONAL NOVICE (LEVEL 2) QUALIFYING EVENTS

Competitor Qualification

To be eligible to drive as a National Novice (Level 2) in an official Qualifier Class, a driver must have successfully completed all three phases, with a minimum three section marathon, at three affiliated Club events.

Competitors must submit a photocopy of a fully completed competence form to the BHDTA for ratification prior to taking part in a National Novice (Level 2) qualifier.

In addition, the entrant must not have:

- a. Previously competed at a National Event unless this was in a novice qualifying class.
- b. Finished in the top 50% at the National Novice (Level 2) Championships.
- c. Won two National Novice Qualifiers (Level 2) although he/she can retain their National Novice (Level 2) status throughout the season in which this is achieved.
- d. Qualified for the National Novice Championships in 2006 or previously.

Contravention of (a) (b) (c) and (d) above will result in disqualification.

Entrants in National Novice (Level 2) qualifiers must be members of BHDTA, but the BHDTA Club Competitor Membership is acceptable. Organisers of National Novice (Level 2) Qualifiers are advised to state vaccination requirements in the Event Schedule.

Explanatory Notes

A driver who qualifies for the National Novice (Level 2) Championship, but does not compete at the National Championship in the season in which he qualifies, will be eligible to enter National Novice (Level 2) Qualifier classes in subsequent years until otherwise precluded by (a) (b) (c) or (d) above.

A driver who has won his class twice at National Novice (Level 2) Qualifiers, whether in one year or over a number of years, will cease to be eligible to compete as a National Novice (Level 2) driver at the end of the year in which his second win is achieved.

Event Organisers are required to submit the list of entries for National Novice (Level 2) qualifiers to the BHDTA Office AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS prior to the date of the competition, so that the Office can verify the eligibility of all competitors.

EVENT QUALIFICATION

Events to be included in the programme each year will be selected from applications received from clubs and allocated by Council, normally on the basis of achieving the best geographical spread of events.

Each event will require BHDТА approval of its Venue, the **Technical Delegate, Course Designer** and **A National or Probationary National Judge** before being included in the Programme.

The National Novice (Level 2) Qualifying Classes must be run in accordance with current National Rules, although other classes at a Club Event may run under local rules, if required.

COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

Start Fees

Start Fees are now payable to BHDТА by all Competitors in National Novice (Level 2) Classes. Event Organisers please contact the BHDТА Office for details.

Technical Delegate & Course Designer

The Technical Delegate & Course Designer (who must not be competing in the event) must be approved by the BHDТА, but need not necessarily be a BHDТА-listed T.D. or C.D. Approval is unlikely to be given to anyone who has not attended the BHDТА Club Course Designer's /TD's Clinic in the current year or in the year prior to the competition at which they are to officiate. This clinic will in future, include a briefing on current requirements for National Novice (Level 2) Qualifiers, to ensure as far as possible, a consistent standard of events. In the interest of safety the post's of TD, CD and Safety Officer must be independent and not be shared by the same person.

Presentation

One Judge of at least BHDТА National Probationary List standard, or a National Competitor of at least 5 years experience at National Level.

Dressage

(i) The Dressage Test will be BHDТА Novice 2008 (Arena 80m x 40m).

(ii) There will be a minimum of two Judges of at least BHDТА National Probationary List Standard. One of the judges will be nominated by the Competitions Committee to submit a report on the Event.

Marathon

(i) The Course must be three sections, minimum 12km. in total. There must be 6 or 7 obstacles with a maximum of gates to E.

(ii) A Judge, as described in the Dressage Section, must attend at the start of Section A. If another Judge is available, the Halt should also be attended.

Obstacle Cone Driving

National Novice Qualifier (Level 2) classes will have a maximum of 20 numbered cones. Speed allowed will be 220m/minute, and the clearance between cones will be at least 25cm over track-width.

QUALIFICATION FOR NATIONAL NOVICE (LEVEL 2)

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS .

6 or more in a class, the highest two, disregarding those in the class already qualified, from the first eight places.

3 to 5 in a class, the highest place, disregarding those already qualified.

1 or 2 in a class, the higher place, disregarding those already qualified, provided the driver's dressage score is 65 or less.

In order to qualify a competitor must complete all phases without elimination or retirement, and finish with a total penalty score of less than double that of the winner of the class.

(Note: For the avoidance of doubt – If a competitor fails to qualify because they did not achieve a dressage score of 65 or less when there are only 2 competitors in the class, this qualification will not pass on to the next competitor).

SPONSORS

Organisers may be asked to display banners on behalf of class sponsors and also issue invitations to representatives of this sponsor or the Worshipful Company of Saddlers to attend The Qualifier.