

## SECTION O

### ASSITED DRIVING DIVISION

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### O. ASSISTED DRIVING DIVISION

#### The Intent

This class provides an entry level to amateurs and child exhibitors which will accommodate individuals who cannot ride or drive but want to compete in an easy and safe manner. The class is open for any age driver. A driver may not participate in an Un-assisted Fine Harness class at a show and then participate in the Assisted Driving class (or vice versa) at the same show. (*AGM decision 2022*).

#### Brief "Type" Standard and Common Faults

The Saddle Horse selected for the Assisted Driving division must be in good physical condition, well-groomed and have a very neat turn out for the class. They must display good discipline and perform to the best of their ability.

#### Horses are judged on:

- Turn out (of the horse, exhibitor, and tack) 50%
- Discipline 25%
- Performance 25%

Primary emphasis is placed on manners first and then performance.

#### Tack Requirements and Rules

Appliances – Training appliances such as chains, stretchers and draw reins are prohibited in the collecting ring and in the show arena. Curb bits are a disqualification. Leg bandages are not allowed unless application has been made to the show committee because of wet conditions.

Boots – Quarter or bell boots are used in the assisted driving division. Brushing boots and knee boots are prohibited. Taped hooves are prohibited.

Harness – A light harness (dark or patent leather) with a stainless steel, half spoon check, jointed-mouth driving snaffle and over check bit is required. A harness must be complete with blinkers,

martingale, checkrein, traces, and tail crupper. Traces may not be wound around shafts. Handholds (loops) on reins are optional, although preferred. Minimal accent colour in good taste is allowed.

Show Buggy – An appropriate, light, two- or four-wheel Show Buggy with two seats and bicycle-type wheels and no top is used. The Buggy must allow for the assistant to be seated to the left of the driver. The Buggy must be safe and should be clean and polished.

Driving-Whips – Driving Whip is optional. Maximum length of a Driving Whip allowed is 217 cm. The lash part of the Driving Whip may not be longer than 17 cm. To be kept in holder or in hand. Lash and Long-Line Whips are not allowed.

## **2. Turn-Out of Horse, Including Shoes**

Cleanliness and neatness are the foremost requirements regarding the turnout of a horse.

Hooves – The assisted driving class does not have a specific hoof length, but the maximum length is 15 cm. The 15 cm length includes the pads but excludes the shoe.

Mane – All show-options for mane is acceptable, including full mane (braided or unbraided) with optional trimmed bridle path, roached mane, ribboned or unribboned.

Shoes - Horses may be shod with pads and/or wedges according to their needs. The length of hooves must be no longer than 15 cm. This includes the pads but excludes the shoe. Shoeing of hind hooves will be optional, BOTH hind hooves must be shod, or BOTH must be unshod. Loss of a hind shoe will be subject to the same rules as the loss of any shoe during a class.

### **Turn-Out Requirements and Rules**

Tails – Tails should be clean, long, healthy, picked and tied. The horse can be shown traditionally with a set tail; however, this is optional. Tail braces, humane tails, top tails, and switches are allowed. Crooked tails do not make a good impression and every effort should be made to correct them.

Unightly, sore tails will result in disqualification.

### **3. Dress Requirements of Riders**

- The dress-code for the assisted driving class is of utmost importance and should be semi-formal, appropriate and in good taste

#### **Men or Boys Attire**

Suit – Full Kentucky riding suit with long jacket and flared Jodhpur pants, including dress shirt, necktie and waistcoat, regular dress suit, or blazer (sports-, school, or formal) and slacks.

Hats – 3-point basic hard hat – It will be compulsory for all exhibitors who are 10 years and under. For exhibitors 10 years and over, hard hats will be optional, but preferred. Alternative suitable hats include snap-brim (felt or straw) or homburg.

#### **Ladies" or Girls" Attire**

Suit – Full Kentucky riding suit with long jacket and flared Jodhpur pants, including dress shirt, necktie and waistcoat, regular dress suit, blazer (sports-, school, or formal) and slacks, long skirts with sleeved top and long dresses with sleeves are acceptable at any time of day.

Hats – 3-point basic hard hat – It will be compulsory for all exhibitors who are 10 years and under. For exhibitors 10 years and over, hard hats will be optional, but preferred. Alternative suitable hats include a derby, homburg, or tasteful hat.

Hair – Can be loose or tied up, but all should be tasteful, neat, and tidy.

## **General**

Boots or Shoes – Solid dark-coloured leather or patent leather Jodhpur boots of a low-heeled variety or regular dress shoes are worn.

Gloves – Gloves may be worn.

Assistant & Handler's Dress – Men are required to wear a dress shirt (with no visible branding), necktie or bowtie, Kentucky jodhpur or neat long pants (waistcoat optional) and dark coloured dress shoes. Woman may wear a dress shirt (with no visible branding), necktie or bowtie, Kentucky jodhpur or neat long pants (waistcoat optional) or suitable clothing that is considered to be in good taste, including formal shirts with sleeves or long dress. No caps, sport shoes ("tekkies"), flip-flops or tight, revealing clothing allowed.

## **4. Classes, Age, Size, Gender, and Status Divisions**

- Fine harness horse, presented by an Amateur or Child exhibitor 8 years or older, including adults with an assistant 19 years or older.
- No professional trainer will be allowed to exhibit the horse, but may be present on the vehicle as the assistant
- The driver should be controlling the horse on a direct rein and the assistant can hold the excess of reins for safety
- Assistant must be seated to the left of the driver and may not at any time leave the buggy. To do so without the permission of the ring master is an immediate disqualification.
- Horses from any other division will be allowed to participate in the assisted driving class, including, children's, pleasure- and other harness divisions. Entry of horse participating in any other division will not be considered a cross-entry.
- The exhibitor or the assistant must be a member of the Saddlebred Society of South Africa.

## **5. Class Routine**

Entrance – Enter the arena at a park trot moving in a counter clockwise direction or the right hand direction through the gate.

Order of Gaits – Horses enter the arena at a park trot, then walk, turn around and repeat the two gaits in the opposite direction. Horses will change gaits according to the request of the Judge through the announcer.

The Judge may ask for another trot after the last walk. All gaits are judged each time they are performed.

Line-Up – After completion of all gaits, exhibitors will be asked by the Judge, through the announcer, to come in and line-up. The ringmaster will designate the position of the line-up. Handlers are allowed into the arena at this time. Handlers will stand back one pace while the Judge inspects the horse. The horses over check may be released in the line-up and they will remain standing until instructed to relax to await results. Handlers may head the horse in line-up, relaxing after class and prize-giving. Assistant shall remain seated in the buggy at all times, should the assistant leave the buggy without the permission of the ring master it will be an immediate disqualification.

## **6. Basic Gaits and Movements**

Walk - A bouncy, show walk is required. An alert, flat-footed walk is not a discrimination. Amble is not acceptable.

Park Trot – The park trot is a two-beat gait performed with balance, rhythm, collection and style. It is characterized by the horses' ability to drive forward of a well-placed hock with impulsion but without unnecessary speed. Any loss of form, interfering, going wide behind, dragging hocks, or mixing gaits will be discriminated against.

Transitions – Poor or rough transitions from one gait to another will be discriminated against

No halting or backing will be asked for in the assisted driving class.

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