# British Scurry and Trials Driving Ltd

# Official Rulebook 2027

Introduction: This Rulebook is established to ensure that all British Scurry and Trials Driving (BSTD) competitions are conducted safely, fairly, and in compliance with UK laws and equestrian best practices. While it is comprehensive, it cannot cover every possible scenario; participants are expected to follow the spirit of these rules for any unforeseen situations. Competitors acknowledge that equestrian sport carries inherent risks – they participate at their own risk and must prioritize safety for themselves, their ponies, and others at all times. The BSTD is committed to equal opportunity and will not tolerate discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, religion, disability, or any other status.

**By registering to compete, all participants agree to abide by these rules and the supporting policies outlined below.**

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# 1. Health and Safety

## 1.1 General Duty of Care:

All persons present on the showground (competitors, grooms, officials, spectators, etc.) must comply with all health and safety standards at all times. Every individual is responsible for avoiding any action or omission that could risk injury to themselves or others. Follow all instructions from event organisers, officials, and stewards – everyone must take all reasonable precautions to prevent accidents and obey the officials' directions.

## 1.2 Accident Reporting:

Any accident or incident on the showground must be reported immediately to the Show's Health and Safety official at the time it occurs. The details should be recorded in an Accident Report Book and the appropriate forms completed. Competitors and grooms should familiarize themselves with the location of first aid or medical services on site.

## 1.2A Reporting and Preserving Incident Information

Accidents, injuries, falls, loose ponies, carriage turnovers, equipment failures creating a safety risk and significant near misses must be reported immediately to a BSTD official, even if the competitor intends to continue or believes no injury occurred. Obtain emergency assistance first where required; do not delay treatment in order to complete paperwork.

The responsible official must arrange an incident record identifying the event, time, place, people and turnouts involved, witnesses, relevant equipment, immediate action and any medical or veterinary attendance. Preserve relevant photographs, video, timing records and witness accounts where lawful and safe. Report facts accurately; do not speculate about liability or interfere with emergency services. Supply reasonable information requested for the investigation and insurer notification.

After a fall, turnover or significant equipment failure, officials may require the driver, backstepper, equine or equipment to be checked before further participation. No person may resume merely because the timetable permits it. Immediate safety decisions and any later disciplinary decision must be recorded separately.

## 1.3 Safety of Turnout:

If, in the opinion of the organisers or a BSTD official, a turnout (horse/pony, carriage, harness, or driver/groom) is deemed unsafe or not "fit for purpose", the organisers have the right to prohibit that turnout or competitor from continuing in the event for their own safety and the safety of others. Similarly, if any pony or team is behaving in a dangerous or uncontrollable manner such that it poses a risk to other competitors or the public, the driver will be asked to withdraw (unhitch) and take no further part in the competition. There is zero tolerance for reckless driving or handling that endangers people or animals.

## 1.4 Equine Welfare:

The welfare of the ponies and horses is paramount. All competitors must handle, drive, and care for their animals with compassion and good horsemanship at all times. Abuse, excessive use of whip or coercive aids, or any act that causes undue distress or pain to an animal is strictly forbidden. Any competitor or groom observed mistreating an animal – whether during competition or at any time on the showground – will face immediate disqualification and further disciplinary action (including potential suspension or referral to animal welfare authorities under the Animal Welfare Act 2006). In particular, excessive use of the whip is prohibited and may result in elimination, a formal warning, or a referral to the BSTD steering committee for further discipline (such as deduction of league points

or suspension). All drivers must carry a driving whip while competing, but its use must be judicious and humane.

### 1.5 Competent Supervision:

A competent driver must be in control of the turnout at all times. No turnout may be left unattended while ponies are harnessed to a carriage. The driver must remain seated in the carriage with the reins in hand whenever the horse/pony is hitched. If a pony needs to be led or attended to, the turnout must first be brought to a halt and the pony unharnessed (taken out of the carriage); alternatively, a groom or assistant may walk at the pony's head only if a capable adult driver is in the driving seat and holding the reins. In other words, never lead a pony from a still-attached carriage, and never allow an unrestrained turnout without a driver in place for safety reasons.

### 1.6 Obligation to Obey Officials:

Competitors, grooms, and all participants must promptly obey any safety instructions or directives given by BSTD officials, stewards, course builders, or event organisers. This includes directions regarding safe warm-up practices, course inspection, and clearance of arenas or hazard areas. Failure to follow officials' instructions or any conduct that compromises safety may result in removal from the competition.

### 1.7 Emergency Preparedness:

Competitors should familiarize themselves with the event's emergency plan, including the locations of exits, emergency telephones or radios, and first aid kits. In case of an incident requiring emergency services or veterinary help, alert an official immediately. Access routes for emergency vehicles must be kept clear at all times – park only in designated areas and heed any announcements regarding moving vehicles or evacuations.

### 1.8 Best Practices:

The organisers expect "best practice" safety habits from all participants at all times. Drivers and grooms must use correct procedures when harnessing, putting-to, and unharnessing horses/ponies. Always have a competent helper or groom holding the animal during harnessing and when getting in or out of the carriage. Practice safe spacing and speed control in warm-up areas to prevent accidents. It is each competitor's duty to ensure their pony is sufficiently trained and conditioned for the event's demands – do not compete with an animal that is excessively unfit, stressed, or showing signs of illness or lameness. Any pony showing signs of lameness or soundness issues may be withdrawn at the judge's or a committee member's discretion for the animal's welfare.

### 1.9 Venue Rules and Legal Compliance:

All competitors and attendees must respect any additional safety rules specific to the venue (such as fire safety, no-smoking areas, or vehicle speed limits on site). Where applicable, competitors shall also comply with relevant UK legislation such as the Health and Safety at Work Act (for event staff /volunteers), and ensure any equipment brought onto the showground (tents, generators, etc.) meets safety standards. If driving on public roads (for example, going from stabling to the arena or in road sections if any), all Highway Code rules must be obeyed and high-visibility clothing worn as required. Remember that you are responsible for any damage to third parties caused by yourself, your team, or your equines: all owners, drivers and their agents will be held accountable for any harm or loss caused to other persons or property.

### 1.10 Accident Disclaimer:

All participants acknowledge the inherent risks of carriage driving and must take reasonable precautions for their own safety and that of others. BSTD, show hosts, landowners, sponsors and

their representatives are responsible for their own legal duties. No provision in this Rulebook excludes or limits liability for death or personal injury caused by negligence, fraud, or any liability that cannot lawfully be excluded or limited. Subject to these protections, responsibility for loss, damage or injury is determined by applicable law and the circumstances of the incident. See Section 12.

(See also Section 12: Legal Waivers & Indemnities, for further details on liability.)

# 2. Social Media Policies

## 2.0 Scope and Fair Application

These provisions apply to drivers, grooms, helpers, officials, Committee members, volunteers and anyone acting for BSTD or representing a turnout, in connection with BSTD activities. Reasonable criticism, a good-faith complaint, reporting a safety concern or giving truthful evidence is not misconduct merely because it is unfavourable to BSTD. Threats, harassment, discriminatory abuse, intimidation, deliberate misinformation and disclosure of private information remain prohibited. Safety and result concerns should be raised through the relevant official and Section 10 procedure.

### 2.1 Positive Conduct Online:

BSTD encourages competitors and supporters to share their passion and experiences on social media in a positive manner. All participants must adhere to the same standards of respect and sportsmanship online as are expected at the showground. Harassment, bullying, or derogatory comments directed at fellow competitors, officials, volunteers, or the BSTD organization are strictly prohibited on any social media platform. This includes offensive or inflammatory posts, personal attacks, or any content that could bring the sport or the BSTD into disrepute. Disciplinary action may be taken against individuals who engage in egregious online misconduct, especially if it harms the BSTD's reputation or another person's safety or well-being

### 2.2 Official BSTD Pages:

Inappropriate material must not be posted on official BSTD social media pages or groups. BSTD maintains the right to monitor and moderate its official Facebook page, website, and other channels. Any comments, photos, or videos deemed negative, harmful, or unrelated to the sport may be removed at the discretion of the page administrators If you feel a post or comment on an official channel is objectionable or identifies you in a way you are uncomfortable with, please contact the page admin or a BSTD official to request its removal.

### 2.3 Photographs and Videos:

Photography may take place at public events, subject to venue rules. BSTD must record a separate promotional-media choice before using identifiable participant images for optional publicity, with parent or guardian permission for juniors. Inform the Entry Secretary of a restriction before the event; officials will take reasonable steps within BSTD's control. Independent photographers have their own responsibilities. See Rule 11.9.

### 2.4 Social Media Content Restrictions:

Competitors and their associates should refrain from posting competition footage that violates any event rules or privacy laws. Never livestream or broadcast from within the arena or restricted areas without permission. Additionally, do not share or publish any official course maps, timing data, or judge's score sheets during the event unless authorized – this ensures fairness and data protection compliance.

### 2.5 Protecting Minors and Privacy:

When posting on social media, respect the privacy and dignity of others. Avoid identifying or tagging junior competitors (under 18) without parental consent. Do not publish personal details (addresses, phone numbers, etc.) of any individual. BSTD follows UK data protection regulations; any official photo albums or results posts will be in line with those standards. Do not engage in cyber-bullying: any proven cases of online bullying or intimidation related to BSTD competitions (whether during events or in private groups) will be treated seriously and may result in penalties including suspension.

### 2.6 Official Announcements:

Only statements from the BSTD committee or its designated spokespersons should be considered "official" communications about rules, results, or incidents. Competitors should avoid spreading unverified information or rumours on social platforms, especially in the event of an accident or disciplinary matter, as this can cause confusion or harm. Please wait for official updates from BSTD regarding such situations.

### 2.6A Unofficial Accounts and Publication

No account, page or group may use BSTD's identity or branding to imply that it is an official BSTD service without written authority. An unofficial page must make its status clear where confusion may arise. Competitors may display permitted branding under Section 6 but must not imply endorsement of merchandise, sponsors or unrelated services.

BSTD may ask for misleading material to be corrected or breaching content removed, retaining relevant evidence before doing so. Refusal or repeated or serious breaches may be referred under Section 10. Official results must be distinguished from provisional or personal reports. Do not publish confidential disciplinary material, junior private information or unpublished administrative records without lawful authority.

### 2.7 Social Media and Sponsorship:

Many competitors have personal pages or profiles to promote their teams or sponsors. BSTD welcomes enthusiasm for the sport; we simply ask that you do so in a manner that reflects credit on scurry and trials driving. A polite and professional online presence not only upholds the sport's image but also benefits your own reputation with sponsors and fans. Content that is extremely negative or foul-mouthed can result in consequences beyond BSTD's control (e.g., loss of sponsorship), so always think before posting.

### 2.8 Consequences:

Posts on social media that violate this policy (for example, a video on Facebook showing unsafe practices or a rant publicly disparaging officials) will be addressed by BSTD. For minor infractions, you may receive a warning or be asked to remove the offending content. Serious breaches – such as threatening language, hate speech, or repeated abusive behaviour will result in disciplinary measures under Section 7. Remember that social media is public: competitors are ambassadors of BSTD even online, and their conduct should reflect the values of sportsmanship and safety promoted by this Rulebook.

(In summary: use social media responsibly. Share the excitement and camaraderie of BSTD events, but never use it as a platform to harm others or the sport.)

# 3. Show Etiquette and Competitor Conduct

## 3.1 Sportsmanship and Respect:

All competitors, grooms, and their support teams must conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at shows. This means treating judges, officials, volunteers, other competitors, and spectators with courtesy and respect at all times. Bad language, shouting in anger, or displays of temper – whether directed at officials, fellow competitors, or one's own ponies – are not tolerated in the arena or anywhere on the showground. Remember that many events are public and often have children present, act as a role model for good horsemanship. Any form of abusive or offensive behaviour can lead to immediate elimination and further disciplinary action.

## 3.2 Fair Play:

Do not do anything that could unfairly disturb or disadvantage another competitor. For example, do not intentionally distract a competitor on course, and yield right-of-way in warm-up areas as needed. If a competitor is on course or walking the course, give them space and silence unless assistance is requested. Cheering and encouragement are welcome, but heckling or unsportsmanlike jeering is not. Respect others' property: never handle someone else's carriage, harness, or ponies without permission. Remember that while competition is intense, everyone's enjoyment and safety is a priority.

## 3.3 Compliance with Schedules:

Competitors are responsible for reading the published event information, arrival instructions, course-walk times, briefing arrangements and running order. Arrive with sufficient time for unloading, preparation, document checks and any assessment. A requested arrival time or check-in deadline is part of the event instructions. Travel delays do not automatically entitle a competitor to a changed running order, another run or a refund. Notify the Entry Secretary or named event contact as soon as lateness is known, giving the expected arrival time and affected turnout. Do not assume that telling another competitor, a backstepper or an unmonitored group informs the organiser. Obtain confirmation that the message has been received when practical.

Report to the designated event official on arrival. Anyone missing a briefing, course walk, assessment or safety check must obtain the required information and clearance before entering the arena. Late arrival never waives insurance, declaration, assessment or safety requirements. Judges and stewards may move a competitor where practical, but are not obliged to delay the programme or provide an additional course walk or run. A competitor unavailable when called, or causing unreasonable delay, may lose that round at the judge's discretion. Unnotified lateness or absence must be recorded.

Competitors remain responsible for keeping informed of announced timetable changes and being ready for their turn. They must notify officials of known clashes between turnouts in advance; accommodation is subject to safety, available time and show commitments. Missing a run may affect prize-money eligibility under Rule 8.11, and any refund or transfer remains subject to Rule 8.10. Officials must consider any properly evidenced exceptional circumstance under the applicable rules rather than promise an automatic exception.

## 3.4 Private Parties and Noise:

Socialising with fellow competitors is part of the fun, but please be considerate of others on the showground. Any private gatherings in the lorry/horsebox parking area must conclude by 10:00 PM out of respect for those who wish to rest. Keep music and noise at a moderate level, especially in the evening and early morning. Generators, if allowed, should be turned off during quiet hours as per

venue rules. Competitors are also reminded not to celebrate or commiserate in ways that could spook horses (e.g. sudden loud noises or fireworks are strictly forbidden).

### 3.4A Overnight Arrangements

Quiet hours continue until 7 am, subject to any stricter venue rules. During quiet hours do not operate loud music, social gatherings or generators that disturb others. Notify the event contact in advance if essential welfare or medical arrangements require an exception; any exception must be agreed with the venue. Do not create a fire, electrical or public-access hazard in parking, camping or penning areas.

### 3.5 Dress and Turnout:

Competitors are expected to be smartly and appropriately dressed for competition. Team colours or matching attire for driver and groom are encouraged to promote a team spirit and present a neat appearance. At certain shows, the organisers may request formal attire (jackets, shirt and tie, etc.) – please comply if a dress code is announced. The minimum standard: no shorts, and no blue jeans or ripped jeans are allowed in the competition arena for drivers, grooms, or helpers on the vehicle. Sturdy footwear is advised (no flip-flops or sandals around horses). Long hair should be tied back for safety. Remember, your turnout (horse, carriage, and attire) reflects the sport – a clean and well-presented turnout is both safer and more professional. Judges or stewards may inspect harness, carriage, or attire for safety compliance and have the authority to bar a competitor from entry if, for example, a helmet is non-compliant, or harness is unsafe (see Section 5).

### 3.6 Warm-Up and In-Gate Etiquette:

Follow any posted rules for warm-up arenas. Drive in the same direction as others unless passing, call out when overtaking or approaching (e.g., “passing on your left”), and keep a safe distance from other turnouts to avoid collision. Obstacles or cones in the practice area, if provided, should be used one at a time – do not monopolize an obstacle if others are waiting. Absolutely no schooling of ponies in a harsh or aggressive manner in the warm-up; officials are watching, and abuse will not be tolerated. When it’s near your turn, proceed to the collecting ring or in-gate promptly. Be ready when the steward calls you. If you are not ready when called and cause delays, the judge may move on, and you could lose your turn.

### 3.7 Spectator Interaction:

Competitors and their teams should be polite to spectators and the public. Remember you are often on display. Do not use foul language within earshot of the crowd. If spectators approach to pet your ponies or ask questions, respond graciously if you can do so safely – or politely ask them to step back if you are busy or the ponies are fractious. Under no circumstances should a competitor lash out at or argue with a spectator; if there is an issue (such as someone standing in a forbidden area or causing a disturbance), alert a steward to handle it.

### 3.8 Venue Courtesy and Cleanliness:

Take care of the venues that host our events. Do not litter. Use bins provided or take your rubbish home. Do not clean out your trailer or horsebox onto the ground – take manure and bedding back with you or put it in designated muck heaps if provided. Leaving piles of manure, hay, or trash in the parking area is unprofessional and may jeopardize our use of the venue. Drivers should also ensure they park only in assigned areas and drive vehicles responsibly on site (observe any speed limits or one-way systems). Dogs, if allowed on the showground, must be kept on a lead and under control at all times; any dog causing a nuisance (barking excessively or loose on the field) may result in its owner being asked to remove it. Some venues do not allow dogs at all, so check the show information and respect that rule if applicable.

### 3.8A Shared Areas and Other People's Property

Use only allocated parking, penning and exercise areas and keep access for emergency vehicles clear. Do not handle, borrow, move or alter another person's pony, carriage, harness or equipment without permission, except where reasonable immediate action is necessary to prevent injury or damage. Tell the owner and an official as soon as possible after emergency intervention. Report spectator concerns to a steward or security rather than confronting the person or driving towards them.

### 3.9 Etiquette in Competition:

During competition, wait for the judge's starting signal and enter at a sensible pace. If you need to retire or have a problem on course, alert the officials and bring the turnout to a safe halt. You must obey an instruction to stop from the nominated arena lead; the stopping and restarting procedure in Rule 9.3 applies. Always leave the arena at a walk unless instructed otherwise.

### 3.10 Honesty and Integrity:

Compete honourably. Do not cheat or bend rules – for example, do not modify your carriage in secret ways outside of allowed specifications, or enter a pony under a false height or age. Any instances of cheating, doping (administration of forbidden substances to ponies), or other unethical behaviour can result in immediate disqualification and further sanctions. The BSTD expects competitors to self-declare any relevant issues (such as a change of pony or any welfare concerns) to the event secretary in advance. If you make a mistake (missed a gate, took an incorrect course) you may complete the round but inform the judge or officials when safe if they have not noticed – intentionally exploiting an unnoticed error is against the spirit of fair play and may be penalized if discovered later. By following these etiquette guidelines, you contribute to a pleasant, safe, and fair environment for all, in keeping with the friendly yet competitive spirit of BSTD events.

# 4. Insurance Requirements

### 4.1 Mandatory Liability Insurance:

Every competitor must have their own personal Public Liability Insurance (third-party insurance) in effect to cover their participation in carriage driving timed events. This insurance must provide adequate cover for any injury or damage caused to other people or property arising from your equestrian activities. It is a condition of entry to BSTD competitions that you carry such insurance and that the policy remains up to date throughout the season.

### 4.2 Proof at Registration:

Before their first event, every new driver must submit proof of current public liability insurance covering BSTD timed carriage driving events and a completed, signed Competitor Declaration Form, including any required parent or guardian consent. Annual registration requirements continue to apply, subject to the first-event membership-fee exemption in Rule 7.1. A fee exemption does not waive insurance, declaration, assessment or safety requirements. Drivers may not compete until the required documents have been received and checked by BSTD.

### 4.3 Coverage Details:

The insurance should be a Third-Party Public Liability policy with an adequate limit (commonly £5 million or £10 million coverage) that covers you while competing in an affiliated or unaffiliated equestrian events. Many equestrian insurance providers or membership organisations cover such policies. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that timed driving competitions are not excluded from their coverage. Please note: As of recent UK insurance changes, standard

membership insurance from some organizations does NOT cover arena timed competitions like scurry driving.

Do not assume that general equestrian membership insurance covers timed carriage-driving events. Obtain confirmation from the insurer or broker for the exact activities and people insured.

BSTD's acceptance of evidence is an administrative eligibility check, not advice about the adequacy of insurance or a guarantee that a claim will be paid.

Different membership levels and policy endorsements may provide different cover. Check the actual policy terms and exclusions, not the organisation's name alone.

If you are unsure whether your policy meets these requirements, check with your insurer. Competitors will not be permitted to compete unless they have obtained appropriate insurance coverage – this is for the protection of all parties.

### 4.4 Insurance for Others:

BSTD strongly recommends that grooms and helpers also carry personal liability insurance (for example, some policies automatically cover anyone handling the horse with the owner's permission). Additionally, personal accident insurance for riders/drivers is highly advised (though not mandatory) given the risks inherent in carriage driving. BSTD's own insurance (for events and organisers) does not extend to cover competitors' or grooms' personal liabilities or accidents – each individual must be responsible for their own insurance protection.

### 4.5 Event Insurance (Organiser's Insurance):

The event organiser will typically have Public Liability Insurance for the show as a whole, but this does not negate the requirement for each competitor's insurance. The organisers' insurance covers their liability (e.g., if an injury is caused by venue negligence or organisational fault), whereas your personal insurance covers your liability (e.g., if your pony were to kick a spectator's car or injure another competitor). By having all competitors insured, we ensure that any accidents are adequately covered, and no undue financial burden falls on an innocent party.

### 4.6 Indemnity Agreement:

Competitors must maintain the insurance required by this section and remain responsible, to the extent provided by law, for loss or damage caused by their own negligence, breach of these rules or other wrongful acts. The indemnity in Rule 12.3 applies only within its stated limits. It does not transfer BSTD's own legal responsibilities to competitors or guarantee that an insurer will meet a particular claim.

### 4.6A Evidence and Changes in Cover

Insurance evidence must identify the insured driver, policy number, period of cover and timed competitive carriage-driving cover. BSTD may require written insurer or broker confirmation where wording is unclear, including for a family, organisation or overseas policy. A provider's name or membership card alone is not proof that the particular policy covers the activity.

Notify BSTD immediately of cancellation, expiry, restriction or any material change affecting eligibility. Supply renewal evidence before cover expires. No person may compete while required cover or satisfactory evidence is missing; previous acceptance is not continuing approval of an expired or altered policy. For overseas policies the cover must apply to the activities in the United Kingdom and an English translation may be required. These requirements do not change the published registration fees or the first-event fee exemption.

### 4.7 Updating and Renewal:

You must ensure your insurance remains valid for the entire season (typically policies are annual). If your policy is due to expire mid-season, renew it in time. BSTD reserves the right to request updated proof of insurance at any point. Random checks may be conducted at events – failure to produce a valid insurance certificate upon request could result in disqualification until compliance is achieved.

### 4.8 Travel and Vehicle Insurance:

(Note: This is outside the scope of BSTD requirements, but for your information.)

Ensure that any vehicle you use to transport horses (lorry or trailer) has the necessary insurance and that the driver holds appropriate license and insurance to drive it. While this is a road law matter, arriving safely to events is part of the overall safety picture.

### 4.9 Non-UK Competitors:

If any competitors from outside the UK compete in BSTD events, they must likewise have suitable liability cover valid in the UK. Proof of such insurance (with an English translation if needed) should be submitted in advance.

### 4.10 Summary:

No insurance = no competition. Competitors must "source their own personal public liability insurance" for BSTD timed driving events, and provide proof as required. This rule is in place to protect you and others – thank you for your cooperation in maintaining a safe, insured environment for our sport.

# 5. Equipment Specifications and Turnout Safety

(This section covers requirements for carriages, harness, and personal safety equipment to ensure that all turnouts meet safety standards. All equipment should be well-maintained and used correctly.) 5.1 Carriage and Vehicle Standards

### 5.1.1 Carriage Type:

Only four-wheeled carriages are generally allowed for BSTD competitions. Specifically, traditional double harness scurry carts or marathon-type/three-phase trials vehicles are permitted. Two-wheeled carts are not allowed for competing, except in a special introductory circumstance. All carriages must be of sound construction with brakes in good working order if fitted. Carriages should be designed for the stresses of obstacle driving at speed.

### 5.1.2 Track Width:

The carriage must have a minimum track width of 125 cm. This is to ensure stability through tight turns at speed. The organisers (or delegated officials) may measure carriages at any event to verify compliance. Competitors are responsible for knowing their carriage's track width; if your vehicle is found too narrow, you may be disqualified until it is corrected or replaced.

### 5.1.3 Wheels and Tyres:

Pneumatic tyres (air-filled tyres) are not permitted on competition carriages. Wheels must be of the solid or semi-solid type suitable for carriage driving. similarly, bicycle style wire spoked wheels are not allowed as they are not built for lateral loads and could collapse under side stress. Proper carriage wheels (wooden or metal dish wheels, or purpose-built marathon wheels) are required. All

tyres should be in good condition with no excessive wear or damage. Carry a spare wheel if possible (not mandatory but recommended in case of a breakdown).

### 5.1.4 Condition and Maintenance:

Vehicles must be kept in good condition and fit for purpose, which is ultimately the responsibility of the driver. Regularly inspect your carriage for cracks, loose bolts, or other faults. Pay special attention to the pole or shafts, wheel spokes, the fifth wheel (rotating front axle), brakes, and attachment points for harness. The organiser or safety o icer has the authority to disallow a carriage that appears unsafe. Ensure any added weights or equipment on the carriage are securely fastened.

### 5.1.5 Turnout Personnel:

Each turnout (carriage) must carry one Driver and one Groom on the vehicle (except in the case of teams/four-in-hands, which must carry one driver and two grooms (unless authorised by an official)). Grooms are essential for balance and emergency assistance; no turnout may enter the arena without the required groom(s) on board. The only exception is in specified training rounds or if an official ride-and-drive demo is being done, but those will be clearly announced. If a groom falls o during a round, the driver must stop and the groom must remount before continuing (note: time penalties will apply; see Section 7 on penalties). Failure to have a groom on the carriage at all times in competition will result in elimination for that round.

### 5.1.6 Groom's Position:

On a scurry cart, the groom must be seated behind the driver; on a larger trials/marathon carriage, the groom(s) typically stand on a rear platform holding onto the designed handholds or rails. In either case, the groom must not interfere with the reins or whip (unless for a health and safety reason) and should shift their weight only for balance. Grooms provide counterbalance in tight turns and may communicate course navigation to the driver. Grooms must never be strapped or secured to the carriage in a way that prevents an easy escape in case of turnover. (See Rule 5.3.4 regarding no tying in.)

## 5.2 Harness and Tack:

### 5.2.1 Driver's Position and Whip:

The driver must sit on a fixed seat or bench on the carriage and have proper footing (no standing while driving). The driver must also carry a suitable driving whip on the carriage of sufficient length to reach the ponies as an aid. Not carrying a whip in competition can incur elimination or penalties. The whip is a primary driving aid and part of traditional turnout – it is also a safety tool to signal or correct ponies as needed. Make sure your whip is in hand when you enter the arena unless authorised by the judge or an official. (You may have a groom pass it to you once inside if absolutely necessary but forgetting it entirely will lead to elimination.)

### 5.2.2 Introductory Exception (Two-Wheeled Vehicles):

In order to encourage newcomers, the organisers may allow a novice or interested new competitor to drive with a two-wheeled carriage at a show on a limited basis. This is solely for introductory purposes and at the discretion of BSTD officials. Typically, a beginner may use a sturdy two-wheeler (on proper carriage wheels) for up to two shows in one season. This gives them a taste of competition if they haven't yet acquired a four wheel carriage. After that, the competitor must obtain a four-wheeled vehicle to continue competing. All other rules still apply (track width, etc.). For a two wheeled vehicle, a groom must either be on board the carriage or in the arena in case an incident happens Note that two-wheel vehicles tend to be less stable at speed, so this exception will not be

allowed at high level or fast courses, and the competitor should drive at a suitable pace for their vehicle's limits.

Check with the BSTD entry secretary before entering with a two-wheeler.

### 5.2.3 Brakes:

While not mandatory on all carriages, effective brakes (especially rear disk brakes on marathon carriages) are strongly recommended for safety. If your carriage has brakes, they must be in good working order and used prudently (e.g., to help control speed). Grooms may not operate the brake except in an emergency (or if assisting a junior driver) – doing so during a normal round can incur penalties. If your carriage lacks brakes, then breeching on the harness is absolutely essential (see harness rules) to help the pony slow the vehicle.

### 5.2.4 Harness Condition:

All harness must be of sound material, good quality, and in safe condition. Leather harness should be well oiled/conditioned and free of cracks or dry rot; synthetic harness should be free of excessive wear or fraying. Stitching must be intact. Pay special attention to stress points: traces, breeching straps, girth, and reins. A harness that breaks during a round can cause a dangerous accident – it is the competitor's responsibility to ensure harness is fit for purpose each time out.

### 5.2.5 Fit and Adjustment:

The harness must be correctly fitted to the pony/ponies. Ill-fitting harness (too loose or too tight) can cause loss of control or injury. Bridles must include a throat lash (or similar strap) to prevent being rubbed off, and reins must be of sufficient length to safely drive your pony pair or team without tangling. If using a pair or team, the harness must include appropriate connectors (e.g., pole straps, appropriate couplings for teams, etc.). All harness should be put on such that it will not easily come undone – for example, ensure quick-release fastenings are properly engaged and tug straps secured.

### 5.2.6 Bridle and Bits:

Each pony must be driven with a proper bridle that includes blinkers (unless a specific turnout tradition allows open bridles) and that remains on at all times while hitched.

Removing a bridle or dropping the bit while a horse is between the shafts will result in immediate elimination for safety. Bitless bridles are not permitted in BSTD competitions; ponies must be driven in a bitted bridle for effective control. (This aligns with British Carriagedriving and general driving trials standards.) There is no strict rule on type of bit – use what is appropriate and comfortable for your pony – but any bit or equipment that is overly severe or used abusively can be grounds for elimination under horse welfare rules. If you have questions about a particular bitting or noseband setup, ask a steward or committee member.

### 5.2.7 Breeching and Brakes:

Breeching is compulsory. Breeching (the hindquarter strap that allows the horse to hold back the carriage) is a critical safety component, especially on courses with downhill gradients or sudden stops. In pair or team harness, breeching is strongly recommended on wheelers if no carriage brakes are present. Grooms should double-check breeching attachments (to carriage or shafts) before each round. No turnout should go into competition without an effective way to slow/hold the vehicle. Either brakes on the carriage, breeching on the horse, or both are required. (Having both is ideal: breeching for fine control, brakes for stronger stopping power.)

### 5.2.8 No Tie-Downs:

No person may be tied, strapped, or secured to the carriage or harness in a manner that would prevent them from being thrown free in the event of a rollover. This means the driver and groom cannot use any harness or seatbelt on themselves unless it is a quick release mechanism held by hand. (Exception: Para equestrians with certain disabilities may use a secure harness or seatbelt as needed, but this must be approved and have quick-release capability – see rule 5.4.5.) For able-bodied competitors, seatbelts are not allowed because being attached to a carriage that overturns can lead to serious injury. Safety belts or straps for grooms are only permitted if one end is held by the groom (not fixed to the vehicle) and can be dropped immediately. In other words, a groom might hold a loop strap for stability which they release if they need to jump clear – but at no point should they be buckled in. If an official sees a groom or driver tied in, they will insist it be removed before the round.

### 5.2.9 Auxiliary Equipment:

Any martingales, overchecks, or other auxiliary reins are allowed so long as they are adjusted humanely and safely. However, string or rubber "check-reins" that force the head up are discouraged (they can cause pony discomfort and impair breathing in speed events). If used, they should not be overly tight. No excessively harsh equipment (like wire nosebands or illegal bits) is allowed – if in doubt, ask officials. Equine leg protection (brushing boots, bell boots, etc.) is allowed and often advisable but must be removed for veterinary inspection if requested. Bandages are permitted; just ensure nothing will unravel and tangle.

### 5.2.10 Identification on Harness:

It's helpful (though not required) to have an ID tag on the harness of each pony with the driver's name and phone number, especially at big events or when stabling overnight. This is just a good practice in case a pony is found loose or there is an emergency, and someone needs to identify the owner quickly.

### 5.2.11 Harness Extras:

Carrying a spare rein is optional but some drivers tuck one in case of breakage. Likewise, a tiny spares kit on board (like a hoof pick and knife in a safe spot) can be useful in an emergency. These are not rules, but recommendations for turnout preparedness.

## 5.3 Rider/Driver & Groom Safety Gear:

### 5.3.1 Helmets (Head Protection):

Every person on a vehicle (driver and groom(s)) must wear a secure protective hard hat whenever in competition, in the warm-up arena, or exercising a turnout at an event venue. This rule applies even if the event or venue is technically "not open to the public" – it is mandatory at all BSTD events that helmets be worn while on the carriage. All helmets must meet or exceed current safety standards for equestrian use. Helmets should be replaced every 5 years from date of manufacture, even if not visibly damaged. Helmets that have received a heavy blow should be replaced immediately.

### 5.3.2 Acceptable standards include:

PAS 015:1998 or 2011 (with BSI Kitemark), VG1 (with BSI Kitemark), ASTM F1163:2004a or later (with SEI mark), Snell E2001 or E2016 (with official Snell label), or AS/NZS 3838:2006 (or 2012) with SAI Global mark. Helmets meeting VG1 standards (the newer European norm) are permitted and encouraged. Older standards that have been withdrawn (e.g., the old BSEN1384 without update) are not sufficient unless the helmet also has one of the above markings. It is the competitor's

responsibility that their helmet is properly fitted and fastened at all times. Failure to wear an approved helmet will result in elimination for the round and must be remedied before re-entering.

### 5.3.3 Body Protectors:

Adult drivers and grooms are recommended to wear body protectors (body cages or vests) and may do so at their own discretion. Junior competitors (18a years and under) are required to wear an approved body protector whenever on the carriage, whether as driver or groom. It is also strongly encouraged that any person on a carriage during obstacle (cone) competition wears a body protector regardless of age, as the risk of turnover or collision is present. Most body protectors should comply with the EN 13158 standard and preferably be of a BETA Level 3 rating (which offers the highest protection). Level 1 or 2 vests are acceptable if they are the only available, but Level 3 (purple label) is recommended obstacle driving. Air jackets (inflatable vests) are not allowed. Body protectors must be in good condition, and BETA Level 3 models should be updated within 5–7 years per manufacturer guidance.

### 5.3.4 Gloves and Footwear:

Drivers should ideally wear gloves when driving for better grip and to prevent blisters; however, this is not a strict requirement and is left to personal preference (except in dress classes or formal turnout if applicable). Grooms may also wear gloves for their own protection. Footwear for anyone on the carriage should be sturdy – boots or shoes with a heel are ideal for drivers (to prevent slipping through any floor stirrup or bar). Grooms often wear athletic-type shoes for grip on the carriage platform, which is acceptable as long as they are secure. Open-toed shoes are not allowed on the carriage. If a competitor or groom is found with unsafe footwear, they will be warned and must change before competing.

### 5.3.5 Clothing:

Besides the helmet and body protector rules, drivers and grooms should dress in attire that will not pose a safety risk. Avoid long, flowing clothing or accessories that could catch on wheels or poles. Long scarves, loose belts, or unsecured long hair should be managed properly. Tie or secure anything that could flap. In practice, most drivers wear a fitted jacket or sweatshirt and stable-type trousers or breeches. Grooms often wear similar practical clothing. If an official deems an article of clothing unsafe (for instance, a long scarf on a windy day), they may ask for its removal for safety.

### 5.3.6 Adaptive Equipment for Disabled Drivers:

**BSTD is inclusive and supportive of drivers with disabilities. If a competitor requires any special adaptive equipment (such as seat belts, handholds, specially fixed reins, etc.), they should inform the BSTD committee in advance and get approval. Generally, any equipment that allows a disabled driver to compete safely is welcomed provided it does not introduce undue risk. For example, a driver with impaired balance might use a lap belt, or a prosthetic that attaches to reins – these are allowed as long as a groom or someone can quickly release them in an emergency. The BSTD may require a demonstration of quick-release functionality for safety belts. We also ensure venues are accessible where possible. Please reach out to the organisers if you have any questions or requirements; we aim to make reasonable accommodations in line with UK equality laws and safety standards.**

### 5.3.7 Safety Checks:

Before entering the arena, competitors may be subject to a tack and safety equipment check by a steward. This could include verifying that helmets are fastened, body protectors (for juniors) are worn, and harness is correctly fitted. Cooperate with any such tack check – it is in everyone's

interest. If an issue is found, you will have the opportunity to fix it if time permits (e.g., tighten a chinstrap or adjust harness). Arrive at the collecting ring early enough to perform these adjustments.

# 6. Turnout Presentation and Miscellaneous:

## 6.1 Cleanliness and Presentation:

While not strictly a safety issue, a clean and well-turned-out turnout is part of the sport's tradition. Drivers and grooms should make an e ort to have their ponies well-groomed and harness and vehicle clean. This also allows easier inspection of equipment (dirt can hide cracks or issues). Some shows may give a special award for Best Turned Out, so it's worth the e ort!

## 6.2 Club Logos and Sponsorship

It is permitted to display the BSTD logo, your club logo or sponsors on your vehicle or clothing, provided this is done tastefully. Signage and decoration must be securely attached and must not create a hazard.

## 6.3 On-Course Modifications:

Once a round has started, no changes may be made to the turnout except where necessary for safety. If an adjustment is needed, alert officials and stop safely; obey the arena lead's instructions and Rule 9.3. An official safety stoppage does not cancel penalties already incurred or any penalty arising from the underlying incident. Complete all normal adjustments before entering the arena. If an item falls off, continue only if safe and follow officials' instructions.

## 6.4 Multiple Turnouts:

If a competitor enters more than one turnout in a show (where permitted), they must ensure each turnout independently meets all equipment and safety requirements. Do not swap critical equipment between turnouts in a hurry and risk mis-adjustment. Ideally, have a separate set of harness and carriage for each if running back-to-back. If sharing some equipment (like a set of reins), triple-check everything is reattached correctly.

## 6.4A Checks After Shared Equipment Changes

Where harness, reins, a carriage or safety equipment is shared between turnouts, the driver must allow sufficient time for refitting and a complete safety check after every change. Confirm all couplings, traces, shafts or pole connections, brakes, breeching, reins and safety fastenings before moving off. Entry of multiple turnouts does not entitle a competitor to rush preparation, use unsuitable equipment or delay others unreasonably. Report any safety-related change affecting a completed assessment before competing.

## 6.5 Pre-Event Safety Inspection:

New drivers, backsteppers and each turnout must complete the assessment and sign-off procedure in Rule 7.2 before competing at their first event. Officials may also inspect any turnout at any event and may prevent an unsafe turnout from starting or continuing. Passing an assessment does not remove the driver's ongoing responsibility for safe equipment, control and equine welfare.

# 7. Entry, Classes, and League Structure

## 7.1 Season Registration:

The BSTD competition season runs from 1 January to 31 December. Drivers must complete annual registration and pay the published registration fee before competing, except for the first-event membership-fee exemption below. Registration and event entry fees are separate. The current registration form and published fee schedule specify the registration categories and fees available.

A new driver is not required to pay the membership or registration fee for their first BSTD event. The event entry fee remains payable in full. Before any subsequent event, the driver must complete and pay for the applicable registration.

The first-event fee exemption does not waive the requirement to supply contact details, insurance evidence, signed declarations and any junior consents before the event, or the assessment and sign-off requirements in Rule 7.2. All other eligibility, safety and event rules apply.

## 7.2 New Drivers and Novice Progression

### New Driver Assessment

All new drivers must declare their previous driving experience and supply the documents required by Rule 4.2 before their first event. Each driver, backstepper and turnout must be assessed before being permitted to compete.

A Regional Mentor must assess the driver, backstepper and each turnout on the day before competition or on the morning of the first event, before competition begins. Assessment paperwork must be completed for each turnout and signed off by both the Regional Mentor and a supervising Director. No turnout may compete until both sign-offs are complete.

The assessment must cover safe control of the ponies, the backstepper's competence, the carriage and harness, and readiness to compete. The assessor will review:

- The driver's control of the ponies
- Correct harnessing and turnout
- General readiness, confidence, and safety awareness

A £20 assessment fee may apply and is payable directly to the assessor on the day.

The first competitive round following assessment must be driven at a steady and sensible pace, supervised by an experienced Open driver or Regional Mentor positioned on foot within the arena. The supervising person will provide guidance and observe the turnout from the ground, rather than joining it as an additional backstepper. New drivers and back steppers will receive appropriate mentoring during their introduction to competition.

Assessment and mentoring do not guarantee safety or remove any participant's continuing obligations under this Rulebook. Officials may stop or withdraw a turnout whenever a safety or welfare concern arises.

### Novice Eligibility and Progression

The following rules apply to Novice drivers:

- Novice eligibility is determined by the driver, not the pony or carriage. A driver may remain in Novice for a maximum of two competition seasons.
- A driver cannot compete as Novice with one turnout and as Intermediate or Open with another. Once a driver has progressed out of Novice, they cannot return to Novice, including with a different pony or turnout.
- The winner of the Novice Grand League must progress to the Intermediate League for the following season. A driver reaching the maximum of two Novice seasons must also progress out of Novice.

- The Directors and Committee may require a Novice driver to progress earlier where their experience, ability, results or safety make this appropriate. The matter must be put to a Committee vote; the majority decision applies and the Chairman has a casting vote if votes are tied. The decision and effective date must be recorded and communicated to the driver.

- Novice eligibility and progression are ultimately subject to the Directors' and Committee's discretion exercised under these rules. Novice show results and Novice League points are determined under Rules 8.3 and 8.4B.

**Experienced Drivers with Young or Inexperienced Ponies**

Intermediate and Open drivers competing with a young or inexperienced pony must drive to the capability of the pony, rather than the driver's experience. A change of pony does not restore Novice eligibility.

This allowance is in place to support the correct education and progression of young ponies, and to ensure competitors are not pressured into driving beyond what is appropriate for the pony's stage of training.

Intermediate and Open drivers must:

- Drive in a controlled and sympathetic manner
- Prioritise safety and education over speed
- Compete in a way that reflects the pony's experience and ability

This policy exists to encourage responsible production of young ponies and to maintain fairness and safety across all levels of competition.

### 7.3 Show Suitability for Novices:

Some events (due to venue or course difficulty) might be deemed unsuitable for true novice drivers or very young juniors by the organisers. If a new or junior driver enters a show that the BSTD committee feels might be too challenging or unsafe for them, the organisers will inform that competitor privately (and may suggest alternative events more appropriate for their level). This is not meant to discourage, but to ensure safety and an enjoyable experience. As you gain experience, you'll be able to attend the full range of shows.

### 7.4 Age of Competitors:

BSTD allows drivers of a wide range of ages. Junior drivers are typically defined as those aged 16 or under (age as of the start of the year or competition – BSTD may specify the cutoff date). Juniors are welcome but note that any driver under 18 must have a parent/guardian's permission to compete and a responsible adult present at the show. Additionally, juniors require an adult groom on the carriage. Very young drivers (below 10 years old) will need special consideration and probably will start in very controlled conditions with a dual seat or an adult alongside. There is no upper age limit for senior drivers indeed we have drivers in their 70s competing. Senior drivers must just be fit enough to handle their turnout safely; any competitor who appears to be physically unable to control their horses may be asked to stop for safety.

### 7.5 Horse and Pony Eligibility:

Ponies/horses must be at least 4 years old to compete (no horse under 4, i.e., no 3-yearolds). Ponies over 4 can compete well into their senior years as long as they are healthy.
Special leagues exist for older ponies (see Veteran Pony award).

## 7.6 Height Categories and Class Eligibility

The standard show classes are VSP, PP, SP and Novice, as described in Rule 8.1. Pony classes have a maximum height of 14.2 hands without shoes. Horses over 14.2 hands may compete only where the event schedule expressly provides for them.

The following height descriptions apply when declaring pony details:

Very Small Pony (VSP) – Ponies 10.2 hands (42") and under. These may have their own class in some shows.

Small Pony – typically over 10.2 h up to ~12 h).

Large Pony – over ~12 h up to 14.2 h max.

Horse – over 14.2 h (if allowed at event).

Declare the height of every pony when entering. From 2027, Small Pony Pairs and Large Pony Pairs are combined into PP for show results, prize money and the class league; their former height distinction does not create separate PP leagues. VSP eligibility remains 10.2 hands and under. A pony may not compete in two different height categories at the same show. The event schedule must identify the appropriate class for each turnout.

## 7.7 Vaccinations:

It is mandatory that all equines have up-to date Equine Influenza vaccinations. Some shows, especially county shows or agricultural shows that host BSTD classes, will enforce the 12-month or 6-month flu vaccine rule. It is the competitor's responsibility to check each show's specific requirements and comply. In general, to be safe, ensure your pony's flu jab is within 12 months (and with the initial course and booster done correctly). This is as much about not being turned away at the gate as it is about horse health.

## 7.7A Attendance During Illness and Disease

Do not bring an equine showing fever, an unexplained cough, nasal discharge or other signs of infectious illness to an event. Notify the event contact promptly of suspected exposure or disease relevant to an entered turnout and obtain veterinary advice. BSTD may refuse attendance, require isolation or removal, or request evidence of fitness to return. Follow any published outbreak precautions and venue instructions; welfare withdrawal is not overridden by entry payment or league qualification.

## 7.8 Equine Welfare Checks and Infectious Disease Protocol

Random veterinary checks may be carried out at events to assess ponies for fitness, soundness, and welfare. This can include:

- Visual lameness inspection
- Mucous membrane and hydration checks
- Post-run recovery monitoring

Drivers are expected to comply with any vet recommendations.

In the case of confirmed outbreaks (e.g. strangles, equine influenza), the following rules apply: 

Affected horses must not attend any event.

- Ponies with fever, nasal discharge, or coughing may be barred from competing.
- Shows may require proof of recent vaccinations or temperature logs.

- BSTD reserves the right to cancel or postpone events if required.

### 7.9 Entries per Driver:

Normally, a driver may enter more than one turnout in a competition if they wish (for example, two different pairs, or a single pony and a pair). However, there are some limitations:

At one-day shows with two open sessions, a competitor may only enter one turnout per class/session by default. If entries are low, the organisers may invite drivers with multiple turnouts to enter an extra one, but this is by exception.

Some shows have specific limits (see "Limited Entry Shows" below) that might restrict total entries per driver to ensure everyone gets to compete. In any case, you must be able to manage the logistics. If your two turnouts are scheduled close together, you need sufficient grooms and help to swap quickly. The organisers can sometimes schedule to accommodate multiple turnouts, but this isn't always possible. If you have multiple turnouts, you only pay one driver registration for the season, but you pay separate entry fees for each turnout per show (see fees below).

### 7.10 Substitution of Equines:

If a pony goes lame or is unable to compete after you've entered, limited substitutions may be allowed:

You can substitute a pony (in a pair or single) for up to 2 consecutive shows with appropriate proof of the original pony's issue (vet certificate or video showing lameness and date). Beyond 2 shows, the original should return, or the substitution becomes the "new normal" and may an etc points.

If you have a spare pony on the showground that is already entered in another class, you could, with permission, use it as a substitute for your lame pony but you will have to declare which run counts for points and forego points from the other run for fairness. Essentially, one pony cannot earn league points twice at the same show in the same category. For qualifier shows (special shows that count towards championships), note that it's the turnout as a whole that qualifies, not just the driver. So, if one pony from a pair is substituted at a qualifier, that turnout's qualification could be effected. As a rule, single ponies cannot be substituted in qualifying rounds – the combination that qualifies must be the one that goes to the final.

Always inform the event secretary as early as possible if you need to change a pony in your entry and obtain approval.

# 8. Classes Offered:

### 8.1 Competition Classes:

The standard competition classes are Very Small Pony (VSP), Pony Pair (PP), Single Pony (SP) and Novice. These classes determine show categories, class results and class prize money, subject to the published event schedule and Rule 8.2. Intermediate is a season league, not a separate show class.

PP combines the former Small Pony Pair and Large Pony Pair classes. There is one PP show class and one PP class league from 2027; the former SPP and LPP leagues do not continue separately.

SP is the Single Pony class. VSP is the Very Small Pony class for eligible ponies of 10.2 hands and under. Eligible Intermediate and Open drivers compete for show prize money in their individual VSP, PP or SP class.

Novice drivers compete in the Novice show class and earn Novice League points from their overall Novice show placing. Their nominated run times are added together as set out in Rule 8.3.

Any additional Horse, Junior, Team or Tandem competition specifically offered by an event must be described in its published schedule. It does not create a new season league unless separately announced by BSTD.

For standard classes, class-league points and overall season-league points come from different results: VSP, PP and SP class leagues use the designated class run; the Grand League and Intermediate League use the Championship run. The Novice League uses the combined Novice show result, completed after the Championship session.

## 8.2 Combining Classes for Prize Money

Where fewer than 10 combinations are entered at an event, the Directors may combine some classes for prize-money purposes. This does not merge the VSP, PP and SP season class leagues or alter the league scoring rules in Rule 8.4.
Entrants must be notified of any proposed prize-money amalgamation before the event, with sufficient information and opportunity to decide whether they still wish to attend. The notification must state which classes are combined and the applicable prize-money allocation.

Amalgamation must not be introduced without advance notice to entrants. Any withdrawal or transfer request is dealt with under Rule 8.10, without prejudice to statutory rights.

## 8.3 Show Runs and Novice Results

Before competition begins, the event description and briefing must identify the number and format of runs, the designated class run, the Championship run, the runs counting towards the Novice aggregate and the prize-money arrangements. Class runs and Championship runs must be distinguished in results and league records.

VSP, PP and SP class-league points are taken from placings in the designated class run at that show. Grand League and Intermediate League points are taken only from the designated Championship run, not from the class run. Grooms League points also use the Championship run, subject to Rule 8.4C.

The Novice show result is an aggregate of the counting run times, including applicable time penalties. The lowest combined time wins. At a four-run show the second, third and fourth runs count. At a two-run, one-day show both runs count. For any other format, the counting runs must be published and explained before the first run; a fixed 75% rule does not apply.

The Novice aggregate is finalised after the last counting run, which may take place in the Championship session. Novices cannot place in or win the standalone Championship: that session contributes to their aggregate instead. Intermediate and Open drivers are eligible for Championship placings.

Novice League points are awarded from the final Novice aggregate show placing, not from the Novice driver's last run alone. All regular league shows award the relevant points unless expressly advertised as non-league. Demonstrations and non-standard events must state any non-league status in advance.

## 8.4 Grand League and Class League Points

The season-long Grand League comprises three separate levels: the Open Grand League, the Intermediate Grand League and the Novice Grand League. Each driver earns points towards the Grand League corresponding to their competition level. References to the overall Grand League mean the Open Grand League; Intermediate and Novice drivers earn points towards their own Grand Leagues and do not also score towards the Open Grand League.

Open and Intermediate Grand League points are determined by results from the designated Championship run only. Class-run results do not count towards either Grand League. Novice Grand League points are determined by the final Novice show placing using the aggregate described in Rules 8.3 and 8.4B. Novices do not receive standalone Championship placings.

The points scale is unchanged: 1st receives 7 points, 2nd 6, 3rd 5, 4th 4, 5th 3 and 6th 2. All other eligible attending entrants receive one attendance point, including an entrant eliminated from the counting run. The attendance point is the minimum award, not an additional point on top of placing points. There is no separate seventh-place award. This scale applies to the VSP, PP and SP class leagues, the Open, Intermediate and Novice Grand Leagues, and the Grooms League. No placing points are awarded without an eligible placing; the attendance point remains available as stated above. Event results and league records must identify the result and league used for each award.

The VSP, PP and SP class leagues remain based on placings in the designated class run at each show. Eligible competitors may therefore earn class-league points alongside points towards their respective Open, Intermediate or Novice Grand League. Class leagues and Grand Leagues are recorded separately. Points forfeitures or deductions imposed under the disciplinary rules continue to apply.

If competitors finish the season on equal points in the Open or Intermediate Grand League, the tie will be decided by the greatest number of first placings in the counting results used for that Grand League during the season. If still tied, the greatest number of second placings will decide. If a tie remains, the higher placing in the counting result at the final event counted towards that Grand League will determine the winner. For the Novice Grand League, the same procedure applies using final Novice aggregate show placings.

## 8.4A Intermediate League

The Intermediate Grand League is introduced from 2027 to bridge the gap between Novice and Open. Drivers progressing from Novice, including the Novice Grand League winner, enter Intermediate. Intermediate drivers compete for show prize money in their applicable VSP, PP or SP class; Intermediate is not an additional show class.

Intermediate drivers earn Grand League points towards the Intermediate Grand League only. They do not also earn points towards the Open Grand League. Intermediate Grand League points are taken from the designated Championship run, applying the first-to-sixth placing points and one-point attendance provision in Rule 8.4. Class-run points do not determine this league. There is no maximum number of seasons in Intermediate.

Intermediate and Open drivers remain eligible for Championship placings and Championship prize money at shows. Their eligibility to compete against one another in the Championship does not combine their separate season-long Grand Leagues.

The Directors and Committee may require a driver to move from Intermediate to Open or from Open to Intermediate according to experience, ability, results and safety. A Committee vote is required; the majority decision applies and the Chairman has a casting vote if tied. The decision, reasons and effective date must be recorded and communicated to the driver. Neither an Intermediate nor an Open driver may return to Novice, even with a new pony or turnout.

## 8.4B Novice League

Novice drivers earn Grand League points towards the Novice Grand League only. They do not also earn points towards the Open or Intermediate Grand League.

The Novice Grand League is determined by points awarded from the final Novice show placing using the aggregate described in Rule 8.3. The Championship-session run contributes to that aggregate where it is a counting run; it is not scored on its own for Novice Grand League points.

The points scale is 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 and 2 for first to sixth, with one attendance point for every other eligible attending entrant, including an entrant without a valid aggregate because of elimination. The attendance point is not added to placing points. Novices are not eligible for standalone Championship placings.

The Novice Grand League winner must progress to Intermediate for the following season; the maximum two-season Novice limit and discretionary progression rules in Rule 7.2 also apply.

## 8.4C Grooms League and Backsteppers

Grooms League is separate from the Open, Intermediate and Novice Grand Leagues. Grooms League points are taken only from the Championship run, not from the class run, using the points scale in Rule 8.4.

A backstepper competing with more than one turnout at a show must nominate the turnout whose Championship run will count for their Grooms League points. The nomination must be received and recorded by the Entry Secretary or designated league recorder before any driver of a turnout on which that backstepper is competing has completed their first run of the event or weekend. The earliest such completion is the deadline.

Only the nominated turnout's Championship result counts. A nomination cannot be made or changed retrospectively to select a better result. Without a valid nomination by the deadline, a backstepper competing with multiple turnouts receives no Grooms League points for that show.

There is no numerical limit on the number of turnouts a backstepper may backstep during a run or session. This does not waive safety, assessment, prompt attendance or running-order requirements, and turnouts must have competent backsteppers and safe changeovers.

## 8.4D Clear Round League

The Clear Round League becomes an official BSTD league from 2027. A minimum of five completed shows is required to qualify for the final standings. One point is awarded for each completed clear round at a show. A round with a time penalty or elimination is not a clear round.

The league score is calculated as total clear-round points divided by the number of shows completed, multiplied by 100. This is an attendance-normalised percentage league score, not the percentage of all runs that were clear; it may exceed 100 because several clear rounds can be completed at one show.

For example, 20 clears at five completed shows gives 400%, as does 80 clears at 20 completed shows. The highest score wins, subject to the five-show minimum. Results must record both the clear-round points and completed-show total so the calculation can be checked.

## 8.4E Attendance and Points Records

Attendance means actual attendance at the show as an accepted entrant eligible for the league concerned. Sending an entry, paying a fee or being listed in a programme without attending does not earn an attendance point. Attendance must be confirmed in the event records.

The same event cannot produce both placing points and an additional attendance point for the same entry in the same league. First to sixth receive their stated placing points; other eligible

attendees receive one point. For example, first receives seven points in total, sixth receives two and an eligible unplaced or eliminated attendee receives one. Training, demonstrations and events advertised as non-league do not earn league attendance points.

The Grooms League nomination rule continues to apply: attendance does not permit a backstepper to score on multiple turnouts or avoid the nomination deadline. A backstepper with multiple turnouts but no valid timely nomination receives no Grooms League points for that show. Novices remain ineligible for standalone Championship placings and overall Championship-based points; their Novice League attendance point is recorded separately.

Elimination from a run does not by itself remove the attendance point. A specific points forfeiture imposed under the disciplinary rules may do so. An attendance point is not a clear-round point and does not by itself establish a completed show for the Clear Round League.

The points recorder must retain the counting result, eligible entrant or nominated backstepper, attendance and points award. Apparent arithmetic, transcription or eligibility errors must be referred promptly to the Entry Secretary and checked against the judge's record. No entrant may retrospectively select a different counting run.

### 8.5 Junior League:

Juniors accrue points within their own age categories for a junior award. The BSTD junior league may be divided into age brackets (e.g., 9–10 yrs, 11–12 yrs, 13–14 yrs, 15–16yrs). Juniors compete in the main classes, but their results also count toward junior league standings among their peers throughout the season. At season's end, typically the top juniors in each age group may get recognition, and sometimes the overall top junior(s) win special prizes. When a junior in the oldest bracket (15–16) wins that section for the season, the following year they will compete as an adult (even if age 16/17) at the discretion of organisers– this is to keep competition fair and encourage progression.

### 8.6 Special Awards (Veteran, Rescue, etc.):

BSTD may offer additional awards throughout the season.

**Veteran Pony League:** Ponies or horses qualify as veterans from the calendar year in which they reach 20 years of age. Eligibility takes effect on 1 January of that year, regardless of their actual birthday. Eligible ponies or horses may accumulate points throughout the season towards the Best Veteran Pony trophy. Points earned in regular competition are also recorded in the Veteran category, with the highest-scoring eligible pony or horse receiving the award at the end of the season. Veteran status must be declared on registration or entry, and proof of age may be required.

**Rescue Pony Award:** In some seasons, a special award may be offered for ponies or horses adopted or rehomed through a registered rescue charity. Proof may be required. Where this award is offered, the qualifying criteria and method of determining the winner must be published before points are awarded or nominations open.

**Other Awards:** Additional awards may include Most Improved Driver and Sportsmanship Award. These are determined by the Committee or through an announced voting process and recognise achievement, improvement or contribution to the sport rather than accumulated league points.

8.7 Entry Process for Shows:

To enter a show, a driver must meet the registration requirements in Rule 7.1, including the first-event fee exemption where applicable, and submit the required entry details and payment for each turnout. Entry forms and the event closing date will be published on the BSTD website. Entry methods are:

Email: Send your name, the show you want to enter, and details of your turnout

(horse/pony name(s), class, etc.) to the Entry Secretary's email (bstdentries@outlook.com)

Then send payment by BACS (bank transfer) to the specified BSTD account (Lloyds Bank, sort code and account number will be given).

Online: If BSTD implements an online entry system or through a platform, follow those instructions (this may vary year to year).

Each event's entry closing date must be published on the website in advance. A late entry must be requested from the Entry Secretary. The Entry Secretary is not obliged to accept it; acceptance depends on availability and event arrangements. If accepted, an additional £5 late-entry fee is payable for that entry. An entry is not confirmed merely because a late-entry request or payment has been sent.

### 8.7A Entry Confirmation and Changes

An entry is accepted only when confirmed by BSTD and the required payment and eligibility checks have been completed. Sending an email or transferring money does not guarantee a place, a late entry or a particular running-order position. The entrant must check the confirmation and promptly report incorrect driver, backstepper, pony, class, contact or payment details. Notify the Entry Secretary of substitutions and obtain approval before using a changed turnout; qualification and points do not transfer automatically. Use the contact specified in the event information. The entries contact is bstdentries@outlook.com; general enquiries are scurryandtrialsdriving@outlook.com.

### 8.8 Entry Fees:

Each event will set entry fees per class or per turnout. For example, it might be a fixed fee per turnout that covers all sessions at that show. The fees help cover venue hire, prizes, etc. All fees must be paid before the show (or in cash at the show by prior arrangement if absolutely necessary). If an entry isn't paid, the competitor will not be allowed to compete. Registration fees (annual) and entry fees (per event) are separate – make sure you've paid both as needed.

BSTD's bank details for BACS transfers are usually listed on entry info (as of now, Sort Code 30-90-91, Account No. 69562960 for British Scurry & Trials Driving). Always include a reference (like your name and the show name) with payments to track them.

### 8.9 What Your Entry Includes:

Each entered turnout typically entitles you to a certain number of passes or admission tickets for the show (if it's within a larger show). For standalone BSTD events, this might not be an issue; but if we are at, say, a county show, your entry might come with up to 3 people's free admission for that turnout (often intended for the driver and two helpers). Check the show particulars – it often states, "each turnout entered will allow 3 people to have passes to that show". Additional helpers or family members may need to purchase spectator tickets if required by the venue.

### 8.10 Withdrawals and Refunds:

Withdrawal and transfer requests must be sent to the Entry Secretary in writing. The time the request is received determines the applicable band. All deadlines are measured back from 00:01 UK local time on the first competition day. For a multi-day event, the first day is used for the whole entry, even if the competitor intends to attend on a later day.

More than seven days before that reference time: a full entry-fee refund, or transfer of the full entry-fee value to another BSTD event, is available.

Seven days or less, but more than 48 hours before that reference time: a 50% entry-fee refund, or transfer of 50% of the entry-fee value to another BSTD event, is available.

No refund or transfer of the entry fee is available where the written request is received at or after the cutoff exactly 48 hours before 00:01 UK local time on the first competition day. This includes requests received during the final 48 hours, on the event day or after the event has begun. The entry-fee value is forfeited, subject only to the exceptional-circumstance provisions below and statutory rights. Failure to attend does not create an entitlement to a refund or transfer.

Example: if the first competition day is Sunday, the no-refund and no-transfer cutoff is 00:01 on the preceding Friday. A request received at 00:01 Friday or any time afterwards falls within the final 48 hours. A request received before that cutoff is assessed under the seven-day bands above. The exceptional-circumstance provisions below remain available.

Transfers are subject to a place being available, eligibility and the receiving event's entry requirements. Any additional entry fee must be paid. A transfer does not reserve a place until confirmed by the Entry Secretary.

A veterinary certificate or an unforeseen circumstance may support an exception to these bands. Requests and supporting evidence must be submitted promptly. Exceptions are at the Directors' and Committee's discretion, following a Committee vote; the majority decision applies and the Chairman has a casting vote if votes are tied. The decision, including any refund or transferable value, must be recorded and communicated to the entrant.

These bands apply to competitor withdrawals, not cancellation by BSTD. Event cancellation is dealt with under Rule 12.8. Nothing in this policy removes statutory rights; any retention remains subject to applicable law and must not exceed a lawfully recoverable net loss, taking account of costs saved and replacement entries.

### 8.11 Prize Money and Completion of Runs

Prize money for the event must be published in the event description in advance and confirmed at the briefing, including any class amalgamation notified under Rule 8.2. The standard allocation for each designated class prize-money run and the Championship is shown below.

| Place | Class run | Championship |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | £60 | £80 |
| 2nd | £50 | £50 |
| 3rd | £40 | £40 |
| 4th | £30 | £30 |
| 5th | £20 | £20 |
| 6th | £10 | £10 |

To be eligible for prize money, a turnout must complete all runs scheduled for it at the show. A veterinary certificate or an unforeseen circumstance may support an exception. Unforeseen-circumstance exceptions require a Directors' and Committee decision by Committee vote, with the Chairman holding a casting vote if votes are tied. Supporting evidence and the decision must be recorded. A veterinary certificate must be supplied for a veterinary exception. No prize-money requirement obliges a driver to continue an unsafe or unfit turnout; stop or withdraw where welfare or safety requires it and notify officials promptly.

# 9. Competition Format:

## 9.1 Course Walks:

Competitors will have an opportunity (usually about 10 minutes) to walk the course and familiarize themselves with the obstacles before the competition starts. Where possible, the course is built the evening before or early in the morning, and competitors may be allowed to walk it then as well. Pay attention to announcements for when course walking is allowed. Do not disturb course builders or attempt to change anything on the course. No competitor may enter the arena while the course is still being built unless specifically invited by the course designer.

## 9.2 Course Design:

There is no set minimum or maximum distance between obstacles; courses are designed to allow a fast, flowing drive where possible. Each course will include a series of cone gates and possibly more elaborate obstacles ("multiples") such as zig-zags, boxes, or ramps. Every obstacle will have some element that can be knocked down (balls on cones or knock-down rails) to incur penalties. The entire course is timed from start to finish, with penalties (5 seconds) added for faults (like knocked balls).

## 9.3 Starting Signals and Official Stoppages

The driver starts only on the judge's signal. Timing normally begins at the start markers and ends at the finish markers. Starting before permission, missing the start or finish, or interfering with timing equipment remains subject to the applicable penalties.

Before the event starts, the event lead must nominate an arena lead and identify that person and the stopping procedure at the pre-show briefing. The arena lead is responsible for instructing a turnout in the arena to stop. When a stop is required, the arena lead must alert the arena party and judge; the judge must sound the bell twice. The arena lead must also move into a clearly visible position and visibly signal the turnout to stop, without placing themselves or others in danger.

The driver and backstepper must remain alert to these instructions. A turnout must stop as soon as it is safe to do so when instructed by the arena lead or given the double-bell signal. Whether to obey is not the driver's choice. Failure to stop results in elimination from that run, decided by the judge in communication with the arena lead.

Failure to stop may also result in disqualification from the event following a Committee vote, with a majority decision and the Chairman's casting vote if tied. The judge must refer the circumstances, in consultation with the arena lead, for that decision. Officials retain their immediate safety powers to prevent an unsafe turnout from continuing while the matter is considered. The decision and reasons must be recorded and communicated to the competitor; Section 10 applies to any further disciplinary action or appeal.

The clock pauses when the turnout comes to a complete stop. The issue must then be dealt with. Only when both the arena lead and judge consider the turnout safe to continue may the judge sound the restart bell. The clock restarts with that signal and the turnout continues from the point at which it stopped. The driver is not given a fresh start or a repeat run under this procedure. Elapsed time and penalties already incurred remain in force, and penalties for the underlying incident still apply.

No turnout may restart without permission. A driver must notify officials of any continuing safety or welfare concern and may retire safely; this does not entitle the driver to ignore a stop instruction or continue an unsafe turnout. Safety and equine welfare take priority over completion of a run.

## 9.3A Timing Failure and Changes to the Course

Timing officials should operate a reliable backup timing method alongside electronic timing. If electronic timing fails, the judge may use an adequate backup record. If no reliable time can be

established, the judge may order a replacement run solely to remedy timing failure and must explain the decision and conditions consistently to affected competitors. This technical failure procedure does not authorise a fresh run after an official safety stoppage: Rule 9.3 requires continuation from the stopping point.

Any necessary course or event-format change must be explained before affected competitors start. Officials must identify which results remain comparable and which run counts for league points. A competitor must not alter gates or markers or assume an unofficial suggested route is authorised. Report a suspected course or timing issue before it causes further risk.

### 9.4 Driving the Course:

Courses must be driven in numerical order (each gate or obstacle is numbered). You must go through each set of cones in the correct direction (indicated by red and white markers: red on your right). For multiple obstacles labelled A, B, C etc., you navigate them in alphabetical order unless it's an "open" multiple where you can choose route but still must pass all parts. If you go o -course, the clock keeps running while you correct yourself.

Some specifics:

If you knock a ball off a cone or any part of an obstacle, penalties are incurred (5 seconds per ball/gate).

If you completely miss or skip an obstacle or take it in wrong order, that is an elimination.

If you overshoot or circle within an obstacle (say in a multiple, you overshoot B and need to come back), you are allowed to correct as long as you eventually drive them all in order. Just be mindful of not crossing your path in a way that confuses order (the course designer will clarify any rule for a specific tricky obstacle). Once an element has been completed correctly, it can be used again as a route through the obstacle. So, something like A B C A D E is perfectly fine. It's only going out of sequence that constitutes an error, such as A B D C D E, which would incur elimination.

### 9.5 Penalties Summary:

(Typical, for reference – the exact penalties should be posted at the event) Knocking down a single cone ball or element: 5 seconds added.

Knocking down any element of a multiple obstacle (each part): 5 seconds added each.

Groom(s) or driver dismounting (getting off the carriage) each time: usually 10 seconds added per incident. They're allowed to get o twice (with penalties); a third dismount is elimination.

Groom holding reins or using brake: Elimination (outside emergency).

Missing an obstacle entirely or going wildly o course: Elimination.

Turnover or driver falls out: Elimination (also if a pony falls).

Other specific instances like starting without a whip, not wearing helmet, etc., are Elimination as per safety rules.

The rule for Very Small Ponies (VSP): If the course is very long, the judges may give them a handicap advantage of a few seconds of their time to make it fair. If this is done, it's announced beforehand (e.g., "VSP get 5 seconds o final time"). A VSP is defined as 10.2hh and under.

### 9.6 Parade and Presentation:

Many events will have a parade of competitors before the competition or a formal presentation after the class. Typically, the top 6 turnouts might be asked to parade in the arena at the start (or end) of the event. If you are in the first six of the running order, be prepared to participate in such a parade unless you have opted out (with permission). At the end of the competition, usually the top six placings and possibly the best junior and best turnout will be called into the arena for awards. Drivers should come dressed in jacket/hat (if not already wearing) for prize-giving. Failure to appear for prize-giving without good reason can result in forfeiture of prizes. If a competitor has to leave early, inform organisers so they can arrange someone to pick up rosette/prize on your behalf. Presentations are an important part of show etiquette (see Section 3).

### 9.7 Limited Entry Shows:

Some shows may have a cap on the number of turnouts accepted, due to time constraints or space. These limited entry shows will be indicated on the calendar or schedule (e.g., "limited to 20 turnouts" or "no novice class at X show"). Entries might be taken on a first-come, first-served basis or via invitation. If you really want to attend a limited entry show, get your entry in early. Additionally, some high-profile events might require that competitors have achieved a certain level (e.g., "no complete beginners at the Royal Show demonstration" for safety/image reasons) – these will also be noted in advance. BSTD tries to include everyone, but occasionally an event's nature calls for an experienced field.

### 9.8 Elite Shows:

On the calendar, a few might be marked as "Elite" or championship events. These might allow each competitor a maximum of two turnouts only (even if you have three ponies, you can only bring two, for instance), to keep numbers manageable and competition fierce. "Elite" could also refer to special showcases or finals where qualification is required. All such details will be given in event announcements.

### 9.9 League Finals/Championship:

If BSTD runs a league final or end-of-season championship, qualification criteria will be announced (often, you must have competed in X number of events and be among top Y in points, etc.). Those events might have unique rules which will be in their own schedule. Generally, the same rulebook applies, but any differences (like a different course format or additional cone sections) would be described in the event rules for that final.

### 9.10 Non-Competitive Demonstrations:

Occasionally BSTD drivers put on demonstrations or fun exhibitions. In those cases, the format might be adjusted for entertainment (side-by-side racing, relay races, etc.). Normal rules still apply for safety. Some demo events do not count for points and might allow non-registered guest drivers. Always check which events are competitive vs. demo. Demo events will still enforce safety rules but may be more relaxed on certain competition rules. Always read the event's Official Schedule in case of any additional rules or modifications. When in doubt, ask an organiser or official – they are there to help. Good luck and enjoy the thrill of scurry and trials driving!

## 10. Disciplinary Measures and Appeals

### 10.1 Code of Conduct Enforcement:

By participating in BSTD, all competitors, grooms, and their associates agree to uphold the rules and standards of behaviour outlined in this Rulebook. If a participant violates these rules or behaves in a manner that is detrimental to the sport or the safety/enjoyment of others, the BSTD

organisers and officials have authority to take disciplinary action. Misconduct can include, but is not limited to dangerous driving, abuse of animals, unsportsmanlike or abusive language, cheating or rule violations, bringing the BSTD into disrepute through actions or public statements, harassment of officials or other competitors, or repeated minor infractions. Each case will be evaluated based on severity and context.

### 10.2 On-the-Spot Penalties:

Certain infractions during a competition carry immediate penalties as described (for example, elimination for missing a helmet or for a groom touching reins). Judges and stewards may also issue verbal warnings on the spot for minor rule breaches (e.g., instructing a driver to adjust unsafe harness or warning someone for shouting profanity). Competitors are expected to heed any warning or instruction immediately. Failure to correct an issue or repeat offenses at the same event can escalate to elimination or disqualification from the show.

### 10.3 Yellow Card Warning System:

A Yellow Card is a recorded written warning identifying the conduct, date, event and rule concerned. The official must notify the person and refer the record to the Committee. The Committee may decide whether the incident also justifies loss of event points or exclusion from the next show, giving written reasons and the right of appeal under Rule 10.9. Before a final additional sanction, the person must have a reasonable opportunity to respond.

A second Yellow Card in the same season is treated as a Red Card and referred immediately under Rule 10.4. Both incidents and their notification must be documented. A card must not be issued merely for reasonable criticism, a good-faith safety report or a request to correct an objective result error.

### 10.4 Serious Misconduct – Red Card:

A Red Card may be issued immediately for serious misconduct, or follows a second Yellow Card in the same season. It prevents further participation at that event; an official may require the person to leave where necessary for safety or serious misconduct. Departure must be managed safely, including arrangements for equines and any junior.

The Red Card carries suspension for the remainder of the season, subject to prompt Committee review, the opportunity to respond and the appeal procedure in Rule 10.9. The Committee must record the evidence, reasons, effective period and any decision on points or awards and communicate these in writing. Immediate protective action is distinct from a final finding. An appeal does not automatically suspend the sanction, but the appeal panel may permit participation pending its decision where safe and appropriate. The specific Committee-vote requirement for failure-to-stop event disqualification in Rule 9.3 still applies.

### 10.5 Process for Suspension:

If a competitor is to be banned from future events (other than just being eliminated on the day), the BSTD Steering Committee will convene (either in person or via correspondence) as soon as possible after the incident. The competitor will be informed in writing (email or letter) of the disciplinary decision, the reason, and the length of the suspension. They will also be informed of their right to appeal (if applicable, see item 10 below). Suspended individuals will be removed from starting lists and not allowed to enter events until the suspension period is over. BSTD may also decide to strip any awards or league points associated with the event where the misconduct occurred.

### 10.6 Misconduct by Associates:

A groom, helper, owner or family member is responsible for their own conduct. A driver may also face action where they encouraged or took part in misconduct, or knowingly allowed it to continue

when reasonably able to intervene. A person is not automatically sanctioned solely because of a family or team connection. Officials retain the power to stop a turnout or remove a person from an area where necessary to address an immediate safety risk.

### 10.7 Animal Welfare Violations:

Any findings of abuse or cruelty (excessive whipping, beating, intentional harm to a pony) will result in immediate elimination and removal from the showground, and likely a lengthy suspension or permanent expulsion from BSTD, depending on severity. Additionally, BSTD may report such incidents to the British Horse Society (BHS) or appropriate animal welfare authorities. Our sport's image and the welfare of our animals are paramount. Similarly, if a competitor is found to have used prohibited substances (doping) on their pony, disciplinary action will be taken. (While BSTD is not under FEI or British Equestrian doping rules formally, we uphold the principle of fair play and horse welfare – any suspicion of drug misuse may lead to referral to higher bodies for investigation.)

### 10.7A Evidence and Fair Disciplinary Decisions

Any affected person may report misconduct to an event official or the Committee. Record relevant facts, witness evidence, the rule alleged to have been breached and urgent action taken. Before a final Committee sanction, explain the allegation and proposed action in writing and give a reasonable opportunity to respond. A temporary restriction necessary for safety or welfare may take effect immediately but must be explained, reviewed promptly and kept no wider than reasonably necessary.

Committee decisions on discretionary progression, exceptional refunds or prize-money eligibility, and failure-to-stop event disqualification follow the vote requirements in the relevant rule. The majority decides and the Chairman has a casting vote only if votes are tied. Record the decision, reasons and effective date; do not replace the stated process with an unofficial individual promise. The independent appeal provisions in Rule 10.9 remain available for disciplinary sanctions.

### 10.8 Appeals Procedure (Competition Results):

In general, judges' decisions are final in BSTD competitions. This means you cannot appeal a time penalty or an elimination for course error beyond perhaps politely asking for clarification. There is no formal protest committee on the day; given the fast-paced nature of our events, disputes over a knocked cone or a time recorded are not entertained – the judge/timekeeper's ruling stands. Competitors should accept their scores with good grace. If there's an obvious scoring mistake (e.g., math error in adding penalties), you can bring it up to the secretary for correction, but judgment calls (like "did I dislodge that ball or not") are not appealable. We do not require deposits for objections because we do not encourage objections in this grassroots sport setting.

### 10.9 Appeals Procedure (Disciplinary Actions):

If a competitor is subject to a disciplinary action more severe than a one-event elimination (for example, a suspension from future events or a ban), they have the right to an appeal hearing. To initiate an appeal, the competitor must write to the BSTD Committee (contact the Secretary or Chair) within 14 days of receiving the disciplinary notice, stating clearly the grounds for appeal. A panel of at least three committee members who were not directly involved in the initial incident will review the case. They may ask for statements from the competitor, witnesses, and officials. The appeal could be handled via a meeting (in person or virtual) or through written statements. During this process, the competitor may be provisionally suspended (if safety is a concern) or allowed to compete pending outcome, at BSTD's discretion. The appeal panel will then make a decision to uphold, overturn, or modify the original disciplinary action. The outcome will be communicated in writing. The panel's decision on appeal is final. There is no further tribunal beyond the BSTD for these matters (except legal avenues if applicable, but we aim to resolve internally).

### 10.10 Reinstatement and Probation:

A competitor who has served a suspension and is returning will often do so under a "probationary" period. For example, if you were banned for 6 months for misconduct, upon returning you might be informed that any little breach will result in immediate expulsion. This isn't a formal rule so much as common sense – BSTD will be watching closely to ensure the previous issues are not repeated. Competitors are encouraged to come back with a clean slate and demonstrate improved behaviour or attitude. The committee reserves the right to refuse a membership renewal or entry from anyone whose presence is deemed continuously problematic (though we hope never to have to permanently expel anyone, except in the most severe circumstances).

### 10.11 External Actions:

If a very serious incident occurs (for example, physical violence or significant property damage or any criminal activity), it may be outside the scope of BSTD's internal discipline alone. The organisers may involve law enforcement or pursue legal action if needed. This is extremely rare, but participants should be aware that being at a sporting event does not exempt one from obeying the law.

### 10.12 Record-Keeping:

BSTD will maintain records of all disciplinary actions, warnings, and suspensions. These are for internal use to track patterns and ensure consistency. They are not typically publicized (except possibly a general notice of suspension if people need to know, e.g., "Driver X is suspended for the rest of season for misconduct" might be quietly communicated to event organisers). We do not post a public naughty list, as we prefer issues to be handled privately and professionally. However, BSTD may share relevant disciplinary information with other driving organizations (for example, other carriage driving groups) if it's in the interest of safety across the sport.

To sum up, we rarely have disciplinary problems in BSTD – it's a fun, family-friendly sport. These measures exist just in case. The best course of action for competitors is to abide by the rules, treat everyone with respect, and address any issues calmly through the proper channels (talk to the show organiser or a committee member) rather than letting problems escalate. That way, we can all focus on the excitement of the competition.

(Remember: The judge's decision in the competition arena is final. For conduct issues, the committee's decision will be final after any appeal. Let's keep the need for such processes to an absolute minimum by being model competitors.)

# 11. Competitor Declaration Form

All competitors must complete and sign the Competitor Declaration Form as part of their annual registration with BSTD. This form is essentially an agreement that you have read, understood, and will abide by the BSTD Rulebook, and it serves as an important waiver and accountability document. A signed copy of the declaration (usually the last page of the Rulebook) must be submitted along with your registration form and proof of insurance before you are allowed to compete.

The declaration form includes wording such as:

"I have read and understood the British Scurry & Trials Driving Rule Book and will adhere to its rules."

Below this statement are spaces for the competitor to sign and date, as well as print their name clearly. If two drivers in one household share a registration (for example, Family membership or multiple drivers under one insurance), there is usually space for a second driver to also sign. Each such person should sign separately.

### 11.1 Key points about the Competitor Declaration:

By signing, you confirm that you will follow the BSTD rules and officials' lawful safety instructions. You acknowledge the inherent risks described in Section 12 and agree to take reasonable precautions. Signing does not waive any right or exclude any liability that cannot lawfully be waived or excluded.

### 11.1A Individual Declarations and Emergency Details

Every competing driver must sign and date their own declaration, even where insurance or payment arrangements are shared. A parent or guardian must provide the required permission for an under-18 driver, with the junior signing where able. Supply an up-to-date emergency contact and notify BSTD of changes before the next event. First-event fee exemption does not remove any document requirement. Material rule changes must be notified with their effective date and may require renewed acknowledgement before competing.

### 11.2 Public Liability Insurance confirmation:

On the declaration or accompanying paperwork, you confirm that you have appropriate insurance (as per Section 4). Often you will need to list the insurer and policy number and declare that it's valid for the season. (The form or registration form usually has a checkbox or line for this.)

### 11.3 Parental/Guardian consent:

For competitors under 18, a parent or legal guardian must co-sign the declaration. Typically, the parent/guardian will sign on the same form, either in the second signature space or in a special section that says something like "I, as parent/guardian of the above junior, consent to their participation and agree to abide by the rules…". Juniors cannot sign alone – their guardian's signature is required by UK law for consent and liability purposes.

### 11.4 Media and Medical consent for Minors:

Parents or guardians of junior competitors (under 18) must sign an additional consent form permitting:

- Use of photography for promotional use
- Emergency medical treatment if parent/guardian is unavailable This consent form

should accompany annual registration.

### 11.5 Second Householder/Carriage Driver:

As mentioned, if relevant, the form has space for a second driver in the same household to sign. This is common when, for example, a married couple both drive, or a parent and child both will drive under one membership. Each driver who will actually take the reins in BSTD events must sign the declaration (even if they share one membership number).

### 11.6 Signing

Signing records acceptance of the competition rules, not blanket consent to every use of personal data or optional publicity. Rule 11.9 explains administrative use and the separate promotional-media choice. Submit the signed and dated declaration, print your full name clearly and retain a copy. Each driver must sign individually; provide a handwritten or properly executed electronic signature.

### 11.7 Declaration Page

The signed declaration confirms acceptance of this Rulebook, including the responsibilities and legally limited indemnity in Section 12. Keep a copy. If BSTD issues a rule addendum, competitors must read it and provide any acknowledgement requested before competing under the revised rules. The first-event fee exemption does not dispense with the declaration.

### 11.8 Copies:

Always keep a copy of what you signed (the Rulebook and your forms), so you can refer back. The form is for your protection as well: it ensures everyone competing has formally accepted the same conditions.

In summary, signing the Competitor Declaration Form is a mandatory prerequisite to competing – it's your pledge to follow the rules and a legal formality rolled into one. Get it done early, and we'll see you out on the course!

### 11.9 Privacy and Promotional Media

British Scurry and Trials Driving Ltd uses registration, entry, insurance, declaration, emergency-contact, results and incident information to administer participation, assess eligibility, operate events safely, maintain competition records and deal with complaints or claims. Information is shared only where reasonably necessary with authorised officials, event hosts, emergency or veterinary services, insurers, professional advisers or authorities, or where law requires. Results may identify the driver, turnout, class and placing.

Administrative processing is not based on a blanket promotional-media consent. Promotional use of identifiable images must have a separate recorded choice, with parent or guardian permission for a junior. Refusing optional publicity does not itself affect competition eligibility. Tell BSTD about a change of choice; this does not undo lawful earlier processing, and images taken by independent third parties are subject to their own responsibilities.

Entry and membership administration uses information needed to perform the participation agreement. Competition records, eligibility checks and proportionate complaint handling serve BSTD's legitimate interests in running a safe and fair sport, subject to individuals' rights. Optional promotional media uses consent; urgent life-protecting disclosures may rely on vital interests. Legal obligations apply where a specific law requires processing. Any health or other special-category information requires an additional lawful condition, identified before collection or use; collect only what is necessary.

You may request access, correction, erasure, restriction or portability where the relevant legal conditions apply. You may object to processing based on legitimate interests, and may withdraw consent for optional publicity at any time. Contact the general-enquiries address to exercise these

rights or complain. Refusal to provide information essential to insurance, safety or entry eligibility may prevent participation; refusal of optional publicity does not.

BSTD must retain records only for as long as reasonably needed for their purpose, relevant insurance and claims requirements and legal obligations, reviewing them and securely deleting or anonymising them when no longer required. Access must be limited to those with a relevant role. Requests about personal information, corrections, applicable data rights or promotional choices may be sent to scurryandtrialsdriving@outlook.com. Individuals may complain to the Information Commissioner's Office. Rights and any permitted exemptions are governed by applicable data-protection law.

## 12. Legal Waivers and Indemnity Clauses

Participation is subject to the responsibilities below. These provisions identify inherent risks and allocate responsibility only to the extent permitted by law. They do not remove BSTD's, a venue's or any other person's legal duties, and do not guarantee that an insurance policy will respond to a particular claim.

### 12.1 Assumption of Risk:

Carriage driving carries inherent risks, including falls, loss of control, collisions, injury to people or equines and damage to property. Participants must understand these risks, use suitable equipment and exercise reasonable care. Acknowledgement of inherent risks is not acceptance of negligent conduct by an organiser or any other person and does not remove their legal duties.

### 12.2 Release of Liability:

Nothing in this Rulebook, an entry condition, a declaration or any notice excludes or limits liability for death or personal injury caused by negligence, fraud or fraudulent misrepresentation, or any other liability that cannot lawfully be excluded or limited. Participants retain their statutory rights. Any other exclusion or limitation applies only to the extent lawful, fair and reasonable in the circumstances; signing a declaration does not by itself prevent a claim.

### 12.3 Third-Party Liability and Indemnity:

To the extent permitted by law, a competitor is responsible for losses caused by their negligence, breach of these rules or other wrongful acts, including acts for which they are legally responsible. Any indemnity to BSTD, officials, volunteers, venues or sponsors is limited to reasonable, evidenced third-party losses and costs directly attributable to that responsibility. It does not cover loss caused by the indemnified party's own negligence, breach of duty or wrongful acts, or impose liability beyond what is lawful, fair and reasonable. Insurance is required under Section 4 but payment of a claim depends on the policy terms and circumstances.

### 12.4 Property and Theft:

Participants should secure vehicles, tack and personal property and report theft or damage promptly. Organisers do not undertake to insure participants' property. Responsibility for any loss remains subject to applicable law and Rule 12.2; this rule does not exclude liability that cannot lawfully be excluded.

### 12.5 Fitness to Compete:

By entering, you declare that both you and your horse/pony are fit to compete. This has legal implications: if you hide a known serious issue (like your horse has a contagious disease or you have a condition that could cause an accident), and then something happens, the liability could shift to you for being negligent in entering. So, you are effectively warranting that your equine is in good health and properly prepared, and that you are capable of safely controlling it. The organisers often

have the right (and duty) to prevent you from competing if you are deemed unfit or unsafe (see Health & Safety rules), which ties in – you agreed to that by signing the rules.

### 12.6 Medical Treatment Consent:

In many event waivers, competitors agree that in the event of an injury, the organisers may facilitate emergency medical treatment (and similarly vets for horses) and that you consent to that. While not explicitly stated in our rulebook text, it is generally understood. You should ensure that emergency contacts are provided in your entry form and any medical conditions noted so that first responders know. You also likely agree to bear the cost of any such treatment (e.g., if an ambulance is called, hopefully insurance covers it).

### 12.7 Image Release:

Optional promotional use of an identifiable participant's image is governed by the separate choice and privacy provisions in Rules 2.3 and 11.9. Entry alone is not blanket consent to promotional use.

### 12.8 Event Cancellation:

BSTD may cancel or postpone an event where safety, weather, disease, venue availability or other circumstances make this necessary. Notify entrants as soon as reasonably practicable. If BSTD cancels before competition starts, entry fees are refunded in full. A postponement, partial cancellation or interruption after competition starts must be explained to affected entrants together with the applicable refund or transfer arrangements, subject to statutory rights. Competitor-withdrawal bands in Rule 8.10 do not determine refunds when BSTD cancels. Responsibility for other losses is governed by applicable law and Rule 12.2.

Read the event schedule for the applicable cancellation or postponement arrangements.

### 12.9 Agreement to Rules:

By entering, participants agree to comply with this Rulebook and officials' competition and safety decisions, subject to the correction and appeal procedures in Section 10 and any rights available under applicable law. BSTD may interpret competition rules consistently and in good faith; this does not override statutory rights or the jurisdiction of a court.

### 12.10 Jurisdiction:

Nothing in this Rulebook removes any statutory rights or determines legal liability contrary to applicable law. References to decisions being final concern internal sporting procedures only and do not prevent a person from using legal remedies available to them. Liability for negligence is governed by applicable law, including the Consumer Rights Act 2015 and the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 where relevant; it is not limited only to cases of gross negligence.

### 12.11 Summary of Participant Responsibilities

- Acknowledge the inherent risks of carriage driving and take reasonable precautions for yourself, your turnout and others.
- Remain responsible, to the extent provided by law, for loss or damage caused by your negligence or other wrongful acts.
- Maintain the required insurance, submit the required declarations and follow competition, welfare and safety rules.

BSTD and other organisers remain responsible for their own legal duties. No declaration or indemnity excludes liability that cannot lawfully be excluded.

The declaration records acceptance of these rules and responsibilities. It does not make an otherwise unlawful or unfair term enforceable. Ensure that the signed declaration and insurance evidence have been submitted before competing, including when using the first-event membership-fee exemption.

Thank you for reading these terms carefully and riding/driving with a full awareness of the risks and responsibilities.

# Competitor Declaration Form

British Scurry and Trials Driving – Annual Competitor Declaration

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth (if under 18): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact Name & Phone: _____

Insurance Provider & Policy Number: _____

Name(s) of Pony(s): _____

Classes Entered: _____

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that:

- I have read and understood the BSTD Rulebook in full.
- I agree to abide by all rules and guidelines, including but not limited to:

Health and Safety standards

Equipment and harness regulations

Conduct and etiquette policies

Insurance requirements

Animal welfare and anti-doping provisions

- I acknowledge the inherent risks of carriage driving and agree to take reasonable precautions for my safety, my turnout and others. I understand that this declaration does not exclude or limit any liability or legal right that cannot lawfully be excluded or limited.
- I confirm that my insurance meets BSTD requirements and is valid for the current competition season.
- Optional promotional media choice: ☐ I consent to BSTD using identifiable photographs or video of me for promotional purposes. ☐ I do not consent. For an under-18 participant the parent or guardian must complete the media choice.

Signature of Competitor: _____

Date: _____

(If under 18)

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

# Media & Medical Consent for Minors Form

British Scurry and Trials Driving – Media & Medical Consent for Minors

This form must be completed and signed by the parent or legal guardian of any competitor under 18 years of age.

Junior Competitor's Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Relationship to Competitor: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____ Media Consent:

I hereby give permission for British Scurry and Trials Driving (BSTD) to:

- Photograph or film my child during BSTD events
- Use such images/videos for promotional, educational, or reporting purposes (e.g., websites, newsletters, social media, printed material) I

understand that:

- Names may be published alongside images
- I can request removal of an image if necessary

☐ I consent to media use as outlined above.

☐ I do NOT consent to any use of my child's image.

Emergency Medical Consent:

In the event of an accident or illness, I authorize BSTD event organisers and first aid responders to:

- Administer first aid to my child
- Seek medical treatment as deemed necessary if I am not immediately available
- Share relevant information with emergency personnel ☐ I consent to emergency medical

treatment as outlined.

☐ I do NOT consent to emergency medical treatment (note: this may limit participation). Signature of

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Emergency Contact (if different from above): _____ Phone: _____