

British Scurry and Trials Driving Official Rulebook (BSTD)

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.

1.3 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:

Neither the BSTD organisers, show hosts, landowners, sponsors, nor any of their employees or representatives accept liability for any loss, damage, or injury suffered by horses, competitors, grooms, spectators, or any other person or property, however caused, while at a BSTD event. All those attending do so at their own risk and are presumed to acknowledge this disclaimer as a condition of entry.

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

2. Social Media Policies

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:

Expect to be photographed or filmed during competitions. BSTD or its partners may publish suitable photos or videos from events (for example, on the BSTD website, social media, or newsletters) along with competitor names for promotional or reporting purposes. By entering a BSTD event, you generally consent to such photography and media usage. However, if any competitor (or parent of a junior) does not wish for their image to be published, they must inform the event secretary in writing before the start of the event, and reasonable efforts will be made to exclude or remove those images. BSTD will honour requests to take down posted media if a participant contacts us with a valid concern.

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.

2.7 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:

Follow the show timetable and announcements closely. It is the competitor's responsibility to be on time for course walks, harness checks, running orders, and prize-giving ceremonies. Pay attention to any posted order-of-go or gate times; if you anticipate a conflict or delay, notify the secretary or ring steward as early as possible. Unreasonable delay of the competition could result in elimination. Only the organisers or judge may alter the running order in special circumstances. In presentations or parades of competitors, please appear promptly and in proper attire (jackets on, if required) as a courtesy to the organisers and spectators.

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).

3.5 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.

3.9 Etiquette in Competition:

During your competition round, adhere to any arena protocols. Wait for the bell or starter's signal before beginning your round and enter the arena at a sensible pace. If you have a problem on course (e.g., carriage issue or you need to retire), inform the officials and exit promptly and safely – do not just wander out without notice. At the start, acknowledge the timekeeper or judge with a nod or salute if possible. If there is a breakage or accident, the officials may ring the bell and stop the round; in such case, halt as soon as safe to do so. 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:

As part of the annual registration process, competitors are required to submit a copy of their current public liability insurance certificate or policy schedule, specifically showing coverage for competitive carriage driving in arena timed events. Additionally, competitors must sign the last page of the Rulebook (see Section 8) to acknowledge these rules, and send it in with their registration form and fee. New registrations will not be approved (and new drivers will not be allowed to compete) until proof of proper insurance is on file with the BSTD administration.

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 affiliated or unaffiliated equestrian events. Many equestrian insurance providers or membership organisations offer 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.

Specifically: British Horse Society (BHS) Gold membership insurance no longer covers carriage driving in timed events under BSTD or similar competitions.

British Driving Society (BDS) membership insurance also does not cover timed arena trials or scurry events. Only Full membership of British Carriagedriving (BC) currently extends to cover timed competitions – if you are a full BC member, contact BC to confirm that scurry/trials events are

(Note: Associate or Club level memberships of BC do not include such insurance cover.)

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:

As part of entering a BSTD event, you agree to indemnify the organisers and property owners (see Section 9) against claims arising from your participation. This essentially means that if you or your animal cause an injury or damage that someone tries to claim from the organiser, your insurance should handle it, not the organiser's. Competitors are fully responsible for any harm caused by themselves, their grooms, or their equines to third parties. Keeping your insurance valid and informing your insurer of your activities is crucial.

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 officer 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 off 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, however this will still result in elimination) 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 Numbers and Identification *(Not in Affect During 2025):*

Competitors will be assigned a competition number at each event. This number must be displayed on the turnout (usually on the harness pad or attached to the carriage) during competition. Ensure you have a number holder or a means to affix the provided number so that judges and timekeepers can easily identify you.

5.2.5 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.

5.2.6 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 throatlash (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.

5.2.7 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 biting or noseband setup, ask a steward or committee member.

5.2.8 Breeching and Brakes:

Breeching is compulsory for single turnouts or any carriage without brakes. 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.)

5.2.9 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.

5.2.10 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.

5.2.11 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.

5.2.12 Harness Extras:

Carrying a spare rein is optional but some drivers tuck one in case of breakage. Likewise, a tiny break-down 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 (16 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, rubber band stirrups, 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 effort 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 effort!

6.2 Numbers and Club Logos:

It is permitted to display the BSTD logo, your club logo, or sponsors on your vehicle or clothing, as long as it's done tastefully. However, any signage or decoration on the turnout must not pose a hazard (secure it well). Make sure your competition number is still clearly visible and not obscured by any decoration or advertisement. ([Numbers are not in use during the 2025 season](#))

6.3 On-Course Modifications:

Once you start your round, you cannot alter your turnout (for example, removing a wrapping from the whip or adjusting harness) except if something has become dangerous and you stop to fix it (which incurs penalties/time). Ensure all adjustments are made prior to entering. If something falls off (an adornment), ignore it and continue unless it presents a danger on course.

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.

6.5 Pre-Event Safety Inspection:

It is necessary (especially for new competitors) to undergo a safety inspection of your turnout by an experienced driver or BSTD official before your first competition. The BSTD often provides a mentor for new drivers who can also help go over your harness fit and carriage condition to ensure you meet all these specs and to give you peace of mind. By adhering to these equipment rules, we greatly reduce the risk of accidents and ensure a level playing field. A safe turnout is the foundation of a fast round!

7. Entry, Classes, and League Structure

7.1 Season Registration:

The BSTD competition season runs from 1st January to 31st December of each year. All drivers who wish to compete must complete an annual Registration with BSTD. The registration form is available on the BSTD website (or by request via email/post) and includes providing your contact details, agreeing to the rules, and paying the registration fee. Registration fees are set each year by the BSTD committee (with possible early-bird discounts for registering before January 1st). There are typically two categories of registration:

A Full Driver Registration for those who will compete with a turnout. A Supporter (Non-Driver) Registration for individuals who want to support or groom but not drive that season (often at a reduced fee).

Every competitor in a BSTD event must be a registered member in one of these categories (or a day member if offered). Registration helps cover administrative costs and ensures we have your details and insurance confirmation.

7.2 New Competitors (Novices):

BSTD welcomes new drivers, but for safety, all new drivers will undergo an assessment at their first BSTD event. When you register as a new driver, you should indicate your driving experience. At your first competition, a BSTD steering committee member or designated experienced driver will assess your ability and the safety of your turnout before you compete. There may be a fee of £20 for this initial assessment, payable directly to the assessor on the day. This is essentially a brief safety check and coaching session. The assessor will evaluate your control of the ponies, correctness of harnessing, and general readiness. They (or another experienced BSTD driver) will then mentor you throughout your first event – this may even include having an Open-level driver ride as your groom/backstepper in your first round. Grooms of new drivers will also be observed to ensure they know their role. This mentoring system is in place to help novice competitors learn the ropes safely and confidently.

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-year-olds). 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 classes:

The BSTD is primarily a pony sport (with a max height for pony classes at 14.2 hands without shoes). Horses (over 14.2 h) are allowed at many events and may have a separate class if entries warrant

The general breakdown of sizes:

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).

When entering, you must declare the height of your pony(s). The height of the tallest pony in a pair/team determines whether you fall into small or large category. An individual pony may not compete in two different height categories at the same show (for example, you cannot enter the same pony in both a small pony pair class and a large pony pair class at one show, even if paired with different mates).

7.7 Vaccinations:

It is strongly recommended (and some venues may require) 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.

7.8 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 affect 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 affected. 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:

BSTD events can offer a variety of classes depending on the venue and entries. Typical classes available include: Singles, Pairs, Teams (four-in-hand), Shetland (type) Pony classes, Miniature Ponies, Young Juniors, Juniors, and possibly Horse classes. The exact class list will be published in the show schedule. Smaller ponies (Shetlands, miniatures) may compete in separate height-restricted classes or within broader classes with a handicap system. For example: There might be a class for Very Small Ponies (VSP) – usually singles or pairs under 10.2hh often run within an open session but awarded separately.

Small Pony Pairs (SPP) and Large Pony Pairs (LPP) might be split if enough entries, otherwise combined.

Single Ponies (SP) – often all singles compete together but prizes may be separated by pony size if numbers allow.

Horse class (H) – if horses (over 14.2hh) are allowed, they might run as their own class or within singles/pairs with a handicap.

Junior class – sometimes juniors are grouped together regardless of pony size, or sometimes a junior driving a pair competes in Pairs but also is eligible for a junior award.

Teams/Tandems – If any four-in-hand (team of 4 ponies) or tandems (2 in line) compete, they may either have their own class or be grouped with pairs for competition, depending on entry count.

8.2 Class Combination and Splits:

The organisers reserve the right to amalgamate or split classes depending on entries. For instance, if there are only a few entries, classes might be combined (e.g., Very Small Pony class might be combined with Open Single) . Conversely, if a lot of entries, they might split (e.g., separate out horses, or separate junior drivers).

A guideline mentioned: if there are 10 or fewer total entries across two planned classes, they may be run as one combined class. The goal is to provide fair competition and sufficient competition in each class. Any such changes will be communicated before the event or at the start of the day.

8.3 Sessions (Open vs. Grand League):

Many BSTD competitions, particularly one-day events, are run in sessions. Often there are two rounds (two “sessions”) of competition for each turnout. Sometimes these are both “open” (everyone competes twice for fastest times), or one might be designated as a Grand League (GL) points round and the other as a prize money round.

Typically:

At one-day shows, there may be two “Open” sessions; however, if numbers allow, one of those sessions might be set aside or separately scored for certain classes (e.g., a VSP class might be only in Session 1) to give the little ponies equal footing.

At two-day shows, often there is two rounds each day, with one day having the class session and the other day having the championship session. All shows except special demos carry Grand League points (see League below), but some demonstration or non-standard format events might not award GL points and will be noted as such.

The phrase “the first run time counts” is often used: meaning if two rounds are run, a turnout’s placing for points might be based on the first run only. In BSTD, generally each turnout’s first completed run is the one that counts for class placing and league points, and the second run might be for additional awards or just for fun. This prevents someone from “having two chances” to beat others who have one turnout. (If you have two different turnouts, each gets its own first run of course.)

8.4 Grand League Points:

The BSTD operates a season-long points championship called the Grand League (GL). Every regular BSTD competition (unless specified as non-league) will award points to competitors based on their placings, which accrue over the season. All shows will have Grand League points up for grabs, except demos or invitationals that are declared non-points. The exact scoring system for GL points is determined by BSTD (often it might be 6 points for 1st, 5 for 2nd, 4 for 3rd, etc., or some similar structure). These points are typically awarded per class. At the end of the season, awards are given to the top point-earners in various divisions (for example, Overall Champion, Junior Champion, etc.). Note: If a competitor is banned or disqualified for a rule violation, they may forfeit any points from that event or have points deducted as a disciplinary measure.

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 often runs additional awards:

Veteran Pony League: Ponies aged 20 years (starting from 2026, 15 years in 2025) or over can accumulate points throughout the season toward a “Best Veteran Pony” trophy. Essentially, whatever points they earn in regular competition are also tallied in a Veteran category. At the end of the year, the veteran pony with the most points wins (for example, the Foxy Lady Best Veteran trophy, as sponsored by supporters). This encourages folks to keep their older ponies active in the sport. (Ponies must be declared as veteran on registration/entry to be counted.)

Rescue Pony Award: In some seasons, a special award is offered for ponies that have come from recognized rescue charities. To qualify, the pony must have been adopted or rehomed through a registered charity (proof may be required). Not every season includes this award, but if it is running, points are tracked similarly or nominees are considered, and an award given to the high-achieving rescue pony at the end of the year.

Other awards can include things like Most Improved Driver, Sportsmanship Award etc., decided by the committee or voting. These are not point-based but given in the spirit of recognition.

8.7 Entry Process for Shows:

To compete in a particular show, a registered driver must submit an entry form and pay the entry fee for that turnout/class. Entry forms are typically available on the BSTD website or via the event schedule. You may enter by:

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 (scurryandtrialsdriving@outlook.com)

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

Post: You can post completed entry forms (and a cheque if not paying online) to the address given (e.g., the BSTD entry secretary's postal address)

Cheques must be payable to “British Scurry & Trials Driving” (not just BSTD).

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

Entries generally close 3 weeks before the show date for most events. This allows time to plan classes and logistics. Late entries might be accepted at the discretion of organisers (often with a late fee) but don't rely on it – many shows fill up.

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:

If you must withdraw your entry, inform the organisers as soon as possible. As a general rule, entry fees are not refunded for withdrawals, especially if close to the event, except in cases of genuine veterinary or medical issues. BSTD's policy: no refunds or deferrals of entries will be given if a competitor cannot attend, except if you provide proof (like a vet certificate for a lame pony). Even then, refunds are at the organisers' discretion (some shows might refund part of the fee or carry it to another event). Once entries close and the schedule is set, you should assume you won't get a refund for no-show. In the rare event that BSTD itself cancels a show (weather, etc.), usually fees are refunded or rolled over minus a small admin fee.

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 Timing and Signals:

Each driver starts on the judge’s signal (usually a bell). If you start before the signal, you may be eliminated or recalled. If the judge’s bell rings during your round (for example, to stop you), you must halt as soon as you safely can – failing to stop if the bell is rung can also result in elimination. Timing starts when you pass through the start gate and stops when you pass through the finish gate – you must go through the start and finish markers, or you’ll be eliminated. Electronic timers are often used via photocells on start/finish; do not knock these or move them – if you do, that’s elimination.

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 off-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 off twice (with penalties); a third dismount is elimination

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

Missing an obstacle entirely or going wildly off 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 off their time to make it fair. If this is done, it's announced beforehand (e.g., "VSP get 5 seconds off 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:

The BSTD operates a “yellow and red card” disciplinary system similar to other sports. A Yellow Card is essentially a formal warning for misconduct. If a competitor’s behaviour is borderline or there’s an incident that the officials find unacceptable (but not warranting immediate ban), a Yellow Card may be issued. This will usually be done by the head judge or a committee member, and it may be followed up with a written warning letter after the show, detailing the concern. The competitor will be asked to acknowledge receipt of this warning. Yellow Cards are recorded by BSTD; accumulating two yellow cards in a season could trigger further action (e.g., suspension).

10.4 Serious Misconduct – Red Card:

A Red Card results from a serious breach or second offense and means the competitor is disqualified and suspended for a period. If, in the opinion of the BSTD organisers or committee, a competitor (or their team/family) commits a grave misconduct– for example, deliberate dangerous riding causing accident, aggressive confrontation with an official, acts of dishonesty like falsifying documents, or any behaviour that brings BSTD into disrepute – the BSTD may ban that competitor from the next competition or for a set number of competitions . In severe cases, the ban can be up to one year in

duration. The length of suspension will reflect the severity and whether there have been prior warnings.

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:

Note that misconduct by a groom, helper, owner, or a competitor's family member can also lead to sanctions against the competitor. For instance, if a competitor's partner gets into a fight with another team or posts something egregious on social media, the competitor cannot claim ignorance – they may face consequences as well because such behaviour “by association” can still tarnish the sport or event. The committee will use judgment – obviously, you're not usually responsible for a random friend's actions, but if it's someone integral to your team, it reflects on you. Keep your crew in line as part of overall conduct.

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.)

10.8 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 affirm that you will follow all BSTD rules and any additional instructions from organisers. It indicates your commitment to safety, fairness, and sportsmanship as outlined in this Rulebook. You also acknowledge the disclaimer of liability (Section 9) – essentially that you compete at your own risk and will not hold organisers liable for inherent risks. In signing, you accept the terms of the waiver (it's important to actually read the waiver text in Section 9 or on the form before signing!).

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:

By signing, you also agree to any personal data usage for the purposes of event administration (e.g., publishing your name in results). This is usually covered in a privacy note, but signing the form implies consent to normal event-related data handling. When sending in your registration at the start of the year, make sure: - You include the signed declaration page (if you forget, your registration is incomplete and will delay your ability to compete). The signature is handwritten (or a properly executed electronic signature if done digitally). Typing your name in an email is generally not sufficient – BSTD needs an actual signed form for their records. – Date the form at the time of signing. - Use your full name clearly. If your signature is stylized (we all scribble!), be sure to also print your name in the space provided so there is no doubt who signed.

11.7 Declaration Page:

The declaration page in the Rulebook is often printed in red text to highlight its importance and the requirement to return it. By signing the declaration, you effectively agree to the rule that “ignorance of the rules is no excuse.” It certifies that you cannot later claim you didn’t know a rule – you have taken responsibility for reading this Rulebook. It also ties in your agreement to the Legal Waiver and Indemnity clauses (Section 9) which protects the organisers. If rules are updated mid-season (which is rare, BSTD usually keeps rules stable through the year), the BSTD may issue an addendum. Competitors might be asked to sign an acknowledgment of the new rule if needed. Otherwise, the yearly declaration covers the whole season.

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!

12. Legal Waivers and Indemnity Clauses

Participation in British Scurry and Trials Driving events is subject to certain legal waivers and indemnities to protect the organisers, landowners, and everyone involved. These clauses are standard in equestrian competitions and ensure that competitors understand and accept the risks. Below are the key points of these legal agreements, which you agree to by signing the Competitor Declaration and by entering an event:

12.1 Assumption of Risk:

Carriage driving is a high-risk activity. By entering a BSTD event, you acknowledge that you are aware of the inherent dangers involved (including potential for serious injury or death to riders, grooms, spectators, or horses, and damage to property). You voluntarily assume all risks associated with your participation. Neither BSTD nor the event hosts can guarantee your safety – ultimately, that responsibility lies with each competitor and horse owner.

12.2 Release of Liability:

You agree that no legal action can be taken against the organisers, officials, sponsors, landowners, or any agents/representatives of BSTD for any loss, damage, or injury that you or your associates might sustain in connection with a BSTD event. This means, for example, if you fall off the carriage and get hurt, you cannot sue the organiser for negligence unless there was a clear breach of their duty (and even then, by signing this waiver you significantly limit the circumstances under which you could claim). In legal terms, you waive any claims for liability against those parties “whether caused by their negligence, breach of contract, or in any other way whatsoever”. This sweeping clause is designed to cover all bases – basically, if something bad happens, you (or your insurance) bear the cost, not the organiser.

12.3 Third-Party Liability and Indemnity:

Every competitor/owner is responsible for any harm or damage caused by themselves, their helpers, or their horses to any third party or property. For instance, if your pony kicks someone’s car and dents it, or your carriage wheel runs over a spectator’s foot, you (and your insurance) are liable for that. Moreover, as a condition of entry, each competitor agrees to indemnify and hold blameless the BSTD organisers, officials, volunteers, venue owners, and sponsors from any claims or costs that arise out of your actions. “Indemnify” means if a third party (like that spectator with a hurt foot) were to claim against the organiser, and it was due to your horse or your negligence, you will reimburse the organiser for any loss or payout. In short, you agree that you won’t let others blame the organiser for what is essentially your fault – and if they do, you’ll cover the organiser’s costs. This is why having your Public Liability insurance is so crucial (it will cover those instances on your behalf).

12.4 Property and Theft:

The organisers also do not accept responsibility for loss or damage to property (your car, your tack, etc.) at the show. Competitors and attendees should take sensible precautions against theft or damage. Lock your vehicles, don't leave valuable equipment unattended. If something is stolen or damaged, you cannot hold the venue or organiser liable (unless perhaps you could prove a specific negligence, which is unlikely). In practice, everyone just needs to be careful – horse events are generally honest communities, but stuff can happen.

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:

Though not a “legal liability” issue in the injury sense, many waiver forms mention that the participant consents to photography and videography and the use of those images by the organisers. As noted in Social Media policies, if you object, you must proactively opt out, otherwise it's assumed you agree. By entering, you usually allow BSTD and media to use your images for publicity without compensation. (This is standard – no one's making money off you, except maybe to promote the sport.)

12.8 Event Cancellation:

Organisers typically reserve the right to cancel or postpone events (for example, due to weather or disease outbreak) without liability. They will usually refund entries minus some admin fee, but by entering you agree you won't hold them liable for any costs you

incurred (like hotel bookings) if an event is cancelled due to circumstances beyond their control.

This is just a heads-up – always read any specific cancellation policy on the schedule.

12.9 Agreement to Rules:

Finally, the waiver usually reiterates that you agree to abide by the competition rules and any decision of the officials. The rulebook itself states BSTD is the sole interpreter of the rules and that by competing you accept those interpretations. There's no wiggle room to later claim you thought different – the organisers' rulings are final.

12.10 Jurisdiction:

Any legal disputes that do arise (despite all these waivers) would be subject to UK law. By competing, you submit to the jurisdiction of the UK courts, likely England and Wales jurisdiction, since BSTD is UK-based. It's important to note that while these waivers are comprehensive, they do not enable organisers to act with gross negligence with impunity. Under UK law (e.g., Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977), liability for death or personal injury caused by negligence can't be completely signed away. In other words, if organisers truly did something egregiously unsafe that caused harm, this waiver might not protect them in court. However, we operate to high safety standards specifically to avoid any such scenario. These clauses mostly protect against accidents that are no one's "fault" or that are inherent risks of the sport, and to ensure competitors' insurance is primary if something goes wrong.

12.11 Summary of what YOU agree by entering:

- You won't sue BSTD or landowners if you get hurt or your belongings gets damaged – you accept the risk.
- You will cover any damage your horse or you cause – ideally via your insurance.
- You have insurance and will rely on it for any third-party injuries or losses.
- You're playing by the rules and will accept decisions made by officials.

Essentially, you take responsibility for yourself and your animal, and we (organisers) take responsibility for running a fair, safe show.

These waivers and indemnities are there to allow the sport to function without every mishap turning into a legal battle. They are standard on all entry forms (either printed on the form or referenced). Make sure you have indeed signed the declaration form – without it, you cannot compete, because that signature is what makes these clauses legally binding on you. By adhering to this rulebook and signing on the dotted line, we all understand our responsibilities. This keeps the focus on the fun and competition, rather than liability.

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 that carriage driving is a high-risk sport and accept full responsibility for my own safety and that of my turnout.
- I confirm that my insurance meets BSTD requirements and is valid for the current competition season.
- I agree to the use of photographs or video of my turnout for BSTD promotional purposes, unless otherwise stated in writing.

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: _____