**Driver Challenge**

**Ethos** - A competition that can be held indoors or outdoors in one day with drivers able to leave as soon as they have completed their drives.

1. **The Competition**

1.1. The Competition comprises of:

* + 1, 2 or 3 Marathon type obstacles with 3, 4 or 5

 gates.

* + 8 to 12 cone-type obstacles (depending on the size

 of the arena.)

* + Other types of obstacles may be introduced.
	+ An Indoor arena of not less than 40 m X 20 m.
	+ An Outdoor bounded arena of not more than 80m X

 40m.

* + held over 2 rounds with the fastest round per driver

 counting.

* + Timing to 100th Second
	+ Drivers have 15 minutes to walk the course, prior to

 the first competitor. (If the course changes between

 rounds they shall be given another 15 minutes.

* 1. Equipment:

* + Marathon harness and carriage as per Articles of

 British Carriage Driving.

* + Marathon type carriages with pneumatic tyres on

 rims are accepted.

* 1. Classes.

Beginners

Juniors

Small Pony under 11hh

Novice Horse/ Pony

Open Horse/ Pony

Multiples

Classes may be combined or split at organiser's discretion.

* 1. Penalties
	2. Penalty Points

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Seconds** |
| **Dislodging one or two balls in the same obstacle**  | **5** |
| **Knocking over or down any element of a marathon Type Obstacle** | **5** |
| **Causing an obstacle to be rebuilt (clock stops)** | **5** |
| **Each Groom or Athlete dismount 1st and 2nd time (clock does not stop)** | **5** |
| **Groom uses the reins or brakes** | **20** |
| **Wrong course in a marathon type obstacle, course corrected** | **20** |

* 1. Eliminations

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|  **Groom or Athlete dismounts for a third time**  |
|  **Wrong course (marathon obstacle) not corrected**  |
|  **Wrong course sequence or direction**  |
|  **Failing to pass through the start or finish** |
|  **Carriage overturning**  |
|  **Excessive use of the whip**  |
|  **Groom uses the whip**  |

* 1. Scoring is done on the basis of each timed round (Timed to 100th of a

 Second.)

 Fastest to count

# 3.0  **Specifications to the Rules**

 3.1 On entering the arena and with the course set the bell or whistle will be

 sounded Driver has 45 seconds to start his course. If he has not started, the

 clock starts to run.

 3.2 Minimum marathon obstacle gate width 2m there is NO maximum.

 3.3 The width of the cones will be 1.5m minimum, no maximum

 3.4 A Driver must proceed directly between obstacles attempting to pass through

 such obstacles in the correct numbered order.

 3.5. All dislodge able elements which are knocked down remain on the ground

 until the Competitor has finished his course, unless the President of the

 Jury has sounded the bell or whistle, and the single obstacle or element(s)

 of the Marathon type obstacle have to be rebuilt.

3.6. In a Marathon type obstacle, there are no entrance or exit gates. The lettered

 gates marked with red and white flags or blue and white flags are to be

 driven in the right direction and sequence. Passing a gate in the wrong

 direction or sequence means elimination, unless the competitor corrects this

 error of course. If a competitor corrects a wrong course, he has to restart at

 the gate he missed. Such as: if he went from A to C, then realises it, he

 restarts from B. The time runs on, no bell or whistle is sounded.

3.7. In a Marathon type obstacle, each gate becomes individually open once it

 has been passed. The parts without gates are free.

3.8. If an obstacle or cone has been passed it is open and can be passed again.

 Dislodging or knocking down an element, however, count as penalties.

3.9. If in the course of the competition one ball of a single obstacle has been

 dislodged (a 5 second penalty is incurred), an additional 5 second penalty is

 given if the other ball on the same obstacle is dislodged later by whatever

 means.

3.10. If a competitor dislodges a ball of a single obstacle or displaces

 significantly an element of a Marathon type obstacle by any means, before

 the obstacle is driven, the President of the Jury sounds the bell or the

 whistle. The clock is stopped, at the most convenient time for the Driver,

 before the obstacle in question is approached, to allow the resetting of the

 obstacle. In this situation a 5 second penalty is incurred for rebuilding an

 obstacle in addition to 5 penalty seconds for dislodging the ball, wooden

 block or whatever from the obstacle that has been replaced. No time

 correction.

3.11. Significantly displacing an element of a Marathon type obstacle means that

 the element is moved or knocked over in a way that the Competitor has no

 possibility to continue his course through the lettered gates, or the

 obligatory gate is clearly changed in position and original width. In this

 case the President of the Jury must sound the bell or whistle.

 If not significantly displaced, the President of the Jury does not sound the

 bell or whistle and the Competitor has to continue his course.

3.12. When the Marathon type obstacle is significantly changed and the

 Competitor cannot continue his course, the President of the Jury rings the

 bell immediately and stops the clock. After the obstacle is rebuilt, he

 sounds the bell or whistle again. The Competitor has to start the obstacle

 from the element that has been displaced. The clock starts as the

 Competitor passes this replaced element. A 5 seconds penalty for

 rebuilding.

3.13. When a Competitor has completed a Marathon type obstacle with or

 without knocking down one or more balls, wooden blocks or other dislodge-

 able elements, and later on in the course, by whatever means, he knocks

 down one or more balls, blocks or other dislodge-able elements of this

 Marathon type obstacle, an additional 5 seconds penalty is incurred for

 each ball, block or other element, dislodged.

3.14 Should the reins, pole straps or traces become disconnected or broken or

 the carriage seriously damaged; or should a horse get a leg over the trace,

 pole or bar, the President of the Jury must sound the bell or whistle and a

 groom must dismount and reconnect or repair. The Competitor will be given

 a 5 seconds penalty per groom dismounting. The clock will be stopped.

3.15. If the Driver is on the course and the bell or whistle is sounded the Driver

 must stop. If he does not stop after a repeated ringing of the bell he will be

 eliminated.

*Note. The Organising Committee should have* a *bell or whistle, which is loud enough for the*

*Competitors to hear, even with loud music.*

3.16 In case of obvious cruelty the President has the duty to sound the bell or

 whistle and disqualify the Competitor from the event.