



## Rules

### General

- Participant Responsibility: It is the duty of each participant to report to the SD or event organizer any hazardous conditions, injury, accident, or illness related to the event as soon as possible .
- An equine may compete in driving competitions only after January 1st of its fourth year.
- Equines entered in all events must be in good condition and must be serviceably sound.
- Access to the Warm up ring and Competition Ring must not be blocked.
- The number of participants in a ring will be restricted according to ring size and the experience level of the participants.
- Children and junior age participants must be supervised at all times during the event.
- All dogs/pets will be on a leash at all times. Unruly dogs must be removed.
- Abuse of alcohol or drugs while on the premises will not be tolerated.
- NSDS events are smoke free environments.
- All participants must wear appropriate clothing and footwear when handling equines.
- All participants must wear ASTM/SEI or BSI/BS EN approved protective headgear with the safety harness correctly secured at all times while a passenger or driving.
- All participants must wear an approved safety vest at any speed event, correctly secured, at all times while a passenger or driving.

### Event

- Each event will have an SD
- First Aid & Emergency Medical Assistance
  - Safety Committee/Delegate will prepare an Emergency Action Plan. The Event Management will be aware of the plan and it will be posted in a highly visible location.
- Events will have a person trained in First Aid/Emergency Medical Treatment.
  - Events must have first aid kits (human and equine) available at all times.
- The event organizer, or their delegate, will prepare a hazard assessment prior to each event.
- Entrance/exit must be kept clear and controlled by a knowledgeable person.

## Rules

### Driver

- Participants must complete the Safety Checklist provided, sign and turn in to the event organizers prior to participation in any events.
- Equines must never be left unattended while put to a vehicle.
- Hitched equines must have a driver in the vehicle, this includes while standing or being led.
- Equines must NEVER be left unattended while put to a vehicle.
- One header per equine/s (single or pair) must be available to ensure the safety of the exhibitors and spectators.
- The driver must be the first on the vehicle and the last off.
- The reins and bridle must not be removed before unhooking the vehicle.
- A header must be available or the equine must be securely tied when hitching or unhitching.
- Junior drivers 13 years and below must be accompanied by a competent driver. If a header is required, an additional person will come from the rail.
- Junior drivers 14 - 18, competing in an enclosed ring with a single horse/pony/VSE turnout, need not carry a groom/passenger- at the discretion of the judge and their parent or legal guardian- unless required by class specifications.
- All drivers must carry an appropriate driving whip in hand at all times while in the carriage/cart.
- Reins must be in the driver's control at all times when the equine is hitched.
- Assigned ring numbers must be displayed on carts at all times while driving.
- Correctly fitted breeching is required.
- Bridle must be complete with bit, throat latch, brow band, noseband and no overcheck.
- Reins must be directly connected to the bit; snaps are not permitted.
- Each turnout must carry a spares kit which contains:
  - a spare rein or rein splice, spare trace or trace splice & leather punch.
  - a halter and lead shank for each equine.
  - a spare hame strap if using full collars.
  - a knife suitable to cut harness.
  - a length of rawhide lacing, string, wire or duct tape.

## Guidelines

- Competition Ring entrance/exit ideally should be closed during classes.
- Participant Responsibility:
  - Maltreatment to an equine must be reported to the Safety Delegate or the Judge.
- It is recommended that the warm up ring be supervised and traffic be controlled by a knowledgeable person. (i.e. all traffic in the warm up ring travelling in the same direction).
- The judge or event committee may require a safety inspection of the equine, vehicle and/or harness at any time.
- Participants should strive to maintain a safe distance from other vehicles both during the competition, in the warm up and parking areas.
- All rules of the road must be observed unless uniformed officials (ie Police, Firefighters, First Responders, etc) direct otherwise.
- Equines should have received regular training and driving.
- Equines should stand quietly until directed off.
- Equines' teeth should have been checked for acceptance of the bit.
- Equines' horseshoes must be secure and suitable for the footing.
- Equines should remain at a safe distance from others.
- Equines should be controllable in traffic and around other equines.
- Wheels of the vehicle should be checked and be in good condition.
- Axles and 5th wheel should be inspected and lubricated.
- Bolts, singletrees, shafts and poles should be checked for condition.
- Shaft couples and pole housing must be secure.
- The size, weight, and load of the vehicle should be appropriate for conditions.
- Harness should be checked for excessive wear and proper fit.
- The bit should be fitted correctly and not of prohibited style.
- Event location should be assessed for suitability of footing, and participants advised if necessary.

### Other Considerations

#### Safety Delegate (SD)

- NSDS will have trained safety delegates that have the knowledge and responsibility to recognize problems with safety.
- Any safety concerns will be reported by the SD to the organizer of the event in a timely manner.

#### Equine Welfare

- The NSDS is dedicated to the humane treatment and welfare of equines.
  - Cruel, abusive or inhumane treatment of any equine at any NSDS event by anyone will not be tolerated anywhere on the competition grounds under any circumstances.
- Final determination of an equine's suitability to continue is ultimately the judge or event organizers' decision.

#### Other Safety Concerns

- Safety concerns include but are not limited to:
  - Unruly horses, ponies, VSE: All equines must be under control at all times.

#### Safe Sport

- Everyone should be free from harassment at all NSDS events.
  - Everyone has the right to feel safe and to participate in an accessible and inclusive sport environment free from maltreatment. (More information about Safe Sport can be found at <https://www.safesportns.ca>)