|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | |  |  |
|  | | **WEALD HARNESS CLUB**  **Driver Classification Rules**  **Junior Driver & Groom Rules**  President: Mr Barrie Luck  Club founded in 1977 | | |

**These rules apply to outdoor competitions, i.e. inside/out, ODE, mini ODE, World Cup and 2 DE competitions. Showing classes are fun differently and will publicize the rules with entry forms.**

Whilst Weald Harness Club (WHC) is governed by British Carriagedriving as it’s governing body, the following rules apply to all WHC driving events and are the basis on which WHC competitions will be run. Rules are based on the driver, not the animal being driven. As an example, an open driver driving a novice animal competes in the open class, whilst a novice driver may drive in a novice class with an experienced animal who has won at any level.

The definition of a “class” is three or more competitors. When there are fewer entries at an event, the class will be combined with the next grade up (i.e. if there are only 2 entries in an intermediate class this will be amalgamated with the open class. Alternatively, classes with too few entries may be merged (i.e. pony novice class may be amalgamated with horse novice class). This will be at the discretion of the Event organiser and made known at the Event.

**Beginners Class –** Drivers who are in their first year of competing at Club level. Drivers may stay in this class for one calendar year only, after which move up to Novice Class. Where a Beginners Class is not shown in a schedule, drivers compete in the Novice Class.

**Novice Class –** Drivers not to have been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd at any Club event including IHDT (Indoor Horse Driving Trials). Drivers may win 2 novice club level events – then move up into Intermediate Class.

**Intermediate Class –** Drivers not to have been placed 1st at IHDT competitions. Drivers may win two intermediate club level events – then move up into Open Class. If the Intermediate Class is amalgamated with an Open Class and an Intermediate competitor finishes in the top 50% twice, they then move up to Open Class.

**Open Class –** Open to all. Drivers of multiples are considered Open Class. Any driver that as competed in National Novice Qualifiers (and upwards) at British Carriagedriving events is an Open Driver. Any driver that has qualified for IHDT championships is an Open Driver.

**Multiples Class –** Drivers of multiples (pair, tandem or team) are considered open class.

**Small Pony Class –** Open to all level of drivers. Ponies under 12 hands (122 cm). Small pony classes will only be held at ODEs with a short marathon.

**Hors Concours (H/C) –** For those who do not want the pressure of competition. Please state H/C on your entry form for any competition. Competitors will receive all score sheets / comments available on the day. No place rosettes will be presented. Competitors may drive H/C at any event.

**Once a driver has attained a level, they will not be allowed to downgrade.**

**Entry fees** will not be refunded except on production of a Veterinary Surgeon’s or Doctor’s certificateon or before the day of the Event. If the WHC cancels an event, full entry fees will be refunded.

**Body** and / or **back protectors** must be worn by both Driver and Groom for the marathon phase or world cup events. Juniors must wear a body/pack protector in all competitions for ALL phases and whenever on a carriage.

**Junior Driver & Backstepper / Groom Rules**

Junior drivers are aged between 12 years and 17 years of age inclusive on the 1st day of February in the year. Junior drivers must have an adult groom (18 years or older) on the carriage using dual reins with ribbons unless a competency card has been completed with the same turnout.

Children under 12 years of age are NOT allowed on a carriage at an event.

Juniors may only drive singles until assessed capable of driving multiples.

Grooms for an adult driver for phase 3 obstacles must be capable of assisting and be at least 14 years of age.

Body or back protectors MUST be worn by all junior drivers and grooms whenever on a carriage.

Hard hats and gloves are compulsory.

**Insurance**

By becoming a member of WHC you are automatically covered by their party insurance to drive at WHC events only via the Club’s affiliation with British Carriagedriving. You will only be covered if you stay within the confines of the event. This insurance will NOT cover you whilst driving at home and it is, therefore, highly recommended that you acquire your own private policy for use away from WHC events or on the public highway.

Non WHC members will be required to produce evidence of insurance BEFORE participating at a WHC event.

**Assessment**

All drivers must hold a BC recognised assessment from a BC affiliated club. Grandfather rights have been given to older members who have competed at National events prior to the introduction of the need to be assessed.

WHC Assessors: Frances Collings 07850 164517

Jane Lamb 07885 672444 Level 1 HSI Coach