

As from 1st January 2016 any person on a carriage **MUST wear a back / body protector for marathon / obstacles**

A new directive from our governing body, British Carriagedriving

From 1st January 2016, British Carriagedriving has ruled that all competitors (drivers and backsteppers) at club level must wear a body or back protector for the marathon phase. This has been the case for Regional and National competition for some time.

Our insurance is through British Carriagedriving so we need to adhere to the rules in order to maintain our insurance cover. British Carriagedriving instructs that we risk assess our own events and decide on whether body/back protectors are required, however we need to act in the spirit of this rule change.

The Oaks Committee has agreed that the following rules regarding body / back protectors will apply for our events from 1st Jan 2016:

Marathon / Obstacles (inc. training) = mandatory for driver & backstepper

World cup = mandatory for driver & backstepper

Dressage = recommended

Cones = recommended

Social drives = recommended

Trec = recommended

Show = recommended

Juniors must wear a body/back protector in all competitions for ALL phases (this rule has not changed)

In terms of which standards to choose, The Oaks recognise that competitors must assess the risks and available options for themselves. However it is advisable to use items of the best safety standard available e.g. Body Protectors of Level 3, Helmets of PAS 015 (kite marked).

There are two criteria for body/back protectors that will be enforced by British Carriagedriving and The Oaks Driving Club.

- Body/Back Protectors must have been certified to a recognised level for either an equestrian or comparable sport e.g. Skiing, Motorcycling. NOTE: homemade or untested items are not permitted.
- Air jackets can only be worn "with" a suitable body/back protector, not alone.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE
WILL LEAVE YOU EXEMPT FROM COMPETITION
AND PARTICIPATION AT OAKS EVENTS**