



Driver Classification Rules

These rules apply to indoor and outdoor competitions, ie; inside/out, ODE's, Mini ODE's, Indoor events and World Cup competitions. The only event not to be taken into consideration is the Fun Day. Showing classes have their own set of rules.

Whilst other organisations may have their own set of rules, the following rules appertain to all Oaks Driving Club events and are what all Oaks competitions will be based upon from 1st January 2015. Rules are based on the driver, not the animal being driven. So for example, an open driver driving a novice animal competes in open classes whilst a novice driver may drive in novice classes an experienced animal who has won at any level.

A 'class' is entries of three or more competitors. When entries are lower the class will be combined with the next grade up, ie; an intermediate horse class with only two entries will be amalgamated with the open horse class.

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 novice class.

Novice Class - Drivers not to have been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd at I.H.D.T competitions. Drivers may win two novice club level events - then move up into Intermediate classes.

Intermediate Class - Drivers not to have been placed 1st at I.H.D.T competitions. Drivers may win two intermediate club level events - then move up into open classes. 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 has competed in National Novice Qualifiers (and upwards) at British Carriagedriving is an open driver. Any driver that has qualified for I.H.D.T championships is an open driver.

Multiples Class - Drivers of multiples 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 ODE's with a short marathon.

Hors Concours - 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 the score sheets / comments as available on the day. No place rosettes will be presented bar a 'Special' rosette at the discretion of the event organiser. Competitors may drive hors concours at any event.

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

Entry fees will not be refunded except on production of a Veterinary Surgeon's or Doctor's certificate on or before the day of the Event. If the Club cancels an event, full entry fees will be refunded. Drivers and backsteppers must wear a body or back protector for the marathon phase or world cup events. Juniors must wear a body/back protector in all competitions for ALL phases and whenever on a carriage.