

Information / Rules and Regulations

A. Competitors and Public

1. Liability

The Aiken Driving Club, Katydid Farm, Katydid Driving LLC, Boxwood Farm LLC, Becker-Matheson Limited Partnership and Bill & Jennifer Matheson, Officials and Staff will not be held responsible for any claim resulting from injury or injuries to any person, equine, or loss or damage to property incurred on the show grounds. All persons riding on any vehicle MUST sign an official waiver and be on file with the Show Secretary.

2. Dogs on a Leash

Any dog that is not restrained by a leash will be confined by the Show Officials and a \$25.00 retrieval fee will be assessed.

B. Entry Procedures

3. The entry fee is \$60 per division (Turnout, Reinsmanship, Fault and Out and Town and Country Obstacles) \$20 per individual classes. The entry fee for the Traditional Drive is \$40. Pre-entries close April 11, 2010. Competitors must compete in all classes for a Division Championship. All checks and payments are to be made payable to *The Aiken Driving Club*.

4. Post Entry

Post entries will be accepted up to the day before the show provided the class has not been closed by the Committee. The post entry fee is \$80 per division, \$25 per individual class and \$50 for Traditional Drive.

5. Entry declined

The Committee reserves the right to decline any entry, and to return any entry fee before or during the competition without being held liable for compensation.

6. Forfeit of Fees

In the case of equines being entered and not exhibited, entry fees will be forfeited. Refund on entries will be made only upon the receipt of a Veterinary Certificate attesting to the inability of the animal to participate due to illness or injury. The Certificate must be received prior to the beginning of the show, April 24, 2010 (stall fees are not refundable).

7. Competitor Numbers

Any entry (turnout) is defined as a combination of horse(s) vehicle and driver and must be assigned a specific entry number. In the event that a vehicle is disabled, management may authorize the substitution of another vehicle without issuing a new number. Vehicle changes must be reported to the Show Secretary. All entries must have an entry number before entering any class. Competitor numbers may be obtained at the Show Secretary's Office after all fees have been paid. It is the driver's responsibility to display the proper number for the turnout entering the ring or obstacle course. An award may be withheld from any competitor participating in any class displaying the incorrect number for that turnout).

8. Split Classes

The Judge (s) and/or Committee reserve the right to split any class, in the interest of safety, should the number of entries warrant such action.

9. Minimum Entries

In the event that three or fewer entries for horses/ponies are received for any of the listed classes, the Committee reserves the right to combine or cancel said classes.

10. Duplicate Entries

No driver, horse(s), pony(s), groom or passenger may appear more than once in any obstacle class.

11. Vehicle Width

Measurements for the obstacle classes will be taken at the tread width, as cones with balls on top will be used. The tread width of each vehicle should be taken at the ground on the widest part of the wheels. If the single tree or splinter bar proves to be too wide for the arrangement, the cones may be adjusted accordingly. This is the decision of the Committee and must be done during the initial measurement.

12. Junior Driver

A junior driver is a competitor who has not reached his/her 18th birthday. Junior drivers under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Juniors are prohibited from exhibiting stallions and must wear properly fastened protective headgear which meets ASTM/SEI standards. Failure to comply will result in elimination.

13. Senior Driver

A senior driver is a competitor whose has reached his/her 65th birthday.

14. Novice Driver

A Novice driver is a competitor who has not won three first place ribbons at ADS recognized and/or USEF recognized competition.

5. Novice Horse/Pony/VSE

A Novice horse/pony/vse is an equine who has not won three first place ribbons at ADS recognized and/or USEF recognized competition.

General

16. Breed and Size

The pleasure driving horse may be of any breed, color or size. An animal measuring over 14.2 hands will be classified as a horse. An animal measuring 14.2 hands and under will be classified as a pony. A registered horse of a breed permitting horses to be under 14.2 hands (ie. Arabian, Morgan, Quarter Horse, etc.), may show as a horse, but not as a horse and pony at this event.

17. VSE Classification

Open to any horse measuring no more than 39”.

18. Method of Driving

The method or style is optional.

19. Additional Equipment

Flash nosebands, drop nosebands, figure-eight nosebands, or any bridle part or attachment which extends below the appropriate bit are prohibited. In the case of inclement weather, the Committee may allow bell boots to be used.

20. Driver Eligibility and Responsibility

The driver may be either an amateur or professional. No change of driver is permitted during the class. The only person to handle the reins, whip and brake is the driver, under penalty of elimination for an infringement.

21. Outside Assistance

Outside assistance is forbidden under penalty of elimination. **Exception:** In certain circumstances, outside assistance to a party may be allowed by the judge(s). i.e. holding a turnout while the participant is engaged in giving aid during an emergency.

22. Examining the Course

THERE SHALL BE NO SCHOOLING OR WALKING A HORSE, UNDER PENALTY OF ELIMINATION OVER ANY OF THE OBSTACLE COURSES. While walking the obstacle courses, competitors shall not alter, adjust or in any way move an obstacle. Should a competitor have a question regarding a specific obstacle, he/she should call it to the attention of the Course Designer for clarification and/or adjustment.

23. Order of Go and Preparedness

The order of go for the obstacle classes will be posted prior to each class. The driver must be prepared to enter the ring or obstacle area when his/her class is called. The management may announce that a one (1) minute time limit will be invoked. Management may give permission for the class to be held for an entry which requires an equipment change provided the show secretary has been notified in advance.

24. Canter / Galloping – Break in Gait

No cantering or galloping will be allowed in any class. A break to canter is defined as three full strides if an advantage has been gained; six full strides if no advantage has been gained. In the case of a multiple turnout, all horses must break for a penalty to be incurred.

25. Pair Horse / Pair Pony Divisions

All entries in these divisions must be driven to a four-wheeled vehicle, with the exception of a Curricule or Cape Cart with appropriate harness.

D. Safety

26. Condition of Harness and Vehicle

It is the competitor's responsibility to be certain that all harness is in good repair, and that the vehicle is in sound condition. No competitor will be allowed to continue in a class when, in the opinion of the Judge, any part of the turnout has become dangerous or unsafe.

27. Bridles

Under no circumstances or condition should a bridle be removed from a horse/pony while it is still put to a vehicle. Bridles should fit snugly to prevent catching on a vehicle or other pieces of harness.

28. Breakdown

In the event of a breakdown in the Obstacle classes, either to harness or vehicle, which necessitates a halt for repair, the competitor is to make only those adjustments/repairs necessary for the safe removal of their turnout from the Obstacle course.

29. Leaving the Arena

No entry may leave the arena after judging has begun without permission from the Judge and/or ringmaster, however, in the event of an accident and/or equipment failure which requires either medical attention or repair, the turnout must leave the arena or obstacle course as soon as possible.

30. Accident

In the event of an accident, the Show Committee may, at their discretion, require a safety inspection of the vehicle involved in the accident by members of the Show Committee, before allowing the vehicle to be used in any succeeding classes.

31. Grooms and Attendants

Each turnout must comply with their entry type as specified below:

Unicorn / Four-in-Hand: driver, two grooms

Tandem / Pair: driver, one groom or one passenger

Grooms or passengers are not allowed to leave their respective positions on the vehicle while it is in motion or attempt to correct a problem without being put down. **Exceptions:** grooms dismounting to head horses immediately prior to the halt and shifting weight to aid balance to prevent an accident are permissible. Failure to comply will incur elimination. Minor adjustments to harness may be made with permission from the Judge. A groom/passenger riding on the vehicle may be put down to assist with the adjustment without penalty except on obstacle classes.

After judging begins, no attendant may enter the arena without permission of the Judge except in the case of an accident or to prevent an accident. Leading a turnout into the ring or obstacle course start is considered outside assistance and is not permitted. Grooms may not stand behind the driver. When a groom or passenger is put down to head the horse(s) during a line-up, he or she must remount when the driver moves off. This includes tests. Failure to comply will be penalized.

If it becomes necessary for a groom(s) or passenger(s) to assist the driver, penalties will be assessed, as indicated in the class specifications. **The groom or attendant must be capable of rendering assistance in case of difficulty.** A groom is optional for a single horse/pony turnout. The style of vehicle may determine this.

E. Clothing and Accessories

32. Clothing

In all classes the driver shall wear a hat, an apron or knee rug, and gloves. Drivers should dress appropriately when competing in any pleasure driving class, including obstacles. Any attempt to introduce period costumes or gaudy trapping is discouraged. Dress for driver, passengers and attendants should conform to the type of turnout, ie. Formal, Park

or Sporting. Gentlemen must wear a coat or jacket while appearing in any class unless excused from doing so by the Judge. Gentlemen are requested to remove their hats when accepting awards. Ladies must wear a conservative outfit. Floppy hats are discouraged. Grooms of either sex may wear stable livery except in the most formal vehicles where full livery would be appropriate.

33. Whips

An appropriate whip shall be carried in hand at all times while driving. The thong on the whip must be long enough to reach the shoulder of the farthest horse. A driver not in compliance with the above shall be penalized. A whip with its thong tied in a manner which renders it incapable of reaching the horse is not allowed. Failure to comply shall be penalized. **Failure to carry a whip in an obstacle class incurs elimination.**

F. Awards

34. Awards

A Commemorative award to the winner and ribbons to sixth place will be awarded in each class.

35. Championship Points

Championships are based on the total number of points accumulated in each division. Points will be awarded from first to sixth placing inclusive. For classes with less than six entries, points will be adjusted according to the table:

Class size	1st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
6 or more	7	5	3	2	1	1/2
5	4	3	2	1	1/2	
4	3	2	1	1/2		
3	2	1	1/2			
2	1	1/2				
1	0					

Championships (5)

VSE Single Champion: 1/4; 9/12; 17/20; 25/28

Single Pony Champion: 2/5; 10/13; 18/21; 26/29

Single Horse Champion: 3/6; 11/14; 19/22; 27/30

Pair VSE/Pony/Horse Champion: 7; 15; 23; 31

Multiple VSE/Pony/Horse Champion: 8; 16; 24; 32

	Turnout	Reinsmanship	Fault & Out	Town & Country	Working
Novice Single VSE	1	9	17	25	
Novice Single Pony	2	10	18	26	
Novice Single Horse	3	11	19	27	
Open Single VSE	4	12	20	28	
Open Single Pony	5	13	21	29	
Open Single Horse	6	14	22	30	
Pair VSE/Pony/Horse	7	15	23	31	
Multiple VSE/Pony/Horse	8	16	24	32	

Novice Driver		33			
Senior Driver		34			
Carriage Dog					35
Traditional Drive	36				

Ties of Championship placing will be broken by the competitors placing in the Reinsmanship class (ADS Rule: Article 34)

G. Health Requirements

36. A copy of a Negative Coggins certificate must accompany each entry stating that each animal was submitted to a test for equine infectious anemia during the last year.

H. Protest

37. A Judge's decision, representing his/her individual preference, is not contestable unless it is alleged to be in violation of the rules.

38. Questions or Disputes

Any question or dispute not provided for in these Rules and Regulations will be referred to the Judge for his/her ruling and/or decision. Should a competitor wish to protest the Judge's ruling and/or decision, he/she may do so at the time such decision is rendered by filing a formal protest with the Competition committee.

I. Stalls and Carriage Storage

39. There are a limited number of permanent stalls available for the show. There will not be temporary stabling. We will give priority to out of town drivers for the stabling. The stabling fee, including initial shavings will be \$100. Reservations must be made and paid for prior to April 11, 2010. Stalls will be available from Thursday, April 22, 2010 at noon, and must be vacated by noon on Monday, April 26, 2010.

Additional hay and shavings will be available for sale from the show office. A limited amount of complimentary carriage storage space may be available, but not guaranteed. The committee will not accept responsibility of items lost or damaged on the grounds.

J. Accommodations and Campsites

40. There are a limited number of hook-ups available. The fee is \$25 per night. Please contact the organizer to reserve a space.

There are numerous hotels/motels located in Aiken. A partial listing is below:

Class Descriptions and Conditions

Pleasure Driving Turnout

A pleasure driving division in which all entries are judged primarily on the performance and quality of each turnout.

Entrants are to be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot; to stand quietly and to rein back.

To be judged:

70% on the condition, fit and appropriateness of harness and vehicle, neatness and appropriateness of attire, and overall impression.

30% on performance, manners and way of going

Pleasure Driving Reinsmanship
Novice Driver Reinsmanship
Senior Driver Reinsmanship

A pleasure driving division in which entries are judged primarily on the ability and skills of the driver. Entrants are to be shown at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. Drivers shall be required to rein back. All drivers chosen to perform a workout may be worked at any gait requested by the Judge, and may be asked to execute a figure-of-eight and/or perform other appropriate tests.

The driver should be seated comfortably on the box as to be relaxed and effective. Either the one handed or two handed method of driving is acceptable. In order to evaluate a driver's versatility, the Judge may request a test involving driving with one hand.

To be judged:

75% on handling of reins and whip, control, posture and overall appearance of driver

25% on the condition of harness and vehicle and neatness of attire

Fault and Out Obstacles

To be driven and timed over a course of numbered obstacles, the number of obstacles to be proportionate to the dimensions of the driving area and not to exceed 10. After passing the starting line, the driver shall proceed through each obstacle, in order, until the allowed time expires or an obstacle is dislodged or a disobedience occurs. If all the obstacles are completed cleanly before the allotted time expires, the driver will begin the course again without passing through the starting markers. Two points will be scored for each obstacle cleared and one point for an obstacle dislodged. When the time expires or an obstacle is dislodged, a signal will be given. The driver shall then proceed through the next consecutive obstacle where time will be taken upon clearance of the rear axle. No score is given for the obstacle driven after the signal. If the obstacle driven after the signal is dislodged, no time is recorded. A disobedience (refusal, run-out, circle) or a break to a canter will be scored as a dislodgement of the obstacle at which the disobedience occurs. Going off course or dislodging a start marker will incur elimination. Failure to drive the next consecutive obstacle after the signal will result on no time being awarded; however points will count up to that obstacle. The score of the driver who failed to drive the next obstacle shall count, up to the point where the signal was given but the competitor must be placed after those with an equal score and time. Placing will be determined by the greatest number of points. Time will decide ties. If a time remains with equal points and time, the winner will be decided in a drive-off.

Town and Country Obstacles

To be driven and timed over a course of numbered obstacles, the number of obstacles to be proportionate to the dimensions of the driving area and not to exceed 20. After passing the starting line, the driver shall proceed through each obstacle in order to the designated finish line. Course faults are assessed as penalty seconds and are added to the driver's elapsed time. Placing will be determined on a low total time basis. Ties for first will be decided by a drive-off.

Carriage Dog Class

Entries are judged primarily on the suitability of the dog to serve as a companion (maximum one (1) dog per vehicle). To be judged both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, and working trot. The dog may stand or be seated in the vehicle. The dog may run

behind, beside or at the axel of the vehicle, but the dog must be under control at all times. The dog may not be restrained by being tied to the vehicle or driver. The driver may not hold the dog, and the dog may not interfere with the driver in any way. The dog may be of any breed.

To be judged:

60% on the dog

30% on the performance, manners and way of going of the horse(s)

10% of the overall impression of the turnout, including the dog.

Traditional Drive

A traditional driving competition designed to preserve some of the more traditional elements of driving. All types of carriages will be welcome, including antiques, and the theme is a country drive. Singles are encouraged to have a groom/passenger; pairs and tandems are required to have one groom; multiples are required to have two grooms. VSE entries are permitted to have one groom for pairs, tandems and multiples. Passengers are encouraged.

Entries will be judged on Presentation (60%); a country drive of approximately 5 miles with 5 driver's tests (25%) and a cones course (15%)

An awards luncheon* will follow.

* Entry fee includes lunch for driver and one groom/passenger. Additional lunch tickets are available.