

Presentation Guidelines

Presentation is designed to encourage drivers to achieve a standard, not a victory. There is no class winner. The exercise of cleaning carriage and harness helps identify potential problems. Dressing appropriately gives respect for the sport, and research on correct turnout increases the driver's knowledge of the sport. Quite possibly, many entries could achieve the same high standard, or gain the same number of penalty points. A scale of 0-10 is used where "0" means not complying to "10" indicates absolute perfection with no room for improvement. Judging takes no longer than 5 minutes at the halt. An appropriately attired groom may head the horse.

1. Driver, Grooms and Passengers

Overall cleanliness and smartness of turnout should be considered. Grooms' livery, whether stable or full livery, should fit, and if more than one groom, match. Fancier turnouts should not be marked necessarily higher than more modest turnouts. Grooms need not wear livery, but should be appropriately dressed to fit in with the turnout. The whip should be of suitable length for the turnout and should be held correctly. The driver must wear a driving apron, a hat and brown gloves.

2. Horse

Horses should be clean and fit. Girth galls, sores, cracked heels, etc., should be penalized. If multiples, matching in size and type is more important than matching in color. Gray goes with any color. Wheelers may be larger than leaders. Manes, if not braided, should be level and lie flat. Tails must not be braided. Feet should be clean and shoes, if any, must fit.

3. Harness

Harness should be sound, clean, and fit correctly. New harness should not receive better marks than old harness, provided both are sound, clean, and fit, and matching for pairs, tandems and teams. No marks should be deducted if bits are different, nor for the use of pole straps versus chains. No straps, including traces, should be on the last hole, as it then cannot be adjusted should breakage occur. Hardware on harness should match, and breeching or brakes are required. No martingales (except false ones) or overchecks are permitted.

4. Vehicle

The size of the carriage must be in proportion to the horses. The height and length of the pole for pairs and fours should be relative to the height of the horses and carriage. For spares, cleanliness and suitability must be considered (i.e., whether they can be used with the particular carriage and harness). Spares are required for the Training and Preliminary levels (See EC rule book for required spares). Lamps at Training, Preliminary and Intermediate levels are required only if the carriage has lamp brackets. At Advanced lamps are required for Driven Dressage. Rear lights or reflectors are required on all carriages. No preference should be given to traditional vehicles over modern ones if they are produced to the same standard.

5. General Impression

Dress and position of driver and grooms. Suitability of horses/ponies and harness to the carriage. See the Equine Canada Rules, Section C, Chapter 18 for descriptions of proper turnout.