



**RULES OF THE
CONCOURS D'ATTELAGE DE TRADITION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2024**

The object of these competitions is to maintain the art of traditional driving, using original traditional carriages (built before 1945), to develop its image and help the lovers of this sport to improve their skills. The competition has three phases: **A. Presentation - B. Road Drive - C. Cone Driving**

Administrative Conditions

To take part in a traditional driving competition (CAT) or international driving competition (CIAT)*, the driver and the groom must be at least 12 years old. Between 12 and 16, the driver must be accompanied by an adult. Each driver who takes part in such a competition must be in order with statutory requirements (membership, engagement...).

To compete, the driver may be required to have comprehensive insurance (third-party liability coverage for carriage driving).

Horses, ponies, mules, and donkeys must present current Coggins & Health Certificates as required by local governing statutes. This may include vaccination requirements, identification chip or card, or passport.

Heavy horses can take part in the category of horses *but only* for a whole season. Horses can only take part in the category of heavy horses if they are registered in a national studbook of heavy horses.

Heavy horses may enter the horse division.

**CAT (National) events may utilize National ALAT-USA Judges, have fewer Performance Challenges (PC's), and a shorter or no Road Drive (Routier). CIAT (International) events utilize three ALAT International Judges and always include a full Routier.*

Judging

The jury is composed of a President and one or two CAA or AIAT certified judges. It guarantees that the rules are properly observed. Only the President of Jury has the authority to eliminate what they consider to be a potentially dangerous turnout (including stressed or badly behaved horses, inexperienced drivers, dangerous carriages, badly fitting harness, etc...) The veterinarian may only give information to the President of the Jury.

Carriages

Original traditional antique carriages (built before 1945) are scored out of 20 points (coefficient 3), reproductions and others are scored out of 20 points (coefficient 1). The competitor's number must be clearly visible on the carriage. A participant who knowingly gives incorrect information about his carriage will be disqualified.

Phases

The same driver accompanied by his groom(s) and/or passenger(s) must drive in all three phases or will be disqualified.

The number of grooms(in grooms clothing) or passengers required are:

- single, pair, tandem or 3 horses: one groom/passenger
- unicorn, pickaxe, four in a hand or more: two grooms/passengers.

The complete turnout cannot be changed in any way (horse, carriage, number of grooms, harness...) during the three phases. Any changing is penalized by 20 penalties. A change of driver will cause elimination. The driver, passenger, and groom are to remain dressed in the same outfits throughout



the competition, unless it rains or the President of the Jury grants an exception. The whip, appropriate to the turnout, will be kept in the hand during the event. A whip that is not held in the hand, or that is not appropriate to the turnout, will be penalized by 10 penalties. A horse or pony may only be driven once in each phase during the event. It is mandatory to participate in the prize giving ceremony, unless excused by the President of the Jury. Outside assistance during the competition will cause disqualification.

A. Presentation

Each turnout is judged at the halt, individually by each of the judges, as per the official Presentation Sheet.

Boots and bandages on the horses incur a 10 point penalty.

A competitor arriving after the time indicated on the schedule for the Presentation or for the Road Drive incurs a 5 point penalty.

B. Road Drive (Routier)

The Road Drive (Routier) is to test the skills and knowledge of the driver and the ability to drive at a steady pace in normal circumstances. The route will be suitable for all types of carriages, on good surfaces.

The distance should be between no more than 17 km and less than 9 km for donkeys and without interrupting the itinerary.

The driver must respect the rules of the road (highway laws) at all times and drives at their own risk.

The **maximum** speed is:

6 km per hour for donkeys;

9 km per hour for small ponies (up to and including 1.32 m) and heavy horses and mammoth donkeys;

11 km per hour for ponies (over 1.32 m)

13 km per hour for horses and mules;

11 km per hour for heavy carriages (coaches).

Only the Technical Delegate can reduce the speed as a function of the topographic and prevailing conditions and will inform the judges.

The time allowed will be + or - 1 minute.

For example: official time = 65 mins. Allowed time = between 64 and 66 mins.

Each second over or under the time allowed = 0.2 penalty point.

There is a maximum of 5 natural or artificial obstacles (Performance Challenges or PC's). The last one must be at least 300 meters before the finish (PC's must be taken from an official list of the AIAT).

There is a 5 point penalty for the driver who stops in the last 300 meters.

A driver will be disqualified if he drives through a PC on the Road Drive or through a gate of the Cone Driving before the competition. All help in a PC is penalized by 10 penalties. Using brakes is not allowed in a PC and is penalized by 10 penalties. Any destruction of the PC before, during or after the execution of the figure will be penalized with 10 penalties. The figures of the PC must be executed directly and in one movement (except reining back).

E.g.: One-handed circle is executed in one circle, the drinking glass, straight on between A and B.

C. Cone Driving (Maniabilité)

The Cone Driving competition is to test the skill of the driver and the obedience and agility of the horses on a given course. The area should be on flat firm ground of between 6,000 – 8,000 square meters and provide safe driving conditions.



The speed is 180m/min for heavy horses, tandems, and four-in-hands; 200m/min for the others; and 160m/min for donkeys.

The use of brakes during this phase will incur a 10 point penalty.

The competitor may not stay in the arena for more than twice the time limit allowed for the course, after this he will be asked to leave.

The course will have a maximum of 20 gates. No obstacle with poles is allowed. The distance between each gate of the zig-zag is at least 12 meters.

If competitors inspect the course within 1 hour of the Cone Driving they must be dressed as for the competition, or incur 5 penalty points.

The driver must salute the jury before the start of his round but not necessarily at the end.

The width of the gates:

For a 2 wheeled vehicle, the wheel track width + 30 cm.

For a 4 wheeled vehicle, the wheel track width + 40 cm.

At the discretion of the TD, if large vehicles (Coaches, Landaus, Barouches, etc.) are entered in the event, the distance between the wheel banding may be used to calculate the track width for Cone Driving:

width between the wheel banding

less than 40 cm

from 40 cm to 59 cm

from 60 cm to 89 cm

from 90 cm

Winchester (3 abreast)

Winchester with heavy horses

width of the gate

track width +30 cm

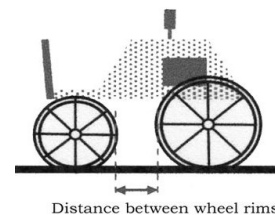
track width +35 cm

track width +40 cm

track width +45 cm

total width 230 cm

total width 250 cm



Distance between wheel rims

Wheel banding: distance between front wheel tire and rear wheel tire.

Penalties:

- Exceeding the time limit: 0.2 point/second.
- Missing the starting gate: 10 penalty points, and must start again.
- Each ball knocked down : 5 penalty points, and on any one gate there is a maximum of 5 penalty points.
- Gates must be negotiated in numerical order and cannot be crossed again. If a gate is taken twice (in either direction): 5 penalty points.
- If a driver misses a gate, they can retake the gate, before continuing on to the next gate , without penalty points.
- If the driver has already taken the next gate:10 penalty points.
- Each gate, taken or not taken, if knocked down: 5 penalty points. The clock is stopped when the jury bell is rung until the gate is re-erected.
- A gate partially taken without any balls knocked down: 5 penalty points.
- Any incident even when not noticed by the driver may be indicated by the jury in which case he, the driver must correct it and continue while the chronometer continues without interruption.
- If the driver forgets to go past the finish gate: 10 penalty points. As long as the driver has not gone through the finish or has not gone out of the arena, the clock continues.
- A refusal at a gate is not penalized.

As approved by the CAA ALAT/ Sporting Day of Traditional Driving Committee, August 2024.