

Committee name	FEI Driving Technical Committee
Date	16.10.2024
Chair	Joaquín Medina García (ESP)

Committee Report	
Pt.	Subject
1.	Introduction
	<p>2024 was a good year for the Driving discipline, The calendar packed 52 events, including new venues as well as the return of well-established events. It has been a demanding yet rewarding year, marked by significant achievements both in terms of event organisation and the development of the sport. As Chair, together with the Driving Committee, I reflect on a year that culminated in great success for the sport globally.</p>
2.	Revision of the Dressage tests
	<p>Throughout 2024, the DTC maintained its commitment to progress by holding monthly conference calls and an in-person meeting in Lausanne in May.</p> <p>Among the committee's main points of focus was the revision of the dressage tests. The new FEI Driving Modification policy allows for a more transparent, inclusive dressage test modification process, as it draws on the expertise of the Working Group created specifically for each test.</p> <p>The members of the working groups are chosen by the Technical Committee through an application process to elect Athletes, Trainers and Judges. The groups held bi-weekly online meetings and finished their work by reviewing the tests during an In Person testing Session to further review the practicalities of the tests. With this new modification policy, 6 new tests have been created: 2 and 3* Four-in-Hand and Pair tests, as well as one Children and one Junior test. These new tests will be applicable from January 1, 2025.</p>

3.	<p>2024 Championships</p> <p>Driving had four very successful FEI Championships this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FEI Driving European Championships for Youth – in Flyinge, Sweden - FEI Driving World Championship for Four-in-Hand – in Szilvásvár Hungary - FEI Driving World Championship for Singles – in Haras du Pin, France - FEI Driving World Championship for Young Horses – Lamotte-Beuvron, France <p>I would like to say that each Championship was a great representation of the sport and showcased Driving on the highest levels, with the welfare of the horses and fair sport as paramount, as well as friendship and respect between fellow drivers, teams and officials. I want to highlight the Youth Championship which had an amazing record number of participants, 126 youth drivers, more than 30 drivers more than two years ago.</p> <p>I would like to highlight the great Four-in-Hand Championship in Hungary in September, where nearly 40.000 people visited the Championship, and the Driving had the best possible representation to the public and the world.</p>
4.	<p>Driving World Challenge</p> <p>The Driving Committee is pleased to have the FEI Driving World Challenge available to apply for by National Federation.</p> <p>This series is a way to develop Driving in countries where Driving is less known and provide international competition experience for drivers on national level, who under normal circumstances due to costs or distances have no chance to participate in international shows.</p> <p>The Driving World Challenge is the best way to encourage NF's to have Driving in their countries and promote the sport on a broader level.</p>
5.	<p>Driving Youth Cup Test Event</p> <p>The future of the sport undoubtedly lies in its youth. This year, the FEI Driving Youth Cup was launched as a global platform to develop young talent. The test event in Estonia followed a one-day format, which was well-received by officials and participants for its simplicity and cost-effectiveness.</p> <p>The event provided useful feedback, suggesting minor adjustments to the scoring system and cone width to improve the competition format. Overall, it was a successful trial that highlights the potential of the Youth Cup to expand youth participation in the sport.</p>
6.	<p>Rules Revision</p> <p>A full revision of the Driving Rules will be done in 2026, therefore no major changes of the rules have been submitted for approval this year.</p>

7.	Noseband measuring test
	Together with the Veterinary Department, for the first time we had the testing of the noseband tightness measuring device at two events this year, which was highly interesting and well conducted, and positively received by Drivers and Officials.
8.	The Future of Driving
	<p>As we look to the future, the Driving Committee remains dedicated to ensuring that Driving continues to grow and thrive. Our key objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a successful Full Rules Revision by ensuring the community is involved through the organisation of a Driving Forum in 2025. • Expanding the number of competitions by attracting new venues to host events. • Increasing the number of drivers, particularly in regions where Driving is less established, through initiatives such as the Driving World Challenge. • Ensuring continuity and building a legacy for our Driving Officials by creating more educational content and aligning official requirements with the evolving realities of the sport, to ensure its continued growth and success. • Making the sport more sustainable and engaging for spectators and sponsors, with a focus on enhancing the appeal of dressage. • Advancing horse welfare standards and implementing further rule developments to safeguard our horses. • Expanding the visibility and popularity of the Young Horse Championship, highlighting the benefits for breeders and owners. • Promoting youth participation on a global scale, particularly through the Driving Youth Cup, to engage young drivers from regions where Driving is less familiar.
9.	Closing comments
	I would like to thank the FEI Driving Department for their continuous hard work and help, as well as the colleagues in the Committee and the FEI HQ. I thank Benjamin Aillaud for his work, who is the outgoing member of the Committee.