

**PROPOSALS FOR RULES CHANGES OF
DRIVING & PARA DRIVING RULES 2024**

16 October 2024

Dear National Federations,

Please find below a summary of the proposed changes to the Driving & Para Driving Rules together with the corresponding explanations, the comments received as well as the reasoning for accepting or not accepting each proposal.

In the following document you will find 2 sections as follows:

- A.** [Proposed Rules changes to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024;](#)
and
- B.** [Proposed Rules changes that have been rejected or deferred to a future Rules revision.](#)

Sincerely,



Manuel Bandeira de Mello,
Driving & Para Driving Director

A. PROPOSED RULES CHANGES TO BE VOTED AT THE FEI GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article Number – Article Name
Art 928
Explanation for Proposed Change
In line with the recommendation of the FEI Medical Committee, the exclusion of back protectors, which solely safeguard the back without covering the front side of the body, is proposed in favour of body protectors, which offer protection for both back and torso. To ensure clarity regarding the required protective gear, the FEI suggests amending all rules that mention back/body protectors to specify only body protectors.
Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024
<p>2. Dress in Marathon and Combined Marathon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Less formal dress is acceptable in Marathon for the Athlete and Grooms. Shorts are not permitted; Infringement will incur 10 penalties per person. 2.2. From the In-Harness Horse Inspection until the end of the Cool Down, Athletes and Grooms must wear securely fastened Protective Headgear, such Protective headgear must comply with the list of the applicable international testing standards published on the FEI website and a back/body protector. 2.3. During the Section A, Controlled Warm-Up, Warm-Up Obstacle and Section B, failure to wear such Protective Headgear and back/body protector will result in Elimination. 2.4. During the In-Harness Inspection, Halt area and Cool Down area, failure to wear such Protective Headgear and back/body protector where and when required after being notified by an Official to do so, will result in a Yellow Warning Card being issued to the Athlete. 2.5. When a back/body protector is required, if an air vest is used it must be worn over the back/body protector, and cannot replace it. <p>3. Dress for Athletes and Grooms under the age of 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. At all times, whilst on a carriage, Athletes and Grooms under the age of 18 must wear a body-back protector and a securely fastened Protective Headgear. Infringement will result in Elimination. 3.2. In addition, failure to wear such Protective Headgear and back-body protector (in compliance with the applicable international testing standards) where and when required after being notified to do so by an Official, shall result in a Yellow Warning Card, being issued to the Athlete. 3.3. During Horse inspections, it is strongly recommended for Athletes and Grooms under the age of 18 to wear securely fastened Protective Headgear.

Comments Received by 21 August 2024**BEL:**

We fully understand the rationale of the medical committee for safety reasons. But we like to stress the point that a full body protector is limiting freedom of movement whilst on a carriage and will also result in extra cost for teams buying new equipment again.

POR:

The security reasons underlying this proposed amendment are understandable. However, a complete back and body protector may partially limit the necessary movements during the competition. In this case, Athletes or Grooms over the age of 18 must be given the option of choice. In other classes with Athletes or Grooms aged under 18, we agree with the proposed change.

FEI Feedback

The committee acknowledges the points raised about the potential limitation of movement and additional costs involved with implementing full body protectors. However, after careful consideration, we firmly believe that safety must be the priority. The introduction of these protectors is designed to reduce the risk of serious injury during competition, and the committee feels it is essential to enforce this rule as soon as possible. Following the medical committee's recommendation, the further clarification that " *Body protectors cover front and back of the torso." is added to the wording.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024**4. Dress in Marathon and Combined Marathon**

- 4.1. Less formal dress is acceptable in Marathon for the Athlete and Grooms. Shorts are not permitted; Infringement will incur 10 penalties per person.
- 4.2. From the In-Harness Horse Inspection until the end of the Cool Down, Athletes and Grooms must wear securely fastened Protective Headgear, such Protective headgear must comply with the list of the applicable international testing standards published on the FEI website and a ~~back~~/body protector*.
- 4.3. During the Section A, Controlled Warm-Up, Warm-Up Obstacle and Section B, failure to wear such Protective Headgear and ~~back~~/body protector* will result in Elimination.
- 4.4. During the In-Harness Inspection, Halt area and Cool Down area, failure to wear such Protective Headgear and ~~back~~/body protector* where and when required after being notified by an Official to do so, will result in a Yellow Warning Card being issued to the Athlete.
- 4.5. When a ~~back~~/body protector* is required, if an air vest is used it must be worn over the ~~back~~/body protector*, and cannot replace it.

5. Dress for Athletes and Grooms under the age of 18

- 5.1. At all times, whilst on a carriage, Athletes and Grooms under the age of 18 must wear a body ~~back~~ protector* and a securely fastened Protective Headgear. Infringement will result in Elimination.
- 5.2. In addition, failure to wear such Protective Headgear and ~~back-body~~ protector* (in compliance with the applicable international testing standards) where and when required after being notified to do so by an Official, shall result in a Yellow Warning Card, being issued to the Athlete.
- 5.3. During Horse inspections, it is strongly recommended for Athletes and Grooms under the age of 18 to wear securely fastened Protective Headgear.

*Body protectors cover the front and back of the torso.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

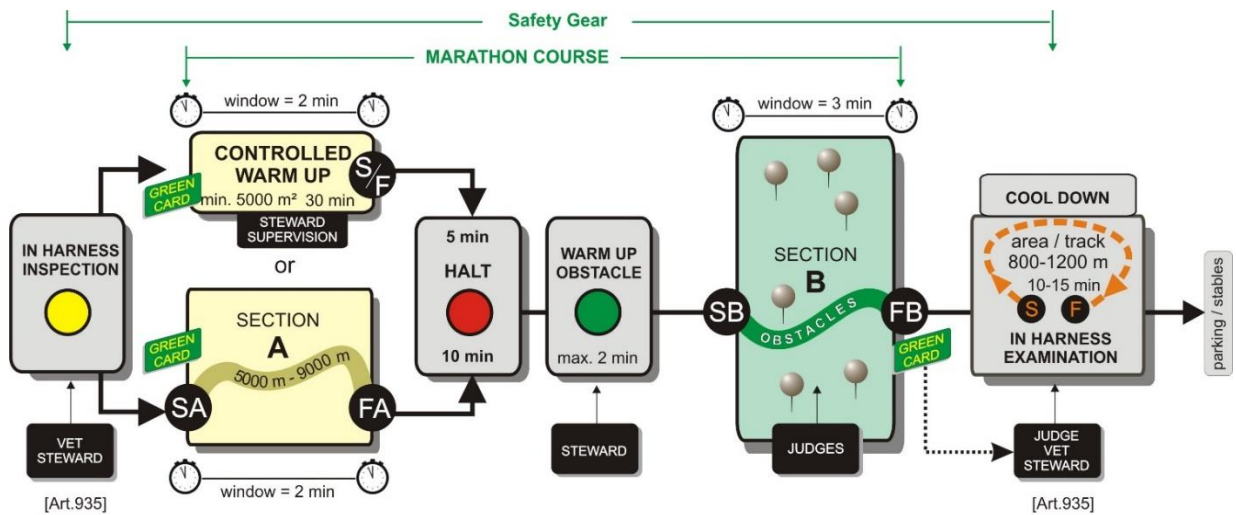
Art. 935.3.4

Explanation for Proposed Change

Inconsistency in the naming of the In-Harness Horse Inspection.
The Diagram in Art. 959 has also been updated to reflect this modification.

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

3.4 If a Horse entered in the Marathon is not presented at the In-Harness ExaminationHorse Inspection, the Athlete must be eliminated before the start of the Section A/Controlled Warm-Up.



Comments Received by 21 August 2024

N/A.

FEI Feedback

N/A.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024

As above.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

NED

Article Number – Article Name

Article 937 and 939

Explanation for Proposed Change

Clarification of the Rules:

Article 937.1.4. The track width of all carriages is measured at ground level on the widest part of the rear wheels.

Clarify how the track width of the carriages should be measured. Should this be done at the bottom of the rubber or on the profile? Some drivers use diagonally cut rubber, which sometimes causes the carriages to be measured smaller than they actually are. This gives them an advantage in the cones.

Provide the rules with a clear image or explanation and/or brief the officials on how to measure the rubber of the wheels so that it is handled consistently (fair competition).

Article 939 Tyres on the FEI regulations states the following: 2. In all competitions carriages must be fitted with iron or solid rubber tyres. The outer surface of the tire must be smooth. Failure to comply results in an Elimination.

Define smooth both in with, side and profile (tyre-track) of the outer surface of the solid rubber tyres because at the moment this leaves room for discussion

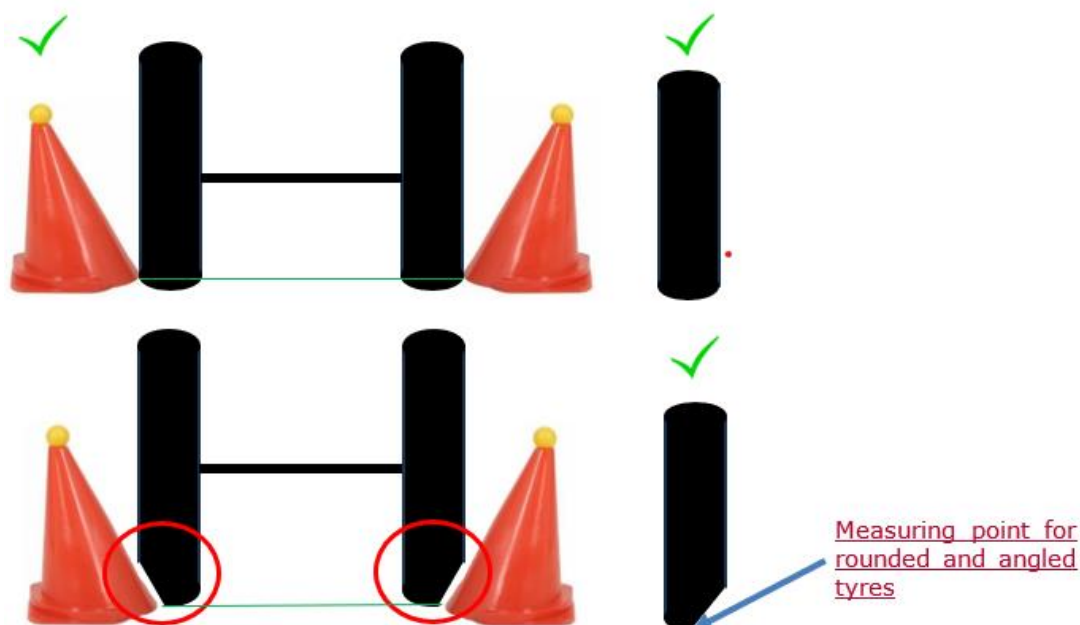
Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

The Driving Committee suggests revising the wording of the regulation and incorporating a diagram illustrating the measurement of carriages. Additionally, the Committee suggests integrating the existing tyre diagram from the tack app into the rules.

Art.937

1.4 The track width of all carriages is measured at ground level on the widest part of the rear wheels. For measuring of the carriages, please refer to Annex 11.

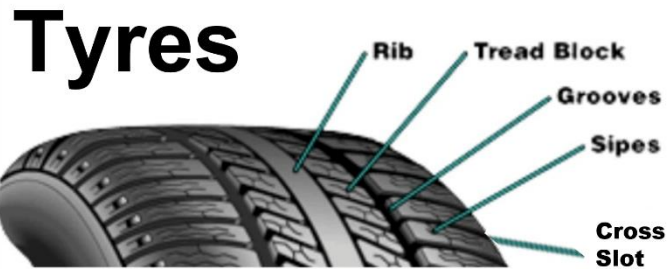
Annex 11 Measuring of the Carriages



Art. 939

2. In all Competitions carriages must be fitted with iron or solid rubber tyres. The outer surface of the tyre must be smooth. Failure to comply results in an Elimination. For permitted tyres, please refer to Annex 12.

A. ANNEX 12 PERMITTED TYRES



1. Permitted Tyres must:

- 1.1. Be a single Rib containing 1 completely smooth Tread Block that runs the 360 ° circumference of the wheel and contains no Grooves, Sipes or Cross Slots (a) or;
- 1.2. Contain two or more Ribs separated by a Groove. Each Rib may only contain 1 single smooth Tread Block that runs the 360° circumference of the wheel and contains no Sipes or Cross Slots (b) (c).

2. Permitted Tyres must not:

- 2.1. Have Rib(s) that contain multiple Tread Blocks (e)
- 2.2. Have Rib(s) that contain any Cross Slots (f), Sipes (g), or any combination of Sipes and Cross Slots (h).



NED:

Image D is missing.

It is not clear to us why F, G and H are not allowed on solid rubber?

Allow small straight lines on tyres with solid rubber

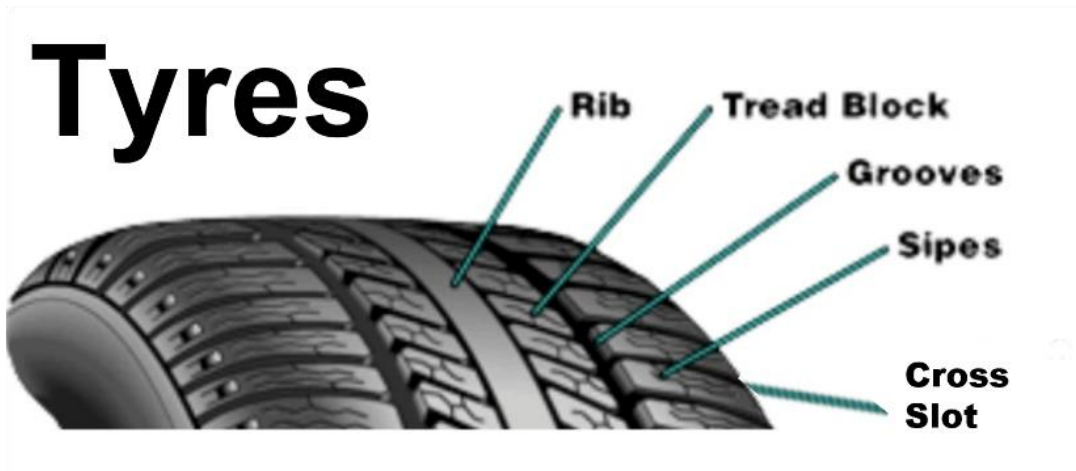
FEI Feedback

The wording is modified as per below and the implementation moved to mid-year (01.07.2025) in order to let Athletes have the time to changes their tyres if needed.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024

ANNEX 12 PERMITTED TYRES

This annex is to be enforced as of 01.07.2025



1. Permitted tyres must either:

1.1. Be a single Rib containing 1 completely smooth Tread Block that runs the 360 ° circumference of the wheel and contains no Grooves, Sipes or Cross Slots (a) or;

1.2. Contain two or more Ribs separated by a Groove of any width. Each Rib may only contain 1 single smooth Tread Block that runs the 360° circumference of the wheel and contains no Sipes or Cross Slots (b) (c).

2. Permitted tyres must not:

2.1. Have Rib(s) that contain multiple Tread Blocks (d)

2.2. Have Rib(s) that contain any Cross Slots (e), Sipes (f), or any combination of Sipes and Cross Slots (g).



Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Art. 940

Explanation for Proposed Change

In order to refer to the relevant article on Noseband tightness in the Veterinary Rules, the FEI proposes to add the following reference to the Driving Rules.

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

~~1.3.~~ 1.3. Nosebands, ancillary equipment and blinkers

~~1.1.3.1.~~ 1.3.1. Any nosebands, attachments or ancillary equipment which impede or are likely to impede the free intake of air into the nostrils of the Horse are not permitted. If the Horse has obtained a medical certificate to wear a nosenet, it must be used whenever the Horse is harnessed, ridden, ~~or~~ lunged ~~or~~ and at the First Horse Inspection.

~~1.2.3.2.~~ 1.3.2. If used, blinkers and ancillary equipment must not impede forward vision or be so close to the eyes as to irritate them.

~~1.3.3.3.~~ 1.3.3. Article 1044.8 of the FEI Veterinary Regulations applies in relation to the permitted tightness of the noseband.

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

USA:

Given that there will very little time, if any, for athletes, grooms, and officials to become accustomed to the new noseband tightness device, we propose that an implementation period be considered where the warning system can be used opposed to an immediate yellow card for the first quarter of 2025.

This will give time for all to become accustomed to using the new device and provide the officials the option to use a warning system opposed to an official yellow card if there is an unintended tightening of the noseband.

FEI to determine wording for phased implementation period utilizing the warning system.

FEI Feedback

The wording that was approved at the FEI General Assembly 2023 and included in the FEI GRs will remain unchanged. The testing phase of the noseband has been successful and the FEI will be providing an update to the NFs and stakeholders regarding the implementation plan for the new noseband tightness measuring tool.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024

As above.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)	
FEI	
Article Number – Article Name	
Art 940.4. Connecting straps	
Explanation for Proposed Change	
<p>To enhance clarity regarding this Rule and to safeguard the wheelers from potential contact with the lead bar, the committee proposes revising the wording concerning connecting straps. This modification prohibits the reduction of the lead bar while permitting the use of straps intended to secure the lead bar in place and prevent vertical movement</p>	
Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024	
4.1	<p>Connecting straps between neck or breast collars may be used in all Four-in-Hand Competitions. The leaders may not be attached to each other in any other way (except by the Reins). The swingletree/trace of the leaders may not be attached <u>in any way that would reduce the width of the lead bar as per Art. 940.1.7.</u></p>
Comments Received by 21 August 2024	
N/A.	
FEI Feedback	
N/A.	
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024	
As above.	

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article Number – Article Name
Art. 943.2.7
Explanation for Proposed Change
To align with the tack app in the technical article section, the DTC proposes modifying the wording as follows.
Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024
<u>2.7</u> No person may be tied to the Carriage in any way during the Competitions. An Athlete may be secured by rope, webbing or belt, provided one end is held by a Groom and not wrapped or fastened to the carriage in any way. <u>The lap belt may be attached to the carriage on one end with the other free end of the belt neither fastened to the carriage such as with tape, zip tie, buckle or snap nor wrapped to the carriage by more than one single 360 degree loop which contains no overlap, half hitch, or other means of knotting to secure the loop. Additionally, the free end of the belt can only be held by the groom.</u>
Comments Received by 21 August 2024
N/A.
FEI Feedback
N/A.
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024
As above.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Art. 975 & 981

Explanation for Proposed Change

The incorrect rule listed for failing to pass through the start and finish lines should be corrected and the DTC proposes the below wording for clarity.

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

Art 975:

- 2. Starting and finishing the Cones Course
 - 2.1. After the bell has rung, the Athlete has 45 seconds to cross the start line.
 - 2.2. After the bell has rung, if an Athlete fails to pass the starting line and proceeds to an obstacle, they will incur elimination.
 - 2.3. If an Athlete fails to pass the finish line before leaving the arena, they will incur elimination.

Art. 981:

	981		
Failing to pass through start or finish lines.	<u>975.2.2</u>	Elimination	Elimination
	<u>975.2.3</u>		

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

N/A.

FEI Feedback

N/A.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024

As above.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article Number – Article Name
Art. 989.3.1
Explanation for Proposed Change
The DTC proposes to replace "agreement" with "supervision" to correspond with Article 972.1.1.
Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024
3.1. The Course Designer is responsible, <u>under the supervision of in-agreement with</u> the Technical Delegate, for:
Comments Received by 21 August 2024
N/A.
FEI Feedback
N/A.
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024
As above.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article Number – Article Name
Art. 990.3.1
Explanation for Proposed Change
As the Driving Stewards Manual is replaced by the Stewards Job Description, this mention is not applicable.
Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024
<p>Duties</p> <p>2.1. Driving Stewards are responsible for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Checking and measuring all the carriages after Driven Dressage and Cones. At the start of Section A/Controlled Warm-Up in Marathon, and if necessary, at the end of the Cool-Down. b) Checking the bit of every Horse after Driven Dressage and ones, and after Marathon. Unacceptable bits must be reported to the President of the Ground Jury. c) Checking that Athletes comply with the Rules pertaining to Advertising. d) Reporting to the President of the Ground Jury any contravention of the Rules pertaining to Carriages, lamps, tyres, harness, bits or Advertising. e) Other duties as specified in the General Regulations and as published in the Driving Stewards ManualJob Description.
Comments Received by 21 August 2024
N/A.
FEI Feedback
N/A.
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024
As above.