

ARIZONA DRIVING TRIAL
DESCRIPTION OF DIVISIONS/LEVELS/CLASSES, YEAR END
POINTS AND AWARDS, & COMPETITOR RULES - Revised for 2022

Rules will follow Appendix CD-A and CD-B of the ADS Rulebook whenever possible, with exceptions/additions as noted herein. All rules in the ADS Rulebook, which are not modified for ADT's in Appendix CD-A and CD-B, will still apply. Please note that our "Arizona" driving trials are not exactly the same as the ADS "Arena" driving trials, so those exact rules do not all apply. The ADS Rule Book for 2021 (used until the 2022 Rules come out) is available for download from <https://americandrivingsociety.org> . It is suggested that the Combined Driving and General sections be reviewed each year.

Participants and Competition Rules

All participants (drivers) in ADCS sponsored events must be current ADCS members. Grooms, navigators, etc. may be non members of ADCS. All must sign a release at each event. Please be aware of the Rules at the end of this document, which all participants are expected to follow.

Practice at host site:

On other than the dressage field at most events, participants may not practice on the ADT courses once they have been set up, whether it is the day before or a week before. A competitor will be eliminated from that event if found to violate this rule.

Organization of Divisions/Levels/Classes

DIVISIONS

Included are Single VSE, Single Small Pony, Single Pony, Single Horse, VSE Pairs/Multiples, and Pairs/Multiples-Horse&Pony. All sized ponies, except VSE, are combined in the same classes for Pairs/Multiples-Horse&Pony, due to low expected numbers. See size requirements on last page.

LEVELS

Included are Training Green Driver, Training, Preliminary, and Intermediate. A Training Green Driver class is available in each training level division except the multiples. Training Green Driver is limited to those who are new to driving within the past year, or first time competitors in an ADT Series (or green drivers who did not qualify for a year end award in the previous series; i.e., did not compete in two ADTs), and who have never competed in a CDE above training level, or in more than one CDE at training level. Any driver eligible for green driver may compete for one entire series in that level, and will be required to move out of the green driver level in the next series. The Green Driver level is designed for beginner drivers. Scores in hazards are not taken or counted for Green Drivers.

Regular Training level is open to any driver/equine combination. It is expected that very experienced drivers with experienced horses will compete at a higher level and leave this level for drivers with green horses or relatively new drivers no longer eligible for the green driver classes. However, it will be left up to the individual to decide with which level they feel most comfortable. A Champion at this level in a previous series may compete at this level in the new series and may again earn a year end award and repeat as Champion.

Preliminary, Intermediate: These levels are open to any driver/equine combination wishing to compete in them. Previous series competition level or placing has no bearing on who may enter these levels. A prior Champion may repeat in the new series.

CLASSES

Classes result from combining a level and division. Except, there are no classes offered for Green Drivers in Pairs/Multiples divisions, and also no class for VSE Pairs/Multiples at Intermediate (at this time). All other combinations are possible and offered.

Series Year End Points and Awards

POINTS

Year End Points are Awarded at each ADT in the Series and include "place points" and "participation points." Each class will be placed (Place points) 1st through 6th based on the final combined score of the three event phases of Dressage, Cones, and Obstacles. No final score is determined, and therefore no place points are given, if an entry eliminates in one of the three phases. In large classes, those not placing at least 6th, also receive no place points.

Each entry will receive one point for Participating in a class at the event, even if they have been eliminated. At least one phase of the event must be attempted.

PLACE POINTS are awarded as follows: (An Elimination earns 0 Place Points)

Class of 3 or less:

- 1st place - 3 points
- 2nd place - 2 points
- 3rd place - 1 point

Class of 4 or more:

- 1st place - 6 points
- 2nd place - 5 points
- 3rd place - 4 points
- 4th place - 3 points
- 5th place - 2 points
- 6th place - 1 point

AWARDS

Year end awards are given in all classes with qualified entries, through six places. At least two events must be attended by the same driver/equine/class combination to qualify for year end placing in that class, and at least one of the events attended must result in "Place" points being earned, otherwise, only a Participation Award will be given.

While the number of events offered in each year's series can differ year to year, an attempt is made to schedule at least six events a year, at various locations. While only two events are required to qualify for an award in a particular class, up to four events can be counted. The FOUR best finishes are totaled for year end "PLACE POINTS." All PARTICIPATION points are then added to that total, and the class then placed 1st through 6th. Awards are given up to 6 places. Any tie in final placing is broken by the better Dressage average over the series.

An Awards Banquet will be scheduled at a date after the final ADT of the series.

Changing Levels during the Series

If changing levels mid-series, the same driver/equine may earn an additional award if at least two ADTs are also attended in the class at the new level. Exception: If a green driver entry moves to regular training mid season, they may not earn a second award - as they have not changed levels. They will have to choose the training class to be used for the award if they qualify in both sections of training level.

If a driver/equine combination moves up to a higher level during the series, and after one ADT at the new level, the driver decides it was a mistake to move up, they may return to the lower level. If they move up again at a later date, they must then finish the season at the higher level. This holds true for a green driver moving to regular training, as well.

Competitor Rules

1. A Safety vest is required for driver and navigator above Training Level in the Obstacles section.
2. Informal dress is permissible for all classes.
3. Helmets are required at all times for the driver and any passengers.
4. Gloves and whips are required in competition. Lap robes are not required.
5. Leg wraps may be used on horses during all phases of the competition.
6. Navigators are required in Obstacles except for VSE singles and small ponies (small ponies are 99 cm to less than 120 cm.). **Junior drivers must be accompanied by an adult. Navigators may assist more than one entry and they frequently can be found during the event, if you have no one with you to navigate.
7. Any safe vehicle will be allowed in all divisions/levels (exception: see #8). Drivers need to consider if their vehicle is designed for this type of driving and suitable for the local conditions at each ADT. A "Fore cart" is not appropriate. The final decision on a vehicle's safety is determined by the event TD. Contact organizers before entering an event if you are unsure if you have an appropriate vehicle.
8. No wire spoked wheels shall be used at levels above training, except for VSE vehicles. Pneumatic tires may be used at all levels.
9. In Training Level (green and regular), in all phases, no cantering or running will be allowed. Accuracy and correctness should be the primary goal, not speed. Breaks must be controlled immediately, with penalties given or elimination the result, depending on circumstances.
10. Time penalties in the hazards will be used in the scoring for all levels except Green Driver as noted above.
11. All dogs must be on leash and under control at all times. Local organizers may make their own rules regarding allowing dogs on the property.
12. An entry may be eliminated and /or excused from the competition site for dangerous/unsafe driving.
13. All equine brought to a competition must compete in the event. No animals may be there "just for the experience."
14. All participants are expected to follow the ADS rules concerning behavior and sportsmanship. This includes inappropriate comments, excessive noise during competitions, excessive use of the whip, cruelty to animals, etc.
15. Competitors are reminded to read and follow any additional local rules that may be distributed or posted at an event.
16. A competitor may question the decision of any official at an event within a reasonable time of the decision. However the final decision of the official shall be final and no further appeal is permitted. Competitors should check for a possible Hazard elimination before leaving the grounds. Questioning a hazard result is next to impossible once Hazard Officials have been released.

**Rules apply to Junior Drivers based on their competition age and the particular facility. Please see each competition's information for specifics relating to junior drivers for that event.

EQUINE SIZE REQUIREMENTS

Very Small Equine: Under 99 cm. at the withers as measured by ADS standards

Visit the ADS website for measuring specifics.

Small Pony: 99 cm.- less than 120 cm. with or without shoes.

Large pony: 120-148 cm. with or without shoes or 149 cm. with shoes.

Horse: above large pony size.

The Club has a VSE measuring stick, and can measure an equine (not officially) at the event if there is doubt as to VSE or small pony size.