

ARIZONA DRIVING TRIAL

DESCRIPTION OF DIVISIONS/LEVELS/CLASSES, YEAR-END POINTS AND AWARDS AND COMPETITOR RULES

*2025 Revised Club Rules for Driving Trials

Rules will follow the Combined Driving section of the ADS Rulebook whenever possible, with exceptions/additions as noted herein. Rules in the ADS Rulebook, not modified for ADCS ADT's will still apply. "Arizona" driving trials are not exactly the same as the ADS "Arena" driving trials. The ADS Rule Book is available for download from <https://americandrivingsociety.org> . It is suggested that the competitors review the ADS Combined Driving and General sections each year, as ADS rule changes can occur annually.

All drivers/competitors in ADCS events must be current ADCS members. Grooms, navigators, etc. may be non-members of ADCS, but must sign a release at each event. Please review the Competitor Rules, which all participants are expected to follow.

***Revision for 2026: Due to multiple increases in costs, including club insurance , Pay Pal fees, fees to maintain/update equipment and other expenses, the club will be increasing the ADT competitor fees to \$80 for each event. Junior competitors will pay ½ price fees, to encourage Junior competitors.**

Competitor Rules

1. Safety vests are required for driver and navigator (above *Green Driver* level) in the Obstacles section. Vests are required for all Junior drivers.
2. Helmets are required at all times for all drivers and for anyone riding on any carriage.
3. Gloves and whips are required in competition. "Presentation on the move" is not scored.
4. Informal dress is permissible for all classes. Mandatory: closed toed shoes, long pants, short/long sleeve shirts. No sleeveless or "tank tops".
5. Leg wraps and/or boots may be utilized on equines during all phases of the competition.
6. Removing a bridle from any equine who is still hitched/attached to a carriage/cart is forbidden and may result in elimination.
7. No equine shall be left unattended and tied to any vehicle/stall/object, while still attached to the carriage. Doing so may result in elimination.
8. Navigators are required in Obstacles except for VSE singles and small ponies.
9. 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.
10. Any safe vehicle will be allowed in all divisions/levels. 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.
11. Except for VSE vehicles, no wire-spoked wheels shall be used at levels above training. Pneumatic tires may be used at all levels.
12. In Training Level (*Green* and regular) all phases are walk/trot only. No cantering/galloping allowed. Breaks must be controlled immediately, with penalties given or elimination the result, depending on circumstances.
13. Time in the obstacles will be used in scoring for all levels (except Training level *Green Driver*, as noted above.)
14. 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. Dogs are not allowed to ride on carriages while the competitor is competing.
15. An entry may be eliminated and/or excused from the competition site for dangerous/unsafe driving. Excessive use of the whip, or cruelty to animals, is not allowed.

16. All equines brought to a competition must be entered in the event. No animals may be there “just for the experience.”
17. All participants are expected to follow the ADS rules concerning Sportsmanship. It is forbidden to use abusive/intimidating language to interact negatively with competitors/organizers/officials/volunteers. Abuse of social media to attack the character/reputation of other competitors/officials/volunteers/organizers is not allowed.
18. Competitors are reminded to read and follow any additional local rules that may be distributed or posted at an event.
19. A competitor may question the decision of an official at an event, within a reasonable time of the decision. However, the decision(s) of the official(s) shall be final, with no further appeal. Competitors should check for a possible obstacle elimination before leaving the grounds. Questioning an obstacle result is next to impossible once obstacle officials have been released.
20. Rules apply to Junior Drivers based on their competition age and the logistics of particular facilities. Please see each competition's information for specifics relating to Junior Drivers, and/or contact the organizer or Technical delegate for questions on Junior rules.

Practice at Host venue/site: On other than the dressage field, 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 and Pony. All sized ponies, except VSE, are combined in the same classes for Pairs/Multiples Horse and Pony, due to low current numbers.

EQUINE SIZE AND AGE REQUIREMENTS:

As measured by ADS standards. Visit the ADS website for measuring specifics.
Competing equines must be 4 years of age, or older.

Very Small Equine (VSE): Under 99 cm. at the withers

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

Pony: 120-148 cm. with or without shoes or 149 cm. with shoes.

Horse: 149 cm. (14.3hh) or larger equine

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

LEVELS

Training

Training Green Driver class is designed for beginner drivers. It is limited to those new to combined driving within the past year, first-time competitors in an ADT Series, or *Green Drivers* who did not qualify for a year-end award in the previous series or did not compete in two ADTs. A *Training Green Driver* class is available in each Training level division (except the multiples). Any driver eligible to compete as a *Green Driver* may compete for one entire series in that class and will be required to move to Training driver level in the next series. Scores in Driven Dressage and Cones are the instruments used for scoring class placement at an ADT. *Green Drivers* are to correctly drive the obstacles. *Green Driver* obstacle times are taken but not used in scoring the ADT event. All Training competitors compete at trot or walk only. See ADT Rule # 12 regarding breaks in gait.

Training level is open to any driver/equine combination. It is expected that 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 at which level they feel most comfortable. A Champion at Training level, in a previous series may compete at Training level in the new series and may again earn a year-end award and might repeat as Champion.

Preliminary and 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.

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 completed 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.

Series Year-End Points and Awards

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

Every entry will receive one Participation Point for participating in the event, even if they have been eliminated/withdrawn. At least one phase of the event must be attempted.

PLACE POINTS

awarded as follows

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

(An Elimination earns 0 Place Points)

YEAR-END 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.

Competitors may compete with more than one driver/equine/class entry.

Only two events (by the same driver/equine/class combination) are required to qualify for year-end awards. Up to four events may be counted, and the FOUR best finishes are averaged 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 average of the two best Dressage scores, over the series.

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