# FORMAT FOR BDS TREC

## SETTING UP

Work with the venue that you have. It is great if you can organise a shorter route for little legs. The route can be a minimum of 2.5 miles up to a maximum of 5 miles.

To assist the competitors, draw a map and/or write a written description.

To limit the number of stewards, numbers or letters can be placed at strategic points on the route. This ensures that the drivers have driven the entire route for their class. The numbers or letters then make up either a sum or a word. If the competitor fails to supply the answer, 10 penalties will be incurred.

The speed should be a gentle jog, ie a mile in twelve minutes. For example, a 2.5 mile route should take half an hour. Times can be adjusted to accommodate the temperature, fitness and ability of the ponies etc. Penalties are incurred for completing the route over or under time at a rate of 1 penalty per minute over or under.

### SKILLS

We use five skills. Examples on the list below. Whilst heavy mats bordered by cones to cross over are acceptable, the use of tarpaulins to walk over is deemed dangerous.

**ONE HANDED CIRCLE**
Around on a specified rein, 4 cones with balls on top. Penalties will be added for each time you place your right hand back on the reins and for any balls dislodged on the cones.

**REIN BACK INCLUDING HALT**
Drive forward into a box of 4 cones. Halt for 5 seconds with your axle (front) in-between the front set of cones. Rein back so that your (back) wheels have passed through the back set of cones. Drive forward out of obstacle. Penalties will also be deducted if the halt is not 5 seconds, not square or any of the balls are dislodged.

**PARALLEL LINES**
Keep your right wheel(s) in-between the lines. Normally 25cm apart and 3 metres long. There are 10 markers on each side 0.25 penalties will be incurred for each marker that is hit or missed completely

**EGG AND SPOON**
Groom dismounts and passes the driver a large spoon and tennis ball. With the whip and reins in the left hand and the spoon in the right, the driver moves forward to the marker and tosses the ball into the bucket.

**OPEN THE GATE**
This can be a jump pole on a stand. The groom dismounts and opens the “gate” whilst horse remains still. Turnout passes through the gate and the groom closes the gate and remounts carriage.

**WINDY ROAD**
A “roadway” is marked out using sports training disks. Mark as the parallel lines.

**180 DEGREE TURN**
Using sports training discs mark out a one metre circle. Driver must turn 180 degrees keeping right (back) wheel within the circle.

**GLASS OF WATER**
Driver must halt, with whip and reins in left hand, pick up the glass and drive to the set down point, (approx. 5 metres) halt, put glass down without spilling. Penalties will be deducted if you stop in the challenge other than to pick up and replace the glass; If you rein back or cross the boundary line; if you put your right hand back on the rein too early or spill the water.

**CLOVER LEAF**
Negotiate the clover leaf in the correct sequence.

**THE CURVE**
A curved line with a double row of markers. Keeping your right wheel(s) in-between the lines, complete the length of the curve. There are 10 markers on each side. 0.25 penalties will be incurred for each marker that is hit or missed completely

**3 CUP CHALLENGE**
Groom to place a coloured cup on to the corresponding coloured pole one at a time. Grooms of small ponies that are on foot should hold the middle of the back rest whilst completing the task.

**RIGHT HANDED TURN**
The driver approaches the junction. With whip and reins in left hand, give a right hand signal, at the first marker. Drive to the junction, halt for 5 seconds, repeat the signal, execute the turn without crossing the "white line" marking the centre of the road i.e. don't cut the corner. Dressage boards and training discs are useful to mark the "road and junction".

All of these can be set up the day before along with the cones course. The competitors are invited to walk the skills and cones during the lunch break.

## FORMAT FOR THE DAY

**Briefing.** All competitors are briefed including anything noted on the risk assessment. They are informed of the slow time on the route and the cones, thus, preventing people racing around. Paperwork and maps are issued to each competitor.

Candidates are set off at ten minute intervals. They present themselves at their start time for their safety inspection.

## TREC PRESENTATION

A mark out of 10 is given for the pony, harness, driver and groom and finally the carriage. 10 being the most perfect and 0 being the worst score. The total marks for all 4 presentation sections are added together and subtracted from 40 to give the total number of penalties for the presentation phase. This is the score entered on the main mark sheet.

**The Pony**

Should be clean, with mane and tail untangled. Shoes should not be loose or excessively worn. Feet must be picked out and, to obtain top marks, oiled inside and out.

He should be neither over nor under weight. No "sleepies" in his eyes and clean nostrils.

He should appear capable of doing the job ahead of him and be well mannered.

**The Harness**

Should fit well to both the pony and the carriage. Ideally, it should not be on the first or last hole giving room for adjustment.

It should be very clean and ideally match.

Hi viz and quick release clips are positively encouraged. As is plaiting the bridle in or using gullet straps.

If using a 2 wheeled vehicle or a carriage with fixed shafts, it should have a sliding back band. Independent shafts need to have a fixed back band or some way of preventing it from moving (Conway buckles).

The line of draft from the collar to the swingletree must not be interrupted by the belly band, breeching straps or trace carriers. The trace should pass between the belly band and the girth for 2 wheeled vehicles and outside for 4 wheelers. Also with 4 wheeled vehicles, the belly band should pass through the keeper (if present) on either side at the bottom of the panel of the driving saddle.

In the two wheeled set up, the belly band must be tight enough to prevent the shafts crossing over the pony's back but loose enough to allow for balance.

You should be able to get 3-4 fingers breadth ways depending on the size of the pony, in-between the seat of breeching and the pony's quarters level with his stifle when the carriage is in draft. The straps must not be wrapped more than once around the shaft to take up the length. Parrot/scissor clips if used must be of the correct type/strength.

The length of traces should allow the back band, tugs and belly band to lie in a straight vertical line on the saddle.

The bit should be checked for width, especially where the cheek piece billets pass through the eyes of the bit. It should be the correct height in the pony's mouth.

His eyes should be in the centre of the blinkers.

Contact details on a dog tag type disc fixed to the harness is a great idea.

**The Driver and Groom**

Both should wear hard hats and gloves (brown are correct for carriage driving).

They should wear appropriate footwear (not trainers) and hi viz, again, is positively encouraged.

The whip must be in the driver's hand at all times. It should be long enough to reach the horse's nearside shoulder from the box seat.

A mobile phone must be carried by the driver or groom and not in spares kit.

Full marks will be given to well turned out, matching clothing.

**The Carriage**

Must fit the pony well, be clean and fit for purpose.

If using breast collar harness, a swingletree must be used.

If using a 2 wheeled vehicle it must be well balanced.

All shaft furniture, swingle tree, adjustable shafts must be checked for any looseness.

Brakes must work and not bind.

Pneumatic tyres must have enough air and clincher or bonded rubber tyres must not be loose.

It must have reflectors to the rear. The more hi-viz the better, including on the side or shafts.

It should have a comprehensive spares kit which is easily accessible and the groom should have some knowledge of how to use it. The lead rein should not be in the spares but kept close to the groom and not coiled up.

Full marks will go to a clean, shiny carriage with good paintwork, hi-viz to the sides and the rear, flashing lights, possibly a tracker fitted.

## THE ROUTE

The time keeping steward makes a note of their start time and they complete the route.

They then report back to the steward with the word/number to prove that they have completed their chosen route. The finish time will be entered on their score sheet.

Lunch break/course walk

The 5 skills are then negotiated with marks out of 10 for each one (then converted to penalties)

The cones course is then driven with 0.25 penalties for each second over or under time. We normally establish the set time by jogging gently round the course ourselves. Indoor speed is 220m per minute so 180m per minute

would be more achievable. If you are able to measure the course, in an ideal world, measure your course out at 270m (if you do not have access to a measuring wheel, it can be paced out) and it makes the target time 90 seconds which is easy to work out. When measuring the course, try and imagine that you are driving a pony around the course taking realistic turns and not just measuring the shortest distance from pair of cones to the next pair of cones. 3 penalties are awarded for each ball dislodged.

The width between the cones is normally 145-150cm. Most carriages are 125cm track width. However, not all carriages are the same. It is a good idea to ask vehicle widths on the entry form and the cones may have to be adjusted to keep things fair on the day. So there should be a minimum of 20cm clearance.

The scores are added together and given as penalties with the lowest number being the highest placed. The office normally supply 2 sets of rosettes 1st-6th place. This ensures that the groom goes home with a rosette too.

If numbers permit, you may want to run more than 1 class e.g. beginners, large or small etc.

The 3 lowest scores of the day will be awarded a qualifier rosette for the National Championships and the office be informed of who has qualified. If already qualified, the next lowest scores will also qualify.