



INTERNATIONAL DRIVING TREC RULES

Applicable as of 1st January 2016

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PREAMBLE

The International Equestrian Tourism Federation is the sole international organisation with the authority to govern Driving TREC competitions.

According to procedures decided by the FITE and the relevant specifications, the actual organisation of each of the various competitions is allocated to a National Equestrian Tourism Organisation (NETO), designated by the FITE.

Driving TREC competitions, open to all horses, are intended to assess one or several ponies, horses or other, one driver and his groom(s) in various driven trail riding techniques, under optimum conditions of safety and pleasure.

A Driving TREC event comprises two phases:

- ◆ The POR phase (Orienteering and Regularity),
- ◆ The PTV phase (Obstacle course)

I – ORGANISATION

Art 1.1 – Land and equipment

The Organising Committee must provide the following:

- ◆ stables
- ◆ a veterinary inspection area,
- ◆ an area for the presentation to take place,
- ◆ a map reading room,
- ◆ an approved POR, without any apparent danger,
- ◆ a warm-up area for the PTV phase,
- ◆ a PTV course, built to be in line with technical requirements.
- ◆ this list is not exhaustive and may be supplemented by a specification pertaining to a single competition.

Art 1.2 – Veterinary

- ◆ A vet is appointed by the Organising Committee and, as appropriate, assisted by a commission.
- ◆ Veterinary inspections must take place in a flat area, in a straight line, on a firm but yielding surface without slopes
- ◆ Except for the veterinary check-up which takes place during POR, it must take place near stables. One or more watering points must be available to for the horse.
- ◆ Presentation during the veterinary inspection can be done either with snaffle or halter.
- ◆ Difficult horses and stallions must be presented with a bridle.

Art 1.3 – Timing Officials

- ◆ A timing official is provided by the Organising Committee.

II – COMPETITIONS

Art 2.1 – General

All Driving TREC competitions organised under the auspices of the FITE, whether individual championships or team championships per continent, International Open competitions, on the initiative of one or several NETOs, etc. must comply with the international rules.

The only competitions that can be considered as international Driving TREC competitions are those that are part of the FITE event schedules.

Art. 2.1 – The different sections

- ◆ Single pony A
- ◆ Single pony
- ◆ Single horse
- ◆ Pairs horses

- ◆ 2 rows

III – JURIES

Art 3.1 - Composition of juries

For the Championships, officials are proposed by the FITE sports commission.

Ground Jury, Appeal Jury and the veterinary commission decisions are taken on an absolute majority vote of each of the members, with the Jury President having the casting vote.

The Ground Jury President and the Technical Delegate must be informed of any incidents occurring during the competition.

A – Ground Jury

1 – Members

- ◆ The President of the Ground Jury appointed by the FITE bureau,
- ◆ Two international TREC judges from FITE, including one foreigner, put forward by the Organising Committee
- ◆ The FITE Technical Delegate, in a consultative role.

2 – Role

- ◆ It must ensure that these rules are applied,
 - ◆ It is responsible for its implementation by various judges and controllers,
- ◆ It must receive and process appeals
- ◆ It must validate the results of each phase and of the final result.

Cases not appearing in this list are addressed by the Ground Jury. The Jury is competent to take decisions based on common sense and fair play rules most suitable to the spirit of FITE rules.

B – Appeal Jury

- ◆ Presided over by the President of the FITE sports commission
- ◆ It also comprises two international judges put forward by the President of the Appeal Jury
- ◆ The FITE Technical Delegate, in a consultative role.
- ◆ The Jury meets upon request from the FITE President, after the competition at a date and venue to be defined
- ◆ Its role is to rule on events that the Ground Jury has failed to resolve
- ◆ It may call upon and consult ground judges and the competitors concerned
- ◆ Expenses linked to meetings of this Jury, including travel and accommodation expenses, are fully covered by FITE

C – Judges

Judges are appointed by the Organising Committee.

International judges and trainers must follow refresher courses and regularly officiate at events. The protocol can be consulted on the FITE website www.fite-net.org

D – Timing Officials

Placed under the authority of the Ground Jury President, he is involved in the PTV phase.

IV - COMPETITORS

Art 4.1 – General entry conditions

- ◆ Each carriage comprises at least one driver and one groom in charge of reading the map.
- ◆ For a 2-row team, a carriage comprises at least one driver and two grooms, apart from carriages with A and B ponies and tandems where one groom is sufficient.

- ◆ In both phases, the competitor must drive with the same groom(s) and the same ponie(s), horse(s) or other(s) and the same carriage.
- ◆ Only on the POR, the driver and the groom(s) can switch functions if the entry conditions are complied with.
- ◆ For obvious safety reasons, a groom may not go more than 10 metres away from the carriage.

Art 4.2 – Dress code requirement

Correct dress is required.

The wearing of an approved safety helmet is compulsory for all competitors in all phases, all sections and all competitions, whenever they are in the carriage and throughout the whole competition.

Back protection “body protectors” must be worn by all PTV competitors.

The ground jury reserves the right to not allow competitors to start with inappropriate or ill-suited equipment.

Art 4.3 – Methods of communication

Any competitor who, for reasons of safety, wants to have a cell phone, GPS, radio, walkie-talkie, etc. in their possession, must declare it to judges before the start of the POR when entering the map reading room. The device will be sealed by stewards in a special pack that will then be given back to the competitor.

V – HORSES

Art 5.1 – Requirements for the participation of horses

Ponies, horses or others participating in the competitions must:

- ◆ be aged at least 4 years old
- ◆ have the appropriate identification document
 - FEI passport or
 - national passport with a graphical outline, and up-to-date vaccination details according to legislation in the organising countries.
- ◆ To avoid any difficulty in terms of compliance with health requirements as described above and/or other national obligations the Organising Committee must inform the FITE and all NETOs likely to participate in competitions in good time – publication of the pre-programme.

Art 5.2 – Size of ponies

	Size of unshoed ponies	Size of shoed ponies
Poney A	1.07 m	1.08 m
Poney D	1.48 m	1.49 m

Art 5.3 – Vaccination procedure

So as to be considered vaccinated against equine flu, a horse must have been administered:

- a) An initial vaccination comprising 2 anti-flu injections between 21 and 92 days apart
- b) An annual booster, so that the gap between two injections does not exceed 12 months
- c) A vaccination no more than 6 months before the day of the competition.

No injection may be administered in the 7 days running up to the horse’s arrival at the competition venue.

Art 5.3 – Tack and equipment

Tack must be perfectly suited to the pony, horse or other and the type of competition.

All of the phases are carried out with the same tack or with strictly identical tack, same groom(s), same carriage.

The competition is open to all carriages which meet the following criteria:

- ◆ Harness in good condition and well adjusted, suitable for the discipline,

Version dated December 17th 2015 – The French version prevails.

- ◆ Carriage in good condition and suitable for the discipline.
- ◆ Leathers and fittings will be clean and well maintained.
- ◆ Bits may be freely chosen, a bit must be used.
- ◆ Equipment intended to carry other equipment must be perfectly suited to this task.

Art 5.4 – Shoeing

Horses that are usually unshod may compete unshod.

At the preliminary veterinary inspection, it is noted whether the horse is shod or not. The stated condition of shoeing at this point is considered a minimum.

A horse losing a shoe during the POR must be fitted with the appropriate protective footwear (a new shoe or a hoof boot), before being authorised to start.

For POR, horses are presented during controls and the veterinary inspections and / or equipment check-up with the horse shod as during the whole of this phase. Horses wearing hoof boots may compete in other phases shod or unshod.

VI – TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Art 6.1 – Allocation of points per phase

- ◆ The POR phase 240 points
- ◆ The PTV phase 160 points
- Total maximum points that can be obtained for both phases 400 points

Art 6.2 – Equipment inspection

For the POR phase, competitors must have all the necessary equipment for a whole day's ride, part of which takes place at night:

- ◆ head collar, lead rope,
- ◆ electric lamp and reflective device to be visible to the rear or a light with a white light in front and a red light at the back, or as appropriate any other compulsory device in the organising nation,
- ◆ for shod horses, a hoof boot or an emergency farriery kit,
- ◆ identification for the rider and horse (photocopies as appropriate in countries where this is allowed).

Criteria:

Harness: Safety, strength, good condition of leather, correct fitting.

Ponies/horses: Good general condition, cleanliness, condition of feet, document.

Carriage: Cleanliness, strength, balance, brakes, lighting, suitable for the discipline.

Driver and groom(s): Identity papers plus written documents.

Equipment: Grooming kit, farriery kit, veterinary and human first aid kits and repair kit.

For obvious safety reasons, all carriages that do not satisfy these criteria will not be allowed to start.

Veterinary and human first aid kit:

- ◆ 6 sterile swabs,
- ◆ 1 pair of round-ended scissors,
- ◆ 1 elasticated bandage, around 10cm wide,
- ◆ 1 disinfectant or antiseptic solution.

The equipment intended to carry this kit must be perfectly suitable. At any point on the POR, the Ground Jury can check if the rider still has the equipment that was listed at the start.

Repair equipment:

- ◆ Leather repair kit:
2 needles, thread, knife, string or threader, hole-cutter, several rivets,
1 replacement line or equivalent.
- ◆ Carriage repair kit:

Puncture repair spray for carriages with pneumatic wheels, spanners suited to the carriage, Phillips and flat screwdriver, 2 clips, adhesive tape, brake liquid if the vehicle has hydraulic brakes.

Art 6.3 – POR phase

A - Speed and distances

Section	Speeds	Average speed	Distances	Time in the map reading room
Club A Solo	5 to 10 km/h	6 to 8 km/h	≤ 12 km	15 min
Other sections	5 to 12 km/h	7 to 9 km/h	≤ 20 km	15 min

Exceptionally, the POR course designer can apply a lower speed in the case of major differences in altitude.

The optimum speeds are:

- ◆ displayed on a notice board
- ◆ told to riders by the steward at the start of the rest time between each stage
- ◆ constant over the stage in question
- ◆ chosen by the organisers between 5 and 10 or 12 km/h, according to the test
- ◆ the organisers will be careful not to impose the same speed on two successive stages.

B – Penalty points

This phase is marked by deducting penalty points from an optimum total of 240 points allocated each time a competitor starts. The final result can be negative.

PENALTY POINTS	NUMBER OF POINTS
Time penalties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 point per minute late or in advance of the optimum time: the time taken is rounded down to the nearest minute. ● On stages with a freely chosen route stage: point to point, coordinates, etc.... the allocated time can be either optimum or maximum. ● For maximum times, the time penalties only start once the allocated time has been exceeded.
Stage penalties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 points per piece of missing equipment, with a maximum of 10 points, in the case of listed equipment being observed to be missing. ● 30 points for arriving by a route other than that required ● 30 points for arriving with a map open on a stage to be executed with the compass. ● 50 points for any missed check-point. The two successive stages on each side of the missed check-point will be considered as one single stage to be executed at the determined speed set for the first of the two stages. ● 30 points for not being checked through a route check-point. ● 30 points for being checked through an off-route check-point. ● 30 points for any competitor who does not maintain his horse in forward movement within sight of a check-point, while staying on the route towards the timed line. ● A change of gait is authorised. ● Any competitor who does not leave a check-point, including the start line check-point, at the allocated time is penalised by one point for every full minute following his start time. For example, a rider who leaves a check-point 4'59" after he should do will be penalised by 4 points. The new start time is given on his record book along with the penalty marks.
Horse losing a shoe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10 points for a horse that arrives at a stage check-point having lost a shoe and not being replaced with a hoof boot
Veterinary penalties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5 points per 5 minutes imposed by the vet.

For each stage, the score is calculated independently of the other stages. Because of this, penalties incurred in any one stage are definitively incurred and cannot be won back on the other stages.

Any competitor who has arrived at a stage check-point cannot return to the stage just completed. In case of missing stage checks, the time penalty is calculated by adding up the distances of "x" number of

stages under consideration. The calculation of the ideal time is based on the most recent known speed of the competitor.

Example of time penalties for stages:

For an optimum calculated time of 55':

A competitor taking exactly 54'59" will have a real time (rounded to the minute reading) of 54' and therefore 1 penalty point.

A competitor taking exactly 55' or 55'59" will have a real time (rounded to the minute reading) of 55' and will therefore have no penalties.

A competitor taking exactly 56' or 56'59" will have a real time (rounded to the minute reading) of 56' and therefore 1 penalty point.

Art 6.4 – PTV phase

A - General

The course comprises 16 obstacles, either natural or man-made, that could be encountered when actually on a trail ride and appearing on the list of PTV obstacles.

Their dimensions vary according to the section level and are detailed in the technical data sheets for each of them.

Maximum height for jump obstacles:

- Seniors: 1.1m
- Juniors: 0.9m

Between the obstacles, riders may choose their gait. These are either freely chosen or imposed by the Ground Jury at certain other points in the course.

For reasons of safety, the Ground Jury may be involved from time to time considering weather conditions or any other reason.

In the event of a fall, a judge may momentarily stop a rider or a horse that he considers to be unfit to continue the course, stopping the clock until the President of the Ground Jury has taken a decision.

B – The course

The marked route must be displayed from the very first day of the event and must mention:

- the "Start and Finish" gates,
- compulsory passage points("POs") are forbidden,
- the distance,
- the maximum given time,
- the obstacles: name and number,
- the gait: walk, trot, canter or free.

C – Description of the obstacles

A certain amount of information is given concerning the shapes, dimensions, materials for these obstacles.

It is important to remember that this information is given for when we actually have to make the obstacle from scratch. In all cases it is recommended that natural obstacles are used wherever possible, whatever sizes and dimensions are used, as long as they represent a true obstacle without creating an objectively dangerous situation.

D – List of obstacles

The obstacles must be chosen from this list.

Driving TREC Technical Data Sheets may be consulted on the FITE website <http://www.fite-net.org>.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Corridor | 5. Turning around on the spot | 8. Cross slope |
| 2. Bank | 6. Upward incline start | 9. Difficulty with 2 or 3 gates |
| 3. Bell | 7. Downward incline start | 10. Dip |
| 4. Driving with one hand | | |

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 11. Pine forest | 16. Downward incline | 21. Twin-U alley |
| 12. Water crossing | 17. Bridge | 22. L-shaped alley |
| 13. Immobility | 18. Rein back | 23. U-shaped alley |
| 14. Coloured posts | 19. Manoeuvre | 24. Z-shaped alley |
| 15. Upward incline | 20. Roundabout | 25. Three leaf clover |

E - Distances and speeds

SECTIONS	DISTANCES	NUMBER OF OBSTACLES	SPEED
1 pony A and 1 pony	from 1.5 to 2 km	16	≤ 10 km/h
Other categories	from 1.5 to 2 km	16	≤ 12 km/h

F – Marking

Each of the obstacles is marked out of 10 according to the marking scheme and the guidelines that the judges have: this gives a maximum total of 160 points for all of the obstacles.

Three refusals at an obstacle leads to 0 points for this obstacle, but the competitor is not eliminated from the phase.

Break in forward movement, change of gait:

This is applied on the approach to the obstacle, only once the horse has put a foot in the obstacle penalty zone. It ceases to be applicable when the last carriage's axle leaves the obstacle penalty zone.

G - Time

The maximum is determined by the PTV course designer and validated by the Technical Delegate following tests carried out before the phase.

Penalty points for exceeding the time will be deduced from the total PTV points according to the following rule:

- ◆ 1 point per tranche of 4 seconds
- ◆ Under no circumstances will the time penalties exceed 30 points.
- ◆ Under no circumstances will the timer be stopped without a Ground Jury decision.

Example: *If the optimum time is 8 minutes:*

A competitor completing the course in 8' 00" will not be penalised.

A competitor completing the course in 8' 01"- 8' 04" will receive a 1-point penalty.

A competitor completing the course in 8' 05"- 8' 08" will receive a 2-point penalty, etc...

H – Deliberately not negotiating an obstacle

A competitor who does not want to pass an obstacle must:

- ◆ stop,
- ◆ approach the obstacle judge,
- ◆ indicate his/her intention not to attempt the obstacle.

If this does not happen he/she will be eliminated from the phase.

I – Rescue services

The organiser shall define a rescue plan for the event, according to:

- ◆ considerations specific to the event, and more particularly, the time required for public rescue services to intervene.
- ◆ the maximum number of people (spectators and competitors) that can be at the event at any one time
- ◆ recommendations and statutory regulations of the home NETO.

VII – EVENT DETAILS

The order of running the phases is left to the Organising Committee's initiative.

Art 7.1 – Equipment inspection

The check will be carried out before the start of the POR.

The equipment list will be written on the judging sheet.

The judge has 10 minutes to examine all of the carriage.

He will ask the competitor to rectify himself any faulty settings and other necessities.

The equipment inspection judge reserves the right to stop any carriage leaving on the course if safety rules are not complied with.

An additional equipment and harness check may also be carried out during the event.

The competitor has 5 minutes to prepare for the POR.

The harness must be perfectly suited to the horse and the type of competition.

Art 7.2 - POR

The principle of the POR is to follow the set route of a given ride at predetermined speeds.

The POR can be organised over one or two routes, within a period of less than 24 hours.

The starting time of the first competitor cannot be before sunrise.

The ideal time for the POR must be calculated so that the last competitor to start can get back before nightfall.

A record book will be given to each competitor. It must be presented at each check-point.

The competitor must check the accuracy of the information therein, which is used to compile the results of that phase.

Over the course, only the maps provided by the organiser may be in the competitors' possession.

During the preliminary veterinary inspection or equipment check-up, the horses are presented shod as during the whole of this phase.

Any assistance to competitors, unless there is a danger to the competitor, is prohibited.

Verbal communication between competitors on the POR course is not considered to be assistance in finding the route.

This route must include navigational difficulties causing orienteering problems and requiring choices in terms of using the terrain.

POR check-points are removed by the course designer after, as appropriate, consultation with the Technical Delegate and the formal agreement of the Ground Jury President in the case of certain competitors being very late.

A - Speeds

The speeds for each POR stage are compulsory.

Each competitor's score is calculated on the basis of the difference between the time it takes them to cover the course, measured at check-points that are not known about in advance, and an optimum time calculated according to the set speeds and the distance to be covered.

The distances measured on the map by the Ground Jury are the only ones to be taken into consideration.

B - Route

The route is communicated to competitors on 1/25,000 or 1/50,000 scale maps.

They must mark the route onto the maps that are given to them. Certain stages can involve a route to be followed with a compass or simply using the map co-ordinates of a meeting point, which does not necessarily have to be a check-point.

The competitors will be isolated for twenty minutes prior to the start in order to mark down their route.

They must be given maps of the required scale.

C – Start-line

This is known by competitors and located at the exit of the map reading room. It is marked out with a red and white flag.

The speed of the first stage is displayed on a board in the map reading room.

D – Stage check-point

The competitors do not know the number and position of the check points. The time taken for each stage of the ride is measured from when the start line and the finish line is crossed by the leading foreleg of the horse.

In the case of several routes and multiple finish lines at a check-point, each of the finish lines must be marked with flags. In this case, it is recommended to double-up these flags – which must be seen at all times by the stewards, but hidden from the riders – at a distance from the finish line of no more than 100 metres.

When within sight of a check-point, competitors must go directly to it, not deviating from the marked route and without stopping.

Stewards are not authorised to question a competitor who is at a distance greater than that of the pre-marker flags.

E – Stage check-point halt

A halt of between 5 and 10 minutes must be imposed by the organisers at each check-point. This halt may be increased to 15 minutes should it include a veterinary inspection.

Stewards must check the shoes on the competitors' horses when they arrive at the check-point.

At these check-points, stewards must start competitors according to the interval set when leaving the map room.

The stewards have the power to change the halt time according to the circumstances, especially to avoid competitors meeting on the route. The time for which competitors halt is neutral and not taken account of in calculating scores.

F – Route check-point

The course designer may also place some route check-points (or tickets).

The fact that competitors have passed these route check-points must be validated by the check-point controller, and must involve one of the following:

- ◆ marking the route log book
- ◆ giving the rider a ticket
- ◆ using orienteering course type markers
- ◆ or any other way that all competitors will have been informed about before starting the phase.

It is strongly advised to use route-checks (tickets) when different competitors have different routes (e.g. odd numbers or even numbers) on part of a stage between two normal check-points.

Competitors are not intended to stop at route check-points, unless it is to validate their passage.

Nor is it intended to restore an interval between competitors.

G – Finish-line check-point

Competitors are not aware of its position. It can be located at any place along the route. Route log books are handed over definitively to the stewards who inform competitors of the place and time of the vet's inspection that they must attend.

H – End of route check-point

Competitors are aware of this check-point's position. In principle, it is at the entrance to the stables or horse quarters.

If the competitor has not gone through the finish-line check-point, the time that they pass through the end of route check-point will allow us to calculate penalty points that will be added to the penalties for missing the finish-line check-point.

I – Veterinary inspection

- ◆ The first inspection will take place before the start of the event, preferably the day before.
- ◆ It shall in no instance be organised between the competitor marking down the route on the map and the start of the competitor on the POR.
- ◆ The vet checks the condition of the horses at the start, at certain check-points and at the finish. He can decide if the horse needs to be held temporarily or definitively stopped and his decision is final.

There is at least one veterinary inspection on the course, it takes place 15 minutes after the arrival of the competitor in the inspection.

- ◆ After the POR, the vet's inspection takes place around 30 minutes after the return of the competitor to the finish-line check-point. The competitor can be accompanied by at most one groom for the test with one horse and as is necessary for the others.
- ◆ The competitor who misses the finish-line check-point must in 30 minutes present his horse at the veterinary inspection after passed the end of route check-point.
- ◆ The final inspection will take place before the PTV with the horse shod in preparation for the following phase.
- ◆ The Ground Jury and/or the Veterinary Commission can carry out veterinary inspections at any point and at any time during the two phases of the event.

Heart rate monitoring procedure:

- ◆ The heart rate will be monitored before the other tests: the horse is presented to the vet 15 minutes after arriving at the inspection box.
- ◆ Its heart rate must be 64 beats per minute or under.
- ◆ Should the heart rate be over 64 beats/minute, the horse will be held; it may then be represented every 5 minutes, a maximum of 3 more times.
- ◆ If 30 minutes after the arrival, the heart rate is still over 64 beats/minute, the horse is eliminated from the phase.

Lameness examination procedure:

- ◆ This is carried out by trotting the horse in a straight line over a maximum distance of 20 metres, with its head free.
- ◆ Any horse with a distinct gait irregularity on each stride will be eliminated from the event.

Examination procedure concerning the horse's condition and metabolism:

- ◆ This is left entirely up to the vet's judgement.

Art 7.3 - PTV

This phase is intended to highlight the high degree of training required for a trail driving, confidence, courage, handiness, balance, sure-footedness, as well as the correctness and appropriateness of the driver's aids and his experience in dealing with various natural obstacles.

It is the driver-horse combination that is tested.

The course is a logical succession of obstacles.

A – Specific

1. The following are authorised:

- ◆ the voice,
- ◆ assistance of the groom,
- ◆ stopping.

2. Compulsory:

- ◆ the whole carriage team going through the start and finish lines as well as the obstacles,
- ◆ the whip is held in the driver's hand.

3. Prohibited:

- ◆ any system to attach the driver to the carriage.

B – Judging the obstacles

This starts as soon as the first foreleg of the horse enters between the entry flags and ends when the rear axle of the carriage passes between the exit flags.

C – Walking the course

The course is walked by competitors without the horse.

The time that the course is open and closed for course walking is set by the Jury and displayed.

Version dated December 17th 2015 – The French version prevails.

The first competitor must start at least half an hour after the closing of the course for walking.

D – Start line and finish line

The start and finish lines must be marked with flags, as must the course obstacles.

E - Course

The obstacles are numbered from 1 to 16. 2 meters high flags, red on the right, white on the left and a number on a 20 cm x 20 cm board, placed on the red flag pole, at a height of 1.50 metres.

carriage must both pass between the flags which form an integral part of the obstacle in addition to its other features (height, width, length, etc.).

They must be tackled by competitors in numerical order.

F – Gaits

The driver is free to choose his gait between the obstacles.

If a competitor circles or steps back between the obstacles he will be given 3 penalty points for disobedience by the judge of the following obstacle with a maximum of 3 times, leading to a mark of 0 for this obstacle.

Breaking forward motion or change of gait: this involves moving from one gait to another gait, or stopping the movement that we are currently carrying out.

This irregularity is only penalised on the obstacle itself as soon as the front feet pass between the two obstacle entry flags and until the hind feet pass between the two obstacle exit flags.

For a horse that changes gait on an obstacle with several options: canter, trot, walk, in addition to the resulting penalties in the effectiveness column, the lowest gait will be used in the gait column.

VIII – PENALTIES

Art 8.1 – Elimination

The following will be eliminated from the event:

- ◆ any competitor that uses a speedometer or distance counting device during the POR.
- Only colour markings on the carriage wheel are permitted.
- ◆ competitors voluntarily retiring or disqualified during one of the phases,
 - ◆ competitors whose horse is stopped by the vet,
 - ◆ competitors assisted in finding the POR route or who communicate the route,
 - ◆ competitors found guilty of using unauthorised substances, according to current regulations in the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) and the annual FITE guidelines,
 - ◆ competitors found guilty of using an undeclared communication device during one of the phases. Only mobile phone declared and sealed in the map room before the start may be in driver' possession.
 - ◆ competitors opening the pack and using the communication device, apart from reasons of safety or an accident involving a horse, a driver or a groom,
 - ◆ competitors who cannot show the equipment listed at the start, unless capable of justifying its use,
 - ◆ competitors presenting themselves after the official starting time for one of the phases,
 - ◆ competitors not able to present their record book when arriving at a check-point,
 - ◆ competitors not crossing the finish line check-point nor the POR end of route check-point,
 - ◆ competitors who do not go over the start line or the finish line on the PTV,
 - ◆ competitors who walk or try any of the courses on carriage.
 - ◆ competitors who is penalised per brutality on 3 difficulties on the PTV.

Art 8.2 – Specific penalties:

Carriage tipping: 50 points. It is possible to continue on the course if the horse is not injured or if the carriage is not damaged.

A groom touching the reins leads to a mark of 0 for the obstacle.

A driver or groom leaving the carriage: 30 points, whether ejected or deliberately getting down.

Art 8.3 – Definitions

A - Refusal

The pony/horse may make a sidestep, but if he backs up, even by one step, this is considered a refusal. After a refusal, if the competitor tries again or repeats the movement unsuccessfully, or if the pony/horse is presented to the obstacle after backstepping, and if the pony/horse stops and steps back again, this is considered a second refusal, and so on.

B – Run-out

A pony/horse is considered to have run-out if, when faced with the obstacle, he avoids crossing it in such a way that the rider has to present the pony/horse to the obstacle again.

C - Circle

The competitor is penalised for a circle if he/she re-crosses the path taken before crossing an obstacle. Having been penalised for a refusal, run-out or fall, a competitor may retake the original path by completing a volte without incurring a penalty point so that he/she can present the pony/horse to attempt the obstacle a second time.

D – Brutality

During the PTV, the competitor is penalised of 5 points for any brutality.

It can be defined as:

- 1 whipping on the head,
- more than 3 lashes,
- suddenly tear in the mouth with bit or similar actions,
- etc.

E – Driver fall and/or groom fall

A driver and/or a groom is considered to have fallen when there is physical with the carriage.

F – Horse fall

A pony/horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunches touch the ground, or lean on a part of an obstacle.

G – Uncorrected course error

A course error is considered to have occurred when the competitor:

- ◆ Does not complete the course according to the course plan.
- ◆ Does not go through the obstacles and start and finish lines in the proper order.
- ◆ Goes through an obstacle that is not part of the course or misses out an obstacle.
- ◆ This leads to a zero score on the PTV course

IX – COMPLAINTS

Art 9.1 – Technical queries

Technical queries are formulated by the competitor.

To be accepted, any technical query must be lodged with the Ground Jury President:

- ◆ If it concerns a technical problem or a question relating to the regulations, **before the results are displayed**:
 - For POR: within an hour of the last competitor finishing.
 - For PTV: within half an hour of the last competitor finishing the phase in question.
- ◆ If it involves checking scores or their input into the computer system in the various tests for calculating results: at the latest within half an hour of the chefs d'équipe receiving a paper copy of the interim standings.

If, by 8 pm the results of the first day's events cannot be published, the announcement and the lodging of technical queries is delayed until the following morning, before the veterinary inspection.

The Ground Jury's answer may be provided before the end of the competition.
The Ground Jury cannot accept video evidence to settle disputes.

Art 9.2 – Complaints

A competitor can lodge a complaint against a competitor or a horse during an event or against the ranking of the latter or concerning its organisation or its running on his behalf, on behalf of the NETO that he represents.

- ◆ To be valid, any complaint must be submitted to the Ground Jury President:
 - Before the start of the event, if it concerns the organisation of the competition, the qualification of competitors or horses,
 - At latest half an hour after the announcement/publication of each phase, if it concerns the phase and the definitive placings.
- ◆ The right to lodge a complaint is exclusively reserved for competitors in individual events.
- ◆ Any complaint must be made in writing, accompanied by the sum of 50 Euros which is retained by the FITE in the instance of the complaint proving to be unsubstantiated.
- ◆ No verbal complaints are admitted.

Any unforeseen vents outside of the organiser's control cannot be subject to a complaint.

Art 9.3 – Appeals against Ground Jury decisions

The Appeal Jury can decide on appeals against Ground Jury decisions that it is informed of, and must take its decision within a reasonable time frame which will not undermine the rest of the competition.

An appeal submission is not valid if it concerns:

- ◆ A case where the Ground Jury must exert its judgement during a competition;
- ◆ elimination of a horse for veterinary reasons;
- ◆ immediate elimination, as provided for in the present rules, during a phase.

Art 9.4 – Reports

The Officials and Organising Committee members must submit a report to the Ground Jury concerning any presumed acts of cruelty as regards to horses or other violations of the Articles and Regulations.

The Ground Jury, having listened to the parties concerned can impose the following:

- ◆ an oral or written warning,
- ◆ a 50 to 500 Euro fine,
- ◆ disqualification for the current phase or for the rest of the event.

X – PLACINGS / PRIZES

Art 10.1 – Placings

The winner of the competition is either the competitor that obtained the highest number of points over all phases: POR and PTV.

In the event of equality on the total points, it is the result of the POR which is preponderant.

A competitor can only be ranked for the event if they have participated without withdrawing or being eliminated and if they have been placed in each of the phases.