

*New Zealand Carriage Driving Society Inc.*

MARATHON OBSTACLE JUDGING SHEETS.

Thank you for helping today; without you there could not be an event. Your work is important and valuable. Please do stay until all the judges' sheets have been assessed so that the Ground Jury can discuss results with you if necessary. You will be at your obstacle for several hours; please take coats, hats, chairs and anything else you may need with you.

Be at your obstacle at least 20 minutes before the first competitor is due through.

When you arrive at your Marathon Obstacle please spend a few minutes making yourself familiar with the obstacle. Do this even if you are an experienced judge as obstacles differ.

Park your car in such a position as not to interfere with any possible line a competitor may take. Position your self similarly, making sure that one judge is the timekeeper and lined up with the start and finish flags. The other judge(s) will then position themselves to clearly see each element of the obstacle. If possible maintain these positions throughout the event.

A member of the Ground Jury will visit you before the first competitor comes through. If you have any questions just ask. These people are there to help you.

All start/finish flags and flags on an obstacle gate must be driven with the red flag on the right. Should this not be the case mark your competitor sheet with the error. The time is taken as the nose of the horse(s) go past the entry flags and the clock runs until the nose goes past the finish flags. If possible have the time keeper and a course observer taking the time. The observer is just back up in case of stopwatch failure.

Do not offer assistance to a competitor unless an emergency occurs and assistance is asked for or the competitor is obviously in such difficulties that they cannot request assistance. Normally outside assistance means elimination for the competitor.

Marathon Obstacle observing judges must be certain that each gate is fully completed by the competitor ( the complete turnout must go through the gate) and in the correct order. If a competitor changes his mind and backs out before the whole turnout is through there is no penalty. The old rule about axles no longer applies.

Each lettered gate becomes "free" after it is completed, thus after driving a gate it becomes "dead" and the competitor may drive through it, in either direction, without incurring penalties.

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Should a competitor make an error of course prior to exiting the obstacle they may correct this error without being eliminated. To do this they must return to the gate missed, drive it and the remaining gates.

Please note on your sheet exactly what happens in this instance, as they will get penalty points.

Note each time a groom dismounts. Note should the driver dismount. Dismounting is defined by the groom putting both feet on the ground.

Please note any broken or disconnected harness.

Should you need to hold a competitor up while any earlier competitor is completing the obstacle stop the approaching driver approximately 50 metres from the obstacle and note the amount of time the driver is delayed. This can be done with a standard watch. When the obstacle is completely clear inform the delayed driver of the delay time and restart him. Record the delay time on your sheet. Make this time full or half minutes. It is good practice to ask the driver to also record their delay time but they do not need to discuss it with you.

The time allowed in a Marathon Obstacle is 5 minutes. Should this time be exceeded, summon the competitor and advise the time limit has been reached and they must immediately leave the obstacle.

Please make extra note on your sheet if a situation appears to you to need it. Remember – more information is better.

Please stay at your obstacle until you are advised all competitors have finished (they may not come through in numerical order).

Please just leave your obstacle as it is. The Ground Jury may need to revisit.

Thank you for all your efforts, please come back to the office and enjoy some refreshments while the Ground Jury check the sheets. You may be needed to discuss a sheet so please do not leave immediately.