

Junior / New Driver Assessment of Capability for Combined Drives Trials

With the first Combined Drive advertised in this edition of the Swingletree, it is a good time to remind members of the special procedures applying to junior and new drivers before they compete at their first affiliated Combined Drive. The Council has determined that junior drivers under the age of 16 and new drivers competing in their first Combined Drive, must have assured their local delegate or Island Councillor (and / or Achievement Test Assessor) that they are capable of driving a combined drive safely and competently. The key criteria of capable, safe and competent driving are those set out in the Level 1 Achievement Certificate. Delegates / Island Councillors / Assessors may determine how to assess these drivers and will require these drivers to meet the criteria in the Achievement Certificate. Delegates can observe these drivers at a club training day, or at a POD, or OHCD, and include how the drivers conduct themselves around the horse and carriage, before and after driving. These drivers must demonstrate their ability to drive at an event amongst other competitors. Delegates / Island Councillors / Assessors may need to bring unsafe practices to the attention of the driver, and determine if they should be allowed to compete in a Combined Drive.

All competitors, especially young and new competitors, are encouraged where possible to carry a competent groom. Carrying a groom is compulsory in all classes except the Small Pony and Tiny Pony classes where it is optional.

The **'Junior / New Driver Assessment of Capability for Combined Drives Trials' form**, must be signed by the delegate/assessor and the driver. If appropriate, **the parental permission form** must also be signed. (These forms are available on the NZCDS website). The Assessment form must be sent to the convenor of the Combined Drive Committee, Bob Macfarlane, who will retain the form so that all CDT organisers can check that the driver has been approved to compete in Combined Drives.

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