



AUCKLAND DISTRICT CARRIAGE DRIVING CLUB

Nations Cup – NZ League 10-11 October 2026

Clevedon A&P Show Grounds, 107 Monument Road, Clevedon

Tagged Helmets Must Be Worn By All Persons On A Carriage At This Event.

Entries Close: Monday 28 September 2026
Entry Fee \$70 AK members \$80 non-members
Plus yard/GF fees

ABOUT THE NATIONS CUP

The Nations Cup is a 'stay-at-home' International event offering the opportunity for every level of competitive carriage driver the chance to compete for their Nation. It is a short format, three phase arena based event that can be replicated exactly at different venues anywhere. Host Venues around the world will recreate the competition.

Each Host Venue will crown their own National Short Format Champion and then the scores will be added to a live interactive scoreboard to find the Nations Cup winner! Regardless of where each driver competes, they will represent their own home Nation so some teams will be bigger than others therefore the points are calculated on a pro-rata basis. So, if there are 5 Nations represent in one class the winning Nation will receive 5 points, the second Nation will receive 4 points, then 3, 2 and 1. If there is a single Nation on a class that Nation will receive 1 point.

Classes to be contested are:

- Intro Pony
- Juniors 8 to 14 years
- Senior Driver – 65ish
- Novice Para Driver
- Open Para Driver
- Traditional Cob
- Novice Small Single Pony
- Open Small Single Pony
- Novice Single Pony
- Open Single Pony
- Novice Single Horse
- Open Single Horse
- Small Pony Pair
- Novice Pony Pair
- Open Pony Pair
- Horse Pairs
- Tandems
- Teams

RULES

The rules are based on the rules of British Carriage driving (BC) and have been adapted for Short Format competitions. If something outside the rules needs a decision it is the duty of the Championship Organiser or a designated deputy to make a decision in the spirit of the sport. We have made some amendments in line with NZ rules.

The welfare of horses and ponies is paramount. The organisers reserve the right to intervene if the welfare of any animal is compromised in any way.

In accordance with Social License to Operate and our own ethos on animal welfare, We have implemented a no use of the driving aid as a whip for 'encouragement' to gain speed after the final pair of cones and last gate in obstacles to the finish line.

STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

This is a Short Format Three Phase competition comprising of Compulsory Figures (Dressage), Cones and Obstacles without a marathon.

Points amassed in each phase will be converted into penalties. The Driver with the lowest penalty score at the end of the competition is the winner. In the event of a tie the lowest score in the obstacles will be the winner.

HORSES AND PONIES

Horse and ponies must be 5 years or older.
Small ponies are up to 11.1hh.
Ponies are between 11.1hh and 14.2hh.
Horses are 14.2hh or above.

Any animal may compete a maximum of twice. Eg Animal can be driven by 2 different drivers

CARRIAGES

Carriages will be of marathon type with two or four wheels and may be pneumatic. Scurry vehicles are not permitted.

Minimum width for all phases is 138cm measured on the rear wheels at the ground.

HARNESS

Harness must be safe, comfortable, and correctly fitted.
Dual reins are permitted for Juniors and Para Drivers as required.
Breeching is compulsory for singles or any vehicle without brakes.
Bitless bridles are not permitted.
No one can be tied to the vehicle. Safety belts are permitted but must be held at one end by the Navigator. Para Drivers may use a suitable harness as they deem fit.

DRESS

The Competition will be driven in marathon style dress for all phases.
Securely fastened hard hats are compulsory for all phases – Tagged as per ESNZ guidelines.
Juniors must wear body or back protectors and hard hats for all phases and at all times whilst on the carriage.
Body or back protectors are recommended (not compulsory) for all in Obstacles.
Gloves are optional

Driving aids are strongly recommended but not compulsory.
Numbers must be visible on the carriage.

Drivers and Navigators

Intro – This class is designed to encourage newcomers – please get in touch to discuss if this is suitable for you if you are unsure.
Junior Drivers – must be aged 8 to 14 years at the date of qualification.
Senior Drivers – 65 (ish) years.
Novice Combination – must not have won a driving trials competition with no less than three starters in that class within the last two years. The organisers reserve the right to move drivers to Open if they are considered too experienced for the Novice Class.
Para Drivers – We accept Self Classification

We are happy to discuss which class suits you best.

Grooms are considered Navigators and may speak and advise Drivers in all phases. Navigators should stand behind the Drivers or may sit next to the Driver in a two-wheel vehicle or if dual reins are being used.

Junior Drivers must have a Navigator of at least 18 years.

Minimum age for Navigators is 14 years.

Teams must have a Navigator of a minimum age of 18 years. The second Groom must be a minimum age of 14 years.

Small Single Ponies it is recommended to have a Navigator/Groom on the ground close by to provide assistance if required. The Ground Groom should be dressed as any other Navigator/Groom. In the case of a Small Single Pony being driven by a Junior Driver the Navigator must be on the carriage.

Small Pony Teams must have a Navigator on the carriage. The Second Groom can opt to be on the ground nearby or ride on the carriage.

Pony Teams must have a Navigator and Groom on the carriage.

All other classes ponies over 12.2hh must have a Navigator on the carriage.

COMPULSORY FIGURES (DRESSAGE)

The Dressage test is driven in a 30m x 60m arena. There is a Novice and Open version. The same footprint is driven by all. Novices drive predominantly in Working Trot with a Halt, Walk and Lengthened stride section. Open drive Walk, Free Walk, Halt, Rein Back, Working, Collected and Extended Trot and One Handed. N.B. The one-handed element for Open Para Drivers is at the Organisers discretion.

The Novice Test is driven by all designated Novice Classes, Juniors, Paras, Seniors, Cobs and all Small Pony Classes.

The Open Test is driven by designated Open Classes, Tandems and Pony Teams.

All movements start with the lead animals nose at the marker unless otherwise stated. Errors of course will be penalised at 5 penalties per occurrence.

Dressage is marked as a percentage and converted to penalties.

The Novice Test will be driven by:-

All specified Novice classes, All Small ponies, Intro, Juniors, Seniors, Cobs

The Open Test will be driven by:-

All specified Open classes, Pony and Horse Tandems, Pony and Horse Teams

CONES

There will be up to 15 pairs of Cones of the 15 one may be a multiple (A-D). There will not be any closed obstacles.

Penalties will be awarded for any dislodged ball whether or not the gate has been driven.

The course will be set at an optimum time of 220m per minute.

The cones are set at a standard width of 175cm but may be altered at the Course Builders discretion.

OBSTACLES

There will be four Obstacles of increasing complexity.

Obstacle 1 – A to C (3 gates)

Obstacle 2 – A to D (4 gates)

Obstacle 3 – A to E (5 gates)

Obstacle 4 – A to F (6 gates)

Drivers will drive Obstacle 1 followed by each driving Obstacle 2 and so on.

The order will remain the same for all four Obstacles.

Each Obstacle must be driven sequentially ie A, B, C etc. Once a gate has been driven it becomes 'free' and may be driven again in either direction.

To correct an error of course the Driver must return to the place the error occurred ie if they drove A,B, missed C then D they must return and drive C. All gates are neutralised until gate C is drive correctly, incurring a Corrected Error of Course for 10 penalties. If the Driver does the same sequence without returning to pick up the correct track, they will be penalised for an Uncorrected Error of Course of 30 penalties.

If part of an Obstacle becomes dislodged and blocks the route of the Driver, it is the Drivers responsibility to put down their Navigator/Groom and clear the course incurring the penalties for a Groom down. You may NOT driver over any impeding element, to do so will incur 40 penalties.

PENALTIES

Navigator/Groom down (one or both)	5 penalties
Driver dismounting	20 penalties
Dislodging a Ball in Cones/Obs	5 penalties
Above or below the optimum time per commenced sec	1 penalty
Time spent in obstacles per commended second	1 penalty
Corrected error of course – cones and obstacles	10 penalties
Uncorrected Error of Course – cones and obstacles	30 penalties
Intentionally driving over a dislodged element	40 penalties

No turnout may start unless properly equipped with hats, correct harness, number etc.

Boots and bandages are acceptable but must be removed for inspection if requested to do so.

The Organiser of this event has taken reasonable precautions to ensure the health and safety of everyone present. For these measures to be effective everyone must take all reasonable precautions to avoid an prevent accidents occurring and must obey the instructions of the Organisers and all Officials and Stewards. The above rules are taken from t

Links:

<https://certiuschampionships.co.uk/compulsory-figures> - Novice and Open Dressage Tests

<https://certiuschampionships.co.uk/cones> - Cones course

<https://certiuschampionships.co.uk/obstacles> - obstacles

Program for Weekend

Thursday/Friday setup (to be confirmed) AMDG all weather arenas

Saturday 10am start – Dressage and Cones

Sunday 10am start – Obstacles 1 - 4

We will be using the Auckland Manukau Dressage Group All weather arenas and their yards – parking by the yards. We also have the use of their clubrooms, toilets and showers.

Yarding: AMDG Yards Please leave clean and tidy, report and damage and take all old manure and hay home with you. Please do not place manure around the trees – this is a Council requirement.

Please note: Be a tidy Kiwi.

Saturday night dinner – to be advised