

## Miniature and Pleasure Driving Divisions 2022 Hants County Exhibition

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### GENERAL:

All persons involved in the competition should keep safety foremost in their minds. Having the horse under control at all times not only is a safeguard for an athlete and passengers, but for everyone present and involved. The Competition Committee should be satisfied the vehicle is safe for all classes, especially in obstacle driving. In the case of an accident, the judge or management may require a safety inspection of the vehicle and/or harness involved before allowing either to be used in succeeding classes. It is the responsibility of each athlete to ensure the harness and vehicle are in good repair and structurally sound. Athletes should strive to maintain a safe distance from other vehicles both during the competition and in the warm up and parking areas. All rules of the road should be observed unless uniformed officials direct otherwise. Bridles should be adjusted to fit snugly to prevent catching on a vehicle or other pieces of harness and under no conditions shall a bridle be removed from a horse while it is still put to a vehicle. Failure to comply will incur elimination. The horse must never be left unattended while put to a vehicle. Failure to comply will result in elimination.

All competitors, and assistants, grooms, and passengers on the vehicle, must wear an approved headgear while participating in any event sanctioned by the NSEF. Please see the Helmet Policy regarding helmet requirements. Driving classes are judged as soon as you enter the ring. Junior athletes must have a support person as follows:

**JUNIOR A** - competition age 10 and below. Junior A drivers may not compete in any classes held outside a securely enclosed arena and must be accompanied at all times by a knowledgeable adult horse person capable of rendering assistance in an emergency situation at all times.

**JUNIOR B** - competition age 11-18 must be accompanied at all times by a knowledgeable adult horse person capable of rendering assistance in an emergency situation. Exception: JUNIOR B drivers competing with a single VSE turnout in a securely enclosed arena need not be accompanied by a knowledgeable adult horse person, unless required by show management.

For further information on attire, gaits, style of driving etc., please see NSEF Scotia Series rulebook. Ribbons will be awarded to 6th place. Trophies or prizes may be presented in some classes.

Championship Awards: Champion and Reserve ribbons will be awarded in all divisions. Entries must show in all classes in a division to be eligible for Championship Awards. Points will be awarded as follows: 1st 5 points, 2nd - 4 points, 3rd - 3 points, 4th - 2 points, 5th – 1 point.

SCOTIA SERIES OVERVIEW The NSEF Scotia Series is a provincial circuit. Athletes must be NSEF Members to be eligible for Scotia Series Annual Awards. Athletes from Nova Scotia competing in the Scotia Series live in one of the six Nova Scotia Districts. Annual awards are presented at the NSEF Awards Reception. The Sportsmanship Award for the junior athlete is awarded by nomination. References to Athlete(s) throughout this handbook refer to the human athlete (competitor, driver, or handler)

SCOTIA SERIES COMPETITION RULES and REGULATIONS: In addition to the competition organizing committee's requirements, there are also NSEF requirements specific to Scotia Series: Competitors are responsible for knowing the Rules of the Scotia Series Competitions (<https://horsenovascotia.ca/Scotia-Series>) and for identifying which classes meet the criteria for Scotia Series Awards.

### 1.Membership

- a) Current NSEF membership is required to compete and qualify for Annual awards.
- b) Non-NS residents require an out of province P/TSO membership to be eligible to compete.

c) NSEF memberships can be verified online, or members must provide proof of membership. Out of Province members must provide proof of membership.

2. Age Categories: where age is indicated the age is defined as of January 1st, 2022.

3. Person Responsible: The person who signs the entry form is the person responsible for the welfare of the horse and for the actions of the support team of that entry. Junior competitors must have their entry form signed by the parent or legal guardian deemed responsible for said junior.

4. Competitor Conduct: any act of discourtesy or disobedience by an owner, groom, athlete, coach, or family member to an official, COC member, other spectators, or competitors while at the competition, will disqualify the associated horse and competitor from competition. The COC has the right to remove anyone from the competition without being liable for compensation or damages.

5. Protective Headgear: Although competition management may enforce a stricter helmet policy, all competitions must adhere to the following NSEF Policy on Protective Headwear: NSEF Helmet Policy: All Competitors must wear ASTM/SEI, or BSI/BS EN, approved protective headgear, with the safety harness correctly secured at all times while mounted or driving at the competition or anywhere on the competition grounds. Exception - Competitors 19 years old as of January 1st, competing in the Western Performance Division without an approved safety helmet must submit a signed Scotia Series Helmet Waiver to the competition organizer.

6. Ring Numbers - issued by the competition office and must be worn at all times. This includes the competition arena and the schooling/warm up area. If at any time a horse is being handled by an individual, other than the competitor, the handler must be in possession of the ring number.

7. Lunging of horses is permitted in a specified designated area only. Lunging is not permitted in any areas where horses are being ridden or driven. In any class or event requiring equipment, athletes MUST NOT use the competition's equipment for practicing before the class or event begins, on penalty of disqualification. Participants may only use obstacles provided by the competition committee in the warm up ring.

8. Mannerly stallions may be shown by SENIOR COMPETITORS ONLY.

9. Falls:

a) An athlete is considered to have fallen when, either voluntarily or involuntarily, separation from the unfallen horse occurs in such a way that said athlete touches the ground or finds it necessary to seek support or assistance to regain a seated position. b) An athlete has fallen when vaulting or remounting to regain sitting astride the horse is required.

c) A horse is considered to have fallen when at the same time both its shoulder and quarters have touched either the ground or the obstacle and the ground.

10. Safety (in addition to discipline specific rules stated throughout this document)

a) Competitors are responsible to know the method of reversing used during group classes. The competition committee shall indicate the method of reversing during group classes, whether it is to the inside or toward the wall. i.e. A proper competition ring reverse for most English Classes is to leave the track on a diagonal in the current direction and then half circle to the track in the new direction. The standard Western ring reverse is to turn to the inside of the ring.

b) Appropriate apparel and footwear must be worn in the competition ring and warm up areas.

11. Equine Medication Control: The NSEF endorses Clean Sport for all equine activities. Clean Sport (competing without performance enhancing medications) will ensure fair play in competition while maintaining the welfare of the horse. The Nova Scotia Equestrian Federation reserves the right to introduce drug testing at Scotia Series, with the proviso that due notice will be given. It is the NSEF's expectation that competitors will ensure their horse's performance is not enhanced by means of prohibited substances.

12. Equine Welfare -The NSEF is dedicated to the humane treatment and welfare of horses. Cruel, abusive or inhumane treatment of a horse at any NSEF Scotia Series event by any competitor, owner, coach, trainer or other person will not be tolerated anywhere on the competition grounds under any circumstances. A horse may compete in Under Saddle or Driving competitions only after July 1st if it's a two year old year. Horses entered in all events must be in good condition and must be serviceably sound. Final determination of a horse's suitability to continue is ultimately the judge's decision. Unsoundness is defined as: a) Consistently observable at any gait under all circumstances. b) Marked nodding, hitching or shortened stride; or c) Minimal weight-bearing in motion and/or rest and inability to move. d) Any manifestation of pain, inability, disability, or deformity in the act of motion is considered unsoundness. Any competitor that may in the opinion of officials and/or competition management be considered riding at risk of injury to themselves, or their horse will be asked to withdraw from further competition. The welfare of the horse is paramount in our sport therefore the competition committee reserves the right to ask a horse to retire, either from a class or from the competition in the event that it appears that it would not be productive for the horse to continue. This may be due to heat, unsoundness, or apparent over facing of the horse. In this event, entry fees for unused classes will be refunded by the office

## Arena Driving Trials

Open to all equines, all sizes. 1st \$25 2nd \$20 3rd \$15 4th \$12.

1. Open Arena Driving Trials Dressage: The object of Dressage is the harmonious development of the physique and ability of the equine. To be judged on: a. The freedom and regularity of the paces; b. The harmony, lightness, and ease of movement; c. The lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hindquarters, originating in a lively impulsion; and d. The acceptance of the bridle without and tenseness or resistance. ADS Dressage Tests will be used at Scotia Series competitions and are available from the event organizer or can be downloaded from the ADS Website: [www.americandrivingsociety.org](http://www.americandrivingsociety.org). Scoring will be as indicated on the dressage test and converted to penalty points.

2. Open Arena Driving Trial Cones: Timed event. The course shall be open for inspection by the athletes and trainers at an announced time prior to the start of the competition. At the discretion of the organizer, one setting for all competitors may be used. The setting will be based upon the largest track width vehicle entered plus 35 cm. Cone pairs are to be numbered with red and white markers placed on the cones themselves, unless marked following standard combined driving rules. The entry is considered to have passed through the obstacle when any part of the carriage passes between the cones. Whenever "no cantering" is imposed, a penalty of 5 seconds shall be assessed for intentional breaks per occurrence.

3. Open Arena Driving Trial Obstacles: Timed event. The course shall be open for 10 minutes for inspection by athletes and grooms before the start of the competition. Before starting each obstacle, the judge will signal with a whistle or bell. Timing will start as the nose of the horse crosses the entry gate or 60 seconds after the signal, whichever occurs first. Timing will stop when the nose of the horse crosses the exit gate. Each element dislodged earns 5 penalty seconds. Exceeding the time limit in an obstacle (3 minutes) will result in Elimination. Failing to pass through entry or exit flags results in Elimination. Intentionally cantering when not allowed earns 5 seconds per occurrence.

## Miniature Driving Division

Prize Money: 1<sup>st</sup> \$25 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20 3<sup>rd</sup> \$15 4<sup>th</sup> \$10 5<sup>th</sup> \$5

### RULES:

1. All entries MUST include proof of insurance or NSEF membership to be accepted.
2. \$3 Scotia Series Fee: this fee is charged per horse/rider combo when they enter into at least 1 Scotia Series class (onetime \$3 fee per horse/rider combo regardless of the number of classes entered).
3. AGE OF JUNIOR EXHIBITOR: Individuals are considered Junior Drivers until they turn eighteen (18) years of age, the age is defined as of January 1 st , 2022. Junior competitors must wear properly fitted, approved protective headgear, with the safety harness correctly and secured at all times while riding on a horse drawn vehicle on the competition or event grounds. Approved headgear must be certified by SEI or the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) standard or the British Standards Institution (BSI) standard.
4. For timed classes, breaks to a canter will be penalized as follows: First break is free, second break is a five second penalty, and third break is a ten second penalty. Any further breaks result in disqualification. All breaks must be corrected immediately. Scrambles around obstacles are allowed at the judge's discretion.
5. Patterns will be posted at least 1 hour before the start of each class.
6. All classes are open to horses and donkeys.
7. All entries must be ready to enter the ring when called.
8. Entries must show in at least 4 miniature classes to be considered for high point awards for the show.

MINIATURE DRIVING DIVISION

1 .Pleasure Driving Turnout (Scotia Series)A Pleasure Driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the performance and quality of each turnout. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot, and strong trot. To stand quietly and to rein back. To be judged: 40% on performance, manners, and way of going; 30% on the condition, fit, and appropriateness of harness/vehicle; 15% on neatness and appropriateness of attire; and 15% on overall impression.

Sponsored by Bits N Bridles

2. Pleasure Driving Working (Scotia Series)A Pleasure Driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the suitability of the horse to provide a pleasant drive. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. To stand quietly, both on the rail and while lined up, and to rein back. All entries chosen for a workout may be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute appropriate tests. To be judged: 70% on performance, manners and way of going of the horse, 20% on the condition and fit of harness and vehicle, 10% on neatness of attire. Sponsored by TJ Inspection Services

3. Obstacle Driving (Scotia Series) Timed event through a course of obstacles. Performed in a 2 wheeled cart with a basket. There will be a 5 second penalty added to the time for each obstacle rubbed and 10 seconds for each obstacle not completed correctly. Sponsored by TheraPBios Pharma and Abby Kirumira

4. Reinsmanship (Scotia Series) Timed event in the style of a cones course. Drivers are required to drive through a course of cones no faster than a strong trot. A 5 second penalty will be added for each ball knocked off. Trophy Sponsored in Memory of Louise Green by Alan Green

5. Roadster To be shown in a bike. Exhibitors are encouraged to wear colours (jackets and matching helmets/caps patterned after racing silks). Horses to perform at a slow jog trot, the road gait and at a full extended drive-on trot. Judged on performance, speed, quality and manners. A horse that has not shown 6 distinct gaits and smooth transitions should not be placed over a horse that has demonstrated greater ability but has had a minor or incidental break in gait. Sponsored by TJ Inspection Services

6. Pole Bending (Scotia Series) Timed event. Drivers are required to drive through a course of cones no faster than a strong trot. Sponsored by Annapolis Valley Harness Club

7. Barrels (Scotia Series) Timed event. Drivers are required to drive through a clover leaf pattern no faster than a strong trot. Sponsored in Memory of Galie & JoJo by Marilyn and Claude McKay