ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE D'ATTELAGE DE TRADITION

CAT & CIAT Regulations 2026

The object of the competitions is to maintain the art of driving historic horse-drawn vehicles (built before 1945) and to preserve the cultural heritage related to the use of the equipment. The competition will assess the understanding of these principles and the art of driving. The competition consists of three parts:

A · Presentation

B · Routier

C · Cone driving

Conditions of Participation

The driver's age for participation in the (CAT) or (CIAT) competition is at least 12 years.

If the participant is a minor (under 16 years old), he or she must be accompanied by an adult.

Participation in the competition will only be confirmed after paying the entry fee.

The application must include: valid documents entitling you to participate in the driving competition and proof of personal accident insurance, as well as mandatory insurance for the animal owner, which covers carriage driving. Only horses, ponies, mules or donkeys that have the appropriate vaccinations are allowed to compete. If these documents are not presented, the start permit cannot be issued. A heavy draft horse can only be included in the category of a warm-blooded animal, if it remains in the warm-blooded animal category for the entire season. In the category of heavy draft horses, only horses that have been entered in a national studbook of heavy horses can compete.

Judging Committee

The jury consists of the President and one or two AIAT judges. They guarantee the correct application of the regulations.

Only the presiding judge may exclude a turnout if he or she considers that there is a potential danger due to the horse's stressed or bad behaviour, the driver lacks the necessary skill, or the harness or carriage poses a safety risk. The veterinarian may only provide information to the President of the jury.

Carriages

Carriages are assessed on a scale of 20 points. Historical vehicles (before 1945) have a coefficient of 3, and vehicles built after 1945 have a coefficient of 1. The starting number of each carriage taking part in the competition should be mounted in a visible place. A participant who provides false data about his or her carriage on the entry form will be disqualified.

Competitions

The same driver must drive all parts of the competition or he or she will be disqualified.

Turnouts must have a minimum number of grooms (in livery or appropriate clothing):

- One-horse, two-horse, tandem, three-horses: one groom,
- Unicorn, Random, four, five and more horses: two grooms.

Neither the horses, nor the number of grooms, nor the carriages and harnesses may be changed during the three parts of the competition. Each necessary change will incur 20 penalty points.

The driver and passenger may change their clothes during the three parts of the competition only in heavy rain. Otherwise, 10 penalty points are added.

The number of passengers is up to each driver.

The whip, which is adapted to the type of turnout (with a long or short thong), must be held in the hand in all three phases.

The whip that is not held in the hand or that is not adapted to the team or tandem, will be penalised with 10 penalty points.

Participation in the Prize Giving Ceremony is mandatory. Exceptions, for any reason, must be approved by the President of the Jury.

Any outside assistance during any of the three parts of the competition will be penalized 20 penalty points.

A. Presentation

Presentation

Each turnout is judged in a standing position, one by one by each judge and marked on the Presentation Form. During the Presentation, protectors, bandages, boots and any other type of leg protection are prohibited (10 penalty points). Any participant who shows up late for the Presentation or for the Routier will receive 5 penalty points.

The vehicle may have the brake applied during the judges' assessment.

When approaching judges, grooms may walk alongside the vehicle.

B. Routier

Route and speeds

Routier competition requires sufficient knowledge and ability to drive a carriage under normal conditions. The route is set in such a way that any type of horse-drawn vehicle can cover it without problems. The distance should be between 13 km and 17 km and less than 9 km for donkeys. The driver drives at his own risk and must comply with the generally applicable traffic regulations at all times.

Maximum speeds are:

- 6 km/h for a donkey;
- 9 km/h for small ponies (up to 1.32 m) and heavy horses and large donkeys;
- 11 km/h for ponies (from 1.33 m);
- 13 km/h for horses
- 11 km/h for heavy carriages (Coaches).

The Technical Delegate is the only one who can lower these speeds due to specific topographical conditions or prevailing weather conditions, but must inform the jury about any changes.

The permissible time has a margin of +/- of one minute. Each second more or less will be penalized with 0.2 penalty points. For example: official time = 65 min. Allowed time = between 64 and 66 min. Each second above or below the allowed time = 0.2 penalty points.

Driving tasks (PC)

There are a maximum of 5 natural or artificial driving tasks (PC) from the AIAT list of driving tasks. The last driving task should be at least 300 meters from the finish line. A carriage that stops or makes a circle in the last 300 meters will receive 5 penalty points.

A competitor will be disqualified if he or she attempts any driving task or drives through any gate before the start of any phase of the competition.

The use of brakes in driving tasks will incur 10 penalty points. Each error in a driving task during or after the attempt receives 10 penalty points. Driving tasks must be completed in one movement without stopping.

Example: The circle should be smoothly driven in a closed circle with whip in the outstretched right hand. The driving task with the drinking glass must be smoothly driven directly between A and B without stopping.

C. Cone Driving

Course

The Cone Driving competition is to test the skill of the driver and the obedience and agility of the horses on a given course. The area for this competition should be 6000 - 8000 m2. The surface should be flat and provide safe driving conditions.

The speed is 180 m/min for heavy horses, tandem or four-in-hands, 200 m/min for other categories. For donkeys 160 m/min.

The use of brakes is not allowed during this phase. If used, a 10 point penalty will be applied.

A carriage staying longer than twice the allowed time on the course will be asked to leave the course. The course will have a maximum of 20 gates. A combination using poles is unacceptable. The distance between the gates should be at least 12 meters.

Width of gates

- For 2 wheeled vehicles - the wheel track width + 30 cm.
- For 4 wheeled vehicles, the width of the gate depends on the track width of the rear wheels and the distance between the front and rear wheels (see table).

Distance between wheels	Width of the gates
less than 40 cm	track width + 30 cm
from 40 cm to 59 cm	track width + 35 cm
from 60 cm to 89 cm	track width + 40 cm
from 90 cm	track width + 45 cm
Winchester – Three abreast	230 cm
Winchester – with heavy horses	250 cm

Rules of the course and penalties

If a competitor inspects the route within 1 hour before the start of this part of the competition, he or she is obliged to do so in the outfit in which he or she takes part in the competition. Any violation of this rule will incur 5 penalty points.

Before the start of this competition, each participant must salute the jury but not necessarily after the end of the course.

The competitor can start after the bell signal.

Exceeding the time limit will be penalized by 0.2 points/second.

Missing the starting gate will be penalized with 10 penalty points, and the jury will order the carriage to repeat the start. Each ball knocked down is 5 penalty points, but not more than 5 penalty points for 1 gate.

The gates must be passed in numerical order and cannot be crossed again. If a gate is taken twice – in either direction - 5 penalty points.

If the driver misses a gate, they can retake the gate before continuing on to the next gate without penalty. If they have already taken the next gate – 10 penalty points. Each gate taken or not taken, if knocked down – 5 penalty points. The clock is stopped when the jury bell is rung until the gate is re-erected. The turnout can continue its journey only after the referee's permission.

A gate only partially passed without knocking the ball off is punished with 5 penalty points.

When the jury notices an irregularity, it signals it with a bell. The driver should correct his mistake immediately and drive to the end, the clock is not stopped. If a driver forgets to cross the finish gate – 10 penalty points.

As long as the driver does not cross the finish line and has not gone out of the area, the timing continues.

Refusal at a gate is not subject to an additional penalty.

Appeals

Any participant who has any doubts about the judges' assessments should report them to the President of the Jury. A panel of three judges will then review the matter.