

- 2.16 "Division" is a group of Entries, combined according to various criteria, including but not limited to driver and/or horse, experience, configuration, turnout, animal size, animal or driver gender, vehicle style, breed, etc.
- 2.17 "Class" is an activity by Entries, judged according to criteria specified in the ADS Omnibus.
- 2.18 "Hors Concours" – An entry designated as "Hors Concours" (HC) participates with the approval of the organizer. An HC entry is a non-competing entry, subject to all ADS rules, and is not eligible for awards, placings or points in any class or championship. For the purpose of class entry totals affecting the Maiden, Novice or Limit status of horses or drivers, HC entries do not count.

*Update to the 2022 The American Driving Society, Inc. Rulebook, effective immediately.*

## Chapter 2 – Conduct and Cruelty

### Article 3 Conduct

- 3.1 As is further described in ADS Code of Sportsmanship General Rules and Regulations, all participants in an ADS-recognized **competition event** are obliged to conduct themselves in an orderly manner and in the best interest of the ADS. **Event Management or the Officials (herein defined as Judges and Technical Delegates who are ADS licensed, or licensed by USEF or FEI and are eligible to officiate at ADS Recognized Events)** shall bar violators from further participation for the remainder of the **competition event**, and/or issue a **Warning Card** and report the incident to the ADS for any further disciplinary action deemed necessary.
- 3.2 Acting or permitting another person to act in a manner contrary to the ADS rules or in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike, or prejudicial to the best interests of the Society, and/or detrimental to the well-being of any animal(s) or making a remark considered offensive or made with the intent to influence or cast aspersions on the character or integrity of the judge or any other person is considered not in the best interest of the ADS.
- 3.3 It is the policy of the ADS that gambling in any form, with respect to the performance of a competitor, is strictly prohibited.
- 3.4 Warning Cards
  - a. As is specified in the individual rules, a Warning Card may be issued by an **Steward; Technical Delegate or other Official (per GR 3.1)** officiating at the **competition event** to any competitor, participant or official for improper conduct or for non-compliance with the rules of the ADS. See ADS Policies and Procedures - Warning Cards.
  - b. To issue a Warning Card, an **Steward; Technical Delegate, or other Official** must complete a Warning Card Report Form and must provide a copy to another **Official** officiating at the **event (Steward; Technical Delegate or Judge)**, who must sign the form acknowledging receipt of the copy. **In the instance that there is only one official at the event, the organizer may sign to acknowledge receipt. A copy Copies of the form signed by two Officials must be given to the alleged offender at the event. In extraordinary circumstances, the Warning Card may be issued via email, within 5 days of the event. and A copy must be sent to the ADS with the Technical Delegate Report Form and noted therein. The offense and related Rule must be clearly stated on the Warning Card Report. Additionally, an Incident Report must be submitted to the ADS, with any witness names, witness statements and a detailed description of incident.**
  - c. Upon receipt of the form, the ADS will send an acknowledgement of its receipt to the alleged offender advising of the provisions of this rule. **The alleged offender will have 30 calendar days in which to contest the facts of the offense in writing to the ADS Executive Committee whose review of the matter will be final.**

- d. The issuance of a Warning Card is not meant to replace the filing of charges for willful and serious violation of the ADS rules, and shall not prevent the Executive Committee/Licensed Officials Committee from investigating the matter pursuant to the "Process for Disciplinary Actions."
- e. The Executive Committee will send a bill for an automatic administrative penalty of \$100 against the offender upon receipt of a second Warning Card within a 12-month period. Names of individuals receiving two warning cards within a 12-month period will be published on the ADS website and in the next issue of *The Whip* after the second infraction. In the event of a refusal to pay the administrative penalty the Executive Committee shall take whatever action it deems appropriate including suspension or expulsion from the ADS.
- f. Within 60 days following the receipt by the ADS of a third Report Form indicating that a competitor or participant has been issued three Warning Cards in a 12-month period, the Executive Committee/Licensed Officials Committee will assess a fine of \$500 and refer the matter to a special committee appointed by the President, comprised of members of the Executive Committee and the Licensed Officials Committee. If the Special Committee, following the review, finds that the rules were violated on all or any one of the three occasions, it may, at its discretion, order the imposition of penalties pursuant to the "Process of Disciplinary Actions". The special committee, following review, may, at its discretion, order the imposition of additional penalties including suspension from the ADS or expulsion as provided in the ADS Bylaws.
- g. A Warning Card stays in effect for 12 months from the date it was issued, after which it will be removed from the file, thus clearing the offender's record.

#### Article 4 Cruelty

- 4.1 Cruelty to or the abuse of any animal by any person at a recognized competition is forbidden and an offender is subject to disqualification. Management shall bar violators from further participation for the remainder of the competition and report the incident to the ADS for any further disciplinary action deemed in order. The following acts are included under the words Cruelty and Abuse but are not limited thereto: excessive use of a whip on any horse in a stall, runway, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds, before or during a competition, by any person. Except in emergency situations, any striking of the horse's head (on the poll and forward of the poll) with the whip shall be deemed excessive.
- 4.2 All animals must be serviceably sound, and must not show evidence of lameness, broken wind, physical distress, or impairment of vision in both eyes. In the case of an appeal on this ground, the judge will have the animal in question examined by the official veterinarian or designee for a decision by the judge or jury which will be final.
- 4.3 The ADS neither encourages nor discourages dogs accompanying an entry. Unless allowed by class rules, dogs are not allowed to run alongside, behind or under the vehicle during competition. In no circumstances may a dog be tied or in any way attached to the vehicle.
- 4.4 Caged or tethered animals are not allowed as part of or along the path of an obstacle course.

### Chapter 3 – Safety

#### Article 5 Responsibilities of Drivers and Officials

- 5.1 All persons involved in the competition: drivers, passengers, grooms, officials, spectators, etc., should keep safety foremost in their minds. Having the horse under control at all times is a safeguard not only for a driver and his passengers, but for everyone involved in the sport.
- 5.2 The judge must eliminate from a class or competition, or disqualify from an event, any entry with an unsafe vehicle, unruly horse(s) or driver clearly without sufficient control.
- 5.3 In the case of an accident, the judge or management may require a safety inspection of the vehicle and/or harness involved before allowing further use at the event.