



# VERY SMALL EQUINES

Updated: January 2023

## Guidelines for Organisers

**These guidelines are to assist Organisers in facilitating the introduction of VSE classes at outdoor events.**

Designed to minimise any extra work required by the Organisers, the 3 parts are: Dressage, Cones and Short Marathon. They have been put together following consultation with current organisers of VSE classes and current VSE competitors.

These VSE classes can be part of a one, two or three day event.

## CLASSES

### Very Small Equines (VSE)

There is only one class to cover any equine turnout under 11hh. If there are sufficient entries, organisers can split the class into singles and multiples, or by height – 35 inches (89cm) and under and 36 inches (90cm) to 11hh (112cm).

Athletes (Drivers, Competitors) must have passed their 6th birthday and have passed a safety assessment carried out by a BC approved assessor before entering. They may only enter with the turnout which has been assessed.

A safety check must be completed on entries prior to starting dressage.

Age limits. Lower limit for equines is 5 years. For athletes as specified in the BC Rule book (Article 912).

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

Any person under 18 must wear a body protector while on the carriage.

All drivers under 12 must always be accompanied on the carriage by an adult.

All persons on a carriage or in close attendance must adhere to dress and protective equipment rules as specified in the BC Rule Book.

Para Drivers can use Compensating Aids as per Article 928, BC Rules.

### Dressage

- Arena size: 80m x 40m
- Test: BC Novice Test
- Dress: As per current BC Rule Book.
- Safety: Check prior to test

### Cones

- Full Cones Course
  - Speed 200 m/min
- Carriage Width 125cm
  - Cones set at 150cm
- Dress As per current BC Rule Book.

## Marathon

- Part Section B only
- Length up to a max of 4 kilometres - dependant on terrain
- Obstacles Four
  - Gated as for main competition
- Speed 10 km/h, 6 mins per km.
- Dress As per current BC Rule Book.

## Pony Heights

- 11hh (112cm) and below
  - Normally one class but if entries warrant can be split
    - 36inches (90cm) to 11 hands (112cm) and 35 inches (89cm) and below
    - Multiples split from singles

## Carriages - No specified weights

- Singles/tandems 2 or 4 wheeler
- Pairs/Teams 4 wheeler

## Grooms

- Dress: See BC Rule Book.
  - Hard hats/back or body protectors required as per BC rule book.
- 2 wheeler.
  - Groom must be in close attendance throughout all phases (including the marathon section) being able to render assistance if required.
    - May be on foot, sitting alongside or on backstep (if fitted).
    - May travel on marathon between obstacles on foot, by bike, or quad (if allowed by organiser).
    - If backstep can stand in dressage and cones.
    - See age limit above.
- 4 wheeler single & tandem
  - Groom on back step of carriage.
- 4 wheeler pair
  - Groom on backstep of carriage
- 4 wheeler team (four-in-hand) - 2 grooms
  - One Groom can be on foot in close attendance being able to render assistance if required
  - Minimum One groom to be on carriage in all phases.

Organiser to monitor weight of carriage and driver/grooms being conscious of the welfare of the equine(s) at all times.

**Points League and National Championships** will be the same as for other classes at Regional and National Events.