



**THE
AMERICAN DRIVING
SOCIETY
HANDBOOK**

**RECREATIONAL DRIVING
HANDBOOK**

Effective January 1, 2012

CHANGES INCORPORATED EDITION

*This document contains the final text effective January 1, 2012.
Subsequent changes are noted with additions underlined
in **red ink**; deletions presented by ~~strikethrough~~ text,
(also in red) and a revised effective date.*

RECREATIONAL DRIVE STANDARDS

CONTENTS

<u>Section 1 – Introduction & Definitions</u>	
Article 1	Purpose 2
Article 2	General 2
Article 3	Definitions 2
<u>Section 2 – Conduct, Care and Protection of Animals</u>	
Article 4	Conduct 3
Article 5	Care and Protection of Animals 3
<u>Section 4 – Safety</u>	
Article 6	General 3
Article 7	Responsibility Toward the Horse 4
Article 8	Grooms and Passengers 5
Article 9	Vehicles 5
<u>Section 5 – ADS Recognition of Recreational Drives</u>	
Article 10	Responsibilities of Event Management 5
Article 11	ADS Support to Organized Events 6
<u>Section 5 – Organization of A Recreational Drive</u>	
Article 12	General 6
Article 13	Officials 7
Appendix A – Safety Check.....	8
Appendix B – Drive at Will	8
Appendix C – Educational Drive	9
Appendix D – Organized Drive	10

RECREATIONAL DRIVE STANDARDS

Section 1- Introduction and Definitions

ARTICLE 1

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Recreational Drive is to drive the horse in a planned but non-competitive environment which offers education, safe driving practices and the camaraderie of the ADS driving community. Meeting these standards allows Organizers to receive ADS recognition of their events.

ARTICLE 2

GENERAL

The American Driving Society (ADS) was founded for the purpose of developing and furthering the art and sport of driving for pleasure. These standards for ADS recognized Recreational Drives ensures that all participants enjoy consistent event standards and responsibilities. The following applies to all participants at an ADS recognized Recreational Drive.

1. All drivers are responsible for knowledge of and compliance with the standards in this Handbook.
2. The purpose of the ADS Recreational Drive standards is to promote safety in and provide standardization for conduct of an ADS-recognized Recreational Drives.
3. Each of the standards is intended to apply to all ADS-recognized Recreational Drive and all participants.
4. In situations not covered specifically in this Handbook, or by direct interpretation of these standards, the spirit and intent of these standards will be upheld.
5. All drivers at ADS recognized events must be current ADS members or pay the required non-member fee. As a practical matter, organizers are encouraged to provide ADS members a discounted event fee rather than charge non-members an additional fee. This practice demonstrates the value of membership instead of the penalizing non-members.

ARTICLE 3

DEFINITIONS

1. The term ADS refers to and denotes only the American Driving Society.
2. The term HORSE refers to a horse, pony, VSE, mule or donkey.
3. The term DRIVER refers to the person controlling the reins, whip and brake.
4. The term GROOM refers to the person(s) capable of assisting in event of difficulty.
5. The term ENTRY refers to the combination of driver, horse, vehicle and groom(s) participating in the event.
6. Junior and Adult Drivers are:
 - a) Junior Drivers are those who have not reached their 18th birthday.
 - b) Adult Drivers are those 18 years of age and older.

- c) Junior drivers must be accompanied by a knowledgeable adult horseman at all times
- 7. The term HEADGEAR refers to protective headgear meeting United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) recommendations.

Section 2 – Conduct, Care and Protection of Animals

ARTICLE 4 CONDUCT

All participants in ADS-recognized Recreational Drives are obliged to conduct themselves in an orderly manner and in the best interest of the ADS. Acting or permitting another person to act in a manner contrary to ADS standards or in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike or prejudicial to the best interest of the ADS and/or detrimental to the well-being of any animal(s) is considered not in the best interests of the ADS. Event organizers and other officials shall bar violators from further participation in the event and will report the incident to ADS.

ARTICLE 5 CARE and PROTECTIONS OF ANIMALS

- 1. Cruelty to or the abuse of any animal by any person at a recognized event is forbidden. Event organizers and other officials shall bar violators from further participation and report the incident to the ADS. Examples of cruelty include but are not limited to excessive use of the whip on any horse at any time or place of the event by any person.
- 2. All horses must be serviceably sound and not show evidence of lameness, broken wind, physical distress or impairment of vision in both eyes.
- 3. The ADS neither encourages nor discourages dogs accompanying an entry.

Section 3 – Safety

ARTICLE 6 GENERAL

- 1. All persons involved in a Recreational Drive – drivers, passengers, grooms, officials, spectators, etc.– should keep safety foremost in their minds. Having the horse under control at all times is not only a safeguard for the driver and passengers, but also for everyone involved in the sport of driving.
- 2. All officials and management should constantly be on the lookout for unsafe actions by any participant, unsafe harness or vehicles and report them to the Organizer, Safety Officer or other event management for correction.
- 3. In the case of an accident, the Organizer or Safety Officer may require a safety inspection of the vehicle and/or harness involved before allowing further participation.

- 4. Junior drivers must be accompanied in the carriage by a knowledgeable adult horseman.
- 5. Drivers are responsible to ensure that harness and vehicle are in good repair and structurally sound.
- 6. Drivers are responsible to ensure that their horse(s) are physically fit and adequately trained to perform the tasks asked of them.
- 7. The driver must always be the first person to enter the vehicle and the last to leave the vehicle. Passengers/grooms must never be left on the vehicle while the driver is dismounted unless the passenger/groom has taken control of the reins.
- 8. Drivers should maintain a safe distance from other vehicles at all times.
- 9. All rules of the road should be observed unless directed otherwise by a uniformed official (policeman, EMT or firefighter, etc).
- 10. The Safety Officer should inspect driving areas early enough to allow for changes or alterations to conform to the Recreational Driving standards for safety and driveability.
- 11. The ADS encourages the use of protective headgear.
- 12. Junior drivers may not drive stallions.

ARTICLE 7 RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD THE HORSE

- 1. Bridles should be adjusted to fit snugly to prevent catching on a vehicle or other pieces of harness. A throatlatch and a noseband or cavesson are required. .
- 2. Failure to comply with the following may incur elimination or disqualification:
 - a) Whenever fully harnessed to a vehicle and while being harnessed to a vehicle, a horse must wear a bridle with reins attached and passed through the saddle terrets. Exception:
 - (i) Once a horse is fully harnessed to a vehicle, one rein at a time may be adjusted.
 - (ii) Horses in multiple hitches must have at least one rein attached to the bridle while being harnessed to a vehicle.
 - b) A horse must never be left unattended while put to a vehicle.
- 3. A correctly fitting harness saddle is important for the comfort of the horse. A wide saddle is suggested for two wheeled vehicles as more weight rests on the horse's back. Narrower saddles are more appropriate for four wheeled vehicles.
- 4. Tying down of tongues is prohibited.
- 5. The bridle must never be removed while the horse is attached to a vehicle. Failure to comply incurs elimination.
- 6. The driving horse may be of any breed, color or size as long as it is capable of performing the work required.
- 7. The minimum age for a horse allowed to participate in a recognized Recreational Drive is three (3) years of age. In multiple turnouts, the age of the youngest horse is the qualifying factor.

8. Horses must be serviceably sound and must not show evidence of lameness, broken wind or impairment of vision in both eyes.
9. A horse's birthday is considered to occur on the first day of January.

ARTICLE 8 GROOMS AND PASSENGERS

1. Two grooms are required for four-in-hands or unicorns to assist in the event of difficulty.
2. One groom is required for a pair or tandem to assist in the event of difficulty.
3. A groom is optional for a single horse turnout but is encouraged.
4. Junior drivers must be accompanied on the vehicle by an adult groom regardless of turnout.
5. When grooms are required, at least one groom is required to be in attendance and capable of rendering assistance at all times.

ARTICLE 9 VEHICLES

1. The driver is responsible for ensuring the vehicle is in good repair and is structurally sound.
2. Wire wheeled and pneumatic-tired vehicles are permitted.

Section 4 – ADS Recognition of Recreational Drives

ARTICLE 10 RESPONSIBILITY TO EVENT MANAGEMENT

1. Organizers must submit their applications to the ADS Office at least 60 days before the event date. Applications will include a copy of the Recreational Drive agenda/schedule.
2. The Organizer/Organizing Committee must agree to:
 - a) Conduct the event in accordance with the ADS Recreational Drive standards. Organizers must include a statement to this effect in their agenda/schedule.
 - b) Appoint an Organizer and an Event Secretary and publish their names in the event agenda/schedule.
 - c) That the event Safety Officer will be selected from the roster of ADS judges and technical delegates.
 - d) That qualified medical personnel, veterinarian and farrier be "on-call" and identified with telephone numbers in the event agenda/schedule. Organizers must ensure means of accident notification to a central event command area.

- e) Provide evidence of a negative Coggins Test for each horse entered and be in compliance with the requirements of the state in which the event is held.
- f) Provide a complete listing of event participants to the ADS Office within 10 days of the event end.
- g) Recognize the event's status as an ADS recognized event in advertisements, news articles/reports and in the event agenda/schedule.
- h) Display the ADS banner in a conspicuous location.
- i) Include in the event agenda/schedule:
 - (1) A list of the Event Officials
 - (2) An ADS membership application
 - (3) A schedule
 - (4) The current disclaimer of liability to be signed by every Recreational Drive participant (driver, groom or passenger). Parent or guardian must sign if participant is under 21 (or age of majority in state in which event takes place).

ARTICLE 11 ADS SUPPORT TO ORGANIZED EVENTS

The ADS will, upon recognizing an event, provide:

1. The names and addresses of the requested ADS membership (by state) in an electronic format.
2. An event listing in *The Whip*, *The Wheelhorse*, *Omnibus* or an on-line calendar of events with designation: "ADS recognized event".
3. Publication of reports of the event together with photographs submitted. Publication is subject to editorial review and adjustment.
4. An ADS banner for display during the event.
5. An ADS membership advertisement for inclusion in the event agenda/schedule.

Section 5 – Organization of a Recreational Drive

ARTICLE 12 GENERAL

Recreational Drives will have two parts and may contain a third and a fourth. The two required parts of each Recreational Drive are:

1. Safety Check – see Appendix A
2. Drive at Will – see Appendix B

Organizers may also include:

3. Driving Educational Opportunity – see Appendix C, and/or
4. Organized Drive – see Appendix D.

Part A is always first and is required of all participants in a Recreational Drive. Parts B, C and D may occur in any sequence, repeatedly, and are not required activities for any participant.

ARTICLE 13

OFFICIALS

Recognized Recreational Drives will have the following officials:

1. Organizer - duties same as for competitions
2. Secretary - duties same as for competitions
3. Safety Officer - any "R" or "r" rated Judge or TD for Pleasure or Combined Driving may serve as Safety Officer for a Recreational Drive.
4. Course Designer – duties same as for competitions
5. The following may be "On call" for Recreational Drives:
 - a) Veterinarian
 - b) Farrier
 - c) Emergency Medical Services

APPENDIX A **SAFETY CHECK**

The Safety Officer will oversee the volunteers and/or other officials conducting the Safety Check. Use the ADS safety checklist. Each turnout receives a participant number upon successful completion of safety check. The turnout will display the participant number on the vehicle for the entire event. Participants with more than one turnout require safety checks for each turnout. For example, a pair that also participates as a tandem will require two safety checks and different participant numbers.

APPENDIX B **DRIVE AT WILL**

1. Principles: Recreational Drives must include one or more Drives at Will.
2. Organizers, with the assistance of the Course Designer and Safety Officer, will conduct a Driver's meeting daily to cover the course available for driving, safety notices and available methods of assistance.
3. Course Designer will appropriately mark driving areas.
4. Safety Officer will review and approve driving areas.
5. Organizers will provide either a map of area, a course briefing, or preferably, both.
6. If area available for driving changes, all above actions will be repeated.

APPENDIX C

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

This is an optional part of the event. Examples of Educational Opportunities include but are not limited to:

- Introduction to Driving
- Safety in Recreational Driving
- Introduction to Competitive Driving
- Vehicles (and vehicle identification)
- Vehicle Maintenance and/or restoration
- Nutrition
- Equine health and fitness
- Farrier concerns for the Driving Horse
- How to start a club/event/youth driving/etc
- Introduction to the ADS and its programs

APPENDIX D

ORGANIZED DRIVE

This is an optional portion of a Recreational Drive. Issues/items of interest for the Recreational Drive organizer, Course Designer and Safety Officer include:

- Route marked and map published
- Alternative routes (handy for bad weather/breakdowns/rescue/etc)
- Notifying local police/officials
- Interval between turnouts
- Accommodating equine of significantly different size - how do you sequence the draft pair, the CDE horse single, the VSE and the team of Hackney ponies?
- Assistance enroute - outriders/communications/check points/assistance with breakdown
- Pace(s) allowed and rules/etiquette for passing along route
- Room for two-way traffic
- Public viewing of Drive - Who's your audience? Will you have an announcer or reviewing stand? How do you tell the public about ADS?