



# ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE D'ATTELAGE DE TRADITION

Fondée en 2008

## GUIDE FOR JUDGING PRESENTATION

2017

### Overall impression

General harmony of the turnout (carriage/horses),  
Impression of the movement of the horses,  
Driver sitting straight on the box seat.

### Horses

Grooming, cleanliness,  
No blemishes,  
Quality of shoeing (except for donkeys),  
No bonnet (10 pts penalty by the 1st judge), with exception for regional tradition,  
No protections (10 pts penalty by the 1st judge),  
Cleanliness of manes and tails (plaited or not),  
Cleanliness of hooves (greased or not).

### Harness

Well adjusted,  
Curb chain on the flat – Well fitting bits,  
Hame strap in the right position,  
Belly-band independent from the girth,  
Reins on the flat,  
Swingle trees and traces in the right position (screw on top),  
No quick release buckles (less good mark),  
« A l'Anglaise » : collars better noted than breast collars,  
with exception for regional tradition.

### Carriage

Before 1945 : original carriage,  
After 1945 : modern carriage,  
Cleanliness,  
Candles in the carriage lamps.

### Whip

Adapted – No taped whip lash (10 pts penalty by 1st judge),  
No double lash (short + long).

### Passengers

No costume or only national or regional style,  
Corresponding to the turnout and to our time,  
Number of grooms –in groom outfit (better note) or not:

1 horse	1 groom,
2 horses	1 groom,
Tandem	1 groom,
Winchester	1 groom,
Unicorn	2 grooms,
4 horses and more	2 grooms.

### **Some observations on judging methods**

It is important that a judge, whether a lady or gentleman, has had broad experience in all aspects of this type of competition.

Their dress must be immaculate, lounge suit or blazer, bowler or Panama for the men.  
Elegant dress or suit for the lady with appropriate hat and suitable to work in.  
Complementary to the efforts the driver has put into its turnout.

The judges attitude to the driver during presentation should be pleasant, putting the driver and grooms at ease in what is often a stressful occasion for them.

The judge should avoid making controversial personal observations about the turnout with the competitor only referring to well established facts. Personal likes and dislikes should be discussed at official competition seminars elsewhere.

While officiating the judge should always be friendly and courteous and particularly encouraging to competitors new to the sport. On occasions harsh comments from a judge has discouraged drivers to continue in the sport.

If on rare occasions a judge is surprised to see an unfamiliar feature before him/her, the judge may ask a question of the driver but never reply with a strong categorical opinion. The time for that is for discussion with the driver after the event.

Very high or low marks on the score sheet should be justified by an appropriate short written comment. Hence the utility and even necessity of a secretary.

The judge should not dwell on minute details of clothing, people, horses etc. which might seem derogatory but always find a positive point in commending perhaps to the groom, for example, on the quality of his horses, his harness or his carriage, when the case arises.

At an event, the judge should always have at hand the rules and a stopwatch.

Competence, courtesy and modesty are the essential qualities of a judge!

#### **Our voluntary attendance.**

Event Organizer considers the judge as a friend and, as such, he/she is supported for the duration of the event.

A judge who accepts the invitation of the Organizer as a friend, should not normally expect traveling expenses. This corresponds to the spirit of the AIAT, based on friendship and freely sharing of knowledge.

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