

Clydesdale Horse Society

Health and Safety Guidelines

WORKING DOCUMENT:

These guidelines are written to promote safe and healthy practices in the Heavy Horse or Clydesdale Working Classes. Therefore, these rules apply to show classes run under either the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS), the Clydesdale Horse Society (CHS) and its associated member groups – the Waikato Heavy Horse Association (WHHA) and the Canterbury Clydesdale Club.

These guidelines are not intended for use by:

- Individual members giving rides at a showground/event. The member should consider developing their own set of H&S guidelines for this purpose or follow the industry standards if available.

These guidelines may be adopted/adapted for use at other events or shows that members may participate in such as local training days and ploughing matches.

As a living document, these guidelines are subject to change, as new issues arise and are addressed, and rules changes may occur. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the competitor, stewards and judges to ensure they keep up to date with the guidelines.

Activity/Competition Class	Description	Risks	Recommended Safety Measures	Supporting Documents/ Industry Standards
In-hand classes	Turn-out Stallion/colt Mare/filly Best bred by exhibitor, progeny classes, etc...	Loose Horses	Sound halters, and lead ropes. Horses prone to pulling back should be secured with a neck rope with a non-slip knot e.g. bowline. Use pen or put back on the truck	RAS RULE – GR7
		Kicked by own horse/other horses	Maintain a separation/spacing between horses 1 & ½ horse lengths or more	
		Stepped on/trampled	Wear covered toe/safety style footwear Turning horses away from you Leading in a clockwise direction Lead from the horses' shoulder	
		Unruly/ill-mannered/out of control horses	Handled by experienced/competent handlers only. Ordered to leave the ring	RAS RULE - CDE 14
		Other Competitors	Observe and maintain space between horses	RAS RULE – CDE 14 & CDE 11
		Stallions/colts	Over 2 years of age – must have a stallion roller and off-side rein fitted All stallions/colts MUST be shown in a bit	

Decorated Harness/harness turnout	In hand class		Follow in-hand recommendations	
Ridden Heavy Horse/Clydesdale	Best Presented ridden horse Western or English Ridden Horse Obstacle course	Fall from horse Head Injury Bucking Bolting Stumbling Being dragged/foot caught in stirrup	Wear an approved tagged safety hat or helmet PPE including appropriate riding boots Stallions ridden by riders 17 years of age and older	RAS RULE – GR.4 SAFETY HATS AND HELMETS RAS RULE – CDE11. i)
Sledge class	Single horse or Pair of horses in a sledge	Reins caught around hand/leg Hooking up	Avoid looping reins around hands Ensure reins of a suitable length – excess reins are unnecessary and dangerous Must always keep a hand on the reins at all times while putting chains on. When hooking a horse/s into chains, start from the opposite side to where your reins are laid out i.e. if your reins are on the NS, hook in the OS chain first, then the NS before starting the horse. When unhooking, when the reins are on the NS, unhook the OS chain first then the NS chain. Chain hooks must always face inwards	See Diagram 1 - hooks

<p>Sledge class cont...</p>		<p>Runaways/Bolting Leg over the chains</p> <p>Breakages</p> <p>Sledge tipping over</p> <p>Novice drivers/horses</p>	<p>No dragging of the swingle tree behind a horse which is not hooked to an implement</p> <p>Assistant to hold the horse where necessary</p> <p>Harness and fittings are sound and fit for purpose</p> <p>Design of sledge must ensure that the sledge is balanced</p> <p>Use a sledge of recommended size/design</p> <p>Stability – sitting or standing – competitors choice Sitting on the sledge on secured hay bale or seat Standing when necessary and only if you are balanced/have a foot bar to brace against Must be sitting or standing towards the rear of the sledge</p> <p>Sledge classes to operate at a walk.</p> <p>Must be supervised/have an assistant to help when needed <16years – direct supervision of an experienced driver/adult</p>	<p>See Diagram 2 – recommended sledge size/design</p>
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		Knocked over/caught up in the sledge	<p>No competitor to drive their horses from in front of the implement</p> <p>Avoid walking between the implement and the horse when hooked up</p> <p>Length of reins should allow the driver to stand at the back of an implement.</p>	Diagram 3 below – the danger zone
Wheeled vehicle	Includes but not limited to flat top wagons, farm wagons, wool wagons, spring carts, two-wheeled vehicles etc...	<p>Broken poles/shafts Broken gear</p> <p>Hooking up</p> <p>Bolting/runaways - Run over by wagon/ Trampled by horses/ run over members of public</p> <p>Reins caught under a horses tail</p>	<p>Harness, fittings and gear sound and fit for purpose. Driver should perform a check of the vehicle and harness for correct fitting before attaching horses to the vehicle</p> <p>Attach reins, then pole straps then chains when hooking horses into a pole</p> <p>Assistant/Groom on wagon to help teamster/driver when directed</p> <p>The tail should be thinned and plaited and tied up in a manner that prevents the horse from catching the reins with their tail e.g. when swishing flies</p>	

		<p>Fall off wagon Death (low risk) Knock to the head</p>	<p>Don't drink and drive Ensure you are securely seated, and passengers are seated and holding on. Higher perch seats should have sides, a backrest and foot rests.</p> <p>Wagon classes to operate at a walk, or a trot depending upon the type of wheeled vehicle</p>	
Log skidding	Two logs being pulled through a forestry style course	<p>Logs rolling Reins caught on trees Driver caught between logs and trees Hooking up</p>	<p>Reins should be long enough to keep towards the back of the logs</p> <p>"Avoid being caught between the tree/obstacle and the load on tight turns or in confined spaces" (FISA, 2013)</p> <p>Where there is a sloping ground surface - walk on the top side of the load if the side slopes cannot be avoided</p> <p>Step over the logs ONLY when necessary and safe to do so.</p> <p>Avoid entering the "danger zone" when the horse is moving the load. Wait until the horse is stopped and steady</p>	

			<p>Ensure the horse is properly trained and capable of standing still while hooking and unhooking a load. Safety footwear to be worn at all times</p> <p>Safe and appropriate harness – recommendations spider/leader harness or chains, backband and swingle tree</p> <p>Assistance to hold horse as needed</p> <p>Hand on the reins at all times and avoid looping reins around hands</p>	
Agricultural Implements		Caught up, run over by implements	<p>Avoid “danger zone”</p> <p>Undertake all endeavours to make implements safe before going out in public i.e. disengage moving parts such as mower bars</p>	
Children - Any class	Youth classes designed to encourage children/young people to participate in the Clydesdale/Heavy Horse show classes.	Dragged Kicked Trodden on Bitten	<p>Under age of 16yrs must have DIRECT adult supervision</p> <p>In-hand classes – adult to walk beside the child. Children MUST NOT lead/handle/ride stallions/colts</p> <p>Ridden class – must be 12yrs and over, adult to accompany to the ring and supervise ride</p>	RAS RULE – CDE 11 h) and i)

			Sledge classes – adult must sit on the sledge with the child and be prepared to take control of the horse/s if needed	
All classes	Anti-doping/medication control		Horses should not be given any sedative type drugs before being attached to an implement, sledge or wheeled vehicle.	RAS RULES – Clean Sport/ Forbidden Substances

APPENDIX: DIAGRAMS

Diagram 1 – hooks facing inwards

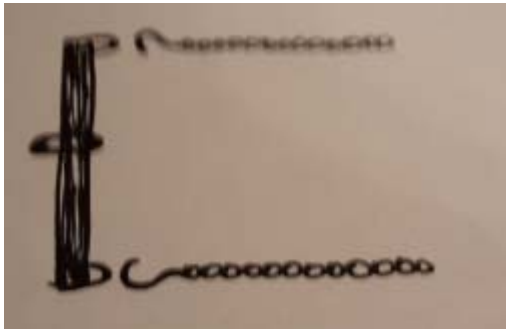


Diagram 2 – recommended sledge size/design

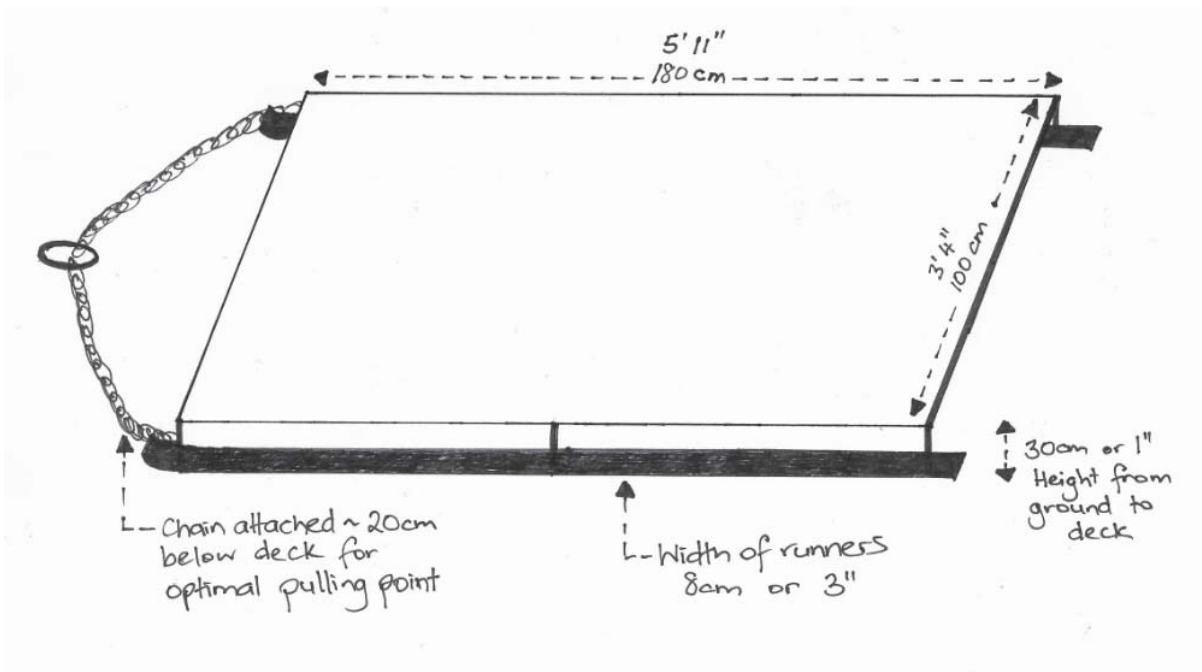
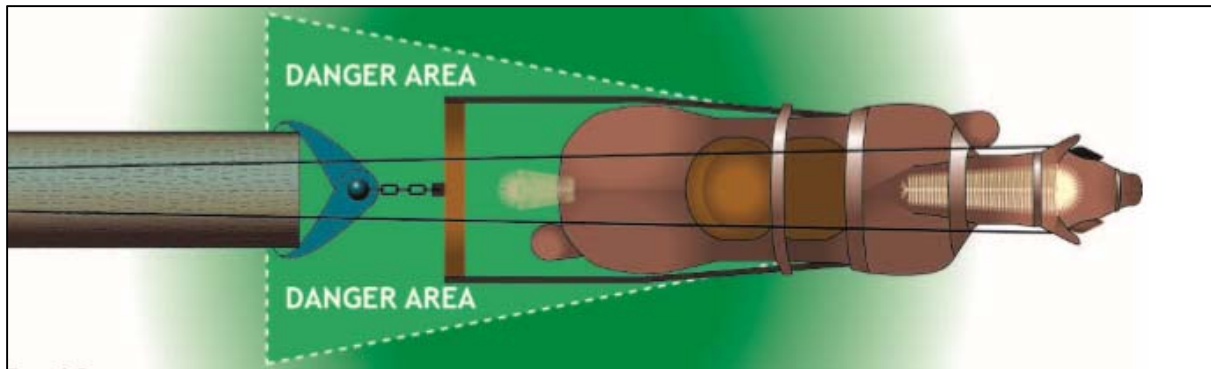


Diagram 3 - Danger Zone



Source: (FISA, 2013)

References

FISA. (2013). *Forest Industry Safety Accord*. Retrieved from Horse Loggers UK:
<http://www.heavyhorses.net/Pages/FISA.pdf>

Lea, C. (1992). *Draught Horse Power*. Napier: Cosmos Publications.

Royal Agricultural Society of NZ. Rules and Regulations. www.ras.org