



Maritime Mini Racing Series – Official Rules

In Support of All the Maritime Tracks, Harness Racing Industry and Standardbred Canada

To ensure safety, fairness, and consistency across all tracks participating in the Maritime Mini Racing Series, the following rules must be followed by all mini drivers, Buddies, and guardians.

Section 1: Equipment & Attire

1. All drivers must wear an equine-approved safety vest during races.
 2. A helmet is mandatory. Acceptable helmets include:
 - Harness racing driving helmets
 - Equestrian helmets
 3. Helmets must be securely buckled at all times, including:
 - While driving a mini pony
 - While sitting on or operating a mini bike
 4. Boots must be worn when participating in any mini race.
 5. All driving reins must include handholds for better grip and control.
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Section 2: Age Requirements & Buddy Rules

6. Effective for the 2025 season, the following age guidelines will apply to all drivers participating in the trot-only Maritime Mini Racing Series:
 - Drivers aged 8 and over will be permitted to race solo.
 - A Junior Trot Division will be created for new drivers aged 8–9, to provide an introductory and supportive racing experience.
 - Drivers under the age of 8 must be accompanied by a buddy or adult in the cart during races.
 - Case-by-case exceptions may be made for returning drivers who participated in the 2024 season. These drivers may be grandfathered into the solo division based on their previous experience and comfort level.
 7. The Buddy must:
 - Be 16 years of age or older
 - Hold a valid Standardbred Canada Grooms License, Trainer License, or Driver License
 8. Buddies must wear a helmet at all times while in the cart with a youth driver.
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Section 3: Buddy Racing & Post Parades

8. During Buddy Races:
 - The Buddy must have always hold of the reins for support, while the Mini Driver has their hands on the handholds for full control over the pony.
9. During Post Parades:
 - If the track requests a post parade, an adult aged 16 or older must walk the pony onto the track.

Section 4: Race Type & Track Rules

10. There are no gallop races permitted at any licensed tracks in the Maritimes. Trot races only are allowed at these venues.

Section 5: Health & Safety Requirements

11. All ponies registered to race—regardless of track—must have a current, negative Coggins Test.
12. A copy of the negative Coggins Test certificate must be submitted to the organizer, Kaitlyn Wesley, prior to participation.
13. All participants (Mini Drivers) must have their participation waivers filled out and signed before entering the track to race.

Section 6: Conduct & Consequences

14. If there are any violations of these rules that jeopardize the safety of other mini drivers, the organization reserves the right to make the appropriate decision regarding participation.
15. The purpose of these rules is to keep everyone safe and ensure the program can operate successfully at all Maritime tracks.

Section 7: Driving Conduct & Whip Use

16. Drivers must keep a line in each hand with both hands on the handholds for the entire race.
17. No driver shall kick or strike a horse with their foot in any manner.
18. Excessive use of the whip will result in penalties, including loss of points and disqualification from the winner's circle.
19. Repeat offenders will be denied entry in future mini races.
20. The whip must not be used below the shafts and is strictly for guiding your pony to stay trotting or for direction.

Section 8: Double J Trot Challenge (same as Ontario)

21. The Double J Trot Challenge returns this season with a new points format:
 - 1st Place – 50 points
 - 2nd Place – 40 points
 - 3rd Place – 30 points
 - 4th Place – 20 points
 - 5th Place – 10 points
 22. If a pony breaks stride and gallops more than 5 strides, the entry will not receive points.
 23. Ponies must be trotting at the wire to be eligible for placement and points.
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