

ARIZONA DRIVING AND CARRIAGE SOCIETY
COVID MITIGATION PLAN FOR FEB. 20, 2021 EVENT
AT THE APACHE JUNCTION RODEO GROUNDS

The nature of our carriage driving events makes it fairly easy to maintain safe distances in our outdoor setting. Competitors either come alone or have one to two helpers that come with them to help hitch horses. Only during the final part of the event is anyone required to be on the carriage with the driver (unless they drive a pair). This is frequently a family member, and if not, they would be asked to wear masks. Our event has three parts, and two of those parts are going on at the same time in the morning in different areas of the grounds, with competitors scheduled at intervals of usually 10 minutes for their start time. This means that only a few are hitched and driving around and warming up at any one time. And because horses are involved, those waiting for their start time or warming up, are at a safe distance from others.

Event Day, a competitor begins with a dressage test in area 1, then moves to area 2 where they drive a cones course. Both of these sections take an individual competitor no more than 20 minutes, after which they usually return to their trailer to unhitch. Some may then go to one of the competition areas to watch for a short time, and at some point may go "to walk" the four hazards involved in section 3. These are well spread around another section of the grounds, and allow room for distancing if several may be checking out a hazard at the same time.

Section 3 begins after a lunch break-where all will be providing their own lunches and will most likely be at their trailers tending their horses and eating at various times. Competitors again are scheduled for part 3 at a specific time, so will be hitching and moving to the start area a few at a time. There is no "close" gathering of those waiting for their turn. After a competitor finishes this final section, most will return to their trailers and load up and leave the grounds. Final scores are transmitted online to the participants and no one waits around the venue for results.

Generally, individuals arrive at the grounds at various times event morning, with those scheduled for dressage after 11:00am usually not arriving until later. With the various parts of the event spread out in the various areas of the grounds, at no time are there probably more than 15 to 20 people in any one activity space, and then they are not close to each other. We do allow those coming from distances to arrive on Friday after twelve noon and to overnight (dry camp) on site. The numbers doing so are usually under 20 due to the limited number of pens for the horses for overnight. These folks will be asked to park their rigs/RV's well spaced from others, and to avoid gatherings, and also to follow the same protocols in place for event day. They will be reminded to sanitize stable area gate latches, hoses, etc. before and after use and to avoid sharing equipment/mucking tools with others.

Steps we are taking to limit the number of people at our event:

- Competitors will be limited to no more than 35 entries.
- We have changed from a two day event to a one day only event in order to limit length of contact.
- Participants will be encouraged to limit helpers they bring to only those needed and not to invite others to come just to watch.
- Volunteers needed to help run the event will be kept to the bare minimum, and we may adjust some parts of the event so fewer volunteers are needed.
- The general public will be turned away. In the past, folks just passing by have frequently come in to watch, and we will discourage this by placing signs at the entrance indicating that registered participants and volunteers only are allowed. **NO SPECTATORS.**
- Our Club web site event page will have our attendance plan posted on it and will discourage attendance by club members who are non-participants; i.e., **NO SPECTATORS.**

Steps to limit contact at the event:

- Pre-registration is required, so check in is very minimal-only requiring a participant to pick up their competitor number at the registration desk, one person at a time. We may even email the numbers and have them print them up themselves, so even less contact is required.
- Masks will be required whenever the 6 foot minimum distance cannot be maintained, and all will be encouraged to wear them during the entire event (exception is when driving their carriage). Those not following mask wearing may be asked to leave the grounds.
- There is NO gathering of the entire group required at any one time during the event. We may hold a competitor's ZOOM meeting on the prior Thursday where any questions related to competition procedures can be asked/answered, thus avoiding any pre-competition meeting on the grounds.
- Participants will park trailers and vehicles with double the usual space between them.
- Participants will be asked to eat their lunches at their individual trailers and not to congregate at the picnic tables.
- Volunteers, for whom we provide a lunch, will be asked to maintain distance while at the picnic tables. Lunches/drinks will be purchased in individually packaged containers from a grocery.
- There will be no food vendor on site. Competitors must supply their own. And our usual practice of providing coffee and donuts for volunteers when they arrive will not take place.
- Competitors will be asked to not use the picnic area to eat lunch, but rather to do so by their trailers and avoid gathering for lunch with anyone who did not come with them.

Other Considerations/sanitizing:

- Someone will spray disinfectant and wipe counter surfaces and door handles in the rest rooms several times during the event. Picnic tables will also be wiped periodically.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the check in desk, and at the various areas where volunteers will be working and handling equipment or score sheets..
- Participants will be encouraged to bring their own sanitizer and to use it often.
- We will provide soap (dispensing type) if the dispensers in the rest rooms are empty.
- Extra masks will be available for anyone who forgets to bring one.
- We will place signs in the registration area, horse pen area, and rest rooms reminding folks to wear a mask, etc.
- We will provide alcohol wipes to those handling equipment during the event or during set up of the different areas on Friday morning.
- The list of names and contact information for all in attendance will be kept for at least two weeks past the event. All will be given a contact email to use in case they become ill after our event and believe they were either sick during the event and might have passed it on, or that they may have caught it at the event. They will be asked to contact us so we may pass on that information to all that attended.
- Entry forms will ask for names and emails for anyone a competitor plans to bring as a helper. Then all participants/helpers and volunteers will be reminded several days before our event, via email, to avoid coming if they have any symptoms of illness or have been in recent contact with someone testing positive for covid. They will be asked to return a "Covid Release" that says they will follow the mitigation procedures of social distancing, hand washing/sanitizing, and mask wearing (except while driving their carriage).

Enforcement:

Anyone refusing to comply with risk mitigation measures put into place by the event organizers will be asked to leave the venue. Members of the organizing committee and the event technical delegate will be responsible for monitoring compliance and issuing warnings. Hopefully, with notifications of procedures prior to entry deadlines, anyone not wishing to follow procedures will not sign up.