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# THE 2025 Carriage Driving *Ashes*

*Welcome!*

AND

**NATIONS CUP**

## THE ASHES

This televised Event will be the third 'stay at home' international competition within our Sport. The Arena based Short Format Competition lends itself to being replicated at different venues. The same Compulsory Figures will be used in each country and invigilated via live streaming by 'international' judges; and the Cones Course and Obstacles will be carefully measured to ensure they are as identical as possible.

The Southern Highlands Carriage Club of NSW will be hosting the Australian Short Format National Championships on the 4th & 5th October 2025.

The winners of each Class in each country, as well as being their nation's Short Format Champion will become a member of their 'Ashes' Team, and if their score is better than that of the opposing nation, they gain a point. The nation scoring the most points will hold 'The Ashes' until the following year's contest.

## THE NATIONS CUP

Australia -v- Nations from around the World...

Carriage Driving nations from around the world will battle it out to see who becomes the second winners of The Nations Cup.

This competition is conducted within 'The Ashes' event, so each Driver will have two (2) chances to gain points for Australia - all done with only one drive of each competition section ie: Compulsory Figures, Cones & Obstacles. Results from both competitions will be calculated within the Scoring Program.



*See you soon...*  
at Bundanoon!



Southern Highlands  
Carriage Club

# *The Competition*

The NSW sponsored Championships is an exciting new arena-based event aiming to fill the space between the two and three-day summer events, and the one-day Club events and Indoor winter events to provide a goal for the whole spectrum of carriage drivers across the country.

These Championships will be run over two days. Saturday will be Compulsory Figures, but if Entries are high, this Phase will begin on Friday, 30th October. A new Test has been developed that is a fusion of a traditional Dressage Test and a Precision and Paces Test, known as Compulsory Figures.

The same 'footprint' is driven by all in a 30m x 60m Arena. Novices drive the test predominantly in working trot with a walk and halt and one lengthened stride section. Open Classes drive the same movements but in collected, working and extended trot, working and free walk, halt and rein back and one handed.

It is marked with a 20-box score sheet with 17 movements and 3 collective marks. At the Championships there will be Judges at C, B & E.

Friday and/or Saturday will begin with Phase One – Compulsory Figures driven in the Dressage Arena. This will be followed by Phase Two – Cones, driven at the bottom of the grounds bordering Ferndale Road.

Sunday – Phase Three – Obstacles, driven on the grassed area bordering Quarry Road. The four Obstacles will be built prior to the weekend allowing plenty of time for walking, and the specific Training Package taking place from 29th September – 2nd October.

Grooms or Back-steppers are considered Navigators in all phases and may talk throughout the whole competition.

## **RULES & GUIDELINES 2025**

These Rules apply to the NSW - sponsored Championships. They are based on the Rules of British Carriage Driving (BC) and have been adopted for Short Format competitions. If something outside the Rules needs a decision it is the duty of the Championship Organising body, or a designated deputy to make a decision in the spirit of the Sport.

The welfare of horses and ponies is paramount. The Organisers reserve the right to intervene if the welfare of any animal is compromised in any way.

## **STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION**

This is a Short Format three Phase Competition comprising Compulsory Figures, Cones & Obstacles without a Marathon.

Points amassed in each phase will be converted into Penalties. The Driver with the lowest score at the end of the competition is the Winner. In the event of a tie, the lowest score in the Obstacles will be the Winner.

## Classes

1. Intro Pony
2. Junior Driver 8 - 14 years
3. Senior Driver - 65ish
4. Novice Para Driver
5. Open Para Driver
6. Traditional Cob of any size      ...      ...      (Novice Compulsory Figures Test).
7. Small Single Pony
8. Novice Single Pony
9. Open Single Pony
10. Novice Single Horse
11. Open Single Horse
12. Small Pony Pair
13. Novice Pony Pair
14. Open Pony Pair
  
15. Horse Pairs      ...      ...      ...      (Novice & Open Combined - option for Competitors to choose either Novice or Open Compulsory Figures Test).
16. Tandem (Sizes combined)      ...      (Small Ponies under 11hh - will drive Novice Compulsory Figures Test, but may opt to drive Open if they wish).
17. Teams (Sizes combined)      ...      (Small Ponies under 11hh - will drive Novice Compulsory Figures Test, but may opt to drive Open if they wish).

A Whip must be carried. All Drivers must display their competitor number on the carriage.

### **HORSES & PONIES**

Small Ponies (VSE) are under 91 cm.

Ponies are 91 cm not exceeding 149 cm.

Horses are over 149 cm.

Any animal may compete a maximum of twice.

### **CARRIAGES**

Carriages will be of a Marathon type with two or four wheels and may be pneumatic. Scurry vehicles are not permitted.

Minimum width for all phases is 125 cm measured on the rear wheels at the ground.

## **HARNESS**

Harness must be safe, comfortable and correctly fitted.

Dual reins are permitted for Juniors as required.

Breeching is compulsory for singles or any vehicle without brakes.

Bitless Bridles are not permitted. No one can be tied to the vehicle. Safety Belts are permitted but must be held at one end by the Navigator.

## **DRESS**

The Competition will be driven in Marathon style dress for all phases.

Securely fastened Helmets are compulsory for all phases and whilst riding on a carriage at all times. Juniors it is recommended, but not mandatory, to wear Body Protectors for all phases and at all times whilst on a carriage.

Gloves are optional.

Whips are compulsory.

Navigators must wear a Number Bib or a number on the carriage in all phases.

## *Drivers & Navigators*

'New Drivers' is designed to encourage newcomers – please get in touch to discuss with the Event Secretary if this is suitable for you.

Junior Drivers must be aged between 8 and 14 years at the date of the competition.

The Organisers reserve the right to move Drivers to Open if they are considered too experienced for the Novice Class.

We are happy to discuss which Class suits you.

Grooms are considered Navigators and may speak and advise Drivers in all phases. Navigators should stand behind the Drivers or may sit next to the Driver in a two-wheel vehicle or if dual reins are being used.

Junior Drivers must have a Navigator/Groom of at least 18 years.

Minimum age for Navigators/Grooms is 14 years.

Teams must have a Navigator of a minimum age of 18 years. The second Groom must be a minimum age of 14 years.

Small Single Ponies must have a Navigator/Groom on the ground close by to provide assistance if required.

The Ground Groom should be dressed as any other Navigator/Groom. In the case of VSE Single Pony being driven by a Junior Driver, the Navigator must be on the carriage.

Small Pony Teams must have a Navigator in the carriage. The Second Groom can opt to be on the ground nearby or ride on the carriage.

Pony & Horse Teams must have a Navigator on the carriage.

All other Classes must have a Navigator on the carriage.

## COMPULSORY FIGURES

The NSW sponsored Championship Compulsory Figures Test is driven in a 30m x 60m Arena. There is a Novice and an Open version. The same footprint is driven by all. Novices drive predominantly in Working Trot with a Halt, Walk and Lengthened stride section.

Open drive Walk, Free Walk, Rein Back, Collected and Extended Trot and One Handed.

The **Novice Test** is driven by all designated **Novice Classes, Juniors and Small Ponies Classes: 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15 (Option), 16 (Option), 17 (Option).**

The **Open Test** is driven by all designated **Open Classes and Multiple Classes: 5, 9, 11, 14, 15 (Option), 16 (Option), 17 (Option).**

All movements start with the lead animal's nose at the marker unless otherwise stated.

Errors of Course will be penalised at 5 penalties per occurrence.

Compulsory Figures is marked as a percentage and converted to penalties.

## CONES

There will be up to 15 pairs of Cones - of the 15 one may be a multiple (A – D).

There will not be any closed Obstacles.

Penalties will be awarded for any dislodged ball, whether or not the gate has been driven.

The Course will be set at the optimum time of 220m per minute.

The Cones are set at a standard width of 145cm but may be altered at the Course Builder's discretion.

## OBSTACLES

There will be four Obstacles of increasing complexity.

Obstacle 1 – A to C (3 gates)

Obstacle 2 - A to D (4 gates)

Obstacle 3 - A to E (5 gates)

Obstacle 4 - A to F (6 gates)

Drivers will start in their Class as a whole, with each driving Obstacle 1, then whole Class moving to Obstacle 2 and so on. When the first Class reaches Obstacle 3, then the next Class will commence at Obstacle 1. The order will remain the same for all four Obstacles.

Each Obstacle must be driven sequentially, ie. A, B, C, etc. Once a gate has been driven, it becomes 'free' and may be driven again in either direction.



To correct an error of course, the Driver must return to the place the error occurred, ie. if they drive A, B, missed C, then D, they must return and drive C. All gates are neutralised until gate C is driven correctly, incurring a Corrected Error of Course of 10 penalties.

If the Driver does the same sequence without returning to pick up the correct track, they will be penalised for an Uncorrected Error of Course of 30 penalties.

If part of an Obstacle becomes dislodged and blocks the route of the Driver, it is the Driver's responsibility to put down their Navigator/Groom and clear the Course, incurring the penalties for a Groom Down. You may NOT drive over any impeding element - to do so will incur 40 penalties.

## **PENALTIES**

Navigator/Groom down (one or both).	5 penalties
Driver dismounting.	20 penalties
Dislodging a ball in Cones/Obstacles.	5 penalties
Above or below the optimum times per commenced second.	1 penalty
Time spent in Obstacles per commenced second	1 penalty
Corrected Error of Course – Cones & Obstacles	10 penalties
Uncorrected Error of Course – Cones & Obstacles	30 penalties
Intentionally driving over a dislodged element	40 penalties

No turnout may start unless properly equipped with Helmets, correct Harness, Competitor Number, etc.

Boots and bandages are acceptable but must be removed for inspection if requested to do so.

*The Organiser of this event has taken reasonable precautions to ensure the health and safety of everyone present. For these measures to be effective, everyone must take reasonable precautions to avoid and prevent accidents occurring and must obey the instructions of the Organisers and all Officials and Stewards.*

Please see the following pages for:

Costs to Drivers & Other Information

Compulsory Figures Tests (Dressage) including Diagrams

Cones Course Diagram

Marathon Obstacles Diagrams lettered for specific Training Days

Obstacles will be re-lettered for Competition.

## COMPULSORY FIGURES

Judge

Comp. No

### Novice Test

All specified Novice and Small Pony Classes,  
 Intro, Juniors, Paras, Veterans and Cobs

Comp.  
Name

Class

Movement			Mark	Comment
1	AD	Walk		
2	DLH	Working trot		
3	HC C CM	Working trot Working trot 15m circle Working trot		
4	MP P	Working trot Working trot half circle to quarterline		
5	V-LXM MCH	Working trot Working trot		
6	HXKAB	Working trot		
7	BE	Working trot 30m half circle		
8	EA A AF	Working trot Working trot 15m circle Working trot		
9	FPBR R	Working trot Working trot half circle to quarterline		
10	S-IXF FAK	Working trot Working trot		
11	KXHCM	Working trot		
12	MP PL	Walk on bit Walk on bit 15m half circle		
13	L	Halt 3 seconds driver on L		
14	LXI IS SEVK	Walk on bit Walk on bit 15m half circle Walk on bit		
15	KFEMH	Working trot serpentine		
16	HSEVK	Show lengthening strides		
17	KADL LX X	Working trot Progressive halt Halt. Salute		
18	Animals Paces and Impulsion			
19	Animals Obedience and Lightness			
20	Drivers Handling and Accuracy			
Errors			Total	

1

C

G I X L D

H S E V K

M R B P F

2

C

G I X L D

H S E V K

M R B P F

3

C

G I X L D

H S E V K

M R B P F

4

C

G I X L D

H S E V K

M R B P F

5

C

G I X L D

H S E V K

M R B P F

6

C

G I X L D

H S E V K

M R B P F

7

C

G I X L D

H S E V K

M R B P F

8

C

G I X L D

H S E V K

M R B P F

9

C

G I X L D

H S E V K

M R B P F

10

C

G I X L D

H S E V K

M R B P F

Novice Test

Working Trot

Show Lengthening

Walk

Progressive Halt

Halt

11

C

G I X L D

H S E V K

M R B P F

12

C

G I X L D

H S E V K

M R B P F

13

C

G I X L D

H S E V K

M R B P F

14

C

G I X L D

H S E V K

M R B P F

15

C

G I X L D

H S E V K

M R B P F

16

C

G I X L D

H S E V K

M R B P F

17

C

G I X L D

H S E V K

M R B P F

18

C

G I X L D

H S E V K

M R B P F

19

Animals

Obedience

&

Lightness

20

Drivers

Handling

&

Accuracy

Novice Test

Working Trot

Show Lengthening

Walk

Progressive Halt

Halt



# COMPULSORY FIGURES

Judge

Comp. No

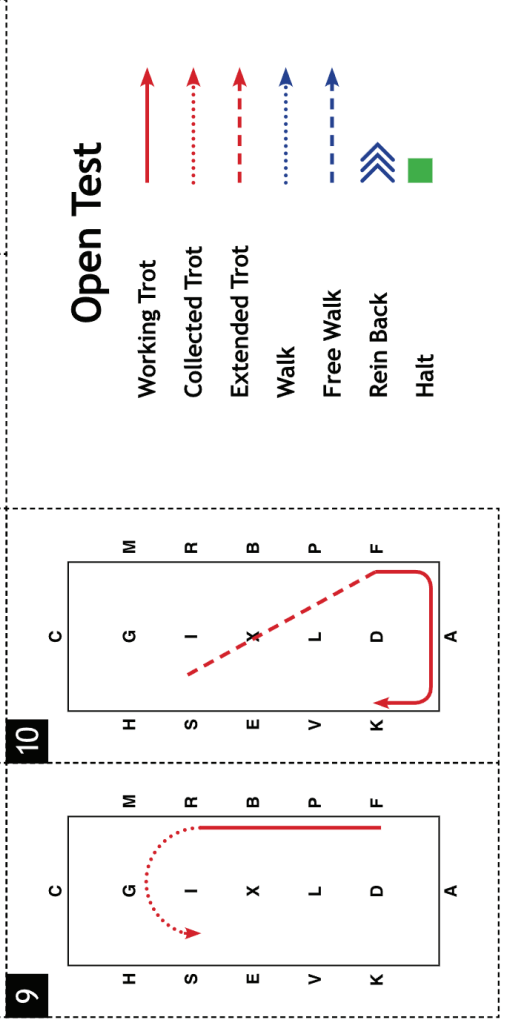
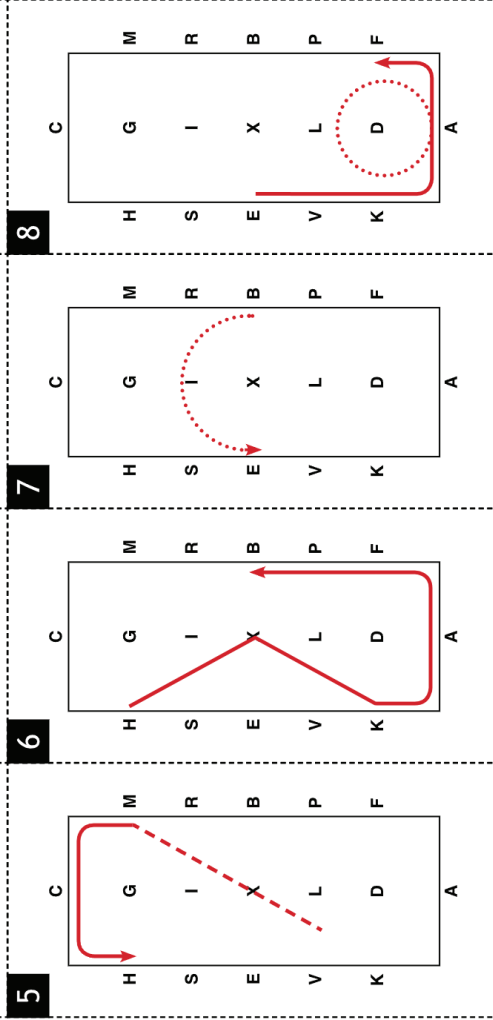
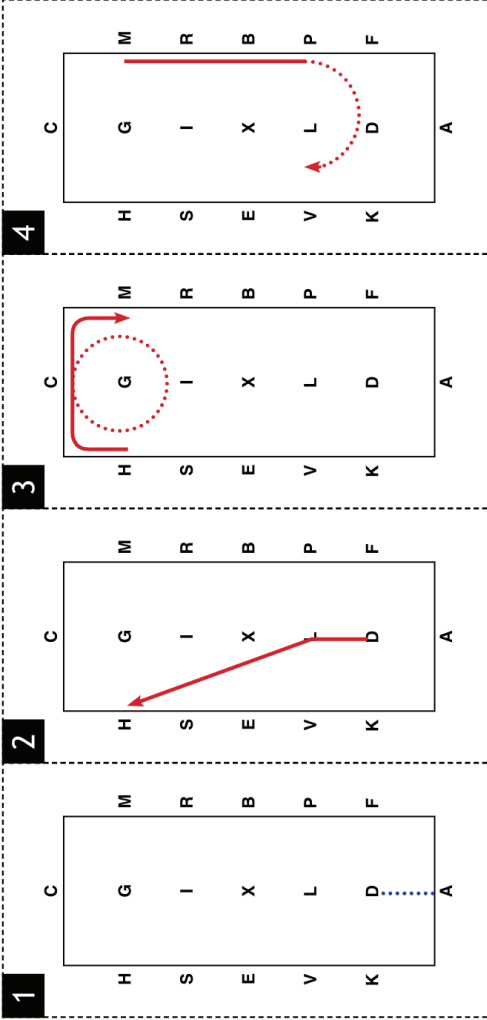
## Open Test

All specified Open Classes,  
 Tandems and Teams

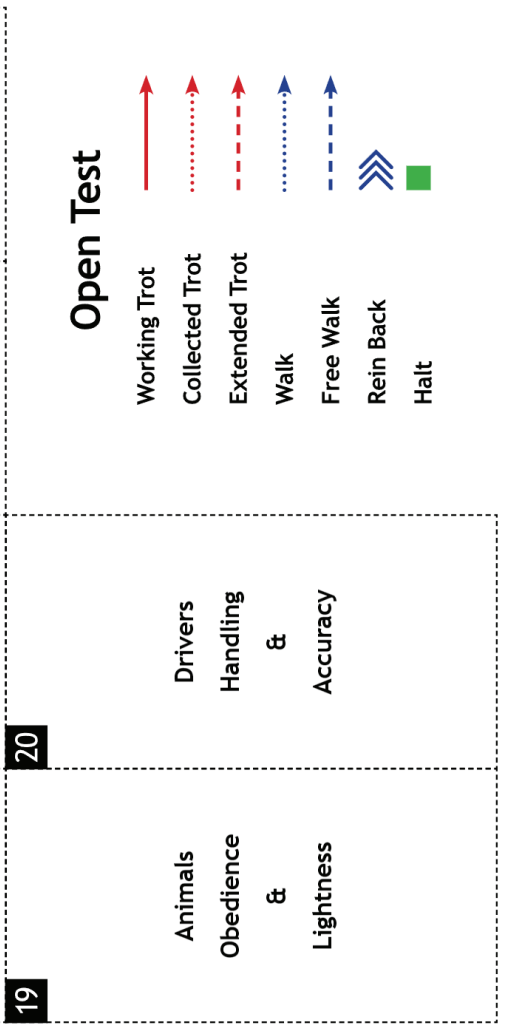
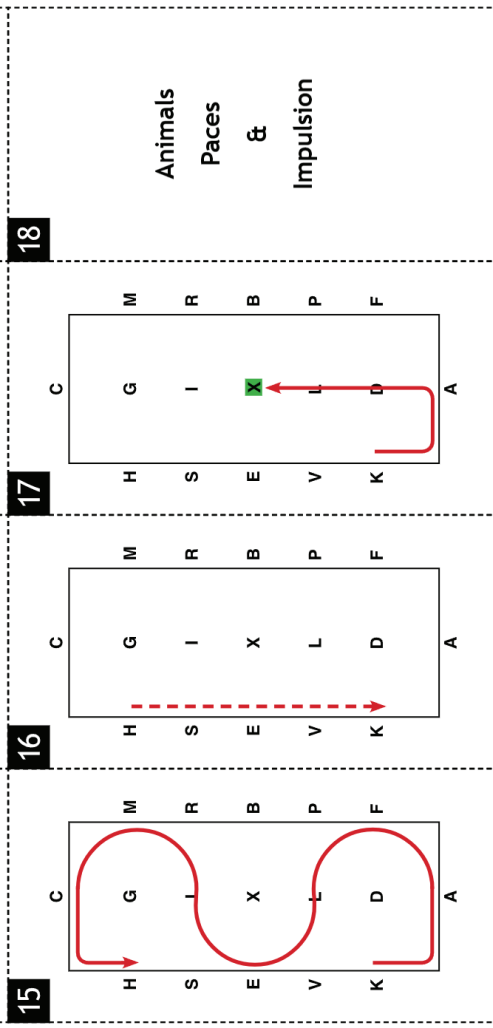
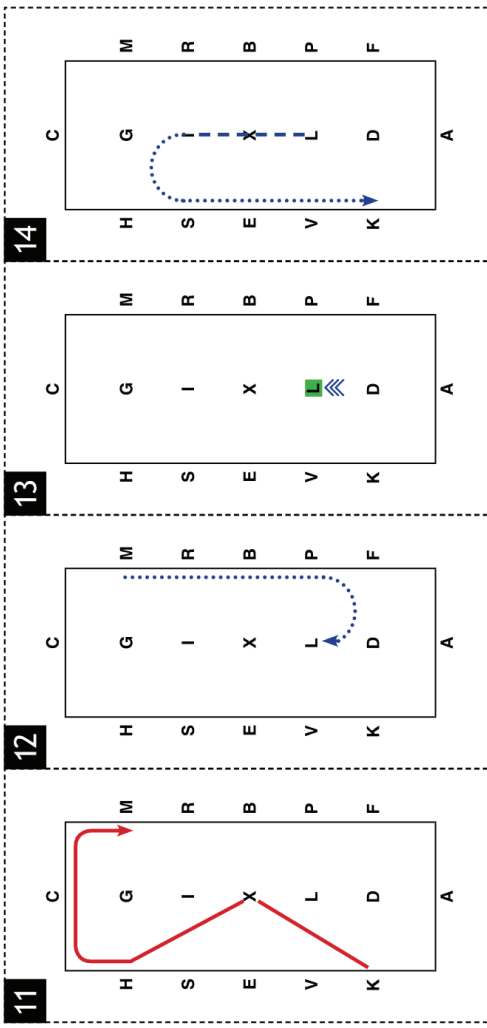
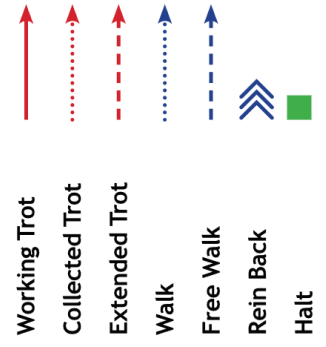
Comp.  
 Name

Class

Movement			Mark	Comment
1	AD	Walk		
2	DLH	Working trot		
3	HC C CM	Working trot Collected trot 15m circle Working trot		
4	MP P	Working trot Collected trot half circle to quarterline		
5	V-LXM MCH	Extended trot Working trot		
6	HXKAB	Working trot		
7	BE	Reins in one hand Collected trot 30m half circle		
8	EA A AF	Working trot Collected trot 15m circle Working trot		
9	FPBR R	Working trot Collected trot half circle to quarterline		
10	S-IXF FAK	Extended trot Working trot		
11	KXHCM	Working trot		
12	MPL	Walk on bit		
13	L	Halt 3 seconds driver on L. Rein back 3 paces		
14	LXI ISEVK	Free walk Walk on bit		
15	KFEMH	Working trot serpentine		
16	HSEVK	Extended trot		
17	KADL X	Working trot Halt. Salute		
18	Animals Paces and Impulsion			
19	Animals Obedience and Lightness			
20	Drivers Handling and Accuracy			
Errors			Total	



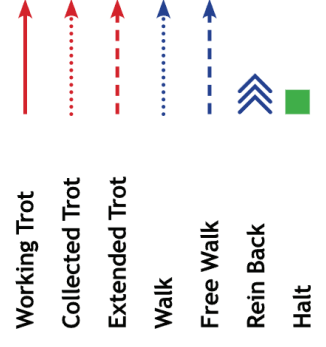
## Open Test



Animals  
Obedience  
&  
Lightness

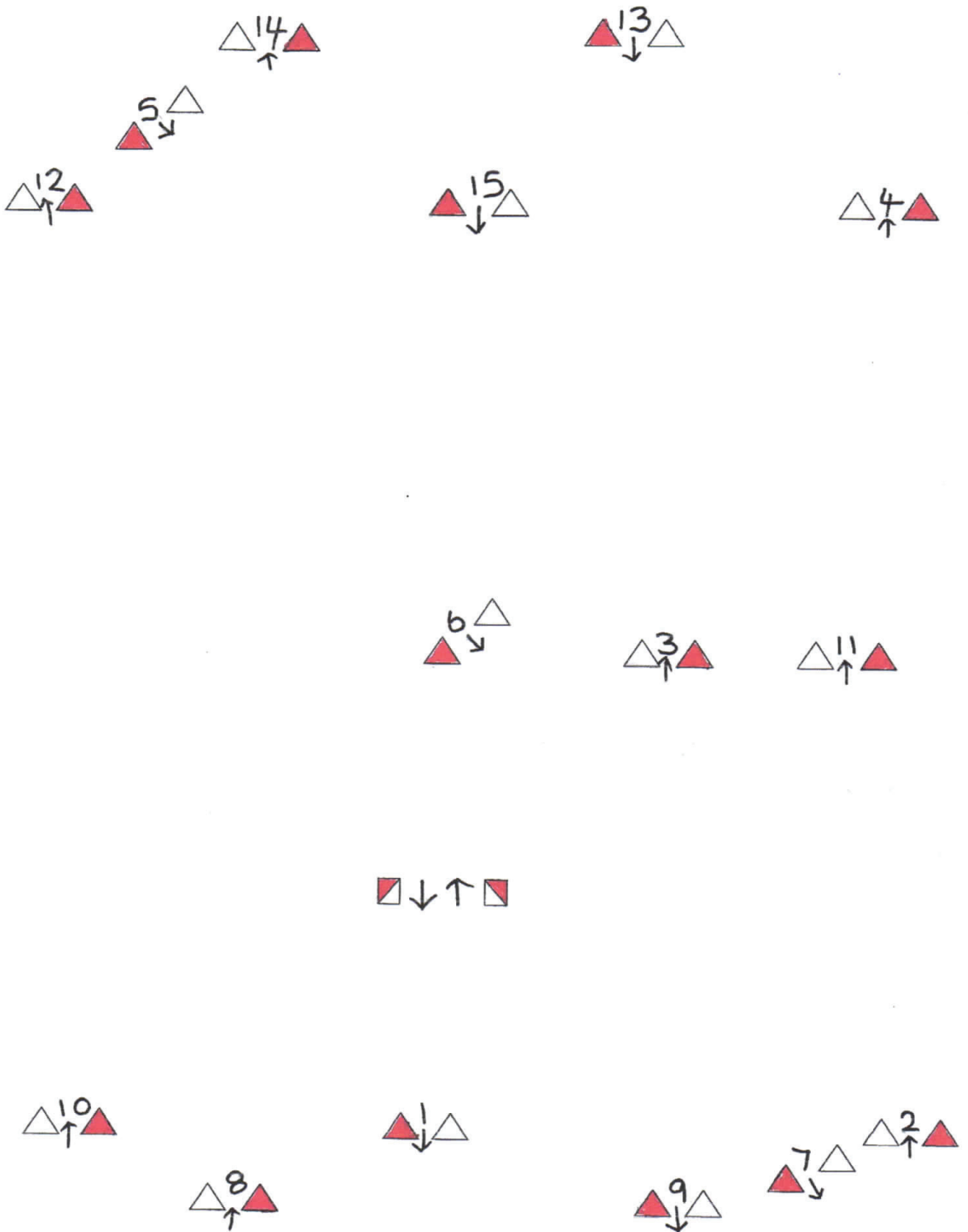
Drivers  
Handling  
&  
Accuracy

## Open Test



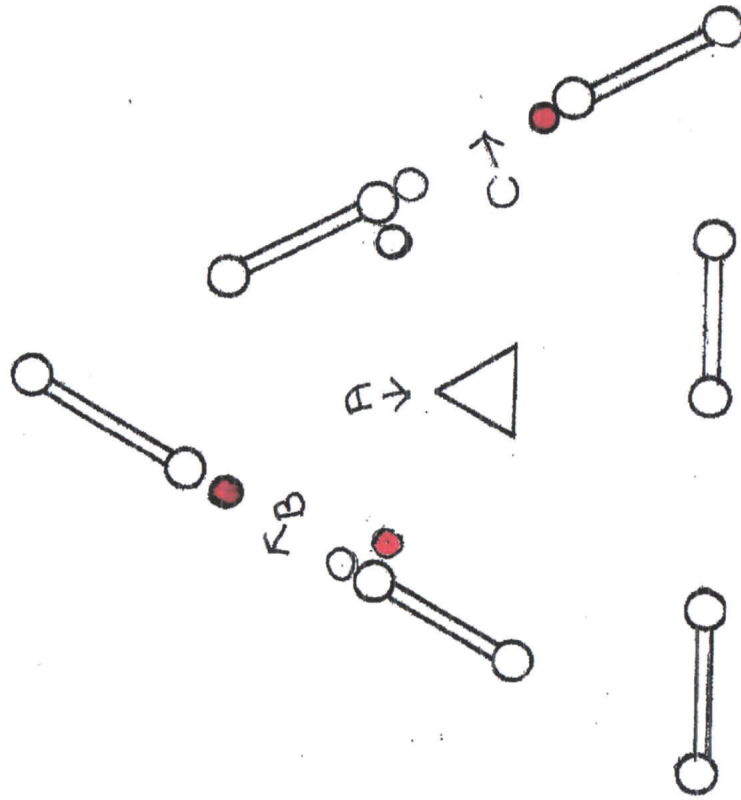
Animals  
Paces  
&  
Impulsion

# 2025 CONES COURSE DIAGRAM



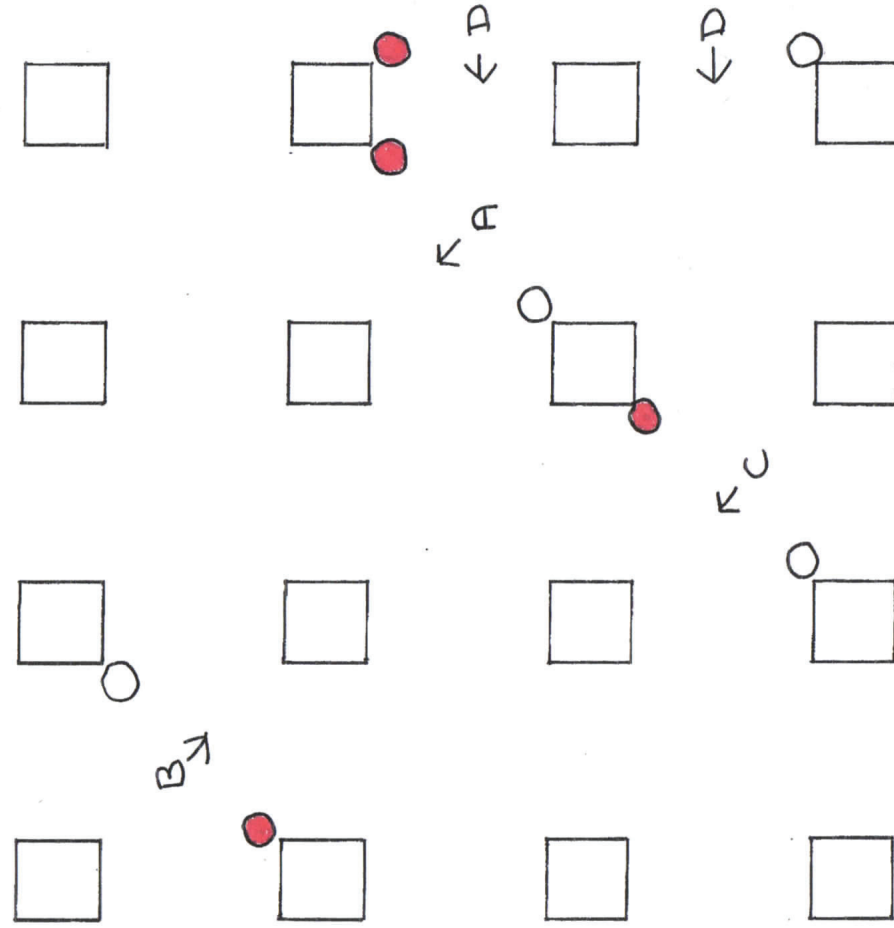
# THE TRIANGLE

OBSTACLE 1



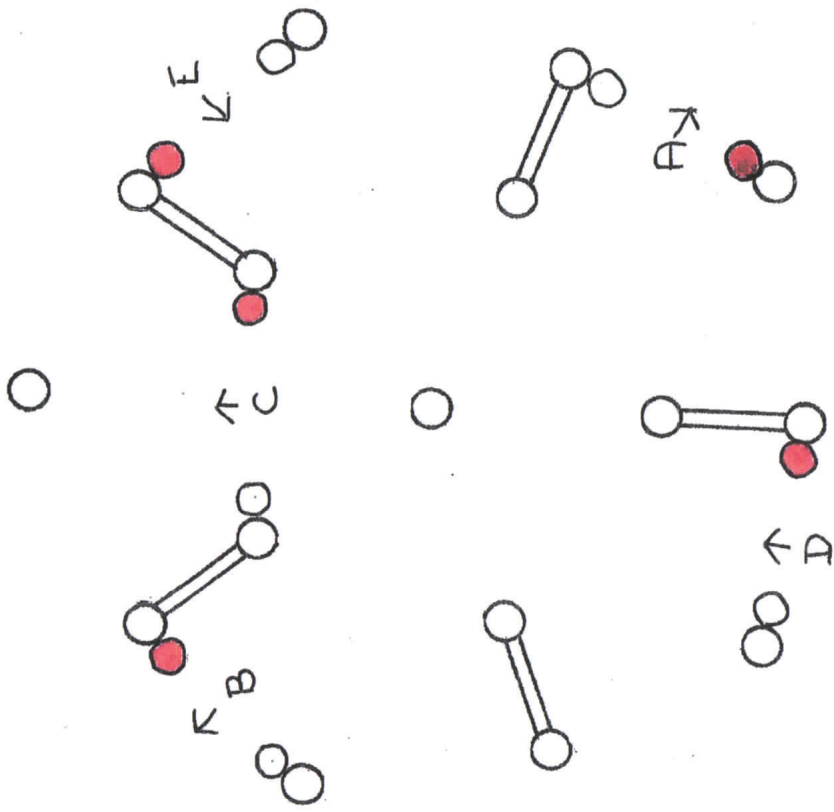
OBSTACLE 2

# THE SQUARE



# OBSTACLE 3

## THE PENTAGON



# OBSTACLE 4

## THE HEXAGON

