



Brass Oak Driving Society

Brass Oak Driving Society Event Attendee Guidelines

Review these guidelines before attending a BODS event. If you have questions regarding the information, feel free to ask the organizer, clinician, or a BODS member.

- RSVP as soon as possible to let the organizer know who is attending.
- When approaching a BODS event on a dirt road, SLOW DOWN! Think about the dust you are creating. Horse trailers are hard on dirt road surfaces, and trailers get blamed for every pothole. Please help us keep our neighbors willing for us to have these events.
- Anyone who attends must sign a Brass Oak Driving Society release form. You should not tack up until your fees are paid and your release form is signed. Participants under the age of 18 must have a release signed by their parents. Please show an emergency contact name and number.
- Please cooperate by parking trailers in an orderly fashion, as our venues have limited parking spaces. Be polite to your trailer neighbors.
- Arrive with all the necessary equipment for the event, including harness, halter, water buckets, etc. Be sure to bring drinking water for you, your horse, and your helpers. Both humans and equines need plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration, and you may not be parked next to a hose bib at an event.
- It is the responsibility of the driver to keep the area around their trailer and stabling area clean. You must dispose of all manure, hay, bedding, and trash. You must fill any holes dug by your horses, and you are responsible for any damage that your turnout may cause.
- If the event has a harness/vehicle inspection, it is mandatory that Drivers participate in it and may not drive on until signed off at the checkpoint. Find out if there is an inspection and where it's located before hooking up.
- There are two approved methods of hitching a horse:
 - Standing in the open – a header is encouraged. Members should understand that they may be asked to render help by heading, if they are comfortable doing it.
 - The horse tied to the trailer, if he is accustomed to this procedure, and you understand that the halter cannot be removed before the horse is completely hitched
 - In both cases, the reins must be attached and held in the driver's hands at all times. It is not good to try a new procedure at a venue new to your horse. If you need help, ask for it. People are willing to help.
- At all times while an equine is hitched to a vehicle, the bridle must be on the horse with the reins through the saddle turrets and attached to the bit. The reins must be in the driver's hands and short enough to make an effective correction
- Equines must never be left unattended while hitched to a vehicle. Attended means you are standing very near with reins in hand and your attention is on your equine.
- Anyone aboard a carriage, driver or passenger, must wear an approved helmet. Spectators are encouraged to bring a helmet. If you have one, you are welcome to accept an offered carriage ride.
- In the parking and stabling areas, the only acceptable gait is the WALK.
- In the warm-up area, remember to communicate with people in other carriages. Let them know you are coming up behind them or wish to pass. Stay sensitive to the needs of drivers around you and talk to them. In particular, pay attention to the behavior of the horses and drivers around you, not only in the warm-up area but throughout the grounds. Pay attention to traffic, spectators, etc.
- The driver is always the first person to board a vehicle and the last one to step down.