

Teddy Bears Picnic – Frequently Asked Questions

Do we have to wear an apron if we are going on to the marathon?

Aprons are optional in Dressage since most of you go immediately to cross-country. However, if you want to wear your pretty apron, we suggest you drop it at your trailer or Start before going on the trail.

Do we have to wear helmets?

Adults: Required on Cross-Country; optional in Dressage/Cones. Juniors: Required while on a carriage.

Do we have to wear protective vests?

Vests are required for juniors anywhere on the grounds when on a carriage. Vests are optional for adults but always a good idea on the cross-country phase.

I know what Minimum Time Allowed is. Is Time Allowed the same as Maximum Time Allowed?

No. Maximum Time Allowed is 2x the Time Allowed and you get eliminated for exceeding the Maximum Time. Time Allowed is “time allowed without getting penalty points.” If you exceed Time Allowed you get .25 penalty point for each second over Time Allowed.

What is a Zone?

A Zone is an area along the Cross-Country track where you drive one or more challenges depending on the competition you chose. There are 5 Zones at this show. Each zone has a Cones Patch, a Hazard, a Task and a scoring team.

If you drive CTP, you only drive Cones Patch in each Zone. If you are HTP you drive Cones Patch and Hazard in each Zone. If you are BTP, you drive Cones Patch and Task in each Zone.

TBP uses Waypoint markers instead of K markers on Cross-Country – how does that work?

We don't use K markers anymore because they are a lot of work to set up and a lot of math for you to figure what your time should be at each one. Instead, we are using “waypoints” which are marked by a “waypoint post” as you leave each Zone.

The “Time Allowed Minutes/Second” at each Waypoint is calculated for each based on what you are doing in the Zone. The chart will be posted on the Website and in the Competitor's packet. It is up to you to decide what your target time should be at each waypoint.

Think of it this way: You will be given your Time Allowed at each of the 5 WayPoints based on what you are doing in each Zone and your level. Most folks want to be ahead of the Waypoint Time Allowed to give them a cushion – since you can always walk at the end if you are too fast.

Must I stay on a designated route between each Zone?

Yes. There are numbered gates (compulsory turning flags) on the course to ensure that every competitor drives the same track/distance. You need to drive between the numbered markers for each gate, in order, with red on the right (purple for VSE shortcuts). In between the gates, you will see yellow arrows to help you find the route to the next gate. There are no rules associated with yellow arrows.

Is there a designated order within a Zone?

Yes. Each Zone has a specific order in which to drive cones and hazard or task. The order is shown on the Zone Maps and on all the Cross-Country maps. There is no special penalty for doing them out of order, but it will take you longer.

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What does the P signify in CTP, HTP and BTP?

P means you will drive Cones Patches not Cones Arena.

Are there in and out gates for each Cones Patch?

No. Think of the 5 Cones/Patches as one big cones course spread over 5k (3k VSE) and driven at Marathon speeds. The Start of cross-country is your Cones Ingate; the End of cross-country is your Cones Outgate. There are no separate time taken/time penalties for each Cones Patch. Your total time on course is compared with the course Time Allowed calculated specifically for you

I am going CTP - How are my Time Penalties and Cones Penalties scored?

Your goal is to travel from cross-country Start to End thru all the gates and zones in order within the Time Allowed. In each Zone you need to drive the cones in each patch (in order) without dropping any balls, the navigator, or the driver onto the ground. Any of those that drop to the ground earn you the same Cones Penalties as you would get in a Cones Arena.

Time Taken Start to End is compared to your Time Allowed (calculated at ADS Marathon speeds). If you have any Holds on the course, they will be deducted from your Cross-Country Time Taken. There is a 3-minute window between the Minimum Time Allowed and the Time Allowed. You get .25 penalty points for every second under the Minimum or over the Time Allowed. There is no separate Time Taken/Time Penalty for each Cones Patch.

I am going HTP - How are my Course Penalties, Cones Penalties and Hazard Penalties scored?

Your goal is to travel from cross-country Start to End thru all the gates and zones in order within the Time Allowed. In each Zone, drive the Cones Patch and Hazard in the order shown on the Zone Map.

Course Time Penalties

Time Taken from Start to End, including all Cones Patches and Hazards is compared to Time Allowed (calculated at ADS Marathon Speeds). If you have any Holds on the course, they will be deducted from your Time Taken. There is a 3-minute window between the Minimum Time Allowed and the Time Allowed. You get .25 penalty points for every second under the Minimum or over the Time Allowed.

Cones Patch Penalties

Drive the cones in each patch (in order) without dropping any balls, the navigator, or the driver onto the ground. Any of those that drop to the ground earn you the same penalties as you would get in a Cones Arena. There is no separate Time Taken/Time Penalty for each Cones Patch.

Hazard Penalties

Hazards are timed separately as they normally are and you get .25 penalties for each second taken between the hazard In and Out gates. The maps show whether you drive the cones patch before or after the Hazard. There is no special penalty for driving them out of order – it is just going to take you longer.

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I am going BTP - How are my “Bad Bear” Time Penalties, Cones Penalties and “Good Bear” Task Points scored?

Your goal is to travel from cross-country Start to End thru all the gates and zones in order within the Time Allowed. In each Zone, drive the Cones Patch and do the Task described on your Task Card - in the order shown on the Zone Map. No penalty for doing them out of order but it will take you longer.

Course “Bad Bear” Points (New for 2022)

Time Taken from Start to End, including all Cones Patches and Tasks is compared to Time Allowed (calculated at ADS Marathon Speeds + Task Time Allowed). If you have any Holds on the course, they will be deducted from your Time Taken. There is a 3-minute window between the Minimum Time Allowed and the Time Allowed. You get .25 penalty points for every second under the Minimum or over the Time Allowed.

Cones Patch Penalties

Drive the cones in each patch (in order) without dropping any balls, the navigator, or the driver onto the ground. Any of those that drop to the ground earn you the same penalties as you would get in a Cones Arena. There is no separate Time Taken/Time Penalty for each Cones Patch.

Task “Good Bear” Points

Your Task Card shows how many points you can earn for success in each task and how much Time Allowed you have for each Task. Unlike prior years, you DO NOT need to stop and have these points recorded on you Green Card. The Task Observer will record them on a scoresheet.