

G: General Rules

The BRC National Executive Committee is the sole interpreter of these rules. These rules have been developed to ensure that competitors may compete against one another under fair and equal conditions. They cannot, however, cover every eventuality; matters that cannot be resolved by interpreting the rule to the letter should be resolved following the spirit of the text to obtain a solution that is fairest to all competitors.

Entries, which the BRC Competitions Committee considers are contrary to the spirit of the competition, will be rejected.

The Chairman of the Competitions Committee or, in their absence the BRC Chairman, may represent the Competitions Committee when a decision is required. Their decision will be final.

It is accepted that in BRC competitions Senior members may ride ponies and Junior members may ride horses.

G1: OFFICIAL COMPETITIONS

G1.1: Definition

An Official Competition is a qualifier for the BRC National Championships or the BRC National Championships. It does not include inter-club or inter-area competitions, except where these are also qualifiers for BRC National Championships. It is, however, recommended that all club competitions are run under these rules, where applicable.

G1.2: Rules

All Official BRC Competitions are conducted under the rules within this Rule Book. Where a specific situation is not covered within these rules the official rules for British Dressage (BD), British Show Jumping (BS), British Eventing (BE) or other official BRC publications shall apply.

Making an entry for any official BRC Competition constitutes acceptance of these rules.

It is the responsibility of competitors, team managers, stewards and officials to ensure that they are fully conversant with these rules. An unintentional breach of these rules through lack of knowledge will be treated in the same way as a deliberate breach. In all competitions the judge's decision is final unless over-ruled by the Official Steward or, at the Championships, by the Jury of Appeal.

Every effort is made to ensure that all parts of this rulebook are up to date, however if an anomaly is found, then those new rules recorded in bold and italic shall supersede any relevant rules left in from a previous year.

G1.3: Official Competition Year

The Official Competition Year begins on 1 April and ends on 31 March and is divided into two seasons, Summer and Winter. The competitions covered by this rule book, including Area Qualifiers for the following Championships, are:

SUMMER SEASON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Horse Trials Championships 2012
National Championships 2012
DTM & Quadrille 2012

WINTER SEASON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Novice Indoor Show Jumping 2013
Winter Dressage 2013
Festival of the Horse (FOTH) 2013
Novice Hunter Trials 2012

Please note that there may be new rules for the 2013 Winter Championships which

will come into effect on 1 January 2013. But qualifiers for the 2013 Winter Championships which take place between 1 October 2012 and 31 December 2012 will run under the 2012 rules.

G2: ENTRIES

G2.1.1: Preliminary Entries

Preliminary Entries for teams and/or individuals must be made by the club representative (or by an individual BRC Member) to the BRC Office 21 days before the Area Qualifier or by 30 June whichever is earlier, with appropriate fees (as shown on the entry form).

Prelim entry forms can be found on the BRC website under the relevant championship subheading. Or you may pay online at www.britishhorse.com just click on the BRC logo on the front page.

If an Area Qualifier has to be postponed, for whatever reason, the original closing date for Preliminary Entries to BRC Office will stand. No additional entries will be accepted unless the new qualifier date is more than 21 days later than the original date.

Preliminary Entry fees are NOT required for the following competitions:

- FOTH Showing Classes
- Royal Windsor Horse Show Classes
- ***In the Pink*** Pony and Horse Classes
- Rural Riders
- Teams of Three Show Jumping
- Team of Four Dressage
- ***Novice Hunter Trials***

There will be no return of preliminary entry fees, other than in the case of a late entry that is not accepted, where the cheque will be destroyed.

G2.1.2: Loss of Team Members at Area and Championships

If due to unforeseen circumstances an entered team loses two or more of its members prior to the start of the competition, the remaining member or members may compete as individuals, if there is an individual section. However, there will be no refund for the missing team members.

G2.2: Area Entries

The competition entry fees will be set by the Area Liaison Committee and are payable to the host club/area.

Making a Preliminary Entry to an official competition constitutes a binding obligation to pay the area competition organiser an additional entry fee irrespective of whether the club and/or individual competes or not. Failure to pay this additional fee could result in the club and/or individual being banned from competitions in future years at the discretion of the BRC National Executive Committee.

The date of the close of entry for Area Qualifiers is at the discretion of the host club/area, details of the organiser will be published on the BRC website. The entry form must be signed by a club representative/individual BRC Member certifying that all entries are in accordance with the BRC Rules. Entries will not be accepted if the BRC Office has not received a Preliminary Entry. Proof of posting does not constitute evidence where entries

have not been received.

Clubs or individuals entering Area Qualifiers must be willing and able to compete at the Championships should they qualify. Teams or individuals not wishing to compete at the Championships may enter the Area qualifier to compete HC if the organiser is willing to accept them and they are eligible. Any team or individual competing HC will not be eligible to compete at the championships.

The BRC declaration form must be completed fully and correctly, the pony/horse name must be that on the flu vaccination certificate and passport, details of appropriate winnings/points must be shown (failure to do so could render the team/individual liable to disqualification)

If the area qualifier becomes cancelled for whatever reason, area entries may or may not be refunded at the discretion of the area liaison committee.

G2.3: Championship Entries

On receipt of the Area Qualifier Results Sheet a Championship Entry Form will be sent to the club for all teams and/or individuals that have qualified and whose eligibility has been checked. No club and/or individual have actually qualified until they have received notification from the BRC Office.

Area teams may be created by three, or four, highest placed individuals if there were no teams at the qualifier, or if there were no lower placed teams to invite following a withdrawal. The highest placed individual could then also be invited, time permitting.

In extenuating circumstances, if the invited team cannot find a reserve from their own club in the run up to the championships, then they may invite a reserve from that area. In this case, the reserve must have taken part in the qualifier. This team would then become an area team.

The Championship Entry Form together with the appropriate entry fees for teams and individuals must be returned to the BRC Office by the due date, details of this year's Championship fees are at Appendix 1. The name shown on the entry form must be that on the flu vaccination certificate see Rule G7.3.

There will be no return of Championship entry fees. In the event of a Championship being cancelled 25% of the fees will be retained, the remaining 75% may be returned as a cheque or credit note at the discretion of the BRC Competitions Committee.

G2.4 Returned Cheques

If any cheques for any payments in, e.g. prelim entries, championship entries, stabling, affiliation, photographs, tickets or insurance, are returned from the bank as 'refer to drawer' then the club shall be held responsible for the debt and for the additional administrative fee chargeable by the bank.

G3: QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS

G3.1: Area Qualifiers

Area qualifiers are organised by Area Liaison Committees for both Junior and Senior Competitions in each discipline. These events are listed on the BRC website which is updated regularly, as and when the area informs BRC of these dates.

All Area Qualifiers must take place at least 28 days before the relevant Championships; it

is, however, preferable that they take place before this to allow time for processing results, invitations to be sent out, entry forms to be processed etc, the minimum time for which is 21 days before the Championships.

G3.2 Winter Season Competitions

Qualifiers for the FOTH Challenge classes, *the Novice Indoor Show Jumping and the Winter Dressage* must be held after **1 October** until four weeks before the Championships.

G3.3: Summer Season Competitions

Qualifiers for the Horse Trials, National Championships and Dressage to Music must be held after 1 April until four weeks before the Championships.

G3.4: Championships

Members who qualify at the Area Competitions will compete at the appropriate National Championships.

G4: ELIGIBILITY OF CLUBS, INDIVIDUALS AND INVITED TEAMS

G4.1: Affiliation

Only Riding Clubs affiliated to the BHS which have paid the minimum corporate insurance deposit by 31 January, and which have paid the Area Liaison subscription fee for the current year, are eligible to enter the official competitions. For competitions held after 1 June in the current year clubs must have paid the balance of their affiliation fees to be eligible to compete.

G4.1.1: Centre Membership

The British Riding Clubs Centre Membership Scheme has been set up to enable riders who do not own a horse or pony to take part in BRC competitions.

British Riding Clubs Centre Members are permitted to take part in all British Riding Club Competitions. They may enter Area Qualifiers and should they qualify will be eligible to represent their Centre at BRC National Championships.

Centre members, or the horses and ponies taking part, will not be covered by South Essex Insurance Brokers BRC Third Party Insurance Policy and MUST therefore hold their own Equestrian Establishment Insurance which covers all third party liability. The policy number must be provided to BRC Head Office prior to taking part in any BRC competition, by the close of prelim entries.

In order to participate in BRC Area and National Championships a member from the centre must make contact with their Area Representative, we advise that someone from the Centre attends the Area Liaison meetings and must pay any fees due.

Due to the stringent third party equestrian insurance requirements it will not be possible to establish a British Riding Clubs Centre at a BHS Approved Livery Yard. We recommend that horse owning riders wishing to compete in Area and National Competitions join an established BRC Riding Club and will therefore be able to enjoy all the BRC benefits available.

G4.2: Individuals

Individual members of the BRC movement, who are not members of an affiliated club, must have paid their annual subscription to be eligible to enter official competitions.

G4.3: Allocation of Areas

An affiliated riding club may enter eligible teams and individuals for the Area Qualifier only in the Area to which the club or individual is allocated.

G4.4: Invited Teams

The BRC Committee may invite teams from overseas clubs or other organisations to compete at Championships. Such teams may compete on horses/ponies hired or borrowed for the occasion provided that previously the horses/ponies have been regularly used for BRC activities and are eligible to compete in qualifying competitions for the Championships involved.

G5: ELIGIBILITY OF RIDERS

G5.1: Representation of Clubs

A Rider may only compete in official competitions for one riding club at a time. A rider may change clubs between competition seasons (see G1.3, G3.2 and G3.3) but they must remain with their new club for a minimum of 12 months from that change date. Horses may be used by more than one club in the same competition year, for example if the horse is sold or loaned to a different person, or is shared by members of two different clubs, provided the horse doesn't compete more than once in the same class. G6.3 supersedes these rules where relevant.

G5.2: Riders Age

All riders in Senior competitions must be 18 or over on 1 January in the current year. All riders in Junior competitions must be under 18 on 1 January in the current year. Any Juniors who qualify for the winter competitions (Novice Indoor Show Jumping and the FOTH) in the year prior to the championships (i.e. qualifiers held in the Autumn of 2012 for the 2013 Championships) must compete as Juniors at the Championships.

G5.3: Membership

All riders must be a member of an affiliated Riding Club or an individual member of BRC and must have paid their subscription by the closing date of preliminary entries for the competition they wish to compete in. Their names, addresses etc must appear on the current Membership Database held by the BRC Office at the close of preliminary entries. If the qualifying individual/s or any member of a winning/qualifying team is not on the database when the results arrive with BRC to be processed, then that person will be disqualified and the results will be re-calculated accordingly.

G5.4: Disqualification

If a rider is found to be ineligible or not on the current BRC Membership Database then they will be disqualified. For a team of four with one disqualified rider the results will be adjusted to remove the disqualified rider's scores. If this still allows the team to qualify for the Championships then the team may go to the Championships but as a team of three. If the team has more than one disqualified rider then the team will not be invited to attend the Championships.

G5.5: Composition of Teams

No rider or horse may compete twice in the same team.

G5.6: FEI Competitions

See Appendix 3.

G6: ELIGIBILITY OF PONIES/HORSES

G6.1.1: Age of Ponies/Horses

Ponies or Horses may only compete in official competitions from 1 January in the year in which they become 4 years old, except for **Novice** Hunter Trials, FOTH Challenge and Horse Trials when the minimum age is 5 years old.

G6.1.2: Height of Horses

There is no upper height restriction for horses/ponies.

G6.2: Downgrading of winnings

Applications for downgrading points or winnings will be considered on an individual basis. Forms are available on the BRC website. Winnings which have previously been downgraded, as per prior rules, will be honoured.

~~The downgrading system does not apply to the Prelim Tests in the Winter Dressage, or the Senior Novice Dressage competition.~~

G6.3: Ponies or Horses Competing Twice

The following should be read in conjunction with the relevant specific rules.

Juniors and seniors may share horses, provided they are competing at the same level, as below.

No pony or horse may compete more than once in the same BRC Competition, except for Team Dressage and Team Riding Test competitions when they may compete in more than one test on the same pony/horse provided that each test is different and only one test is as a team member.

No pony or horse may compete in both the junior and senior Novice Indoor Show Jumping Championships. No horse can be ridden over the same course of jumps or ~~appear before the same dressage or riding test judge twice in one day.~~ **Competitors taking part in two dressage classes on the same day judged by the same judge, shall not have access to their judging/score sheets before competing in the second class.**

A pony or horse may only compete in one of the Novice, Intermediate or Open sections in the same discipline of a BRC Official Competition in the same competition year (1 April to 31 March). The only exception to this is in the FOTH Challenge discipline where a Novice or Open competitor may also compete in the pair's competition. For the purposes of this Rule Indoor and Outdoor Show Jumping are considered the same discipline **as are the FOTH, Novice Hunter Trials and the Horse Trials. In addition no horse or pony can compete in a Novice or higher dressage test followed by a Prelim dressage test in the same competition year.**

G6.4: Mares in Foal

Mares in foal may not compete after their fourth month of pregnancy or with foal at foot.

G6.5 Ownership of Horses/Ponies

For the purposes of BRC rules, any competitor that has a horse or pony on loan is considered to be the owner.

G7: EQUINE INFLUENZA

Our equine influenza rules are based on the British Horseracing Authority Rules (formerly The Jockey Club Rules).

G7.1: Vaccinations against Equine Influenza

This rule applies in respect of any horse or pony which competes in a BRC Area Qualifier, Championship and for Royal Windsor competitions.

The horse or pony must have been vaccinated against equine influenza by a veterinary surgeon who is not the owner of the animal, in accordance with the following rules:

The horse or pony must have received:

- two primary injections which are given not less than 21 days and not more than 92 days apart
- a first booster injection which is given not less than 150 days and not more than 215 days after the 2nd primary injection
- further annual booster injections at intervals of not more than a year apart

None of the vaccinations must have been given on the day of a competition or entry to championship stables (which may be prior to the day of the competition).

If the current vaccination programme started BEFORE 1 January 2007:

- ***the first two primary injections must be correct i.e. the second given between 21 and 92 days after the first***
- ***any errors with first booster (which should be given 150 – 215 days after the second primary injection) or annual booster given BEFORE 1 January 2007 may be ignored***
- ***all annual boosters given AFTER 1 January 2007 must be correct***

If the current vaccination programme started AFTER 1 January 2007:

- ***the first two primary injections must be correct i.e. the second given between 21 and 92 days after the first***
- ***the first booster must be given between 150 and 215 days after the second primary injection***
- ***all annual boosters must be correct***

Horses may compete at BRC Competitions providing that they have had the first two primary injections none of which should have been given on any of the 6 days before a competition or entry to championship stables.

In the event of failure to comply with any of the requirements of this rule, the horse or pony will be disqualified and not permitted to take part in any competition to which these rules apply.

G7.2 Checking of Passports and Equine Influenza Records

For the purposes of determining whether the requirements of these rules have been met, the following documents must be available for inspection in respect of a horse or pony which is taking part in a BRC Area Qualifier or Championship.

- any passport issued for the horse. or
- the full vaccination records for the horse if this is not contained in the passport

The identification of the horse or pony must be checked against that contained in the passport or on the **flu vaccination record**. This may be done from the diagram and description of the animal or by microchip **providing that the microchip number has been recorded in the passport**.

The vaccination section of the horse's passport must have been completed by a Veterinary Surgeon who is not the owner of the horse or pony.

The dates on which the vaccinations were given must comply with the requirements as stated **in G7.1**.

Any alterations to any entries on the vaccination record must have been made, signed and stamped by a veterinary surgeon.

G7.3 Disqualification

Any horse or pony failing the requirements described in these rules will not be permitted to compete.

Any pony/horse that is in a team competition and has been disqualified at an Area Qualifier will be reported to the BRC Office and cannot be replaced with a reserve; the team will have to continue as a team of three, or if already a team of three, will have to compete as individuals only, if there is an individual competition.

No refund will be awarded for any disqualified horse/pony.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the checking at Area Qualifiers is carried out correctly. BRC accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any losses suffered, whether directly or indirectly, due to incorrect checking at any BRC Area Qualifier or Championships. It is the sole responsibility of the competitor to ensure that their certificate is valid and it should not be assumed that because a certificate has been accepted at one competition in good faith it would be accepted at another competition.

G7.4: Flu Vaccination Checklist

A copy of the flu vaccination checklist is in Appendix 23 and should be used as follows:

- take the date of the first injection and look this up in the column headed INJECTION DATE
- compare the dates in 21 DAYS and 92 DAYS columns with the date in the flu vac record for second injection, if the date is within range it is fine, if not it is an invalid record
- Take the date of the second injection and look this up in the column headed INJECTION DATE
- compare the dates in 150 DAYS and 215 DAYS columns with the date in the flu vac record for third injection (**first booster**), if the date is within range it is fine, if not it is an invalid record (**unless the two primary injections were before 1 January 2007**)

G7.5: Dual Names

The name shown on the passport/*flu vaccination record* must be the one that is used on all official competition entry forms. If a stable name is also shown on the *passport/flu vaccination record* this must be signed and stamped by a veterinary surgeon.

G7.6: Allergic ponies/horses & homeopathic vaccines

Ponies and horses that, for any reason, are unable to be vaccinated against equine influenza will not be given dispensation to compete. Homeopathic vaccines are not acceptable.

G8: ELIGIBILITY FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

G8.1: Qualifying

In a competition where an Area Qualifier is compulsory, no team or individual is eligible for the Championships unless they have qualified in front of a judge(s) at a qualifying competition. This rule does not apply to a nominated team reserve, although it is recommended that all reserves have competed at an Area Qualifier for the relevant discipline. If only three riders start the Area Qualifier, one of the Reserves may take the fourth place unless the team of three is as a result of a disqualification of the fourth rider. (See Rules G5.4 and G7.2). HC entries will not be accepted for any Championships.

G8.2: Numbers to Qualify

Full details of the numbers that can qualify per competition are at Appendix 10 and are dependant upon the number actually participating (i.e. must have actually started) in the Area Qualifier, for this purpose any team or individual competing HC are disregarded.

G8.3: Evaluating Individual Qualifiers

For Dressage, Riding Test and Horse Trials competitions the Numbers of Individuals to Qualify will depend on the number of arenas used according to the table in Appendix 9, where the maximum number of permitted competitors allowed per arena is listed. (It is understood that arenas are allocated by the organiser at close of prelim entry, therefore, the number of arena's permitted will be based on this figure regardless of the number of starters on the day of the competition).

Example: For a competition using Prelim 12, which allows a maximum of 32 competitors in one arena, if there are less than 32 competitors doing the test then only one arena should be used, if there are 33 to 64 competitors then two arenas should be used and if more than 64 competitors then four arenas should be used. If the organiser wishes to use more arenas than appropriate for the number of competitors entered, they may do so but the qualifiers will be evaluated by combining results from each arena to give the effect of all competitors being in the same arena. An example of the calculations is at Appendix 11.

G9: STABLING AT CHAMPIONSHIPS

G9.1: Reservations

Where stabling is available at the Championship venue, it must be reserved and paid for at the time of entry. Stabling cannot be guaranteed after close of entries (i.e. within 21 clear days of the Championship date).

G9.2: Refunds

There will be no refund of stabling fees.

G9.3 Horses Kept on Lorries

In the interest of welfare, British Riding Clubs will not allow horses to be kept on lorries, horseboxes or trailers over night, at any BRC Competition.

G9.4 Stallions

Stallions may have to be stabled in temporary overnight stables, however, every effort will be made to ensure that they are situated in the best possible environment. Stallions must be identified on all stabling application forms.

G10: WITHDRAWALS

G10.1: Withdrawals from Championships

Any team and/or individual who qualifies for a Championship and is subsequently compelled to withdraw must inform the BRC Competitions Department in writing immediately they know they will be unable to compete.

G10.2: Invitation to replacement teams/individuals

If a team and/or individual who qualifies for a Championship is subsequently compelled to withdraw then the next highest placed individual or team that took part in the Area Qualifier may be invited to compete at the Championships, if time allows. **Please note** that this is at the discretion of BRC and is administered by BRC. It is not an automatic process.

G10.3: Withdrawals from Area Qualifiers

Area organisers will specify withdrawal procedures for area competitions in their schedule.

G10.4: Failure to Withdraw

Failure to compete and failure to withdraw without reasonable cause acceptable to the BRC Committee may result in the club or individual being barred from competing in official competitions during the coming and/or following years.

G11: RESERVES

G11.1: Team Reserves

Teams may use up to two reserves, (with the exception of Rural Riders International Dressage Teams who may use three reserves). Reserves ***do not have to be named on the entry form***. There must be at least two horse and rider combinations in a team of four or one horse and rider combination in a team of three that were part of the original qualifying team. ***Reserves' eligibility will be checked at our earliest opportunity. If a reserve is found to be ineligible after a championship, then the results will be recalculated and awards will be altered.***

It is recommended that all reserves should have competed at an Area Qualifier for the relevant discipline. For Horse Trials and FOTH Challenge Championships reserves must have completed a cross-country course of the required standard within two years prior to the Championships. This must be verified, by an official within their club, on the entry form.

G11.2: Pairs Reserves

One reserve is allowed for any pair's competition, dressage, dressage to music or FOTH Challenge.

G11.3: Individual Reserves

An individual, who qualifies for a Championship and is subsequently unable to compete on the pony/horse which they qualified on, will be permitted to substitute their pony/horse on production of a veterinary certificate, provided the reserve is eligible. The rider cannot be substituted. This only applies to individual competitions.

G11.4: Eligibility of Reserves

All ~~nominated~~ reserves must be eligible for the competition that they are entered for and must have been an affiliated member of their club at the close of preliminary entries for that competition.

G11.5: Declarations of Alterations

Team managers must declare any alterations to the original team by filling in a declaration form. These will be made available on the BRC website and at the championships. Alterations must be made no later than 30 minutes before the start of the class.

At Area Qualifiers each Area can decide when declarations of alterations must be made. These details must be agreed with the organiser of the qualifier and printed in the schedule.

G12: REPRESENTATIVES

The person named at the foot of the entry form, whether team member, individual competitor or Team Manager (Chef d'Equipe) shall be responsible for the conduct and supervision of the team(s) / individual(s) at Area and Championship competitions.

Junior team entries must be made by the Team Manager who will be held responsible for their conduct and supervision. Individual Junior entries must be made by a Senior Member of an affiliated club who must accompany the Junior member to the competition for which they are entered and who will be held responsible for the conduct and supervision of that Junior member.

G13: OFFICIAL STEWARD

The Official Steward shall be appointed by BRC and must attend all qualifiers in their area. If they are unable to attend, it is their responsibility to appoint a Deputy. If no Official Steward is present the qualifier will not be permitted to run. The Official Steward is responsible for health and safety and the application of the Rules. The Official Steward has the authority to stop a qualifier, if for example, the medical cover is not sufficient. Their decision is final.

G14: PROTESTS

G14.1: Making a protest

Protests or complaints may be lodged only by the Chairman, Chef d'Equipe or nominated representative of the club concerned. These must be in writing and accompanied by a deposit of £20. They must be addressed to the organiser of the competition or Championship Director as appropriate. Protests must be made no later than 30 minutes after the incident which gave rise to that protest, 30 minutes after the results have been published or, in the case of protests against qualification of ponies/horses or riders, 60 minutes after the start of the class.

G14.2: Protests at Area

At Area Qualifiers the Official Steward will give their decision after investigation and their decision will be final. The deposit will be forfeited unless the protest is upheld or it was decided that there were good and reasonable grounds for lodging the protest.

G14.3: Protests at Championships

At Championships the Jury of Appeal will give their decision after investigation and their decision will be final, unless they refer the matter to the BRC Committee for further action. The deposit will be forfeited unless the protest is upheld or it was decided that there were good and reasonable grounds for lodging the protest.

G15: GOOD CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE

G15.1: Disgraceful Conduct

Any member of an affiliated club or any person participating in any way at an official

competition who conducts themselves in a disgraceful manner which bring the name of an affiliated club or the BRC into disrepute shall be guilty of a breach of these rules.

G15.2: The Disciplinary Steward

The Official Steward will be the Disciplinary Steward at official competitions.

G15.3: Disciplinary Action

If, in the opinion of the Official Steward, any member of an affiliated club, any rider, competitor, trainer, or any other person taking part in the event or any person assisting any member, rider, competitor or trainer has been guilty of dangerous riding or a breach of these rules they may either take no action or impose all or any of the following penalties:

- a reprimand
- disqualification
- referred to the BRC Discipline Committee

G15.4: The BRC Discipline & Welfare Committee

If it appears to the BRC Discipline & Welfare Committee that any person may at any time have been guilty of a breach of these rules, or on the referral to it by the Official Steward of a matter under Rule G15.1, or on receipt of a complaint against any member of an affiliated club, any rider, competitor, trainer, or any other person assisting any member, rider, competitor or trainer, the BRC Discipline & Welfare Committee may deal with the matter as detailed below.

If the BRC Discipline & Welfare Committee decides to deal with the matter they will communicate in writing the substance of the allegations to the person against whom they are made and will give that person the opportunity of making representations whether orally by themselves but not represented by a third party, or in writing. The Committee shall determine if a breach of the rules has occurred and, if so, to either take no action or impose all or any of the following penalties:

- a reprimand
- disqualification of the pony/horse and/or rider from any competition or event in which it has taken part. If the incident involves a team, then the team may also be disqualified.
- suspension of the pony/horse and/or rider, trainer or other person responsible to which these rules apply for a period not exceeding 2 years for a first offence
- suspensions of a team or club to which these rules apply for a period not exceeding 2 years for the first offence.
- penalties apply from the date of the committee's decision.
- in the case of drug testing, when the rider elects to have a B sample tested and that returns a positive test, the committee may also ask for the cost of testing the B sample to be met by the rider or person responsible. (See Appendix 24 for full details of the drug testing procedure.)

The BRC Committee's decision will be final and no appeal will be allowed.

G16: DISQUALIFICATION

G16.1: Definition

Disqualification is a sanction imposed for misconduct and is not imposed for errors or infringements for which specific penalties are described in these rules.

G16.2: Reasons for Disqualification

The BRC *competitions department* may disqualify a competitor or team if they are found to be ineligible to compete or not on the Members Database, or the club has not fully paid

the affiliation fees to BRC or local Area within the specified date.

The Official Steward or the Senior Judge officiating in any arena or test of any competition (as appropriate) may disqualify a competitor or team for:

- dangerous riding
- unsporting behaviour e.g. purposeful outside assistance
- continuing to ride a horse that is lame, sick or exhausted
- misusing a whip, spurs or any other item of tack or equipment
- causing or permitting ill treatment to a pony or horse
- arguing with Judges, Course Builders or other Officials
- failing to comply with the Equine Influenza rules (Rule G7)
- failing to attend a Championship prize giving (Rule G19.1)
- refusal to provide the necessary samples for random drug testing (Rule G17.3)
- any other action that may be considered gross misconduct or liable to bring the BRC into disrepute

G16.3: Reporting a Disqualification

When a competitor is disqualified under BRC Rules the Official Steward may take further action (see Rule G15.3 and G15.4) if they deem it necessary. The Official Steward must provide details of any disqualified rider on the Official Results Sheets sent to the BRC Competitions Department after an Area Qualifier.

G17: FORBIDDEN SUBSTANCES

G17.1: Acceptable Levels

Ponies or horses taking part in a competition must be healthy and compete on their inherent merits. The use of Prohibited Substances might influence a pony's/horse's performance or mask an underlying health problem and could falsely affect the outcome of a competition. BRC follows FEI rules regarding substances, and a full list of forbidden substances can be found on the FEI website.

G17.2: Use of Drugs during a competition

If, during a competition, it is necessary to treat a pony/horse with a drug, a Veterinary Surgeon, appointed by the organiser or Championship Director, must be informed immediately. They will investigate the reason for the treatment given and make a report to the Official Steward who shall decide whether the pony/horse is allowed to continue or shall be eliminated.

G17.3: Random Tests

The BRC Committee reserves the right to initiate at any time at any official competition, random tests in accordance with the standard operating procedure prescribed in the FEI Veterinary Rules. A refusal to allow a random test shall constitute a breach of this rule. Please refer to Appendix 24 for the full procedure.

G17.4: Riders

It is forbidden for any rider to compete whilst under the influence of any stimulating, calming or other drug or substance as detailed in the British Equestrian Federation Rules. The BEF and member bodies are signatories to the World Anti Doping Code.

G18: LOCAL CONDITIONS

If it is necessary for Area Organisers to impose additional local conditions, then these local conditions must be agreed by the Area Liaison Committee concerned or the BRC Competitions Sub Committee and then all competing clubs notified accordingly.

G19: PRIZE GIVING AT CHAMPIONSHIPS

G19.1: Attendance

At the Championships, the top three teams and individuals in each class or arena will be required for prize giving, correctly and smartly dressed and mounted. Remaining placed riders will collect their rosettes from the secretaries. In exceptional circumstances, the Championship Director may waive this requirement. Permission to be excluded from the presentation may only be sought from the Championship Director. Competitors without such permission who fail to attend the prize giving may be disqualified.

G19.2: Trophies

Trophies awarded at Championships must be signed for by a nominated person who is then responsible for that trophy. The trophy must be returned to the BRC competitions department at least one month prior to the following year's Championships by some means of secure delivery and packaged with due care. Any loss or damage or failure to return a trophy by the specified date will result in the club concerned being invoiced for the cost of replacement. It will also prohibit that club from having custody of any BRC trophy for the following two years.

G20: EXERCISING AT COMPETITIONS

G20.1: Exercising

Competitors may exercise their ponies or horses in the area provided. They may not exercise in the car park or horsebox area or among spectators. They must not enter nor practice in the Dressage or Show Jumping arenas or on the cross-country course. ***Competitor numbers must be worn at all times. Quadrille teams will be allocated numbers for exercising. Bridle numbers may be worn.***

G20.2: Working In

Only competitors may work in their ponies/horses prior to a class or phase.

G20.3: Lungeing

Lungeing of ponies/horses must not take place in such a way or at such times as to interfere with other competitors and/or spectators.

G20.4: Use of Forbidden Equipment

Only equipment and tack allowed in the competition may be used when exercising on the day of the competition, (at Championships this means from arrival until departure), any infringement will result in elimination. Competitors in more than one competition on the same day may warm up prior to each competition in the equipment and tack appropriate to that competition. When working in, side reins may be used for lunging, the rider may carry a whip and the horse may wear boots or bandages.

G21: SADDLERY & TACK

The main saddlery and tack rules, per discipline, are at Appendix 5.

G21.1: Ordinary Snaffle Bridles

An ordinary snaffle bridle is a plain snaffle with a straight bar or joint in the centre. Two joints are acceptable if all parts are rounded and smooth. It is permitted to use two reins with a snaffle bit. Plastic bits with a cylindrical joint are not permitted. Bits of rubber, nylon or other synthetic material are permitted. Bits must be used in their manufactured condition without any addition to/on any part. Only acceptable bits illustrated in the current BD Rules are permitted, with the exception of bits with bi-metallic mouthpieces, which are allowed in BRC competitions. Illustrations of acceptable bits are at Appendix 7.

G21.2: Misuse of equipment

No item of saddlery or equipment may be misused.

G21.3: Numnahs and saddlecloths

Numnahs are allowed. Saddlecloths may be in club colours and may bear a club name and/or logo. Sponsors and other logos are permitted up to 14cm x 14cm (196cm²).

G22: DRESS

G22.1: Correct Riding Dress

All riders whenever mounted must wear the correct riding clothes whilst riding at competition sites. Competitors, grooms and anyone accompanying competitors must be tidily dressed when walking a Show Jumping course. The Commander in the Rural Riders Competition and Teams of Four, must wear correct riding clothes. Full details of correct dress, per discipline are at Appendix 4. Service dress is permitted for all phases of all disciplines but headgear and body protectors must be worn as set out in the rules below.

Sponsors logos or websites may be visible on riders clothing. BRC will follow FEI rules regarding this. A full list can be found on the FEI website www.fei.org or please call the BRC office for clarification.

G22.2: Protective Headgear

'Protective Headwear' must be worn at all times by anyone, whether or not a Competitor, riding anywhere at a BRC event. Harnesses must be correctly adjusted and fastened. At all BRC Championships **and qualifiers** 'Protective Headwear' must show a visible BRC, ~~BE~~ ~~or Pony Club~~ 'hat tag'. 'Protective Headwear' constitutes a hat which meets one of the following standards. Failure to do so will incur elimination.

British	PAS 015: 1998 or 2011 , BSEN1384: 1997	} <i>Provided they are BSI Kitemarked or SEI</i>
European	EN1384: 1996	
American	All SEI ASTM 95 , ASTM F1163: 2004 , SNELL E2001	
Australian & New Zealand	All SAI AS/NZS 3838 2003 or 2006	

Hard hats to specification PAS015 and ASTM F1163 are considered to offer greater protection than EN1384 and BSEN1384. Recommended hard hats must carry the quality assurance stamp of Kitemark or SEI. It is emphasised that hats bearing a quality assurance stamp are batch tested and therefore of a constant standard. Skullcap hats must be worn with an appropriate colour silk for that discipline (see Appendix 4). For Quadrille competitions, hats of the above standard are mandatory. Competitors are strongly advised to check their hats regularly and to replace them if damaged or following a fall.

G22.3: Body Protectors

A body protector is obligatory in all cross-country competitions and is strongly recommended in show jumping competitions. A BETA Level 3 (purple label) **which has been manufactured in the year 2000 or after** must be worn. Body protectors should be fitted and worn as per the manufacturer's instructions. The up to date BETA list of body protectors can be obtained from www.beta-uk.org.

If a rider chooses to wear an airbag style body protector it must be worn over a permitted body protector and if activated, must be deflated or removed before continuing. **Hybrid Air-jackets are permitted.**

Riders wearing Exo Body Cage protectors must inform the secretary at all events.

G22.4: Medical armbands

Medical armbands are mandatory for any type of cross-country competition. These must be worn on the arm and not on the leg. They should be filled in with the relevant competitor's details. Spot checks will be carried out in the collecting ring.

G22.5: Chaps, Half Chaps & Gaiters

Chaps and half chaps are not allowed in any official competitions. Black or brown polished leather gaiters with matching boots may be worn.

G22.6: Electronic Devices

No receiving, recording, transmitting or monitoring device may be used by a competitor during any phase of a competition.

G22.7 Penalties

If a rider is found to be wearing inappropriate dress, then they may be awarded penalty points at the discretion of the official steward.

G23: WHIP, SPURS & BITS

G23.1 Exceptions

The only exceptions to the rules for whips, spurs and bits in Appendices 4, 5, 6 and 7 are as follows:

- Whips may be carried by competitors riding side saddle
- Whips may be carried by a rider with a physical disability, and registered disabled, who has received a dispensation certificate from the BRC Office (see G27), this dispensation must be shown to the tack steward and judge. (Also see rule D1.9)
- Whips, when carried, must be carried in one hand in the traditional manner

G23.2: Dropping a whip

Where a whip is allowed to be carried it may not be picked up if dropped (except following a fall, see Rules SJ1.10.15 and HX1.10).

G23.3: Excessive use of Whip, Spurs & Bits

G23.3.1: Whips

The use of the whip must be for a good reason, at an appropriate time, in the right place and with the correct severity.

Good Reason: the whip must only be used either as an aid to encourage the pony/horse forward or as a reprimand. Thus it must never be used to vent a rider's temper; any use for such a reason is automatically excessive.

Appropriate Time: as an aid, the appropriate time is when the pony/horse is reluctant to go forward under normal aids is seat and legs. As a reprimand, the only appropriate time is immediately when a pony/horse has been disobedient e.g. napping or refusing (but not after elimination). Its use, for instance, after a refusal when a pony/horse has turned away and is several metres from the fence, is excessive. Its use after elimination is always excessive.

Right Place: as an aid to go forward the whip may be used down the shoulder or behind the leg. As a reprimand, it must only be used behind the leg. The use of a whip on a pony's/horse's head or neck is always excessive use.

Correct Severity: ~~as a reprimand only, a pony/horse may be hit hard.~~ However, it **A horse/pony** should never be hit more than three times for any incident; and if the pony/horse is marked by the whip (skin broken or a weal) its use is excessive. (The rider is expected to know if the pony/horse has especially sensitive skin and must use the whip accordingly).

Misuse of a whip: If, in the opinion of the judge, a whip is misused the rider will be disqualified and reported to the Disciplinary Steward.

G23.3.2: Spurs

Spurs must not be used to reprimand a pony/horse. Such use is always excessive, as is any use that results in a pony/horse being marked by a spur. Misuse of spurs will render the rider liable to disqualification and further disciplinary action.

G23.3: Bits

The bit must never be used to reprimand a pony/horse. Such use is always excessive and will render the rider liable to disqualification and further disciplinary action.

G24: LAMENESS

G24.1: Judges Decision

In the case of marked lameness, the Senior Officiating Judge will inform the rider that they have been eliminated. If, in Dressage, there are any doubts as to the soundness of the pony/horse, the competitor will be allowed to complete the test and any unevenness of pace will be severely penalised.

G24.2: Vets Opinion

The Judge may ask for a Veterinary Surgeon's opinion before allowing the competitor's score to go forward for final classification. Refusal to allow an inspection to be made will incur elimination.

G25: STALLIONS

- Stallions must be led from a bit with reins or with a lead rope of a minimum length of 2.5m
- A stallion disc must be displayed on each side of a stallion's bridle at all times
- No person may bring a stallion to a competition without ensuring, at all times, that competitors, ponies/horses and members of the public are not put at risk
- Any breach of this rule is an offence.
- Further the Official Steward may, if they are consider that a stallion may cause an accident or injure another person or pony/horse attending the competition, disqualify the stallion and direct that it be returned to its horsebox and be removed from the site

G26: JUDGES

G26.1: Ownership

A Judge must not be the owner of or have any financial interest in any pony/horse in the class they are judging.

G26.2: Relationship

The Judge must not be in a relationship with or a close relative of a rider or owner in their class.

G26.3: Training

The Judge should do their best to avoid judging any combination with whom they have been training on a regular basis (i.e. lessons given fortnightly and/or training in the preceding two weeks), unless exceptional circumstances demand it (i.e. being asked to judge at very short notice) and in this instance a possible conflict of interest must be notified to the organiser.

G26.4: Assistance

No judge should judge Dressage to Music competition if they have assisted in the making of the musical CD used in the competition.

G27: DISPENSATIONS TO COMPETE

Any request for a dispensation must be supported by either a Veterinary Surgeon's or Doctor's letter and must be received at the BRC Office at least 21 days before the competition applied for. The dispensation letter should be taken to all future competitions and it is valid for three years from date of issue.

Dispensation for the use of nose-nets will no longer be required.

G28: FALLS AND MEDICAL SUSPENSIONS

G28.1: Falls

Any competitor who has had a fall or sustains a serious injury anywhere at a BRC competition site must see the Doctor / Paramedic and be passed fit to ride before ***riding that horse in a further test, the next phase of a competition*** or before riding another pony/horse.

G28.2: Suspensions

The Doctor / Paramedic may decide that a competitor should be medically suspended. Any suspension will either be for a specified or unspecified duration and details must be recorded in the rider's medical card.

In the case of a head injury, or other injury likely to cause concussion, the following applies:

- No loss of consciousness and no sign of concussion = No mandatory suspension
- No loss of consciousness but with brief symptoms of concussion (symptoms resolving within 15 minutes) = Minimum of 7 days mandatory suspension
- Any loss of consciousness, however brief, or symptoms of concussion persisting after 15 minutes = Minimum 21 days mandatory suspension

The day of injury counts as the first day of the suspension period. If a rider is taken to hospital from an event without having their medical card completed by the doctor, a minimum of 21 days mandatory suspension shall automatically apply.

Once a rider is suspended, they may not compete in any BRC competition until the period of suspension has elapsed AND the rider has written confirmation from a registered medical practitioner that they are fit to compete in events, and this information has been passed to the BRC office.