

HX1: Horse Trials

BRC runs five Horse Trials competitions for Junior and Senior competitors:

Junior Novice and Intermediate Horse Trials for teams of four riders, the best three scores to count and individuals, at Championships this will be a One Day Event .

Senior Novice Horse Trials for teams of four riders, (the best three scores to count) and individuals. At Championships this is a Two Day Event.

Senior Open and Intermediate Horse Trials for teams of four riders, (the best three scores to count) and individuals. At Championships these will be Three Day Events.

HX1.1: ELIGIBILITY

HX1.1.1: Horses

See Appendix 2.

A pony or horse may compete from 1 January in the calendar year that it becomes five years old.

No pony or horse may compete twice in the same BRC competition. No pony or horse may compete in the Novice, Intermediate and Open competition at Area Qualifier or Championships in the same competition year.

Senior Intermediate Horse Trials: Pony/horse and rider combinations placed in the first 10 individually at the championships may not compete in the novice horse trials in the following year.

Senior Open Horse Trials: Pony/horse and rider combinations placed in the first 10 individually at the championships may not compete in the intermediate or novice horse trials in the following year.

BE Day Tickets: Competitors on a Day ticket with BE are eligible to gain points, unless the entry to BE is HC. The use of Day Tickets will not re-activate any downgraded winnings.

Reserves: A reserve for a Horse Trials Championship must have completed a cross-country course to the required standard within two years prior to the Championships. This must be certified by a club official on the entry form.

Pony Club Horse Trials: a pony or horse may compete in both Pony Club Inter-branch Horse Trials and BRC Horse Trials Competitions in the same year, provided that it does not compete over the same cross-country course in either the Area or Championship events of both competitions.

Horses practicing over obstacles: in the interest of fairness to all competitors, courses used for Area Qualifiers and Championships would ideally only be used for those events, but since it may not be practicable to enforce this, these rules attempt to set a minimum restriction on practising over official courses. It cannot be over emphasised that any riding over obstacles which are subsequently used for an official competition is against the spirit of the rules, if not against the letter.

Area Horse Trials Qualifiers may not be held at Championship venues.

No pony or horse may have been ridden over any fences used in the Area Qualifier during the two weeks (**13 days**) prior to the **cross-country phase of the** qualifier.

Any pony or horse, which competes at the Championships, may not have been ridden over **or through any cross-country fences, elements, obstacles, ditches, steps or water jumps at the same venue as the** Championship course during **eighteen days** prior to the **cross-country phase of the** Championships.

HX1.1.2: Riders

See Appendix 3.

Any rider, who competes at the Championships, may not have ridden over or through **any cross-country fences, elements, obstacles, ditches, steps or water at the same venue as the** Championship course during the two weeks (**13 days**) prior to the **cross-country phase of the** Championships.

HX1.1.3: Downgrading of horses/ponies

Applications for downgrading will be considered on an individual basis. Application forms can be downloaded from www.britishridingclubs.org.uk

HX1.2: NUMBERS TO QUALIFY

See Appendix 10. The number of highest placed riders qualifying for the Championships will be governed by the number of arenas required (see Rule G8.3).

HX1.3: DRESSAGE PHASE

HX1.3.1: Dressage Rules

The Dressage Phase of the Horse Trials competition will be run under the Rules for Dressage (Rule D1).

HX1.3.2: Saddlery, Tack and Dress

Full details are at Appendices 4, 5, 6 and 7.

HX1.3.3: Tests

Examples of the current Horse Trials Dressage Tests are at Appendix 13. No Horse Trials tests at either Area or Championships may be commanded.

HX1.3.4: Scoring

The good marks from 0 to 10 awarded to a competitor for each numbered movement of the Dressage Test are added together with the collective marks, then any error of course is deducted.

The percentage of the maximum possible good marks obtainable is then calculated. This percentage is obtained by dividing the total good marks of the judge (minus any error of course or test) by the maximum possible good marks obtainable, then multiplying by 100 and rounding the result to one decimal place. In order to convert average percentage into penalty points, this must be subtracted from 100, with the resulting figure being rounded to one decimal point. The result is the score in penalty points for the test.

HX1.4: SHOW JUMPING PHASE

HX1.4.1: Saddlery, Tack and Dress

Full details are at Appendices 4, 5, 6 and 7.

HX1.4.2: The Course

The course will consist of a designated number of obstacles (see Appendix 8) that are to BS/SJAI standard or above. A proportion of the fences should be built with fillers (brushes, walls etc). Safety cups, to FEI standard, must be used on the back and centre of spread fences.

The maximum height of any obstacle in Area competitions and at Championships will be as per Appendix 8.

Judges and course builders are reminded that it is not necessary for fences to be set at maximum height or spread.

HX1.4.3: Order of Jumping

At all competitions the order of jumping will be at the discretion of the organiser, but, if possible riders from the same team should not follow each other in succession.

HX1.4.4: Time Allowed & Penalties

The Time Allowed will be based on a speed of 325mpm. Every commenced period of 1 second in excess of time allowed will be penalised by 1 time penalty. ***Competitors are free to choose their pace whilst on the course, but should be aware that any sudden slowing down in the final third of the course may be categorised as inappropriate riding and penalised accordingly.***

HX1.4.5: Jumping Penalties

Jumping penalties will be incurred as follows:

Knocking down any part of an obstacle including the wing	4 penalties
First disobedience	4 penalties
Second disobedience.....	8 penalties
Third disobedience.....	Elimination
First fall of rider	8 penalties
First fall of horse	Elimination
Second fall of horse and/or rider	Elimination
Exceeding 24 penalties (excluding time penalties)	Compulsory Retirement

HX1.4.6: Scoring

The jumping penalties are added to the time penalties incurred to calculate the total penalties for this phase

HX1.5: CROSS-COUNTRY PHASE

HX1.5.1: Saddlery, Tack and Dress

Full details are at Appendices 4, 5, 6 and 7.

HX1.5.2: Heights

The maximum height of any obstacle in Area competitions and at Championships will be as per Appendix 8.

HX1.5.3: Plan

A plan of the course shall be displayed by the time it is open for inspection. It must include:

- The course to be followed and its length
- The optimum time and the time limit
- The numbering of the fences
- Any compulsory turning points
- Fences with alternatives

HX1.5.4: Inspection of the Course

The cross-country course must be completed and ready for inspection by competitors by 9am on the day of the cross-country test. Competitors may view the course on foot only, after 2pm on the day preceding the competition but the course will not be finalised before

9am on the day of competition. Unauthorised alteration to or tampering with fences or direction markers on the course is strictly forbidden and may be penalised by elimination.

HX1.5.5: Marking the Course

Red or white boundary markers are used to mark the start and finish and compulsory sections of the course, to define fences and indicate compulsory changes of direction. They are placed in such a way that a rider must leave a red marker on the right and a white marker on the left, failure to do so will incur elimination.

Direction markers or signs may vary in colour and are intended merely to show the general direction to be taken and to help the rider find their way. Passing close to them is not obligatory.

Boundary and direction markers will be large and placed in a conspicuous position. All fences, boundary and direction markers which have to be observed by riders must be exactly positioned by the time the course is open for inspection by riders and any variations in the course for different classes clearly marked.

HX1.5.6: Modifications to the Course

After the course is open for inspection by riders no alteration may be made, except that, where exceptional circumstances (such as heavy rain) make one or more fences unfair or dangerous, the organisers, or Championship Director is authorised, with the sanction of the Official Steward, to reduce the severity of or to bypass such fences. In such cases the chief cross-country steward and every rider must be officially and personally informed of the proposed alteration before the start of the test. An official may be stationed at the place where the alteration has been made, in order to warn riders.

If it is necessary, in the interests of safety, to order a fence to be by-passed during the competition, all jumping faults previously incurred at that fence shall be cancelled with the exception of elimination. A competitor who had been eliminated shall NOT be re-instated in the competition. Once taken out, the fence shall NOT be re-introduced. The Official Steward will decide what arbitrary adjustment shall be made to competitors' times.

HX1.5.7: Alternative Fences

Alternative fences or elements may be flagged separately and must be identified by the same number/letter as on the direct route. In this case both sets of flags must be marked with a black line. Such "black flag" alternatives are to be judged as separate fences or elements, only one of which has to be jumped. A competitor is permitted to change, without penalty, from one black flagged line to another (e.g. jumping 6A left hand route and 6B right hand route) provided they have not presented their pony/horse at the next element of the original line.

HX1.5.8: Fences

As with BE, BRC count the number of jumping efforts rather than the number of fences in the cross-country course. The number is counted by taking the direct route at combination fences. All fences must be solid and fixed. Where natural hedges are used they must be reinforced as necessary, so that they present as far as possible the same problem throughout the competition. All fences must be flagged and numbered.

Any fence at which a pony/horse, in falling, is liable to be trapped or to injure itself, must be secured by cord in such a way that parts of the fence can be quickly dismantled and rebuilt exactly as before.

HX1.5.9: Measurement of Fences

Fences are measured from the point from which the average pony/horse would normally take off. In the case of a fence where the height cannot be clearly defined (e.g. natural hedge, brush fence) the measurement is taken to the fixed and solid part of the fence, through which the pony/horse cannot pass with impunity.

The overall height of a natural hedge or brush fence may not exceed the maximum height by more than 20cm; however the brush or hedge above the normal maximum height must be brushable through and must not be likely to injure a horse. (A conventional birch steeplechase type fence does normally meet these criteria, provided the top has only thin branches).

There is no limit to the overall height of a bullfinch, provided that the average pony/horse can reasonably be expected to pass through and the fixed and solid part is clearly defined. In the case of a fence with a spread only (e.g. dry ditch, water jump), a guardrail or hedge not exceeding 50cm, which facilitates jumping, is permitted in front, but must be included in the measurement of the spread.

Drop Fences: The depth of a drop is measured from the highest point of the obstacle, including from the top of the brush, to where the average pony/horse would normally land. The maximum depth of the drop must not exceed the following:

Junior Novice and Intermediate	1.2m	Senior Novice	1.2m
Senior Intermediate	1.4m	Senior Open	1.6m

Water: Where a pony/horse is required to jump a fence in or out of water, or where there is a fence in the water, the depth of the water is measured from firm ground where the pony/horse would normally take off or land. Elsewhere the water should not greatly exceed the maximum depth. In order to discourage a pony/horse from attempting to jump over it, any water crossing ought to be as long as possible and should ideally be not less than 6m from point of entry to point of exit. The maximum depth of the water in a drop in/out of water fence must not exceed the following:

Junior Novice and Intermediate	0.2m	Senior Novice	0.2m
Senior Intermediate	0.2m	Senior Open	0.3m

Overhead Obstructions: Any roof or other fixed and solid barrier over a fence must be not less than 3.36m above ground level.

HX1.5.10: Dimensions of Fences:

Details of the dimensions of cross-country fences are at Appendix 8. Fences do not have to be uniform in terms of height, spread etc throughout their length, or that these dimensions may never be exceeded anywhere between the red and white flags marking the extent of the fence. It is sufficient if all parts of the fence, where the average pony/horse and rider could reasonably and conveniently be expected to jump; do not exceed the maximum permitted dimensions.

HX1.6: ONE, TWO & THREE DAY EVENTS

HX1.6.1: Order of Phases

The Horse Trials Championships are a combination of one, two and three day events, and,

as such will have the following phases:

Junior Novice and Intermediate Horse Trials – One Day Event

Day 1 Dressage, Show Jumping, Cross-country

Senior Novice Horse Trials – Two Day Event

Day 1 Dressage and Show Jumping

Day 2 Roads & Tracks, Steeplechase and Cross-country

Senior Open & Intermediate Horse Trials – Three Day Events

Day 1 Vet Inspection and Dressage

Day 2 Roads & Tracks, Steeplechase and Cross-country

Day 3 Vet Inspection and Show Jumping

Guidance on the vet inspections is at Appendix 12.

The same pony/horse and rider must complete all phases mounted; spot checks will be carried out to ensure compliance.

The Senior events include two Road & Tracks (Phases A and C) a Steeplechase (Phase B) and a Cross-country phase (Phase D). Except for the compulsory 1 minute halt before Phase B and the 10 minute halt before Phase D all the phases will follow one another without interruption in the order. A timetable will be issued in advance giving the projected time for each competitor for each phase based on the optimum times, based on the distances and speeds at Appendix 8.

Phases A & C: In addition to directional signs there will be markers at 1km intervals from the start. Competitors may dismount at any time on the Roads & Tracks and walk beside their pony/horse but they must be mounted to pass through the finish of each phase. Exceeding the optimum time per phase will incur 1 penalty point per second, exceeding the time limit (one fifth more than the optimum time) per phase will incur elimination.

Phase B: There is a compulsory 1 minute halt between the end of Phase A and the start of Phase B. Exceeding the optimum time per phase will incur 0.8 penalty points per second, exceeding the time limit (four times optimum time) will incur elimination. Faults at Steeplechase fences will be penalised as per Rule HX1.8.1.

Phase D: There is a compulsory 10 minute halt between the end of Phase C and the start of Phase D. During this halt a panel of a veterinary surgeon and officials will inspect each pony/horse; this panel has the right to eliminate any pony/horse that is unfit to continue onto Phase D. Exceeding the optimum time per phase will incur 0.4 penalty points per second, exceeding the time limit (twice the optimum time) will incur elimination. For every second in excess of 15 seconds under the optimum time will incur 0.4 penalty points per second.

HX1.6.2: Independence of Phases

The four phases are independent of each other. Loss of time in one phase cannot be made up in another.

HX1.7: METHOD OF STARTING

Competitors must start from within a simple enclosure which must be erected at the start, measuring approximately 5m square, with an open front marked with a red and white flag. Alternatively, a similar sized enclosure may be used with an open front and a gap of

approximately 2m in one or both sides from which ponies/horses will enter, provide that the sides of the side opening are padded or otherwise constructed to ensure that neither pony/horse nor rider entering through the side can be injured. The starter will count down from five before giving the signal to start and the competitor may move around the enclosure. Canter through a side entrance may be considered inappropriate or dangerous riding and, as such, may be eliminated at the discretion of the Official Steward.

If a pony/horse fails to cross the start line within 60 seconds of the signal being given the competitor will be eliminated.

Assistance within the starting enclosure is permitted, provided it ceases immediately the start signal is given. From that instant the competitor is considered to be on the course and thus any further assistance is forbidden.

The order of starting will be for the first rider of each team will go first followed by the second rider of each team and so on. No team will ride in succession.

HX1.8: SCORING

HX1.8.1 Penalties

These penalties are cumulative:

First disobedience at a jump	20 penalties
Second disobedience at the same jump	40 penalties
Third disobedience at the same jump	Elimination
Fourth disobedience on the whole course	Elimination
Fall of rider at a fence	65 penalties
Second fall of rider on the course	Elimination
Fall of pony/horse at a fence	Elimination
Every commenced period of 1 second in excess of the optimum time	0.4 penalties
Every commenced period of 1 second in excess of 15 seconds under the optimum time	0.4 penalties
Exceeding the time limit (cross-country)	Elimination
Error of course (omission of jump, boundary flag etc) not rectified, retaking an obstacle already jumped	Elimination
Trapped pony/horse	Elimination
Inappropriate or dangerous riding	Discretionary Elimination
Riding improperly dressed	Discretionary Elimination
Starting early	Discretionary Elimination

There will be no marked penalty zones. Faults (refusals, run-outs, circling and falls) will be penalised only, if, in the opinion of the judge concerned, they are connected with the negotiation of one of the numbered fences.

Jumping penalties will be added to any time penalties to calculate the total cross-country penalties.

HX1.8.2: Definition of Faults

Refusals: A pony/horse is considered to have refused if it stops in front a fence to be jumped and that fence exceeds 30cm. A stop at fences of 30cm or less in height followed immediately by a standing jump is not penalised. A pony/horse may step sideways, but if the pony/horse steps back, even a single pace, voluntarily or not, or if the halt is prolonged, this constitutes a refusal. If a pony/horse that has already stepped back once is re-presented at the fence and halts or steps back a second time, or if the halt is prolonged

and the rider redoubles or changes their effort, still without success, this constitutes a second refusal and so on. After the fourth cumulative refusal the competitor is eliminated.

Run-Outs: A pony/horse is considered to have run out if it avoids a fence to be jumped and runs out to one side or the other.

Circles: A pony/horse is considered to have circled if it crosses its original track, from whichever direction, while negotiating or attempting to negotiate a fence or part thereof. If a pony/horse completes a circle while being re-presented at a fence after a refusal, run-out or a fall, it will only be penalised for the disobedience or fall. A competitor may circle without penalty between fences even if they are quite close together, provided they clearly do not present their pony/horse in an attempt to negotiate the second fence after jumping the first. However, if two or more elements of a fence are lettered A, B or C i.e.: are designed as one integral test, then any circling between these elements shall be penalised.

Fall of Rider: A rider is considered to have fallen when they are separated from their pony/horse, which has not fallen, in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle.

Fall of Pony/Horse: A pony or horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and the quarters have touched either the ground or the fence and the ground.

Fences not on the course:

There is no penalty for jumping a fence that is not on the course.

HX1.8.3: Double, Treble or Multiple Fences

If two or more fences, although sited close together, are designed as separate problems, each will be numbered and judged independently. A competitor may circle between them without penalty, provided that this is not as a result of attempting to negotiate a fence that they have already jumped.

If however, a fence is formed of several elements such as banks or steps, a normal or an angled combination, each part will be flagged and marked with a different letter (A, B or C etc) but only the first need be numbered and it will be judged as one fence. A competitor may refuse only twice in all without incurring elimination and any circle is penalised as for a refusal but, if a competitor refuses at any part, they are at liberty to retake the complete obstacle.

HX1.8.4: Elimination & Retiring

Competitors eliminated or retiring from any part of the course for any reason whatsoever shall leave the course at a walk and shall take every precaution to avoid disturbing other competitors. They shall not jump fences after elimination or retiring. At the discretion of the Official Steward disciplinary action may be taken for contravention of this rule.

At Area Qualifiers or Championships, senior officials (i.e. the Official Steward, assistant steward, Championship Director, chief show jumping judge, cross-country steward, cross-country controller or the doctor), may at any time exclude from the competition any competitor who, in their considered opinion, is severely injured or unfit to continue, for instance as a result of a fall.

HX1.8.5: Medical Suspension

Any competitor who has had a fall must see the doctor and be passed fit to ride, before continuing the competition with that pony/horse or before riding another pony/horse.

See also G28.

HX1.9: COMPETITOR IN DIFFICULTY

Any competitor who has refused at a fence must, under penalty of elimination at the discretion of the Official Steward, quickly clear the way for a following competitor and must await the instructions of the fence judge before making another attempt. The time they are delayed is not recorded.

If a fence is completely obstructed by a competitor in difficulty, or is in need of repair, subsequent competitors must be halted. In such a case, the fence judge must record the length of time the competitor was held. Whenever competitors are held by fence judge's permission to restart must be co-ordinated with cross-country control.

If, in attempting to negotiate a fence, a pony/horse becomes trapped in such a way that it is liable to injure itself or be unable to proceed without assistance, the fence judge shall decide if parts of the fence shall be dismantled or if any other assistance shall be given to extricate the pony/horse. In such a case the fence judge will first instruct the competitor to dismount. The competitor will be eliminated from the competition.

HX1.10: OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

Outside assistance is forbidden, under penalty of elimination. Any intervention by a third party, whether solicited or not, with the object of facilitating the task of the rider or helping their horse is considered outside assistance. Similarly it is forbidden for a competitor to join or accept a lead from another competitor. Examples of outside assistance include:

- joining another competitor and continuing with them
- following or in any other way being accompanied by another person while on the course
- arranging for associates to provide signals or encouragement
- tampering with an obstacle or its marker flags
- the use of any electronic equipment by riders
- spectators who draw attention to a competitor to any deviation from the course
- a fence judge or official assisting a competitor by directions to rectify an error of course.

Assistance within the starting enclosure is permitted, provided it ceases immediately the start signal is given. From that instant the competitor is considered to be on the course and thus any further assistance is forbidden.

The following forms of assistance are allowed:

- whips, headgear or spectacles may be handed to a competitor without dismounting.
- fence judges are allowed to call first or second refusal etc. A competitor may receive clarification of jumping penalties from the fence judge (e.g. after knocking a flag at the corner of a fence).

The Official Steward will decide whether or not a competitor has received outside assistance.

Fence judges should record the details on the fence score sheets if they consider outside assistance has been given with full details.

HX1.11: OVERTAKING

HX1.11.1: Between Fences

A competitor catching up another may overtake but only at a safe and suitable place. In such circumstances the leading competitor must give way. It is forbidden, under penalty of

elimination at the discretion of the Official Steward, for either competitor to wilfully obstruct or cause any damage to the other.

HX1.11.2: At any Fence

When the leading competitor is committed to jumping a fence, a following competitor may jump that fence only in such a way that will cause no interference to another; if interference occurs they may be eliminated, at the discretion of the Official Steward.

HX1.12: TIME KEEPING

Time is counted from the signal to start until when the pony's/horse's nose passes the finish. Time is counted in whole seconds, fractions being taken to the next second (i.e. 30.4 seconds is recorded as 31 seconds). Periods when a competitor has been held by a fence judge or an official will be deducted from the total time on the course in order to give the actual time for completing the course.

In the event of a timing error the Official Steward is allowed to make an accurate estimate of a competitor's time utilising official times taken around the course.

HX1.13: SCORING

HX1.13.1: Total Score

The total score for an individual is obtained by adding the Dressage, Show Jumping and Cross-country penalties together. The team total is obtained by adding together the three lowest individual penalty scores.

HX1.13.2 Ties

In the event of a tie for any place in a team one day event, the score of the fourth rider will be taken into consideration. If there is still equality the total marks for all the riders in the tying teams will be considered in the following order:

- lowest total cross-country penalties (jumping and time)
- lowest total deviation from the cross-country optimum time
- highest total good dressage marks

In the event of a tie for any place in an individual one day event, the riders will be placed by considering their marks in the following order:

- lowest total cross-country penalties (jumping and time)
- nearest the cross-country optimum time
- highest good dressage marks

In the event of a tie for any place in a team two or three day event, the score of the fourth rider will be taken into consideration. If there is still equality the total marks for all the riders in the tying teams will be considered in the following order:

- lowest total cross-country penalties (jumping and time)
- best steeplechase score
- lowest total deviation from the cross-country optimum time

In the event of a tie for any place in an individual two or three day event, the riders will be placed by considering their marks in the following order:

- lowest total cross-country penalties (jumping and time)
- best steeplechase score
- lowest total deviation from the cross-country optimum time

HX1.14: AWARDS

See Appendix 10.