



Competitions Rule Book 2022



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At Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA), our equines benefit the lives of over 25,000 disabled children and adults at nearly 500 groups across the UK. To keep providing this life-changing support we need more horsepower...



WANTED!

MORE HORSEPOWER

- Horses and ponies of all heights and types
- Must be healthy, sound, fit, reliable, genuine, bright, sensible, alert, confident, and versatile
- Potential to compete at our National Championships in a range of activities from Dressage to Showjumping, Vaulting to Carriage Driving
- Must also be able to pass a minimum of two stage vetting



If you have an equine that fits our superhero profile contact Emma Bayliss at RDA National Office
ebayliss@rda.org.uk



What RDA can offer your equine...

We can purchase or loan suitable equines, offering a 5* home, training, experience,

and knowledge. A varied lifestyle, an abundance of policies to protect our equine family, a team of

RDA Regional Vets and Regional Equine Advisors, qualified RDA Coaches. And, lots of love...



Riding for the Disabled Association
Incorporating Carriage Driving

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Competition Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Procedures for Competitors, their Carers and Supporters

RDA UK is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of everyone involved and wants to ensure a positive and enjoyable experience for all. When attending competitions, everyone is expected to abide by the following code of conduct:

- All participants and/or their carers must take responsibility for ensuring they are up to date with the rules, understand and adhere to them.
- All participants, carers and supporters should recognise the valuable contribution made by all officials, who are usually volunteers. They give their time and resources to enable the event to happen.
- All participants, carers and supporters must respect officials and their decisions.
- All officials must treat everyone equally and with dignity.
- All those attending the event should treat others with the same level of respect that they would expect to be shown to themselves.
- Everyone must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all, regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity.
- Everyone must ensure that inappropriate language or behaviour is challenged.

What to do if you have a concern before, during or after the event:

If anyone has a concern leading up to the event, please either refer to the RDA Group Safeguarding Officer or contact RDA UK's Lead Safeguarding Officer on 01926 405973.

All concerns raised will be carefully considered and appropriate action

will be taken, including, where necessary, removing individual(s) from the venue. Please note that processes should be in place for swift action in the event of missing or found children or adults at risk at the event, including the immediate emergency lockdown of the site, if required.

Assembly points for lost/found persons will be clearly identified during the event.

Safeguarding Concern Reporting for all at National Championships

If you suspect a child, young person or adult at risk is being abused, they confide in you or someone has a concern, complaint or allegation about a member of staff, a volunteer or about you, **it is your duty to report it**. This is also the case if declarations are made to an RDA volunteer/ staff member about possible poor practice or abuse, even if there is no connection with RDA.

If an individual is at immediate risk of significant harm call 999 and request the police, or phone Social Services. Inform the Safeguarding Lead for the National Championships once you have done this.

If a child or adult at risk has told you they are being abused, you must:

1. Allow the individual to speak without interruption, accepting what is said.
2. If possible, write down what is said, using the actual words spoken to you. This includes the date and time, and then sign the document.
3. Explain that you cannot keep the information secret and must pass it on. If the disclosure is made by an adult, you must ask their consent to pass the information on. If the adult refuses but you feel there is a real risk of abuse, or the adult does not have capacity to consent, you should still pass the information on.

4. Inform the RDA Safeguarding Lead at the event immediately and pass on any notes you have taken. Disclosures are confidential and should only be shared by exception.
5. Should the Safeguarding Lead not be available, the person who received the disclosure should contact the Event Secretary.

If you are concerned about the welfare of an RDA participant or volunteer, or you have concerns about the conduct/poor practice of an adult involved in RDA, including yourself, you must:

1. Inform your Group Safeguarding Officer immediately or the Safeguarding Lead for the event
2. If possible, write down what you have witnessed. Include the date and time, and sign the document
3. Pass any notes you have made to the Group Safeguarding Officer and Safeguarding Lead

If you need further support or are not sure what you should do, you can contact:

RDA National Office: 01926 405973

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000 (please note that this is not 24 hours)

Things all volunteers, staff, participants and supporters should consider before, during and after the event:

- Always make sure consent has been obtained before tagging someone in photographs or film on social media (using individuals' names and/or details of their Group or location)
- When travelling to and staying the event (where applicable), always make sure that appropriate safeguarding supervision ratios of volunteers/staff: Participants are maintained, at all times—including in vehicles, outside competition hours and in accommodation or social areas.

Links to key RDA Safeguarding and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies/ statements:

- [RDA UK Equality & Diversity Statement and Policy](#)
- [RDA UK Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy](#)
- [RDA UK Safeguarding Children Policy](#)
- [RDA UK Safeguarding Code of Conduct](#)

Useful link to external organisations offering support and guidance on mental wellbeing:

- [MyRDA Website: Supporting our People](#)

Equality & Diversity

RDA is committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all staff, volunteers and participants. We aim to create a safe and welcoming atmosphere for everyone and we want to challenge all forms of discrimination. We will ensure that we do not discriminate against anyone on the basis of their protected characteristics, ie. age, disability, gender reassignment, marital or civil partner status, pregnancy or maternity, race (including colour, nationality, ethnic and national origin), religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, or on any other basis. We aim to design and deliver our activities and services in a way which will encourage and support participation from everyone.

We believe that greater diversity within our organisation provides a more diverse perspective. This leads to a broader range of opinions being heard in decision making and creates a positive and open environment for achieving our objectives.

Policy Statement

RDauK endorses the principle of equality and will strive to ensure that everyone who wishes to be involved in riding, carriage driving and horse care whether as participants, volunteers, coaches, or those within the rdauk :

- has a genuine and equal opportunity to participate to the full extent of their own ambitions and abilities, without regard to their age, sex, gender identity, disability, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, religion, race, ethnic origin, nationality or sexual orientation(Referred to as 'Protected Characteristics' under the Equality Act 2010); and
- can be assured of an environment in which their rights, dignity and individual worth are respected, and in particular that they are able to enjoy their sport without the threat of intimidation, victimisation, harassment or abuse.

Legal obligations

RDauK is committed to avoid and eliminate unfair discrimination of any kind in RDA, and will under no circumstances condone unlawful discriminatory practices. The organisation takes a zero tolerance approach to harassment.

Positive action

The principle of Equality goes further than simply complying with legislation. It entails taking positive steps to counteract the effects of physical or cultural barriers – whether real or perceived – that restrict the opportunity for all sections of the community to participate equally and fully.

RDAUK will therefore seek to institute, support or contribute to appropriate measures or initiatives that enable access to RDA and participation in associated activities by people from any group that is under represented in the sport or has difficulty accessing it.

Implementation

The following steps will be taken to publicise this policy and promote equality in RDA:-

- A copy of this document will be published on the RDAUK website and also on the “MyRDA” website.
- The RDAUK Chair will take overall responsibility for ensuring that the policy is observed.
- The Board will take full account of the policy in arriving at all decisions in relation to activities of the RDAUK.
- RDAUK will collaborate fully with any surveys or other initiatives designed to assess the level of participation of different sections of the community in RDA and will take account of the findings in developing measures to promote and enhance equality in RDA.
- RDAUK will provide access to training for all of its Board Members to raise awareness of both collective and individual responsibilities. All RDAUK volunteers will receive training in equality and diversity.

It will be a condition of membership of RDAUK that all Member Groups:

- formally adopt this policy, or produce their own equality and diversity policy in terms that are consistent with it; and take steps to ensure that their Trustees, members, volunteers and participants behave in accordance with the policy, including where appropriate taking disciplinary action under the Group’s constitution; and:
- ensure that access to membership is open and inclusive

- support such measures and initiatives that RDAUK may institute or take part in to advance the aims of this policy.

Responsibility, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Board will be responsible for ensuring the implementation of this policy.

The Board will review all RDAUK activities and initiatives against the aims of the policy on an annual basis, and the Chair will report formally on this issue in the annual report.

The Board, or where appropriate a designated project leader, will review any measures or initiatives that RDAUK may institute or take part in to promote and enhance equality and will report findings in the annual report.

The Board will review the policy itself at intervals of no more than three years (or when necessary due to changes in legislation) and update as necessary.

Complaints and compliance

RDAUK regards all of the forms of discriminatory behaviour, including (but not limited to) behaviour described in the Appendix as unacceptable, and is concerned to ensure that individuals feel able to raise any bona fide grievance or complaint related to such behaviour without fear of being penalised for doing so. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any employee, member or volunteer who violates the RDAUK Equality Policy. Any person who believes that he or she has been treated in a way that they consider to be in breach of this policy, should follow the process set out in RDA UK's complaints process, which can be found on the MyRDA website, under Policies.

Health & Safety

1. Health & Safety

The organiser of any event must take reasonable precautions to ensure the health and safety of everyone present. For these measures to be effective everyone must take all reasonable precautions to avoid and prevent accidents occurring and must obey the instructions of the organisers, officials and stewards.

Liability

Neither the organiser nor any person acting on their behalf accepts any liability for any loss, damage, accident, injury or illness to horses, competitors and spectators or any other persons or property whatsoever.

2. Cancellation/Abandonment

There may be circumstances where events have to be postponed, cancelled, abandoned or curtailed as a result of circumstances beyond the control of the organisers. Contingency plans should be made for such an occurrence including consideration of entry fee's, contractors payments etc.

3. Rider Falls

If a competitor falls from the horse during warm up they must not be allowed to remount until they have been assessed by the first aider/paramedic on site. Only when they have been passed to continue they may remount.

If a rider falls during competition, they will retire immediately from that class and must then be assessed by the onsite first aider/paramedic before being allowed to continue in any other classes.

If a rider falls more than once throughout the event they must be assessed by the following before being allowed to continue:

- First aider/paramedic
- Coach
- Ground Jury (if applicable)

First Aid

1. First Aid Requirements

It is the Organiser's responsibility to have the appropriate cover for the type of event, taking into consideration the number of participants and spectators. A written risk assessment must be carried out.

Definitions

Appointed Person

Someone appointed to take sole charge of communications in the event of an accident.

Trained First Aider

A person who holds either:

- Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) qualification
- Or
- BHS Equine Specific First Aid (ESFAC)

First Aid Point

A designated area, such as a tent, caravan or horsebox, where first aid can be administered in privacy.

Qualified First Aider

A person who holds:

- First Aid at Work (FAW) qualification
- A nurse registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council may also be suitable.

Emergency Medical Technician

A person whose training and skills include those of an Ambulance Aid (patient handling, medical gases and ambulance equipment) with a higher knowledge of clinical skills in patient handling, patient monitoring and who is able to prime a 'giving set' for a Doctor or Paramedic.

Paramedic

A person whose initial training has been accredited through the NHS i.e. holders of NHSTA or IHCD Paramedic qualification or military training.

Doctor/GP

It is recommended that the appointed Doctor/GP has been trained in pre-hospital emergency care.

Ambulance

A designated vehicle that is appropriately marked, identifiable and conforms to current regulations for the transportation of injured or seriously ill patients. It must contain necessary resuscitation, immobilisation and transportation equipment.

At the very minimum every event must have all of the following: (ESFAC – Equine Specific First Aider, EFAW – Emergency First Aid at Work, FAW – First Aid at Work)

- An Appointed Person
- A Trained First Aider (EFAW or ESFAC)
- First Aid Point
- A mobile phone or other means of communication with the emergency services

The grid reference or postcode should be available to aid the emergency services. This should be included in the risk assessment.

At a showjumping competition the trained first aider (EFAW or ESFAC) should be replaced by a qualified first aider (FAW)

If there are more than 50 competitors, the event should have the following in attendance

- An Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Ambulance

For larger events of 100 or more competitors, we suggest a paramedic or doctor is present.

Equine Welfare

RDA Weight Chart

Before entering any competition please ensure that you consult the RDA Weight Chart to ensure that your equine/rider/driver combination is suitable. This applies to riding and Carriage Driving. We will be monitoring this at the Championships

RDA has created an excel calculator to help groups work out the maximum carrying weight. Please see the Myrda website, Equines in RDA, Health and Welfare for further information. Carriage Driving weight guidelines can be found on Myrda on the right hand side of the Carriage Driving Page. The weight chart should be used for any rider/driver whether a participant, volunteer or coach.

RDA reserves the right to check any combination considered not to comply with the limits set out on the weight chart on RDA's website.

Passports & Vaccinations

All equines travelling to competitions must have a valid passport from which the equines identification can be verified. The passport must contain all vaccination details which must be up to date, completely and clearly recorded, signed and stamped by a veterinary surgeon, who is not the owner of the animal. Passports with missing, altered, unclear or incomplete vaccine records will not be accepted and entry to events may be refused. The passport must travel with the equine at all times.

- The equine must receive a primary course of two injections against equine influenza given no less than 21 days and no more than 92 days apart.
- Only these first two injections need to be given before the horse may compete.
- In addition, a FIRST booster injection must be given no less than 150 days and no more than 215 days after the second injection of the primary course.
- Subsequent booster injections must be given at intervals of not more than one year apart, commencing after the first booster injection.
- Equines visiting the RDA National Championships must have been vaccinated within the previous six months.

- Equines competing in Regional Qualifiers must have been vaccinated within previous twelve months unless venue requests six months.
- None of these injections can be given within the seven days before the day of competing or entry into competition, whichever is sooner.

Prohibited Substances

The use of any herbal, natural or chemical product to affect the performance of an equine in a calming (tranquillising) manner is strictly forbidden under RDA rules. The use of such products during competition has important safety and welfare consequences.

The RDA follows the lead of the FEI (Federation Equestre Internationale) and British Equestrian with respect to the medication of horses used in competition. A full list of banned substances can be found on the FEI's Clean Sport website.

The RDA does make certain, specific exceptions to the FEI's list of controlled and banned substances with respect to the population of horses engaging in RDA activities. Some of these medications need to be declared before National Championships to be permitted. You will need to fill in a National Championships Medication Declaration Form which is available on the equine section of the Myrda website. This then needs to be sent to the Championships Secretary before the event begins.

Medication Control Testing may be carried out at the National Championships. If a horse tests positive for a banned or undeclared substance the horse will be disqualified and the cost of the test will be passed onto the RDA Group/Competitor. This cost is approximately £500 + VAT.

It is strongly recommended that you familiarise yourself with the Prohibited Substances Policy under the National Championships section of the RDA website.

Equine Welfare in Competition

All equines must be five years old or over. In the case of lameness, the judge will inform the rider/driver that they are eliminated. There is no appeal against the decision. The judge may ask for a Veterinary opinion before allowing the competitor's score to go forward for judging. Refusal to allow this inspection to take place will result in elimination. If the equine appears to be fatigued or distressed the judge can ask the competitor to retire.

If the judge/steward suspects fresh blood anywhere on the equine during the competition, they will carry out further checks in alongside an RDA Vet. If the equine shows fresh blood in the mouth or area of the spurs, it will be eliminated. If the judge/Vet clarifies that the equine has no fresh blood and is fit to continue, the equine may resume and finish the competition. The judge's decision is final.

Regional Qualifiers

- a) All regional competitions with classes which qualify riders to compete at the RDA National Championships must take place at least two weeks prior to the closing date for entries to the National Championships.
- b) The form these competitions take is the prerogative of the Regional Chairman and Regional Qualifier Organiser.
- c) Classes qualifying for the National Championships may take place on grass, an all-weather arena or an indoor school.
- d) All qualifying dressage classes at Regional competitions must use the current National Championships tests. All grades must be offered regardless of how many entries are received.
- e) All Championship dressage tests, countryside challenge map, carriage driving dressage test and showjumping course plans will be available to download from the RDA website.
- f) Other non-qualifying classes may be offered including Level 1 Showjumping, Led Dressage tests and Freestyle tests with or without music.
- g) The Championships Secretary at National Office must be advised of the regional qualifier competition date and the number of qualifying rosettes in January.

1. Entries

- a) Entries and any fees shall be submitted by the Group Organiser on the required form and by the required dates.
- b) Groups withdrawing competitors from the competition must inform the organiser as soon as possible.

2. Qualification for the National Championships

- a) When entering a Regional Qualifier it should be the rider/drivers intention to attend and compete at the RDA National Championships. It is important that arrangements have been made to enable this to happen. If there is no intention to attend the National Championships please make this known on your entry form.
- b) Riders and drivers qualify to take part in the National Championships at their Regional Qualifier. In order to qualify

riders competing in Dressage and Showjumping must achieve at least 60%, Countryside Challenge riders must achieve 65% or more in their class and be placed 1st or 2nd. Carriage Drivers must be placed 1st or 2nd to qualify. Please see each individual discipline for specific criteria.

- c) Dressage and Graded Showjumping riders must be classified prior to the Championships to enter the Graded classes. Dressage riders who are not classified can only ride in the 1-6, led or Grade 7 (previously intellectual disability) classes.
- d) Ridden qualifying classes will be split into junior and senior sections. The top two riders in each section will qualify subject to the relevant criteria. In sections of 10 or more the top 3 riders will qualify provided they have met the criteria above.
- e) If the qualifying riders are unable to attend the National Championships the next eligible participant(s) may do so subject to the discipline specific qualifying criteria.
- f) Riders may compete more than once in each discipline e.g. Showjumping Level 2 & 3 or at the same level e.g. same rider on two different horses. Dressage riders may enter more than one qualifying class appropriate for their grade or above. However riders may only compete once in each discipline at the National Championships e.g. Showjumping Level 2 OR 3. This is the same for ALL disciplines.
- g) Riders should qualify at their own Regional Qualifier. If a rider is unable to compete within their own Region, they may ask to attend one other Regional Qualifier. They shall not take a qualifying place from that Region but should send their score sheet to the Championships Secretary at RDA National Office for consideration.
- h) All riders who are unclassified (Grade 6 or Grade 7 (previously intellectual disability)) and who have qualified and competed in the same class at the RDA National Championships for three years consecutively, must then move up and compete in a higher level test. For example, a competitor in a Group 7 Walk Test, then moves on to the Group 7 Walk and Trot Test. If for any reason a rider is not able to move up to compete in a higher level test, then the region can submit a wild card entry if the rider gains the qualifying percentage.

Protective Headwear

Protective Headwear must be worn at all times when mounted at any RDA event whether competing or not. Harnesses must be correctly adjusted and fastened at all times. At RDA Championships and Regional Qualifiers hats must have been checked by an official to make sure that it is of one of the accepted standards and then tagged with an RDA hat tag.

Protective headwear constitutes a hat which meets one of the following standards:

- British PAS 015: 1998 or 2011 provided they are BSI Kitemarked or Inspec IC marked
- European VG1 provided it is BSI Kitemarked or Inspec IC marked
- EN1384-2017 provided it has another accepted standard from this list which is BSI Kitemarked or Inspec IC marked
- American ASTM F1163: 2004a or 04a onwards provided they are SEI marked SNELL E2001 or SNELL E2016

Competitors are strongly advised to check their hats regularly and to replace them if damaged or following a fall. It is recommended that hats are replaced every 3 to 5 years depending on usage.

In some cases, where a standard hat is not suitable, alternative headwear can be worn provided RDA's alternative hat wear rules are followed as detailed below:

- Non-standard hats (including specially made, by a reputable manufacturer, riding hats, other kite marked helmets e.g. ski, cycle, skateboard), can be assessed by a Regional or County Coach, or someone who has been approved by the Regional Coach. Anyone assessing hat suitability MUST have been on a BETA hat fitting workshop.
- Consent signed on the "Alternative Hat Assessment Form" by the Participant/Parent/Guardian/Carer, confirming they understand that it is a non-standard hat.
- Participant and hat to be re-assessed annually.
- The hat must not be used by another participant without an assessment.

- There may be exceptional circumstances when a carriage driver has to drive without a hat. Before this can happen the “No Hat Form” must be completed and sent to RDA National Office, along with a written request stating why the driver needs to drive without a hat. This request will then go to the Carriage Driving Lead for approval, before any driver without a hat can drive.
- Children or adults of the Sikh religion are exempted from any hat ruling while they are wearing a turban. Religious head wear (hijabs, yamulkes etc) can be worn providing they will not come undone or are not fixed to the head by a hard object e.g. brooch, or could present a danger to the participant. There are various balaclavas/riding snoods on the market which are made specifically to use under hats instead of hijabs or some other headwear. These are available from www.kramer.co.uk In these cases, an alternative hat form must be completed.
- Hats for volunteers - Although it is not mandatory to wear hats, if an RDA Volunteer chooses to do so, the hat must fit into the current standards listed above and be tagged with an RDA hat tag. All coaches/ volunteers must wear a hat when mounted

Body Protectors

A body protector is strongly recommended in show jumping competitions. If wearing a body protector they must be BETA Level 3 displaying EITHER a Purple 2009 Label OR Blue 2018.

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 BETA Level 3 body protector and if activated, must be deflated or removed before continuing. Hybrid Air-jackets and air jackets incorporated into a blouson style jacket are permitted. It is recommended that body protectors are replaced once they are more than 5 years old.

Special Equipment

Variations on tack rules from British Dressage and British Show Jumping can be seen at RDA competitions. Additional Special Equipment may be used to aid a participant, strict rules regarding condition, fit and suppleness must apply.

Reins are a common form of special equipment used by RDA competitors. These may be:

Rainbow Reins - Covered with rubber in various colours to help riders to obtain correct and even length of reins. Available in most good saddlers and by mail order.

Left/Right Reins - One rein covered in red rubber, the other in yellow, to help riders (and helpers) distinguish between left and right.

No Knots - Intended for able bodied riders, but can be very useful for RDA riders.

Ladder Reins - There are quite a few variations on this theme available now. They provide the rider with a grasp area which will not slip through hands with poor strength. They can also be controlled with the wrist or elbow joint if hand grasp is non-functional.

Looped Reins - Have several loops sewn to the inside of plain leather reins. The loops are large enough for the whole hand to slip in and out easily. Reining can be done with wrist, back of hand or elbow.

Bar Rein - Provides a means for one handed riders to have improved contact with the horse.

Knobs - Wooden door knobs or dowels attached to a wide plain or plaited reins, provide a large and specific 'handle' for a weak hand to grasp.

Padded Rein - For riders with limited grip, or arthritis of the hand and fingers.

Elastic Reins - Specially produced for RDA by Carl Hester. Hand stitched leather with elasticity to help maintain still hands and take tension away from shoulders.

Handling belts - Their use should solely be for mounting and dismounting.

Running Martingales are allowed on a Countryside Challenge course.

Whips

- One whip, or two if necessary, may be carried but only by the rider.
- Please see discipline rules for any length restrictions.

Spurs

- Spurs may only be worn by participants who are able to control their leg movements.
- Matching spurs must be worn unless the participant is riding sidesaddle or riding with a prosthesis.
- Spurs should be made of metal & the band around the heel must be smooth.
- Spurs with a smooth rotating rubber, metal or plastic ball on the shank are permitted.
- Swan-neck & 'Comb' spurs are not permitted.
- Any shank on the back of the heel must point towards the rear and the end must be clearly horizontal to the ground or pointing downwards.
- No spur shall extend more than 2.5cm from the rear of the boot.
- Dummy spurs are permitted.

Excessive use of whips or spurs is forbidden.

*Excessive use - It is the responsibility of the Coach to ensure that if whips or spurs are carried/worn that they must not be used to the detriment of the horse.

Dress variations may be seen in disciplines within RDA. This can include wearing RDA sweatshirts, no gloves and different styles of hat. Please

see relevant section for hat standards. Should a rider have to wear orthopaedic boots they will be allowed providing they are safe or used with Toestoppers stirrups.

If in doubt about Special Equipment please contact the RDA Special Equipment Advisor Sue Mack suemackrda@gmail.com

Carriage Driving

Dress

- All drivers when seated in the carriage must be correctly dressed. Group colours should be worn by those in the carriage and those on the ground.
- Gloves should be worn if possible.
- The whip should be carried by the Driver or Coach.
- All hats must conform to RDA Hat Standards and be tagged. Please see relevant section for approved hat standards.

Permitted Bits

All of the following bits can be used with either straight, mullen or arched mouthpieces:

- Butterfly
- Liverpool
- Military or Elbow or Kimblewick bit
- Snaffles - Wilson snaffles and other jointed bits can be used in certain circumstances as agreed by a Carriage Driving Assessor.

General Rules

- All equines, carriages, harness and CD Coaches must have been assessed by an approved Carriage Driving Assessor.
- All 4-wheel vehicles must have a turntable or an alternative method of articulation and, where possible, axles should be set at 138/140cms. If the track width is different then please ensure that the actual width is stated on the entry form.
- The driver's reins must be attached to the bit or a low ring on the headcollar.
- Bright ribbons must be attached to the second set of reins held by the CD Coach, and tied onto these reins between the pad and the CD Coach's hands.
- Saluting the Judge - at the end of the test, the driver salutes. This can be done in the traditional way of raising the whip or it can be a wave, nod or smile, whichever suits the driver. On this occasion the CD Coach is acting as a groom and therefore does not salute.

Driver Categories.

a) Novice

- Any driver who drives with dual reins who has never competed at any previous RDA National Championships. They may remain in the Novice class until they win the Novice class at the National Championships.
- Any driver who drives with dual reins, who requires verbal guidance from their CD Coach, and has not won the novice class at any previous RDA National Championships.
- The winner of the Novice class, at any previous National Championships, will move up to the Intermediate class for future competitions.

b) Intermediate

- Any driver who drives with dual reins, who does not require verbal guidance from their CD Coach, and has not won the intermediate class at any previous RDA National Championships.
- The winner of the Intermediate class at any previous National Championships will move up to the Open class for future competitions.

c) Open

- Any driver who drives with dual reins and has progressed from the Intermediate class at previous National Championships.
- Any driver who has been assessed to drive with single reins with their CD Coach sitting beside them.
- Any driver who has been assessed to drive with single reins and assessed as competent for their CD Coach to back step.
- Open drivers whose carriage is not able to be set up for side-by-side driving may have their CD Coach standing on their backstep.

Qualification at a Regional Qualifier.

The first 2 drivers from each qualifying class (Novice, Intermediate, Open) will qualify for the National Championships. If qualified drivers

are unable to travel then the qualifying place may be passed down the class. Some regions have no qualifying competition so please email the CD Lead eileenjcornish@gmail.com for approval to enter directly.

Competition

An RDA National Championships Carriage Driving competition consists of the Driven Dressage Test 2022 and a Conobstacle course, which will be a cones course interspersed with two obstacles. It will be judged and scored as two phases: Phase 1 – Dressage, and Phase 2 – Conobstacles (overall time, not individual elements).

- The objective of the driven dressage test is to judge the freedom, regularity of paces, harmony, impulsion, suppleness and lightness, ease of movement and correct bending of the horse on the move. Drivers will also be judged on style, accuracy, dress, control of the horse and general condition of their horse, harness and carriage.
- The objective of the Conobstacle course is to drive accurately without knocking balls off the cones, and in the fastest overall time possible. It will test the fitness, obedience and suppleness of the horse, and the skill and competence of the driver.
- In the Conobstacles phase CD Coaches may assist with verbal directions but will be penalised in all classes for using the second set of reins unless on safety grounds.
- Conobstacles must be driven at walk and trot only. Penalties will be awarded for cantering.
- The width of the cones will be 30 cms wider than the standard axle i.e. set at 170cms. Any carriages of non-standard width will have the cones adjusted for them, but you may have to drive at the end of the competition after the standard width carriages have all taken part, so that the arena party do not have to set and re-set the cones more than necessary.

Dressage Arena

The arena size for the dressage test should be 60m x 30m. The markers down the long side are laid out with equal spacing.

Scoring and penalties.

Dressage - Drivers will be awarded marks out of 10 for each movement; these marks are converted into penalty points.

Scale of Marks – Half marks may also be given.

10	Excellent	6	Satisfactory	2	Bad
9	Very Good	5	Sufficient	1	Very Bad
8	Good	4	Insufficient	0	Not Performed
7	Fairly Good	3	Fairly Bad		

Dressage Transgression	Penalties
Not entering arena within 1 minute of steward's call	1 for every 5 seconds late
Error of Course (no maximum of errors)	5 per error
Turnout leaving the arena	20
Calling test in Novice Class	0
Calling Test in Intermediate or Open Class	3 per occurrence
CD Coach taking up contact on reins	3 per occurrence

Conobstacles – the driver's overall time taken will be converted to penalty points.

Conobstacles Transgression	Penalties
Dislodged ball	3
Error of course	5 per occurrence
Stop / refusal / disobedience	5
CD Coach taking up contact on reins	3 per occurrence
Omitting to drive a set of cones	20
Unintentional cantering	5 after 3 strides
Intentional cantering	10

The winner of each class is the driver with the lowest combined penalties from the Dressage and Conobstacle phases.

The organisers reserve the right to transfer drivers to a different class if felt appropriate.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- All drivers and turnouts must be a member of a registered RDA Carriage Driving Group.
- If you have drivers sharing a turnout, please ensure that this is stated on the competition entry form along with which driver they wish to go first.

Countryside Challenge

1. Dress

All riders should be dressed in correct riding wear, as far as possible. Riders, leaders and sidewalkers should be dressed alike. Leaders should always wear gloves. A body protector may be worn, provided it is correctly fitted and of the current standard. Riding hats should be tagged and of the correct standard, this includes leaders and sidewalkers. Please see the relevant section for approved hat and body protector standards.

2. Tack

RDA approved special equipment is permitted. Please see the relevant section for approved special equipment.

3. Rider Categories

The countryside challenge classes are divided into Junior, Senior and Open.

- a) Junior Riders – May compete as Juniors until the end of the year in which they reach the age of 16.
- b) Senior Riders – Riders over the age of 16.
- c) Open Riders - Riders who have been Overall Class Champion in the same class for 2 consecutive years at the RDA National Championships.

4. Visually Impaired Riders

- a) All visually impaired riders must be classified by British Blind Sport as either B1, B2, B3, B4 or B5.
- b) Riders who compete in the classes at regional level have automatic qualification for the National Championships providing they achieve 65% or over.
- c) Riders may have a leader/sidewalker but they must not instruct the rider. They can also have callers on the course.
- d) Riders must provide and wear a white armband at all times to alert the judge, steward and other riders that they are visually impaired.

5. Hearing Impaired Riders

- a) Riders must provide and wear a yellow armband at all times to alert the judge, steward and other riders that they are hearing impaired and that signing may be used.
- b) The commander may stand in different positions around the course to enable the rider to interpret the sign language.

6. Classes with Leaders & Side walkers

In the led classes, where riders are physically unable to organise their reins into one hand to complete a task with the other, they may lay the reins down neatly on the horse's neck, with the buckle/join in the middle. Leaders do not have to change sides when the rein is changed. Leaders must lead at the 3rd stage of leading.

In classes with side walkers a lead rein must be carried.

7. Commanders

In the unled classes, commanders should stand in a central or roving central position and must carry a leadrope. In the led classes, the leader or side helper may act as commander, but should be careful to limit instructions to the text given on the course details. Side walkers will be allowed to give clearer and more detailed instruction to visually impaired riders.

8. The Competition

All classes are open to riders with physical disabilities and/or learning disabilities. The walk only option is available in all classes.

Classes are split into the following categories:

- a) Led with 1 side walker
- b) Led or 1 side walker
- c) Visually Impaired led with 1 side walker
- d) Visually Impaired led or 1 side walker
- e) Independent
- f) Visually Impaired independent

Side walkers must not be in contact with rider unless in an emergency.

A small fence will be included in the independently ridden class only. For this class, a commander **MUST** stand in the arena (in a central position) and hold a lead rope in case of emergency. Riders who wish to jump in this class must be assigned to an approved Level 2 Showjumping RDA Group.

9. The Course & Obstacles

It is important that all leaders & side walkers are fully informed and know the permitted instructions as detailed below. They must not bring any paperwork into the arena with them. Riders, Leaders & side walkers are strongly advised to walk the course prior to competing. Times for course walks will be advertised.

LED CLASSES

Leaders must lead at the 3rd stage of leading – Leaders do not need to change sides when the rein is changed.

COMMANDERS

In the unled classes, commanders should be in a central or roving position, with a leadrope. In the led classes the leader or side walker may act as commander, but should be careful to limit the instructions to the text in bold. Side walkers will be allowed to give clearer and more detailed instruction to visually impaired and hearing impaired riders.

Visually Impaired (VI) Riders should wear a white armband (not provided) Hearing Impaired Riders should wear a yellow armband (not provided)

Each rider may attempt each obstacle twice only. If the obstacle is still unsuccessful, the rider must move on to the next obstacle. The walk only option is available in all classes.

Scoring & Penalties

Marks out of 10 will be awarded for the performance of horses/ponies as part of every obstacle. Riders will be marked on effort as

well as performance and leaders/helpers are urged to give their riders the time and opportunity to do their own riding as far as is possible. Additional marks are awarded for the general impression of the team, obedience of pony/horse and riders effort and performance. For led classes leaders/side walkers will be marked on their leading/side walking skills.

A running commentary of instructions to the rider is not acceptable and will be penalised by a deduction of marks.

Please note that no horses are permitted on the course other than when they are competing, if this rule is not adhered to it may result in elimination or the rider will only be able to continue HC (Hors Concours).

10. Scale of Marks

10	excellent	4	insufficient
9	very good	3	fairly bad
8	good	2	bad
7	fairly good	1	very bad
6	satisfactory	0	not executed
5	sufficient		

Half marks are permitted.

In the event of a tie the collective marks shall be added together and the competitor with the highest total declared the winner. If the collectives are equal, the rider with the higher rider collective mark is the winner. If the rider collectives are identical then the submission mark will decide. If the marks are still identical, the results shall be a tie.

11. Qualification for National Championships

Qualifying for the National Championships will be up to the Region to choose either:

- a) Through the Regional Qualifier where the first 2 in the line-up for each section who are able to attend will be accepted. (Therefore at the Regional Qualifiers if the 1st and 2nd cannot go forward, only those placed 3rd or 4th may do so). In sections of 10 or more the first 3 will qualify. All riders must achieve 65% or over to qualify.
- b) If a qualifier is not held, a Region may nominate up to 2 seniors and 2 juniors for each class, who are considered up to standard. The standard required for a regionally nominated competitor must be judged by a person conversant with the standard required for the National Championships (i.e. not less than 65%).

Dressage

For all tack and dress rules (with exception to special equipment – please see relevant section for special equipment/tack/dress rules) we follow British Dressage. You can view their handbook online www.britishdressage.co.uk

1. Rider Categories

Dressage classes are divided into Junior, Senior and Open.

- a) Junior Riders – may compete as Juniors until the end of the year in which they reach the age of 16.
- b) Senior Riders – Riders over the age of 16 who are not an Open Rider.
- c) Open Riders – Riders who have competed FEI or BD Para Silver or Bronze Championships in the previous 4 years and those that have been Overall Class Champion in the same class for 2 consecutive years at the RDA National Championships.

2. Visually Impaired Riders

- a) All visually impaired riders must be classified by British Blind Sport.
- b) Riders who compete in the visually impaired classes must qualify at their Regional Qualifier prior to entry in National Championships.
- c) Riders who compete in Grade 4 or 5 classes must qualify at their Regional Qualifying competition.
- d) Riders may ride a circuit inside the arena on both reins, including a change of rein, prior to starting the test. When the signal to commence the test is given riders may start the test from inside or outside the arena.
- e) Riders may have eight callers outside the arena and one inside. The caller inside may only call the letters X, D or G. The inside caller may neither walk alongside the rider nor “instruct” them.
- f) Riders are also allowed a commander in addition to the above.
- g) Riders must provide and wear a white armband at all times to alert the judge, steward and other riders that they are visually impaired.

3. Leaders in Led Tests

The leader should lead from the inside, changing sides where necessary. In a led test where the rider is visually impaired, they may have callers as above, this must be declared at time of entry.

4. Assistance in Unled Tests

In an unled test, riders are allowed a commander and one other assistant to stand outside the arena in case of an emergency.

5. The Competition

- a) When the steward asks the competitor to proceed to the arena they may ride around the outside of the arena (or inside if this is not possible). When the judge sounds the bell/horn to signal that the rider may commence the test they should begin without delay. Failure to enter the arena within 60 seconds may lead to elimination. The commander may relay the signal to start to the competitor.
- b) All tests may be ridden from memory or commanded.
- c) Movements must follow in the order laid down in the test. Tests should be ridden with both hands if possible. Transitions may be progressive unless stated otherwise on the test sheet.
- d) Where riders have been issued a dispensation card they should be made available if requested by the Judge.

6. Commanders

Commanders may only read from the text, twice if necessary but no more, using letters and/or colours/objects that appear on RDA dressage diagrams and may indicate left and right. Any deviation from the above must be agreed with the judge before the test starts. On a signal being given for an error of course, the competitor must proceed immediately to the judge(s) to receive instructions. The commander may interpret the instructions.

Commanders may be used in all National Championships Dressage tests. In all outdoor arenas commanders must stand at E where possible.

Commanders for Hearing Impaired – riders must provide and wear a yellow armband at all times to alert the judge, steward and other riders that they are hearing impaired. A commander is allowed to relay instructions to the rider from the judge during the competition by sign language. An FM wireless hearing aid system (radio aid) can be used during warm up and competition. No wireless personal coaching systems are to be worn in competition but are permitted in warm up. Commanders may only read from the text, twice if necessary but not more. A steward must be present at the time of competition.

7. Leaving the Arena

The test begins when the horse enters at A and finishes when it leaves the arena at A or where appropriate after completing the test. A fall of horse/rider after the final salute may not be penalised, this is at the judge's discretion. After a fall, any horse/rider must be checked over before being permitted to continue as per the rider fall rule.

No marks shall be given for a movement when the horse places all four feet outside the arena (only applicable if continuous boards). Where the arena is marked by a line only or intermittent boards, it is left to the discretion of the judge as to the marks deducted. In exceptional circumstances if an unusual occurrence takes place which has a dramatic effect on the horse, the rider may at the judge's discretion restart the test from an appropriate place.

8. Freestyle to Music

- a) All competitors must provide their own music on CD/USB. A steward shall be appointed to play the music, but each competitor will be allowed to have their own representative to advise as necessary.
- b) Music must have the rider's name, group, class and when to start music clearly marked on the CDs.

- c) Riders or their representatives must deliver their music to the music steward in time for instructions to be given. Competitors are responsible for collecting their music at the end of the class.
- d) Freestyle to Music rules as per BD Handbook.

11. Error(s) of Course & Penalties

As per BD handbook

12. Riding the Wrong Test

A rider who starts the wrong test for the class may be allowed to restart the test at the judge's discretion so long as they can do so immediately. They will be penalised for a first error of course.

13. Ties in Scoring

In the event of a tie the collective marks shall be added together and the competitor with the highest total declared the winner. If the collectives are equal, the rider with the higher rider collective mark is the winner. If the rider collectives are identical then the submission mark will decide. If the marks are still identical the results shall be a tie.

14. Time Allowed for Test

The time given on the test sheet is for guidance only. There are no penalties for exceeding it, except in freestyle tests.

15. Qualification for National Championships

In order to qualify for the National Championships riders must achieve at least 60% in their class at their Regional Qualifier. Qualifying classes will be split into junior and senior sections. The top two riders in each section achieving 60% or above will qualify for the National Championships. In sections of 10 or more the first 3 will qualify. If the

1st and 2nd placed riders are unable to go, only the 3rd and 4th placed riders may be nominated to go subject to the conditions above

16. National Championships Dressage Tests

- a) All dressage tests will be included in the Championships Schedule for the current year, including the costume and pairs to music.
- b) Please note that Grade 4 and 5 riders who do not wish to canter may ride in the 1-6 (non-graded) walk or walk & trot Championship Classes.
- c) Riders may also ride a freestyle to music test that corresponds with their Championship class i.e. Grade 3 riders must ride the Grade 3 freestyle and I/D canter test riders must ride the I/D canter freestyle test.
- d) All freestyle tests are to music.
- e) Riders with learning disabilities must compete within their own classes unless a physical disability allows them to compete in the non-graded classes.

20. Arena Layout

- a) The arena should be set out to the dimensions and criteria described in the British Dressage handbook.
- b) The arena boards should be solid for visually impaired classes.

21. Dress Code

Jodhpurs/breeches and Jackets must be worn at RDA competitions where possible. This is mandatory for National Championships. At all events apart from the National Championships Group sweatshirts may be worn. Gloves should be worn if possible.

22. Rule Differences between BD, FEI & RDA

Rule	BD Para	RDA
Warm up before test	Grades I-III anyone for 30 mins per competition	Anyone can ride until 20mins prior to test. Rider only may ride in the 20mins prior to test
Time allowed entering arena	45 sec	60 sec
Salute	1 hand on reins	Either hand or nod
Commander	Yes (except at Championships) unless given exemption	Yes (read twice)
Use of voice	No unless given exemption	Yes
Resistance	20 sec	60 sec
Companion horse	Grade I, II & III only	Yes
Spurs	Yes	Yes (if legs under control, assessed by Coach)
Rising trot	Up to and inc elementary & in medium & extended trot at medium level	Yes
Bridle	Snaffle or double, all grades	Snaffle Double if approved
Whips	Yes	Yes. 2 with exemption
Errors of course	3 rd eliminates	4 th eliminates

Endurance

1. Dress

- a) All hats and body protectors must conform to RDA Standards and hats must be tagged. Please see relevant section for approved hat and body protector standards.
- b) Hi-Viz should be worn on horse, rider and any leaders or sidewalkers when leaving RDA venue.
- c) When competing, riders must wear a number/bib with number on whilst completing the course and during the vet check point/s.

2. Tack

All tack used in group sessions may be used for Endurance. In line with Endurance GB rules, all tack must be safe and fit correctly and whips must not exceed 75cm unless permission is applied for in advance. Toe stoppers or other caged stirrups are essential where non-standard riding footwear is worn even if safety stirrups are used.

3. Rider Categories

- a) At the National Championships RDA Endurance is split into distance classes. A none disabled none mounted escort is allowed at all levels. The distances available in RDA currently are:
 - 1km
 - 2km
 - 3km
 - 5km
- b) Distances 1km, 2km and 3km will be split into Led and Unled sections at Championships.
- c) Distances 5km, 10km and 15km will be scored as unled riders.

Endurance League

To take part in the League, Groups need to be registered as an Endurance Group. Participants can enter the league ridden, on a mechanical horse and Carriage Driving. Riding and driving can take place in an arena or out on a hack. A maximum of 2km distance at any one time can be ridden in an arena but a distance of 1km is preferred by physiotherapists especially for small arenas. Endurances rides can now be accompanied by a ridden Coach and also be ridden on quiet roads where off-road riding is not possible. A risk assessment must be completed before these activities take place. You will find these on the Myrda website.

Endurance time cards need to be filled in with details of distance and horses heart rate before and after exercise and sent to Emma Bayliss at National Office. Time cards can be found in the Endurance section on Myrda website. You can also find videos showing you how to take horses heart rate. Please contact your Regional Vet if you would like more guidance on this.

4. Ride Speeds

Calculating ride speeds.

- i. To work out ride speeds, use the formula below:
 $\text{Speed} = \text{distance} \div \text{time}$

Example:

A 2km ride takes 20 minutes. First change the 20 minutes to decimal, which is 0.33hr (20 divided by 60 = 0.33), then take the 2 and divide by 0.33 which gives you 6km per hr.

- ii. Alternatively use the table on the following page.

Speed (Km per Hour)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Distance (Km)	1	01:00	0:30	0:20	0:15	0:12	0:10	0:08	0:07	0:06	0:05	5
	2	02:00	1:00	0:40	0:30	0:24	0:20	0:17	0:15	0:12	0:10	0:10
	3	03:00	1:30	1:00	0:45	0:36	0:30	0:26	0:22	0:18	0:16	0:15
	5	05:00	2:30	1:40	1:15	1:00	0:50	0:43	0:37	0:30	0:27	0:25
	6	06:00	03:00	02:00	1:30	01:12	01:00	0:43	0:45	0:36	0:32	0:30
	7	07:00	03:30	02:20	01:45	01:24	01:10	01:00	0:52	0:42	0:38	0:35
	8	08:00	04:00	02:40	02:00	01:36	01:20	1:09	1:00	0:48	0:43	0:40
	9	09:00	04:30	03:00	02:15	01:48	01:30	01:17	1:07	0:54	0:49	0:45
	10	10:00	5:00	3:20	2:30	2:00	1:40	1:26	01:15	01:00	0:54	0:50
	11	11:00	5:30	3:40	2:45	2:12	1:50	1:34	1:22	1:06	1:00	0:55
	12	12:00	6:00	4:00	3:00	2:24	2:00	1:42	1:30	1:12	1:05	1:00
	13	13:00	6:00	4:20	3:15	2:36	2:10	1:51	1:37	1:18	1:10	1:05
	14	14:00	6:30	4:40	3:30	2:48	2:20	2:00	1:45	1:24	1:16	1:10
	15	15:00	7:30	5:00	3:45	3:00	2:30	2:05	1:52	1:30	1:21	1:15

5. The Course

- a) Rides/drives can take place in an indoor or outdoor arena as well as suitable fields or tracks.
- b) Rides/drives that are 3km and above must not take place solely in an arena. Where possible, Groups are encouraged to organise their ride/drive in a field or outdoor track as it will reduce the stress/work for both horse and rider when riding a straight line rather than continually turning in a school.
- c) You must ensure there is a safe entry and exit to the route/venue for riders, drivers, horses and pedestrians.
- d) For specific course details that are relevant to the distance you are wanting to complete, please refer to the guidance notes available on the RDA Endurance webpage.

6. Time Allowed

- a) RDA Endurance can be ridden recreationally and with no minimum speed. However, a benefit of this activity is that it gives riders an ability to aim towards a goal time and look to improve ability and stamina. Therefore RDA's recognised minimum and maximum speeds are:

Minimum speed = 2km/h

Maximum speed = 12km/h

7. Mounted Escorts & Leading

- a) Mounted leading is not permitted at any time (mounted leading in Endurance is defined as leading riders, horse to horse)
- b) Mounted escorting is permitted if required, but the risk assessment on the RDA Endurance webpage must be completed.
- c) Leading on foot is permitted in RDA Endurance for 1 – 10km (it should obviously be dictated by the pace and level fitness of the leaders, due to the competitive ride speeds involved). The Rider must have control of the horse, and be led using the 3rd stage of the RDA guidance, 3 Levels of Leading.

8. Qualification for RDA National Championships

RDA National Championships are direct entry. No qualification is required.

9. The Competition

The specific performance formula to use for Championship level and the way it is worked out is:

$(\text{Speed} \times 2 - \text{Minimum Speed}) \times 100$ divided by heart rate; speed in kph; heart rate per minute. The table matrix with all the competition speeds and further full competition details will be available on the RDA website www.myrda.org.uk

Showing

Individual Competition

Classes are open to individuals, both junior and senior on horses or ponies.

Classes

All classes are ridden:

- led walk & trot
- independent walk & trot
- independent walk, trot & canter

Class Format

Riders will enter in a group at walk on the right rein and will then be asked to line up.

A short individual show will be performed by each rider who will then return to the line up. Riders may then be asked to walk round on the right rein whilst the judges make their final decision. They will then be called in by the Steward in placing order.

Individual Shows

Walk Trot Led Class: Walk away from the judge and trot back towards them. Show two 20 metre circles with transitions to walk and then trot. Halt and salute requested at the start and finish.

Walk Trot Independent: Walk away from the judge and trot back towards them. Show a combination of walk and trot with a change of rein.

Both individual shows must be under 1.5 minutes. Halt and salute requested at the start and finish.

Walk, Trot, Canter: Walk away from the judge and trot back towards them. Show a short section of walk, then trot and canter. Trot and canter should be performed on both reins. Not to last for more than 2 minutes. Halt and salute requested at the start and finish.

These are guidelines only and individuals may adopt their own show to suit their horse/pony, riding enjoyment/ability.

Class will be judged on:

- Turnout – cleanliness and condition of equine/tack
- Conformation of the equine with the suitability for the rider/job in mind
- Overall impression

RDA horses are not bought nor produced as show horses. An overall impression of the suitability of the horse's conformation and type, for the rider should be taken into account.

Conformational issues regarding lumps, bumps and scars should not be a deciding factor.

Clothing for the rider should be neat and tidy. RDA riders may not always have access to the ideal and correct showing equipment. This also applies to the horses tack but tack must fit correctly, be clean and in good condition. Double bridles may be used if previously approved by Regional Coach. Further information on turnout can be supplied by the RDA if required prior to judging.

For all **SEIB RDA Search for a Star** rules please visit www.seib.co.uk/competitions/

Showjumping

1. Dress

- a) All riders when mounted should be correctly dressed.
- b) Jodhpurs or breeches must be worn at RDA Competitions where possible.
- c) Level 1, 2 & 3 riders may wear group sweatshirts at RDA Competitions.
- d) Level 4, 5 and all Graded riders must wear traditional style jackets at RDA Competitions where possible. This is compulsory at RDA National Championships.
- e) Gloves are optional.
- f) Riding hats must be worn and tagged with an RDA hat tag. Body protectors are optional at all levels. Please see relevant section for hat and body protector standards.

2. Whips

One whip or two if necessary may be carried (with special dispensation from Regional Coach or classification). Maximum length 75 cm with, minimum total length 45 cm.

3. Tack

- a) Martingales: Irish, Standing, Running or Bib martingales are permitted. Only one of which may be worn at any time. Standing Martingales may be attached only to the cavesson part of the noseband fitted above the bit.
- b) Market Harboroughs are not permitted.
- c) Bit guards may be used, only entirely rubber and smooth on both sides are permitted.
- d) Double bridles are not to be used.
- e) Boots and bandages may be worn if required.
- f) Neck/balance straps attached to a martingale breastplate are permitted.

4. Permitted Bits

- a) Pelhams must be used with roundings or two reins.
- b) For further information on the bits permitted in RDA showjumping classes please consult the British Showjumping bit rules:
www.britishshowjumping.co.uk

5. Rider Categories

The showjumping classes are split into separate categories and have sub sections within each category as follows:

- a) Level 1 – poles on the ground, led or unled
- b) Level 2 – 15-30 cm, led or unled
- c) Level 3 – 60 cm, unled
- d) Level 4 – 70 cm, unled
- e) Level 5 – 80 cm, unled
- f) Grade 1 – 70 cm, unled
- g) Grade 2 – 80 cm, unled
- h) Grade 3 – 90 cm, unled
- i) Grade 4 – 70 cm (visually impaired), unled

6. Visually Impaired

Visually impaired riders are allowed a (non-coaching) commander within the arena and one other assistant to stand outside the arena in case of an emergency. Alternatively, visually impaired riders may choose to follow a lead horse.

It must be made clear that the commander or lead rider is merely guiding the rider round the course and not instructing them. A safe distance must be maintained between the lead rider and competitor at all times, around the course.

Lead riders may use their voice at a level suitable for the competitor.

7. Led Classes (levels 1 & 2)

Riders in the led classes must be led and if required, side walkers may be present. Side walkers are there to support the rider, they may not command during the class and they may not instruct the rider.

8. Commanders: Commanders may only be used for visually impaired, as stated in rule 6.

9. The Competition: All classes are split into junior/senior/open

Arena

The recommended arena size:

Level 1&2 sessions is 20m x 40m,

Level 3&4 is 30m x 40m or 20m x 60m minimum to accommodate canter strides, at the Coach's discretion and depending on the size of the facilities available.

NB that at the National Championships the approximate arena size for the Levels are:

Levels 2 & 3 is 30m x 40m. **Level 4** will be the full Arena 30m x 60m.

At all levels riders must ride through the start and finish line.

Level 1 is conducted in walk only, led or unled, the rider is required to complete a course of 4 poles on the ground, paying attention to riding correct lines on the approach and after a fence. The rider should maintain the light seat position and must make every effort to show an attempt to use light rein contact while riding over the poles. This class is not timed.

Level 2 is conducted in trot, led or unled, the rider is required to complete a course of 5 fences including a cross pole and uprights. They should ride correct lines on the approach and after a fence, maintain a balanced jumping position and must make every effort to show an attempt to use light rein contact whilst riding over the jumps. Riders should be working in a balanced trot. Marks will be deducted if canter is shown outside the shaded area as shown in the Level 2 course plan. Marks will also be deducted if the rider is seen to be creating impulsion i.e. kicking or use of the whip to encourage the horse to canter in the shaded area. If the horse is seen to be in canter from its own forwardness when landing after fence 1 and fence 4, this is permitted. The class is not timed.

Riders may walk between jumps 2 - 3 and 3 - 4. This may be appropriate if a leader is present and needs time to rest, or if any horse or pony is getting strong; this will be the correct location on course to regain control. Leaders and riders must be aware that as soon as you approach the straight line to the jump the horse/pony must be in trot.

Level 3 is conducted in canter. The rider is required to complete a course of 5 fences including a cross pole, uprights and 1 spread fence. They should ride correct lines on the approach and after a fence, maintain a balanced jumping position and must demonstrate light rein contact whilst riding over the jumps. Riders should be working in a controlled balanced canter, and showing an independent performance. Riders will be expected if necessary, to trot to change lead legs between jumps 2 to 3 and 3 to 4 This class is not timed.

Level 4 is conducted in canter. The rider is required to complete a course of 8 fences with a two-stride double. They should ride correct lines on the approach and after a fence, maintain a balanced jumping position and must demonstrate a light rein contact whilst riding over the jumps. This class is not timed and is judged in the same context as levels 1-3, as an equitation class.

Level 5 and all BS Graded classes will run as a single-phase competition where the course is split into two sections. If the rider successfully completes the first section without faults they can then complete the second section. The second section is in principle a jump off course which may be increased by up to 10cm from the upper height limit for the class.

No horse may compete more than once in Level 4, Level 5 or BS Graded classes.

All graded classes are run under British Showjumping Club rules, as well as in accordance with the RDA Championship rules.

Grade 1 between 10-13 fences, no double.

Grade 2 & 3 between 10-13 fences, which may include 1 double on two non-jumping strides.

Grade 4 between 10-13 fences, no double.

10. Course Plans

The start and finish line must be a minimum of 6 metres and maximum of 25 metres from the first and last fence. The start and finish lines must each be defined by 2 markers, cones or flags.

For Levels 1-4 full course details and guidance notes can be found on the RDA Showjumping Competition Handbook and web. Riders are advised to read all the resources that are available.

Please refer to course plans on the website.

In Summary

Level 1 Jumps number 1-4 poles on ground. Cones may be placed to aid rider with correct lines.

Level 2 Jumps number 1 and 2: cross poles, jumps 3, 4 and 5: upright. Maximum height of jumps, 6" - 12" / 15cm - 30cm at the centre of the jump. Cones maybe used to mark Start and Finish lines but must be position so they don't aid the rider with the correct lines around corners.

Level 3 Jump number 1 cross pole, jump 2 upright, 3 spread (cross pole front with straight pole behind) 4 and 5 upright.

Maximum height of jumps: 2ft / 60cm at the centre of the upright jump. Spread Maximum width and height must not exceed 50cm Cones maybe used to mark Start and Finish lines but must be position so they don't aid the rider with the correct lines around corners.

Level 4 Course to include the following 5 uprights, 3 spreads, 3 fences with fillers, a two stride double not to exceed 60 cm. one of the uprights should be planks (flat cups must be used for planks. Safety cups must be used on back rail of spreads.

Uprights Maximum height = 70cm Spread Maximum width and height must not exceed 60cm Cones maybe used to mark Start and Finish lines but must be position so they don't aid the rider with the correct lines around corners.

Level 5 and all Graded classes a plan of the course including details of jump off fences and the distance and time allowed must be displayed in the collecting ring at least 1 hour prior to the start of the competition. The start and finish line must be a minimum of 6 metres and maximum of 25 metres from the first and last fence. The start and finish lines must each be defined by 2 flags or markers.

The course must be clearly numbered in the sequence in which they are to be jumped. In this context a double is to be numbered as one obstacle and each obstacle comprising the double must be lettered A and B on the course plan. The second part of the course to be used for the jump off must also be clearly numbered.

11. Walking the Course

Competitors are permitted to walk the course (unmounted) before the start of the competition.

12. Time Allowed

The time allowed must be stated on the course plan. All Graded and Level 5 competitions will run at 325m/minute. The time limit is twice the time allowed, exceeding this will incur elimination.

13. Time Faults

- When the bell rings riders have 45 seconds to go through the start.
- For every commenced period of 1 second in excess of time allowed, riders will be penalised by 1 time penalty.

14. Scoring & Penalties:

Levels 1-4 will be judged as an equitation class

Starting the class, a bell, whistle or flag lowered will indicate as a signal for the rider to start.

A deaf rider/rider with a hearing impairment will need to watch the judge for a signal to start. Riders or their representatives must notify the judge and agree on a method of showing the rider via a flag waving method, alerting them when to start.

At ALL levels there will be a Start and Finish line clearly marked which competitors must pass through.

Collective marks will be awarded for control, effectiveness, suitability and overall performance. Marks will be given out of 10.

Penalties will be awarded as follows:

- Level 1 & 2 marks will be deducted at any jump where the leader is seen to be giving help.
- Level 2, 3 & 4 marks will be deducted if correct pace is not maintained on the approach to each jump.
- Knockdown = 4 faults
- First disobedience = 4 faults
- Second disobedience = 4 faults
- Third disobedience = elimination
- Error of course = elimination
- Failure to ride through the start and finish will result in elimination.
- Fall of horse or rider = elimination
- Jumping the wrong course = elimination

N.B. Grade IV – all faults apply to both competitor and lead rider.

15. Scale of Marks

For levels 1 – 4 which are equitation classes, they will be scored using the scale of marks as outlined below: The marks 10 and 0 must be awarded where the performances warrant their use. By 'not executed' nothing which is required has been performed.

10 excellent	4 insufficient
9 very good	3 fairly bad
8 good	2 bad
7 fairly good	1 very bad
6 satisfactory	0 not executed
5 sufficient	

16. Qualification for National Championships

Levels 2 (unled only) 3 and 4

In order to qualify for the National Championships riders must achieve at least 60% in their class at their Regional Qualifier. Qualifying classes will be split into junior and senior sections. The top two riders in each section achieving 60% or above will qualify for the National Championships. In sections of 10 or more the first 3 will qualify. If the 1st and 2nd placed riders are unable to go, only those placed 3rd and 4th may be nominated subject to the conditions above.

If a **level 4** qualifier is not being held within your region then the qualifying process for Level 5 may be used.

Level 5

Competitors should be nominated by their Group Coach. They can do this by contacting the Championships Co-ordinator at National Office as early as possible with their recommendation and strong evidence of competing at this level. This evidence could be a current proven competition record or video evidence of the combination. The Showjumping Lead will review all applications individually and their decision will be final.

Grades 1-4 (I-IV)

In order to qualify for the BS Graded Showjumping classes at the RDA National Championships riders must:

- Possess a current British Showjumping membership
- Have been classified for showjumping

Vaulting

RDA Vaulting follow the rules set by British Equestrian Vaulting (BEV)
British Equestrian Vaulting - BEV Association (britishvaulting.org)

1. Dress

- Riding hats must meet RDA hat standards and must not have a peak. See relevant section for current hat standards.
- Dress must be formfitting and all articles of clothing, or parts thereof, must remain attached to the Vaulters' body at all times.
- Dress must in no way compromise the safety of either Vaulters or horse
- Soft shoes must be worn
- Lungers should harmonise with the team and it is recommended that gloves and suitable shoes are worn

1. Tack

- A snaffle bridle should be used
- Bit guards are permitted
- Vaulting surcingle/roller with under pad, girth and back pad
- Lunge rein
- Lunge whip capable of reaching the horse on a 15m circle
- Bandages and boots are optional
- Ear muffs and plugs are permitted
- Lunge cavessons are allowed

The lunge rein must be attached to the inner ring of the bit or to a lunge cavesson, not over the head or to the other ring.

2. Horses

Horses must be approved by a Vaulting Assessor prior to competition and must be seven years old or above. Trained vaulting horses can be provided upon request but groups may bring their own. Should the participant need to borrow a vaulting horse, the horse provided will be lunged by an experienced lunger nominated by the organiser.

3. Competitions

Competitions will be run according to BEV rules.

For Pre Novice Individuals, Pairs and Teams are scored accordingly. The full BEV rules can be found in the BEV rule book on line

www.britishvaulting.org/get-involved/rules/bev-rules

- Warm up time will be given with the horse in the main arena before each team enters the competition area.
- Additional assistants are also allowed in the competition arena to bunk, sidewalk, prompt etc and may give assistance to the vaulters throughout the competition
- Groups are reminded that the wearing of protective headgear is compulsory for RDA vaulters and freestyle exercises should be chosen with this in mind.
- Team, pairs and individual competitions can be performed on either the barrel or on the horse. In order to create more level competition vaulters must choose either barrel or horse i.e. they cannot do compulsories on the horse and then freestyle on the barrel.
- The horse will be judged throughout and will gain a score in accordance with BEV rules.

Team Competition

- Teams are made up of 6 vaulters, one horse and a lunger. The vaulting team may include up to 2 non-disabled vaulters who must be RDA volunteers. The lunger must hold the RDA Vaulting lunging certificate and be 18 years or over.

There are two elements of the competition which will run consecutively and music should be used in all sections.

1. Run in and bow to the judge.
Bow to judge and run out at the end.
2. Freestyle. The freestyle section should include work in singles and pairs but not in threes. Time allowed for freestyle is 4 minutes (max).

To give everyone the opportunity to compete, vaulting teams can be

made up of vaulters from different RDA Groups. If you need vaulters for your team or have people who would like to join a team please contact the Championships co-ordinator at RDA National Office.

Pairs Competition

This will be run as an open competition with no age restrictions.

- On the barrel, freestyle
- On the horse, walk freestyle

Individual Competition

Individuals will be split into 3 age groups:

- a. 10 years and under
- b. 11 – 16 years
- c. 17 years and over

Classes will be split so that individuals can choose to perform on the barrel or horse. They will not be permitted to do compulsories on the horse then freestyle on the barrel or vice versa. Classes will be as follows:

- On the barrel, pre novice compulsories and freestyle – all ages
- On the horse, pre-novice compulsories and walk freestyle
- On the horse pre novice canter compulsories and walk freestyle – all ages
- On the horse pre novice canter compulsories and canter freestyle – all ages

If insufficient entries, age groups in classes will be amalgamated.

5. Music

Music should be changed to reflect the requirement from the schedule. For the RDA National Championships music must be brought to the

National Championships on a CD and USB clearly marked with the classes and vaulters name.

6. Competition Running Order

Once the secretary has received all the entries a running order will be drawn up to make the best use of time and save energy of both vaulters and horses. This will be sent to groups as soon as it is available.

7. Scoring & Penalties

As per BEV Ltd Rules

Compulsories:

Basic position with hands by sides

Bench

Leg to the middle and back down the same side

Freestyle: As per BEV Ltd Rules

Scale of Marks

10 excellent

9 very good

8 good

7 fairly good

6 satisfactory

5 sufficient

4 insufficient

3 fairly bad

2 bad

1 very bad

0 not executed or as a result of deductions

8. Qualification for National Championships

There is no requirement for vaulters to qualify for the RDA National Championships.

UKSA/Virtus Global Games

- UKSA is the only national disability sports organisation working with people with learning disability across the UK in performance/elite sport.
- The only official Great Britain member of Virtus, the international federation for athletes with intellectual disability, down syndrome and autism
- UKSA classify athletes for them to be able to compete in the Virtus Virtual Global Games
- Recognised by UK Sport and a member of the British Paralympic Association.
- Part of the Paralympic pathway and route to Virtus Global Games.

For 2022 we will use our Regional Qualifiers to recognise participants who have potential to go forward for classification. Participants must score over 60% In Junior Grade 7 (formerly ID) Walk & Trot and Junior Grade 7 (formerly ID), Walk, Trot and Canter plus Seniors scoring over 60% in Grade 7 (formerly ID) Walk, Trot and Canter. They must also be placed in top three placings.

Participants achieving this criteria, will be invited to go forward to UKSA for classification. For more info on classification criteria and process please see UKSA website. Please note an IQ report is part of this process. If a participant doesn't already have one of these, UKSA can help you locate an approved Psychologist, but the participant will be liable for the cost of approx. £200. Classification cost is £65 for provisional standard classification (this is the standard accepted in 2021)

Once a participant has been selected from regional level and satisfied the classification criteria, they will need to compete in their relevant Grade 7 (formerly ID) class at RDA National Championships scoring 63% or more and be placed in the top three to qualify to represent GB in the Virtus Virtual Global Games.

To compete in the Games the participants will need to submit their entry with an entry fee of £95 and a video of their test. For 2021 participants had a choice of several FEI tests to choose which one they would like to ride. The test is judged by an international panel of judges.

The classification process must be completed by **Thursday 14th July** (day before RDA National Championships) If participants feel they may achieve the qualifying scores they are welcome to go through the classification process at any point from now until 14th July 2022. Participants will be liable for all the cost of classification even if they do not achieve their qualifying scores.

All rules may be subject to change by Virtus at any point. We will endeavour to keep RDA competitors informed as soon as we are aware of any changes

For more info see <http://www.uksportsassociation.org/> and <https://www.virtus.sport/>

Virtual Competing

Videos of tests must not be entered if they have already been judged in another competition. Any video which is suspected of having been filmed during another competition will not be accepted. As per face to face competing all discipline rules in the Competition Rulebook must be adhered to.

For Dressage competitions (including Carriage Driving Dressage) the person filming must stand behind C (so far as it is possible). The rider/driver enters the arena at the far end at A coming towards the camera, the judge's viewpoint.

For Showjumping competitions, the person videoing may stand in the most appropriate and safe position to be able to see the whole course.

For Countryside Challenge competitions, the person videoing may follow the competitor around the course to video each obstacle as long as it is safe to do so.

For Vaulting competitions the person videoing may stand outside the lunging circle where the judge would normally be.

For Showing competitions the person videoing may stand in the centre of the arena where the judge would normally be.

All competitors must introduce or have introduced, their name, horse, class and date at the start of their video entry. This can be verbally or written on a board and placed in front of the camera before they start their competition entry. Failure to do this will result in a minus two marks for all disciplines.

See our Myrda website page for more video hints and tips.

GDPR guidelines must be followed when dealing with video footage. For RDA GDPR guidelines please see our GDPR Policy on the Mydra website. Groups must adopt a Data Protection Policy and Privacy Policy Notice – these can be downloaded from the Policies page on Myrda. As per the six GDPR principles listed in our policy, data must not be held on to for longer than necessary. Once uploaded to Horse Monkey video data should be deleted.

Copyright laws must be adhered to when submitting any video footage or photographs or printed material. RDA will not be liable for any costs incurred as a result of infringement of copyright laws by any competitor or 3rd party.

Judges decisions are final.