

## 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.
- e) Gloves are optional.
- f) Body protectors are optional at all levels. If body protectors are worn the BETA 2009 (purple/white label) and 2018 (blue/black label) Level 3 Body Protector Standard meets all the requirements of the respective European standard (EN 13158).

N.B. **d** is compulsory at the RDA National Championships.

### 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:  
<http://www.britishshowjumping.co.uk/membership/Member-Handbook-And-Rule-Amendments>

### 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

#### 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.

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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 5 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 Regional Showjumping Representative. They can do this by contacting the Showjumping Coordinator 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