

A full-page background image showing a rider in a blue jacket and helmet smiling while riding a brown and white horse. The rider is wearing a blue helmet, glasses, and a blue jacket over a striped shirt. The horse is brown with white patches and is wearing a brown fly sheet and a black bridle. The background is a blurred green field.

British Dressage

Members' Handbook

Your guide to the rules and regulations
for training & competition activity in 2025.

www.britishdressage.co.uk

HASSLE WITH A SNAFFLE?

PROMOTING COMFORT

ENHANCING COMMUNICATION AND PERFORMANCE

Turtle Top™



Turtle Tactio™



THE MOST POPULAR DRESSAGE SNAFFLES

Available with a variety of cheeks. Also popular as a bridoon.

Need Advice?

Scan QR Code or call
0844 66 44 600



Need a Bit Fitter?

Scan QR Code to find a
local accredited Bit Fitter



Turtle Top & Turtle Tactio Patent Granted (WO2015121142 & WO2016030221) / Turtle Tilt Patent Applied For (WO2017001288)

**Neue
NS chule**

www.nsbits.com



British Dressage **vision**

British Dressage aims to be universally respected as an inclusive and successful sporting organisation, bringing people and horses together in harmony.

Our mission

To provide training, education and competition opportunities for all who enjoy dressage, whatever their aspiration and ability.

Objective of dressage

The development of a happy, healthy athlete through harmonious education.

As a result, horses become calm, supple, loose and flexible, but also confident, attentive and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding between athletes as a partnership.

www.britishdressage.co.uk

Welcome to the 2025 edition of the British Dressage Members' Handbook

Whether you're a rider, owner, coach, judge, steward, organiser or supporter of the sport, it's important that all British Dressage members take the time to understand our rules inside out before taking part in any affiliated competition or training activity.

Before getting started and setting your competition goals for the year ahead, please read the Code of Conduct for BD members, and familiarise yourself with our vitally important anti-doping, vaccination, and safeguarding requirements. Abiding by these rules will help to ensure that our sport is safe, welcoming, inclusive, accessible, equal and fair for all.

Our competition structure offers year-round opportunity to enjoy local, regional, and national activity at all levels. Please read through the handbook carefully before taking your horse or pony out to a BD competition – not only will it help you plan ahead for your campaign, but it also hosts all of the vital information on eligibility and qualification, as well as the permitted tack and equipment.

Horse welfare remains at the heart of everything we do in British Dressage, and as our sport increasingly comes under scrutiny we must work together to ensure that the physical health and emotional well-being of our equine partners remains our highest priority. It is our collective responsibility to be guardians for the horse and ambassadors for our sport, to ensure that dressage has a long-term and sustainable future.

Please take the time to fully read and understand the BD Charter for the Horse and Code of Conduct for Horse Welfare. It is not only our duty to adhere to the policies and practices set out in these rules, but we all have a role to play in promoting our sport in the best possible way, to actively demonstrate our genuine love for the horse.

For 2025, we have revised the annexes set out in the BD Members' Handbook covering our complaints and disciplinary procedures, including our whistleblowing policy. These changes are part of our BD Equine Welfare Action Plan as we strive to set and uphold the highest standards of governance. If you want to find out more about the Action Plan and the steps we will be taking in 2025 and beyond, please visit the BD website.

Thank you for your continued support of British Dressage and we wish you all the best on your dressage journey in 2025. Whatever your aims, ambitions and aspirations, we hope you have an enjoyable and successful year.

With best wishes,



Jason Brautigam
Chief Executive



British Dressage Horse Welfare Statement

In all respects, our over-riding principle is that the welfare of the horse is paramount and should never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences, or any other factors. All guidance in this handbook should be read and applied in accordance with this principle.

By participating in British Dressage activity, members agree to abide by the Charter of the Horse and BD Code of Conduct for Horse Welfare at all times. See pages 14-21 for full details. To maintain a consistent standard and approach to equine welfare, in both national and international competition, BD also adopts the FEI Code of Conduct for Horse Welfare and the FEI Equestrian Charter. All BD members are expected to adhere to these equine welfare policies governing both national and international equestrian sport, regardless of their individual role.

It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors of British Dressage (BD) to take the lead on welfare matters, formulating all associated policies and procedures. Technical Committees will also make policy recommendations on welfare issues relating to the areas that fall within their remit, which will then be reviewed by the Board. Equine welfare is a standing agenda item on all Board, Technical and Regional Committee meetings, with an escalation process in place to address any welfare issues or concerns that may arise.

British Dressage operates a Whistleblowing Policy, that includes the reporting of any breaches of the BD Charter for the Horse and Code of Conduct for Horse Welfare. The full Whistleblowing Policy is included in the Annexes section of the BD Members' Handbook for reference and is also available to view on the BD website.

BD Rules

These rules are intended principally for use in connection with national British Dressage competitions relating to all competitions affiliated to BD. However, the rules do not only relate to national competitions. Some rules, particularly with regard to conduct and discipline, are effective at all times and in any circumstance with regard to all BD matters.

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these rules. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, the relevant officials have a duty to make a decision in a sporting spirit, approaching as near to possible the intention of the rules and to protect the reputation of the sport of dressage in the UK and the welfare of the horse.

Matters that cannot be resolved by interpreting the rules to the letter should be resolved by following the spirit of the text to obtain a solution that is fairest to all members.

Amendments/changes to the rules in this book may be published in the British Dressage magazine (which is published eight times per year), in the member's e-newsletter and on the BD website.

Failure to comply with any published rule changes will be considered a breach of these rules. Only queries relating to this members' handbook that are submitted and answered in writing by an authorised member of staff will be binding on BD.

British Dressage Directors

British Dressage is responsible for regulating the sport of dressage in the UK. Our aim is to promote high ethical standards, applicable to all members, under rules and regulations that strive to be fair, transparent and efficient under the direction of the BD Board.

The Board determines our strategy, and then works with technical and regional committees and the Senior Management team and staff at HQ to deliver our mission.



Jill Day
Chairman



Caroline Godfrey
Deputy Chair /
Finance Director



Derek Pullem
Sport Operations
Director



Peter Storr
Judges Director



Richard Lane
Legal Director



Tracy Ormrod
Para Director



Judy Harvey
International
Director



Suzanne Homewood
Business Development
Director



Harry Payne
Training Director



Hannah Moody
BD Youth Director

British Dressage Departments

The day-to-day running of British Dressage (BD) is the responsibility of our BD staff based at our HQ at Meriden Business Park in the West Midlands and in our regions working to make competitive dressage in Britain happen.

Registered office:

Building 2020, Meriden Business Park, Copse Drive, Meriden, West Midlands CV5 9RG

T: 02476 698830

E: office@britishdressage.co.uk

Department contact details

Membership, horse registrations and results

Contact the membership team for any queries over yours or your horses' membership, results record or advice on how to get started with us.

Membership team | membership@britishdressage.co.uk | 02476 698832 | 02476 698836

Sport Operations

For queries over fixtures, venues or championships with British Dressage please contact the Sport Operations team. Sport Operations also cover our International, Youth International and Para operations.

Championships | operations@britishdressage.co.uk | 02476 698846

Quest | teamquest@britishdressage.co.uk | 02476 698845

International/Youth International | 02476 698835 | 02476 698834

Para and International | 02477 087803

Training and Education

This department is responsible for judges, stewards, coaches, BD Youth development and our flagship training events including the National Convention. Please use the relevant details below to get in touch.

Training and Education team | officials@britishdressage.co.uk

Judges | 02476 698831

Coaches | 02476 698840

BD Youth | 02477 087801

Marketing and Communications

The marketing team handle British Dressage event and membership marketing, advertising, sponsorship, social media and online content.

02476 698819

For media, press office, magazine or communications queries please contact the team.

communications@britishdressage.co.uk

02476 698839

Members' Handbook Contents

| Introduction Members' Handbook Overview | 10 - 52 |
|--|----------------|
| Code of Conduct for Members | 10 -12 |
| BD Charter for the Horse and Code of Conduct for Horse Welfare | 14 - 21 |
| Anti-doping and controlled medication | 22 - 23 |
| The Scales of Training | 24 - 26 |
| Dressage movements and their definitions | 28 - 42 |
| Safeguarding policy and procedures | 44 - 49 |
| British Dressage Social Media Policy | 50 - 52 |

| Section 1 British Dressage Rules | 54 - 157 |
|---|-----------------|
| Agreement | 55 |
| Rider membership | 56 - 59 |
| Horse registration | 59 - 66 |
| International rules | 66 - 71 |
| Para rules and qualification | 74 - 80 |
| Eligibility for competition | 81 - 106 |
| Entries and competition | 108 - 118 |
| Competition dress | 123 - 130 |
| Saddlery and tack | 131 - 141 |
| Riding the test, penalties and tests in use | 142 - 157 |

| Section 2 British Dressage Competitions | 158 - 189 |
|--|------------------|
| Associated Championships | 159 - 161 |
| Combined Training | 163 - 164 |
| Quest including Team Quest and My Quest | 166 - 185 |
| Regional team competitions | 186 - 189 |

| Section 3 British Dressage Championships | 190 - 212 |
|---|------------------|
| Area Festivals and Championships | 191 - 194 |
| Regional, Winter and National Championships | 197 - 206 |
| U21 and Middle Tour Championships | 207 - 208 |
| Young Horse and Pony Championships | 210 - 212 |
| Dressage Future Elite Championship | 213 |

| Section 4 British Dressage Officials | 214 - 221 |
|---|------------------|
| Judging with British Dressage | 215 - 218 |
| Code of Conduct for Judges | 219 |
| Judges' Guidelines | 220 - 221 |
| British Dressage coaches | 222 |

| Section 5 Annexes | 225 - 259 |
|--|------------------|
| Member Code of Conduct, Complaints & Disciplinary Procedures | 225 - 247 |
| Appointment of Disciplinary Panel & Judges Advisory Panel | 226 |
| Reporting of complaints against Members and/or Judges | 227 - 244 |
| Rules adjudication and feedback policy for Members | 245 - 247 |
| Whistleblowing policy | 248 - 253 |
| British Dressage members' legal helpline information | 254 |
| British Dressage members' insurance information | 255 - 259 |

INTRODUCTION

Members' Handbook

Code of Conduct for Members

Complaints of misconduct

1. The Disciplinary Panel of British Dressage are appointed by the Board to consider complaints of misconduct or breaches of these Rules by BD Members (as defined below) and, if necessary, to impose appropriate penalties or sanctions.
- 1.1. Rules shall mean and include:
 - i. provisions of the Memorandum or Articles of BD,
 - ii. the Rules, Codes of Conduct and Annexes set out in the BD Members' Handbook as amended from time to time.
 - iii. the FEI Rules relating to international competition.
 - iv. any rule, regulation or byelaw made by the Board.
- 1.2. Members remain subject to such provisions when participating in any event affiliated to a foreign national federation or to the FEI.
2. The Disciplinary Panel are empowered to hear any complaint pursuant to the Rules.
3. For the purposes of this Code and the Disciplinary Code, Members mean anyone who participates in BD activities at a show or otherwise including but not limited to members of British Dressage in all membership categories and riders, coaches, judges, stewards, writers, scorers, show organisers, office staff, committee representatives and any other volunteers acting on behalf of British Dressage.
4. A registered parent, guardian or carer of a member are also bound by this Code of Conduct. Any breaches of these Rules or Codes of Conduct by a parent, guardian or carer associated with a Member of British Dressage will result in that Member being subject to the disciplinary procedures, including imposing penalties or sanctions, if deemed appropriate as if they had breached the Rules themselves.
5. This Code of Conduct shall apply in any circumstance whether or not the offence or offences occur at a BD show/run event or elsewhere.

Code of conduct

6. No Member of British Dressage shall:
 - a) Conduct themselves in a manner which is or may be considered by the Disciplinary Panel to be offensive to the public.
 - b) Argue, threaten, behave with incivility/contempt or use abusive language towards any Member.
 - c) Behave in a way that may be considered inappropriate to other Members or members of the public. Inappropriate behaviour includes the use of foul language or acting in an intimidating or threatening way, acting with violence or fraudulently.
 - d) Post inappropriate words or images on social media that can be deemed offensive, intimidating, or threatening to other Members. See the BD Social Media Policy.
 - e) Discriminate on the grounds of race, colour, religion or belief, disability, sex, marital status, age, sexual orientation, nationality and ethnic or national origins.
 - f) Conduct themselves in a manner which is or may be in breach of the Rules. A Member shall be in breach of this rule in the event that any person who assists, represents, or acts on behalf of or in the employment of such Member during the course of a show affiliated to British Dressage, to the FEI or to any foreign national federation, conducts themselves in such a manner that were they a Member they would themselves be in breach of any of the provision of any rules.
 - g) Conduct themselves in a manner detrimental to the character and/or prejudicial to the interests of British Dressage.
 - h) Make, either orally, in writing or on social media, a statement on any matter covered by the rules, or relating to British Dressage or its members or equestrian sport in general, which is either untrue or could be misleading, inappropriate or offensive.
 - i) Use the action of the whip, spur, or the bit as a means of punishment, and/or misuse any item of tack and equipment in a manner likely to cause pain or discomfort to the horse or pony.
 - j) Ill-treat in any way a horse or pony under any circumstance, including the misuse or excessive use of a whip, spur, or the bit. See the BD Equine Welfare Policy.
 - k) Knowingly allow, or otherwise, a horse or pony for which they are responsible as owner, lessee, authorised agent, or rider to compete in any dressage competition under the influence of a prohibited substance. Such Member shall be in breach of this rule if the analysis of a sample taken from the said horse or pony shows the presence in its body fluids of any quantity of any substance, which is either a prohibited substance or one of its metabolites or a substance which cannot be traced to normal and ordinary feeding and which by its nature is likely to affect the performance of the horse or pony in competition.

- l) Unreasonably refuse to allow a horse or pony which has competed or is about to compete in a dressage competition, to undergo any properly authorised test or examination if requested to do so by an officer of British Dressage or the show organising committee. Refusal to allow a test for a forbidden substance constitutes a violation of the prohibition on forbidden substances and as such is of equal gravity to the finding of a forbidden substance.
- m) Compete as a rider in any dressage competition with a Prohibited Substance or its metabolite or mark in their system. A rider, by becoming a Member of British Dressage, is deemed to have agreed:
 - 1) To be bound and to comply strictly with the British Equestrian (BEF) Anti-Doping Rules for Human and Equine Athletes (without prejudice to any other anti-doping rules applicable to them).
 - 2) To submit to the authority of the BEF and/or of the UK Anti-Doping Organisation ("UKAD") to apply, police and enforce those Rules.
 - 3) To provide all requested assistance to the BEF and UKAD (as applicable) in the application, policing and enforcement of those rules, including (without limitation) cooperating fully with any investigation, results, management exercise, and/or proceedings being conducted pursuant to those rules in relation to any potential Anti-Doping Rule Violation(s); and except where the FEI has jurisdiction over the potential Anti-Doping Violation.
 - 4) To submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of any first instance tribunal convened under those rules to hear and determine charges and related issues arising under those rules.
 - 5) To submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of any appeal tribunal and/or Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) Panel convened under those rules and determine appeals made pursuant to those rules; and
 - 6) Not to bring any proceedings in any court or other forum that are inconsistent with the foregoing submission to the jurisdiction of the first instance tribunal, the appeal tribunal and CAS. A copy of the rules can be found on the BEF website at: <https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/equine/equine-anti-doping>. If a rider has a medical condition that requires them to take any Prohibited Substance, they may be able to obtain a Therapeutic Use Exemption Certificate (TUE). Further information on TUEs can be obtained either direct from the UKAD website: (<https://www.ukad.org.uk/tue-application>), and the FEI website: (<https://inside.fei.org/fei/cleansport/humans/tues>)
- n) Unreasonably refuse to give a sample of their body fluids for the purpose of control of prohibited substances.
- o) Compete as owner or rider in a competition for which the horse or pony and the rider are not fully and properly eligible pursuant to these rules.
- p) Allow a stallion for which they are responsible as owner, lessee, authorised agent, or rider to compete or be prepared to compete, in any dressage competition without taking adequate precautions to ensure other Members of the public are not put at risk of injury as a result of the actions of any horse, stallion or handler. Persons handling stallions should be aware of stallion management in public places.
- q) Exercise any of the rights or privileges of membership while suspended nor

assist, represent, or act on behalf of any other Member of British Dressage at a show affiliated to British Dressage, to the FEI or to any foreign national federation.

- r) Unreasonably fail or refuse to assist the Disciplinary Panel, or the Chief Executive in their investigations of complaints or misconduct by Members of British Dressage. This includes refusing to supply or release information or documents relating to a complaint and/or providing a witness statement and attending a hearing if so required.
- s) Encouraging, facilitating or inducing a Member to commit a breach of these rules or knowingly concealing a breach of these rules by themselves or another Member.
- t) Having indicated their availability or selection for an official British national team, unreasonably fail or refuse to compete in such a team if selected.
- u) Commit any criminal offence related to or connected to:
 - Horses or equestrian related activities including cruelty or mistreatment of a horse.
 - Sexual offences relating to a BD member or a member of the public attending a BD connected show or competition.

Scope

- 7. A person who ceases to be a Member will remain subject to this Code for any matter which arises prior to the cessation of membership.
- 7.1. In the event of a change in these rules after any issue arising the matter will be dealt with under the rules in force at the date of the issue.
- 7.2. These rules will be governed by English Law under the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts.

Members responsibility

- 8. It is the responsibility of all Members (as defined above) to:
 - i. to read, understand and be aware of the provisions of this Code and the Rules in general and to comply with the Rules; and,
 - ii. to ensure that any person who assists, represents, or acts on behalf of or in the employment conducts themselves in such a manner that were they a Member of British Dressage they would themselves be in breach of any of the provision of any rules.

9. Privacy notice for Members

BD are committed to respecting the privacy of all Members. Please refer to our Members' Privacy Notice on the website www.britishdressage.co.uk via the link in the footer of the home page for an explanation on how we comply with the data protection, what your rights are and for the purposes of data protection, how we will be the controller of any of your personal information.

British Dressage Charter for the Horse

British Dressage requires all those involved in national and international equestrian sport to adhere to the FEI Code of Conduct and Equestrian Charter, and to acknowledge and accept that the welfare of the horse must always be paramount, and never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.

Everyone involved in the sport of dressage has a duty to adhere to the principles of good horsemanship and present a harmonious partnership between horse and rider at all times. In addition, all members of British Dressage agree to support and promote the following ten key principles that are integral to equine welfare:

- We recognise that the horse is an intelligent and sentient being and will be sensitive to all physical, emotional, and social interactions.
- We have a collective responsibility to care for the horse throughout its entire lifetime, before, during and after its competition career.
- We must ensure that horses have access to adequate food, forage and water, and that their nutritional needs are met at all times.
- We have a duty to provide a suitable physical environment for the horse to live comfortably and securely, with a sufficient supply of clean bedding.
- We will provide horses with the freedom to interact and exercise with other animals and humans in open spaces, in the best interests of their mental and physical health.
- We will ensure that all tack and equipment is correctly fitted and well maintained, used for its intended purpose, and sympathetic to the horse.
- We will ensure prompt and appropriate treatment in case of injury or illness, and pledge strict adherence to all vaccination, microchipping, biosecurity, and anti-doping regulations.
- We agree that all veterinary decisions must be made in the best interest of the horse, informed by the latest scientific advice, avoiding unnecessary treatment or medication.
- We will respect every horse equally, ensuring that our training and performance goals are consistent with the individual's age, ability, level of maturity and development potential.
- We commit to ongoing training activity to achieve positive and harmonious interactions between horse and rider, based on the horse's natural characteristics and behaviour.

Code of Conduct for Horse Welfare

British Dressage welfare rules and policies have been developed in consultation with World Horse Welfare. In all respects, the welfare of the horse must come first. Achieving high standards of horse welfare involves following proven methods of horse management, applying knowledge of good horsemanship, and understanding horse behaviour, while keeping up to date with current scientific knowledge.

Those in the sport of dressage are normally very caring of their animals, and most welfare-related incidents are usually due to a lack of knowledge and understanding. Welfare breaches are never acceptable, however, whether they are deliberate or through a lack of awareness, so we have a proactive approach to horse welfare and its implementation to prevent such situations occurring and maintain the highest standards at all times.

General Welfare and Care at Home

At all stages during the preparation, training and competing of horses, welfare must take precedence over all other demands. For example:

- Good horse management, based on the Five Domains of animal welfare (nutrition, environment, health, behavioural interactions, and mental state / experiences) and the Three F's (freedom, friends, and forage).
- Provision of suitable stabling or shelter and extended access to turnout or exercise daily, as well as socialisation with other horses/ponies (where available).
- Feeding the correct amounts of forage daily, with adequate supplies of water.
- Exercise and training that is compatible with the principles of good horse management and does not compromise equine welfare.
- Farriery, foot care, and shoeing must be of the correct and proper standard.
- Sensory hairs around the mouth, nose and eyes must not be clipped or shaved as this may reduce the horse's sensory ability. Areas of hair that must be clipped or shaven to allow veterinary treatment are exempt from this rule and a veterinary certificate will need to be sent to BDHQ. See rule 135.
- From 1 July 2025, trimming of the hair within the rims of the auricles is no longer permitted. Areas of hair that must be clipped or shaven to allow veterinary treatment are exempt from this rule and a veterinary certificate will need to be sent to the British Dressage Head Office address for verification and approval.
- Any practices that could cause physical or mental suffering or distress to the horse will not be tolerated in any circumstances.
- Horses must be treated sympathetically and humanely when they are no longer able to compete, whether through prolonged injury or retirement.
- Proper care and consideration should be given to the lifetime care of the horse, to ensure that it has a life well lived at all stages, before, during and after its dressage career.

Everyone involved in equestrian sport and the care of horses, regardless of their role, must make every effort to keep their knowledge and expertise, up to date. Access to relevant horse care and stable management training and education is provided by British Dressage and other member bodies across the British Equestrian Federation.

Care When Riding

- Riders must train and present their horse in a sympathetic manner, according to the recognised scales of training.
- The horse's current physical and mental stage of maturity should be taken into consideration when planning their competition or training activity.
- All head/neck postures must be achieved as sensitively as possible and in accordance with a horse's natural head carriage and conformation.
- To maintain the suppleness and health of the horse, it is expected that different head positions may be used in the warm-up – from stretching/lengthening and contracting/shortening of the horse's muscles, and from periods of relaxation to heightened physical effort. However, hyperflexion is not acceptable at any time – please refer to Rule 135 and the section on examples of abuse below.
- The aim of the warm-up is to present the horse in the arena moving with athleticism and freedom, and in a balance commensurate with their stage of training.
- A cool-down period after the performance is critical to the horse's well-being, the intensity of exercise should be decreased allowing the horse to relax mentally, and for heart rate and respiration to return to normal.

Fitness to Compete

Horses / ponies and riders must be fit, competent and in good health before they are allowed to compete.

- Fitness and competence – participation in competition is restricted to fit horses and athletes of proven competence, which will be assessed by the judge during the test.
- Health status – no horse experiencing or showing symptoms of disease, lameness or other significant ailments or pre-existing clinical conditions should compete, or continue to compete, when to do so would compromise its welfare. Veterinary advice must be sought whenever there is any doubt.
- Pregnant/recently foaled mares – mares must not compete after their fourth month of pregnancy or before the foal is weaned. Most mares can begin a gradual reintroduction to ridden exercise or training around eight weeks after a complication-free foaling. Any mare that has experienced complications at birth should be fully examined by a veterinarian and passed as fit to compete before recommencing activity. These requirements also apply to mares that have lost a foal.

Equine Carrying Capacity and Fitness

All BD members are required to uphold the highest standards of welfare, health, and wellbeing, and central to this is the harmonious partnership between horse and rider.

The rider should be the appropriate size for their horse or pony and suitably mounted, in terms of weight, height, size and frame. The horse and rider partnership must be in balance, and the rider should not exert undue influence on or restrict the horse's natural way of going.

The rider should be proportionate to their horse or pony, with the core stability, suppleness, and fitness necessary to achieve a harmonious way of going. The age, type, fitness, and body condition score of the horse or pony should also be considered when assessing carrying capacity.

As a general guideline, it is recommended that the maximum load of an equine, including tack and equipment, should not exceed 20% of the horse's total body weight, based on a horse with a 'good' condition score (in accordance with BHS guidance, a healthy score is 2.5 to 3 out of 5, unless your vet advises otherwise). In most cases it would be optimal to maintain a ratio below this level.

It is the members' responsibility to ensure that they respect these guidelines, in the interests of equine welfare. Everyone involved in the sport of dressage has a role to play in ensuring that these guidelines are followed during BD training and competition activity, including organisers, officials, and coaches.

The purpose of this guidance is to ensure that a member's way of riding is effective and sympathetic to their horse. It is not a measure to prevent their participation. If any member feels that this may cause issues for their equine partnership, then it is recommended that they consult with their vet and coach for further expert advice.

Additional training and education resources are also available on the BD website, including information on nutrition, general health, and fitness.

Care at Competitions, including Travel

All British Dressage competitions, training and events are run with the welfare of the horse as the paramount consideration, without prejudice to equine welfare standards.

- Fitness to travel – a horse must be fit to travel to and from a competition.
- Transport – during transportation, care must be taken to avoid injury or risk to horse health. Vehicles must be safe, well-ventilated, and maintained to a proper standard.
- Transit – all journeys must be planned carefully, and include contingency plans, to minimise any potential stress to horses and allow regular rest periods, with access to food and water.
- Unloading – horses must not be left standing on lorries any longer than absolutely necessary and should be walked regularly.
- Competition areas – horses must be trained and compete on suitable and safe surfaces. All equipment and arenas must be designed with the safety of the horse in mind.
- Ground surfaces – all competition and training surfaces must be prepared and maintained to optimal condition to minimise the potential for injury to the horse.
- Stabling at events – stables must be safe, hygienic, comfortable, well-ventilated and of sufficient size for the type and disposition of the horse.
- Stable provision – access to clean, good quality bedding must always be available. A fresh drinking water supply and wash-down facilities should be provided by the venue, while riders must ensure that horses have access to adequate feed and roughage.
- Extreme weather – competitions must not take place in extreme weather conditions if the welfare or safety of the horse may be compromised. Provision must be made for cooling horses quickly after competing in hot or humid conditions. See Rule 67.

Tack and Equipment, including Fitting

Tack must be designed and fitted to avoid the risk of pain or injury to the horse. All tack and equipment should be cleaned regularly and kept soft and pliable to prevent injury through rubbing. Tack and equipment must be correctly fitted and used as intended by design, in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines, as poorly fitted, over tightened, or inappropriate tack can cause pain, injury, and discomfort to the horse.

- Bit – The bit is used to facilitate communication between the horse and rider. The contact with the bit should be sympathetic and softened once the horse reacts positively to the aid. Sustained and/or forceful rein aids, causing the horse to demonstrate discomfort or pain, will be deemed as inappropriate riding. A rider must never use rein aids to punish the horse. See Rule 103 and 104.
- Nosebands – should be correctly fitted in a way that allows the horse to mouth on the bit. They should not be fitted too tight, or positioned so high that they rub on the cheek bones, or so low that the skin gets pinched between the noseband and bit. This applies to all types of nosebands, including both the upper and lower noseband. See Rule 117. A new noseband measuring device has been approved by the FEI and will be introduced at international competitions from May 2025. This will be trialled at national competitions during the winter qualification season in the second half of 2025, before a full implementation and roll-out from 1 January 2026 onwards.
- Saddle – the saddle and girth should be correctly fitted to avoid any rubbing or discomfort to the horse. See Rule 93.
- Spurs – spurs are optional, but if worn must be correctly fitted and only used to refine and support the rider's leg aid, thereby improving a horse's responsiveness. Excessive or persistent use of the spur is not acceptable. There must be no blood visible, no raising or reddening of the skin, no sore patches or bruising. See Rule 86 and 135.
- Whip – The whip should only be used as a training aid, to support the rider's leg when a horse is not confidently forwards, or to increase activity in the hind legs. It could also be used to help keep a horse straight and attentive. The whip should be held with the tapered end pointing towards the ground and must be used with care. Any use of the whip other than as a training aid will be deemed as unacceptable. See Rule 87.

Examples of Abuse

- Misuse of aids – abuse of a horse using natural riding aids or artificial aids (e.g., whips, spurs, bit, etc.) will not be tolerated. See Rules 86, 87 and 103.
- Artificial aids – excessive and inappropriate use of spurs and/or the whip (such as location or frequency) is not acceptable. See Rules 86 and 87.
- Over-working – to ride/compete an obviously exhausted, lame, or injured horse.
- Lameness – riding an unsound or unlevel horse. See Rule 135.
- Distress – To allow any horse or pony to manifest unnecessary distress or fail to alleviate distress. This includes any mental or physical suffering, whether caused by the rider or avoidable external factors.
- Aggression – Any form of aggressive or forceful action, whether when riding or handling the horse from the ground, is unacceptable. Under no circumstances should a rider act in a negative manner to chastise or punish the horse.
- Force – Any use of force and exerting unnecessary or excessive pressure on the horse, including inappropriate or disproportionate corrections, is not tolerated.
- Hyperflexion – over flexion of the horse's neck, by exerting force or pressure through the reins to hold the head in an unnatural position (also referred to as Rollkur), is not permitted. See Rule 135.
- Blood – if fresh blood shows anywhere on the horse, particularly in the mouth or area of the spurs, it will be eliminated by the judge. See Rule 135.

Veterinary

- Doping and Medication – use of doping or abuse of medication is a serious welfare issue and is not acceptable. After any veterinary treatment, sufficient time must be allowed

for full recovery before competition. See pages 22 and 23.

- Veterinary attendance – at domestic international fixtures and national championships, veterinary expertise must always be available on site, and all other national competitions must have a vet on call. If a horse is injured or exhausted during a competition, the athlete must dismount, and a veterinarian must check the horse.
- Veterinary treatment – wherever necessary, the horse should be collected by ambulance and transported to the nearest relevant treatment centre for further assessment and therapy. Injured horses must be given full and proper supportive treatment before transport.
- Lameness – if a horse / pony has been eliminated during a test for lameness, they cannot compete or be ridden again on the same day. They may only be presented for a subsequent test at a multi-day competition and / or championships with written veterinary certification that the horse has been passed as fit to compete. See Rule 135.
- Competition injuries – the incidence of injuries sustained in competition should be reported to British Dressage for monitoring purposes. In the event of retirement during competition, the Judge at C is responsible for completing and submitting a welfare incident report form. If an injury is sustained on site but out of competition, the venue organiser should complete and submit a welfare incident report form.
- Euthanasia – if the injuries are deemed severe, and potentially life-threatening, the horse may need to be euthanised on humane grounds by a veterinarian, following consultation with the owner of the horse, with the sole aim of minimising suffering.

Surgical Procedures

Surgical procedures that threaten horse welfare or the safety of other horses and/or athletes are not permitted. For all surgical procedure queries, and the additional information form, please contact operations@britishdressage.co.uk.

- A horse is not eligible to compete when a limb or part of a limb, is hyposensitive or hypersensitive (both of which shall constitute 'abnormal' limb sensitivity). Hypersensitive limbs have an excessive or abnormal reaction to palpation. Hyposensitive limbs include any alteration in sensitivity induced by a neurectomy or chemical desensitisation, for as long as the alteration in sensitivity persists.
- To continue participating in British Dressage competition, horses that have previously had these surgical procedures on any limb must be re-examined and certified as fit to compete by a veterinarian. The registered owner will need to provide a veterinary certificate and complete a surgical procedure additional information form, detailing the specific nature of the operation, with written confirmation from the vet that the horse has undergone a full assessment, including when ridden, and has been passed fit to return to competition. The ridden assessment and completion of the additional information form must be done 30 days prior to the Welfare Panel convening. The Welfare Panel will then review the evidence presented and determine whether the procedure contravenes BD rules and regulations on grounds of equine welfare.
- Horses that undergo surgical procedures on any limb that may put its welfare or the safety of other horses and/or athletes at risk must have a minimum period of six months' rehabilitation. After this point, the registered owner must provide BD with a veterinary certificate post-rehabilitation, detailing the specific details of the operation, with written confirmation from the vet that the surgery does not contravene BD rules and regulations and that the horse has undergone a full assessment, including when ridden, and has been passed fit to compete. The Welfare Panel will then review the evidence presented and determine whether the horse can return to competition.

Competitions Where a BD Steward is Present

Where blood is noticed on a horse during the warm-up, the rider must be made aware, and the horse inspected. If the horse shows fresh blood in the mouth or area of the spurs, the rider must retire. If the rider fails to do so, this will be reported to the Judge at C, with supporting evidence, and the horse will be eliminated from that class. The horse may be presented for subsequent classes, but the rider must satisfy the BD steward that the horse is fit to continue.

Any fresh blood found by a BD steward during the post-test inspection in the horse's mouth or area of the spurs will be reported to the Judge at C and the horse will be eliminated from that class. If there is blood on any other areas of the horse's body, the BD Steward, in consultation with the Judge at C, will decide if the horse should be eliminated and/or is fit to continue in any further competition(s) in the event. See Rule 135.

Any horse that has a 'sore patch' (an area where hair has been rubbed off and the skin is inflamed), in a location where there is a danger that the skin could be broken if the horse were continued to be ridden, must be withdrawn from competition. If the sore patch is not noticed until after a test has been completed, then elimination will only occur if the skin is broken. The horse may not continue to compete for the remainder of the competition thereafter, unless approved to continue by an independent vet. See Rule 135.

Welfare Reporting Procedure

Any breaches of BD welfare policies are unacceptable, whether deliberate or through lack of awareness, and any action or circumstances that lead to the distress of a horse must be reported to an official or representative of British Dressage, including the completion of an Equine Welfare Report form to be submitted to BD head office for further investigation.

If, during competition or training activity, abuse to a horse is witnessed by a BD official, whether a judge, steward or organiser, an intervention should be made immediately.

If any other individual or member of the public witnesses what they perceive to be abusive action or behaviour, they should raise their concerns with a judge, steward, organiser, or member of staff at the earliest opportunity.

All welfare-related incidents and eliminations should be reported using the Equine Welfare Report form, even if the matter has been satisfactorily resolved on the day. The rider involved will be informed when a report has been received by British Dressage.

Report forms are available for download on the BD website.

Welfare Escalation Process

In the first instance, any welfare concerns should be brought to the attention of the venue organiser, BD steward, or Judge at C, on the day of competition. An Equine Welfare Report form should be completed and submitted to the BD Sport Operations Manager, together with witness statements and any supporting photographic or video evidence relating to the incident. Equine Welfare Report forms are available for download on the BD website.

All reported welfare incidents will be investigated fully and referred to the BD Equine Welfare Panel, as deemed appropriate by the CEO of British Dressage. The Equine Welfare Panel consists of veterinary and welfare experts, nominated by the BD Board, who will review the evidence provided and put forward their recommendations for any action required.

This may be in the form of advice, guidance, and support for the rider, including any further training and education, or potential disciplinary action. Where necessary, matters will be referred to the Disciplinary Panel for consideration, which may include further sanctions.

British Dressage operates a Whistleblowing Policy, that includes the reporting of any breaches of the BD Charter for the Horse and Code of Conduct for Horse Welfare. The full Whistleblowing Policy is included in the Annexes section of the BD Members' Handbook for reference and is also available to view on the BD website.

Penalties for contravening rules (Welfare of the Horse)

The following table summarises the penalties for contravening rules relating to the welfare of the horse:

| Rule | Rule no. | Penalty |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| Lameness | Welfare of horse | Elimination |
| Blood | Welfare of horse | Elimination |
| Hyperflexion | Welfare of horse | Elimination |
| Sensory hairs | Welfare of horse | Elimination |

Anti-doping and controlled medication

Equine anti-doping and controlled medication

The BEF Equine Doping and Controlled Medication rules apply to all members and participants in affiliated competition for a minimum period of 12 months from the commencement of membership or 12 months from the date the individual participated on a class ticket, in accordance with the Rules of British Dressage (whether or not the member is a citizen of, or resident in, the UK).

All members, their support personnel and owners must cooperate fully with any anti-doping investigations or proceedings, whether conducted by the BEF or any other competent body. Failure to do so without acceptable justification may be treated as misconduct and may be sanctioned accordingly.

A copy of the rules can be found on the BEF website at: <https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/equine/equine-anti-doping>

Accordingly, by becoming a member, such person shall be deemed to have agreed, amongst other things:

- a) to be bound by, and to comply strictly with, BEFAR;
- b) to submit to the authority of the BEF and/or of British Dressage to apply, police and enforce BEFAR;
- c) to provide all requested assistance to the BEF and British Dressage (as applicable) in the application, policing and enforcement of BEFAR, including (without limitation) co-operating fully with any testing, investigation, results management exercise, and/or proceedings being conducted pursuant to BEFAR in relation to any potential anti-doping or controlled medication rule violation(s). And except where the FEI has jurisdiction over the potential anti-doping or controlled medication violation;
- d) to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of any BEF first instance hearing body convened under BEFAR to hear and determine charges and related issues arising under BEFAR;
- e) to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of any Sport Resolutions UK Panel convened under BEFAR to hear and determine appeals made pursuant to BEFAR; and not to bring any proceedings in any court or other forum that are inconsistent with the foregoing submission to the jurisdiction of the BEF first instance tribunal, and Sport Resolutions UK.

Human anti-doping and medication

By becoming a member of British Dressage the member, their support personnel (as defined by the UK Anti-Doping Rules) and owners shall be deemed to have:

- a) made themselves familiar with and agreed to be bound by the UK Anti-Doping Rules and all other human anti-doping codes of conduct, regulations, rules and policies published by the BEF from time to time;
- b) to submit to the authority of the BEF and/or UKAD in the application and enforcement of the UK Anti-Doping Rules;
- c) to provide all requested assistance to the BEF and UKAD (or any other competent

- body) in the application and enforcement of the UK Anti-Doping Rules including (without limitation) cooperating fully with any testing, investigation, results management and/or proceedings being conducted pursuant to those Rules in relation to any potential anti-doping rule violation;
- d) to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of any first instance tribunal convened under those rules to hear and determine charges and related issues arising under those rules;
 - e) to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of any appeal tribunal and/or Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) Panel convened under those Rules to hear and determine appeals made pursuant to those rules;
 - f) not bring any proceedings in any court or other forum that are inconsistent with the foregoing submission to the jurisdiction of the first instance tribunal, the appeal tribunal and CAS.

The UK Anti-Doping Rules apply to all members and participants in affiliated competition for a minimum period of 12 months from the commencement of membership or 12 months from the date the individual participated on a class ticket, in accordance with the Rules of British Dressage (whether or not the member is a citizen of, or resident in, the UK).

All members, their support personnel and owners must cooperate fully with any anti-doping investigations or proceedings, whether conducted by UK Anti-Doping or any other competent body. Failure to do so without acceptable justification may be treated as misconduct and may be sanctioned accordingly.

In the event that a person who is subject to the BEF's jurisdiction commits an act of misconduct that relates to anti-doping but does not amount to a violation of the UK Anti-Doping Rules or BEFAR, the BEF may bring disciplinary proceedings against that person for such misconduct under the BEF's Regulations and they may be sanctioned accordingly.

Officials, riders and support staff agree to cooperate fully with any human or equine anti-doping investigations or proceedings, whether conducted by UK Anti-Doping or any other competent body. Failure to do so without acceptable justification may be treated as misconduct and may be sanctioned accordingly.

An act of misconduct by a person who is subject to the BEF's jurisdiction that relates to anti-doping under the human or equine Anti-Doping Rules but which does not amount to an anti-doping rule violation may result in a charge of misconduct under the BEF and/or British Dressage disciplinary rules.

A copy of the rules can be found on the BEF website at www.britishequestrian.org.uk and the human prohibited substances list can be viewed via the BEF website at: <https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/competitors/human-anti-doping>.

The status of all human medications prescribed or purchased in the UK can be checked using the Global Drug Reference Online at: www.globaldro.com.

The Scales of Training

The way of going

Dressage is about retaining and developing each horse's natural athleticism. We want him to do the movements but not dourly and subserviently. We want him to be willing and gymnastic, and the way of going is just as important as achieving the technical requirements (such as halting four square). More and more emphasis is being put on the way of going, the quality of the work, and it is no longer sufficient to simply do the movements.

For the shoulder in, it is not just a matter of checking the angle and positioning but also whether the horse has rhythm, suppleness, contact, impulsion, straightness and collection. Similarly, for lengthened strides the judge should ask not just: "was there lengthening?" but also: "was there rhythm, suppleness, contact and straightness?"

The most tried and tested measure of the way of going is the German Scales of Training. Riders from the most consistently successful dressage nation in the world learn and apply them from their early years of riding onwards. The leading international judges advocate these scales when delivering their seminars and apply them to judge combinations against.

The Scales of Training are:

- rhythm
- suppleness
- contact
- impulsion
- straightness
- and ultimately, collection.

As a rule, the training scales are approached in that order but there are times when one is skipped over to work on another. However, until the horse works with rhythm, it will be difficult to make him supple, and until supple, contact will be spasmodic and until the contact is true, impulsion will be elusive.

The demonstration of the scales of training should improve and be of a higher standard the more advanced the horse is in its training. The suppleness accepted in a young novice horse as being good enough to start working more on the contact and impulsion will be much less than that expected of a horse that is advanced enough to learn flying changes.

Rhythm

Rhythm should be both:

- 1) Regular, that is correct for each pace. In the walk there should be four hoof beats - in a marching time. In the trot there should be two hoof beats - the legs move in diagonal pairs plus a moment of suspension when all legs are off the ground. In the canter there should be three hoof beats - only one diagonal pair move together and there is a moment of suspension.
- 2) The same tempo (speed of the rhythm) with a pronounced beat to it. The horse should not speed up or slow down whether he is going around a corner or on a straight line, whether he is lengthening his strides or shortening them.

Suppleness

The aim is that the horse's muscles have tone and are free from resistance, his joints are loose and he does not tighten against the rider's aids. The muscles that are really important are those over the topline from the hind legs over the quarters, loins, in front of the wither and up to the poll. The test of whether a horse is supple and working 'through' the back and neck is that when the rein contact is eased (as in a free walk) the horse wants to stretch forward and down and not try to hollow and lift his head.

Contact

The ideal contact is a light, even, elastic feel in both reins and this is achieved by aids from the legs and seat, not the hands. The legs are applied as a driving aid, the horse steps under more and works 'through' those muscles along his topline - over the back, neck, through the poll and to the bit. The rider feels the energy thus created in the reins. When the contact is established in this way the horse's outline and steps will be 'round' not hollow, and in the trot and canter springy and not flat. The horse's hindquarters and forehand are connected by that band of muscles over the topline and the rider can feel this in their hands as there will be a lively forward tendency in the reins. The horse is then said to be 'connected'.

Impulsion

This is the contained power of the horse. It is created in the hindquarters by getting him to take more energetic steps, to place his hind legs further under his body, and it is contained by the rein contact that stops him from using up this extra energy to simply go faster. Any resistance, tightening of muscles, ligaments and joints, will block this energy getting through so he must be supple and connected to be able to build up real impulsion.

Riders aim to create enough impulsion to develop the horse's ability and to show off his athleticism but not so much that it cannot be controlled. The skill of the rider is to create as much energy as can be contained without the horse starting to pull or speed up.

Straightness

Horses, like humans, are born one-sided and will tend to move forward with their bodies slightly curved. This crookedness can get worse if a rider sits to one side and/or keeps a stronger contact in one rein than the other.

When a horse is crooked it will be more difficult for him to stay balanced and develop impulsion.

The aim is that the hind legs step into the tracks of the forelegs both on a straight line and on a circle, and that the rider has an even feel in their reins.

Collection

Dressage makes the horse a better ride, more manoeuvrable, more powerful and easier to control. To achieve this, his balance has to be changed as he has to adjust to carry the weight of the rider in the most efficient way. When he is first ridden he will carry most of the rider's weight on his forehand. This is cumbersome; he will tend to run faster when asked to lengthen his strides, he will find it difficult to stop quickly and will often lean on the rider's hands to keep his balance.

Through training, the necessary muscles are built up and he is taught how to carry more and more weight on his hindquarters. This lightens his forehand, gives more freedom to move his shoulders and he will become an easier and more athletic ride.

Over time, the horse is asked for more and more collection so his hind legs step further forward under his body. As he does this, the weight will be transferred backwards, developing the carrying power of the hindquarters.

In Grand Prix, this collection is to such a high level that the horse can trot on the spot in piaffe or turn around almost on the spot in the canter pirouette. In Pony Club and Novice tests, no collection is asked for but there are movements that start to develop the collection. These include when the horse comes into a halt or changes from lengthened strides to a working trot. As he stops or shortens his steps, he should step more under his body with his hind legs and transfer a little more of his weight onto his hindquarters. This is the beginning of collection.

Summary

The Scales of Training provide the tools to help the judge, rider and trainer assess the way of going when performing a movement. They are applied by the judge when marking a movement, by the rider when training and showing a movement and the spectator when looking at a movement. When there is rhythm, suppleness, contact, impulsion, straightness and, in the more advanced tests, collection, the way of going is recognised as being good.

BETTA LIFE

 Rated 5.0 Excellent on
Trustpilot

 WE SUPPORT
CLEANSPORT

*Trusted by professionals,
supported by top trainers
and proven in competition*



PharmaQUIN JOINT COMPLETE^{HA}

**FOR JOINTS, CARTILAGE
AND CONNECTIVE TISSUE**

100% SAFE FOR COMPETITION USE

For more information on our proven and highly effective range:

www.bettalife.co.uk

CHECK OUT OUR SOCIALS:

 /BETTALIFEUK  BETTALIFEUK

Dressage movements and their definitions

General principles of dressage (based on the FEI Objects, by kind permission of the FEI)

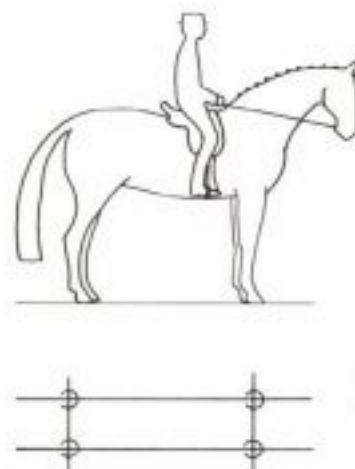
- 1) The object of dressage is the development of the horse into a happy athlete through harmonious education. As a result, it makes the horse calm, supple, loose and flexible, but also confident, attentive and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding with the athlete.

These qualities are demonstrated by;
 - The freedom and regularity of the paces.
 - The harmony, lightness and ease of the movements.
 - The lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hindquarters, originating from a lively impulsion.
 - The acceptance of the bit, without any tension or resistance.
- 2) The horse thus gives the impression of doing, of its own accord, what is required. Confident and attentive, generously accepting the guidance of the athlete, remaining absolutely straight in any movement on a straight line and bending accordingly when moving on curved lines.
- 3) The walk is regular, free and unconstrained. The trot is free, supple, regular and active. The canter is united, light and balanced. The hindquarters are never inactive or sluggish. The horse responds to the slightest indication of the athlete and thereby gives life and spirit to all the rest of its body.
- 4) By virtue of a lively impulsion and the suppleness of the joints, free from the paralysing effects of resistance, the horse obeys willingly and without hesitation and responds to the various aids calmly and with precision, displaying a natural and harmonious balance both physically and mentally.
- 5) In all the work, even at the halt, the horse must be accepting the bit. A horse is said to be accepting the bit when the neck is more or less raised and arched according to the stage of training and the extension or collection of the pace, accepting the bridle with a light and consistent soft contact. The head should remain in a steady position, as a rule slightly in front of the vertical, with a supple poll as the highest point of the neck, and no resistance should be offered to the athlete.
- 6) Cadence is shown in trot and canter and is the result of the proper harmony that a horse shows when it moves with well-marked regularity, impulsion and balance. Cadence must be maintained in all the different trot or canter exercises and in all the variations of these paces.
- 7) The regularity of the paces is fundamental to dressage.

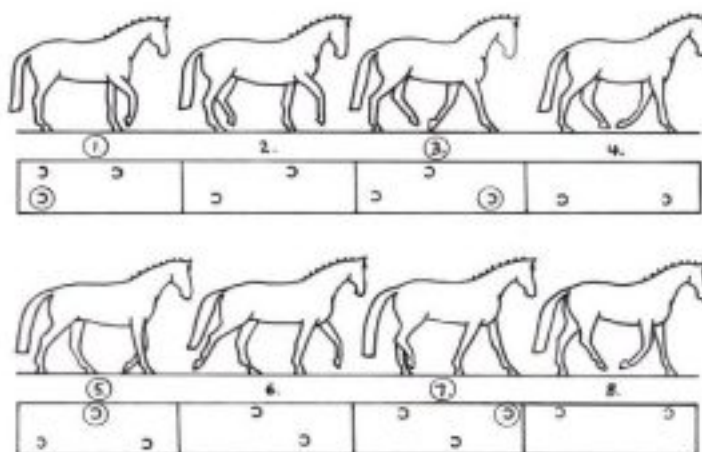
The halt

- 1) At the halt the horse should stand attentive, engaged, motionless, straight and square with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs. The neck should be raised with the poll as the highest point and the nose line slightly in front of the vertical. While accepting the bit and maintaining a light and soft contact with the

athlete's hand, the horse may quietly chew the bit and should be ready to move off at the slightest indication of the athlete. The halt must be shown for at least three seconds. The halt should be shown throughout the salute.



- 2) The halt is obtained by the displacement of the horse's weight to the hindquarters by a properly increased action of the seat and legs of the athlete, driving the horse towards a softly closed hand, causing an almost instantaneous but not abrupt halt at a previously fixed place. The halt is prepared by a series of half-halts (see transitions).
- 3) The quality of the paces before and after the halt is an integral part of the assessment.



The walk is a pace in four (4)-beat rhythm with eight (8) phases.
(Numbers in circles indicate the beat).

The walk

- 1) The walk is a marching pace in a regular and well-marked four-time beat with equal intervals between each beat. This regularity combined with full relaxation must be maintained throughout all walk movements.
- 2) When the foreleg and the hind leg on the same side move almost on the same beat, the walk tends to become an almost lateral movement. This irregularity, which might become an ambling movement, is a serious deterioration of the pace.
- 3) The following walks are recognised: medium walk, collected walk, extended walk and free walk. There should always be a clear difference in the attitude and overtracking in these variations.

3.1. Medium walk. A clear, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate lengthening. The horse, accepting the bit, walks energetically but relaxed with even and determined steps, the hind feet touching the ground in front of the hoof prints of the fore feet. The athlete maintains a light, soft and steady contact with

the mouth, allowing the natural movement of the head and neck.

3.2. **Collected walk.** The horse, accepting the bit moves resolutely forward, with its neck raised and arched and showing a clear self-carriage. The head approaches the vertical position and a light contact is maintained with the mouth. The hind legs are engaged with good hock action. The pace should remain marching and vigorous, the feet being placed in regular sequence. The steps cover less ground and are higher than at the medium walk, because all the joints bend more markedly. The collected walk is shorter than the medium walk, although showing greater activity.

3.3. **Extended walk.** The horse covers as much ground as possible, without haste and without losing the regularity of the steps. The hind feet touch the ground clearly in front of the hoof prints of the fore feet. The athlete allows the horse to stretch out the head and neck (forward and downwards) without losing contact with the mouth. The nose must be clearly in front of the vertical.

3.4. **Free walk.** The free walk is a pace of relaxation in which the horse is allowed complete freedom to lower and stretch out his head and neck. The degree of ground cover and length of strides, with hind feet stepping clearly in front of the footprints of the front feet, are essential to the quality of the free walk. In order to execute the exercise correctly, the athlete must lengthen the reins as the horse stretches gradually forward and downward. As the neck stretches forwards and downwards, the mouth should reach more or less to the horizontal line corresponding with the point of the shoulder. The pace must maintain its rhythm, and the horse should remain light in the shoulders with the hindlegs well engaged. During the retake of the reins the horse must accept the contact without resistance in the mouth or poll.

The trot

- 1) The trot is a two-beat pace of alternate diagonal legs (left fore and right hind leg and vice versa) separated by a moment of suspension.
- 2) The trot should show free, active and regular steps.
- 3) The quality of the trot is judged by general impression, i.e. the regularity and elasticity of the steps, the cadence and impulsion in both collection and extension. This quality originates from a supple back and well-engaged hindquarters, and by the ability to maintain the same rhythm and natural balance with all variations of the trot.
- 4) The following trots are recognised: working trot, lengthening of steps, collected trot, medium trot and extended trot.

4.1. **Working trot.** This is a pace between the collected and the medium trot, in which a horse's training is not yet developed enough and ready for collected movements. The horse shows proper balance and, accepting the bit, goes forward with even, elastic steps and good hock action. The expression 'good hock action' underlines the importance of an impulsion originating from the activity of the hindquarters.

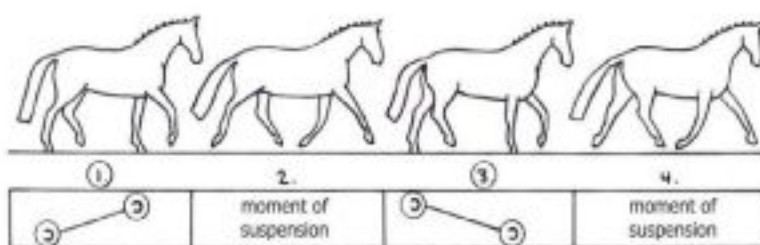
4.2. **Lengthening of steps.** In the test for four-year-old horses, 'lengthening of steps' is required. This is a variation between the working and medium trot in which a horse's training is not developed enough for medium trot.

4.3. **Collected trot.** The horse, accepting the bit, moves forward with the neck raised and arched. The hocks, being well-engaged and flexed, must maintain an energetic impulsion, enabling the shoulders to move with greater mobility, thus demonstrating complete self-carriage. Although the horse's steps are shorter than in the other trots, elasticity and cadence are not lessened.

4.4. **Medium trot.** This is a pace of moderate lengthening compared to the extended trot, but 'rounder' than the latter. Without hurrying, the horse goes forward with clearly lengthened steps and with impulsion from the hindquarters. The athlete allows the horse to carry the head a little more in front of the vertical than at the collected and the working trot, and to lower the head and neck slightly. The steps should be even, and the whole movement balanced and unconstrained.

4.5. **Extended trot.** The horse covers as much ground as possible. Without hurrying, the steps are lengthened to the utmost as a result of great impulsion from the hindquarters. The athlete allows the horse to lengthen the frame and to gain ground whilst maintaining control. The fore feet should meet the ground in the direction of travel, and should not rotate laterally. The movement of the fore and hind legs should reach equally forward in the moment of suspension. The whole movement should be well-balanced and the transition to collected trot should be smoothly executed by taking more weight on the hindquarters.

- 5) Trot work can be executed in sitting or rising. Trot work from Medium level (with the exception of medium/extended trot at Medium level) must be ridden in sitting.



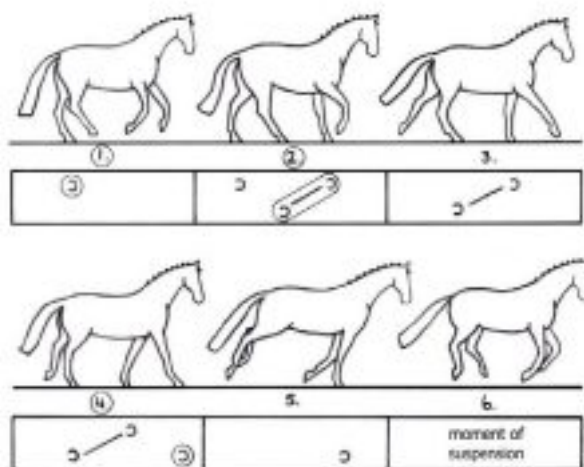
The trot is a pace in two (2)-beat rhythm with four (4) phases.

The canter

- 1) The canter is a three-beat pace where, in canter to the right, for example, the footfall is as follows: left hind, left diagonal (simultaneously left fore and right hind), right fore, followed by a moment of suspension with all four feet in the air before the next stride begins.
- 2) The canter, always with light, cadenced and regular strides, should be moved into without hesitation.
- 3) The quality of the canter is judged by the general impression, i.e. the regularity and lightness of the steps and the uphill tendency and cadence originating from the acceptance of the bridle with a supple poll and in the engagement of the hindquarters with an active hock action - and by the ability of maintaining the same rhythm and a natural balance, even after a transition from one canter lead to another. The horse should always remain straight on straight lines and correctly bent on curved lines.

- 4) The following canters are recognised: working canter, lengthening of strides, collected canter, medium canter and extended canter.

4.1. Working canter. This is a pace between the collected and the medium canter, in which a horse's training is not yet developed enough and ready for collected movements. The horse shows natural balance while accepting the bit, and goes forward with even, light and active strides and good hock action. The expression 'good hock action' underlines the importance of an impulsion originating from the activity of the hindquarters.



The canter is a pace in three-beat rhythm with six (6) phases.

4.2. Lengthening of strides. In the test for four year-old horses 'lengthening of strides' is required. This is a variation between the working and medium canter in which a horse's training is not developed enough for medium canter.

4.3. Collected canter. The horse, accepting the bit, moves forward with the neck raised and arched. The hocks, being well-engaged, maintain an energetic impulsion, enabling the shoulders to move with greater mobility thus demonstrating self carriage and an uphill tendency. The horse's strides are shorter than in the other canters, without losing elasticity and cadence.

4.4. Medium canter. This is a pace between the working and the extended canter. Without hurrying, the horse goes forward with clearly lengthened strides and impulsion from the hindquarters. The athlete allows the horse to carry the head a little more in front of the vertical than in the collected and working canter, and at the same time allows the horse to lower the head and neck slightly. The strides should be balanced and unconstrained.

4.5. Extended canter. The horse covers as much ground as possible. Without hurrying, the strides are lengthened to the utmost. The horse remains calm, light and straight as a result of great impulsion from the hindquarters. The athlete allows the horse to lengthen the frame and to gain ground, whilst maintaining control. The whole movement should be well-balanced and the transition to collected canter should be smoothly executed by taking more weight on the hindquarters.

4.6. Counter canter. The counter canter is a balancing and straightening movement that is executed in working canter at Novice level and collected canter at Elementary level and above. The horse canters in the correct sequence with the outside foreleg leading with positioning to the side of the leading leg. The foreleg should be aligned to the same track as the hind leg.

4.7. Simple change of leg at the canter. This is a movement in which, after a direct transition out of the canter into a walk, with three to five clearly defined steps (one horse's length), an immediate transition is made into the other canter lead.

4.8. Flying change of leg. The flying change is performed in one stride with the front and hind legs changing at the same moment. The change of the leading front and hind leg takes place during the moment of suspension. The aids should be

precise and unobtrusive. Flying changes of leg can also be executed in series at every fourth, third, second or at every stride. The horse, even in the series, remains light, calm and straight with lively impulsion, maintaining the same rhythm and balance throughout the series concerned. In order not to restrict or restrain the lightness, fluency and ground cover of the flying changes in series, enough impulsion must be maintained. Aim of flying changes: to show the reaction, sensitivity and obedience of the horse to the aids for the change of leg.

Rein back

- 1) Rein back is a rearward movement with a two-beat rhythm but without a moment of suspension. Each diagonal pair of legs is raised and returned to the ground alternately, with the forelegs aligned on the same track as the hind legs.
- 2) During the entire exercise, the horse should be accepting the bit, maintaining its desire to move forward.
- 3) Anticipation of the movement, resistance to or evasion of the contact, deviation of the hindquarters from the straight line, spreading or inactive hind legs and dragging forefeet are serious faults.
- 4) The steps are counted as each foreleg moves back. After completing the required number of steps backward, the horse should show a square halt or move forward in the required pace immediately. In tests where a rein back of one horse's length is required, it should be executed with three or four steps.

Transitions

The changes of pace and variations within the paces should be exactly performed at the prescribed marker. The cadence (except in walk) should be maintained up to the moment when the pace or movement is changed or the horse halts. The transitions within the paces must be clearly defined while maintaining the same rhythm and cadence throughout. The horse should remain light in hand, calm, and maintain a correct position. The same applies to transitions from one movement to another, for instance from passage to piaffe or vice versa.

Half halts

Every movement or transition should be invisibly prepared by barely perceptible half halts. The half halt is an almost simultaneous coordinated action of the seat, the legs and the hands of the athlete, with the object of increasing the attention and balance of the horse before the execution of the movements or transitions to lower and higher paces. By shifting slightly more weight onto the horse's hindquarters, the engagement of the hind legs and the balance on the haunches are improved for the benefit of the lightness of the forehand and the horse's balance as a whole.

Changes of direction

- 1) At changes of direction, the horse should adjust the bend of his body to the curvature of the line it follows, remaining supple and following the indications of the athlete, without any resistance or change of pace, rhythm or speed.
- 2) Changes of directions can be executed in the following ways:
 - a) Right-angled turn including riding through the corner (one quarter of a volte of approx. six metres).
 - b) Short and long diagonal.

- c) Half voltes and half circles with change of rein.
- d) Half pirouettes and turn on the haunches.
- e) Serpentine loops.
- f) Counter changes of hand (in zig-zag)*. The horse should be straight for a moment before changing direction.

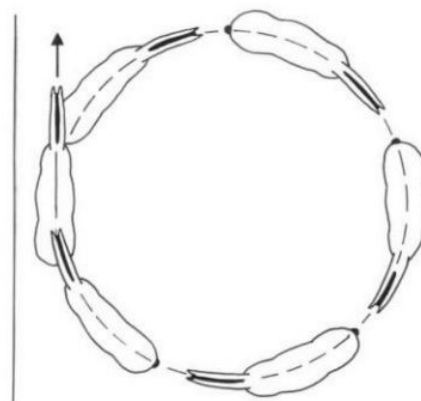
* Zig-zag: A movement containing more than two half-passes with changes of direction.

The figures

The figures asked in dressage tests are the voltes, the serpentines and the figures of eight.

Volte

The volte is a circle of 8 metres diameter or less. Movements of 10 metres diameter are circles.



Serpentine

The serpentine with several loops touching the long side of the arena consists of half circles connected by a straight line. When crossing the centre line, the horse should be parallel to the short side (a). Depending on the size of the half circles, the straight connection varies in length. Serpentines with one loop on the long side of the arena are executed with five metres or ten metres distance from the track (b). Serpentines around the centre line are executed between the quarter lines (c).

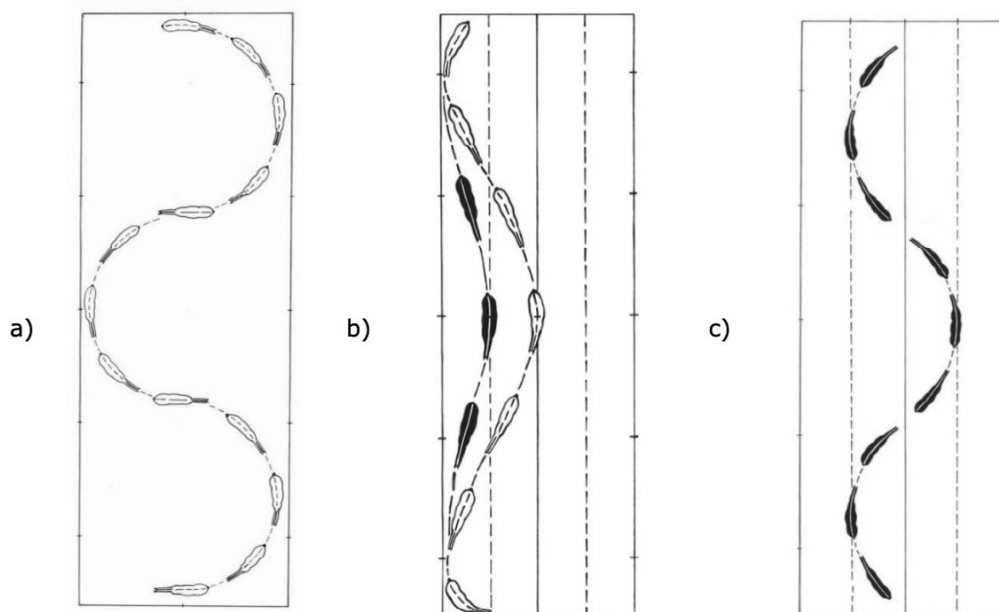
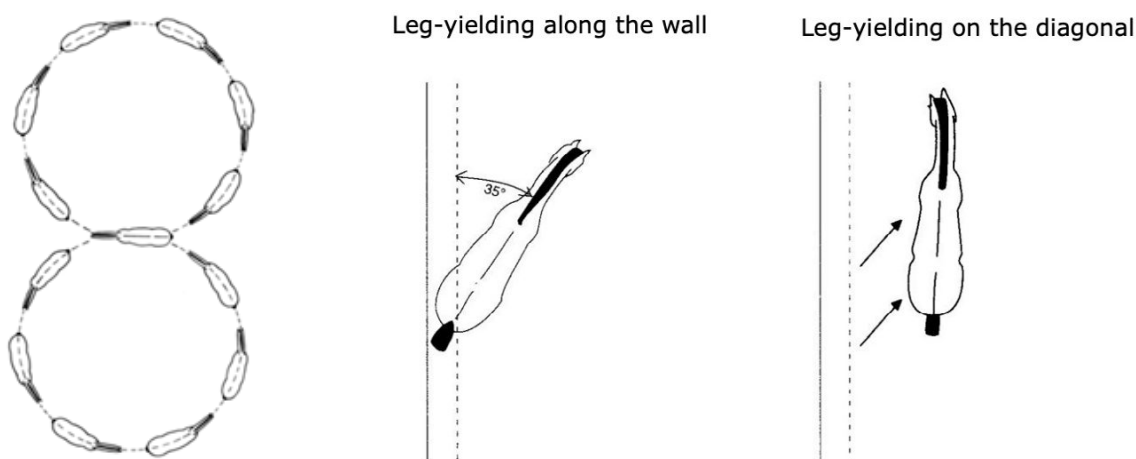


Figure of eight

This figure consists of two voltes or circles of equal size as prescribed in the test, joined at the

centre of the eight. The athlete should make their horse straight an instant before changing direction at the centre of the figure.



Leg Yielding

1. The aim of leg yielding: To demonstrate the suppleness and lateral responsiveness of the horse.
2. Leg yielding is performed in working trot in FEI competitions. The horse is almost straight, except for a slight flexion at the poll away from the direction in which it moves, so that the athlete is just able to see the eyelashes and nostril on the inside. The inside legs pass and cross in front of the outside legs. Leg yielding should be included in the training of the horse before it is ready for collected work. Later on, together with the more advanced shoulder in movement, it is the best means of making a horse supple, loose and unconstrained for the benefit of the freedom, elasticity and regularity of its paces and the harmony, lightness and ease of its movements. Leg yielding can be performed 'on the diagonal' in which case the horse should be parallel to the long sides of the arena, although the forehand should be slightly in advance of the hindquarters. It can also be performed 'along the wall' in which case the horse should be at an angle of about thirty five degrees to the direction in which he is moving.

Lateral Movements

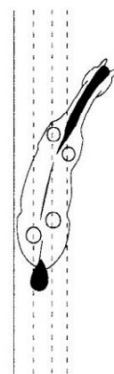
The main aim of lateral movements - except leg yielding - is to develop and increase the engagement of the hindquarters and thereby also the collection.

In all lateral movements - shoulder in, travers, renvers and half-pass, the horse is slightly bent and moves on different tracks.

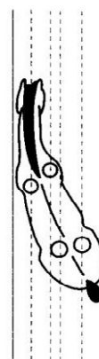
The bend or flexion must never be exaggerated so that it does not impair the rhythm, balance or fluency of the movement.

In the lateral movements, the pace should remain free and regular, maintaining a constant impulsion, yet it must be supple, cadenced and balanced. The impulsion is often lost because of the athlete's preoccupation with bending the horse and pushing it sideways.

1. **Shoulder in.** The shoulder in is performed in collected trot. The horse is ridden with a slight but uniform bend around the inside leg of the athlete, maintaining engagement and cadence and a constant angle of approx. thirty degrees. The horse's inside foreleg passes and crosses in front of the outside foreleg; the inside hind leg steps forward under the horse's body following the same track of the outside foreleg, with the lowering of the inside hip. The horse is bent away from the direction in which it is moving. (Viewed from the front and from behind, the horse is on three tracks).



2. **Travers.** Travers can be performed in collected trot or collected canter. The horse is slightly bent round the inside leg of the athlete but with a greater degree of bend than in shoulder in. A constant angle of approximately 35 degrees should be shown (from the front and from behind one sees four tracks). The forehand remains on the track and the quarters are moved inwards. The horse's outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs. The horse is bent in the direction in which it is moving. To start the travers, the quarters must leave the track or, not be brought back onto the track after a corner or circle. At the end of the travers, the quarters are brought back on the track (without any counter-flexion of the poll/neck) as one would finish a circle.



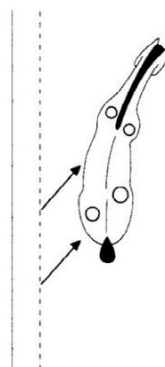
Aims of travers: To show a fluent collected trot or canter movement on a straight line and a correct bend. Front and hind legs are crossing, balance and cadence are maintained.

3. **Renvers.** Renvers is the inverse movement in relation to travers. The hindquarters remain on the track while the forehand is moved inward. To finish the renvers, the forehand is realigned with the quarters on the track. Otherwise, the same principles and conditions that apply to the travers are applicable to the renvers. The horse is slightly bent around the inside leg of the athlete. The horse's outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs. The horse is bent in the direction in which it is moving.



Aims of renvers: To show a fluent collected trot or canter movement on a straight line with a greater degree of bend than in shoulder in. Fore and hind legs cross, balance and cadence are maintained.

- 4) **Half pass.** Half pass is a variation of travers, executed on a diagonal line instead of along the wall. It can be performed in collected trot (and in passage in a freestyle) or collected canter. The horse should be slightly bent around the inside leg of the athlete and in the direction in which it is moving. The horse should maintain the same cadence and balance throughout the whole movement. In order to give more freedom and mobility to the shoulders, it is of great importance that the impulsion be maintained, especially the engagement of the inside hind leg. The horse's body is parallel to the long side of the arena with the forehand slightly in advance of the hindquarters. In the trot, the outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs. In the canter, the movement is performed in a series of sideways



strides.

Aims of half pass in trot: To show a fluent collected trot movement on a diagonal line with a greater degree of bend than in shoulder in. Fore and hind legs cross, balance and cadence are maintained.

Aims of the half pass in canter: To both demonstrate and develop the collection and suppleness of the canter by moving fluently forwards and sideways without any loss of rhythm, balance or softness and acceptance to the bend.

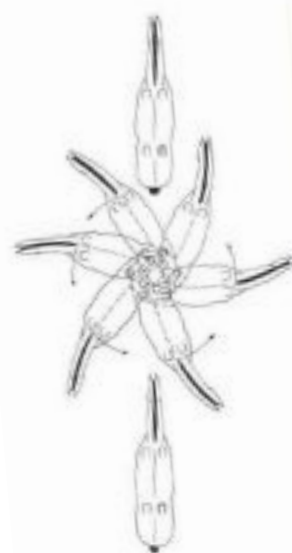
The pirouette, half pirouette and turn on the haunches

- 1) The pirouette is a turn of 360 degrees. The half pirouette is a turn of 180 degrees. Both are executed on two tracks, with a radius equal to the length of the horse with the forehand moving around the haunches.
- 2) Pirouettes and half pirouettes, are usually carried out at collected walk or canter, but can also be executed at piaffe.
- 3) At the pirouette or half pirouette, the forefeet and the outside hind foot move around the inside hind foot. The inside hind leg describes a circle as small as possible.
- 4) At whatever pace the pirouette or half pirouette is executed, the horse, slightly bent in the direction in which it is turning, accepts the bit with light contact, turning smoothly around, and maintaining sequence and timing of footfalls of that pace. The poll remains the highest point during the entire movement.
- 5) During the pirouette or half pirouette, the horse should maintain its activity and never move backwards or sideways.
- 6) In executing the pirouette or the half pirouette in canter, the athlete should maintain lightness of the horse while accentuating the collection. The horse's hindquarters are well engaged and lowered and show good flexion of the joints. An integral part of the movement is the quality of the canter strides before and after the pirouette. The strides should show an increased activity and collection before the pirouette and the balance should be maintained at the end of the pirouette.

Aims of the pirouette and half pirouette in canter:

To demonstrate the willingness of the horse to turn around the inside hind leg on a small radius, slightly bent in the direction of the turn while maintaining the activity and the clarity of the canter, the straightness and the balance before and after the figure and clear canter strides during the turn. The pirouette or half pirouette in canter should reflect a real canter stride to the judges (although the feet of the diagonal - inside hind leg, outside front leg - do not touch the ground simultaneously).

The quality of pirouettes are judged according to the suppleness, lightness and regularity, and the precision and smoothness of the entrance and exit. Pirouettes in canter should be executed in six to eight strides, half pirouettes in three to four strides. Half pirouettes in walk (180 degrees) are executed out of collected walk with the collection being maintained throughout the exercise. When the horse exits the half pirouette it returns to the initial track, facing the opposite direction, without crossing the hind legs or stepping out.



Turn on the haunches from walk: For younger horses that are still not able to show collected walk, the 'turn on the haunches' is an exercise to prepare the horse for collection. The 'turn on the haunches' is executed out of medium walk prepared by half halts to shorten the steps a little and to improve the ability to bend the joints of the hindquarters. The horse does not halt before or after the turn. The 'turn on the haunches' can be executed on a radius half as big again as the radius of a walk pirouette, but the demands of the training scale concerning rhythm, contact, activity and straightness remain the same.

Passage

Passage is a measured, very collected, elevated and cadenced trot. It is characterised by a pronounced engagement of the hindquarters, a more accentuated flexion of the knees and hocks, and the graceful elasticity of the movement. Each diagonal pair of legs is raised and returned to the ground alternately, with cadence and a prolonged suspension.

In principle, the height of the toe of the raised forefoot should be level with the middle of the cannon bone of the other supporting foreleg. The toe of the raised hind foot should be slightly above the fetlock joint of the other supporting hind leg.

The neck should be raised and gracefully arched with the poll as the highest point and the noseline close to the vertical. The horse should remain light, and softly accept the bit without altering the cadence. The impulsion remains lively and pronounced.

Irregular steps with the hind or front legs, swinging the forehand or the hindquarters from one side to the other, jerky movements of the forelegs or the hind legs, dragging the hind legs or double beat in the moment of suspension are serious faults.

The aim of passage is to demonstrate the highest degree of collection, cadence and suspension in the trot.

Piaffe

Piaffe is a highly collected, cadenced, elevated diagonal movement giving the impression of remaining in place. The horse's back is supple and elastic. The hindquarters are lowered; the haunches with active hocks are well engaged, giving great freedom, lightness and mobility to the shoulders and forehand. Each diagonal pair of legs is raised and returned to the ground alternately, with spring and an even cadence.

In principle, the height of the toe of the raised forefoot should be level with the middle of the cannon bone of the other supporting foreleg. The toe of the raised hind foot should reach just above the fetlock joint of the other supporting hind leg.

The neck should be raised and gracefully arched, with the poll as the highest point. The horse should accept the bit with a supple poll, maintaining soft contact. The body of the horse should move in a supple, cadenced and harmonious movement.

Piaffe must always be animated by a lively impulsion and characterised by perfect balance. Moving even slightly backwards, irregular or jerky steps with the hind or front legs, no clear diagonal steps, crossing either the fore or hind legs, or swinging either the forehand or the hindquarters from one side to the other, getting wide behind or in front, moving too much

forward or double beat rhythm are all serious faults. The aim of piaffe is to demonstrate the highest degree of collection while giving the impression of remaining in place.

Impulsion and Co-operation

Impulsion is the term used to describe the transmission of an eager and energetic, yet controlled, propulsive energy generated from the hindquarters into the athletic movement of the horse. Its ultimate expression can be shown only through the horse's soft and swinging back guided by gentle contact with the athlete's hand. Speed itself has little to do with impulsion. The result of speed is more often a flattening of the paces. A visible characteristic of impulsion is a more pronounced articulation of the hind leg, in a continuous rather than staccato action. The hock, as the hind foot leaves the ground, should first move forward rather than being pulled upwards, but certainly not backwards. A prime ingredient of impulsion is the time the horse spends in the air rather than on the ground. Impulsion is, therefore, seen only in those paces that have a period of suspension.

Impulsion is a precondition for a good collection in trot and canter. If there is no impulsion, then there is nothing to collect.

Co-operation is demonstrated by the horse revealing its presence by a constant attention, willingness, and confidence in its behaviour, as well as by the harmony, lightness and ease it is displaying in the execution of the different movements. The degree of the co-operation is also demonstrated by the way the horse accepts the bit, with light and soft contact and a supple poll. Resistance to or evasion of the athlete's hand, or not accepting the bit, demonstrates a lack of co-operation. The main contact with the horse's mouth must be through the snaffle bit.

Putting out the tongue, keeping it above the bit or drawing it up altogether, as well as grinding the teeth or agitation of the tail are mostly signs of nervousness, tension or resistance on the part of the horse and must be taken into account by the Judges in their marks for every movement concerned, as well as in the collective mark for co-operation.

The first criteria when considering co-operation is willingness, that the horse understands what is being asked of it and is confident enough in the athlete to react to the aids without fear or tension.

The horse's straightness, uphill tendency and balance enable it to stay in front of the athlete's legs and go forward into an accepting and self-carrying contact with the bit. This produces the picture of harmony and lightness.

Collection

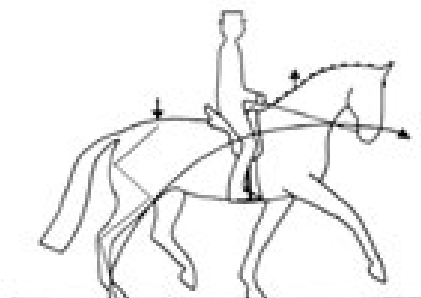
To further develop and improve the balance and equilibrium of the horse, which has been more or less displaced by the additional weight of the athlete.

To develop and increase the horse's ability to lower and engage its hindquarters for the benefit of the lightness and mobility of its forehand. To add to the 'ease and carriage' of the horse and to make it more pleasurable to ride.

Collection is developed through the use of half halts and the use of lateral movements shoulder in, travers, renvers and half pass.

Collection is improved and achieved by the use of the rider's seat and legs, and containing hands to engage the hind legs. The joints bend and are supple so that the hind legs can step forward under the horse's body.

The hind legs should not be engaged so far forward under the horse that they shorten the base of support excessively, thereby impeding the movement. In such a case, the line of the back would be lengthened and raised too much in relation to the supporting base of the legs, the stability would be impaired and the horse would have difficulty in finding a harmonious and correct balance.



A horse with an over long base of support, which is unable or unwilling to engage its hind legs forward under its body, will never achieve acceptable collection, which is characterised by 'ease and carriage' as well as a lively impulsion originating from the activity of the hindquarters.

The position of the head and neck of a horse at the collected paces is naturally dependent on the stage of training and, to some degree, on its conformation. It is distinguished by the neck being raised without restraint, forming a harmonious curve from the withers to the poll, which is the highest point, with the nose slightly in front of the vertical. At the moment the athlete applies their aids to obtain a momentary and passing collecting effect, the head may become more or less vertical. The arch of the neck is directly related to the degree of collection.

The position and aids of the athlete

All the movements should be obtained with subtle, imperceptible aids and without apparent effort of the athlete. The athlete should be well-balanced, elastic, sitting deep in the centre of the saddle, smoothly absorbing the movement of the horse through their core and hips, supple thighs with the legs steady and stretched well down. The heels should be the lowest point.

The upper part of the body should be tall and supple. The contact should be independent from the athlete's seat. The hands should be carried steadily, close together, with the thumb as the highest point and a straight line from the supple elbow through the hand to the horse's mouth. The elbows should be close to the body. All of these criteria enable the athlete to follow the movements of the horse smoothly and freely.

The effectiveness of the athlete's aids determines the precise fulfilment of the required movements of the tests. Consistent harmonious co-operation between horse and athlete is the desired result. Riding with both hands is obligatory at FEI and British Dressage non-disabled events.

When leaving the arena at a walk on a long rein, having finished the test, the athlete may, at their own discretion, ride with only one hand. (For Freestyle tests, see also Directives for Judges - Freestyle Tests and Directives for assessing the degree of difficulty in a Freestyle test available at www.fei.org.) The use of the voice or clicking the tongue repeatedly is a serious fault reflecting a lack of harmonious co-operation.

Definitions of movements ridden in national tests

Change of pace at a given marker

The horse should make the first step in the new pace as the rider passes the marker. (When the transitions are progressive, they must begin before reaching the marker). Where a movement requires medium or extended canter followed by a transition to collected trot, some collection should be shown just before the transition.

Give and retake the reins

The rider pushes one or both hands, as stated on the test sheet, towards the bit to clearly release the contact through showing a loop in the rein from the hand to the bit and then retakes the contact. The movement of the hands/hand should be continuous and achieved over two or three strides. As this is a test of self-carriage the horse should stay in balance, keeping the same rhythm, level of engagement, suppleness of the back and accept the restoration of contact.

Large walk half pirouette

The principles are as in the walk pirouette but are performed with less collection. They are approached out of a medium walk although the rider can shorten the walk just before them. The hind legs are permitted to make a half circle of 1 metre in diameter and the horse returns to the track on a straight line without taking sideways steps.

Leave the arena

After the final salute the rider should move off from the halt at a walk on a long rein, remain mounted and leave the arena at an appropriate place.

Simple change

Simple change of the leg at canter. This is a change of leg where the horse is brought back immediately into walk and, after three to five steps, is restarted immediately into a canter with the other leg leading. The walk steps should be clearly shown. A simple change is always required, through the walk. If walk steps are not required the movement should be described as a 'change of leg/lead through trot' and not as a simple change.

Turns and circles

A rider in movement along the outer track will continue along it on the same rein, without alteration of pace or manner of riding, until instructed to do otherwise. If required to leave this track and return to it (e.g. when circling), the rider will continue along the track in the same manner of going as they left it and on the same rein unless instructed to do otherwise. For a simple 'turn right (or left)' the rider will change direction through 90° by riding a quarter of a small circle (as at a corner) beginning before reaching the marker and finishing on a line at right angles to the track and directly opposite the marker.

For 'turn right (or left)' at any marker the rider will turn in a similar manner but will finish on the outer track. (N.B. - the horse must not begin by swinging out in the opposite direction and then cross the line of approach).

Work on a long rein

Free walk on a long rein

Free walk on a long rein is a pace of relaxation in which the horse is allowed complete freedom to lower and stretch out his head and neck while the rider maintains a light contact through the rein to the bit. The horse covers as much ground as possible, without haste and without losing the regularity of his steps, the hind feet touching the ground clearly in front of the foot prints of the forefeet.

Stretching in trot/canter

The horse is allowed the freedom to lower and stretch his head and neck forward and down while the rider maintains a light contact through the reins to the bit. The horse should continue to trot/canter in the same rhythm, with suppleness of the back and self-carriage.

Classic Dressage



Classic Dressage specialists in finding top class dressage horses. We've been matching horse and rider for over 20 years with many fabulous results.

Contact Rebecca Hughes on

07768 918706 or
rebecca@classicdressage.com



www.classicdressage.com

Jobes Barn, Fosse Way, Warwickshire CV35 9AE

0800 246 1994
07359 322 950

Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

British Dressage fully accepts its legal (The Children Act 1989 and 2004) and moral obligation to provide a duty of care, to protect all children (and adults at risk) and safeguard their welfare, irrespective of age, any disability they have, gender, racial origin, religious belief and sexual orientation. A child/young person is defined as a person under the age of 18 years (The Children Act 1989 and 2004).

British Dressage along with all other British Equestrian (BEF) member bodies, adopts and adheres to the BEF Safeguarding Policy. The full policy can be downloaded from the British Dressage website at: www.britishdressage.co.uk.

Policy aims

The aim of the British Dressage Safeguarding Policy is to promote good practice by:

- Ensuring robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation to provide children, young people and adults at risk with appropriate safety and protection whilst at British Dressage affiliated competitions, U21 international competitions, U25 competitions and training days, allowing them to participate in a fun, safe environment and in an atmosphere of fair play.
- Taking all reasonable practical steps to protect children and adults at risk from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and respect their rights, wishes and feelings.
- Ensuring everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children, young people and adults at risk.
- Ensuring that appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual(s) concerned and those who raise or disclose the concern. All concerns or allegations of poor practice or abuse are taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. It is the responsibility of child protection experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place - but it is everyone's responsibility to report it.
- Ensuring confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.
- Maintaining high standards of behaviour and good practice through compliance with BEF codes of conduct produced for staff, coaches, judges, selectors, volunteers and members.

The policy and procedures are mandatory for everyone involved with British Dressage. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

The policy will be reviewed every two years, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, UK Sport and the BEF
- or as a result of any other significant change or event

Lead Safeguarding Officer(s)

For confidential assistance or advice with any queries, concerns or incidents, please contact: Charlotte Osborne, Lead Safeguarding Officer (LSO) on 02477 087809 or charlotte.osborne@britishdressage.co.uk

The subject of safeguarding is an agenda item at Board of Directors, all BD Technical Committees and Regional Representatives meetings.

The role of the Lead Safeguarding Officer is:

- To represent British Dressage on the BEF Safeguarding Action Team (SAT).
- To keep this Policy up to date and ensure it is disseminated throughout the sport.
- To ensure that BD's staff, U21 Selectors, Chefs d'Equipe, BD Youth representatives, coaches, event organisers, officials and volunteers are aware of the Safeguarding Policy, procedures, guidelines and codes of conduct and adopt them as appropriate.
- To advise the BEF and their Safeguarding Advisory Group of any allegations or complaints made in relation to safeguarding and welfare. To implement BD's disciplinary procedure as appropriate.
- To respond to any allegations or complaints made from within BD in accordance with the agreed protocols detailed in the BEF Safeguarding Equestrian Sport Policy.
- To ensure that under 18 members and their parents are aware of BD's Safeguarding Policy and procedures and how to access them.
- To facilitate and promote education and training in safeguarding in partnership with the BEF and the other member bodies for all staff, officials and volunteers.
- To ensure that procedures on recruitment of staff, officials and volunteers are followed and where appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service procedures implemented.
- To ensure that codes of conduct are in place for officials, U21 selectors, coaches, volunteers, members and their parents.

Nominated Welfare Officer

BD appoints its Development Officers (DOs) and BD Youth Regional Representatives as Nominated Welfare Officers (NWO) at regional training sessions, camps and competitions.

At under 21 national and squad sessions, selectors will take on this role unless a Chef d'Equipe is present. There will also be NWOs at U25 events including the BD Youth Inter Regional Squad competition, BD Youth Home Nations and the U25 Championships.

The role of the Nominated Welfare Officer is to:

- Adopt and promote the BEF and BD's Safeguarding Policy.
- Be the first point of contact at the event or training session for volunteers, young people or parents for any issue concerning safeguarding, child protection or welfare, poor practice or potential/alleged abuse.
- Follow the procedures laid out in the BEF Safeguarding Equestrian Sport Policy for recording and reporting information.
- Report any allegations or complaints to BD's Lead Safeguarding Officer.
- Ensure confidentiality is maintained and information is only shared on a 'need to know' basis.

- Have access to contact details for Children's Services, the police and LSO. Where appropriate, this information should be established with the assistance of the event organiser before the affiliated event.

It is not the role of the NWO to be a Child Protection/Safeguarding expert or to determine whether or not abuse has taken place; their role is to record the details and seek guidance if necessary.

British Dressage operates a Whistleblowing Policy, that includes the reporting of any safeguarding breaches. The full Whistleblowing Policy is included in the Annexes section of the BD Members' Handbook for reference and is also available to view on the BD website.

Code of Conduct

To ensure that all forms of abuse are prevented and to help protect people who work with children and young people, the following guidelines must be followed by all staff, officials, members and volunteers:

- Always work in an open environment (e.g. avoid situations where you and an individual child are completely unobserved).
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all and treat everyone with equality.
- Ensure the welfare of each child in the context of winning or achieving goals.
- Always promote the positive aspects of equestrianism and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.
- Ensure that if any form of manual/physical support is required, it should be provided openly. Children should always be consulted and their agreement gained. Some parents are becoming increasingly sensitive about manual support and their views should always be carefully considered.
- Recognise the developmental needs and capacity of children – avoid excessive training or competition and do not push them against their will.
- Secure written parental consent for any event where the children will be unsupervised.

If the need arises to administer emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment, keep a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given.

The following should be avoided except in emergencies. If cases arise where these situations are unavoidable it should be with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge at an event or the child's parents. For example, if a child sustains an injury and needs to go to hospital or a parent fails to arrive to pick a child up at the end of an event:

- Avoid spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others.
- Avoid taking or dropping off a child to an event unless there are two adults present.
- Allegations made by a child must always be recorded, challenged, and acted upon.
- Do not do things of a personal nature for children or vulnerable adults that they can do for themselves.

Note: It may sometimes be necessary for adults to do things of a personal nature for children, particularly if they are young or disabled. These tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of parents/carers. If a person is fully dependent on you, talk with them about what you are doing and give choices where possible.

Officials, competitors and volunteers should never:

- Engage in rough, physical, or sexually provocative games.
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching.
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- Do not invite or allow children to stay with you at your home unsupervised.

If any of the following occur, you should report this immediately to another colleague and record the incident. You should also ensure the parents of the child are informed:

- If you accidentally hurt a child or young person.
- If they seem distressed in any manner.
- If a child misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done.

Procedure if allegations/complaints are made against staff or volunteers

If a complaint is made against a member of staff or volunteer which could be construed as abusive behaviour or an abuse of trust, it should be put in writing and signed and dated to ensure that it's not misinterpreted.

The written complaint should be sent to the Lead Safeguarding Officer for British Dressage.

The Lead Safeguarding Officer will decide whether to pass the complaint to another agency, e.g. police or social services, or in the case of less serious cases i.e. coaching violations; it will be investigated by British Dressage/the BEF and may be referred to a Disciplinary Committee as per the BD Members' Handbook.

If the case is passed to an external agency e.g. police or social care services, the BEF Case Management Group and/or the Safeguarding Advisory Group and Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)/appropriate agency for that country will be informed. The Chairman/Chief Executive will also be made aware that an allegation/complaint has been made which has been passed to other agencies.

When the investigation into the allegation/complaint has been completed by the other agencies, the case will return to the original agency to consider the employment issues.

If the individual(s) has/have been prosecuted and found guilty, British Dressage will not carry out a full investigation but may instigate a case review. The DBS must be informed and all member bodies instructed that they should no longer use this person/these people.

Further information can be found on the BEF website: <https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/getinvolved/safeguarding/what-is-safeguarding> and <https://equestrian.safetoplay.co.uk>.

Use of photographic/filming equipment at competitions/events

Whilst it is not intended to ban photography at events, organisers and officials must ensure that proper safeguards are in place and adhered to.

There is a potential risk posed to young children through the use of photographs on websites and in publications. Evidence shows that photographs which could be used to identify

children have been used in a way which could put them at risk from those who wish to groom or place them on child pornography sites.

Therefore, organisers of affiliated dressage events/training sessions/camps where riders under the age of 18 years are attending, need to ensure that they follow the guidelines below.

Professional/official photographers/filming/video operators must:

- Be given a clear brief
- Gain accreditation in advance of the event
- Wear identification at all times
- Not be given unsupervised access to competitors under the age of 18 years
- Not be allowed to take photographs outside the event (i.e. at a child's home)

Any other spectators (e.g. parents/guardians/spectators) wishing to take photographs which feature and clearly identify children i.e. close ups, teams etc. must register their name and address with the secretary of the event and/or wear identification.

Photography consent forms must be obtained from the child's parents/guardians before photographs are taken and the images used. These forms are available on the British Dressage website and in the BEF Safeguarding tool kit.

A notice confirming who the official photographer of the event is and that permission for photographs to be taken/used must be gained from all U18's parent/guardians, should be clearly displayed in the secretary's office or a prominent position or in the event programme.

All event officials and volunteers should be vigilant and any concerns should be reported to the organiser of the event who should then forward this information to the BD Lead Safeguarding Officer.

Use of photographic/filming equipment by coaches/trainers

There is no intention to prevent coaches and trainers using video equipment as a legitimate coaching aid. However, riders and their parents/carers should be made aware that this is part of the coaching programme and such films should be:

- Stored securely.
- Used only by the trainer/coach for training purposes.
- Destroyed when the film is of no more value for training purposes, or when requested to do so by the parent or carer.

Writers at affiliated competitions

Whilst we do not want to reduce opportunities for young people or create problems for judges/organisers, it is essential that British Dressage carries out its duty of care to all young people under the age of 18 years to keep them safe. Therefore, please see below the recommendations for organisers / judges where writers are under the age of 18 years.

- It is recommended that all writers at affiliated shows are 18 years and over.

- The judge is entitled to ask the age of their writer in advance of the competition and request an adult writer.
- It is recommended that when writers are under the age of 18 they are allocated to judges boxes / cars that are in a public space and in clear view at all times.
- Where this is not possible, both the judge and writer should be asked separately if they are happy with the arrangement. Where the young person is under 18 years, written consent must be sought from the parent/guardian.
- Where there are long breaks between tests or classes, it is recommended that judges do not remain in the judges box or their car with writers under the age of 18 years.
- If the judge wishes to bring with them/or chooses to invite a young person under the age of 18 years to write for them, then written consent from the parents/guardian and assent from the young person should be lodged with the organiser. If the judge is a first degree family member such as a parent or brother/sister, then no action is required. Where the relationship is at a second degree family member level such as aunt, uncle, grandparent or cousin then verbal consent to the organiser is sufficient.

Equality and equal opportunities

British Dressage is fully committed to the principles of equality of opportunity and aims to ensure that all people, irrespective of ability, age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion, belief, sex and sexual orientation have equal opportunities to take part in dressage at any level and in any role:

- British Dressage seeks to educate and guide British Dressage members, their employees and volunteers on the ownership, adoption and implementation of its equality policy.
- Intends to raise awareness of equality through the implementation of this policy and the adoption of a Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan.
- Aims to monitor, review and evaluate progress in achieving the stated aims and objectives and to feed back to the BEF and member bodies on progress made.
- British Dressage will ensure that its recruitment and selection procedures for volunteers, staff, and officials are fair and transparent, and meet the appropriate legal requirements of the action plan.

British Dressage Social Media Policy

British Dressage Members must comply with this Social Media Policy and also the FEI Social Media Policy at all times, particularly when using any form of social media, including when participating in, submitting, or responding to any internet postings, including blogs and wikis, however these are accessed. Any breach of this Policy by any member will be subject to the procedures relating to misconduct and complaints contained in the Members' Code of Conduct. Breaches of the Policy may result in disciplinary action and may be the subject of other proceedings or enforcement action.

Scope of this policy

British Dressage fully respects the principle of free speech; at the same time BD wants all BD Members to be able to engage within equestrian sport in a safe and respectful online environment. British Dressage recognises that the internet provides everyone with the ability to participate in interactive discussions and to share information on a wide variety of social media. BD Members should treat others with respect and demonstrate sportsmanship both on and off social media platforms. This Social Media Policy relates to the use of social media by British Dressage members in so far as such use relates to or affects British Dressage, its employees, members, and volunteers.

In this policy

BD Members means anyone who participates in BD activities, including but not limited to members of British Dressage in all paid membership categories, show organisers, judges, stewards, writers, scorers, office staff, committee representatives (all of whom must be members of BD), coaches, sponsors and any other volunteers acting on behalf of British Dressage.

Social Media means all forms of social media that exist now or may exist in the future, including but not limited to Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, Instagram, Tik Tok, Threads, Reddit, SnapChat, Pinterest, LinkedIn, Wikipedia, Tumblr, Flickr, Google+ and all other social networking websites, all other internet posting sites, all blogs and wikis and all other internet forums or closed user groups.

Responsible use of Social Media

Every member must be respectful of British Dressage and should exercise good judgement when posting on social media, including consideration of the potential consequences of their interactions on social media platforms. BD Members must:

- a) Be aware that publication of information and comment on social media carries the same obligations as any other kind of publication and should follow the same ethical and legal standards.
- b) Not post, share, or otherwise submit on social media any statement, material, information, or image which is malicious, misleading, threatening, derogatory, obscene, indecent, seditious, offensive, pornographic, abusive, disparaging, racist, discriminatory, menacing, inflammatory, blasphemous, intimidating, or defamatory (definitions are as per the FEI Social Media Policy).
- c) Not engage in online disputes, public arguments, private user chats or forums that target a particular group or single out an individual for specific criticism / comment.

- d) Not post, share, or otherwise submit comments about sensitive business-related topics, such as British Dressage's performance, or do anything to jeopardise British Dressage's trade secrets, confidential information, and intellectual property.
- e) Not post, share, or otherwise submit on social media, statements, material, information, or images concerning, or which could directly or indirectly damage the name, business interests or reputation of British Dressage or any BD member.
- f) Not disclose any sensitive, private, or confidential information that could compromise the fairness and integrity of the sport.
- g) Not disclose on any social media, any personal information relating to any other BD Member or any other information or image which has been provided to the poster in confidence.
- h) Respect the privacy and confidentiality of BD members and any other individuals participating in equestrian sport.
- i) Only post comments about a BD member that are respectful and which the poster would say directly to that person.
- j) Consider how other people reading a post might react before actually posting it on any social media.
- k) Not use BD logos, brand names, slogans or other trademarks, or post any of its confidential, proprietary or copyrighted information without BD's prior written permission.
- l) Make it clear if using, referring to, or otherwise disclosing their BD membership status in any way on social media, that they are speaking on their own behalf and that their views do not represent those of British Dressage.
- m) Ensure that their profile and any content they post is consistent with the professional image they are required to present to clients and colleagues and all other BD members.
- n) Not engage in conduct that may compromise their impartiality, integrity, or credibility. Publicly expressing personal biases or making discriminatory remarks is strictly prohibited.
- o) Not use social media in a way that breaches any other rules, codes, and policies in the BD Members' Handbook.
- p) Show proper respect for the laws governing copyright and fair use/dealing of copyrighted material.
- q) Strive to provide accurate and reliable information on social media platforms. They should fact-check before sharing or commenting on news or events related to equestrian sport. Sharing false information or spreading rumours can have a detrimental effect on the sport and its stakeholders.

British Dressage accepts no liability of any kind, legal or otherwise, for posts by BD members on social media. BD members are personally accountable for the content they publish, they are personally responsible for their online activities and should act in a manner that upholds the values and standards of their activity and/or role, and the good reputation of BD.

British Dressage reserves the right to instruct the removal of social media postings and activities that include references to it and/or its members, to ensure that its rules and this Policy are being complied with and for legitimate purposes. All members consent to such action by their agreeing to abide by all the rules, codes, and policies in the BD Members' Handbook.

British Dressage may permanently remove or delete posts, threads, comments, or any other form of submissions from its own social media channels, without notice or explanation, including but not limited to Facebook, X, Instagram, TikTok, Threads and YouTube, that are

deemed to be in breach of this Policy. The BD Member responsible could be liable for disciplinary action, as detailed in the BD Members' Code of Conduct.

British Dressage may require members to permanently remove or delete posts, threads, comments, or any other form of submissions made using social media platforms that are deemed to be in breach of this Policy. Administrators of any unofficial British Dressage Forums, or those that run similar closed user groups on social media, are also bound by the same terms and are expected to permanently remove or delete any posts, threads, comments, or submissions that may be deemed in breach of this Policy.

Failure to comply with such a request may in itself result in disciplinary action as outlined in the BD Members' Code of Conduct. British Dressage will comply with any law, or request by any governmental or other regulatory authority, or order by a court or other authority of competent jurisdiction, requiring BD to disclose the identity or location of any Member posting any material in breach of this Policy. BD may share a BD person's private information with the police or any other governmental authority if it is asked to do so in connection with the investigation of suspected illegal activities.

It is the collective responsibility of all BD Members to maintain the highest standards of conduct and promote a positive and respectful online environment. If you as a user identify potentially damaging or harmful content that is in breach of this Policy, please contact the Chief Executive of British Dressage: ceo@britishdressage.co.uk.

If you personally experience or see any abuse on social media, in the first instance you should report it to the administrators of that social media platform or closed user group. In serious cases that involve a threat to a person's life, safety, or property, or targeting specific individuals, including persistent harassment and ongoing abuse, you should immediately report the matter to the police.

If your grievance or dispute involves the sport of dressage and / or the individual is a BD person, please notify British Dressage by email: office@britishdressage.co.uk.

HORSEQUEST

.co.uk

The Official Classifieds Partner of British Dressage

Buying? You'll find over 800 quality Dressage horses and ponies advertised on HorseQuest

Selling? BD members save 10% OFF advertising plus a FREE upgrade with the code **BDP10**

"When I need to sell any of our horses I always use HorseQuest. The response I get is far better than any other form of advertising, and the team are always extremely helpful and prompt."

Andrew Gould



SECTION 1

Rules

Rules

This section is all about what you need to get into the competition arena. What membership you and your horse need, planning your competitions and what you are eligible for, how to make your entries, how the competitions work, what you and your horse can wear and riding the actual test.

There is a supplementary 'Approved Tack and Equipment Guide' booklet which we update in January and July on the website (www.britishdressage.co.uk) under Competition Rules which we recommend you keep on your mobile device or print for the tack room or lorry.

The following areas are covered:

- Membership**
- Horse registration**
- International Rules**
- Para eligibility and competitions**
- Eligibility for competitions**
- Entries and competitions**
- Competitor dress and equipment**
- Saddlery and tack**
- Riding the test and penalties**
- BD dressage tests currently in use**

Agreement

1. Agreement to be bound by the rules

All members of British Dressage (BD) are bound by the Memorandum and Articles of BD, together with the rules, Code of Conduct, regulations, terms and conditions and byelaws made under them. Decisions of the Board and other delegated authorities of BD in connection with the rules, regulations and byelaws are final and binding.

Members are responsible for ensuring they are familiar with the rules. Please note that where a member has a registered parent/guardian/or carer they are also bound by these rules.

The rules and annexes contained in this book are in force at the date of publication. Any amendments by BD are enforceable on the date of publication (unless otherwise stated in the notice of amendment), provided that notice of such amendment is published in one or more of the following media:

- British Dressage magazine
- Member, Show Organisers and Officials newsletters
- British Dressage website - www.britishdressage.co.uk
- Official British Dressage social media sites

It is understood and agreed by members that any photographs and/or film taken at a BD affiliated show or activity by an official photographer may be used by BD and the BEF for security/promotional/fund raising/publicity/marketing/advertising purposes without payment or permission. Under GDPR regulations, any member who does not wish to have their photograph taken, must make it known to the Show Organiser on the day of the competition/training activity.

By signing an Affiliation Agreement, Venue Proprietors, Show Organisers and their representatives are considered members of BD and are bound by all BD rules, regulations and byelaws and any published Codes of Conduct. Additionally, they agree to abide by and observe the decisions of the Board, delegated authorities and committees of BD. Show Organisers are responsible for ensuring that they are familiar with the rules, Codes of Conduct and any amendments made to them.

In becoming a member of British Dressage, members have also agreed to be bound by:

- The British Dressage Charter for the Horse and Code of Conduct for Horse Welfare
- The FEI Rules when competing in International classes
- The BEF Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules (BEFAR)
- The BEF Anti-Doping Rules for International Athletes.

2. British Dressage membership

Applications for membership are to be made online at www.britishdressage.co.uk.

BD reserves the right to decline any application for, or renewal of, membership without stating a reason.

Only paid members of BD, are covered by the insurances provided by BD (see Annex for full details).

The minimum age for membership and riding in BD competitions is six, there is no upper age limit. Members under the age of 16 must have a Parent, Guardian, or Carer (PGC) to administer their account. The PGC must be a minimum of a BD Community member.

Your member benefits

Membership with British Dressage extends further than the competition arena, for a complete list of your member benefits with us please visit www.britishdressage.co.uk and visit the Membership section.

Member Insurance

British Dressage membership entitles paying members to receive Personal Public Liability and Personal Accident Insurance provided by Official Partners KBIS. For further information, please refer to the Annexes.

Full details can be found on the KBIS website, www.kbis.co.uk.

Legal Helpline

Please refer to the BD website under Member Benefits for details on our legal helpline provided by Rothera Bray.

3. Membership structure

To be eligible to compete in affiliated dressage classes or register as the owner of a horse/pony, you must be a member of British Dressage.

All BD championships require a Full membership except Quest Championships, Combined Training and Associated Championships at Intro, which require a minimum of Club membership.

Please ensure that memberships are upgraded before entering the championship you wish to attend.

All riders competing in freestyle to music competitions must sign a PPL license, the cost of which is included within the membership fee for Full (competing) and Club membership. This only covers music classes at BD affiliated competitions.

It is your responsibility as an owner/rider, to check that all records we hold including personal details and competition records are correct and up to date and to ensure that you have checked the eligibility tables in section 1 before you enter competitions. Any results gained whilst you are ineligible will be excluded and will not be shown on your or your horse's competition record.

The table below details the benefits and eligibility for competition for each membership category.

| Membership | What is it? | What can I do? |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Full (competing) | Complete membership package, which covers you for one year from joining date with the full package of benefits. | All events and shows affiliated to British Dressage. |
| Trial | All the benefits of the full membership (excluding Members Insurance) but for a three month trial period for those who have never been a member of BD before. | Access all events and shows affiliated to British Dressage but for a three month period. |
| Winter | All the benefits of Full membership (excluding Members Insurance), running from 1 October to 31 March each year. Ideal for eventers or Riding Club members. | Access all events and shows affiliated to British Dressage but for a six month period over the Winter. |
| Full (non-competing) | A year-long package aimed at owners, trainers, officials, organisers and supporters. | Officiate, own a competing horse, plus receive BD Magazine and digital Members' Handbook. This membership carries no eligibility to compete. |
| Club | A year-long package that enables you to ride at the grassroots levels. Qualify for various finals such as Associated Championships/ Quest Championships. | All Quest classes, Music Classes, Prelim Bronze and Combined Training. |
| Quest Winter League | A membership that gives you access to Quest Winter League competitions. | Quest Winter League classes. |
| BD Community | A free membership that gives members access to the BD website. | Access schedules and results on the BD website and competing in an affiliated class on a class ticket only. |

What membership do I need for each competition and championship?

| | | Full (competing) | Club | Winter/ Trial | Quest Winter League | Class tickets |
|--|----------------|---------------------|--|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Area Festivals (inc. summer freestyle) | Qualifying | ✓ | Prelim Bronze and Music | ✓ | × | × |
| | Area Festivals | ✓ | × | ✓ | × | × |
| | Championships | ✓ | × | ✓ | × | × |
| Associated Championships | Qualifying | ✓ | Intro, Prelim and Novice from Quest, Prelim Bronze from BD | ✓ | × | × |
| | Championships | ✓ | Intro only | ✓ | × | × |
| Combined Training | Qualifying | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × | ✓ |
| | Championships | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × | × |
| Para | Qualifying | ✓ | Bronze only | ✓ | × | × |
| | Championships | ✓ | × | ✓ | × | × |
| Quest | Qualifying | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × | × |
| | Semi-Finals | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × | × |
| | Championships | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × | × |
| | Winter League | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × |
| Winter/National Championships (inc. winter freestyle) | Qualifying | ✓ | Music only | ✓ | × | × |
| | Regionals | ✓ | × | ✓ | × | × |
| | Championships | ✓ | × | ✓ | × | × |
| Young Horse/ Young Pony | Qualifiers | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × | × |
| | Semi-Finals | ✓ | × | ✓ | × | × |
| | Championships | ✓ | × | ✓ | × | × |

Full membership runs for 12 months from the date of registration with the exception of Winter membership which runs from 1 October to 31 March, Trial membership which runs for three months and Quest Winter League membership which runs from 1 September to 31 December.

4. **Riders registered with British Eventing or holding a BHS qualification**

Event riders wishing to compete with BD must disclose their previous and ongoing BE achievements for points to be allocated accordingly. Riders that have competed at Intermediate or Advanced in the current or preceding 10 years will be allocated points as below. Points allocated from British Eventing records will not be removed.

| Eventing level | Level eligible for |
|-----------------------|---|
| BE Advanced (4 or 5*) | 25 points Prelim to Medium and 1 point at Advanced Medium |
| Intermediate (3*) | 25 points Prelim to Elementary and 1 point at Medium |
| BE Novice (2*) | 0 points added |

Riders joining BD with a BHSI or FBHS qualifications will be allocated 25 points from Preliminary to Medium and one point at Advanced Medium. Failure to disclose this information may result in ineligibility and elimination.

5. **Athletes competing in a country outside of their Home Nation (Permission to Compete)**

Foreign riders domiciled in Great Britain and competing in national classes

Foreign riders and those who have spent more than 12 months riding abroad will be no lower than Group 4 upon registration and will be given 25 points at each level up to Advanced Medium unless evidence of a competition record (or lack thereof) from the home or competing nation can be provided, in which case BD will adjust the points accordingly.

Foreign riders competing in the UK require permission to compete in national classes from their National Federation; this information is the responsibility of the rider and must be submitted to the BD office upon registration. Riders with passports from Ireland are considered to be foreign.

Riders who wish to maintain their eligibility to ride for their own country may compete in qualifiers and championships. They may win the Grand Prix championship classes, however they will not become the BD National Champion and will not be awarded BD National Champion sashes, rosettes or prize money.

GB riders domiciled in a country other than GB

British riders competing in national competitions in a country other than their host National Federation (GB) are required to have permission to compete from British Dressage. The rider is required to be a full member of BD.

6. **Horse/Pony registration**

To compete in affiliated dressage competition, a horse or pony must be registered with BD and the owner must be a member of BD. Horse refers also to a pony or other











ONLINE DRESSAGE

with Dressage Anywhere



Monthly Competition and Training Classes

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Film your test at home |  BD Online Championships |
|  British Dressage judges |  BD Intro to Advanced tests |
|  Download your digital scoresheet |  Win prizes, rosettes and prestige |
|  Judged within days of entering |  Championships, leagues and more! |

www.dressageanywhere.com

member of the Genus Equus unless the context requires otherwise. A horse shall be born from a mare. Horses must be microchipped in line with DEFRA regulations, horses that do not have this in place will not be eligible for registration or renewal.

It is a legal requirement that all horses are registered on the Central Equine Database, to support effective biosecurity and tracing, and we strongly recommend that members sign up with the Equine Register to make this process easier and ensure that all of the details registered for you and your horse(s) are correct and up to date. The Equine Register manages the Central Equine Database and National Chip Checker on behalf of DEFRA and provides this service free of charge at www.equineregister.co.uk/britishequestrian.

The table below details the benefits and eligibility for competition for each horse registration category.

| Horse Registration | What is it? | What can I do? |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Full | Registration to cover your horse for one year from joining | All events and shows affiliated to British Dressage |
| Trial | All benefits of full registration but for a three month trial period for horses that have never been registered with BD before. | Trial all the benefit of Full registration but for a three month period |
| Winter | All the benefits of Full horse registration, running from 1 October to 31 March each year. Winter horses can only be registered by Winter members | Full horse registration benefits for a six month period over the Winter |
| Club | A year-long package that enables horses to compete at the grassroots levels. Club horses can be ridden in Quest Semi-Final Championships | All Quest classes, Young Horse qualifiers, Music classes, Prelim Bronze and Combined Training. |
| Quest Winter League | A registration that allows your horse to compete in Quest Winter League competitions | Quest Winter League classes. |
| BD Community | A free registration for your horse | BD Community horse registration is needed to compete in affiliated class on a class ticket only |

Full Registration for horses and ponies runs for 12 months from the date of registration with the exception of Winter registrations which run from 1 October to 31 March, Trial registration which runs for three months and Quest Winter League registration which runs from 1 September to 31 December. Any results gained since lapsing will not be recorded even if registration is subsequently renewed or upgraded. Quest Winter League and Club registrations for horses can only be used in conjunction with Quest Winter League, Club or Full (competing) memberships for owners/riders or Full (non-competing)

memberships for owners only.

What type of horse registrations do I need for each competition and championship?

| | | Full | Club | Winter/ Trial | Quest Winter League | Class tickets |
|--|----------------|------|--|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Area Festivals (inc. summer freestyle) | Qualifying | ✓ | Prelim Bronze and Music | ✓ | × | × |
| | Area Festivals | ✓ | × | ✓ | × | × |
| | Championships | ✓ | × | ✓ | × | × |
| Associated Championships | Qualifying | ✓ | Intro, Prelim and Novice from Quest, Prelim Bronze from BD | ✓ | × | × |
| | Championships | ✓ | Intro only | ✓ | × | × |
| Combined Training | Qualifying | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × | ✓ |
| | Championships | ✓ | ✓ | × | × | × |
| Para | Qualifying | ✓ | Bronze only | ✓ | × | × |
| | Championships | ✓ | × | ✓ | × | × |
| Quest | Qualifying | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × | × |
| | Semi-Finals | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × | × |
| | Championships | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × | × |
| | Winter League | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × |
| Winter/National Championships (inc. winter freestyle) | Qualifying | ✓ | Music only | ✓ | × | × |
| | Regionals | ✓ | × | ✓ | × | × |
| | Championships | ✓ | × | ✓ | × | × |
| Young Horse/ Young Pony | Qualifiers | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × | × |
| | Semi-Finals | ✓ | × | ✓ | × | × |
| | Championships | ✓ | × | ✓ | × | × |

A horse that has been subject to a loss of use insurance claim may be registered to compete, however a current veterinary certificate from the treating vet will be required to ensure the horse's fitness to compete. Please refer to the Membership Experience Manager for more information.

The registration of a horse with British Dressage is for competition purposes only and the registration does not determine the legal status of ownership of, or liability for, said horse.

British Dressage accepts no responsibility for the content or accuracy of the registered details which are intended for its own sole administrative use. BD may suspend registration of a horse or pony until such time as a dispute over ownership is settled.

British Dressage shall use the ownership details registered with them for entries, programme listings and reporting purposes only. Owners who wish to be included must have an appropriate membership to be included on the horse's record.

7. **Verification of names and breeding of horses and ponies**

When registering your horse **please upload or email** the pages of the passport as set out below. Please email passports@britishdressage.co.uk. These must be provided to BD **within 14 days** of applying for a horse registration. If this requirement is not complied with, the horse may not compete until the information is received.

- The Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO), including an overstamp by a UK passport issuing organisation for any imported horses
- Microchip number
- The horse's name
- Unique Equine Life Number (UELN) if applicable
- PIO registration number (if different from the UELN)
- The vaccinations page, showing up to date vaccinations in accordance with rule 10.
- Date of birth
- Pedigree/breeding, or a statement that it is not known.

The horse/pony must be registered with the same name as the name shown on their registered national breed society or FEI passport. The only exceptions are as follows:

- If there is already a horse registered with the same name, a roman numeral will be added.
- The name of the horse/pony can be changed if the name on its passport is formally changed by the issuing authority. The owner must send the relevant pages of the new amended passport to BD for verification.
- A horse registered with a different name to that on the passport prior to the implementation of this rule in 2010 may keep the registered name. If the owner wishes to change the registered name to match the name on its passport, this can be changed free of charge.
- If the horse/pony's name has not been entered on its national breed society passport the owner can choose the horse/pony's name, enter it direct onto the passport and inform the passport issuing body of its name. This name will be linked to the horse/ pony's unique identification number shown on its passport.
- A horse must be registered with the name entered on its passport unless, the name on the Horse's passport is offensive, has a purely commercial purpose or is otherwise unsuitable, when the Horse will be registered with an acceptable name similar to that on the passport.
- A suitable prefix or suffix (not shown in the horse/pony's passport) may be added for a

fee of £30.

- If the horse/pony is subsequently registered with the FEI, the chosen prefix may not be permitted and the horse/pony must be named according to FEI rules.
- If a horse/pony changes ownership/sponsorship the prefix/suffix can be removed and the horse/pony can revert back to its original name unless the national breed society passport has also been changed. There is no charge for this.

8. **Age of horses and ponies**

The age of a horse/pony is taken from 1 January in the year in which it was born. The minimum age from which a horse may compete is four years old. Horses competing at PSG and Intermediate I level and above must be at least seven years old. Horses competing at Intermediate II and Grand Prix must be at least eight years old.

9. **Pony Height Certificates**

Ponies may be registered and compete on equal terms with horses in all affiliated competitions, where grading points will be awarded in the normal manner. Riders may be aged six years old and over, with the exception of Young Pony classes where riders are eligible from the beginning of the year of their 12th birthday.

Ponies competing internationally will require an FEI Measuring Certificate in their FEI passport before they compete. Please visit the International Competition section in the BD Youth pages on the BD website for further information.

10. **Equine Influenza Vaccination**

Any horse/pony receiving a new primary course as of 1 January 2024 must be vaccinated as follows:

- V1 (initial vaccination)
- V2 (second vaccination) - must be administered 21 - 60 days after V1.

Horses/ponies may only attend a BD competition/activity 7 full days after receiving the second vaccination (V2).

- V3 (first booster) must be administered within 6 months and 21 days of V2, and not within seven days of a competition.
- Subsequent booster injections must be administered at a maximum of 12 month intervals and not within 7 days of a competition.

The vaccination record(s) in the horse's passport, must be completed, signed, and stamped line by line, by an appropriate veterinary surgeon who is neither the owner nor the rider of the horse.

In the interests of equine welfare and to maintain optimum protection levels for your horse, it is strongly recommended that the most recent booster injection is given within six calendar months and 21 days prior to the horse competing.

In the event of an equine influenza outbreak, or increased risk to the health of the horse population, British Dressage reserves the right to amend these vaccination requirements

at short notice, which may include mandatory reintroduction of six-monthly booster injections.

Please note that any BD member participating in international competition operating under FEI rules must adhere to the FEI vaccination requirements.

The responsibility to comply with this rule lies with the competitor, who should consult with their veterinarian.

Horses being found without adequate and up to date vaccinations will not be allowed to compete and will be barred from competing until such a time that they have been given their first and second vaccinations. The registration of any horse found in breach of this rule will be suspended until rectified.

11. Imported horses

When an imported horse is registered with BD, it is the owner's responsibility to submit a full competition record or proof that the horse has never competed in the country of origin so that BD points can be awarded to the horse in accordance with its level of ability. For the purpose of registration, horses foaled in Ireland are classified as British. Any horse with a competition record from Dressage Ireland will be allocated the same number of points on their BD record.

Newly imported horses without competition records will be automatically allocated 25 points at each level according to their age at the time of registration to the scale given in the table below, unless proof of import at an earlier age can be supplied. It is the owner's responsibility to supply proof of age at import, i.e. official import documents or the record of a vaccination administered in the UK.

An imported horse which has been registered with BE for at least one year and has a competition record, will be exempt from importation rules unless it has competed at Intermediate or Advanced level. In this instance the points in the table listed in rule 12 will apply.

| Age at import | Points |
|---------------------|---|
| 4 year old | 0 points |
| 5 year old | 25 points at each level up to and including Novice |
| 6 year old | 25 points at each level up to and including Elementary |
| 7 year old | 25 points at each level up to and including Medium |
| 8 year old | 25 points at each level up to and including Advanced Medium |
| 9 year old or above | 25 points at each level up to and including PSG |

12. Event horses

Members registering event horses must disclose their horse's BE record to BD. Horses that have competed at Intermediate or Advanced level in the current or preceding 10 years will be allocated points as follows. Please note, all points will remain on the horse record and will not be removed after 10 years.

| Eventing level (horse) | Level eligible for |
|------------------------|--|
| BE Advanced (4 or 5*) | 25 points Prelim to Elementary and 1 point at Medium |
| Intermediate (3*) | 25 points Prelim to Novice and 1 point at Elementary |
| BE Novice (2*) | 0 points added |

13. Eligibility of horses competing in national competitions abroad

Horses which go abroad and compete in national competitions will be classed as imported horses for eligibility purposes if they return to the UK. If a full competition record from the foreign federation for the horse can be presented to BD, points will be added to the horse's record accordingly.

International Rules

14. Union flag badges, small recognition pocket badges, saddle cloth badges and jackets

Senior International and Para International Riders

Riders selected to represent Great Britain on a team at a CDIO Nations Cup, Senior or Para European Championship, World Games, Olympic or Paralympic Games are entitled ad infinitum to wear the Red Union Flag pocket badge for Senior Teams.

Riders competing in a CDI or CPEDI are eligible for a small recognition pocket badge ad infinitum. Riders competing privately in international CDIs or CPEDIs or foreign national competitions are not eligible for a pocket badge.

Union Flag saddlecloth badges may only be worn when the competitor is competing for Great Britain in an international (FEI) competition. These must be removed after the competition has finished.

Tailcoat and short jacket protocols: only riders who have been selected to represent Great Britain on a Championship team, as first reserve or as an individual at a Senior or Para European Championship, World Games, Olympic or Paralympic Games are entitled to wear the recognised colour combination of navy jacket with red waistcoat points and red collars with white piping. Nations Cup riders are not permitted to wear a navy jacket with red waistcoat points and red collars with white piping.

An example of this can be found in the British Dressage Tack and Equipment Guide on the British Dressage website under Competition Rules.

U25 International Riders

Riders competing in a CDI are eligible for a small recognition pocket badge *ad infinitum*. Riders competing privately in international CDIs or foreign national competitions are not eligible for a pocket badge.

Riders selected to represent Great Britain on a team at a CDIO Nations Cup or at an U25 European Championships are entitled to wear a Burgundy Union Flag pocket badge on the breast pocket, which may be worn until the rider is out of the U25 age group.

Tailcoat and short jacket protocols: only riders who have been selected to represent Great Britain on a Championship team or as an individual at a U25 European Championship are entitled to wear the recognised colour combination of navy jacket with red waistcoat points and red collars with white piping.

Red collars are not permitted on a navy jacket or tailcoat unless you are a championship team rider. An example of this can be found in the British Dressage Tack and Equipment Guide on the British Dressage website.

Children on Horses, Pony, Junior and Young Rider

Riders selected to represent Great Britain on a team, or as an individual, at a Children on Horses/Pony/Junior/Young Rider European Championships are entitled to wear the relevant coloured Union Flag pocket badge on the breast pocket of their jacket or tailcoat (depending upon their age category) until they are out of the U21 age group (please see rule for BD Youth riders on Championship Teams).

Riders competing at a CDI/CDIO, in any age group, are eligible for a small recognition pocket badge; this can be kept on a rider's jacket until they are out of the U21 age group.

Riders competing privately in international or foreign national competitions are not eligible for a small recognition pocket badge.

Union Flag saddle cloth badges may only be worn when the competitor is competing for Great Britain in an international (FEI) competition. These must be removed after the competition has finished.

Tailcoat and short jacket protocols: Children on Horses, Pony, Junior, Young Rider - only riders and first reserves (unless specified otherwise by the International Director) who have been selected to represent Great Britain on a team or as an individual at a European Championship are entitled to wear the recognised colour combination of navy jacket/tailcoat with red waistcoat points and red collars with white piping.

Red collars are not permitted on a navy jacket or tailcoat as this style signifies a British Team rider only. Riders may wear a British team jacket (once entitled) as per their specific age category until they are out of the U21 age group. An example of this can be found in the British Dressage Tack and Equipment Guide available on the British Dressage website under Competition Rules.

Eventing pocket badges

Riders entitled to wear a Union Flag pocket badge by British Eventing must ride in the following sections:

| Category | Section/Level |
|------------------------------|--|
| Seniors | Gold up to and including Advanced Medium |
| Young Riders | Gold up to and including Medium |
| Junior/Ponies/ CIC2* Team | Gold up to and including Elementary |

This restriction only applies for two years from the last time they competed internationally.

Foreign riders competing internationally

Riders entitled to wear a small recognition pocket badge from another National Federation (in dressage or eventing) must also adhere to the above rules.

Home Nations

Those selected for Home Nations competitions are eligible for a small pocket badge and saddlecloth badge with a St George/St Andrew/Welsh flag or equivalent.

Flags must be removed after the competition and not worn for any subsequent BD competition.

15. Riders competing at FEI levels

Any rider who has competed at a Senior CDI/CDN at Middle or Big Tour (Intermediate II/A/B and Grand Prix) is only eligible to ride in the Gold section with any horse at all levels, with immediate effect.

16. British Dressage riders on FEI youth championships teams

Combinations who ride for Great Britain in dressage at an FEI Youth Championship either in the team or as individuals must ride in the Gold section of National competitions at the level that they have been selected and below. This means the Gold section of Elementary and below for Children on Horses; Medium and below for Ponies; Advanced Medium and below for Juniors; Prix St Georges and below for Young Riders. As soon as a Union Flag is awarded, any qualifications already gained in Silver sections must be transferred to Gold sections.

17. **British Eventing riders on FEI youth championships teams**

Combinations who ride for Great Britain in eventing at an FEI Championship for Ponies and Juniors must ride in the Gold section of Elementary and below. Young Riders must ride in the Gold section of Medium and below. As soon as a Union Flag is awarded, any qualifications already gained in Silver sections must be transferred to Gold sections and the British Dressage office notified.

18. **Specific rules relating to FEI competitions**

All such competitors and horses when competing in the above categories hereby agree to do so under the jurisdiction of the BEF or in turn the FEI, BOA, IOC and the Sports Councils of Great Britain.

The BEF Rule Book will apply in all such circumstances including the rules for doping and medication control and the BEF Rules shall take precedence over the rules of British Dressage for such purposes.

It is the responsibility of all members of BD affected by this rule to familiarise themselves with the Rules of the BEF, FEI, BOA, IOC and Sports Councils of Great Britain which may be obtained from British Equestrian.

Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI)

All International dressage competitions are run in accordance with the FEI (Federation Equestre Internationale) rules. All riders competing in FEI competitions will require an FEI rider's license (which includes adherence to the Anti-Doping Rules).

All horses and riders wishing to compete at any international event (CDI, CDIO, CDIW and CPEDI) whether living in Britain or abroad, must be registered with the FEI, via BD. All registrations must be completed prior to entry to an FEI competition. Please contact the relevant International Officers at BD for further information.

Annual international championships are held for seven categories of competitors:

- a) Senior Riders
- b) U25
- c) Young Riders
- d) Junior Riders
- e) Pony Riders
- f) Children on Horses
- g) Para Equestrian Dressage Riders

Children on Horses

Children on Horses competitors are eligible to take part in Children on Horses international competitions from the beginning of the calendar year of their 12th birthday until the end of the calendar year of their 14th birthday.

For CDI competitions and FEI Championship events, riders must be on horses only. Horses must be six years old or over.

Ponies

Pony competitors are eligible to take part in Pony International competitions from the beginning of the calendar year of their 12th birthday until the end of the calendar year of their 16th birthday. A pony is a small horse whose height at the withers, having been measured on a smooth level surface, does not exceed 148cm without shoes or 149cm with shoes.

Ponies must be six years old or over. As of 1 January 2023, all ponies require an FEI measuring certificate to compete at FEI events.

Juniors

Junior competitors are eligible to take part in Junior international competitions from the beginning of the calendar year of their 14th birthday until the end of the calendar year of their 18th birthday. Horses must be a minimum of six years old.

Young Riders

Young Rider competitors are eligible to take part in Young Rider international competitions from the beginning of the calendar year of their 16th birthday until the end of the calendar year of their 21st birthday. Horses must be over 148cm in height and must be a minimum of seven years old.

U25

U25 competitors are eligible to take part in U25 international competitions from the beginning of the calendar year of their 16th birthday until the end of the calendar year of their 25th birthday. Horses must be over 148cm in height and must be a minimum of eight years old.

Riders competing in National U21 FEI Classes

Riders under the minimum age stated in FEI rules for Under 21 classes (Children on Horses, Pony, Junior or Young Rider) may enter these classes at Premier Leagues and national competitions unless otherwise stated in the schedule. These tests will not be considered for selection and are only open to riders under the maximum age for each age category.

19. Suspension

In the event that a rider/owner receives an FEI suspension, such rider/owner will automatically be suspended from all rights and privileges of membership of British Dressage for the same period of time as the FEI suspension.

20. Points

Horses and riders competing in CDI competitions from PSG to Grand Prix and CDI Children on Horses, Pony, Junior and Young Rider, will be awarded points based on the below scale. Points are awarded against the percentage achieved in the competition:

| CDI Points | | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| 60.00-61.99% | 1 point | 72.00-73.99% | 12 points |
| 62.00-63.99% | 2 points | 74.00-75.99% | 14 points |
| 64.00-65.99% | 4 points | 76.00-77.99% | 16 points |
| 66.00-67.99% | 6 points | 78.00-79.99% | 18 points |
| 68.00-69.99% | 8 points | 80.00% and above | 20 points |
| 70.00-71.99% | 10 points | | |

REVIVE REPAIR PERFORM

"Since using Equissage Pulse we have seen a big improvement, all the horses have reaped the benefits which is shown in their results this season." Lewis Carrier



Increase stride



Improves blood circulation



2A Medical Device



British Made



0% finance available



Follow us on
Instagram



Follow us on
Facebook

For a free demonstration contact Equissage today
0800 689 9844
www.niagaraequissage.com

Para rules and qualification

In this section you can find out more about Para rules, eligibility, dispensation and details on how to qualify for all British Dressage Para Championships.

21. Eligibility for Para Dressage

All riders must hold a National or FEI Para Equestrian Classification. **Non-disabled riders are not permitted to compete in any British Dressage affiliated para competition.**

If you answer YES to any of the statements below, please look at the criteria for the next section.

| Are you eligible for the Para Bronze section? | | |
|--|-----|----|
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
| Competed at a CPEDI at any level? | | |
| Competed at a Silver Para Championship and gained a score of 67% or above? | | |
| Competed in a Gold semi-final and/or a Gold Championship in the last four years? | | |

| Are you eligible for the Para Silver section? | | |
|---|-----|----|
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
| Competed at a CPEDI3* in the last four years? | | |

The para Gold section is open to any rider with FEI classification.

Should a qualified rider subsequently upgrade having already completed a full qualification for a championship, they can still compete in that championship. Partial qualification points will not be transferred.

Bronze and Silver riders may compete with national classification, details on this can be obtained from the BEF. Riders must ensure that a copy of their National Classification Card is sent to the BD office when they register. Gold riders must hold an International Classification, details on this can be obtained from the FEI. Please refer to www.fei.org.

To retain an International Classification regardless of grade status (confirmed, review, review with fixed date, observation assessment) riders are required to compete in a CPEDI at least once every 2 or 4 years depending on grade status.

22. Rules for para riders with classification Grade I-V

- a) Commanders may be used in all national para classes except championships and Home Nations competitions. Commanders are not permitted when

- competing under FEI rules unless specified on the rider's classification card. Please see rule 24 relating to visually impaired riders.
- b) The FEI master classification list is available on <http://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/para-dressage/classification>. For those with national classification, riders must always carry a current card/letter in case of any query. It is the rider's responsibility to ensure their cards are current and have all compensating aids listed. Riders failing to submit classification cards with their entry will have their entry rejected.
 - c) Whilst all persons are welcome to compete in non-disabled affiliated competitions (including FEI PYO classes), it is the rider's responsibility to check before entering whether the venue's facilities are suitable for their individual requirements.
 - d) If a rider has both a national and FEI classification, FEI takes precedence. FEI classification is required for international competitions and para dressage Gold qualifying classes/championships.
 - e) Riders may only compete in their classified grade as per FEI rules.
 - f) If a rider's grade changes as a result of reclassification (national or FEI), they may compete in the original grade for two months from the date of reclassification and will not change their compensating aids. Riders may also change to the new grade immediately if they wish to do so. If a rider's grade is changed after the close of qualification for the Summer/Winter Championships, they may only compete at the championships in the grade for which they qualified.
 - g) Para riders must be BD members, riding BD registered horses (see Membership section for clarification).
 - h) The use of a support rider for Grade I - III competitors is permitted in accordance with the FEI rules, limiting the daily mounted period to 30 minutes. Mounting of the support rider must take place in the presence of a steward and the support rider must wear a yellow tabard or armband at all times.
 - i) On the grounds of safety, athletes in Grade I, II and III and Profile 36 (totally blind) may be accompanied around the outside of the arena by the trainer or their representative before the test starts. They may be led, but must not be schooled from the ground. This person may stand outside the arena on the field of play during the test. The athlete may again be accompanied around the outside of the arena after they have finished. Only in case of danger may they be accompanied from inside the arena. Any outside assistance, other than in case of emergency, will be considered as unauthorised assistance and must result in elimination.
 - j) For Grade I, II and III, helpers (maximum four in total including the trainer or other personnel as described above) may be placed in corners outside the arena for safety reasons. Each helper must stand as directed by the Steward to ensure they do not impede the view of the judges. In an emergency, they may give physical assistance. Penalties will be at the discretion of the judge at C, who may eliminate the athlete either at the time or at the conclusion of the test. Any outside assistance other than in case of emergency, will be considered as unauthorised assistance and must result in elimination.
 - k) Para riders with a large pocket badge are not permitted to compete at Area Festivals in any section, however are permitted to compete at Regionals in the Silver section if eligible.

23. **Tack for para competitions**

For national and international competition, permitted tack is in accordance with the FEI

Para Dressage Rules, including:

- Position and Aids of Athlete
- Dress
- Equipment and Compensating Aids

The complete FEI Para Dressage Rules with full details on tack can be found online:
<https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/para-dressage/rules>.

Other permitted tack for national competition only:

- a) Horses may wear nose nets in para dressage competitions. However, any horse competing with a nose net in the Gold section will not be considered for selection for international competitions as nose nets are not permitted under FEI rules.
- b) All headsets used in para competitions to be three way, ensuring no outside assistance can be given to the rider during a test. If the headset is not three way an independent person/steward should be present for the duration of the test. Headsets may not be on a radio frequency as they may cause interference.
- c) Earphones or similar devices are permitted during training and warm-up however, must be discussed with the venue prior to warming up as some devices may cause feedback on PA systems.
- d) Neck straps are permitted in all para dressage competitions.
- e) A jowl strap is permitted in all para dressage competitions.
- f) Bridles and bridle numbers MUST be worn at all BD Para competitions at ALL times whilst handling a horse outside of the stable.

24. Visually impaired riders

- a) All visually impaired riders must wear a white arm band when warming up for their test. Where background music is being played and the rider requires a caller, it is permitted for the music to be turned off so that the rider may clearly hear the caller.
- b) If a rider has both a national and FEI classification, FEI takes precedence. FEI classification is required for international competitions and Para Dressage Gold qualifying classes/championships.
- c) If a rider appeals their visually impaired FEI classification result, they may revert back to their National IV Classification in the interim period of the appeal only.

B1 - Grade IV

- Before the competition, competitors, where possible, should be provided with the opportunity for the horse to be led around the outside of the arena.
- Before beginning the test, riders should be provided with the opportunity to ride a circuit of the arena on both reins, including one change of rein. If the bell for the start has not rung, the rider may halt or continue at any pace inside the arena. When the signal to start the test is given the rider may start the test from inside or outside the arena.
- Callers are permitted for riders who are classified as B1 Grade IV.
- Riders may have up to nine callers, with the senior caller communicating with the Judge at C. Only one caller is allowed inside the arena; others must stand outside and must make sure they do not restrict the vision of the judges.
- The rider is also allowed a commander in addition to callers if stated on their classification card. All riders who use callers may be requested to compete at the

- beginning or end of a class to avoid disruption to other competitors.
- Sound devices are permitted in competitions.

B2 - Grade V

- Those riders who are visually impaired and classified as Grade V may use their own large letters if they wish but will be required to compete at the start or the end of the class. Riders wishing to do this must inform the organiser and are responsible for providing their own large or taller markers.
- Riders with a B2 profile may also have a caller inside the arena or use callers at letter markers in accordance with FEI rules.

25. Riders with hearing difficulties

All riders with hearing difficulties may wear a royal blue armband when warming up and competing in their test.

A support person may raise their hand when the bell is rung to indicate to the deaf rider that the bell has been rung by the judge. The support person must stand outside the boards at the edge of the arena, at least five metres from the arena boards, to ensure no outside assistance is given.

26. Horses used for para dressage competitions

- Horses competed by Grade I, II and III riders may be ridden by a designated rider other than the competitor for up to 30 minutes on the day of the competition, but may only be ridden by the competitor in the 15 minutes preceding the test.
- Any person riding the horse other than the competitor must be identifiable with a yellow tabard or armband.
- Any horse owned by a BD member and loaned for the day to a registered para rider may be ridden by their regular rider in another affiliated class on the same day at qualifying shows. They may not be ridden in another affiliated class by their regular rider during a gold championship.
- Riders may share a horse in a para competition provided they are competing in different grades. Horses may be ridden by another para rider in non-disabled competition on the same day, as long as they only warm up the horse for that class.
- Eligibility for sections is based on the rider's previous performance, horse points and performance are not considered.
- Any horse may contest any test with a rider of any grade.
- No more than three tests are to be contested in one day.
- For Grade I, II and III, if circumstances allow, a companion horse may stand adjacent to the arena, at least five metres from the arena boards.

27. Pick your own tests

At a para competition where para qualifiers and para PYO classes appear on the same schedule, on the same day, a specific test may only be ridden once; e.g. FEI Intermediate Test A could not be ridden in the qualifier and also in the para PYO class. If in doubt, please check with the Para Officer before entering. At non-disabled competition where there is a scheduled FEI PYO class, Silver and Gold para riders may ride their respective

para test and gain points towards the relevant qualifications. The same tests cannot be ridden twice in one day/class.

28. Qualification for Para Championships

| Date | Qualification |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 Jan - 30 June | Qualification for Gold Summer Semi Final |
| 1 Jan - 30 June | Qualification for the Silver and Bronze Summer Championships |
| 1 July - 31 Dec | Qualification for the Gold, Silver and Bronze Winter Para Championships |

Tests used for qualification:

| Section | Tests used |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Gold (FEI Test) | Grand Prix Test B for all grades |
| Silver (FEI Test) | Intermediate Test A for all grades |
| Bronze (BD Test) | Para Bronze Intro test for all grades |

Qualification for Para Freestyle Championships

| Date | Qualification |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 Jan - 30 June | Qualification for Bronze, Silver and Gold Summer Freestyle to Music Championships |
| 1 July - 31 Dec | Qualification for the Bronze, Silver and Gold Winter Freestyle to Music Championships |

Tests used for qualification:

| Section | Tests used |
|------------------|---|
| Gold (FEI Test) | Grand Prix Test Freestyle for all grades |
| Silver (BD Test) | Bronze and Silver Freestyle test for all grades |
| Bronze (BD Test) | Bronze and Silver Freestyle test for all grades |

Once qualification is achieved, a combination may subsequently upgrade and maintain the qualification unless otherwise stated in the rules.

Gold Summer (Semi-Finals)

- Open to any rider with an FEI Classification.
- Combinations must gain 12 points.
- Six of the 12 points required may come from CPEDI3*s and/or a para PYO and/or FEI PYO (para Grand Prix Test B only), where the class is judged by a non-para judge of List 3 or above.
- For a Para PYO and/or FEI PYO (Grand Prix Test B only), where a class is judged by a para judge, all points gained may be used towards qualification.
- 12 points qualifies the combination to enter the semi-final.
- The number of horses per rider are unlimited at the Gold semi-final, however may be restricted for the final.
- Combinations wishing to compete at the semi-final, must achieve points before the closing date.

Gold Summer Championships held at the BD National Championships

- The top four riders in each grade scoring 64% or over at the semi-final will qualify for the National Championships.
- If the numbers qualified for the final fall below three per grade, priority for wildcard allocation will be given to the next eligible non-qualified combination(s) within the grade gaining 64% or above in the semi-final including riders with multiple horses.
- If a grade cannot be filled, further wildcards will be allocated to the next highest combination scoring 64% or above from the semi-final regardless of grade.
- Invites may be offered if spaces are available once all qualified allocations have been offered.
- A non-travelling reserve list will be held to ensure all spaces are filled at the final.
- At the Summer Gold Championships, there is an exclusion to the standard 30 minute rule. The support rider, having reported to a steward and mounting in front of them, may then do an arena walk in addition to their 30 minute daily riding time.

Gold Winter Championships

- Open to any rider with an FEI classification.
- Combinations must gain 12 points.
- Six of the 12 points required may come from CPEDI3*s and/or a para PYO and/or FEI PYO (para Grand Prix Test B only), where the class is judged by a non-para judge of List 3 or above.
- For a para PYO and/or FEI PYO (Grand Prix Test B only), where a class is judged by a para judge, all points gained may be used towards qualification.
- There is no restriction to the number of horses a rider may qualify and compete at the Winter Championships.

Direct qualification for the Gold Championships (summer and/or winter) applies to selected combinations for the Paralympic Games/World or European Championships in the preceding year.

Silver Championships (Winter and Summer)

- Open to Silver and Bronze riders, however only points gained in the Silver section of Intermediate A tests will count.
- Combinations must gain 10 points.

- Five of the 10 points required may come from CPEDI2*s and/or para PYO and/or FEI PYO (para Intermediate Test A only), where the class is judged by a non-para judge of List 3 or above.
- For a para PYO and/or FEI PYO (Intermediate Test A only), where a class is judged by a para judge, all points gained may be used towards qualification.
- Combinations qualify direct to the Summer and Winter Championships.
- There is no restriction on the number of horses a rider can qualify and compete at the Summer and Winter Championships.

Bronze Championships (Winter and Summer)

- Open to Bronze riders only.
- Combinations must gain five points from the Introductory level test, these can include para PYO classes (no limit on where the points are achieved),
- Combinations qualify direct to the Summer and Winter Championships.
- There is no restriction on the number of horses a rider can qualify and compete at the Summer and Winter Championships.

Para Freestyle to Music Championships (Winter and Summer)

- Open to Bronze, Silver and Gold riders.
- Combinations must gain one score of 63% or above at their respective section to qualify for the Championships.
- Combinations qualify direct to the Para Freestyle to Music Championships.
- Bronze and Silver freestyle tests are available on the BD website.
- Gold freestyle tests are available to download from the FEI website

29. Para eligibility and tests

| Grade | Rider not to have competed at a CPEDI, Gold Semi-Final and/or Champs. or competed at a Silver Champs. and gained a score of 67% or above. Points needed to qualify - 5. | Rider not to have done CPEDI3*. Points needed to qualify - 10. Silver | Any rider but must have FEI classification. Tests below not used for National Championship Qualification. Gold | Any rider but must have FEI classification. Points needed to qualify - 12. Gold |
|-------|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | |
| I | Intro (2023) | Intermediate Test A | Grand Prix Test A | Grand Prix Test B |
| II | Intro (2023) | Intermediate Test A | Grand Prix Test A | Grand Prix Test B |
| III | Intro (2023) | Intermediate Test A | Grand Prix Test A | Grand Prix Test B |
| IV | Intro Qualifier (2023) | Intermediate Test A (20x60) | Grand Prix Test A (20x60) | Grand Prix Test B (20x60) |
| V | Intro Qualifier (2023) | Intermediate Test A (20x60) | Grand Prix Test A (20x60) | Grand Prix Test B (20x60) |

30. Dispensation - Para riders in non-disabled competition

All classified riders that are British Dressage members can apply to British Dressage for a dispensation to use compensating aids to assist them in non-disabled competitions, including non-disabled championships. Championships are defined as Regionals, National and Winter Championships, Area Festivals, Area Festival Championships, Quest and Associated Championships. Applicability of the compensating aids to Championships must be stated on the rider's dispensation certificate.

Dispensation application forms can be found on the BD website, under Competition Rules.

All applications are to be submitted to the Para Officer at the BD office along with a copy of the rider's most current classification scores and the relevant medical documentation as specified on the application form.

Dispensation certificates for BD non-disabled competitions will include those compensating aids granted to the rider by the BD Dispensation Committee. A copy of the BD formal dispensation certificate must be sent with the entry to the competition organiser. It is the rider's responsibility to ensure that sufficient copies are passed to the organiser and all officials on the day of competition. A copy of the dispensation certificate is to be carried by the rider at all times in case of any queries.

All Grade I-III riders can now apply for a support person who may lead the combination into the arena and make one complete circuit leading the horse on foot. They may remain beside the arena in 'regular' competitions (i.e. any competition where commanders are permitted for all riders), but at Championships the support person must stand away from the competition arena, at least five metres from the arena boards, unless in exceptional circumstances. The support person may not communicate with the rider either by voice or gesture for the duration of the test.

The use of a support rider for Grade I - III competitors is permitted in accordance with the FEI rules, limiting the daily mounted period to 30 minutes. Mounting of the support rider must take place in the presence of a steward and the support rider must wear a yellow tabard or armband at all times.

Eligibility for competition

Levels and classes of competition

At each BD competition there will be a range of classes which provide competitive opportunities for different standards of ability of horse and rider. There's a progressive series of tests which are tailored to the horse's level of training and have been developed to mirror the progression through the scales of training (please see Scales of Training section). It starts with Introductory which is of walk and trot level and culminates with Grand Prix, which has the highest degree of difficulty. The full list of current tests in use can be found in the Members' Handbook at the end of this section.

At each level there are a number of tests offered each with a varying degree of difficulty. The lower numbered tests of each level are designed to be slightly easier, with the higher numbered tests being more challenging. Where tests are updated please ensure you have the same year version as the one published in the schedule.

More specific detail and qualifications for each championship can be found later in the Championships section.

Sections within each level of competition

Each level of competition (with the exception of Introductory, Intermediate II and Grand Prix) is divided into three sections; Bronze, Silver and Gold. The section which a member may enter is determined by the horse, rider and combination experience and points won at each level of competition.

Each level will run as one class with all riders being judged by the same judge. At the end of the class, for results and qualification purposes, the class will be divided into the different sections.

- Bronze sections are for less experienced horses and riders who have just started competing at a given level so that they can compete against those with a similar ability.
- Silver sections are designed for those combinations that show more ability at a level and have demonstrated that they are no longer a beginner at that level.
- Gold sections are open to all but are designed for riders who have gained experience at higher levels and are riding a horse with less experience, or for combinations who have demonstrated that they are competent at a level.

A person is deemed to have competed when they enter the competition arena, with the intention to complete a test, irrespective of whether they subsequently retire or are eliminated.

31. **Riders competing at FEI levels**

Any rider who has competed at a Senior CDI/CDN at Middle or Big Tour (Intermediate II/A/B and Grand Prix) is only eligible to ride in the Gold section with any horse at all levels, with immediate effect.

32. **Eligibility for riders aged 12 and under**

Riders up to the end of the calendar year of their 12th birthday may remain in the Bronze section on a horse or pony that exceeds the horse eligibility criteria providing they remain eligible as a rider.

Once a rider or the combination has achieved the relevant eligibility criteria to move them to a Silver or Gold section (regardless of horse or pony eligibility), they must move out of Bronze and into the new section/level.

All riders 12 years of age and under will qualify for Regionals and Area Festivals in exactly the same way as all other riders.

On 1 January of the year of their 13th birthday riders will return to the appropriate section and level as per the normal eligibility rules.

Using the eligibility tables

The following tables will help rider and horse combinations determine if they are eligible to enter a competition. The checklists are designed to be used as a combination.

- Where a rule refers to four years to be eligible for a level/section, the four year period ends at the start of the season following the championship attended e.g. if a rider competed at the National Championships at Elementary Silver, they would be entitled to ride in the Silver section at Prelim again at the beginning of the Summer season (1 January) four years later.
- Unless specified as excluding, all references to test levels include standard and Freestyle to Music tests and/or points.

33. Are you eligible for Intro Bronze?

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Prelim Bronze and above. | | |
|--|-----|----|
| | YES | NO |
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | | |
| Won points at Novice or have competed / have any points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at an Area Festival at Prelim / Prelim Music? | | |
| Competed at Regional / Music / Winter / National Championships at Prelim or above? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Won more than 25 points at Novice or competed / have any points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships at Novice or above? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Scored 70% or higher at Prelim / Prelim Music or above in any section? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Intro Bronze. Refer to the sections for the Associated Championships and Quest to see how you can get involved and qualify. | | |

34. Are you eligible for Prelim classes (including music)?

Prelim Bronze

If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Prelim Silver and above.

| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
|---|-----|----|
| Won more than 25 points at Novice or competed / have any points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at an Area Festival or Regional at Novice / Novice Music? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships at Prelim or above? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Won more than 25 points at Elementary or competed / have any points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships at Novice or above? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at Regionals at Prelim or above? | | |
| Competed at Music Regionals at Novice or above? | | |
| Scored 68% (70% Music) or higher at the Area Festival Championship at Prelim or competed at an Area Festival Championship at any of the levels above? | | |

If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Prelim Bronze. Refer to the sections for the Area Festivals, Associated Championships and Quest to see how you can get involved and qualify.

35. Are you eligible for Prelim Silver?

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Prelim Gold and above. | | |
|---|-----|----|
| | YES | NO |
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | | |
| Scored 65% (67% Music) or higher at Winter / National Championships at Novice in the last four years? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships / CDI (including CoH, P, J, YR) at Elementary or above in the last four years? | | |
| Scored 68% (70% Music) or higher at Regionals at Elementary or above in the last four years? | | |
| Competed at Advanced Medium or above at Premier League in the last four years (including Music)? | | |
| Competed at a Senior CDI? | | |
| Gained 60% or higher at Grand Prix including Premier League or Championships (including PYO and Music)? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Scored 68% (70% Music) or higher at Regional / Winter / National Championships at Elementary or competed any levels above including music at Regional / Winter / National Championships? | | |
| Competed at PSG or above at Premier League / CDI (including YR)? | | |
| Gained 60% or higher at Grand Prix including Premier League or Championships (including PYO and Music) in the last four years? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at Regionals at Elementary / Elementary Music? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter/ National Championship at Novice or above? | | |
| Been placed in the top three at Music / Winter / National Championships at Prelim? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Prelim Silver. Refer to the sections for the Area Festivals, Regionals and Associated Championships to see how you can get involved and qualify. | | |

36. Are you eligible for Prelim Gold?

If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Novice and above.

| As a combination have you? | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Competed at Regional / Music / Winter / National Championships at Elementary or above in the current and previous two years? | | |
| Competed at PSG or above at Premier League (excluding Music) / CDI (including Music and YR) in the current and previous two years? | | |

If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Prelim Gold. Refer to the Associated Championships and Regionals sections to see how you can get involved.

37. Are you eligible for Novice level (including Music)?

Novice Bronze

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Novice Silver and above. | | |
|---|-----|----|
| | YES | NO |
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | | |
| Won more than 25 points at Elementary or competed / have any points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at an Area Festival or Regional at Elementary / Elementary Music? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships at Novice or above? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Won more than 25 points at Medium or competed / have any points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships at Elementary or above? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at Regionals at Novice or above excluding music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at Novice Music Regionals? | | |
| Competed at Music Regionals at Elementary or above? | | |
| Scored 68% (70% Music) or higher at the Area Festival Championship at Novice or competed at an Area Festival Championship at any of the levels above? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Novice Bronze. Refer to the sections for the Area Festivals, Associated Championships and Quest to see how you can get involved and qualify. | | |

38. Are you eligible for Novice Silver?

If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Novice Gold and above.

| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
|---|-----|----|
| Scored 65% (67% Music) or higher at Winter / National Championships at Elementary in the last four years? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships / CDI (including P, J, YR) at Medium or above in the last four years? | | |
| Scored 68% (70% Music) or higher at Regionals at Medium or above in the last four years? | | |
| Competed at PSG or above at Premier League in the last four years including Music? | | |
| Competed at a Senior CDI? | | |
| Gained 60% or higher at Grand Prix including Premier League or Championships (including PYO and Music)? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Scored 68% (70% Music) or higher at Regional/Winter/National Championships at Medium or competed at any levels above including music at Regional / Winter / National Championships? | | |
| Competed at PSG or above at Premier League / CDI (including YR)? | | |
| Gained 60% or higher at Grand Prix (including PYO and Music) in the last four years? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at Regionals at Medium or above including Music? | | |
| Been placed in the top three of the Music / Winter / National Championships at Novice? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships at Elementary or above? | | |
| Competed at PSG or above at Premier League/CDI (including YR)? | | |

If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Novice Silver. Refer to the sections for the Area Festivals, Associated Championships and Regionals to see how you can get involved and qualify.

39. **Are you eligible for Novice Gold?**

If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Elementary and above.

| As a combination have you? | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Competed at Regional / Winter / National Championships including Music at Medium or above in the current and previous two years? | | |
| Competed at PSG or above at Premier League (excluding Music) / CDI (including Music and YR) in the current and previous two years? | | |

If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Novice Gold. Refer to the sections for Regionals and Associated Championships to see how you can get involved and qualify.

40. Are you eligible for Elementary classes (including music)?

Elementary Bronze

If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Elementary silver and above.

| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
|---|-----|----|
| Won more than 25 points at Medium or competed / have any points at the levels above including music ? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at an Area Festival or Regional at Medium/Medium Music? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships at Elementary or above? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Won more than 25 points at Advanced Medium or competed/have any points at levels above including music ? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships at Medium or above? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at Regionals at Elementary or above excluding music ? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at Elementary Music Regionals? | | |
| Competed at Music Regionals at Medium or above? | | |
| Scored 68% (70% Music) or higher at the Area Festival Championship at Elementary or competed at an Area Festival Championship at any of the levels above? | | |

If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Elementary Bronze. Refer to sections for the, Area Festivals and Associated Championships to see how you can get involved and qualify.

41. Are you eligible for Elementary Silver?

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Elementary Gold and above. | | |
|---|-----|----|
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
| Scored 65% or higher (67% Music) at Winter / National Championships at Medium in the last four years? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships / CDI (including Junior or YR) at Adv. Medium or above in the last four years? | | |
| Scored 68% or higher (70% Music) at Regionals at Advanced Medium or above in the last four years? | | |
| Competed at PSG or above at Premier League in the last four years including Music? | | |
| Competed at a Senior CDI? | | |
| Gained 60% or higher at Grand Prix including Premier League or Championships (including PYO and Music)? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Scored 68% or higher (70% Music) at Regional / Winter / National Championships at Advanced Medium or competed at Regional / Winter / National Championship at any of the levels above? | | |
| Competed at PSG or above at Premier League / CDI (including YR)? | | |
| Gained 60% or higher at Grand Prix (including PYO and Music) in the last four years? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at Regionals at Advanced Medium or above (including Music)? | | |
| Competed at PSG or above at Premier League / CDI (including YR)? | | |
| Been placed in the top three at Music / Winter / National Championships at Elementary? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships at Medium or above? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Elementary Silver. Refer to the sections for the Area Festivals, Associated Championships and Regionals to see how you can get involved and qualify. | | |

42. Are you eligible for Elementary Gold?

If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Medium and above

| As a combination have you? | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Competed at Regionals / Winter / National Championships at Advanced Medium / Advanced Medium Music or above in the current and previous two years? | | |
| Competed at PSG or above at Premier League (excluding Music) / CDI (including Music and YR) in the current and previous two years? | | |

If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Elementary Gold. Refer to the section for Regionals and Associated Championships to see how you can get involved and qualify.

43. Are you eligible for Medium level (including Music)?

Medium Bronze

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Medium Silver and above. | | |
|--|-----|----|
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
| Won more than 25 points at Advanced Medium or competed / have any points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at an Area Festival or Regional at Advanced Medium / Advanced Medium Music? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships at Medium or above? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Won more than 25 points at PSG or competed / have any points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships at Advanced Medium or above? | | |
| Competed at PSG or above at Premier League / CDI (including YR)? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at Regionals at Medium and above excluding music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at Medium Music Regionals? | | |
| Competed at Music Regionals at Advanced Medium or above? | | |
| Scored 68% (70% Music) or higher at the Area Festival Championship at Medium or competed at an Area Festival Championship at any of the levels above? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Medium Bronze. Refer to the sections for Area Festivals and Associated Championships to see how you can get involved and qualify. | | |

44. Are you eligible for Medium Silver?

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Medium Gold. | | |
|---|-----|----|
| | YES | NO |
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | | |
| Scored 65% or higher (67% Music) at Winter / National Championships at Advanced Medium in the last four years? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships / CDI (including YR) at PSG or above in the last four years? | | |
| Scored 68% or higher (70% Music) at Regionals at PSG or above in the last four years? | | |
| Competed at Inter I or above at Premier League in the last four years including Music? | | |
| Competed at a Senior CDI? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher in any Grand Prix in the last four years (including PYO and Music)? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Scored 68% or higher (70% Music) at Regional / Winter / National Championships / Premier League / CDI (including YR) at PSG or competed any levels above including Music at Regional / Winter / National Championships? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at Grand Prix (including PYO and Music) in the last four years? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at Regionals at PSG or above (including Music)? | | |
| Competed at PSG or above at Premier League / CDI (including YR)? | | |
| Been placed in the top three of the Music / Winter / National Championships at Medium? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships at Advanced Medium or above? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Medium Silver. Refer to sections for the Area Festivals, Regionals and Associated Championships to see how you can get involved and qualify. | | |



FUEL THEIR POTENTIAL

*Optimum condition
and recovery*



*Low starch for
a controlled
performance*



*Balanced energy
with added oil
for coat shine*



Speak to one of our nutrition advisors on: 01908 226 626
SPILLERS™ - YOUR PARTNERS IN CARE™.

Outstanding Results

#FedonTopSpec



Glamourdale, winning the CDI4* Grand Prix Special at Aachen, ridden by Lottie Fry and co-owned with Van Olst Horses.

Photograph by Hippo Foto Media

“Glamourdale is the king of the stable, he loves his food and looks like a real athlete with the products of TopSpec.” Lottie Fry

Typical Feed Regime
for a 17hh (600kg) horse in medium to hard work:-
Ad lib good quality hay or haylage, plus grazing
Plus two feeds per day - each containing:-

- 300g TopSpec Comprehensive Feed Balancer (for condition; muscle development and topline; performance; recovery; hoof quality; behaviour; digestion and utilisation)
- 300g TopChop Sport (combines British alfalfa with a blend of British grasses, lightly coated with linseed oil)
- 1kg TopSpec CoolCondition Cubes ('Non-Heating' Conditioning Cubes quantity adjusted according to condition)
- 1kg TopSpec Super Conditioning Flakes (exceptionally conditioning muesli, naturally rich in oil)
- Additives if required; 10:10 Joint Support, Calmer, Digestive Aid or Electrolytes



A 20kg bag will last a 500kg horse for 40 days. A 500kg horse gets 500g per day which equals two measures a day.



Multiple Award Winner for 'Excellence in Nutritional Advice and Customer Service'

TopSpec®
CREATED WITHOUT COMPROMISE
by experienced equine nutritionists

01845 565 030
 (062) 85401
www.topspec.com



Collect **TopSpec** Tokens
for product and merchandise
Redeem your TopSpec tokens at
www.topspec.com



45. Are you eligible for Medium Gold?

If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Advanced Medium and above.

| As a combination have you? | YES | NO |
|---|-----|----|
| Competed at Regional / Winter / National Championships / Premier League (excluding Music) / CDI at PSG / PSG Music / Young Riders or above in the current and previous two years? | | |

If you answered NO, the combination is eligible for Medium Gold. Refer to the section for Regionals and Associated Championships to see how you can get involved and qualify.

46. Are you eligible for Advanced Medium level (including Music)?

Advanced Medium Bronze

If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria Advanced Medium Silver and above.

| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Won more than 25 points at PSG or competed / have any points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at an Area Festival or Regional at PSG / PSG Music? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships at Advanced Medium or above? | | |
| Competed at PSG or above at Premier League / CDI (including YR)? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Won more than 25 points at Inter I or competed or have any points at the levels above (including music)? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships at PSG or above? | | |
| Competed at Inter I or above at Premier League/CDI? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at Regionals at Advanced Medium or above (excluding music)? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at Advanced Medium Music Regionals? | | |
| Competed at Music Regionals at PSG or above? | | |
| Scored 68% (70% Music) or higher at the Area Festival Championship at Advanced Medium or competed at an Area Festival Championship at any of the levels above? | | |

If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Advanced Medium Bronze. Refer to the sections for Area Festivals and Associated Championships to see how you can get involved and qualify.

47. Are you eligible for Advanced Medium Silver?

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Advanced Medium Gold and above. | | |
|--|-----|----|
| | YES | NO |
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | | |
| Scored 65% or higher (67% Music) at Winter / National Championships at PSG in the last four years? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships / CDI at Inter I or above in the last four years? | | |
| Scored 68% or higher at Regionals at Inter I or above in the last four years? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher (67% Music) at Inter I or above at Premier League in the last four years? | | |
| Competed at a Senior CDI? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher in any Grand Prix in the last four years (including PYO and Music)? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Scored 68% or higher (70% Music) at Regional / Winter / National Championships / Premier League / CDI at Inter I or competed at Regional / Winters / National Championships at the levels above? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at Grand Prix in the last four years (including PYO and Music)? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at Regionals / Premier League / CDI at Inter I or above? | | |
| Been placed in the top three at Music / Winter / National Championships at Advanced Medium? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships at PSG or above? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Advanced Medium Silver. Refer to the sections for Area Festivals, Regionals and Associated Championships to see how you can get involved and qualify. | | |

48. Are you eligible for Advanced Medium Gold?

If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Prix St Georges and above.

| As a combination have you? | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Competed at Regional / Winter / National Championships / Premier League (excluding Music) / CDI at Inter I or above in the current and previous two years? | | |

If you answered NO, the combination is eligible for Advanced Medium Gold. Refer to the sections for Regionals and Associated Championships to see how you can get involved and qualify.

49. Small, Middle and Big Tour

In order to be eligible to ride at Small, Middle or Big Tour for the first time, all riders must achieve the following to progress through the Tour levels. Please also note that:

- a) Scores cannot be gained using class tickets or HC.
- b) Foreign riders allocated Group 4 by default must also qualify for the relevant Tour level unless a previous competition record of the level they wish to compete at is supplied to British Dressage.

Small Tour (PSG / Intermediate I)

Two scores of 62% or above at Advanced 1 or Advanced 2 or YR level tests in the twelve months prior to competing at PSG or Intermediate I for the first time.

Middle Tour (Intermediate II, A/B)

Two scores of 62% or above at PSG or Intermediate I level tests in the twelve months prior to competing at Intermediate II, A/B for the first time.

Big Tour (Grand Prix incl. Grand Prix U25)

Two scores of 62% or above at Intermediate II, A/B level tests in the twelve months prior to competing at Grand Prix for the first time.

Requalification to Small, Middle and Big Tour

If a combination drops below 54% twice in a six month period they will need to requalify at the relevant level and any higher levels once the minimum eligibility requirement has been achieved, e.g. if scored 54% at Intermediate II twice, the combination would need to requalify at PSG & Intermediate I and achieve two scores of 62% or above.

Eligibility for Premier Leagues

All riders must be eligible to enter a regular competition at these levels as per rule 49 before entering a Premier League.

To be eligible to compete at a Premier League at all levels, combinations must have achieved a minimum of 63% at the level they wish to compete at, in a regular competition not including music, and have met the minimum criteria as per rule 49. Group 2 riders are exempt up to and including Intermediate I. Group 1 riders are exempt at all levels.

This does not apply to riders who are competing in the specific U21 FEI age classes (Children on Horses, Pony, Junior and Young Rider) at Premier Leagues.

50. Are you eligible for Prix St Georges level (including Music)?

Prix St Georges Bronze

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Prix St Georges Silver and above. | | |
|---|-----|----|
| | YES | NO |
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | | |
| Won points at Grand Prix (excluding PYO)? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships / Premier League / CDI (including YR) at PSG and above? | | |
| Competed at a Senior CDI at Middle or Big Tour? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Gained points at Grand Prix in the last four years? | | |
| Competed at Music / National Championships / Premier League / CDI at Inter II/A/B or above? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at Regionals at PSG or above (excluding music)? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at Music Regionals at PSG? | | |
| Scored 68% (70% Music) or higher at the Area Festival Championship at PSG or competed at an Area Festival Championship at any of the levels above? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for PSG Bronze. Refer to the sections for Area Festivals and Associated Championships to see how you can get involved and qualify. | | |

51. Are you eligible for Prix St Georges Silver?

If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Prix St Georges Gold and above.

| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Scored 65% or higher at Grand Prix in the last four years (including U25 GP and Music)? | | |
| Competed at a Senior CDI at Middle or Big Tour? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at Grand Prix / Grand Prix Music in the last four years? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Scored 68% or higher at Premier League at PSG or above? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships / Premier League / CDI at Inter I or above (including U25 GP) in the current and previous two years? | | |
| Been placed in the top three of the Music / Winter / National Championships at PSG or above in the current and previous two years? | | |

If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for PSG Silver. Refer to the sections for Area Festivals, Associated Championships and Regionals to see how you can get involved and qualify.

52. Are you eligible for Prix St Georges Gold?

If you answer YES to the statement below for the combination, please take a look at the criteria for Intermediate I and above.

| As a combination have you? | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Competed at National Championships / CDI / at Grand Prix (including GP U25) in the current and previous two years? | | |

If you answered NO, the combination is eligible for Prix St Georges Gold. Refer to the sections for Regionals and Associated Championships to see how you can get involved and qualify.

53. Are you eligible for Intermediate I level (including Music)?

Intermediate I Bronze

If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Intermediate I Silver and above.

| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Won points at Grand Prix? | | |
| Competed at Music / Winter / National Championships / Premier League / CDI at Inter I or above? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Gained points at Grand Prix Nationally / GP U25 or Grand Prix in a CDI in the last four years? | | |
| Competed at Music / National Championships / Premier League / CDI at Inter II/A/B or above? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at Regionals at Inter I or above? | | |
| Scored 68% (70% Music) or higher at the Area Festival Championship at Inter I or competed at an Area Festival Championship at any of the levels above? | | |

If all of your ticks are in the NO column, you are eligible for Inter I Bronze. Refer to the sections for Area Festivals and Associated Championships to see how you can get involved and qualify.

54. Are you eligible for Intermediate I Silver?

If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Intermediate I Gold and above.

| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Scored 65% or higher at Grand Prix in the last four years (including U25 GP and Music)? | | |
| Competed at a Senior CDI Middle or Big Tour? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at Grand Prix / Grand Prix Music in the last four years? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Scored 68% or higher at Regionals / Premier League at Inter I? | | |
| Competed at National Championships / Premier League / CDI at Inter II/A/B and GP U25 or above in the current and previous two years? | | |
| Been placed in the top three at Winter / National Championships at Inter I or above in the current and previous two years? | | |

If all of your ticks are in the NO column, you are eligible for Inter I Silver. Refer to the sections for Area Festivals, Associated Championships and Regionals to see how you can get involved and qualify.

55. Are you eligible for Intermediate I Gold?

If you answer YES to the statement below for the combination, please take a look at the criteria for Intermediate II / A / B and above.

| As a combination have you? | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Competed at National Championships / CDI at Grand Prix and GP U25 in the current and previous two years? | | |

If you answered NO, the combination is eligible for Inter I Gold. Refer to the sections for Regionals to see how you can get involved and qualify.

56. Are you eligible for Intermediate II / A / B Level (including music)?

Intermediate II / A / B Silver

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Intermediate II Gold and above | | |
|---|-----|----|
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
| Scored 65% at Grand Prix in the last four years (excluding Music and PYO classes)? | | |
| Competed at a Senior CDI at Middle or Big Tour? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at Grand Prix in the last four years (excludes Music and PYO classes)? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at Premier League at Inter II/A/B in the current and previous two years? | | |
| Competed at Premier League at Grand Prix (including U25 GP) in the current and previous two years? | | |
| Competed at National Championships / CDI at Inter II/A/B or above in the current and previous two years? | | |
| <p>If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Inter II / A / B Silver.</p> <p>Refer to BD website for championship details.</p> | | |

57. **Are you eligible for Intermediate II / A / B Gold?**

| As a combination have you? | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Competed at Grand Prix at CDI / CDIO overseas? | | |

If you have answered YES to this statement and you have enjoyed success at this level you are eligible to compete in Grand Prix only.

If the combination have answered NO to this statement, refer to the BD website for championship details.

58. **Grand Prix or Grand Prix U25 (including music)**

Please refer to rule 49 for further details.

PREMIER
PERFORMANCE

Superior levels
of key active
ingredients.

Formulated for
performance
horses & those
needing the
ultimate level
of support.



Outstanding joint support
as recommended by vets.

premierperformance.uk

Entries and competition

59. Entries

- a) Entries must:
 - Be made via the venue's online entry system.
 - Be accompanied by the correct fees. Any fees in addition to the entry fees must be published in the schedule.
 - Include the BD registration number or Club registration for each horse and rider. Entries without correct and current registration details will not be accepted. Score sheets and any rosettes, prize money or prizes will not be given until correct registration details are provided.
 - Entries cannot be accepted after times have been published for BD championships.
- b) Riders must state on their entry which section they will be competing in, either, Bronze, Silver or Gold. If this is not stated, riders will be put in the Gold section. Riders may not change sections once the class has started.
- c) Horses and riders must be eligible for the classes in which they are entered at the closing date of entries. It is the responsibility of owners and riders to ensure that horses and riders are eligible to compete in the classes/sections for which they are entered. In the event of a competition being postponed, horses and riders must still be eligible two weeks before the new competition date.
- d) If a horse or rider upgrades on or after the closing date of entries, they may still compete in the class/section for which they were entered.
- e) Riders who take part in a class for which they are not eligible or ride a horse in a class for which it is not eligible will be sent an exclusion email, and their score becomes void. These results will not be reinstated even if membership/registration is subsequently upgraded/renewed.
- f) The organiser must be informed of any change of rider from the original entry before times are published for the competition, failure to do so will result in incorrect recording of results.
- g) A member who fails to attend a competition which they have entered without contacting the organiser to withdraw will be entered on the results as a 'no show'. Repeated 'no shows' may result in disciplinary action.
- h) If a rider is found to be ineligible, they must return prize money and rosettes to the organiser for redistribution. If it is a championship class, it should be returned to the Championships Officer at British Dressage.
- i) Organisers may charge a late entry fee of their choosing providing that it is shown in the schedule.
- j) If known, details of a horse's breeding should be included with an entry, particularly if taking part in a Young Horse class.
- k) A horse may only be ridden once in any class in any competition or championship (with the exception of Quest and pick your own classes where a horse may be ridden more than once in different tests within the class).
- l) Where standard classes and pick your own classes appear on the same schedule, on the same day, a specific test may only be ridden once.
- m) Horses qualified for both Bronze and Silver sections at the same level may be ridden in either section at Area Festivals/Regionals with the respective rider, however may not compete in both.

60. **Class tickets**

Class tickets enable those without a paid BD membership or horse registration to compete in an affiliated BD competition in any section (Bronze, Silver or Gold). To compete on a class ticket, both horse and rider must hold a BD Community registration which is free of charge. Each ticket enables them to enter one affiliated class at any level provided the rider is eligible to compete in the class entered. Class tickets may not be used to compete in music classes as paid BD membership is required for PPL licensing.

Holders of class tickets must also pay the entry fees and are subject to the rules contained in the BD Members' Handbook. Those riding on a class ticket are eligible to win prize money and rosettes. Combinations competing on a class ticket can use these scores to qualify for the Combined Training Championships although they are not eligible to qualify for any other Championship or Area Festival.

61. **Hors Concours (HC)**

Riders wishing to compete HC in any class, must make this request on their entry form. HC competitors will not be eligible for any prize or prize money, and their scores need not be shown on the scoreboard. Horse and rider must be registered with BD and must comply with BD rules in all respects apart from eligibility.

- If a rider competes HC, this will be recorded on their competition record and marked as 'HC', but no score will be visible.
- A rider can compete a horse HC without any restriction or impact on eligibility for either horse or rider.
- Advanced 1 and Advanced 2 tests cannot be ridden HC.
- If competing HC at PSG or above, the minimum entry requirements as outlined in rule 49 must have been achieved.
- Riders competing HC must abide by all the tack rules appropriate for the level at which they are competing, including the warm up.
- A horse may not be ridden competitively in a class if it has already been ridden HC in the same class by another rider on the same competition day.
- HC tests are not permitted at Regional Championships, Winter/National Championships, Premier League direct qualifying classes, Area Festivals and Area Festival Championships, Quest Semi-Finals and Quest Championships and Associated Championships.

Under no circumstances may a rider declare to be HC after the class commences. Those riding HC will not gain any points. Riders may not compete HC at any championship with the exception of those riders awarded a selectors wildcard/invite.

62. **Pick Your Own classes (PYO)**

In PYO classes, only Advanced and FEI tests can be used. Designation of PYO classes will be done in conjunction with the organiser and Development Officer. They will only be open to members of BD on registered horses or to those with class tickets. A PYO FEI class may also include FEI para tests, points will be awarded as stated in rule 28.

FEI PYO classes may be used to qualify for Area Festivals and Regional Championships, please refer to relevant championship rules. Classes are judged on a percentage basis. For FEI U21 PYO classes, scores will not be permitted for qualification to Area Festivals, Regional Championships or for selection purposes.

63. **Acceptance of entries, balloting and waiting lists**

The opening date for entries for affiliated competitions is six weeks prior to the date of competition. Entries may only be made on or after the opening date. All entries received by the close of entry date will be accepted. The organiser may close classes earlier than the close of entry dates if classes are deemed to be full.

Competitions which are not oversubscribed at close of entries will accept all entries already received at this stage. Close of entries will be stipulated on the BD online schedules for each competition / championship. Organisers may continue to accept entries beyond the close of entries date for all or some classes; however, reserves the right to close a class once full. For Area Festivals and Regionals, classes will remain open until the close of entries and all entries accepted. Late entries will only be accepted if the venue can accommodate them and times have not been published. Substitutions will not be accepted once times have been published.

Organisers may run a wait-list for oversubscribed classes which reach their limit. If a competition is oversubscribed at the close of entry date, the Entries Secretary will close classes to further entries and will ballot out and wait-list surplus entries. The organiser should conduct the ballot in a fair and transparent manner.

In the case of oversubscription;

- At Premier Leagues, Regionals and Area Festivals, if the competition is oversubscribed at the close of entry, organisers must give priority to classes which hold qualification for the National, Winter or Area Festival Championships, plus any Pony, Junior and Young Rider classes, and if necessary cancel non-qualifying/warm up classes.
- At Premier Leagues only, in the event of over subscription, Group 1 and 2 riders receive priority. If required, balloting will only apply to riders in Group 3 and below. In the event of the class still being over subscribed Group 1 and 2 riders will be placed into a blind ballot.
- Once non-qualifying/warm up classes have been removed, if numbers in classes still have to be limited this should be done first in consultation with the Chairman of Selectors via the BD office and then by conducting a ballot. The organiser should conduct the ballot in a fair and transparent manner. Regional Championships and Area Festivals may not be balloted.
- In all cases, where there is oversubscription, a wait-list must be held and competitive entries must be accepted over HC entries.

At Premier Leagues, Regionals and Area Festivals, allowing for multiple riders, the starting order for the competitions will be drawn, and if necessary, in multiple sections. Balloted entries which are not wait-listed will receive full refunds. Riders who wish to be removed from a wait-list will receive a 50% refund. Riders on the wait-list who are accepted before the times publication date in the schedule must pay for their accepted entry if they have not requested to be removed from the wait-list.

64. Withdrawals

Once a competitor's entry has been accepted, it will be assumed that the rider intends to take part unless the organiser is notified. Competitors must therefore declare their intention to withdraw by the time specified in the individual schedules.

Organisers may report anyone who does not take part yet fails to withdraw, or who cancels payment when withdrawing to avoid payment, to the BD office.

65. Organiser's rights

The Organiser has the right to:

- a) Cancel any class (with the exceptions of Premier Leagues/Regionals/Area Festivals and other championships classes).
- b) Split any class.
- c) Alter the advertised time or order of classes from that published in the schedule.
- d) Refuse an entry into any BD non-championship show providing a valid reason is given to the competitor and the entry fee is returned prior to the competition.
- e) Refuse any entry to a fixture listed on the Major Dates providing a valid reason is given, permission is sought from the Chief Executive and there is sufficient time for the rider to enter an alternative fixture.

66. Refund of entry fees

- a) No refund will be made to those withdrawing after the close of entries.
- b) Fifty percent of total entry fees will be returned to those whose withdrawal is received before the close of entries, and confirmed in writing within seven days.
- c) Competitors on wait-lists who choose to withdraw will have 50% of their total entry fees refunded.
- d) A full refund will be made for horses which upgrade on or before the close of entries, but whose entries are not transferred to classes of a higher grade.
- e) A full refund will be made for horses put on a wait-list but not eventually offered a place.
- f) In the event of a competition being cancelled, organisers are entitled to retain up to £2.50 per horse, per class. The remainder is to be refunded to all entrants, including those who withdrew before the close of entries.

67. Weather warnings

Yellow: In the event that the Met Office issues a Yellow weather warning, the competition may still go ahead as planned, but the venue will be required to prepare a mitigation strategy for the weather event and communicate this to those members affected.

Amber: If the Met Office issues an Amber weather warning, the venue will review the situation with British Dressage to determine whether the competition can continue to be run as scheduled. The venue will prepare a mitigation strategy for the weather event, agreed with the BD Sport Operations Manager, and communicated in advance to those members affected. If these mitigations do not allow for the safe running of the competition for members or horses, then the fixture must be cancelled.

Red: In the event that the Met Office issues a Red weather warning, then the competition must be cancelled, unless there are extenuating circumstances and agreed in advance with British Dressage.

Weather warnings apply to the location of the competition venue itself, and decisions will not be based on where members reside, or if they are required to travel through an affected area. It is the responsibility of the venue to communicate with those competitors affected.

A decision on cancellation or postponement of the fixture will be taken no later than 48 hours prior to the start of the competition (unless there are exceptional circumstances), to allow for any additional planning or rescheduling required, based on the most recent weather report.

68. **Unaffiliated competitions**

If an unaffiliated class is run at an affiliated show, it must run in accordance with BD rules. The class must be run and judged separately from any equivalent affiliated class. A different test for the affiliated and unaffiliated class at each level must be used.

69. **Unsanctioned events**

British Dressage (BD) follows the FEI mission to advance the orderly growth of equestrian sport by promoting, administering, and regulating humane and sportsmanlike competition in the traditional equestrian disciplines.

At the core of that mission are the following two fundamental principles:

- The welfare of the horse must always be the paramount consideration. It must never, in any circumstances, be subordinated to competitive or commercial considerations.
- Equestrian sport depends, for its credibility, on public acceptance derived from the integrity of its competitions. Behind this precept lies the premise that the best athletes should win fairly and squarely, having competed under even and equitable conditions and under rules that are themselves fair, realistic, and applied with scrupulous competence and even-handedness. No result can be meaningful or valid if it has not been achieved on a level playing field.

British Dressage can only protect and promote those two principles by putting in place regulations protecting horse welfare and competition integrity, by making acceptance of events into the official calendar conditional upon the organiser adopting those regulations, and by making them binding on all participants in those events.

Only by these means can BD ensure the uniform application of the necessary regulations in all affiliated events and hold all event organisers and participants accountable under those regulations for conducting themselves in a manner that protects the safety and integrity of the sport.

In recent years, equestrian sport has seen an increase in the number of events being promoted by private entrepreneurs who avoid regulation and accountability to BD or the FEI by organising their events outside of the official calendar. Such unsanctioned

events undermine our ability to achieve this mission.

The core purpose of the official calendar is to ensure that undue demands are not placed on horses or athletes participating in events. Unsanctioned events circumvent (and so undermine) those protections.

Unsanctioned events are not subject to our rules, and their organisers and participants are not accountable to BD or the FEI for compliance with such regulations. As a result, BD has no way of safeguarding the welfare of horses and athletes participating in such events, or of protecting the integrity of the events.

This presents a potential risk of harm to the sport both directly (through physical harm to horses and athletes participating in unsanctioned events) and indirectly (by undermining public confidence in the ability of BD and the FEI to protect the safety and integrity of the sport).

The public is unlikely to appreciate fully the distinction between sanctioned and unsanctioned events, and so if problems occur in unsanctioned events the image of the entire sport will suffer, and public confidence in the ability of BD and the FEI to maintain the integrity of the sport and to protect the welfare of its participants will be undermined, to the detriment to equestrian sport.

BD recognises the need to be proportionate in its regulation of the sport, and to intervene no further than is necessary to protect the sporting imperatives identified above. The unsanctioned event provisions do not prevent athletes or officials participating in unsanctioned events, or owners entering their horses in unsanctioned events, if they so choose. However, we accept no responsibility for these events that fall outside of the jurisdiction of affiliated competition.

For the avoidance of doubt, events that British Dressage authorise, license, or have no express objection to, such as local unaffiliated competitions that are run outside of the BD structure, but with the knowledge and acceptance of BD as the National Governing Body for dressage, are not classified as unsanctioned events.

British Dressage will continue to allow organisers and venues to use our tests, rule book and judges for unaffiliated competition, subject to correct payments and remuneration, and will consider all those competitions to be sanctioned by BD.

To help us manage the fixture calendar effectively, all unaffiliated competitions where riders can qualify for championships at multiple venues, running under British Dressage rules and / or utilising BD tests, are required write to the Sport Operations Manager at least six months in advance to obtain approval. This will not be unreasonably withheld but will assist both parties in avoiding unnecessary demands being placed on horses and riders and avoid date clashes for shows offering similar opportunities.

70. Prize money

Prize money is mandatory, except for Quest competition, where a suitable concession should be made on entry fees for these classes.

From 1 July 2024 prize money will be mandatory for Para and Freestyle to Music classes. The allocation of prize money in Para classes will be determined and agreed with venues in advance of schedules being published.

The number of prizes given and the amount of prize money, or type of prize, if in kind, must be stated in the schedule. Once stated, this can only be reduced in the event of starters falling below the minimum scale as shown in the table below:

| Prize money | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| No prize money | 1 - 4 starters |
| 1st place | 5 - 8 starters |
| 2nd place | 9 - 12 starters |
| 3rd place | 13 - 16 starters |
| 4th place | At the organiser's discretion |

Starters are as per the number of horses published on the class results and includes HC, class tickets, retired or eliminated entries.

Where a joint placing is awarded, the prize money for the placing and the placing below will be added together and divided equally between the two competitors.

Organisers are free to exceed the minimum scale if they wish to do so. Organisers must ensure it is clear on the results board and score sheets if prize money has been awarded.

Where a rider has left the venue and not collected their prize money, however contacts the venue on the same day as the competition, the organisers are obliged to pay and the rider / organiser make suitable arrangements for collection / payment. If prize money is not claimed within one working day after the competition, the organiser is not obliged to pay.

The amount given for first prize must exceed the entry fee. Prize money will be paid per class e.g. over all sections, unless stated otherwise in the competition schedule. Vouchers/prizes in kind can only be given if in addition to prize money.

Where prize money is provided by a national sponsor at Regional/Winter/National Championships and Premier Leagues, the number of prizes must be awarded as published in the schedule, regardless of the number of starters. For Area Festivals, first place prize money is mandatory and then the table is to be followed dependent on entries.

Where prize money is paid via BACS, clear instructions on the BD schedule / venue website must be shown. Payment should be completed within 14 days from the last day of the competition.

71. Rosettes

Rosettes must be given to the scale in the following table for competitions, but organisers are encouraged to award at least up to sixth place. The scale applies to each section.

| Placing | Number of starters |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 1st place | 1 - 4 starters |
| 2nd place | 5 - 8 starters |
| 3rd place | 9 - 12 starters |
| 4th place | 13 - 16 starters |
| 5th place | 17 - 20 starters |
| 6th place | 21 - 24 starters |

72. Prize givings for all championships including Premier Leagues

Competitors must attend prize givings, or ensure that they are represented, when requested by the organiser. Failure to attend (unless agreed with the organiser) may result in the forfeit of prize money, rosettes and other awards. Prize givings may be mounted or unmounted at the discretion of the organiser and correct competition dress should be worn.

Only the BD sponsors rug should be worn in a mounted prize giving. In the event of a venue sponsor providing a rug, this may only be worn if there is no BD class sponsor.

73. Results

Results must be displayed at the competition in such a way that both the overall class ranking and ranking per section (Gold, Silver, Bronze) are clearly defined.

Results must be submitted to BD by the venues within 48 hours of the competition taking place, once verified in the BD office these results may be subject to change. Once validated, results are recorded on a centralised database against each horse and rider. Results may not be amended or removed from the system once they have been verified, unless there is proof of an error.

74. Points

Horses and riders competing in British Dressage competitions, including para tests, from Preliminary to Grand Prix will be awarded points based on the scale overleaf.

Points are awarded in accordance with the percentage achieved in the competition;

| Points | | | |
|--------------|----------|------------------|-----------|
| 60.00-61.99% | 1 point | 72.00-73.99% | 7 points |
| 62.00-63.99% | 2 points | 74.00-75.99% | 8 points |
| 64.00-65.99% | 3 points | 76.00-77.99% | 9 points |
| 66.00-67.99% | 4 points | 78.00-79.99% | 10 points |
| 68.00-69.99% | 5 points | 80.00% and above | 11 points |
| 70.00-71.99% | 6 points | | |

Points are not awarded for Introductory level classes, music classes, Young Horse or Pony classes, Quest competitions or championships, Combined Training, Regional team competitions and Sheepgate U25 Championship classes.

For My Quest classes, 'Quest points' will be allocated to the same scale as all other classes. Quest points are for qualification/ranking purposes within Quest competitions only and do not count towards the upgrading of a horse.

Points are allocated to each registered horse and rider by reference to each level of competition from Preliminary to Grand Prix, and not as an overall total. The number of points accumulated at each competition level will count towards the horse or rider's eligibility for future competitions, in accordance with the eligibility section and other relevant Rules.

75. Grouping of riders

Riders are placed in the following groups in relation to the highest level that they have ever competed at. For the purpose of calculating rider groups, all results on a member's record are taken into account.

| Group | Description |
|---------|---|
| Group 1 | Riders who have competed at CDI (Small, Middle or Big Tour) |
| Group 2 | Riders who have gained points at Inter II, Inter A/B or U25 Grand Prix or Grand Prix in national BD competitions and riders who have competed in the National or Winter Championships (Excl. Music) at PSG level or above in Gold (or previous open) sections |
| Group 3 | Riders who have gained points at PSG or Inter I in national BD competitions (inc FEI YR classes nationally or in a CDIYR) except as described for Group 2 |
| Group 4 | Riders who have gained points at Advanced Medium level (inc FEI Junior classes nationally or in a CDIJ) |
| Group 5 | Riders who have gained points at Medium level (inc FEI Pony classes nationally or in a CDIP) |
| Group 6 | Riders who have gained points at Elementary level (inc FEI Children on Horses classes nationally or CDICH) |
| Group 7 | Riders who have gained points at Novice level |
| Group 8 | Riders who have gained points at Prelim or not gained any points |

All Pony, Junior and Young Riders, regardless of their age, will adhere to the same rules as a Senior Group 1 rider if they compete in a Senior CDI (Small, Medium or Big Tour).

76. Dressage to music and music licence requirements

Freestyle tests are comprised of a series of compulsory movements which are scored. These set movements are choreographed together with other movements of the competitor's choice. The floorplan is then ridden to music of the competitor's choice. No grading points are given for any Freestyle competition, but in all other respects they are run in accordance with graded classes of the comparative level.

Freestyle classes are held all year round with qualification for the Winter Music Regional Championships and Area Festival Summer Music Championships (for more information please refer to the relevant section).

General rules applicable to all Freestyle to Music

- a) Riders must provide their own music, timed to run from the move-off from the halt at the start of the test, until the final halt. Halts must be on the centre line facing the Judge. No more than 20 seconds of introductory music may be played before entering the arena at A.
- b) To compete in music competitions and qualifiers at any level, riders must be Full (competing), or Club members on a fully registered or Club registered horse. Riders must upgrade to Full Membership and full horse registration to compete in a Music Regional Championship or Summer Music Area Festival.
- c) All tests must include the compulsory movements for the relevant level and may also include additional movements at that level or below.
- d) All music must be licensed. The music licence and music record form can be obtained from the BD office/website. A music licence record form should be completed each time new music is made.

Music may be provided in a number of formats, deliverables include CD or MP3/electronically. Music is to be provided/transferred as the individual organiser advises.

The licence that BD has negotiated with PPL/PRS enables our members to use, according to the terms of the licence, PPL repertoire music in affiliated Dressage to Music Competitions. However, members can also use non PPL music. BD Members wishing to take part in affiliated DTM classes must read the Licence Agreement and then read and sign the Sub-Licence agreement which is attached to it. The Sub-Licence Agreement must then be sent to BD as soon as possible.

As well as the Sub-Licence Agreement members will also be required to forward a copy of the 'Music Licence Record Form'. This form records the nature and length of tracks that are on the member's music. You can check if your music is PPL or not by looking on the PPL repertoire list.

To obtain the PPL repertoire please visit the PPL website www.ppluk.com. If the source of the music is not shown on the PPL list, it should be assumed that it is not PPL and a note should be put on the Music Licence Record Form stating this.

If the label name cannot be found, a note stating that it has not been possible to source the music should be shown on the music licence record.

The label name that appears on the PPL repertoire list needs to be cross referenced with the label name that appears on your media.

Information on the producer, music publishing company, distributor or label releasing the album can be found from the original source of the music, this will be needed for your music listing.

If you change or have new music made at any time you must provide us with a new music license record form to be able to perform your freestyle to this music.

All music deliverables must be accompanied by the music sticker template detailing a full track listing.



CLASSIC DRESSAGE

Talk to us about safety helmets -
we want the safest and most
comfortable option for you!
Choose from KASK, Samshield,
UVEX, Pikeur Abus
and Charles Owen



KASK

uvex

 *Samshield*
headwear

KAP
ITALIA



www.classicdressage.com

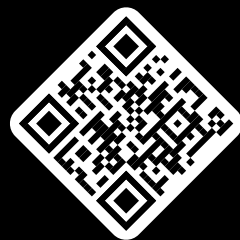
Jobes Barn, Fosse Way, Warwickshire CV35 9AE

0800 246 1994

07359 322 950



DESIGN THE HELMET OF YOUR DREAMS



Scan now to design your masterpiece

charlesowen.com/cx



SAY YES TO LIMITLESS OPTIONS

Choose from an endless number of configurable options and design the helmet of your dreams with the fully customisable My Halo.

Enjoy the next-generation technology and style that put the Halo into a class of its own, including the unique 360° ventilation system discreetly hidden under the halo ring.

Choose from seven hand-picked shell colours, available in both a smooth matt and a high gloss finish, or a unique combination of both.

Extra options include four crystal fabric top shell coverings and 13 unique ring colours, which include two exclusive brushed metallic colourways available with two radiant crystal settings and five crystal colours.



**CHARLES
OWEN**
◆ ESTABLISHED 1911 ◆

EXCLUSIVE
OFFER

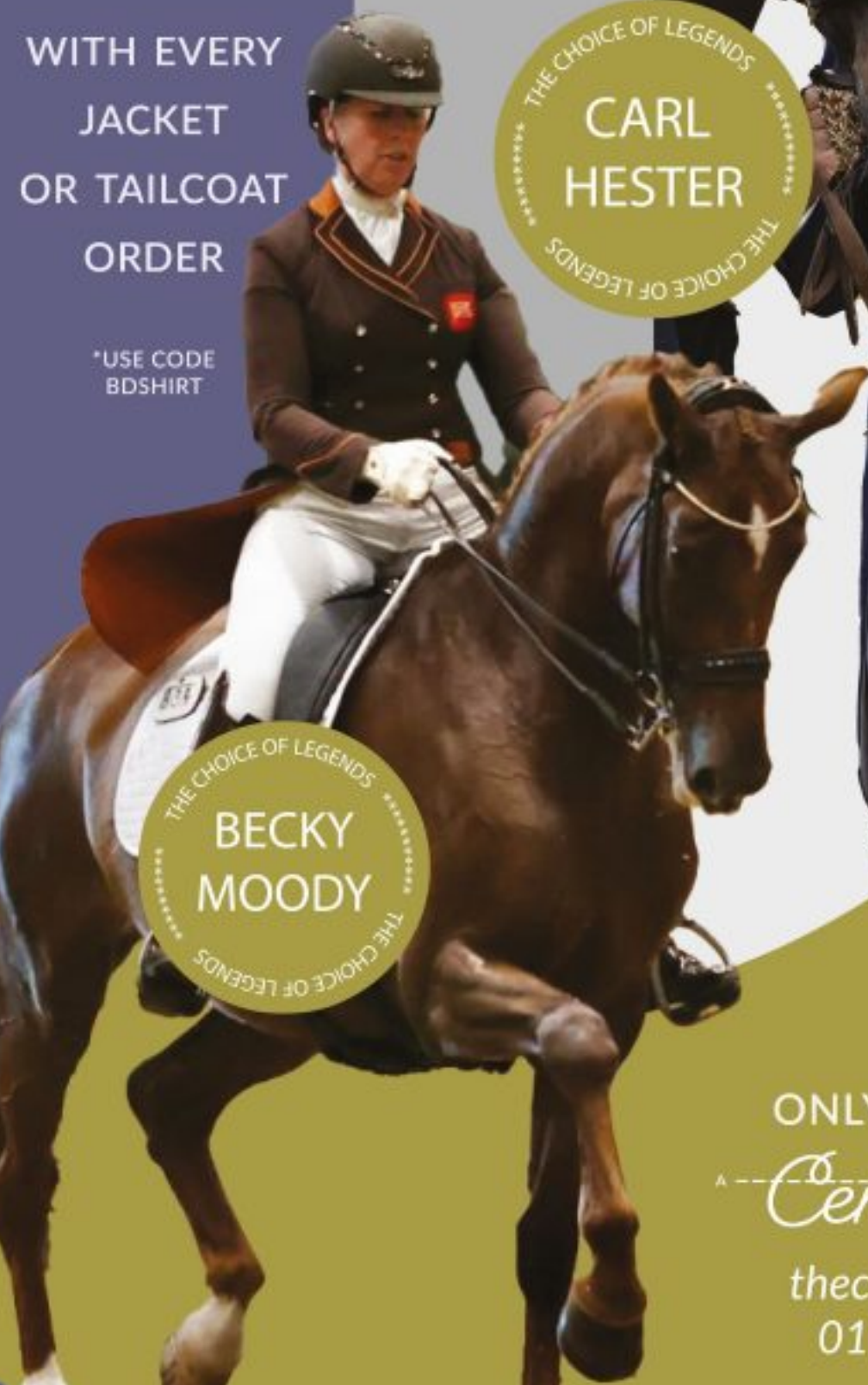
FREE SHOW SHIRT

WITH EVERY
JACKET
OR TAILCOAT
ORDER

*USE CODE
BDSHIRT


LotusRomeo®

IMPECCABLY
TAILORED
COMPETITION
JACKETS &
TAILCOATS



ONLY AVAILABLE AT

A *CentreLine* C

thecentreline.co.uk

0118 3247471

Competitor dress

To complement this section of the Members' Handbook, a pictorial guide to approved competitor dress is available on the British Dressage website under Competition Rules.

77. **Dress**

Introductory to Advanced Medium tests (including FEI Junior tests) - uniform, short jacket or tweed coat with correctly tied stock/white round collar or shirt and tie and protective hat. Junior riders may only wear tailcoats when competing at a domestic or overseas CDI (International competition).

Advanced tests and upwards - option of a tail coat with protective hat, or short jacket with protective hat, both with correctly tied stock or shirt and tie. Forces and service uniform may be worn with protective hat or protective service hat.

Rider training aids are not permitted.

78. **Coats/jackets/waistcoats/shirts**

In all competitions and Championships, any single colour tailcoat, jacket or fitted waistcoat will be allowed. Tweed jackets and waistcoats are permitted but should not have bold patterns. Accents, such as collars, cuffs or points of a different hue, modest patterns (including pinstripes) or crystal decorations are permitted. In regular competitions, competitors may choose to ride without jackets.

Gilets are not permitted.

Navy jackets with red waistcoat points and red collars with white piping may not be used as this style signifies a British Team rider.

A suitable long or short sleeved shirt of a solid colour is to be worn. It should be fastened at the neck with a tie, round collar or correctly fastened stock.

In all Championships, Regionals, Area Festivals, Premier Leagues and High Profile shows, a jacket/waistcoat must be worn. In the event of hot weather, permission to ride without jackets may be granted at the discretion of the organiser and in consultation with the panel of judges.

Plain, waterproof jackets may be worn in wet weather.

79. **Cultural, Religious or Medical Dress**

British Dressage is committed to being an inclusive and accessible sport that celebrates diversity and removes barriers to participation.

Where specific clothing items are worn on cultural, religious, or medical grounds that may conflict with the ability to adhere to the rules of British Dressage, we request that members contact head office for further advice regarding suitable dress.

The safety and protection of horses and riders is paramount, and clothing or headgear must remain in line with our competition rules. We can provide support and endorse a suitable solution in advance of competition, while still safeguarding the welfare of all participants.

80. **Dress logos and manufacturer's marks**

While in the competition arena and during the prize-giving the name and/or logo of the rider's sponsor(s) may appear on a surface area not exceeding:

- (i) eighty (80) square centimetres on each of the two sides of jackets or top garment at the height of breast pockets.
- (ii) sixteen (16) square centimetres on both sides of the shirt collar and of the hunting stock or centrally in the middle part of the collar on shirts.
- (iii) for manufacturers' labels, three square centimetres on any clothing or equipment and may appear only once per item.

Please refer to rule 95 for logos and manufacturers marks on saddle clothes/equipment.

81. **Body Protectors**

Body protectors, air jackets and soft shell air jackets are permitted.

82. **Hats**

A riding hat, designed to provide protection, must be worn at all times by anyone when mounted, whether or not a competitor, at a BD competition including exercising, warming up and competing. Hats and hat covers may be in any conservative colour. Hats that are completely mirrored are not permitted.

If a hat comes off during a dressage test, it must be replaced immediately; the rider may dismount or the hat may be handed to them. The test will be restarted at the beginning of the movement during which it came off. There will be no penalty for error of course, but if the hat is not replaced the Judge is to eliminate the competitor.

Top hats are no longer permitted at national and international competitions. This includes service hats that do not comply with regulation.

Protective hats must meet one of the following standards;

- PAS 015 (2011 and subsequent updates)
- VG1
- EN1384:2023
- SNELL E2016, E2021
- ASTM F1163 2015 and subsequent updates
- AS/NZS 3838 2006 onwards.

It is strongly recommended that members wear hats bearing the BSI kite mark or IN-SPEC IC mark (for the PAS 015, VG1 and EN1384 standard hats), the SEI mark (in the case of ASTM F1163 hats), the SAI mark (in the case of AS/NZS 3838 hats) in addition to the published safety standard. When a hat is dual badged, the hat must contain at least one compliant standard alongside an elapsed standard to ensure that the hat is suitable for competition.

Harnesses must be correctly fastened at all times whilst mounted. Competitors are strongly recommended to check their hats regularly and to replace them if damaged, or following a fall.

If a rider starts their test without wearing the correct headgear, the judge is to ring the bell and instruct the rider to dismount and leave the arena. At the discretion of the organiser and the judge, the rider may restart the test once properly attired. If a rider fails to comply with the instruction, the organiser is to eliminate the competitor from all classes on that day. This will also apply if, as a result of a spot-check, a rider's hat is found not to comply with the required standard.

83. **Breeches/Jodhpurs**

Breeches or jodhpurs should predominately be of a solid, single colour. Dark-coloured contrast seats are permitted. Striped or bold patterned breeches or jodhpurs are not permitted.

Official Services uniform is permitted.

84. **Gloves**

Gloves are to be worn.

85. **Boots/Gaiters/Chaps**

Conventional boots of any colour designed for riding are to be worn by all competitors and grooms whilst mounted. Short riding boots designed for riding may be worn with or without gaiters or half chaps of the same colour as the boots. Fringed gaiters/chaps are not permitted.

86. **Spurs**

Spurs may be worn at all levels. Spurs must be a pair (except when riding side saddle), made of inflexible metal (which may be coated) and used in their manufactured state. Spurs with a smooth rotating rubber, metal or plastic ball on the shank are permitted. The band round the heel must be smooth; '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.

Dummy spurs are permitted, as are correctly fitted swan neck spurs.

There is no restriction on the type of shank and rowels that are permitted provided that they are free to rotate horizontally or vertically. Rowels with points must have rounded ends. In specific Children on Horses and FEI Pony classes, only blunt metal spurs are allowed. In these classes, the shank may not be longer than 3.5cm, measured from the boot to the tip, and spurs with rowels are not allowed.

Spurs at all levels for national competitions / championships are no longer mandatory from Advanced level and above. For FEI competitions (including domestic CDI/CPEDI) please refer to FEI rules.

Spurs incorrectly worn will result in elimination, see rule 135.

Excessive use of spurs is forbidden.

Please refer to the online tack and equipment guide for further examples of permitted and non-permitted spurs.

87. Whips

Whips may be no longer than 1.20m in length, to include the full length of the handle, shaft, and any flexible tip, For riders on ponies, whips may be no longer than 1.00m in length, to include the full length of the handle, shaft, and any flexible tip. The whip should be held with the tapered end pointing towards the ground and must be used with care.

Any use of the whip other than as a training aid will be deemed unacceptable. Excessive use of the whip/s is forbidden.

| Classes and championships | |
|--|---|
| Qualifiers including Quest | ✓ |
| Quest Semi-Finals and Championships | ✓ |
| Championships inc. Area Festivals, Regionals, Music, Nationals and Winters | × |
| Warm up classes at Championships as stated above | ✓ |
| Associated Championships | × |
| Combined Training Championship (dressage phase) | × |
| Middle Tour Championships | × |
| Young Horse and Pony - 4, 5, 6 and 7 year old Qualifiers | ✓ |
| Young Horse - 5, 6 and 7 year old Semi-Finals | × |
| Young Horse and Pony - 4 year old Semi-Finals and Championships | ✓ |
| Young Horse and Pony - 5, 6 and 7 year old Championships | × |
| FEI Young Horse Tests within a Premier League | × |
| Premier League * | ✓ |
| High Profile Show * | ✓ |

*Selectors may request that a whip is not used at Premier Leagues and High Profile Shows and this has no impact on the judging of the test. In order for scores to be used for U21 selection purposes (International and European) whips must not be used.

A whip must not be used in a way that disturbs other riders or horses whilst warming up. If used during a test, a whip may not be picked up if dropped.

Riders may carry one whip, para riders with dispensation may carry a whip(s) appropriate to their dispensation certificate in all classes (see rule 30).

Classic Dressage

Classic Dressage are proud sponsors of Carl Hester, Rebecca Hughes, Gareth Hughes, and Ruby Hughes. When you buy your new competition or leisure riding clothing from Classic Dressage you can be sure that whatever level you are riding at you will get a professional and knowledgeable service.

Clothing and showjackets, breeches, leather boots, beautiful bridles and safety helmets – we are the specialists that will help you look and feel good – inside and outside the arena!

Dressage Boots from the best brands – Petrie and Cavallo



WHIS – the Wireless Instruction Training Set chosen by Carl Hester.



Excellent range of bridles from the hand-made Otto Schumacher, Finesse, Fairfax to Schockemohle



Competition clothing from Pikeur, Cavalleria Toscana and Samshield



www.classicdressage.com

Jobes Barn, Fosse Way, Warwickshire CV35 9AE

**0800 246 1994
07359 322 950**

A whip may always be carried when riding side saddle (including Area Festivals and Championships).

Whips are permitted in the warm up arena at a championship however must be dropped before the rider enters the space around the competition arena, failure to do so will result in elimination. Where a rider has failed to drop the whip as they have entered the arena space, they may continue to ride their test and judges will continue to mark. However, the elimination will still stand and marked accordingly on the results.

88. **Commanders**

Commanders may be used in all regular classes with exceptions detailed below:

| Classes and championships | |
|--|---|
| Qualifiers including Quest | ✓ |
| Quest Semi-Finals and Championships | ✓ |
| Championships inc. Area Festivals, Regionals, Music, Nationals and Winters | × |
| Warm up classes at championships as stated above | ✓ |
| Associated Championships | × |
| Combined Training Championship | × |
| Middle Tour Championships | × |
| Young Horse and Pony - 4, 5 and 6 year old Qualifiers | ✓ |
| Young Horse - 7 year old Qualifiers | × |
| Young Horse - 5, 6 and 7 year old Semi-Finals | × |
| Young Horse and Pony - 4 year old Semi-Finals and Championships | ✓ |
| Young Horse and Pony - 5, 6 and 7 year old Championships | × |
| FEI Young Horse tests | × |
| Premier League | × |
| High Profile Show | ✓ |

The competitor is responsible for ensuring that only the words of the printed text or extracts are read out and that there is no emphasis on any part of the command. The judge may eliminate the rider if this rule is not met. The competitor is responsible for providing their own commander at competitions.

Commanders may only be introduced partway through the test at the judge's discretion.

Dispensation must be granted by BD for the use of headsets and will only be permitted when an independent adult stands next to the caller to check that only words from the test are used.

Speaker watches are not permitted. Hearing aids are exempt from this ruling, they must not be connected to a communication device.

89. **Headsets/earphones**

Electronic communication devices are permitted during training and warm-up however must be discussed with the venue prior to warming up as some devices may cause feedback on PA systems. The organiser has the right to request the device not be used.

Communication devices must not be used in the competition arena and such usage is penalised by elimination. If carried into the competition arena, mobile devices (e.g. phones and smart watches) must be on silent and not be used for communication purposes. Mobile devices in the warm-up must be used responsibly.

Unless a formal dispensation has been granted in accordance with rule 90, earphones are prohibited in the competition arena and such usage is penalised by elimination.

The use of earphones or similar devices is permitted during training and warm up, but must only be worn in one ear.

Hearing aids are exempt from this ruling, they must not be connected to a communication device.

90. **Dispensation - for non-disabled competitions**

All non-classified riders that are British Dressage members can apply to British Dressage for a dispensation to use compensating aids to assist them in non-disabled competitions, including non-disabled championships.

Championships are defined as Regionals, National and Winter Championships, Area Festivals, Area Festival Championships, Quest and Associated Championships. Applicability of the compensating aids to the Championship must be stated on the rider's dispensation certificate.

Dispensation application forms can be found on the BD website, under Competition Rules.

All applications are to be submitted to the Para Officer at the BD office along with the relevant medical documentation as specified on the application form. Medical information must include clear diagnostic detail of the conditions prompting the dispensation request.

Dispensation certificates for BD non-disabled competitions will include those compensating aids granted to the rider by the BD Dispensation Committee. A copy of the BD formal dispensation certificate must be sent with the entry to the competition organiser. It is the rider's responsibility to ensure that sufficient copies are passed to the organiser and all officials on the day of competition. A copy of the dispensation certificate is to be carried by the rider at all times in case of any queries.

91. **Riders with Hearing Difficulties**

All riders with hearing difficulties may have a support person who will raise their hand when the bell is rung to indicate to the rider that the bell has been rung by the judge. The support person must stand away from the competition arena, at least five metres from the arena boards, to ensure no outside assistance is given.

92. **Armbands and Tabards**

- All visually impaired riders may wear a white armband when warming up and competing in their test.
- All riders with hearing difficulties may wear a royal blue armband when warming up and competing in their test.
- All riders with hidden disabilities may wear a Sunflower armband (Hidden Disabilities). Please note, there is no dispensation process for the Sunflower armband to be worn.
- The use of a support rider for Grade I - III competitors is permitted in accordance with FEI rules, limiting the daily mounted period to 30 minutes. Mounting of the support rider must take place in the presence of a steward and the support rider must wear a yellow tabard or armband at all times.

Saddlery and Tack

To complement this section of the Members' Handbook a pictorial guide to approved saddlery and tack is available on the British Dressage website under Competition Rules.

Tack and equipment must be used in its manufactured state with no additions or modifications unless otherwise stated. If in doubt, guidance on permitted tack should be sought from the Membership Experience Manager in writing with a clear photo of the tack in question, the make name and model number (if applicable).

93. Saddles and stirrups

Permitted:-

- English or continental style saddles and must have flaps, a cantle and pommel (including treeless).
- Permitted saddle colours are brown, black, grey or navy. Panels of colour on areas such as the cantle are allowed.
- Riders choosing to ride side saddle must notify the organiser before the start of the class who will inform the judge.
- All colour stirrups are allowed.
- A gel pad / memory foam / sheepskin seat saver provided it is unobtrusive and matches the colour of the saddle.

Not permitted:-

- Western style, traditional Iberian or Arabian.
- Saddles without stirrup leathers and irons attached to the saddle and used in the conventional way.
- Velcro straps from the girth to the stirrup iron unless dispensation has been granted.
- A rider's boots fixed to the stirrup iron by mechanical or magnetic means unless dispensation has been given.
- Saddle covers are not permitted except during warm up.

94. Saddle cloths/numnahs/half pads

Saddle cloths or numnahs are to be predominantly white/cream or a conservative colour. Contrasting piping is permitted.

Saddle cloths bearing the British Flag may only be worn by a competitor who is officially representing Great Britain at an Olympic or Paralympic Games, CDIO, CPEDI, CDI, CDIP, CDIJ, CDIY, CDICH, European Championships, or World Equestrian Games.

95. Tack logos and manufacturer's marks

While in the competition arena and during the prize-giving the name and/or logo of the rider's sponsor(s) may appear on a surface area not exceeding:

- two hundred (200) square centimetres on each side of the saddle cloth;
- for manufacturers labels, three (3) square centimetres on any clothing or equipment and may appear only once per item.

Please refer to rule 80 for rider logo and manufacturers marks.

WHERE DOES YOUR BIT ENGAGE WITH YOUR HORSE'S MOUTH?

Let's explore the functionality of bits.

Bombers Bits are designed with comfort and communication in mind.

Pivot Low Port



- Straight solid mouthpiece
- Moderate port, spreads the tongue pressure
- Sides pivot, for independent rein aids

A comfortable bit allows for sustainable contact. Each horse is unique.

McHardy Dressage



- Broken mouthpiece
- Combination of tongue and squeeze
- Ergonomic shape for the tongue

To understand your horse's resistance to a bit, one must understand its functionality.

Dressage Elliptical

- Broken mouthpiece
- Ground and bent to wrap around the mouth
- Spread pressures evenly with minimal squeeze



To better understand the functionality of your bit place it over your forearm or in front of your knee and simulate the rein action by pulling the cheekpieces.

Get in touch find out more.

BITTING EXPERTS FOR THE LAST 30 YEARS

1b Boston Road, Merrivale, Howick, 3291, South Africa.

☎ 073 2975492 @ Bombers Customer Services: help@bombers.co.za

FREE
BITTING ADVICE



96. **Bridles**

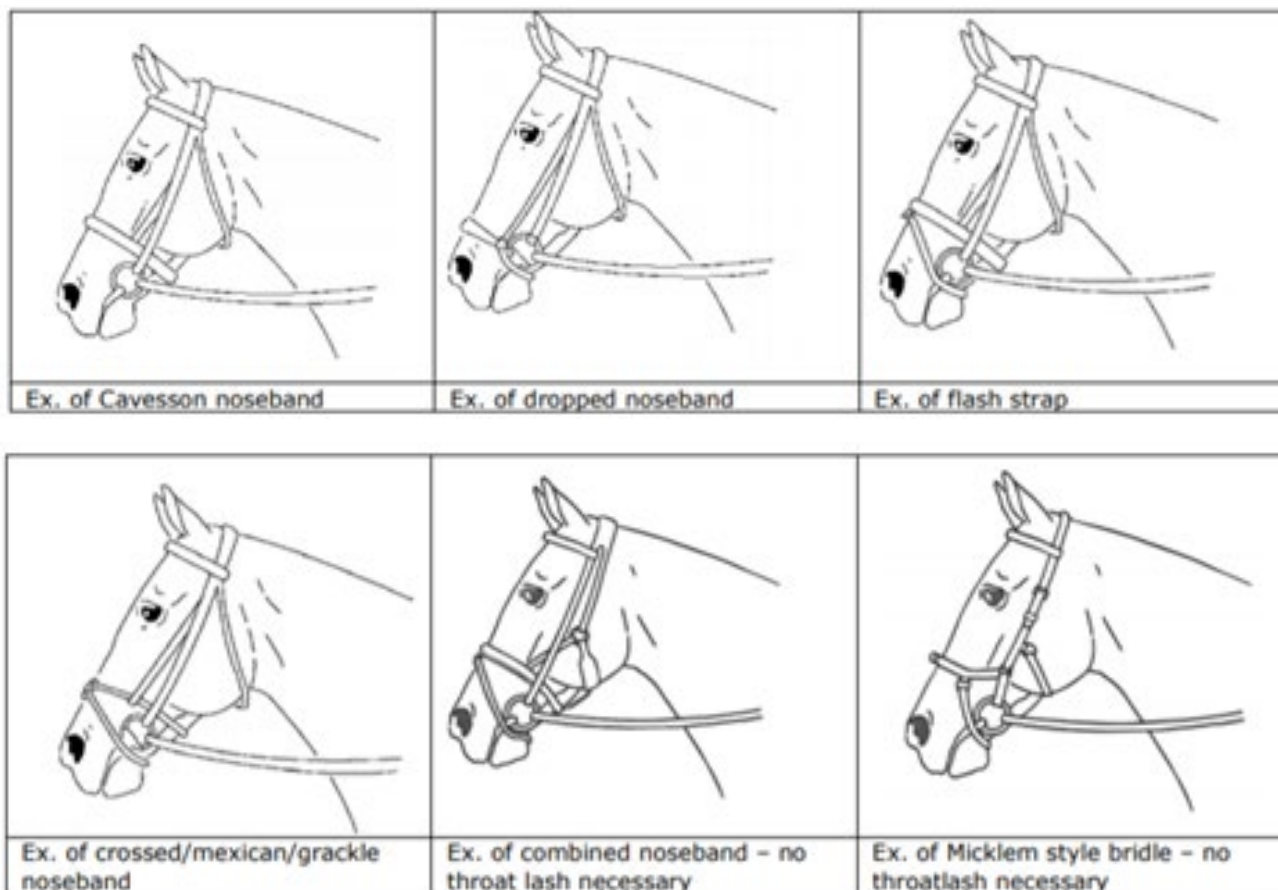
A bridle with a bit (worn in the horses' mouth), browband and noseband is compulsory and must be used in the conventionally accepted manner. The loop of the reins must be above the horse's neck with the reins attached to the bit and reins are to be held in the conventional way.

Bridles must be predominantly black, brown, grey or navy and may not be decorated with tassels or any additions to the normal configuration.

Discreet padding of the bridle at the poll and/or noseband is permitted. Padding of the cheek pieces is not permitted and nosebands may only have padding on the straps that pass under the chin. Additional padding is not permitted anywhere on the front of the noseband.

Reins must be used in their manufactured condition without any addition or adaptation to any part. Reins may not be clipped to the bit. Looped or modified (including knotted reins) are not permitted unless dispensation has been granted see rule 30 and rule 90.

Double bridles may only be used with a cavasson noseband.





Trust
Harmony
Innovation

Double World Champion

Charlotte Fry

chooses Sprenger Bits



Zebra Products Ltd

www.zebraproducts.co.uk

<https://pferdesport.sprenger.de/en/>

97. Other additions to tack/equipment and gadgets

Permitted:

- Breastplates, breast girths, and cruppers
- Neck straps or balancing straps (a loop on the front of the saddle) are permitted at all levels
- Plastic or glued on shoes are permitted. The heel area should not be covered.

Not Permitted:

- Martingales and bearing, side, running or elasticated insert reins
- Bandages, boots or any sort of blinkers or tongue strap
- Hoof boots of any type
- Any form of hoof cast or casting on the hoof
- Rugs of any type may not be worn during a test
- Nasal Strips are not permitted for use
- Horse body/belly bandages are not permitted during warm up or in competition
- Kinesiology tape

At a Championship, any not permitted tack and equipment must be removed before the rider enters the space around the competition arena, failure to do so will result in elimination. Where a rider has failed to remove such tack and equipment as they have entered the arena space, they may continue to ride their test and judges will continue to mark. However, the elimination will stand and be marked accordingly on the results.

98. Decoration

Any unusual decoration of the horse with unnatural items such as ribbons, flowers or anything applied to the horse, such as glitter, pastes or paints/ointments, is forbidden unless worn in breed specific classes.

Red ribbon in the forelock or tail for horses that kick or discreet items such as diamante plaiting bands are permitted. **White ribbon is permitted in the forelock and tail to indicate a stallion.**

99. Ear covers and fly hoods

Ear covers are permitted for all competitions, and may also provide noise reduction. Ear covers must not cover the horse's eyes, should not be fastened to the noseband and should be discreet in colour.

Nose nets and face masks are permitted. They must be discreetly coloured i.e. the same/similar colour to the horse and should cover the face/nose only, leaving the mouth and bit visible. Face masks/nose nets are not permitted under FEI rules, which may be applied to certain competitions in the UK - please check individual competition rules.

Visors/goggles are not permitted.

Ear plugs are not permitted during competition but are allowed for prize-givings only.

100. Stallions

Stallions are to be identified by the rider wearing a yellow cross band or stallion disc on the bridle at all times. White ribbon may also be worn in the forelock and tail. Non-compliance will result in a two mark deduction.

101. Tack while warming up

Whilst warming up, horses may wear only the saddlery allowed for their level of competition, except:

- Boots, bandages and whips are permitted
- Riders who are visually impaired should wear a white armband
- Riders who have hearing difficulties should wear a royal blue armband
- Only rugs designed for riding can be worn whilst warming up.

Warming up in anything other than permitted saddlery (unless specified above) will result in the elimination of both horse and owner/rider from all classes on the day. Anyone seeing this rule being breached should immediately report it to the organiser/judge who is to eliminate the horse/rider.

102. Lungeing

The lunge rein must be attached to the bit or cavesson and two reins are permissible. Side reins may be used, but not running or balancing reins. The rider may be mounted while the horse is being lunged and may hold the reins. The rider must obtain permission to lunge from the organiser, who may designate a specific area.

103. Bits

British Dressage follows the guidance of FEI in relation to permitted bits. The BD Approved Tack Guide illustrates permitted mouthpieces, cheeks and rings. All bits must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines. Clips should not be used on the bit.

Permitted:

- Bits of rubber, nylon or other synthetic materials
- Mix of metals in the mouthpiece
- Snaffles may be used at Advanced to Grand Prix including Premier Leagues unless a double bridle is requested by the selectors
- Bits must be used in their manufactured condition without any addition or adaptation to any part, however they may be covered with rubber or latex - this may only cover the mouthpiece and not be used as a bitguard or to affect the action of the bit.
- Bits with a central link such as French link or rounded lozenges are permitted but they must not have the action of a tongue plate.

Combinations of mouthpieces may be used with any of the cheeks or rings pictured in the guide. If a specific bit is not illustrated in the pictorial guide, please refer to FEI rules or BD Office.

Not permitted:

- Bits with multiple rotating parts such as rollers or discs.
- Bitguards

10% Discount for BD Members - Voucher Code: BD10

Teeth problems?
call the dentist!

Saddle problems?
call the saddle fitter!

Biting problems?
call...

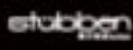
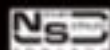
Proud Sponsors of Katie Scott Dressage



THE
horsebit
SHOP

UK's largest **Biting**
Specialists &
comprehensive
Bit Bank Service

1000'S OF BITS IN STOCK, AVAILABLE TO **BUY OR TRY**



The Horse bit shop's Senior
bitting advisor Ema Odlin-
Baxter as featured on Horse
& Country TV

30
DAY TRIALS
AVAILABLE

www.thehorsebitshop.co.uk










tel: +44(0)1405 861800









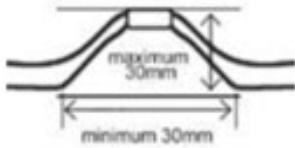
f /thehorsebitshop

- Mouthpiece diameter less than 10mm
- No bit/bitless bridles
- Hanging cheek, Fulmer, D-rings for use as part of a double bridle.

Cheeks/rings

| | | |
|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| Ex. of Loose Ring cheek | Ex. of Eggbutt cheek | Ex. of D-Ring cheek |
|  |  |  |
| Ex. of upper cheek | Ex. of full cheek | Ex. of hanging cheek |
|  | | |
| Ex. of Fulmer cheek | | |

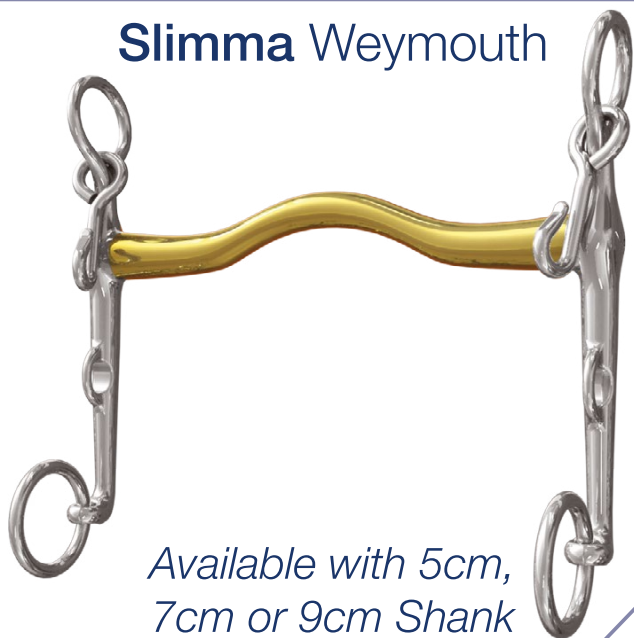
Mouthpieces

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| Ex. of single jointed mouthpiece | Ex. of double jointed mouthpiece | Ex. of double jointed mouthpiece |
|  |  |  |
| Ex. of unjointed mouthpiece | Ex. of barrel joint | Ex. of ball joint |
|  |  |  |
| Ex. of double ball joint | Ex. of centrepiece with a roller | Port deviation measurements |

TROUBLE WITH A DOUBLE?

PROMOTING RELAXED ACCEPTANCE &
A MORE ADVANCED OUTLINE

Slimma Weymouth



*Available with 5cm,
7cm or 9cm Shank*

Verbindend Bridoon
Loose Ring



Eggbutt



THE WINNING COMBINATION OF DOUBLES

An extremely popular choice of Weymouth & Bridoon

Need Advice?

Scan QR Code or call
0844 66 44 600



Need a Bit Fitter?

Scan QR Code to find a
local accredited Bit Fitter



**Neue
NS chule**

www.nsbits.com

104. Bits - Double Bridles

Bridoon:

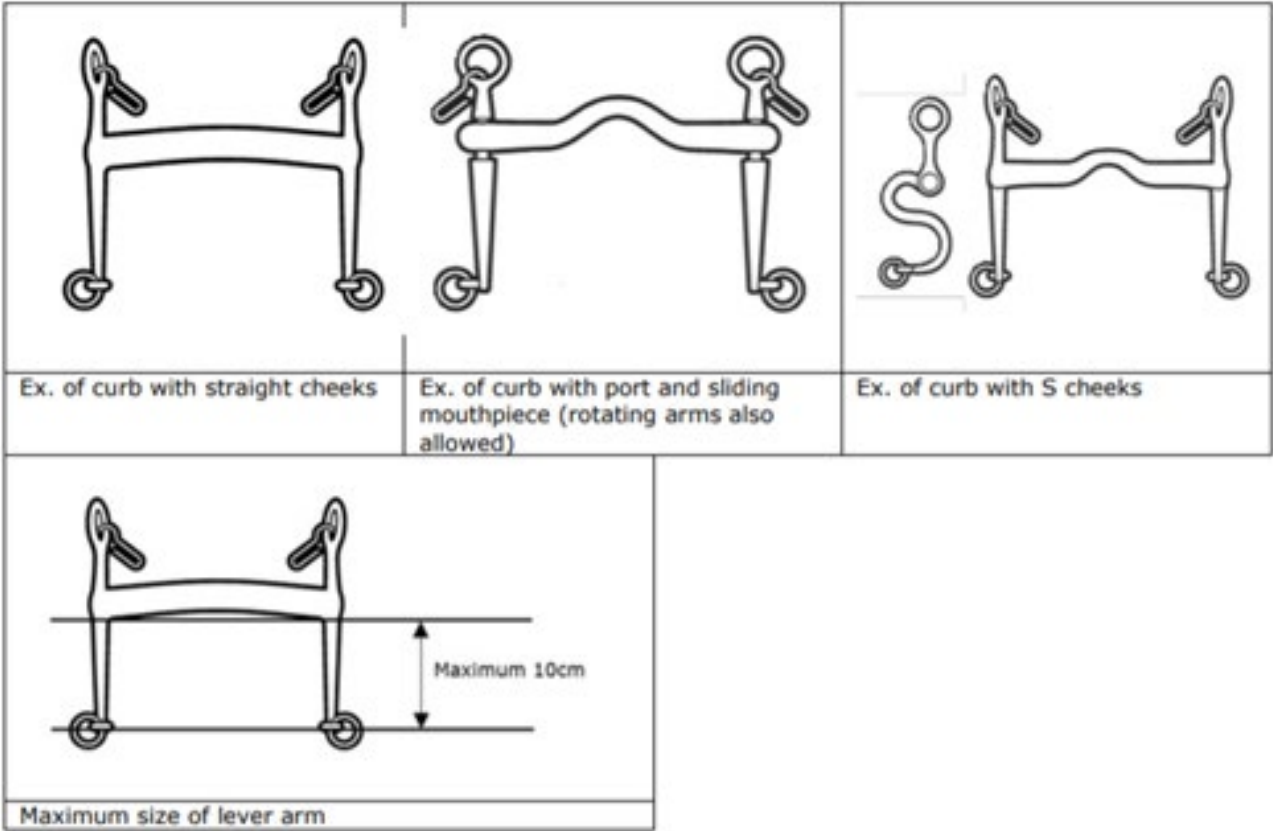
Permitted jointed or double jointed snaffle bits may be used as a bridoon with the exception of any mouthpiece with the following:

- Half/full cheeks
- Baucher/hanging cheeks
- D-rings

Straight bar, mullen mouth and bits that lock up (including double and single jointed) are not permitted as part of a double. Bits must be used in their manufactured condition without any addition or adaptation to any part.

Curbs:

Curbs may have straight or s-shaped cheeks, they may have fixed or sliding mouthpieces. The lever arm of the curb is limited to 10cm in length (length below the mouthpiece). The upper cheek must not be longer than the lower cheek. The ring of the bridoon bit must not exceed 8cm in diameter. If the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the lever arm of the curb bit below the mouthpiece should not measure more than 10cm when the mouthpiece is at the uppermost position. The diameter of the mouthpiece of the bridoon and/or curb must be such as not to hurt the horse.



Inflexible bits coated in plastic are permitted in a double bridle, however flexible rubber bits are not.

The curb chain (including its cover) may be made of leather, metal, neoprene, sheepskin or rubber or a combination thereof and must be fitted in the conventional way. Leather curb chains may be used. Lip straps may be used but are not compulsory.

Elastic curb chains and curb bars are not permitted.

See FEI rules for bits for U21 classes - www.fei.org. At all other BD national shows where Junior and Young Rider classes are held, snaffle bridles are allowed. All competitors are advised to check FEI rules before taking part in an International competition.

If in doubt, guidance should be sought from the Membership Experience Manager at BD in writing with a clear photo of the bit in question, and the make and model.

105. Quick guide to BD tack

When competing dressage with another discipline group, e.g. British Eventing, please consult the rules of that discipline group to ensure compliance with their rules.

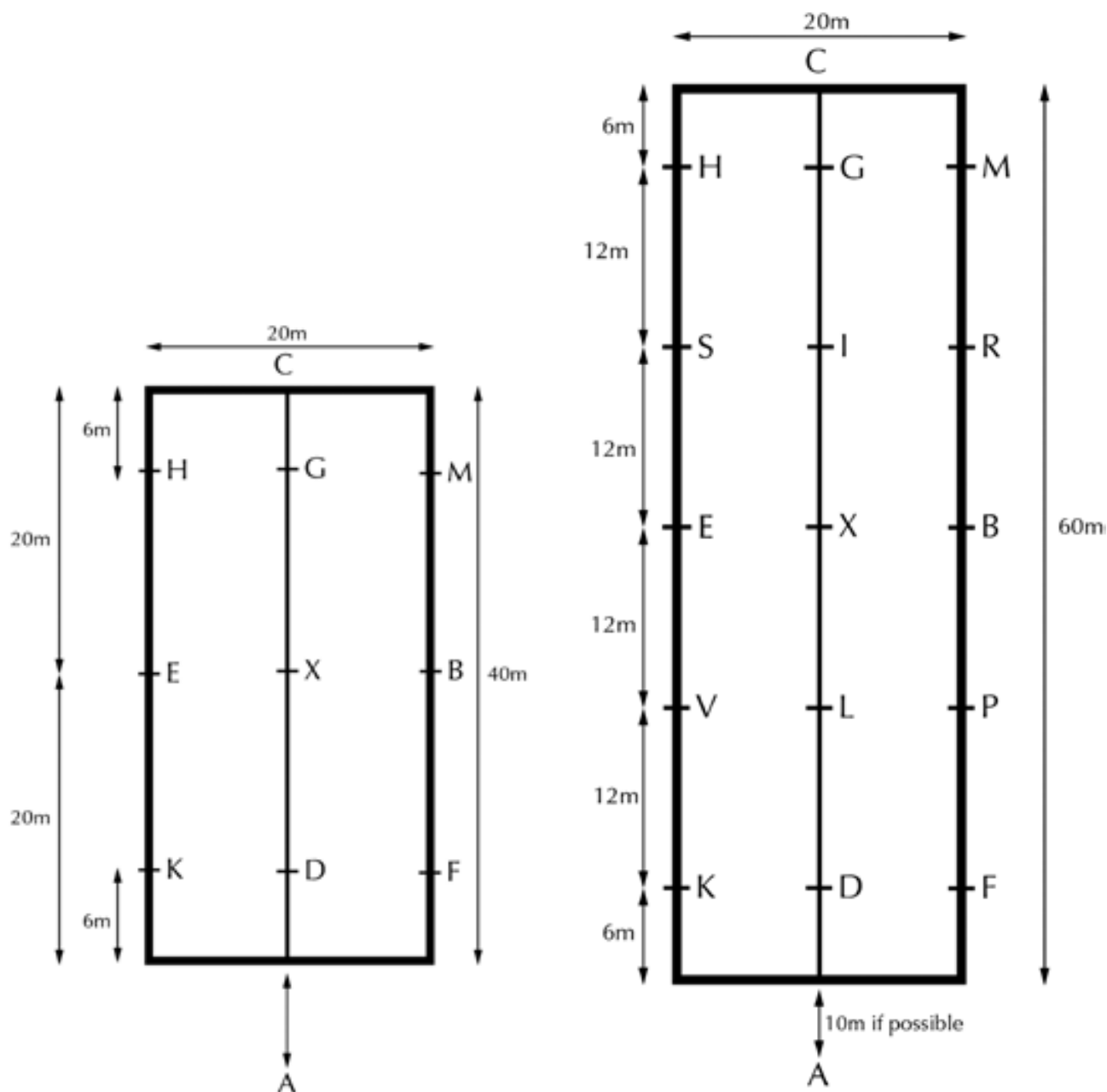
Please consult the individual rules for more detail.

| Classes and championships | Snaffle | Double |
|---|---------|--------|
| Regular Intro, Prelim and Novice | ✓ | × |
| Regular Elementary to Advanced Medium | ✓ | ✓ |
| Regular Advanced - GP (national classes) | ✓ | ✓ |
| Premier League | ✓ | ✓ |
| Young Horse classes (4 year olds) | ✓ | × |
| Young Horse classes (5 and 6 year olds) | ✓ | × |
| Young Horse classes (7 year olds) | ✓ | ✓ |
| Para riders competing in non-disabled classes - Prelim and Novice | ✓ | × |
| Para riders competing in non-disabled classes - Elementary to GP | ✓ | ✓ |

Riding the test and penalties

106. Arena layout

Arenas are to be set out to the dimensions shown.



The arena should be level and separated from the public by a distance all round of fifteen metres for international competitions and at least ten metres for other events if more room is not available. Adjacent arenas should be a recommended five metres apart but never less than two metres apart. Roping (incorporating safety break points) should be used when necessary to prevent intrusion. The arenas may be marked in the following ways:

- by a continuous surround of white boards.
- by intermittent white boards placed at each corner and opposite each marker. NB - alternative arena surrounds may be used with permission from BD.

Plan of 20 x 40 arena

The length of the diagonal from corner to corner is 44.72 m

Plan of 20 x 60 arena.

The length of the diagonal from corner to corner is 63.24 m

Young Horse qualifiers and Semi-Finals are to be held in a 20 x 60m arena with continuous boards and in an enclosed arena with fencing.

107. **Markers**

The outer markers must be clearly visible and must have black letters on a white background. Arena boards may be marked opposite each outside marker. A gap of approximately one metre each side of the centre line must be left at A to form an entrance. The A marker should be placed far enough back to allow horses to enter the arena on a straight track.

108. **Inspection of arenas**

The judge is responsible for checking that the arena is satisfactory and having it modified as necessary.

109. **Competitors' conduct**

Riders and owners of competing horses and their assistants must, under penalty of elimination, obey any order or direction given to them by any official and they must, in particular, be careful not to do anything liable to upset or hinder the progress of the competition.

110. **Competitors responsibility/declarations**

The competitor is responsible for arriving at the appropriate competition arena early enough so that they start their test at the designated time. The competition time allocated to the competitors is the time that they should start their test. Upon arrival at the venue, riders are required to declare themselves to the secretary/organiser with their horse's passport.

111. **Scoring method**

Each judge will award marks from zero to ten for each numbered movement and collective. Half marks from 0.5 to 9.5 may be used. The marks are then added together and any penalty marks are deducted. Where there is a panel of two or more judges, the final percentage is calculated by adding the scores for all judges and calculating the percentage for the combined total. For Dressage to Music competitions, please refer to the 'Guidelines for Dressage to Music' available on the British Dressage website.

Under both BD and FEI rules, the judges' marks are totalled to find the final percentage. If two riders achieve the same percentage, the horse with the higher collective marks is to take the higher placing. If the total of the collective marks is also equal the horses concerned are to be given equal placing.

Where a panel of three or more judges is judging and the mark for a movement has been omitted, the judge concerned must give a mark equal to the average of the marks

awarded by the other judges on the panel for that movement (averaged to the nearest half).

In tests with two judges or less, where the mark for a movement has been omitted the judge concerned must give a mark equal to the average of the collective marks entered at the bottom of their sheet (averaged to the nearest half).

112. **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 | | |

The marks ten and zero should be awarded where the performance warrants their use. "Not executed" means that nothing required has been performed.

113. **Numbers**

All horses must wear numbers visible on both sides of the horse. Numbers may be worn on either the bridle or saddle cloth. If a number is not worn or an incorrect number is shown, this constitutes contravening the rules and two penalties should be deducted.

114. **Arena etiquette (including arena walks and warm up arenas)**

Riders are to behave with consideration to their fellow competitors whilst working in and follow the below guidelines:

- a) Pass left hand to left hand when meeting another rider coming in the opposite direction unless they are in counter canter, when you should give way by circling.
- b) Make tack adjustments outside the arena if possible, or near the middle of the arena, but without obstructing the diagonal or centre lines.
- c) To avoid accidents, announce that you intend to enter an indoor practice area.
- d) Ensure your whip is not so long or used so that it could upset a passing horse.
- e) Only one whip is permitted in the warm up arena (except where dispensation has been granted, refer to rule 90).
- f) Do not halt or walk on the outside track and always leave room for other riders to pass.
- g) Do not lunge the horse without the permission of the organiser and only if there is sufficient room so as not to inconvenience other riders.
- h) Trainers or other pedestrians are not to stand in the collecting rings or practice areas/arenas and must minimise disruption to other riders when helping their client.
- i) Riders with impaired vision should wear a white armband whilst warming up as an indication to other riders.
- j) Riders with hearing difficulties may wear a royal blue armband.
- k) If a warm up arena is becoming overcrowded, the organiser or steward/marshal

may ask competitors not competing that day to leave. An organiser/steward may impose a limit on the number of horses allowed in the warm up arena, giving priority to those closest to performing their test.

- l) Arena walks are held at the discretion of the organiser; all horses must be ridden in walk and riders must follow instruction from stewards at all times. Horses cannot be led (mounted or unmounted). Please refer to rule 101 regarding tack and equipment.

115. **Warming up**

Only riders entered into a class at a competition may ride their horse for the duration of the show, including those running over multiple days. Riders with multiple horses must liaise with the venue direct to arrange enough warm up time between classes. Another rider may exercise the horse on a long rein at walk under supervision of the steward or marshal (who is to be notified).

For the Young Horse Final presentation at the National Championships, a rider with two horses in classes running back to back may have another rider warm up the second horse if formally requested before the classes start.

If two riders are to compete the same horse in one day, the rider due to compete later in the day may not ride the horse until after it has competed with the first rider.

Contravention of this rule will result in an elimination for the first rider.

Horses using the warm up at a BD competition for experience must be BD registered and ridden by a BD member. Permission must be obtained from the organiser in advance, who may charge an entry fee. For para riders please refer to rule 30.

116. **Outside assistance**

The judge is to eliminate a rider who is given any outside assistance designed to help them improve their performance during a test. This rule applies once the judge's bell has rung to signal the start of the test and applies whether inside or outside the competition arena. See rule 135.

The use of headsets/earpieces/speaker watches or other electronic devices are strictly prohibited for use during a test unless dispensation has been granted - please refer to rule 89 and rule 135.

117. **Tack checking**

A full tack and horse welfare inspection will be conducted on conclusion of the test where a BD steward is present. Tack inspections are mandatory at all BD Championships, this includes Quest Semi-finals and Championships. Prior to warm up for competition, at the discretion of the organiser / stewards, competitors may be requested to have a physical noseband check. This will be performed by a BD approved steward.

A new noseband measuring device has been approved by the FEI and will be introduced at international competitions from May 2025. This will be trialled at national competitions during the winter qualification season in the second half of 2025, before a full implementation and roll-out from 1 January 2026 onwards. British

Dressage will notify riders in advance of any competition or championship to confirm when this universal measuring tool will be used for trial purposes.

118. **Entering arena before the signal to start**

No horse may intentionally enter any arena, other than the practice arena, except when actually competing. Competitors must wait until the judge has signified (bell/horn/voice) that they may start before entering the arena otherwise two penalty marks will be deducted. Riders are not to enter or ride around the competition arena during a break or whilst the judge is not present. See rule 135.

Where the construction of the arena makes it impossible for the competitor to ride outside the entire circumference of the arena before the judge's signal to enter is sounded, they may ride inside the arena. Where a 40m x 20m arena has been created within a 60m x 20m arena, the competitor is permitted to ride in the entire arena. Depending on the circumstances, riders have the option of entering at A from inside or outside the arena.

Any horse failing to enter the arena within 45 seconds of the bell being sounded will have a two mark penalty per Judge awarded. Failure to enter after 90 seconds of the signal to start will result in elimination. See rule 135. In the event of a serious and potentially dangerous resistance, the judge can ring the bell before the 90 seconds is up.

119. **Maximum numbers of tests per day**

In line with our Code of Conduct for Horse Welfare, there is a maximum number of tests that a horse may perform in a day. The maximum number of tests in a day includes any tests ridden HC. Exceeding the number will result in elimination from the competition.

- If a horse competes at Introductory/Preliminary/Novice it may only compete in four tests at that level(s) or below per day.
- If a horse competes at Elementary/Medium/Advanced Medium it may only compete in three tests at that level or below per day.
- If a horse competes at **Advanced**/PSG/Intermediate I it may only compete in two tests at that level or below per day.
- If a horse competes at Intermediate II/A/B/Grand Prix it may not compete in any other test on the same day.

120. **Execution of test**

Movements must follow one another in the order laid down in the test. In a movement carried out at a specific point, the movement is executed when the rider's body is level with the marker. All tests are to be ridden with both hands except where stated otherwise on the test sheets. In tests up to and including Elementary, transitions may be progressive except where stated otherwise on test sheets. In simple changes, the downwards and upwards transitions should be direct.

Competitors may not repeat a movement or put in an extra circle or loop, unless the judge decides that an error of course has been made and sounds the horn or bell. However, if the rider has started a movement and tries to do the same movement again, the judge is to consider the first movement only and, at the same time, penalise for an error of course. See rule 135.

Trot work may be ridden in sitting or rising for all tests up to and including Elementary level. At Medium level, trot work must be ridden in sitting except the extended/medium trot which may be ridden in rising. At Advanced Medium level and above, all trot work must be ridden in sitting.

During adverse weather conditions or other extreme situations e.g. strong winds displacing the arena boards, the judge at C may ring the bell for the interruption of the test. The rider should continue the test as soon as possible or return to complete the test when conditions permit. It is up to the rider whether to restart the test from the beginning or to commence from the point the adverse weather or extreme conditions occurred. In either case, the marks already given to the point at which the test was stopped will not be changed however, the rider should not be penalised for force majeure events.

121. **Salute**

Competitors are to take the reins and whip, if carried, in one hand, then lower the free hand to their side and nod their head. The halt should be immobile for a minimum of 3 seconds, in this time the salute is given. See rule 135.

122. **Leaving the arena**

Riders are to leave the arena (after the final salute) at walk on a long rein at an appropriate place. The judge will eliminate any horse that leaves the arena during a test, when the surround is continuous and nine inches high or more. Where the surround is lower than nine inches, no marks are to be given for any movement when the horse places all four feet outside the arena. Where the arena is marked by a line or intermittent boards, it is at the judge's discretion as to the marks deducted. Any horse leaving the arena not under control is to be eliminated. A test begins when the horse enters at A and finishes when it moves off from the final salute. See rule 135.

123. **Dismounting and/or fall of rider/horse**

If, after the rider has entered the arena, they dismount without a reason acceptable to the judge, no marks will be given for the movement. In the case of a fall of horse and/or rider, the combination will be retired immediately from that test but may ride in further tests if the rider declares they are fit to continue. See rule 135. A horse fall is defined as both the horse's shoulder and its quarters coming into contact with the ground simultaneously.

124. **Resistance**

Any horse failing to enter the arena within 45 seconds of the bell being sounded will have a two mark penalty deduction by each judge. Failure to enter after 90 seconds of the signal to start will result in elimination. See rule 135. The judge is to eliminate any horse refusing to continue the test for a period of 20 consecutive seconds during a test. See rule 135.

Where dangerous resistance or behaviours are exhibited, in the interests of safety, a judge may ring the bell before the maximum time(s) stated above.

125. Voice

The use of the rider's voice is prohibited and is to be penalised by the loss of two marks from the score that would have been awarded for each movement in which it occurred.

126. Freestyle to music and technical failures

Tests will be timed from the move off after the first salute until the halt before the final salute. Halts must be shown at the beginning and the end of all freestyle tests and these must be on the centre line facing the judge. Two penalty points will be deducted from the final total if a test exceeds the maximum time allowed or is significantly shorter than the minimum stated time. See rule 135.

In the case of a technical failure interfering with the competition, the judge at C will ring the bell. In the case of the rider's music failing, skipping or jumping during a test, the rider may make one request to restart or the judge can suggest that they restart. If the music continues to fail after a restart, the rider will be eliminated (as per the dressage to music guidelines). When possible, the restart should be immediate but if not the rider should return to complete or restart their test during a scheduled break or at the end of the competition if competition timings permit.

It is up to the rider whether to restart the test from the beginning or to commence from the point the music failed/stopped. In either case, the marks already given to the point at which the music failed/stopped will not be changed.

Test sheets are available at all levels and each includes a list of compulsory movements, non-compulsory permitted movements and prohibited movements. If deliberately included, movements of a higher standard than the test being performed will be penalised by the deduction of two points each time they are performed.

Where a competition consists of two rounds, the second being a freestyle competition, a rider automatically declares their intention to compete in the Freestyle if they participate in the first round. In cases of legitimate withdrawal due to illness or veterinary/welfare reasons, the next qualified combination will move up into the freestyle.

127. 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) as long as they can do so immediately. They will be penalised for a first error of course.

128. Errors of course

When a rider makes an error of course (takes the wrong turn, omits a movement etc.), the judge at C is to ring the bell to pause the test. If necessary, the judge will explain the point at which the rider must take up the test again, and the next movement to be executed. However, in some cases when the sounding of the bell would unnecessarily impede the fluency of the performance e.g. if the competitor makes a transition from medium trot to collected walk at V instead of K or, cantering up the centre line from A, makes a pirouette at D instead of at L - it is up to the judge to decide

whether to ring the bell or reflect this in the mark for the movement.

The judge should ring the bell when a movement is executed at the wrong marker, if there is the possibility of a similar mistake when the movement is repeated on the other rein. If the combination does not enter at A in a freestyle test, two marks are to be deducted.

If the judge does not realise until the competitor has left the arena that one or more movements have been omitted they must:

- Adjust as necessary the position of their marks and comments on their sheet to accord with the movements actually performed.
- Give to each of the movements not executed a mark equal to the average of the collective marks entered at the bottom of their sheet (averaged to the nearest half).
- Record the penalty for error of course.

129. **Penalties for errors of course**

Every error of course, whether the bell is sounded or not, is to be penalised:

- the first time by two points
- the second time by four points
- the third time the competitor is eliminated.

The competitor may continue their test to the end, marks being awarded in the ordinary way but will be eliminated following the third error of course. The elimination will be recorded on the sheet by the writer. PSG - GP tests used will have errors of course penalised according to the FEI criteria as printed on the score sheet with elimination on the second error.

The writer is to put a star against the movement concerned and mark an error at the bottom of the sheet. Competitors are not to repeat a movement of the test unless the Judge at C decides on an error of course and sounds the bell. If, however, the rider has started the execution of a movement and tries to do the same movement again, the Judges must consider only the first movement shown and also penalise for an error of course. The penalty points are deducted on each Judge's sheet from the total points given to the competitor.

130. **Errors of the test**

If a competitor makes an error of the test (eg, trots rising instead of sitting) they will be penalised according to the table in rule 135 and although these penalties will be cumulative they will not result in elimination. Judges should note them at the bottom of the test sheet.

131. **Judges' sheets**

Score sheets, one per horse per judge, may be purchased from the BD office. These tests are protected by copyright. Photocopying is not permitted, and legal action will be taken against offenders. For all FEI classes at National Competitions and Championships (including domestic CDI) only FEI tests are to be used. These are available to download from the FEI website.

When judges have sanctioned their distribution, competitors may collect their sheets. Competitors taking part in two classes on the same day, judged by the same judge, are not to have access to their score sheets before competing in the second test. Judges' score sheets with remarks signed by the judge must be treated as confidential until given to the competitor, when they become his or her private property. Organisers are not obliged to make public any figures other than total marks, percentage scores awarded and results.

132. **Judges' decision final**

In all cases, the judges' decision is final subject only to rule 135. Any complaint against a judge must be made in writing and in accordance with the complaints procedure. The BD Board may direct the retest of any judge, or remove them from the Official Panel, giving reasons for their decision. Any judge under investigation may be suspended until the matter has been investigated

133. **Cautions**

- a) The judge is authorised to caution a competitor as to their conduct at an affiliated show. All such cautions must be reported to the Chief Executive in the following form: "I have to report that at theShow, on(date), I had occasion to caution.... (name) as to his conduct....(Signature of judge)".
- b) If the same member receives a second caution within any period of 24 months, the Chief Executive will call for a further report of the incident which gave rise to the second caution and may refer this to the Disciplinary Panel or the Judges' Advisory Panel at his discretion.

134. **Objections**

- a) The owner, his agent or the rider of a horse taking part in a competition may lodge an objection. Objections must be made in writing to the Secretary of the competition and must be accompanied by a deposit of £25. This must be submitted no later than one hour after the final results are put onto the scoreboard. The senior dressage judge present should adjudicate whenever possible. If this is not possible the objection should immediately be referred to the BD Office for consideration by the Judges' Advisory Panel. The deposit is forfeited unless the objection is upheld or it is decided that there were good and reasonable grounds for lodging the objection.
- b) In the event that the objection relates only to the adding up of the score, arithmetical or procedural error, the competitor must notify the BD office and where possible send a copy of the scoresheet for recalculation within 48 hours of the result being announced, if a change needs to be made or a possible qualification registered, this will be done in the office.

135. **Penalties for contravening rules**

The penalty for a contravention of these rules will range from a two point deduction for each occurrence of a minor infringement, such as incorrect dress; to elimination for major infringements, such as forbidden tack, or when stated explicitly in the rule concerned. Elimination is at the discretion of the judge and the rider will be notified at the end of the test. Penalty points will be deducted from the final score and will not count as errors of course. The table overleaf summarises the penalties for contravening rules.

Competitor Dress

| Rule | Rule no. | Penalty |
|--|----------|--------------------|
| Hat - not worn | 82 | Elimination |
| Hat - incorrect colour | 82 | Two mark deduction |
| Hat - incorrect standard | 82 | Elimination |
| Jacket/waistcoat - not worn in Championship, Premier League or High Profile without judge's permission | 78 | Two mark deduction |
| Jacket - incorrect colour/pattern | 78 | Two mark deduction |
| Breeches - striped or bold patterned | 83 | Two mark deduction |
| Waistcoat - incorrect colour/pattern | 78 | Two mark deduction |
| Gloves - not worn | 84 | Two mark deduction |
| Boots - not suitable for riding | 85 | Elimination |
| Shirt - sleeveless/patterned | 78 | Two mark deduction |
| Gaiters - not matching boots | 85 | Two mark deduction |
| Spurs - Worn incorrectly, not as a pair, not made of metal/incorrect type/excessive use | 86 | Elimination |
| Whip - carrying at a Championship as per rule 87 (without dispensation) | 87 | Elimination |
| Carrying more than one whip without dispensation/excessive/inappropriate use | 87 | Elimination |

Saddlery

| Rule | Rule no. | Penalty |
|--|----------|--------------------|
| Saddle - incorrect colour | 93 | Two mark deduction |
| Saddle - western/other unspecified type | 93 | Elimination |
| Stirrups - none used/attached to girth by Velcro strap (without dispensation)/attached by mechanical or magnetic means | 93 | Elimination |
| Bridle - padding of cheek pieces/no noseband/no bit/bitguards/use of a double bridle at Intro, Prelim and Novice/use of tongue strap/additional noseband padding | 96 | Elimination |

Saddlery continued

| Rule | Rule no. | Penalty |
|---|-----------|--------------------|
| Bridle - incorrect colour/decorated with tassels/ indiscreetly padded | 96 | Two mark deduction |
| Use of other additions/equipment/gadgets - martingales, side/running/draw reins, hoof boots, rugs | 97 | Elimination |
| Prohibited bits | 103 & 104 | Elimination |
| Boots/bandages worn during test | 97 | Elimination |
| Not permitted tack worn at a Championship | 97 | Elimination |
| Unusual decoration | 98 | Two mark deduction |
| Numbers - none, or one/incorrect number on display | 113 | Two mark |

Riding the test

| Rule | Rule no. | Penalty |
|---|----------|------------------------|
| Exceeding maximum number of tests per day | 119 | Elimination |
| Commanders reading anything other than printed text/ emphasising any part of the command | 88 | Elimination |
| Outside assistance by voice, signs etc in order to improve competitor's performance | 116 | Elimination |
| The use of headset/earpieces or other electronic devices within the test (without dispensation) | 116 | Elimination |
| Intentionally entering the arena before the signal to start | 118 | Two mark deduction |
| Failing to enter within 45 seconds of signal to start | 118 | Two mark deduction |
| Failure to start within 90 seconds of signal to start | 118 | Elimination |
| Incorrect/no salute | 121 | Two mark deduction |
| Repeating a movement (penalize as error of course and mark first attempt only) | 129 | Appropriate to error |
| Horse placing all four feet out of the arena where arena boards are continuous and less than nine inches high | 122 | Zero for that movement |
| Horse placing all four feet outside the arena where marked by a line or intermittent boards | 122 | At Judges discretion |
| Horse leaving arena when continuous arena board or surround is nine inches or higher | 122 | Elimination |
| Leaving the arena not in control | 122 | Elimination |

Riding the test

| Rule | Rule no. | Penalty |
|---|----------|---------------------------------|
| Rider dismounting without reason acceptable to judge | 123 | Zero for that movement |
| Fall of horse/rider | 123 | Compulsory retirement |
| Horse refusing to continue for a period of 20 consecutive seconds | 124 | Elimination |
| Use of voice | 125 | Two mark deduction per movement |
| When competitor makes error of the test (trots rising instead of sitting, doesn't take reins in one hand at salute etc) | 130 | Two mark deduction per movement |
| Rising trot in Advanced Medium and above tests | 130 | Two mark deduction per movement |
| Dressage to music test exceeding the time allowed or shorter than time given | 126 | Two mark deduction |
| Movements of a higher standard than level for Dressage to Music test being performed | 126 | Two mark deduction |
| Stallion disc/yellow cross band not shown when riding a stallion | 100 | Two mark deduction |
| Second rider warming up the horse before the first rider competes | 115 | Elimination for the first rider |

Welfare of the horse

| Rule | Rule no. | Penalty |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| Lameness | Welfare of horse | Elimination |
| Blood | Welfare of horse | Elimination |
| Hyperflexion | Welfare of horse | Elimination |
| Sensory hairs | Welfare of horse | Elimination |



Events in 2025



Whether it's the LeMieux National Championships for watching the best of BD competition or top training tips at our flagship training events, make sure our events calendar is synced with your diary!



www.britishdressage.co.uk

British Dressage tests in use

| Intro level | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Intro 1 (2024) short | Intro 2 (2024) short | Intro 3 (2024) short | Intro 4 (2024) short |
| Prelim level | | | |
| Prelim 1 (2024) short | Prelim 2 (2024) short | Prelim 3 (2024) short | |
| Prelim 4 (2024) long | Prelim 5 (2024) long | Prelim 6 (2024) long | |
| Novice level | | | |
| Novice 1 (2024) short | Novice 2 (2024) short | Novice 3 (2024) short | |
| Novice 4 (2024) long | Novice 5 (2024) long | Novice 6 (2024) long | |
| Elementary level | | | |
| Elementary 1 (2024) short | Elementary 2 (2024) short | Elementary 3 (2024) short | |
| Elementary 4 (2024) long | Elementary 5 (2024) long | Elementary 6 (2024) long | |
| Medium level | | | |
| Medium 1 (2024) short | Medium 2 (2024) short | Medium 3 (2024) long | |
| Medium 4 (2024) long | Medium 5 (2024) long | Medium 6 (2024) long | |
| Advanced Medium level | | | |
| Advanced Medium 1 (2024) short | Advanced Medium 3 (2024) long | Advanced Medium 4 (2024) long | |
| Advanced Medium 5 (2024) long | | Advanced Medium 6 (2024) long | |

British Dressage tests in use continued

| Advanced level | |
|--|---|
| Advanced 1 (2024) | Advanced 2 (2024) |
| Prix St Georges to Grand Prix Please visit the FEI website for current versions of each test | |
| FEI Prix St Georges | FEI Intermediate B |
| FEI Intermediate I | FEI Intermediate II |
| FEI Intermediate A | FEI Grand Prix 16-25 |
| FEI Grand Prix | FEI Grand Prix Special |
| FEI Under 21 tests Please visit the FEI website for current versions of each test | |
| FEI Pony - Team and Individual for use in High Profiles/Premier Leagues/National classes | FEI Children on Horses – Preliminary A and B, Team and Individual for use in High Profiles/Premier Leagues/National classes |
| FEI Junior - Team and Individual for use in High Profiles/Premier League/National classes | FEI Young Rider - Team and Individual for use in High Profiles/Premier Leagues/National classes |
| FEI and National Para Equestrian tests Please visit the FEI website for current versions of each test | |
| Grade 1 - FEI Grand Prix Test A and B, Freestyle, Intermediate Test A, Intro Test | Grade 2 - FEI Grand Prix Test A and B, Freestyle, Intermediate Test A, Intro Test |
| Grade 3 - FEI Grand Prix Test A and B, Freestyle, Intermediate Test A, Intro Test | Grade 4 - FEI Grand Prix Test A and B, Freestyle, Intermediate Test A, Intro Test |
| Grade 5 - FEI Grand Prix Test A, Grand Prix Test B, Freestyle (20x60), FEI Intermediate Test A, Grade 5 Intro Test (20x40) | |
| Grade 1 - 5 Bronze and Silver Para Equestrian National Tests, including Music, available from the BD website. | |

British Dressage tests in use continued

| Freestyle to Music | | | |
|--|--|--|----------------------------|
| Please visit the FEI website for current versions of each FEI test | | | |
| Intro (2016) short | Prelim (2016) long | Novice (2019) long | Elementary (2024) long |
| Medium (2016) long | Advanced Medium (2016) long | PSG (FEI YR 2022) long | FEI Inter I (2022) long |
| FEI Intermediate A/B (2022) long | | FEI Grand Prix (2022) long | |
| Young Horse and Pony tests | | | |
| Commanded Route Plan for 4 and 5 Year Olds | Commanded Route Plan for 6 Year Olds | National Test for 4 Year Olds (2018) | |
| National Test for 5 Year Olds (2018) | National Test for 6 Year Olds (2018) | National Test for 7 Year Olds (2023) | |
| FEI Preliminary for 5 Year Old Horses | FEI Preliminary for 6 Year Old Horses | FEI Preliminary for 7 Year Old Horses | |
| FEI Final Competition for 5 Year Old Horses | FEI Final Competition for 6 Year Old Horses | FEI Final Competition for 7 Year Old Horses | |

SECTION 2

Competitions

Competition opportunities

Alongside regular BD events, we also have other competition opportunities both nationally and regionally.

Combined Training incorporates a dressage test at either Introductory, Preliminary, Novice or Elementary with a showjumping round which is a great way to improve for eventers or an extra bit of fun for dressage horses.

Quest is a great introduction to British Dressage. This can be done either on your own as an individual (within My Quest) or as a team (minimum of three, maximum of four riders) in Team Quest, it's more relaxed and runs from Introductory to Novice level with riders attempting to qualify for a semi-final, with the opportunity to win a spot at the Quest Championship. The season runs January to August with semi-finals in September and October, with the championships following at the start of November.

There's also the chance to participate in Quest year-round. A winter Quest season will run from 1 September – 31 December featuring national leaderboards. Prizes and rosettes are awarded to the highest placed combinations and teams from each leaderboard at the end of the season. For those wanting to get involved, please visit the website for more information.

For senior, para and BD Youth riders, there's the chance to represent your region/country on a team which gives a great feel of what the riders experience at the very top level. They're a great experience to learn, meet new friends and compete in a completely unique atmosphere. Each competition is different and there's selection criteria so make sure you read up before setting a goal to compete.

In this section you can find out about our other competition opportunities BD has to offer:

Associated Championships

Combined Training

Quest

Regional Team Competitions

Sheepgate Under 25 Championships

Associated Championships

The qualification period for the Associated Championships is 1 January 2025 to 31 August 2025. At the start of the qualifying period, please pre-register your horse and championship on the BD website.

| Championship | Levels | Specification |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| RoR | Intro - Adv. Medium | All horses who have raced or been in training. |
| Thoroughbred | Intro - Adv Medium | Any Thoroughbred. |
| Veteran Horse | Intro - PSG | Sections for horses aged 15-19 and horses aged 20 and over. |
| Veteran Rider | Intro - PSG | Riders 55 and over. |
| Traditional Gypsy Cob | Intro - Medium | Overstamp from TGCA required. |
| GB Pura Raza Española (GBPRE) | Prelim - PSG | Full or part bred PRE. |
| Lusitano | Prelim - PSG | Full or part bred Lusitano . |
| British Native Pony | Intro - PSG | Full or part bred Native pony. |
| Draught Horse | Intro - Medium | Full or part bred Draught horse. |
| Arab Horse | Intro - Medium | Full or part bred Arab. |
| Coloured Horse and Pony | Intro - Medium | Any coloured horse or pony. |
| Forces | Intro - Medium | Riders who are ex, serving or dependant personnel of Emergency, Government services or MOD. |
| Side Saddle | Intro - Medium | Any side saddle competitors. Qualifiers must be ridden in side saddle. |

136. Breed evidence

- For breed championships, horses/ponies must have evidence of breeding in their passport, this can include over stamping from the relevant society. For all part-bred championships, horses/ponies must have evidence of at least 12.5% blood from the appropriate breed within their passport.

137. **Eligibility**

- Combinations must be eligible for the Bronze, Silver or Gold section at the level at which they wish to qualify in accordance with BD Rules.
- Once qualification is achieved, a combination may subsequently upgrade and maintain the qualification unless otherwise stated in the rules.
- Combinations may compete and qualify at different levels but can only compete in two consecutive levels at each Championship. For example, combinations may compete at Preliminary and Novice at the Side Saddle Championships and Novice and Elementary at the Draught Horse Championships, but not all three at Side Saddle. Please note the maximum number of tests which may be ridden in a day (refer to rule 119).
- The winning combination will not be able to contest their title in future years except for the championships detailed below:

Veteran Horse - All levels
All Championships at Medium and above

138. **Membership types for qualification for the Associated Championships**

- Introductory and Preliminary Bronze horses and riders may qualify for the Associated Championships with a Club membership and registration.
- Horses and riders competing in Introductory, Preliminary and Novice Quest competitions, may qualify for the Associated Championships with a Club membership and registration.
- All other levels, horses and riders must hold a Full BD membership and registration to qualify for the Associated Championships.

139. **Qualification for the Associated Championships**

| Level | Scores required (all must be gained in same level and section) | Offshore scores |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Intro, Prelim - Advanced Medium | Three scores at 60% or above | Two scores at 60% or above |
| Prix St Georges | Two scores at 60% or above | One score at 60% or above |

- Scores can be gained in any regular BD competition or BD Team/My Quest competition.
- Scores from class tickets, Area Festivals, Combined Training, Regionals, Winter or National Championships, HC, Music, Sheepgate U25 Championship Classes and Regional Team competitions, may not be used towards qualification.
- Once you have achieved your qualifying scores at the relevant level and section you must submit them via the form located on the Associated Championships page of the BD website.
- Once scores have been submitted, you may then enter your chosen Associated Championship class when entries open.

140. **Membership types for competing at the Associated Championships**

- Introductory horses and riders can be Club members to compete at the Associated Championships.
- All other levels, horses and riders, must be Full BD members to compete at the Associated Championships.



SPONSORS OF THE 2025 COMBINED TRAINING SERIES

THE BEST YARDS RUN ON RED GORILLA®

www.redgorilla.red

  RedGorillaInt

01455 848184

Combined Training

The qualification period runs from 1 January 2025 to mid-April.

141. Membership

Horses and riders can compete in the qualifying rounds with a class ticket provided they hold a BD Community Membership and BD Community Horse registration. If qualification to the championship is gained, they must upgrade or hold a minimum of a Club membership for horse and rider. The horse must be owned by a paying member.

142. Eligibility for qualifying competitions

Qualifiers are open to horses/ponies of any level or grade in any discipline. Children may ride horses from the beginning of the calendar year of their 12th birthday. Any age rider may ride ponies provided that the rider is of a suitable size for the pony.

Introductory classes open only to combinations who have not competed at Elementary or above. Preliminary and Novice classes open only to combinations who have not competed at Medium or above. Elementary classes are open to any combination of any level/eligibility.

143. Levels of competition

| Dressage test | Showjumping height |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Intro 1 (2024) | Showjumping - maximum height 60cm |
| Prelim 1 (2024) | Showjumping - maximum height 70cm |
| Prelim 2 (2024) | Showjumping - maximum height 80cm |
| Novice 1 (2024) | Showjumping - maximum height 80cm |
| Novice 2 (2024) | Showjumping - maximum height 90cm |
| Elementary 1 (2024) | Showjumping - maximum height 80cm |
| Elementary 2 (2024) | Showjumping - maximum height 90cm |

- The dressage and jumping phases must be ridden in this order - dressage phase first then showjumping. The same horse and rider must compete in both phases.
- A horse/pony may not compete in more than two classes on the same day.
- Elimination from one phase involves elimination from the whole competition. However, if eliminated in the dressage, a rider may ask permission from the organiser to participate in the showjumping phase HC.

144. Specific rules for the dressage phase

- The dressage phase is run in accordance with BD rules. Competitor dress, tack and equipment is as per British Dressage rules.
- Whips may not be used in the dressage phase of the Combined Training Championship.

145. **Specific rules for the showjumping phase**

- The showjumping phase is run in accordance with British Showjumping Club rules. Competitor dress, tack and equipment is as per BS Club rules.
- The showjumping phase will be timed in accordance with BS Club rules.
- A BS legal short whip will be permitted in the showjumping phase in the qualifiers and championship.
- A BS showjumping judge is required as per BS Club rules.
- Course to consist of eight to twelve fences.
- All courses must include at least one double, a maximum of two with a vertical only as the second element, set on one or two non-jumping strides measured on horse distance.
- There must not be any related distances less than five strides on the approach or following any double.
- There should not be any three-stride related distances anywhere in the course.
- Water trays and triple combinations are not permitted.

146. **Scoring of the competition**

The marks for the dressage phase are calculated in the usual manner.

Any faults incurred in the jumping phase are deducted from the marks awarded for the dressage phase. Showjumping faults judged under British Showjumping Club rules:

- Knock down - 4 faults
- First refusal - 4 faults
- Second refusal (anywhere on course) - 8 faults
- Third refusal (anywhere on course) - Elimination
- Fall (anywhere on course) - Elimination

The winner is the combination with the highest score. If the final score gives equality of marks to two or more competitors, the winner of the class is decided by the highest marks for the dressage test. If there is still equality, the winner will be the combination with the fastest time recorded in the showjumping phase. If still equal after the above has been applied, then equal placings should be awarded.

147. **Rosettes and prize money**

Prize money will be awarded as per the scale shown in rule 70. Rosettes to be awarded first to sixth at qualifiers and first to tenth for the championship.

148. **Qualification for the Combined Training Championships**

The top two horse/rider combinations will qualify from each qualifying competition for the championship. Qualification will pass down if either combination in the top two are already qualified. Remaining qualification places are awarded as wild cards to the highest scoring combinations across all qualifying competitions

BUILD MUSCLE & TOP LINE



without the fizz or the fat

PERFORMANCE BALANCER

| ulcers | stressy | fussy | good-doer |

- High specification formula for all horses needing a low calorie diet
- Low starch, low sugar, low calorie, low energy
- Ideal for fizzy/stressy/fussy types
- Supports muscle tone, top line & hoof growth
- No muscle/hoof supplements required
- Suitable for those prone to gastric ulcers
- Still a 20kg sack



MADE IN
OUR OWN
UK MILL



For your free sample: Baileys Horse Feeds
Tel: 01371 850 247 (option 3)
info@baileyshorsefeeds.co.uk

As fed by
Joanna Thurman-Baker



Photo by Charlotte Bury Photography

Quest

Quest competitions are a fun introduction to British Dressage. You can compete as part of a team or on your own and see how you or your team progress up the leaderboard - find out more in this section.

149. Quest Membership

- All My Quest (MQ) and Team Quest (TQ) competitors must have a minimum of a Club membership.
- All MQ and TQ horses must have a minimum of a Club registration.
- All MQ and TQ horse owners must have a paying membership – please refer to the Membership section.
- Quest Winter League (QWL) membership and horse registration covers QWL classes only from 1 September - 31 December.

All horses must comply with rule 10, BD's current Equine Influenza vaccinations requirements.

150. Quest eligibility

- Riders up to the end of the calendar year of their 12th birthday can compete at a level on a horse or pony that exceeds the horse eligibility criteria providing they remain eligible as a rider/combination.
- On 1 January of the year of their 13th birthday riders will return to the appropriate level as per the normal eligibility rules for Quest competitions.
- If a horse or rider becomes ineligible on or after the closing date of entries, they are still permitted to compete in the class they have entered.
- QWL does not affect your eligibility to compete in Quest competition.

151. Dressage tests

- Quest tests will be run in short arenas only.
- Organisers can choose any short arena test in current use for Intro, Prelim and Novice.
- Each competition will hold one Team Quest test per level.
- Each competition will hold at least one My Quest test per level.

152. Quest entries

- Hors Concours (HC) entries are permitted in MQ competitions (excluding semi-finals and at the Quest Championships).
- Class tickets are not permitted in Quest competitions.
- Horses and ponies of any height are eligible for Quest and must be at least four years old.
- Quest competitors may compete in both My Quest and Team Quest classes.
- Combinations may not enter a Team Quest class unless competing as a complete team.
- Horses may compete in a maximum of four tests per competition day. This includes My Quest and regular BD tests (see rule 119).
- If two riders are to compete the same horse in one day, the rider due to compete later in the day may not ride the horse until after it has competed with the first rider. Contravention of this rule will result in an elimination for the first rider.

153. Quest qualification period

- Quest qualifying competitions take place from 1 January 2025 to 31 August 2025.
- Ten Quest semi-finals take place in September/October.
- The Quest Championships take place in late October/early November.

154. Saddlery and dress

BD rules apply with regards to saddlery and horse equipment with some exceptions:

- Protective headgear must be worn in accordance with BD rules.
- Numnahs/saddlecloths may be of any colour.
- BD rider dress rules are relaxed for Quest. Jackets are not compulsory. Riders are permitted to wear smart casual 'colours' of their choice, excluding fancy dress. No hoodies permitted.
- Long or short boots may be worn providing they are safe for riding (i.e. a small heel and clearance each side of the stirrup). These can be worn with or without gaiters
- Breeches/jodhpurs can be of any colour.
- Horses may be plaited however it is not compulsory.
- Horses may not be decorated other than via permitted tack (e.g. diamante or coloured browbands).
- Boots and bandages are not permitted during the test, in accordance with BD rules.
- Commanders and whips are allowed at all Quest competitions including the Quest semi-finals, and Quest Championships.

Team Quest

155. Age categories for teams

- Under 21 - all riders over the age of six and up to the end of the year of their 21st birthday. All members of an Under 21 team must enter the Team Quest Under 21 classes at the riders' chosen levels.
- Open - riders over the age of six. All members of an Open team must enter the Team Quest Open classes at the riders' chosen levels, irrespective of age.

156. Team registration

To register your team, you are required to submit a team registration form. This form can be found on the Quest webpage, and has to be submitted via email and sent to teamquest@britishdressage.co.uk before your team enters a competition.

- The chosen team name must not have been used before, not be offensive or perceived to be offensive, and not conflict with the main Quest sponsor.
- Each team must nominate a Team Captain who will be the point of contact for the team.
- No two teams may have the exact same composition at any time.
- A maximum of seven riders may be registered to a team with an unlimited number of horses.
- Changes can be made to a team at any point during the Quest season, this must be

done via email and sent to teamquest@britishdressage.co.uk with the names and membership / registration numbers for both horse and rider prior to the competition date.

157. **Team Quest semi-final venue allocation**

- Each team must nominate the semi-final for which they are competing upon registration.
- If a team wishes to change semi-final, they must do so within two months of the team first competing in the current Quest season by emailing teamquest@britishdressage.co.uk.

158. **Team composition**

- A team may only be represented once per competition day.
- A team may not compete at two different competitions on the same day.
- Teams can compete with a minimum of three and a maximum of four different combinations.
- Teams can be made up of riders competing at any level (i.e. a team of four riders at the same level, or any combination of four riders at different levels).
- A rider may not compete more than once for a team per competition day (i.e. one rider with multiple horses).
- Horses may compete in a maximum of two Team Quest tests per competition day.
- Horses may be ridden twice on the same team, at the same or different levels, if ridden by two different riders.
- If a combination competes for two teams on the same day, they must ride at two different levels.
- No two teams competing on the same day can have the same rider composition.

159. **Team Quest eligibility**

- Team Quest is a BD governed competition and as such will run according to BD rules and regulations including horse welfare and veterinary regulations.
- Riders may choose the level at which they compete, providing they are eligible for the chosen level at the closing date of entries as per the Team Quest eligibility criteria.
- Only para riders who have not competed in any CPEDI may compete in Team Quest and must also meet the full Team Quest eligibility criteria.
- Scores of 70% or higher from all previous Quest seasons (except QWL) count towards moving a combination up a level, including scores gained at the Quest semi-finals and Quest Championships.

160. Are you eligible for Team Quest Intro?

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please look at the criteria for Team Quest Prelim and above | | |
|---|-----|----|
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
| Won points at Novice or competed / have points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at an Area Festival or BD Regional at Prelim/ Prelim Music? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Prelim or above? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Won more than 15 points at Novice or competed / have any points at the levels above? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Novice or above? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Scored 70% or higher at Prelim or above (excluding QWL, but including Team Quest, My Quest, BD Bronze, Silver or Gold and Music)? | | |
| Gained three scores of 70% or higher in Team Quest at Intro (excluding scores gained in QWL and riders up to the end of the year of their 12th birthday)? | | |
| Competed at the Area Festival Championships at Prelim or above including Music? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Team Quest Intro | | |

161. Are you eligible for Team Quest Prelim?

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please look at the criteria for Team Quest Novice | | |
|--|-----|----|
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
| Won more than 15 points at Novice or competed / have any points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at an Area Festival or BD Regional at Novice/ Novice Music? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Prelim or above? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Won more than 15 points at Elementary or competed / have any points at the levels above? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Novice or above? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Gained three scores of 70% or higher in Team Quest at Prelim (excluding scores gained in QWL and riders up to the end of the year of their 12th birthday)? | | |
| Scored 70% or higher in Team Quest at Novice (excluding QWL)? | | |
| Competed at BD Regionals at Prelim/Prelim Music or above? | | |
| Been placed in the in top three of the Prelim Area Festival Championships or competed at the Area Festival Championships at Novice or above including Music? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Team Quest Prelim | | |

162. Are you eligible for Team Quest Novice?

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for the rider, horse or combination, please look at the criteria for regular BD as you are no longer eligible for Team Quest. | | |
|--|-----|----|
| | YES | NO |
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | | |
| Won more than 15 points at Elementary or competed / have any points any points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at an Area Festival or BD Regional at Elementary/Elementary Music? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Novice or above? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Won more than 15 points at Medium or competed / have any points at the levels above? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Elementary or above? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at BD Regionals at Novice or above? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at Music Regionals at Novice? | | |
| Competed at Music Regionals at Elementary or above? | | |
| Been placed in the top three of the Novice Area Festival Championships or competed at the Area Festival Championships at Elementary or above including Music? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Team Quest Novice | | |

163. **Team Quest scoring and placings**

- At each Team Quest competition, team placings are determined by adding together the three highest counting percentages per team to produce the ‘team total’, with the highest team total taking first place.
- All percentages are rounded up to two decimal places.
- Combinations who have been eliminated, retired or withdrawn will not be counted towards the team total.
- In the event of joint team totals, the lowest percentage of each team’s three counting percentages are compared. The teams will be placed in order of which this percentage is highest.
- My Quest scores may not be counted towards Team Quest team totals.

164. **Team Quest Leaderboards**

- Each Team Quest semi-final has its own leaderboards, one for Open teams and one for Under 21 teams.
- Leaderboard rankings are based on points, which are awarded according to the team’s placing as per the scale below:

| Team placing | TQ points | Team placing | TQ points |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| 1st place | 10 | 7th place | 4 |
| 2nd place | 9 | 8th place | 3 |
| 3rd place | 8 | 9th place | 2 |
| 4th place | 7 | 10th place | 1 |
| 5th place | 6 | 11th place | 0 |
| 6th place | 5 | | |

- Only complete teams with three counting scores will be awarded Team Quest points.
- Teams may compete at any Team Quest competition in any region, but the points gained will be allocated to the leaderboard for the team’s chosen semi-final.
- Teams can enter as many competitions as they like, although only the points from the best five team placings will count.
- BD points will not be awarded for any Team Quest competition, including the semi-finals and Quest Championships.

165. **Team Quest Semi-Final qualification**

- At the end of the qualification period the top 10 Open teams and top 10 Under 21 teams from each leaderboard qualify for the respective semi-final.
- Team Captains will be notified of qualification via email.
- Teams must compete at the semi-final for which they have declared for or been allocated.
- Teams must advise the BD office at least a week before the close of entries if they are unable to attend the Team Quest semi-final by emailing teamquest@britishdressage.co.uk. The qualifying place will be awarded to the next placed team from the same leaderboard.

- In the event of a tie of points, where tied teams have competed five times or more, the tie will be split by adding together the team totals for the team's five counting placings. The team with the greater total is placed higher.
- If there is still a tie, the team total for each team's sixth best placing will determine which team takes the lead. If a tie still remains, the team totals for the teams' seventh, eighth, etc. best placings will determine the teams' rankings.
- In the event of a tie of points where teams have competed fewer than five times, points accumulated over fewer competitions will determine a higher placing. For example, a team with 30 points gained from three competitions will be placed above a team with 30 points gained from five competitions.
- If there is still a tie, the team total for each of the team's placings will be added together. The team with the greater total is placed higher.

166. **Team Quest Island Semi-Final qualification**

This section is only applicable if there is a scheduled Team Quest Island semi-final.

- All combinations must be eligible for the level at which they compete at the semi-finals as per rule 160 - 162.
- At the end of the qualification period, all teams which have competed on the islands during the current Quest season will be invited to attend the respective Island semi-final.
- In order to qualify for the Island semi-final, teams must have competed in at least three Team Quest qualifying competitions in the current Quest season. This does not include competitions where the team were excluded or withdrawn.
- Team Captains will be notified of qualification via email.

167. **Team Quest Semi-Final eligibility**

- If a combination's last Team Quest qualifying competition before the semi-final is their third Team Quest score of 70% at that level, the combination may remain at that level for the Team Quest semi-final.
- All combinations who take part in the Team Quest semi-final must have taken part in at least one qualifying competition for that team in the current Quest season.
- All combinations must be eligible for the level at which they compete at the semi-finals as per rule 160 - 162.

168. **Team Quest Championships qualification**

Open and Under 21 teams from each semi-final will qualify for the Quest Championships based on the number of teams on the leaderboard as below:

| Number of teams on leaderboard | Number of teams to qualify for Quest Championships |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Up to 5 | 1 |
| 6 and above | 2 |

- Team Captains will be notified of qualification via email.
- Teams must advise the BD office at least a week before the close of entries, if they are unable to attend the Quest Championships by emailing teamquest@britishdressage.co.uk.
- The qualifying place will be awarded to the next placed team from the same semi-final.
- Remaining qualification places are awarded as wildcards to the highest scoring teams across all semi-finals who are yet to qualify.
- Island teams which qualified as per rule 166 and are placed first with a team total of a minimum of 200.00 at the Island semi-final will qualify for the Quest Championships.

169. **Team Quest Championships eligibility**

- All combinations must be eligible for the level at which they compete at the Quest Championships as per rule 160 - 162.
- If a combination's last Team Quest qualifying competition before the semi-final is their third Team Quest score of 70% at that level, the combination may remain at that level for the Team Quest semi-final and Quest Championships.
- All combinations who take part in the Team Quest Championships must have taken part in at least one qualifying competition for that team in the current Quest season.

My Quest

170. **Age categories**

- Under 21 - riders over the age of six and up to the end of the year of their 21st birthday
- Open - riders in the year of their 22nd birthday and above.

171. **Semi-Final allocation**

- Riders must notify the BD office of which semi-final they wish to attend by emailing teamquest@britishdressage.co.uk.
- If a rider wishes to change semi-final, they must do so within two months of first competing in the current Quest season by emailing teamquest@britishdressage.co.uk.

172. **My Quest eligibility**

- My Quest is a BD governed competition and as such will run according to BD rules and regulations including saddlery, tack, horse welfare and veterinary regulations.
- Combinations can only compete at one venue per day.
- Riders may choose the level at which they compete, providing they are eligible for the chosen level at the closing date of entries as per the My Quest eligibility criteria.
- Only Para riders who have not competed in any CPEDI may compete in My Quest and must also meet the full My Quest eligibility criteria as follows.
- Scores of 70% or higher from all previous Quest seasons (excluding QWL) count towards moving a combination up a level, including scores gained at the Semi-Finals and Quest Championships.
- A horse may be ridden in the same class by two different riders.
- Horses may not compete in any more than four tests per day.

173. Are you eligible for My Quest Intro?

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please look at the criteria for My Quest Prelim and above | | |
|--|-----|----|
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
| Won points at Novice or competed / have points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at an Area Festival or BD Regional (including Music) at Prelim? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Prelim or above? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Won more than 15 points at Novice or competed / have any points at the levels above? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Novice or above? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Scored 70% or higher at Prelim or above (excluding QWL, but including Team Quest, My Quest, BD Bronze, Silver or Gold and Music)? | | |
| Gained three scores of 70% or higher in My Quest at Intro (excluding scores gained in QWL and riders up to the end of the year of their 12th birthday) prior to the start of the current season? | | |
| Been placed in the top three of the My Quest Championships at Intro or above? Or competed at the Area Festival Championships at Prelim or above including music? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for My Quest Intro | | |

174. Are you eligible for My Quest Prelim?

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please look at the criteria for My Quest Novice | | |
|---|-----|----|
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
| Won more than 15 points at Novice or competed / have any points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at an Area Festival or BD Regional (including Music) at Novice? | | |
| Competed at an Area Festival or BD Regional (including Music) at Elementary or above? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Prelim or above? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Won more than 15 points at Elementary or competed / have any points at the levels above? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Novice or above? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Gained three scores of 70% or higher in My Quest at Prelim (excluding scores gained in QWL and riders up to the end of the year of their 12th birthday) prior to the start of the current season? | | |
| Been placed in the top three of the My Quest Championships at Prelim or above? | | |
| Competed at BD Regionals (including Music) at Prelim or above? | | |
| Been placed in the in top three of the Prelim Area Festival Championships? Or competed at the Area Festival Championships at Novice or above including Music? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for My Quest Prelim | | |

175. Are you eligible for My Quest Novice?

| If you have answered YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please see the criteria for regular BD, as you are no longer eligible for My Quest | | |
|---|-----|----|
| | YES | NO |
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | | |
| Won more than 15 points at Elementary or competed / have any points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at an Area Festival or BD Regional (including Music) at Elementary? | | |
| Competed at an Area Festival or BD Regional (including Music) at Medium or above? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Novice or above? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Won more than 15 points at Medium or competed / have any points at the levels above? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Elementary or above? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Been placed in the top three of the My Quest Championships at Novice? | | |
| Competed at BD Regionals at Novice or above? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at Music Regionals at Novice? | | |
| Competed at Music Regionals at Elementary or above? | | |
| Been placed in the top three of the Novice Area Festival Championships? Or competed at the Area Festival Championships at Elementary level or above including Music? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for My Quest Novice | | |

176. **My Quest scoring and placings**

- At each My Quest competition, placings are determined by the percentage gained as per normal BD rules.
- Combinations who have been eliminated, retired or withdrawn will not be counted.
- In the event of joint percentages, the combination with the higher collective marks is placed higher.
- Team Quest scores may not be counted towards My Quest results.

177. **My Quest Semi-Final Leaderboards**

- Each My Quest semi-final has its own leaderboard, one for Open riders and one for Under 21 riders at each level from Intro to Novice.
- Leaderboard rankings are based on points, which are awarded according to the percentage gained as per the scale below:

| Percentage gained | MQ points | Percentage gained | MQ points |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| 60.00- 61.99% | 1 | 72.00- 73.99% | 7 |
| 62.00- 63.99% | 2 | 74.00- 75.99% | 8 |
| 64.00- 65.99% | 3 | 76.00- 77.99% | 9 |
| 66.00- 67.99% | 4 | 78.00- 79.99% | 10 |
| 68.00- 69.99% | 5 | 80.00% and above | 11 |
| 70.00- 71.99% | 6 | | |

- Combinations may compete at any My Quest competition in any region, but the points gained will be allocated to their selected semi-final leaderboard.
- A combination may compete in as many My Quest competitions as they like, although only points from their best five competitions will count.
- BD points will not be awarded for any My Quest competition, including the semi-finals and Quest Championships.

178. **My Quest Semi-Final qualification**

- At the end of the qualification period the top 12 Open combinations and top 12 Under 21 combinations at each level from each leaderboard qualify for the respective semi-final.
- Riders will be notified of qualification via email.
- Combinations must compete at the semi-final to which they are allocated.
- A combination must advise the BD office at least a week before the close of entries if they are unable to attend the My Quest semi-final by emailing teamquest@britishdressage.co.uk. The qualifying place will be awarded to the next placed combination on the same semi-final leaderboard.
- In the event of a tie of points, the tie will be split by calculating the average of the combination's counting percentages. The combination with the higher average percentage is placed higher.
- If there is still a tie, both combinations will qualify for the semi-final.

179. My Quest Island Semi-Finals qualification

This section is only applicable if there is a scheduled My Quest Island semi-final.

- At the end of the qualification period, all combinations who have competed on the islands during the current Quest season will be invited to attend the respective Island semi-final.
- In order to qualify for the Island semi-final, combinations must have competed in at least three My Quest qualifying competitions at that level in the current Quest season. This does not include competitions at which the combination was excluded or withdrawn.
- Combinations will be notified of qualification via email.

180. My Quest Semi-Finals eligibility

- Combinations who become ineligible for a level during the My Quest season will remain eligible to compete at that level at the My Quest semi-final if qualified.
- A combination may compete at a maximum of two different levels at the My Quest semi-finals.
- If a combination qualifies for the semi-final at Intro, Prelim and Novice, they may only compete at Prelim and Novice at the semi-final.
- A combination must advise the BD office at least a week before the close of entries if they are unable to attend the My Quest semi-final by emailing teamquest@britishdressage.co.uk. The qualifying place will be awarded to the next place combination from the same semi-final leaderboard.

181. My Quest Championships qualification

- The top three Open combinations and top three Under 21 combinations at each level from each semi-final will qualify for the Quest Championships.
- A combination must advise the BD office at least one week before the close of entries if they are unable to attend the Quest Championships, please email teamquest@britishdressage.co.uk. The qualifying place will be awarded to the next placed combination from the same semi-final.
- Remaining qualification places are awarded as wildcards to the highest scoring combinations across all semi-finals who are yet to qualify at that level.
- Island combinations who qualified as per rule 179 and are placed first with a minimum of 66% at the Island semi-final will qualify for the Quest Championships.

182. My Quest Championships eligibility

- Combinations who become ineligible for a level during the My Quest season, will remain eligible to compete at that level at the My Quest Championships if qualified.
- A combination may compete in a maximum of two different levels at the My Quest Championships.

183. Are you eligible for Quest Winter League My Quest Intro?

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please look at the criteria for QWL My Quest Prelim and above | | |
|---|-----|----|
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
| Won points at Novice or competed/have points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at an Area Festival at Prelim or Prelim Music? | | |
| Competed at BD Regional/Music/Winter/National Championships at Prelim or above? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Won more than 15 points at Novice or competed/have any points at the levels above? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Novice or above? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at the Area Festival Championships at Prelim or above including music? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for QWL My Quest Intro | | |

184. Are you eligible for Quest Winter League My Quest Prelim?

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please look at the criteria for QWL My Quest Novice | | |
|---|-----|----|
| | YES | NO |
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | | |
| Won more than 15 points at Novice or competed/have any points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at an Area Festival or BD Regional at Novice or Novice Music? | | |
| Competed at an Area Festival or BD Regional (including Music) at Elementary or above? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Prelim or above? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Won more than 15 points at Elementary or competed/have any points at the levels above? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Novice or above? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at BD Regionals at Prelim or Prelim Music or above? | | |
| Been placed in the in top three of the Area Festival Championships at Prelim or above including Music? | | |
| Competed at the Area Festival Championships at Novice or above including Music? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for QWL My Quest Prelim | | |

185. Are you eligible for Quest Winter League My Quest Novice

If you have answered YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please see the criteria for regular BD, as you are no longer eligible for QWL My Quest

| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Won more than 15 points at Elementary or competed/have any points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at an Area Festival or BD Regional at Elementary or Elementary Music? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Novice or above? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Won more than 15 points at Medium or competed/have any points at the levels above? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Elementary or above? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at BD Regionals at Novice or above? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at Music Regionals at Novice? | | |
| Competed at Music Regionals at Elementary or above? | | |
| Been placed in the top three at the Area Festival Championships at Novice? | | |
| Competed at the Area Festival Championships at Elementary or above including Music? | | |

If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for QWL My Quest Novice

186. Are you eligible for Quest Winter League Team Quest Intro?

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please look at the criteria for QWL Team Quest Prelim and above | | |
|---|-----|----|
| | YES | NO |
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | | |
| Won points at Novice or competed/have points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at an Area Festival at Prelim or Prelim Music? | | |
| Competed at BD Regional/Music/Winter/National Championships at Prelim or above? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Won more than 15 points at Novice or competed/have any points at the levels above? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Novice or above? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at the Area Festival Championships at Prelim or above including Music? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for QWL Team Quest Intro | | |

187. Are you eligible for Quest Winter League Team Quest Prelim?

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please look at the criteria for QWL Team Quest Novice | | |
|---|-----|----|
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | YES | NO |
| Won more than 15 points at Novice or competed / have any points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at an Area Festival or BD Regional at Novice or Novice Music? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Prelim or above? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Won more than 15 points at Elementary or competed/have any points at the levels above? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Novice or above? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at BD Regionals at Prelim or Prelim Music or above? | | |
| Been placed in the in top three at the Area Festival Championships at Prelim or above including Music? | | |
| Competed at the Area Festival Championships at Novice or above including Music? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for QWL Team Quest Prelim | | |

188. Are you eligible for Quest Winter League Team Quest Novice?

| If you answer YES to any of the statements below for the rider, horse or combination, please look at the criteria for regular BD as you are no longer eligible for QWL Team Quest. | | |
|--|-----|----|
| | YES | NO |
| As a rider (on any horse) have you: | | |
| Won more than 15 points at Elementary or competed / have any points any points at the levels above including music? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at an Area Festival or BD Regional at Elementary/Elementary Music? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Novice or above? | | |
| Has your horse (with any rider): | | |
| Won more than 15 points at Medium or competed / have any points at the levels above? | | |
| Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships at Elementary or above? | | |
| As a combination have you: | | |
| Competed at BD Regionals at Novice or above? | | |
| Scored 65% or higher at Music Regionals at Novice? | | |
| Competed at Music Regionals at Elementary or above? | | |
| Been placed in the top three at the Area Festival Championships at Novice including Music? | | |
| Competed at the Area Festival Championships at Elementary or above including Music? | | |
| If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for QWL Team Quest Novice | | |

Regional team competitions

189. General rules applying to all regional team competitions

- All riders, horses and ponies must be full members (with the exception of D squad Youth riders, who only require a Club membership) of British Dressage or Dressage Ireland to be eligible to compete for their region.
- Teams are to be selected in accordance with the Regional Team Selection Policy to which all riders must adhere.
- Riders must be eligible to compete in accordance with BD rules in the correct rider group/level/squad. Rider groups and eligibility will be the same at the close of applications for team places in accordance with the relevant section.
- For senior teams, riders must be 18 years old and over as of 1 January of the year of the competition.
- For para teams, riders must be 12 years and over as of 1 January of the year of the competition.
- For BD Youth teams, riders are eligible from the beginning of the calendar year of their 8th birthday to the end of the calendar year of their 25th birthday.
- Riders may only compete at either Senior or Youth Team competitions in any calendar year.
- Para riders may go forwards for the Para Home Nations and one other senior or youth team competition.
- Those selected for Home Nations competitions are eligible for a small pocket badge and saddlecloth badge with a St George/St Andrew/Welsh flag or equivalent which must be removed after the competition has finished.

Structure

- The number of teams allocated for each team competition will be published in the relevant schedule and will be dependent on the venue hosting. If regions are unable to fulfil their quota of teams, spaces may be offered to other regions.
- Teams consisting of riders from different regions may be allowed after the appropriate dispensation has been granted.
- Teams will consist of four or three riders; with the lowest score of a fourth rider being dropped in each class. Where a team drops to two riders after close of entries, they will still ride in the competition but can only compete for individual placings.
- Warm up tests do not count towards individual or team rankings.
- During the competition, only the competitor may school the horse from the saddle (excluding the Para Home Nations Grade I, II and III).

Competition

- No grading points are awarded.
- Commanders and whips are NOT permitted for any team test, unless an approved dispensation has been granted and/or is permitted as per para rules and approved compensating aids for the Para Home Nations.
- Commanders and whips are permitted for C and D squad riders at the BD Youth Inter Regionals.
- Commanders and whips are permitted in all warm up tests.
- A ground jury will be selected and present at all team competitions.

190. Senior Inter Regional competition eligibility

- Horse and rider combinations that have competed at the BD National or Winter Championships (including Freestyle classes) and excluding Area Festival Championships in the 12 months preceding the cut-off date must compete at a higher level at the Senior Inter Regionals.
- The competition will run from Preliminary to Medium. Rider/horse combinations must be eligible at Bronze or Silver at the level they apply to compete at the time of selection.
- All scoring for team and individual competitions will be based on percentages. The top three percentages per team will count on each day.
- The individual competition will be determined from the combined individual percentages across both team days.

191. Senior Home Nations competition eligibility

- Riders who have competed internationally in a CDI Junior/Young Rider in the UK or abroad or a CPEDI3* or above may only compete if a period of 12 months has passed since their last competition at this level.
- Riders who have represented Great Britain on an Olympic, Paralympic, World or European team (non-disabled and para) are not eligible to compete.
- Horse and rider combinations that have competed at the BD National or Winter Championships (including Freestyle classes) and excluding Area Festival Championships in the 12 months preceding the cut-off date must compete at a higher level at the Senior Home Nations.
- Riders may compete on a different horse at a lower level, provided that the combination is eligible.
- Teams will consist of riders at Preliminary to PSG level. Open to Bronze, Silver and Gold combinations.
- Riders must be eligible to compete in accordance with the Senior Regional Selection Policy.

192. Youth Inter Regional Competition Eligibility

- Combinations who have represented Great Britain at European Championships in dressage are not eligible to take part. However, past and present European Championship riders may compete at A Squad on a different horse/pony.
- All Squad riders, with the exception of A squad, who were champions in their squad the previous year, must move up a squad if riding the same horse/pony. They may remain at the same level if on a different horse/pony.
- Each team to comprise of four riders from their region who have each been assessed at a formal squad assessment as current members of one of the following squads: D, C, C+, B, B+ or A.
- D Squad - to the end of the calendar year of their 11th birthday.
- C Squad - to the end of the calendar year of their 14th birthday.
- C+, B, B+ and A Squads - to the end of the calendar year of their 25th birthday.
- Teams must include riders from at least three different squads. Riders can only compete with one horse/pony at one squad level. Horses/ponies may only compete at one level once per day.
- B, B+ or A Squad riders riding young horses aged 5 or 6 (to the end of the calendar year) will compete at their squad level but may choose to ride the relevant Young Horse test

- to accommodate their horse's level of development.
- Double or snaffle bridles may be used by A Squad riders. All other rider tests must be ridden in snaffle bridles.
- All tests will be judged on rider competence.

193. **Youth Home Nations competition eligibility**

- Teams will consist of riders at Preliminary to Medium, open to combinations eligible for Bronze, Silver and Gold.
- Individual FEI classes are included at the YHN, please refer to the BD Youth selection policy for specific criteria.
- Riders must be eligible to compete in accordance with the BD Youth Regional Selection Policy.

194. **Para Home Nations competition eligibility**

- Riders must have a national or FEI Para Equestrian classification.
- One rider on each team may have competed in a CPEDI3* since 1 January 2021. Those that have ridden in a World, European or Paralympic Championship are not eligible.
- No team may contain more than two riders from any one grade.
- Runs in accordance with British Dressage Para Dressage rules (please refer to the Para Rules and Qualification section).
- Riders must be eligible to compete in accordance with the BD Para Regional Selection Policy.

195. **Sheepgate British Dressage Under 25 Championships**

The Under 25 Championships are open to combinations who are 25 years old and under. Riders may take part until the end of the year of their 25th birthday.

Scores must be gained as a combination between 1 January 2025 and 30 June 2025. Scores from Quest competitions and FEI U21 classes may not be used towards qualification. Refer to the Sheepgate website for further details.

Riders must be eligible for the classes entered. Full membership and horse registration is required to compete. Regular affiliated classes will be run as part of this competition and grading points will be awarded as normal for these classes. These classes can be used towards qualification.

Individual championships - how to qualify

Please refer to the table overleaf.

| Level | Scores required Scores must be gained in one section. |
|---|--|
| Preliminary - Bronze and Silver | 2 scores of 65% or higher |
| Novice - Bronze, Silver and Gold | 2 scores of 66% or higher |
| Elementary - Bronze, Silver and Gold | 2 scores of 66% or higher |
| Medium - Bronze, Silver and Gold | 2 scores of 64% or higher |
| Advanced Medium - Bronze, Silver and Gold | 1 score of 63% or higher |

Team competition

Riders must ride the designated team test on both days of the team competition. Teams of three or four at each level. Commanders and whips are permitted.

Riders must be eligible under BD rules to compete at their chosen level and rider/horse/pony/combination may only compete in one team at one level.

Riders will enter directly with the venue and Development Officers will then formulate teams. Combinations must be eligible at the level they are applying. The team competition is open to all riders who are 25 years old and under.

British Dressage Development Officers and contact details

North & East

Jo Byrne | northandeast@britishdressage.co.uk | 07783 791191

North & West

Nikki Birt | northandwest@britishdressage.co.uk | 07495 013192

South & East

Katharine Perry | southandeast@britishdressage.co.uk | 07872 603871

Sharon Walker | southandeast@britishdressage.co.uk | 07894 232358

South & West

Amanda Rodgers | southandwest@britishdressage.co.uk | 07894 232355

Scotland

Ashley Stewart | scotland@britishdressage.co.uk | 07584 147258

Wales

Vanessa Archer | wales@britishdressage.co.uk | 07398 763414

For more details regarding team competition, please contact your Regional Youth Representative/Development Officer or visit the Region pages online.

SECTION 3

Championships

British Dressage Championships

Competing is just a measure of how your training is going at home but qualifying for and competing at a championship is an added bonus.

Our two main championships are the Winter Championships in April and the National Championships in September. For the majority of levels, members need to qualify for a Regional Championship to gain a championship place.

We have a series of Premier League and High Profile shows for top combinations, new combinations cementing partnerships and those preparing for international shows, these shows can also be used to qualify for Regional or National/Winter Championships.

Area Festivals are BD's grassroots championships series aimed at riders looking to have the first taste of a big championship. With summer and winter series, Area Festivals are held all over the UK with classes from Preliminary to Intermediate I including music (summer only).

In addition to the above, there are individual series and championships for Young Horses and Ponies and riders at Middle Tour.

Make sure you read the section for each individual championship carefully to ensure that you and your horse are eligible. Don't forget to check the membership and horse registration tables to make sure you have the membership required for each individual championship.

It is your responsibility as the owner/rider of the horse to ensure that combinations are eligible.

Area Festivals and Area Festival Summer Music
Regionals and National/Winter Qualification including Premier League and High Profile
U21 National Championship
Middle Tour Championship
Young Horse and Pony Championships

Area Festivals and Area Festival Freestyle to Music

Area Festivals are held all over the UK with two seasons culminating in a Winter and a Summer Championships, for the respective season. Both seasons will run from Preliminary to Intermediate I, with freestyle to music held at the Summer Area Festival Championships at all levels.

196. Qualifying for an Area Festival

| Dates | Qualification | Levels |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 1 Jan - 30 June 2025 | Qualification for Summer Area Festivals including Area Festival Summer Music | Prelim to Inter I |
| 1 Jul - 31 Dec 2025 | Qualification for Winter Area Festivals | Prelim to Inter I |

Area Festivals

| Level | Qualification | Offshore |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Prelim to Advanced Medium | Three scores at 63% and above (scores to be from one section, Bronze or Silver) | Two scores at 63% and above |
| Prix St Georges and Inter I | Two scores at 60% and above (scores to be from one section, Bronze or Silver) | One score at 60% and above |
| For multiple Area Festival qualifications a combination requires a further set of three scores (Prelim to Advanced Medium) or two scores (Prix St Georges and Intermediate I). | | |

Area Festival Freestyle to Music

| Level | Qualification | Offshore |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| Prelim to Advanced Medium | Two scores at 63% and above (scores to be from one section, Bronze and Silver) | One score at 63% and above |
| Prix St Georges and Inter I | Two scores at 60% and above (scores to be from one section, Bronze and Silver) | One score at 60% and above |
| For multiple Area Festival to Music qualifications a combination requires a further set of two scores at each level/section. | | |

If a combination achieves qualification for the Area Festival Championships, they may not contest the same level and section or class in the remaining Summer or Winter



Petplan[®]



**Insure your horse or
pet to get a limited edition
Area Festivals saddle pad***

To celebrate our ongoing sponsorship of the Petplan Area Festivals, we are giving all Area Festivals competitors an exclusive Le Mieux saddle pad when you insure your horse or pet using the link below*.



Scan here or visit petplan.co.uk/equine-events
to qualify for this offer.

Petplan is proud to have been supporting
the Area Festivals for over 25 years.



*Offer ends at 23:59 on 31st Dec 2025. Terms and Conditions apply and can be found at www.petplan.co.uk/terms-conditions.
Petplan is a trading name of Pet Plan Limited and Allianz Insurance plc. Petplan Insurance is underwritten by Allianz Insurance plc.

Area Festivals and must withdraw with immediate effect. For example, if qualification is achieved for the Novice Silver Area Festival Championships (non-music), the combination must withdraw from any remaining entered Area Festivals at Novice Silver, but could continue to compete in Novice Silver Music, or another level, if qualification is gained.

Combinations may only compete at a maximum of two Area Festivals per season for each level and section. For example, if qualification is achieved for Novice Silver and Novice Silver Music, competitors may compete at two Area Festivals for each. For multiple Area Festival qualifications, a combination requires a further set of three scores (Preliminary to Advanced Medium) or two scores (Prix St Georges and Intermediate I) from the same section (Bronze or Silver).

Entries and substitutions cannot be accepted once times have been published for an Area Festival.

- a) Only scores from regular BD competitions can be used to qualify for Area Festivals.
- b) Scores from Class Tickets, Freestyles, HC, Regionals, Area Festivals, Quest, Nationals/Winters, Inter County/Inter Regional/Home Nations, Associated Championships, Combined Training, Area Festival Championships, Young Horse and U25 Championship classes may not be used towards qualification.
- c) Scores from FEI Pick Your Own classes (including FEI Music, excluding FEI age tests) can be used for qualification. **Members must notify the Championship Officer at the BD office via email if they want results gained from FEI PYO classes to be included in their total.**
- d) Qualification is awarded to an individual horse/rider combination and the rider may not be changed.
- e) Once qualification is achieved, a combination may subsequently upgrade and maintain the qualification unless otherwise stated in the rules.
- f) Horses qualified for the bronze and silver sections at the same level may be ridden in either section at an Area Festival with the respective rider, however may not compete in both.
- g) Combinations may only compete at two consecutive levels in Area Festivals in the same season.
- h) If a combination qualifies at a higher level in a higher section, qualifications at lower levels will be transferred into the higher section e.g. qualification in Elementary Silver and Novice Bronze will require the combination to ride Novice Silver. However, if a rider is qualified in two consecutive Bronze or Silver sections they may ride in both e.g. Novice Silver and Elementary Silver.
- i) A combination may not compete at the same level in both the bronze and silver sections (including music).

197. Exclusions from the Area Festivals

- a) A combination may not compete at the same level in both an Area Festival and a Regional (including music) in a season. The Area Festival level must be higher than the Regional if competing in both.
- b) A combination competing in a Regional Championship may not compete at an Area Festival at a level below in the same calendar year.
- c) Combinations who score 68% (70% Music) at Regionals, with immediate effect may not compete in an Area Festival at the same level or below in the current and

future years e.g. a combination scoring 68% at Novice Silver Regionals may not ride in an Area Festival at Novice level or below again.

- d) Combinations who score 68% or higher (70% Music) at the Area Festival Championships, with immediate effect may not compete in an Area Festival at the same level and section or below in the current and future years.
- e) Riders that have competed at a CDI are not eligible to compete at that level or below in an Area Festival (including the Championships) in that year or future years. This is with immediate effect and all qualifications will be withdrawn.
- f) Riders competing in a Children on Horses, Pony, Junior, Young Rider class in a CDI are eligible to compete at Area Festivals (inc. the Championships) on a different horse/pony, providing they are eligible for the level they are competing at.
- g) Para riders with a large pocket badge, are not permitted to compete at Area Festivals in any section, however are permitted to compete at regionals in the silver section if eligible.
- h) From 1 January 2023, If a rider has competed at a Premier League (including music), they will with immediate effect, not be eligible to compete at an Area Festival at that level or below in current and future years. For U21 riders, combinations who from 1 January 2023 have competed at a Premier League will with immediate effect not be eligible to compete at an Area Festival at that level or below. This excludes riders who are competing in the specific U21 FEI age classes (Children on Horses, Pony, Junior and Young Rider).

198. Qualifying for the Area Festival Championships

- a) The top two combinations from each class/section scoring 63% or higher will qualify for the Area Festival Championships, except where the class is split. If a class is split due to the number of entries the winner of each class will qualify.
- b) Wild cards will be issued to the next highest placed percentages across all Area Festivals in the current season, for any class which has not been filled.
- c) Entries received after the closing date from prequalified combinations will not be accepted once wildcards have been issued.
- d) A horse cannot be ridden in the same class at the Area Festival Championships by two different riders.
- e) Winter Area Festival Championships feature under 21 sections from Preliminary to Elementary in both the Bronze and Silver Sections, criteria as below:
 - Under 21 riders (those in/up to the calendar year of their 21st birthday)
 - Riders will compete in the Area Festival class at their chosen level/section as normal. The highest placed U21 rider in each class and section (Preliminary to Elementary only) will then qualify for the corresponding U21 championship class at the Winter Area Festival Championships providing the minimum 63% has been achieved.

PREMIER PERFORMANCE



Home of the World Famous
Calming Cookies®

premierperformance.uk



believe in
Magic



Five Star Magic, with proven trainability, gives you confidence to truly enjoy every moment with your horse.

Calm, concentrated and confident • Trainability • No sedative effect • Supporting stress responses

NAF recommends Magic for: Training | Loading | Lessons | Farrier | Clipping | Travelling | Dentist | Hacking | Riding



CLEAN SPORT

CALMING

Contact NAF using our **FREE Nutritional Advice Line**
Call 0800 373 106 or email info@naf-uk.com



naf-equine.eu/uk



British
Equestrian
Team Supplier

Regional Championships, including Winter Freestyle to Music Regionals

199. Qualification cut-off dates for Regional Championships

A series of competitions qualify for Regional Championships. The cut-off dates in the table below show the time periods in which points can be earned for qualification.

| Dates | Qualification | Level |
|----------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 1 January - 30 June | Qualification for Summer Regionals | Prelim to Inter I |
| 1 July - 31 December | Qualification for Winter Regionals | Prelim to Inter I |
| 1 July - 31 December | Qualification for Music Winter Regionals | Novice to Advanced Medium |

A combination may not compete at the same level (including music) in both an Area Festival and a Regional in the same season. The Area Festival level must be higher than the Regional if competing in both.

200. Eligibility for qualifying classes for Regional Championships

- At close of entries horses and riders must be eligible for the class that they have entered. Once qualification is achieved a horse/rider/combination may subsequently upgrade and maintain the qualification (unless otherwise stated within the rules).
- Group 1 riders, who, upon achieving Group 1 status, must ride all horses in the Gold section at Preliminary, Novice and Elementary.
- Combinations who have been placed in the top three of the Music/Winter/National Championships at the same level or above may not compete in the Silver section for that level or below in the current and future years. The above is effective immediately on gaining such a placing. Any pre-existing qualification is to be switched to the Gold section of the Winter/Summer Regionals.
- Scores from class tickets, HC and Championships, Regional Championships, Area Festivals, Team Quest, My Quest, Associated Championships, Combined Training, Sheepgate U25 Championship classes or associated competitions may not be used to provide part qualification towards a Regional Championship.

201. Eligibility for Regional Championships

- Riders qualifying the same horse for both the Silver and Gold sections at the same level (including music) may choose which section they wish to compete in at the Regional Championships, but may not compete in both sections.
- A rider may qualify several horses at the same level and ride them in different sections, provided that they are eligible.
- Competitors may choose at which Summer/Winter Regional Championship they compete and may compete in different Regionals if they have qualified more than one horse or at different levels.
- The same horse may not compete at the same level in more than one Regional Championship in any one season. For example, a horse may compete at Novice straight and Novice Freestyle to Music Regional Championships but not in two

- Novice straight Regional Championships.
- e) Combinations qualified for Silver sections may not compete at a higher level in a Gold section than they ride in a Silver section e.g. Novice Silver and Elementary Gold. In this scenario the combination must compete in the Gold section at both levels.
 - f) Combinations that are qualified for three or more levels for Regional Championships may only compete at two consecutive levels. If eligible, combinations may compete in two consecutive Silver levels.
 - g) Horses which have qualified directly for the National Championships from Premier Leagues or CDIs may not go to the preceding Regional Championships at the same level that year.
 - h) Combinations who upgrade from Silver to Gold at a given level mid-season may carry forward points gained previously from Silver sections, subject to points/percentages matching the requirements of the Gold section qualification. To do this the rider must notify the Championship Officer at the BD office via email before the end of the qualifying period.
 - i) Horses which have been qualified by a rider in the Silver section may be ridden in the Gold section if the Gold qualification criteria is met and has been authorised by BD. Horses qualified in the Gold section may not revert to the Silver section.
 - j) Substitutions may only be made up until times are published for the respective Regional Championships. The organiser must contact BD with the new horse/rider details to check they are eligible for the level/section, have a valid qualification and have a current membership and registration.
 - k) A horse cannot be ridden at the same level/class at the Regionals/Championships by two different riders.

202. Qualification requirements for Winter/Summer Regional Championships

| Level and Section | Total points needed | Minimum % needed |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Preliminary Silver | 20 | 66% |
| Preliminary Gold | 20 | 66% |
| Novice Silver | 19 | 67% |
| Novice Gold | 20 | 68% |
| Elementary Silver | 15 | 65% |
| Elementary Gold | 18 | 67% |
| Medium Silver | 12 | 64% |
| Medium Gold | 16 | 65% |
| Advanced Medium Silver | 10 | 64% |
| Advanced Medium Gold | 14 | 65% |
| PSG & Intermediate I Silver | 6 | 64% |
| PSG & Intermediate I Gold* | 6 | 64% |

Scores gained in FEI PYO classes (excluding FEI age tests) may be used towards Regional qualification. Members must notify the Championship Officer at the BD office via email if they want results gained from FEI PYO classes to be included in their total.

*Three points may be gained in CDIs (including CDI YR individual tests). Members must notify the Championship Officer at the BD office via email if they want CDI points to be included in their total.

203. **Special rules for Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Isle of Wight and offshore islands**

For all levels, half the qualifying points must be achieved at the required percentage. Where the total points required is an odd number, the number of points needed under these special rules will be rounded up e.g. Preliminary Silver will require 10 points and Novice Silver will require 10 points.

This rule only applies to members with island postcodes or residents in Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Wight, Isle of Man, and other offshore islands.

204. **Grading Points**

Only the grading points awarded to a horse at the set qualifying percentage or higher within the relevant qualifying period, for that level and section, will count towards qualification.

The points levels are shown below. For example, at Preliminary only points gained at 66% or above will count.

| Percentage gained | Points |
|-------------------|-----------|
| 64.00 - 65.99% | 3 points |
| 66.00 - 67.99% | 4 points |
| 68.00 - 69.99% | 5 points |
| 70.00 - 71.99% | 6 points |
| 72.00 - 73.99% | 7 points |
| 74.00 - 75.99% | 8 points |
| 76.00 - 77.99% | 9 points |
| 78.00 - 79.99% | 10 points |
| 80.00% and above | 11 points |

205. **Qualification requirements for Winter Music Regional Championships**

The below table details the scores required to achieve qualification for a Winter Music Regional Championship at each level and section, plus scores required for those residing in Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Wight, Isle of Man and other offshore islands.

| Level & Section | Scores required | Offshore scores |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Novice Silver | Two scores of 68% or higher | One score of 68% or higher |
| Novice Gold | Two scores of 69% or higher | One score of 69% or higher |
| Elementary Silver | Two scores of 66% or higher | One score of 66% or higher |
| Elementary Gold | Two scores of 68% or higher | One score of 68% or higher |
| Medium Silver | Two scores of 65% or higher | One score of 65% or higher |
| Medium Gold | Two scores of 66% or higher | One score of 66% or higher |
| Adv. Medium Silver | Two scores of 65% or higher | One score of 65% or higher |
| Adv. Medium Gold | Two scores of 66% or higher | One score of 66% or higher |

Scores gained in FEI PYO Music classes may be used towards Winter Music Regional qualification. Members must notify the Championship Officer at the BD Office via email if they want results gained from FEI PYO classes to be included in their total.

206. **Qualification from Regionals to National/Winter Championships**

Combinations qualify from Regionals to the National or Winter Championships on a proportional basis, depending on the total number qualified at each level and the number of starters at each Regional Championship. A table showing the ratio of qualifiers to starters and any variation on the proportional qualification basis for a specific class is to be displayed at each Regional Championship.

207. **Eligibility and Information for National/Winter Championships**

- All horses and riders competing in any Championship must have a full membership and horse registration.
- To qualify from a Regional Championship to the National or Winter Championships eligible combinations must gain 65% or above unless awarded a wild card.
- Except for Young Horse classes, a rider may not be changed following qualification from a Regional Championship or where qualification is direct.
- If a horse is unable to compete at the Championship, the next highest-placed competitor from the relevant qualifying Regional Championship will be invited to compete, providing that the Championship Officer at the BD Office is informed a week before the close of entries for the Championship concerned and wild cards have not yet been issued.
- The starting order for Championship finals will be drawn, if necessary, in multiple

- sections, depending on the qualification percentages.
- f) BD reserves the right to offer wildcard places for either the Winter/National Championships e.g. Winter Regional to Winter Championships.
 - g) A horse may only be entered in a maximum of two levels at the National/ Winter Championships (excluding Young Horse classes and U21 Children on Horses/ Pony/Junior/Young Rider classes).

208. Wildcard allocation

- a) Wildcards are a means of qualifying for a championship other than gaining qualification at the Winter or Summer Regionals or direct from a Premier League or CDI.
- b) When determining the ratio for direct qualification from Regional Championships, a percentage of the available places at the championships are retained for use as wildcards.
- c) Immediately after the final Winter or Summer Regional Championships, those qualified at Preliminary to Advanced Medium are listed and the remaining places in the relevant championship class are filled by the non-qualified competitors with the next highest percentages from across all of the Regionals. Wild cards are only distributed after all championship places have been allocated to those who qualify by right. If combinations on the wildcard list end on equal percentages, the collectives will decide the order of acceptance.
- d) For Prix St Georges and Intermediate I, wildcards are to be offered to non-qualified combinations from both Premier Leagues/CDIs and Regional Championships, with the aim of having approximately 70% of the places available at the National Championships filled from combinations competing at Premier Leagues/CDIs.
- e) The Board may offer places for any BD Championship or Regional Championship. This discretion is mainly for higher level classes at the National Championships and for horses that the selectors would like to see in top class competition.

209. Winter PSG and Intermediate I Gold Freestyle to Music Championship

For the Winter Prix St Georges and Intermediate I Music Gold Championships, combinations eligible and competing at the level may enter direct to Winter PSG and Intermediate I Music Gold Championships.

Priority will be given as stated below:

- First priority: combinations entered in the equivalent Gold non-music class at the Winter Championships.
- Second priority: combinations achieving 65% or more at the Winter Regionals in the equivalent Gold non-music class in the same year.
- Third priority: combinations who competed in the relevant Gold music class at the preceding National Championships.

210. National PSG and Intermediate I Gold Freestyle to Music Championships

The top combinations from the PSG and Intermediate I Gold classes, who have formally declared in advance through the Championship entry system, will go through to the relevant Music Championship class. The number to qualify and means of declaring will be stated in the schedule. Marks from the PSG and Intermediate I

classes will not be carried forward.

211. **Direct Qualification for the National Championships**

There are a series of Premier League, High Profile and CDI competitions aimed at riders fine tuning top combinations ahead of major international competition and qualifying for the FEI level classes at National Championships.

Riders and horses are not to be changed following published times at High Profile or Premier League competitions.

All riders must be eligible to enter a regular competition at these levels as per rule 49 before entering.

To be eligible to compete at a Premier League at all levels, combinations must have achieved a minimum of 63% at the level they wish to compete at, in a regular competition not including music and have met the minimum criteria as per rule 49. Group 2 riders are exempt up to and including Intermediate I. Group 1 riders are exempt at all levels.

This excludes riders who are competing in the specific U21 FEI age classes (Children on Horses, Pony, Junior and Young Rider) at Premier Leagues.

The cut-off date for PSG-Grand Prix National Championships direct qualifications and for those wishing to submit overseas CDI scores for inclusion on the wildcard list is the last day of the final Premier League/domestic CDI competition of the calendar year.

Direct qualification for the National Championships may be achieved by horses that have competed in the Gold section at Premier Leagues, CDIs overseas and domestic CDIs, at Advanced Medium, PSG level and above, as below. This also applies to Children on Horses, Pony, Junior and Young Riders who compete at the European Championships, as below.

212. **Direct Qualification to the National Championships from the European Championships**

- Children on Horses: any rider gaining 70% or more in the Team test at that year's European Championships will earn direct qualification for the Elementary Gold Championship at the National Championships.
- Pony: any rider gaining 70% or more in the Individual test at that year's European Championships will earn direct qualification for the Medium Gold Championship at the National Championships.
- Junior: any rider gaining 70% or more in the Individual test at that year's European Championships will earn direct qualification for the Advanced Medium Gold Championship at the National Championships.
- Young Rider: any rider achieving 70% or more in the Individual test at that year's European Championships will earn direct qualification for the PSG Gold Championship at the National Championships.

LeMieux

LeMieux



Proudly Supporting British Dressage

Shop online at lemieux.com and at all major LeMieux stockists



Flying Changes

**DRESSING INTERNATIONAL
TEAMS & RIDERS SINCE 2013**

THE COMPLETE OUTFIT



- ✓ **BESPOKE**
- ✓ **READY TO WEAR**
- ✓ **JACKETS & TAILCOATS**
- ✓ **KASK & KEP HATS**
- ✓ **CAVALLO & FABBRI BOOTS**

CONTACT US



01285 425405



www.flying-changes.com



Private Appointments - Chandlers House, Cirencester, GL7 1YT

213. **Direct Qualification to the National Championships from the Premier Leagues and CDIs**

Advanced Medium Gold

Each Premier League may hold one Advanced Medium Gold class from which the winner will qualify directly for the National Championships. If more than one Advanced Medium class is held, the direct qualifier will be clearly marked in the schedule. To achieve direct qualification, the winning score must be 65% or higher. There will be no qualification pass down if a combination has already qualified.

Prix St Georges Gold and Intermediate I Gold

Each Premier League may hold two PSG Gold classes and two Intermediate I Gold classes from which the winners will qualify directly for the National Championships. If there is only one Gold class the top two combinations will qualify. If the two qualifiers are over-subscribed, only one class may be split with both winners of the split class sections qualifying, making a total of three qualified from that show.

In the event that the organiser wishes to run a fourth class at the same show, qualifying scores achieved may be used for wildcard purposes, but the class will not carry direct qualification status.

In domestic CDIs the top two combinations from each of the relevant classes will qualify for each level.

To achieve direct qualification, scores must be 65% or higher. There will be no qualification pass down if a combination has already qualified.

Combinations which have competed in PSG and Intermediate I classes at overseas CDIs (including CDI YR Team and Individual tests) may request that their highest score be entered onto the wildcard list if they notify the Championship Officer at the BD office via email before the end of the qualifying period for direct qualification to the National Championships.

Intermediate II Gold

Each Premier League may hold two Intermediate II Gold classes from which the winners will qualify directly for the National Championships. If there is only one Gold class the top two combinations will qualify.

Automatic qualification will be allocated to the selected combinations for that year's U25 European Championships that compete in the U25 Intermediate II class.

In domestic CDIs the top two combinations in each Intermediate II (this can include Intermediate A, B and U25 Intermediate II classes) will qualify from each show.

To achieve direct qualification, scores must be 65% or higher. If a combination has already qualified, the qualification will be passed down to the next eligible combination.

Any remaining spaces will be filled by the combinations gaining five or more grading

points from scores 65% or higher at Intermediate II Gold from High Profile (excluding FEI PYO classes), Premier League qualifiers (excluding FEI PYO classes), domestic or overseas CDI classes in the 12 months prior to the National Championships. Three points must be won from either Premier League qualifiers or domestic or overseas CDI classes. Any allocation will be based on the highest percentage earned at a Premier League or CDI.

Combinations earning direct qualification for the Grand Prix Championship and the Intermediate II Championship are only eligible to compete in both if they have not competed at Grand Prix CDI/CDIO level overseas (excluding U25 GP).

Combinations which have competed at GP level at CDI/CDIO overseas are eligible to compete in the Grand Prix Championships only (excluding U25 GP).

Grand Prix Gold

Places for the Grand Prix Championships will be allocated as follows:

- Automatic qualification for the selected combinations for that year's Senior European Championships or World Championships or Olympic Games.
- Automatic qualification for the winners of each Premier League Grand Prix Gold class (one per Premier League - excluding Grand Prix Special or Freestyle) scoring 65% or above. There will be no qualification pass down if a combination has already qualified.
- Qualification to the three combinations who have achieved the highest scores above 65% in domestic or overseas CDI Grand Prix classes (excluding U25 GP, Grand Prix Special, Grand Prix Freestyle and FEI PYO classes).
- Qualification to the three combinations who achieve the highest average score from three Premier League or High Profile Show Grand Prix and U25 GP classes (excluding Grand Prix Special, Grand Prix Freestyle and FEI PYO classes). At least one score must come from a Premier League. To achieve direct qualification, scores must be 65% or higher.

If the places are not filled by the above methods, additional places will be filled by taking the next highest score from either the CDI list or the list of the highest average scores from three Premier League/High Profile Show Grand Prix classes.

Grand Prix Freestyle to Music Gold

The top combinations from the Grand Prix Gold Championship will go through to the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music Gold.

The number to qualify will be stated in the schedule. Riders who enter the Grand Prix class at the National Championships automatically declare their intention to compete in the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music Gold class if qualified.

In cases of legitimate withdrawal due to illness or veterinary/welfare reasons the next qualified combination will move up.

National Champion

The scores from both the Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle to Music classes will be

added together and the average percentage calculated to determine the National Champion.

Riders who wish to maintain their eligibility to ride for their own country may compete in qualifiers and championships. They may win the Grand Prix championship classes, however they will not become the BD National Champion and will not be awarded BD National Champion sashes, rosettes or prize money.

214. **U21 National Championship League Rules**

The U21 National Championship is to be hosted at the British Dressage National Championships.

Qualifying period: 1 March – 15 July

Qualifying classes / competitions: Designated U21 FEI classes for each category at Premier Leagues or CDI / CDIO

Qualifying Criteria

- Best three scores from a combination either three Premier Leagues or two Premier Leagues and one CDI / CDIO.
- A score comprises points gained from both the relevant Team and Individual tests scheduled at any given event.
- Single test scores from individual events will not be permitted.
- Overseas-based combinations can submit three CDI scores – comprising both team and individual test marks at any given CDI.
- Points to be awarded based on the current scale for British Dressage national competitions.

In the event of a tied place, the single collectives will be used to determine the final placings.

The league table will be calculated after each Premier League (including CDI / CDIO where relevant) and published on the Youth International pages on the British Dressage website.

Direct Qualification

- Direct qualification will be awarded to European Championship team combinations and the first reserve in the same calendar year of both Championships.
- European Championship team combinations must accept their place by 8 August 2025.
- European Championship combinations that decline their direct qualification are not permitted to take another horse / pony.

European Championship team members and reserves selected for more than one age group can only compete in the U21 National Championship at one level. The level at which they wish to compete, and the selected horse / pony on which they wish to compete, must be communicated to the International Officer by 8 August 2025.

Wildcards may be offered if spaces are available once all direct qualifications have been

allocated for each category; thereafter, the highest placed combination will be invited in each category.

Successful combinations will be notified mid-August by BD head office and published on the Youth International pages on the British Dressage website.

215. **Middle Tour Championship**

The Middle Tour Championship will incorporate Intermediate II, and Intermediate A/B Freestyle classes with sections for both Gold and Silver combinations. Horses and riders need to be eligible for their current levels and sections to qualify for this Championship. If a combination becomes ineligible for a section during the qualification period, they must upgrade.

- Three points to be gained in either the Intermediate A/B/II - in either the Silver or the Gold section (not mixed).
- Scores gained from 1 January – 31 August.
- Scores from qualifier classes, including PYOs, can be used.

For each class/section, follow the eligibility tables for Intermediate II Silver and Intermediate II Gold. Combinations who have competed in the National Championships at the same level or higher in the current year are not eligible.

Whips and commanders are not permitted for Middle Tour Championship classes.

Young Horse and Pony Championships

216. General rules for the British Dressage Young Horse Championships

Rider eligibility

Riders are eligible from the start of the year of their 12th birthday, there is no upper age limit and riders must be registered with BD as a minimum of Club member for qualifiers and must be upgraded to Full (competing) member for the semi-finals and championships.

Horse eligibility

Horses can be entered in 4, 5, 6 and 7 year old classes and must be eligible for the relevant age class. Age is taken from 1 January in the year of foaling. Horses must exceed 149cm (14.2hh).

Horses must be registered as a minimum of a Club horse for qualifying classes and must be upgraded to Full horse registration for the semi-finals and championships.

Horses who have won points at Medium level are not eligible to compete in Young Horse qualifiers for 4 and 5 year olds. Six and 7 year olds may have won grading points at Medium level or above.

General rules

No grading points will be awarded for Young Horse classes.

In 4 and 5 year old tests, all trot work may be ridden sitting or rising. The 6 year old test must be ridden in sitting trot with the exception of medium/extended trot, which may be ridden sitting or rising. The 7 year old test must be ridden in sitting trot.

Only blunt spurs without rowels may be worn for Young Horse classes.

217. British Dressage Young Horse Championship 4, 5 and 6 year old qualifying classes

Horses enter the arena in groups of two and ride a commanded route plan called by a designated official from the venue. This is not a dressage test and marks will not be deducted for riding the wrong pattern. The route plan is designed to assess the quality of the horse's paces, talent and training. Horses will not be stripped or ridden by the judges. There will be no final judging by the panel.

Marks allocated will be used to determine the final placings. Where horses receive the same mark, a joint placing will be awarded.

Classes will be judged by a BD trainer judge and List 2 or above BD Judge.

In the event of a qualifying class being oversubscribed, priority will be given to horses who have not already qualified. The top two placed horses in the class, with scores of 7.0 or above, will qualify to take part in the semi-finals. If either horse in the top two is already qualified, then the qualification will pass down to the next horse provided they have scored 7.0 or above.

218. **British Dressage Young Horse Championship 7 year old qualifying classes**

Horses will ride the BD National Test for 7 year olds. This class will be judged as a normal BD test by a judge at C, as well as additional judge(s) marking a quality sheet at E or B. Classes will be judged by a BD Trainer judge and a List 3A or above BD judge.

The top two horses of the class with scores over 63%, will qualify to take part in the semi-finals. If either horse of the top two is already qualified, then the qualification will pass down to the next horse provided they have a score of 63% or above.

219. **British Dressage Young Horse Semi-Finals**

There will be two semi-final competitions. Once a horse has qualified for the semi-finals, they may take part in both semi-finals if they wish. However, entry priority for the second semi-final will be given to horses who have not already taken part in the first semi-final.

At the semi-final, combinations will be asked to ride a dressage test. The tests used will be:

- 4 year olds - BD National Test for 4 year olds (2018)
- 5 year olds - BD National Test for 5 year olds (2018)
- 6 year olds - BD National Test for 6 year olds (2018)
- 7 year olds - BD National Test for 7 year olds (2023)

The rider may be changed between qualifying and taking part in the semi-final or Championship.

The top three horses in each age group at each semi-final, scoring 7.0 or above (65% for 7 year old) will qualify for the Young Horse Championships. Any remaining spaces will be allocated by issuing wild cards.

Where two horses in either 4, 5 and 6 year old classes receive the same marks, the horse with the highest combined score for 'way of going' and 'future potential' will be placed highest. In the event of the combined score being the same, the horse with the highest 'future potential' score will win.

Where two horses in the 7 year old class receive the same marks, the horse with the higher collectives will qualify.

220. **British Dressage Young Horse Championships**

Combinations in the 4 year old Championship will ride the BD National Test for 4 year olds. There will be no further judging.

Combinations in the 5 and 6 year old Championships will be asked to ride the BD National Test for the respective age group in the pre-judging phase. Marks awarded will be used to determine the horses which will return for final judging.

During the final judging, horses will enter the arena in a group and will ride to a commanded plan. All horses in the final judging will then be ridden by the rider judge.



Protecting what matters to you most

BD members get 10% off your
Horsebox, Freelance, Yard, and Property
insurance with partners KBIS

Call **0345 230 2323**
and quote code **BDM10**
kbis.co.uk

SRG A Specialist Risk
Group Company



Standard terms, conditions, and underwriting criteria apply. KBIS Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FRN:300861). Registered Address: 6th Floor, One America Square, 17 Crosswall, London, EC3N 2LB. Registered in England and Wales. (Company No. 02208091). KBIS Limited is part of the Specialist Risk Group.

For the Young Horse Final presentation at the National Championships, a rider with two horses in classes running back to back may have another rider warm up the second horse if formally requested before the classes start.

Combinations in the 7 year old Championship will ride the BD National Test for 7 year olds. There will be no further judging.

221. **British Dressage Young Pony Championships qualifying classes**

Please refer to the British Dressage Young Horse rules which also apply in full to Young Pony qualifying classes.

Ponies must not exceed 148cm and 149cm with shoes (14.2hh). If a pony's height is disputed, the pony's current height certificate must be available on the day of competition. There will be separate sections for 4, 5 and 6 year olds and the pony must be of the relevant age to enter. Age is taken from 1 January in the year of foaling.

Riders are eligible from the beginning of the year of their 12th birthday. There is no upper age limit. Adults may ride ponies in these classes, but should be of an appropriate height and weight for the pony. **Only blunt spurs without rowels may be worn for Young Pony classes.**

The top three ponies with scores of 7.0 or above will qualify to take part in the championship. If any pony in the top three is already qualified, then the qualification will pass down to the next pony, provided that they have scored 7.0 or above.

222. **British Dressage Young Pony Championships**

At the championship, combinations will be asked to ride a dressage test. Tests used will be the BD National Test for the respective age of the pony. There will be no further final judging, and final placings will be decided on the final mark from the championship test.

Where two ponies in either 4, 5 and 6 year old classes receive the same marks, the pony with the highest combined score for 'way of going' and 'future potential' will be placed highest. In the event of the combined score being the same, the pony with the highest 'future potential' score will win.

The tests used will be:

- 4 year olds - BD National Test for 4 year olds (2018)
- 5 year olds - BD National Test for 5 year olds (2018)
- 6 year olds - BD National Test for 6 year olds (2018)

223. **British Dressage International Young Horse Classes**

Tests used for the British Dressage International Young Horse Classes:

- FEI Preliminary Test for 5-year old horses
- FEI Preliminary Test for 6-year old horses
- FEI Preliminary Test for 7-year old horses

Combinations may compete in both International and National Young Horse classes.

Dressage Future Elite Championship (Horse of the Year Show)

224. General rules for the Dressage Future Elite Championship

This Championship will run under British Dressage rules. To qualify for the Dressage Future Elite Championship, horses need to be between 8 and 10 years of age at the time of qualification.

This championship is open to combinations who have attained the highest average percentage from three Prix St Georges or Intermediate I scores at Premier Leagues, High Profile Shows or any domestic CDIs between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025 (including the final High Profile Show at the end of August). Scores from Prix St Georges or Intermediate I freestyle classes may not be used towards qualification.

Combinations in this championship will perform an Intermediate I freestyle to music test.

Whips are not permitted at this championship.

Riders will be notified in September if they have been successful in gaining a place at the Championship.

SECTION 4

Officials

Our officials are a vital part of our sport, without them we wouldn't be able to run all of our competitions.

This section lays out roles and requirements for judges. They all sign up to a Code of Conduct for Judges when they register as a trainee or qualify, which are the 'rules' they operate under.

[Judges](#)

[Code of Conduct for Judges](#)

[Judges' Guidelines](#)

[Coaches](#)

Judges

225. Appointment and deselection

Judges of affiliated classes must be on the Official Judges' Panel and be at least a current Full (non-competing) member of BD. Judges are appointed by the organisers of competitions or by BD. Judges must be 18 years or over upon application.

Where appropriate, judges subject to investigation may be suspended until their hearing. A judge may be deselected from the Official Judges Panel by BD if they:

- a) Are in serious or repeated breach of the BD Judges' Code of Conduct.
- b) Bring BD or its name or reputation into any form of disrepute.
- c) Commit any act of dishonesty or criminal offence.

This is determined by the Judges' Advisory Panel or the Chief Executive (using their summary powers) to be in breach of any BD Rule.

Where the Judges' Advisory Panel assesses that a judge's standard of judging is insufficient in some respect, they or the Judges' Committee, have the authority to require the judge to undertake specific training or retesting. Failure to comply satisfactorily with these requirements may result in the judge being downgraded or removed from the Panel.

226. Positioning of judges

A jury usually consists of two, three or five judges. Judges may be positioned on the outside of the arena at E, H, C, M and B. The President sits at C. One fellow judge may sit at H or M (on the short side next to the judge at C) and the third judge must sit at either B or E (on the long side not covered by the judge at H or M). Where five judges are used, they must be positioned as three along the short side (either side of the judge at C), one at B and one at E. There must always be a judge at C.

The table below shows the configurations of judge positions depending on the number of judges around the arena:

| Number of judges | Position of judges |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | C |
| 2 | C and H, C and M, C and B or C and E |
| 3 | C, M and E or C, H and B |
| 5 | C, M, H, E and B |

The judge's boxes/tables should be at least one metre away from the side of the arena to ensure a full view.

227. Judging conflicts of interest

Judges are ambassadors and respected role models, guided by principles of fairness, impartiality and integrity. A conflict of interest will be deemed to exist when a judge has, or reasonably appears to have, a personal, financial or business interest, which could affect their ability to be impartial.

It is the responsibility of a judge to take great care to guard against any appearance or actuality of interest whether financial or otherwise. It is always wiser to acknowledge a possible source of conflict and stand aside rather than permit suspicions to gain strength.

The following restrictions apply to judges at all affiliated dressage competitions:

- a) The judge may not be the owner of or have a financial interest in any horse in the class.
- b) The judge may not be in a relationship with or a close relative of a rider or owner, nor shall the judge be in regular contact with the rider i.e. stabled on the rider's yard or receiving regular training with the rider.
- c) No judge may judge a horse at Advanced level or above, which has been in their ownership within two years of the date of the competition concerned.
- d) No judge may judge a horse at levels up to and including Advanced Medium, which has been in their ownership within one year of the date of the competition concerned.
- e) The judge must try to avoid judging any combination with whose training they has been regularly involved in, or been trained by themselves, unless exceptional circumstances demand it (e.g. at very short notice). In this instance, the judge must record the possible conflict of interest with the organiser which must then be displayed on the scoreboard. For Quest Semi-Finals, Area Festivals, Regionals and Championships any conflict must be avoided. A list of entries must be available to the judges from the show organisers as soon as possible after close of entries to help avoid any conflict. Regular training is defined as having trained a horse or rider six (or more) times in the preceding 12 months. This also includes test riding clinics and the judge being trained by the rider in question. Training may not take place within two weeks prior to Quest Semi-Finals, Area Festivals, Regionals or Championships.
- f) No judge may judge a freestyle if they have participated in the making of the music or floor plan in the past six months.
- g) Judges, writers, or others within earshot of the judge are not to write a commentary of the class for publication.
- h) A rider and/or horse should not be judged by anyone with whom they have a commercial or contractual sponsorship agreement (financial or product supply/endorsement). The conflict is seen when payments have been made between such parties, whether that be direct or through a third party such as BD. If a judge is unsure regarding a possible conflict they should contact the Judges Director for clarification. If a judge arrives at a show to find they have a conflict, or perceived conflict with a combination which they will be judging as under e) above, they should complete an official 'Conflict of Interest Form' (organisers have the forms and they are also available on the BD website) which must be attached to the score board. If any member has a complaint against a judge involving conflict of interest, they should submit a complaint as in the Annexes.
- i) Where a coach is acting in a judging capacity (e.g. young horse classes) they will

be bound by the 'Judges' Code of Conduct' and the rules. This includes declaration of conflict of interest.

228. Duration of judging

The judging begins when the rider enters at A and finishes when the rider moves off from the final salute.

229. Listed judge eligibility by competition level

Unless stated, one judge is required for all PYO, regular and music classes.

| List | Intro | Prelim | Novice | Elementary | Medium | Advanced Medium | Advanced | PSG | Inter I | Inter II | Grand Prix | Young Horse | Eventing | RC/PC |
|------|-------|--------|--------|------------|--------|-----------------|----------|-----|---------|----------|------------|-------------|------------------|-------|
| 1 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓* | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2a | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × | × | ✓* | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × | × | × | ✓* | ✓ | ✓ |
| 3a | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × | × | × | × | × | × | CCI3*L CIC3*S | ✓ |
| 3 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × | × | × | × | × | × | × | CCI2*L CIC2*L | ✓ |
| 4 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × | × | × | × | × | × | × | × | To Inter-mediate | ✓ |
| 5 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | × | × | × | × | × | × | × | × | × | To Novice | ✓ |
| 6 | ✓ | ✓ | × | × | × | × | × | × | × | × | × | × | BE80/ 90/100 | ✓** |

* Young Horse Qualifiers and Championships require the judge(s) as above and one trainer from the list available. ** BRC up to Novice unless used as qualifiers.

230. Judges at Premier Leagues and High Profile Shows

Please see table below for number of judges required at Premier League and High Profile Shows:

| Level | Judges required |
|------------------|--|
| Grand Prix | Three judges from List 1 |
| Inter II / A / B | Three judges from List 1 |
| Inter I | Two or three judges from List 2a and above, one must be List 1 |
| Prix St Georges | Two or three judges from List 2 and above, one must be List 1 or 2a |
| Advanced Medium | Two or three judges from List 3a and above, one must be a List 2 or 2a |

231. Number of judges required for Regional Championships

Three judges are required for all classes.

| Level | Minimum list of judge at C | Minimum list of two other judges |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Preliminary | 2 | 3a |
| Novice | 2 | 3a |
| Elementary | 2 | 3a |
| Medium | 2a | 3a |
| Advanced Medium | 2a | 2 |
| PSG | 1 | 2 |
| Intermediate I | 1 | 2a |

232. List of judges required for Area Festivals

Three judges are required for all classes as follows:

| Level | Minimum list of judge at C | Minimum list of two other judges |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Preliminary | 3 | 5 |
| Novice | 3 | 5 |
| Elementary | 3a | 4 |
| Medium | 2 | 3 |
| Advanced Medium | 2a | 3a |
| PSG | 1 | 2 |
| Intermediate I | 1 | 2a |

233. Number of judges required for Team Quest and My Quest Semi-Finals

Two judges are required for all classes.

| Level | Minimum list of judge at C | Minimum list of other judge |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Introductory | 4 | 5 |
| Preliminary | 4 | 5 |
| Novice | 4 | 5 |

Code of Conduct for Judges

Judges exercise exceptional authority, which in turn requires them to assume exceptional responsibilities. Their overall effectiveness depends not only on their technical competence and knowledge of the rules, but also on their maturity of judgment, self-control, flexibility, basic fairness and integrity. Beyond this, all judges must be scrupulously careful to guard against any appearance or actuality of conflict of interest. In all questionable cases, it is always wiser to acknowledge a possible source of conflict and stand aside rather than permit suspicions to gain strength. This code of conduct applies to British Dressage Judges at all times when attending or judging at competitions. It should be considered in conjunction with the current British Dressage Rules.

1. Judges should act with integrity and always put the sport and the horse's welfare first.
2. Judges should be:
 - (i) honest and open
 - (ii) respectful to riders at all times
 - (iii) objective, fair and unbiased
 - (iv) supportive and encouraging.
3. Judges should always conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner when acting in any official capacity.
4. When at a show or acting in any official capacity, judges should be considerate and respectful to other judges, competitors and show officials.
5. A judge should not conduct themselves in a manner detrimental to the character of and/or which may be prejudicial to the interests of British Dressage.
6. While officiating at, or attending, any British Dressage event it is inappropriate to drink alcohol or be under the influence of any medication or substance which may affect judgment or conduct.
7. Judges should not solicit organisers for future invitations.
8. Opinion and comments on any of the combinations judged should be heard only by the writer and/or any person invited to sit-in and shared only with the competitor in question. Care should be taken not to discuss particular tests with anyone else.
9. Judges should not disclose or discuss any details of any combinations judged on social media sites such as forums, Facebook, X or other websites.
10. Be discreet and loyal to fellow judges at all times.
11. Judges must observe the Judging Conflict of Interest rule as detailed in rule 227.
12. Conflicts of interest are not permitted at Regional/Winter/Summer Championships unless an exemption is granted in exceptional circumstances.
13. Judges must stay up to date with their education, by attending annual continuous professional development.
14. Judges receiving a complaint and/or disciplinary action against them as a result of officiating at other member body events, have a duty to disclose this to BD.
15. Judges should be aware of the BD Safeguarding Policy and should not engage with individuals under the age of 18 years without an appropriate adult present or appropriate consent sought.

British Dressage Judges' Guidelines

In order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that came into force in May 2018, and as part of our duty of care to officials, British Dressage has removed all personal judge data from the Members' Handbook. The 'Find a Judge' option on the website provides contact details for judges who have provided this as their chosen method of contact for the use of organisers. Those venues who wish to use judges that are not directly affiliated to BD (including British Eventing, British Riding Clubs and Pony Club) will need to contact the appropriate officer within their respective organisation to access an up to date list of officials.

Procedural guidelines for judges:

1. Reply promptly to judging invitations.
2. Ensure that you know the appropriate test and rules.
3. Dress smartly and in accordance with the status of the event. Do not wear advertising clothing (i.e. jackets, sweatshirts with company logos or branding).
4. Arrive in plenty of time.
5. Inspect the arena, checking the going and the positioning of the letters.
6. Be courteous to your writer. Explain how you will give your marks and comments. Warn your writer of any tricky parts of the test.
7. Do not allow competitors or their connections involved in the class to sit in.
8. Keep to time.
9. Check the scoreboard and the results before leaving the show. If you are unsure of the accuracy of the scorers, have the result checked.
10. When judging in a panel, the judge at C must sign the scoresheet off at the end of the class to ensure accuracy.
11. If judging as a member of a panel, be prepared to discuss the judging afterwards – in private.
12. If you are not able to fulfil a judging commitment it is up to you to discuss with the organiser to jointly find a suitable replacement i.e. a judge of the correct List for the class to be judged and one who lives a similar distance to venue. If a judge accepts an invitation which includes a flight or pre booked tickets, the judge must reimburse the organiser if they are no longer able to fulfil the commitment.
13. Every eventuality cannot be provided for. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the Ground Jury to make a decision in a sporting spirit.

Payment of Judges

The minimum payment a judge will be paid for judging is:

- List 5 – 6 - £1.25 per horse per judge
- List 4 – 1 - £1.50 per horse per judge (up to and including advanced tests)
- Prix St Georges to Grand Prix - £2 per horse per judge (including FEI Young Rider tests)
- Young Horse and Pony Qualifiers, Semi-Finals and Championships - £2 per horse per judge/trainer judge
- Premier League - £2 per horse per judge
- High Profile - £2 per horse per judge
- All Para Championships (including Gold Semi Final) - £2 per horse per judge
- Winter, National and Area Festival Championships - £2 per horse per judge

Total payment is calculated by the number of horses that are on the published start list for the class. In order to receive a payment a judge must submit a minimum of a simple invoice to the organiser. An organiser has the right to refuse payment should the judge not submit an invoice.

A judge may continue to judge on a voluntary basis and should declare this when responding to an invitation. The current mileage rate is 0.45p per mile. This is paid in addition to the above payment. Any other fees or other charges are by prior agreement with the organiser. The judge is responsible for any tax implications.

British Dressage Coaches

Accredited and Recognised Coaches

BD is passionately committed to providing opportunities for coaches to develop, increase their skills and excel wherever or whoever they are coaching. By encouraging the development of skilled, knowledgeable and up to date coaches we can give riders the best support to enjoy their dressage and reach their own personal goals. Choosing a coach is individual to each rider, but we hope the information below will help you find a coach that is right for you.

Our current Accredited and Recognised Coaches are all up to date with First Aid, Safeguarding and Insurance and have agreed to the Code of Conduct. Furthermore, they get annual rule updates and guidance and have access to further their own development through CPD.

Accredited Coaches

BD Accredited Coaches hold a Level 3 Dressage qualification and were assessed by BD assessors (BDCC or UKCC Level 3 Dressage Specific) or they hold a UKCC Level 4 British Dressage endorsed qualification. They show good knowledge of modern coaching skills and sound technical skills up to and including Advanced Medium level. Accredited Coach status may also be granted to a very experienced coach who is a member of the International Dressage Trainers Club (IDTC) and has trained at least one combination to International Small Tour level.

These coaches can also be found on the Find A Coach system, and have the potential to be Flexi Coaches, Youth Coaches/Assessors or Para Coaches. Accredited Coaches are available to be used in regional training and regional camp activity, including Youth camps if they are a Youth Coach. They are also able to support competitors at competitions for the purpose of improving performance up to Advanced Medium Level.

Recognised Coaches

BD Recognised Coaches have a Level 2 dressage qualification (either BDCC or UKCC Level 2 Dressage Specific), or a UKCC qualification from another relevant equestrian discipline (i.e. Eventing). They show good basic knowledge of modern coaching skills and show sound technical skills up to and including Elementary level. These coaches have the potential to become Flexi Coaches, Youth Coaches/Assessors or Para Coaches. Recognised Coaches are also able to be used in regional training and support grassroots competitors up to Elementary level.

For a current list of British Dressage Accredited and Recognised Coaches, use find a coach: https://britishdressage.online/search_coaches

ROTHERA | BRAY

Equine Legal Services for British Dressage members



Caroline Bowler is our equine legal specialist, with over 15 years experience in this field of work. She is instructed by both individuals and businesses on a range of equine legal issues.



Caroline and the team can help you with a range of equine legal services, including:

-  Equine loan agreements
-  Sale and purchase agreements
-  Horse ownership
-  Riding and horse accident claims
-  Veterinary, farrier or trainer negligence
-  Public liability
-  Transport of horses/ operator's licences
-  Equine disputes

British Dressage members receive 30 minutes of free legal advice using our British Dressage member helpline:
0345 646 2122

T: 0345 646 2122
E: britishdressage@rotherabray.co.uk
rotherabray.co.uk/equine-law



SECTION 5

Annexes

Introduction

In these Annexes you will find information on our disciplinary and complaints procedures, our feedback and whistleblowing policies, as well as further details on member benefits, such as our Legal Helpline and Members' Insurance.

Please familiarise yourself with the related items at the front of the BD Members' Handbook and on the British Dressage website, most importantly the Members' Code of Conduct, British Dressage Charter for the Horse, Code of Conduct for Horse Welfare, Social Media Policy, Safeguarding Policy, and Equine/Human Anti-Doping Policy.

In this section:

Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures

Rules Adjudication Procedures

Member Feedback Procedures

Whistleblowing Policy

British Dressage Legal Assist Line

British Dressage Members Insurance

Member Code of Conduct

Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures

Purpose of this code

1. The purpose of this code is to set out and explain the procedures for dealing with complaints relating to members of British Dressage. Reference should be made to the most up to date version of the code which can be found on the BD Website.

Interpretation and Definitions

2. **Definitions.** In this Code and in the Members' Code of Conduct the following terms of the Code will have the following meanings:
 - a. "BD" means British Dressage.
 - b. "Board" means the Board of Directors of BD.
 - c. "Chief Executive" shall mean the Chief Executive of BD.
 - d. "Judge" shall mean an accredited member of the List of BD Judges.
 - e. "Judges' List" shall mean the list of accredited judges of BD.
 - f. "List 1" shall mean the qualification status of the judge.
 - g. "Panel" references to the Panel shall mean the Disciplinary Panel.
 - h. "Respondent" shall mean the Member against whom a complaint has been made.
 - i. "Rules" shall include the provisions of the Memorandum or Articles of BD, the rules, codes of conduct and annexes set out in the Members Handbook as amended from time to time, the FEI Rules relating to international competition and any rule, regulation or byelaw made by the Board.
 - j. "Member" shall mean anyone who participates in BD activities, including but not limited to members of BD in all membership categories, riders, coaches, judges, stewards, writers, scorers, show organisers, office staff, committee representatives and any other volunteers acting on behalf of British Dressage.
3. **Interpretation.** In this Code and in the Members' Code of Conduct:
 - a. words denoting any one gender include a reference to any other gender.
 - b. words denoting the singular include the plural and vice versa, the terms "they", "their" and "themselves" may, where the context requires refer to the singular rather than the plural.
 - c. the word 'days' will mean calendar days unless otherwise stated.
 - d. reference to a "sanction" includes risk management measures and any other outcome.
 - e. words following the terms 'including', 'include', 'in particular', 'for example' or similar expression should be construed as illustrative and not exhaustive and will not limit the sense of the words, or phrase or preceding those terms; and
 - f. Reference to any powers given to the 'Chief Executive' shall include any individual properly authorised by the Chief Executive to act in his place.

Appointment of the Disciplinary Panel and Judges' Advisory Panel

4. Disciplinary Panel

- 4.1 The Board will appoint the members of the Disciplinary Panel to consider complaints of misconduct and breaches of the Rules by Members.
- 4.2 Appointments will be for a four-year period and may be renewed at the discretion of the Board for a maximum of two terms. Members must act in an independent and impartial manner and will have one or more of the following skills or experience. The Panel shall consist of at least two people in each category.
- a. Disciplinary experience:
 - Legal or other professional or judicial experience of no less than five years post qualification.
 - At least 10 years' experience in the sport of dressage either as a rider, judge, steward or coach.
 - At least 10 years' experience in another equestrian or equestrian related discipline.
 - b. Welfare experience:
 - At least 10 years' experience in animal welfare or science.
 - A veterinary surgeon of at least 10 years' experience.
 - c. Safeguarding experience
 - At least 10 years' experience as a professional in either medicine, psychology, mental health or counselling.
 - At least 10 years' experience in the field of safeguarding.

- 4.3 The Board may appoint ad hoc members of the Panel from time to time as required.

5. Judges' Advisory Panel

- 5.1 The Board will appoint the members of the Judges Advisory Panel to consider any technical matters arising relating to judging or the scoring by a judge at a show. The Chief Executive will determine whether matters relating to the conduct of a judge whilst judging or at a show should be referred to the Judges Advisory Panel or Disciplinary Panel.
- 5.2 Appointments will be for a four-year period and may be renewed at the discretion of the Board for a maximum of two terms. Members of the Panel must act in an independent and impartial manner.
- 5.3 Panel members will have one or more of the following skills or experience:
- a. A British Dressage List 1 judge.
 - b. At least 10 years' experience in the sport of dressage either as a rider, judge or coach.
 - c. Be a current member of the education workforce.

Reporting of Complaints against Members and/or Judges

Complaints relating to conduct and/or a breach of the Rules by a Member or Judge

6. Any person wishing to make a complaint of misconduct or relating to a breach of these Rules by a Member must do so in writing as soon as practically possible after the incident to the Chief Executive by either:

Email: CEO@britishdressage.co.uk, or
Post: Chief Executive, British Dressage, Meriden Business Park, Copse Drive, Meriden, West Midlands, CV5 9RG.
7. As much information as possible about the incident concerned should be provided including where possible details of any independent witnesses and any video/DVD and or copies of any test sheets or other documents. BD will treat all information and complainants with respect and care.
8. If, after preliminary investigation, the Chief Executive considers that a prima facie case of misconduct exists which cannot be dealt with summarily, they may in their absolute discretion refer the complaint to either the Disciplinary Panel, the Judges Advisory Panel, or alternatively to Sports Resolutions UK.

Complaints relating to judging

9. Complaints relating to judging or the scoring by a Judge whilst officiating at a competition shall be dealt with under the procedure relating to the Judges Advisory Panel set out below.
10. Where the matter relates to the conduct of a Judge or Steward officiating at a show, the Chief Executive or the Board may, at their sole discretion, refer any matter which comes to their attention, even if no written complaint is made, to the Disciplinary Panel.
11. The complaint should include, where possible, the time, place, names and any other information available and the names of any witnesses. Should the incident have taken place at a show the complainant should, if appropriate, first approach the Steward, Organiser or senior Judges.
12. If a complaint is made more than 14 days after an incident, the Chief Executive may in their absolute discretion refuse to investigate the complaint.

Complaints relating to equine welfare

13. If the complaint concerns a horse or horse welfare, every effort should be made to ascertain the condition of the horse and whether it has been marked by any tack and equipment, including misuse of the bit, spur or whip.
14. The complaint should include, where possible, the time, place, names and any other information available and the names of any witnesses. Should the incident have taken place at a show the complainant should, if appropriate, first approach the Steward, Organiser or senior Judges.

15. All relevant information should be entered on the Equine Welfare Incident Report Form and submitted to the Chief Executive, together with supporting video or photographic evidence, and any witness statements.
16. The Chief Executive will escalate any complaints relating to horse welfare to the Equine Welfare Panel. The Chief Executive and Equine Welfare Panel can also refer serious breaches to the Disciplinary Panel for their deliberation.

Investigation of Complaints

17. The Chief Executive will review the complaint and supporting evidence to consider whether or not it requires further investigation. Complaints not supported by evidence are unlikely to be considered or investigated.
18. If the Chief Executive considers that the complaint should be investigated, the Respondent who is the subject of the complaint will be asked to provide a response to the complaint. Such response should be received by the Chief Executive within 21 days of the request for a response being made. In the absence of a response, the Chief Executive will be entitled to consider the complaint in any event. The Chief Executive may also make any further enquiries they consider to be appropriate.
19. Having made further enquiries, the Chief Executive may either deal with the complaint summarily under the Summary procedure set out below, or may decide that the complaint should be referred to either the Disciplinary Panel, the Judges Advisory Panel or to UK Sports Resolutions, in which case the complaint will be referred as soon as reasonably practical and the Respondent against whom a complaint has been made shall be notified of the referral together with details of the nature of the complaint.

Disciplinary Panel

20. The Chief Executive will appoint up to four members of the Disciplinary Panel to deal with a disciplinary matter. The minimum number of panel members for any matter referred to the Disciplinary Panel should be two.
21. The Disciplinary Panel should include:
 - a. A member of the Welfare Panel for any matter relating to Equine Welfare.
 - b. A member with Safeguarding experience for any matter relating to Safeguarding.
 - c. A member of the Judges Advisory Panel for any matter relating to Judge conduct.

Judges Review Panel

22. The Chief Executive will appoint up to four members of the Judges Advisory Panel for the purposes of a complaint relating to a Judge and judging. The minimum number of panel members for any matter referred to the Judges Advisory Panel should be two.
23. Any breach of the Rules by a Judge involving the Judge's conduct, other than when judging, will ordinarily be referred to the Disciplinary Panel. Only technical matters relating to a Judge's performance will be considered by the Judges Advisory Panel.

Disciplinary Stewards and Judges

24. Disciplinary Stewards or Judges may be appointed by the Chief Executive on behalf of the Board. Their duties are to attend shows in order to observe and regulate the conduct of members. A Disciplinary Steward or Judge may, during the course of a competition or at an affiliated show, caution any member whose conduct they consider is in breach of the Rules and will explain to such member the nature of the breach.
25. There is no appeal against such decisions of a Disciplinary Steward or Judge in this instance. A caution will be recorded on the Members disciplinary record.
26. Notwithstanding the issue of a caution the Member may still be subject to the full Disciplinary Process and further penalty or sanction for the same incident.

Disciplinary Panel Procedure

27. Provided that each party is afforded the opportunity to state their case in full and to respond to or challenge any evidence presented the Panel has the power to regulate its own procedure including to:
 - a. Extend or vary any time limit.
 - b. Make appropriate directions relating to the conduct of proceedings.
 - c. Expedite, adjourn or postpone proceedings.
 - d. Consolidate other matters where allegations arise from the same incident or facts, or where there is a clear link between separate incidents.
 - e. Obtain specialist advice as deemed necessary (including legal advice). The costs of so doing to be regarded as costs of the proceedings.
 - f. Direct that the case be determined on the papers, i.e., without an in-person hearing in whole or part in- person or by video or audio conference.
 - g. Order a Member to appear at any hearing, including as a witness.
 - h. Proceed in the absence of a party at a hearing provided the Panel is satisfied that the party has received notice of the hearing or to adjourn the proceedings to a date when the party is able to attend.
 - i. Exclude any person from any hearing.
 - j. Amend the complaint, if necessary and appropriate.
28. The Panel chair may determine pre-hearing procedural or evidential issues or disputes without recourse to other members of the Panel.
29. Disciplinary hearings will be held in private, and Members shall not record or permit any recording by audio and/or visual means of any hearing.
30. BD will as soon as reasonably practical after notifying the Respondent of the details of the complaint, provide the Respondent with a Statement of Case setting out:
 - a. The nature of the complaint.
 - b. Details of any witnesses it intends to rely upon together with any witness statements or full details of the evidence of witnesses to be relied upon.
 - c. Copies of any documents or details of any other evidence it is intended to rely upon.

31. The Respondent will, within 21 days of receiving the Statement of Case, submit to BD a Response setting out as fully as possible the Respondent's case together with:
 - a. Acceptance or denial of all or part of the BD Statement of Case.
 - b. Details of any facts, evidence or other matter relied upon.
 - c. Details of any witnesses it is intended to rely upon together with any witness statements or full details of the evidence of witnesses to be relied upon.
 - d. Copies of any documents or details of any other evidence it is intended to rely upon.
 - e. Provide any dates of unavailability of the respondent or any witnesses in the period of two months from the date of the response.
32. BD may, if it so wishes, serve a reply to any matters raised in the response and shall do so within 14 days of receipt of the response.
33. Neither party shall be entitled to submit further written arguments or further evidence after the above time limits unless permitted to do so by the Disciplinary Panel or the Judges Advisory Panel.
34. If the either party fails to comply with the above time limits and/or fails to provide dates of unavailability of witnesses and/or fails to deliver a response, the Panel may proceed with the complaint in any event.
35. At the conclusion of the above procedure the Chair of the Panel shall, as soon as reasonably practical, fix a date for the hearing of the complaint and notify the parties of the time, date and location of the hearing. The parties will, where possible, be given at least 28 days' notice of such hearing and will at least 28 days prior to any hearing notify the other party of all witnesses it intends to call and the details of any legal, other representation, or other person attending the hearing.
36. BD and the Respondent may agree that the matter be dealt with in writing and without an oral hearing. In such event, the Disciplinary Panel will consider the Statement of Case and Response and any evidence or documents provided by either party and will notify the parties of its decision as soon as reasonably practical.
37. Hearings before the Disciplinary Panel shall be in private.

Hearing procedure

38. Each party is entitled to make submissions, provide evidence, call witnesses and question the other party's witnesses except that, if a witness is a Vulnerable Witness such questioning must be done by a legally qualified representative or through the Chair of the Panel. A respondent to a complaint will not be permitted, under any circumstances, directly to question any Vulnerable Witness. It is the responsibility of the party calling a witness to obtain that person's agreement to be a witness, to attend any hearing and to provide evidence and the attend the hearing.
39. Notwithstanding the Disciplinary Panel's powers above, ordinarily hearings will proceed as follows:
 - a. The chair of the Disciplinary Panel will introduce the attendees and outline the procedure to be followed and address any preliminary issues.

- b. If the complaint is not accepted:
 - i. BD or its representative will introduce the case and provide an outline of the issues and may call witnesses who may be questioned.
 - ii. The Respondent or their representative may make submissions as to why the charge should be dismissed and may call witnesses who may be questioned.
 - iii. BD or its representative may make closing submissions.
 - iv. The Respondent or their representative may make closing submissions; and
 - v. The Chair of the Panel will adjourn the hearing, and the Panel will deliberate in private.
- c. The hearing will then be resumed, and the Chair of the Panel will inform the parties as to whether or not the complaint has been upheld or inform the parties that a decision will be delivered at a later date either in writing or at a hearing.
- d. If the complaint is upheld or the complaint has been admitted:
 - i. BD or its representative will make submissions as to what the appropriate penalty should be and may call witnesses who may be questioned.
 - ii. The Respondent or their representative may make submissions as to what the appropriate sanction should be and may call witnesses who may be questioned.
 - iii. The Panel will retire to deliberate in and then either deliver its decision orally with a written reasoned version of the decision to follow or to adjourn the hearing and deliver its decision in writing at a later date.

40 As set out above the Disciplinary Panel may conduct the disciplinary proceedings in such manner as it considers appropriate and in accordance with these Rules and will act fairly and impartially. In addition, the Panel may, if it considers it appropriate:

- a. Allow either party to adduce expert evidence and to appoint a joint expert and shall give direction as to how such evidence may be dealt with.
- b. Decide upon any procedural or other matters in connection with the complaint or disciplinary process.
- c. Order either party to provide documents or further information.
- d. Draw an adverse inference against a party who declines to comply with a reasonable request to supply information or documents or the release or information or documents by a third party.
- e. Make directions as to the conduct of the process or procedure and to determine the consequences of any failure to comply with any such directions including the award of any consequential costs.
- f. If it considers it necessary or appropriate to appoint an expert or experts (including legal advice) to provide advice to the panel. Such experts will not sit as members of the panel and the costs of so doing shall be as part of the costs referred to in paragraph 12 below.
- g. Order a Member to appear as a witness.
- h. Proceed in the absence of the Respondent.

Judges' Advisory Panel Procedure

41. A Member may raise a complaint or objection concerning a Judge or to where they consider there has been a judging error or misapplication of the Rules at a competition under this Procedure.

Such complaint or objection shall be made within 48 hours of the end of the competition and shall be delivered to the Chief Executive in writing by email or post:

Email: CEO@britishdressage.co.uk, or
Post: Chief Executive, British Dressage, Meriden Business Park, Copse Drive, Meriden,
West Midlands, CV5 9RG.

42. As much information as possible should be provided including any documents, witness statements, video evidence, and test sheets.
43. The Chief Executive will consider the complaint and make such investigations he considers to be appropriate, including discussing the matter with the Chair of the Judges Advisory Panel or an independent List 1 judge.
44. If the Chief Executive considers that the matter should be referred to the Judges Advisory Panel he will notify the Judge or Judges in question and invite the Judge or Judges to provide any information, evidence of documents they consider to be appropriate or relevant.
45. The Chief Executive is entitled to refuse to investigate or deal with complaints relating to Judges or judging not received within the time limit set out above.

Summary Powers of the Chief Executive

46. If, having considered all the evidence and information supplied, the Chief Executive considers that the complaint against the Judge could be dealt with summarily, the Chief Executive may:
 - a. Take no further action where the error is of a trivial nature and has caused no material error in the competition result.
 - b. Request that the Judge in question undertakes further training or re-training including (but without restriction) a mentoring programme, a development review with a Judge or coach, or such further professional development.
 - c. If the error is purely administrative, amend the score. In the event that the complaint involves more than an administrative error the complaint should be referred to the Judges Advisory Panel. An administrative error shall be an error not involving an assessment of performance of a competitor.
 - d. In the event that the Judge in question disagrees with the decision of the Chief Executive they shall be entitled to request that the matter be referred to the Judges Advisory Panel.
 - i. The Chief Executive shall then appoint at least two and a maximum of four members of the Judges Advisory Panel to consider matter and will provide a copy of all the evidence available.
 - ii. The Judges Advisory Panel will then review the matter within 14 days of the referral, or as soon as is reasonably practical. The matter will be considered based upon the documents provided and any further information the panel considers to be appropriate but without a hearing attended by the parties.
 - iii. The Judges Advisory Panel decision will be notified to the complaint and the Judge immediately following the decision. There shall be no right of appeal against the decision.

General

47. Complaints relating to Judges may be dealt with either by the Judges Advisory Panel or the Disciplinary Panel, at the discretion of the Chief Executive.
48. Complaints relating to BD Judges in unaffiliated competitions may be accepted at the discretion of the Chief Executive or Chair of the Judges Advisory Panel.
49. Objections will be dealt with under Rule 134.
50. Objections will not be accepted in relation to unaffiliated competitions.
51. In the event that a Judge is given two or more warnings and/or cautions in any 24-month period the matter may be referred to the Judges Advisory Panel and/or Disciplinary Panel to consider whether or not further action should be taken.
52. Decisions of the Judges Advisory Panel relating to complaints about Judges are final and binding and shall not be the subject of any appeal.

Powers of the Disciplinary Panel to impose penalties

53. If, after considering all the evidence, the Disciplinary Panel decides that the complaint is sustained they are empowered to impose any one or more of the following penalties:
 - a. That such Member reprimanded and cautioned as to their future conduct.
 - b. That such Member be suspended from all or any of the rights and privileges of membership for a defined period, based on the sanction guidelines below.
 - c. That any horse or pony belonging to and/or ridden by such Member at the time of the misconduct be debarred from competing in any competition at shows affiliated to BD, to a foreign federation, or to the FEI for a period not exceeding 12 months and/or be disqualified from the result of any competition or competitions directly associated with the misconduct.
 - d. That any suspension be suspended for a period of up to two years. If during the period of the suspended suspension a Member is found to be in breach of the Rules the Member will be suspended for the period of the original suspension for such other shorter period as the Chief Executive or Disciplinary Panel deem to be appropriate.
 - e. That such Member pay a fine of such sum as the Disciplinary Panel shall in its absolute discretion direct, giving due regard to the gravity of the misconduct, the facts and circumstances of the matter and the members ability to pay.
 - f. That the Respondent undertakes such additional training or training courses as the Panel shall consider to be appropriate. Such training shall be undertaken at the cost for the Respondent.
54. For the avoidance of doubt the panel may impose the penalties set out above in addition to any sanction of sentence imposed by any criminal or other courts.

Penalty Guidelines

55. The Panel shall have regard to penalties imposed by the Panel in previous cases, the disciplinary history and financial circumstances of the Respondent, and consider the following guidelines when deciding the level of the penalty to be imposed.
56. Breaches of the Rules will be considered within the ranges set out in the table below based upon the level of severity or gravity of the breach, and other surrounding circumstances, including whether or not the breach of the Rule:
 - a. Resulted in an unfair advantage to the Respondent.
 - b. Resulted in a disadvantage to another Member or any other person involved.
 - c. Affected the dignity or integrity of any person involved in equestrian activities.
 - d. Involved the mistreatment or abuse of a horse.
 - e. Affected the reputation of the sport of dressage of BD.
 - f. Involved a deliberate breach of the Rules.
 - g. Involved any criminal, fraudulent or violent conduct.
57. The table opposite sets out a guide for the maximum level of suspension and/or fine to be applied by the Disciplinary Panel. These sanctions are in addition to any other powers of the Panel, including issuing cautions and formal warnings, to require further training, to award costs, or any other measure relating to the horse.
58. Where a breach is not specifically listed the panel should use the framework as a guide to determine the appropriate penalty.

Costs

59. Costs may be awarded by the Disciplinary Panel.
60. The Disciplinary Panel may order that all or part of the legal or other costs incurred by a party should be paid by the other party in such amount as the Disciplinary Panel consider to be reasonable and/or appropriate in the circumstances, bearing in mind the seriousness of the conduct complained of and the conduct of the parties during the course of the disciplinary process.
61. Any award of costs shall be summarily assessed by the Disciplinary Panel at the time of the hearing and any party seeking costs should provide a statement of the costs being sought to the panel and all other parties prior to the commencement of the hearing or written determination.
62. In exercising the discretion to make a Costs Order the Disciplinary panel should have regard to BD's regulatory function and its obligations to bring/defend proceedings for the good of the sport and BD Members. A Costs Order will not ordinarily be made against BD solely because a complaint was not upheld and will ordinarily only make a Costs Order against BD if it determines that the case was brought frivolously or improperly or in bad faith.

Penalty Guidelines

| Rule | Low-end | Mid-range | Top-end | Maximum |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| Abuse of the horse | Up to 6-month suspension A fine of up to £500 | Up to 3-year suspension A fine of up to £2,500 | Up to 10-year suspension A fine of up to £10,000 | Up to Lifetime suspension A fine of up to £15,000 |
| Safeguarding | Up to 6-month suspension A fine of up to £500 | Up to 3-year suspension A fine of up to £2,500 | Up to 10-year suspension A fine of up to £10,000 | Up to Lifetime suspension A fine of up to £15,000 |
| Failure to co-operate with an investigation | Up to 3-month suspension A fine of up to £250 | Up to 6-month suspension A fine of up to £1,000 | Up to 9-month suspension A fine of up to £2,500 | Up to 1-year suspension A fine of up to £5,000 |
| Bringing the sport or BD into disrepute | Up to 3-month suspension A fine of up to £500 | Up to 6-month suspension A fine of up to £2,500 | Up to 1 year suspension A fine of up to £5,000 | Up to 2-year suspension A fine of up to £10,000 |
| Criminal, fraudulent or violent acts | Up to 3-month suspension A fine of up to £500 | Up to 2-year suspension A fine of up to £2,500 | Up to 5-year suspension A fine of up to £5,000 | Up to Lifetime suspension A fine of up to £10,000 |
| Obtaining a competitive advantage | Up to 3-month suspension A fine of up to £500 | Up to 2-year suspension A fine of up to £2,500 | Up to 5-year suspension A fine of up to £5,000 | Up to 10-year suspension A fine of up to £10,000 |
| Witness Intimidation or Retaliation | Up to 3-month suspension A fine of up to £250 | Up to 6-month suspension A fine of up to £1,000 | Up to 1-year suspension A fine of up to £2,500 | Up to 2-year suspension A fine of up to £5,000 |
| Other breaches, including improper behaviour | Up to 3-month suspension A fine of up to £500 | Up to 1-year suspension A fine of up to £2,500 | Up to 3-year suspension A fine of up to £5,000 | Up to 5-year suspension A fine of up to £10,000 |

63. In the event that the complaint is upheld, the Respondent shall in addition to any costs awarded under paragraph 11 be required to pay:
- a. Expenses incurred by the members of the Disciplinary Panel.
 - b. The expenses relating to any hearing, including room hire.
 - c. Administrative expenses of BD limited to £500. The amount of such expenses to be in the sole discretion of the Disciplinary Panel.

Powers of the Judges' Advisory Panel

64. If after considering all the evidence, the Judges Advisory Panel decides that the complaint is sustained they are empowered make any or all of the following orders:
- a. To take no further action where appropriate.
 - b. To give such advice to the judge as the panel considers to be appropriate.
 - c. To amend the score where there is clear evidence that any act or omission by the Judge who is the subject of the complaint has resulted in an incorrect score being awarded.
 - d. To require the Judge to attend further training or re-training including (but without restriction) a mentoring programme, a development review with a Judge or coach or such further professional development as the panel consider to be appropriate, and to suspend the Judge from the Judges' List until such training or re-training has taken place.
 - e. For the avoidance of doubt the Judges Advisory Panel shall not be able to impose the sanctions, penalties or costs within the power of the Disciplinary Panel set out above.

Provisions relating to complaints before the Disciplinary Panel and Judges' Advisory Panel

Communication

65. All correspondence addressed by a party to either Panel shall at the same time be copied to all other parties.

Burden of proof

66. The burden will be on BD to prove the complaint/breach of the Rules. The standard of proof shall be on the balance of probabilities.
67. In making any decision or determination on any matter, the Panel will require to be satisfied on the balance of probabilities.
68. The powers of the Disciplinary Panel and the Judges Advisory Panel shall be in addition to any cautions or warnings issued to a Member elsewhere in the Rules for the same incident.

Vulnerable witnesses

69. Vulnerable witness means any child or adult who are deemed by the Panel to be at risk or unable to protect themselves from harm. In such case the Panel shall determine whether or not the Vulnerable Witness should give evidence and if so, how, in order to achieve a fair hearing.
70. The Panel should consider all the circumstances including the following in determining whether or not a Vulnerable Witness should give evidence:
- i. The wishes and feelings of the Vulnerable Witness or their carer.
 - ii. The need for and importance of the evidence.
 - iii. The Vulnerable Witness's characteristics including their capacity, understanding and support they have available.
 - iv. The right to challenge any evidence.
 - v. Any other matter the Panel considers to be relevant.
71. In the event that the Panel consider that a Vulnerable Witness should give evidence the Panel should take any or all of the following steps to protect the Vulnerable Witness from harm:
- a. A respondent to any complaint must not be permitted to directly question any Vulnerable Witness. Any questioning should take place only by a legally qualified representative or through the Chair of the Panel.
 - b. Consider the form or manner of providing evidence, including:
 - i. Whether or not the evidence shall be given in person.
 - ii. Giving evidence through a video link or other such measures.
 - iii. Submission of any questions in writing and/or in advance.
 - iv. Restricting the questioning to only the questions which the Panel consider to be proper and essential and/or necessary.

- v. Provision for appropriate breaks.
- vi. The support of a carer or intermediary.
- vii. Any other steps the Panel consider to be appropriate.

Notices

- 72. Any notices required to be given under these rules should be in writing and may be delivered by ordinary post, by hand or by email. In the event that a Respondent is under the age of 18 the notice shall also be sent to the Respondents' parent or guardian.

Confidentiality

- 73. The disciplinary process and hearing shall be confidential, and all evidence, documents, statements or other materials used for the complaint or proceedings shall remain confidential unless such material is required to be disclosed by law or already in the public domain.

Waiver

- 74. Each Respondent waives any and all claims that the Respondent might or could have, directly or indirectly, against either the Chair of the Disciplinary Panel or the Judges Advisory Panel, any individual members of either Panel, or any BD staff members involved at any stage of the proceedings or in hearing cases involving such respondent, whether for negligence and/or breach of contract or otherwise.

Rights of members appearing before the Disciplinary Panel

- 75. A Member is entitled to legal representation or to be represented by a third party before the Disciplinary Panel. BD will not be obliged to pay for legal or other representation for the Respondent. A Member under the age of 18 attending a hearing must always be accompanied by an appropriate adult. A Member is also entitled to have one supporter present at a hearing who shall not be entitled to participate in the hearing.
- 76. If no Appeal is commenced, then the decision of the Panel will be final and binding.

Notice of findings, penalties and appeals

- 77. The Chief Executive will, within 14 days of the Disciplinary Panel or Judges Advisory Panel's decision, notify the Member or Judge in writing, of the findings of the Panel and of any penalties imposed.
- 78. Any member whose conduct has been referred to the Disciplinary Panel and who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Disciplinary Panel decision may, within 14 days, appeal to the BEF Appeal Panel, subject to the BEF's terms of reference which can be obtained from BD or the BEF website.
- 79. The Notice of Appeal must be in writing and clearly state the decision that the appellant wishes to appeal and the grounds for the appeal. The Notice of Appeal must be signed by the Respondent/Appellant.

80. The Notice of Appeal must be accompanied by payment of the fee of £300 made payable to 'British Equestrian'. This sum is to cover the costs and expenses of appointing the Appeal Panel and will be retained by the BEF in the event that the Appellant is unsuccessful but will be refunded in the event that the appellant is successful.
81. Pending the outcome of the appeal the Appeal Panel, once appointed, has the discretion to order that the decision of the respondent stands and that the Appellant is bound by that decision until such time as the Appeal Panel issues their finding to the contrary.
82. Any Member who has been penalised by the Disciplinary Panel and who has appealed such decision to the BEF's Appeal Panel and is dissatisfied with such Panel's decision, may appeal to Sports Resolution UK whose terms of reference may be obtained from BD or the BEF.
83. There is no right of appeal from a decision of the Judges Advisory Panel.

Other considerations

Summary powers of the Chief Executive

84. Where the Chief Executive receives a complaint against a Member that they consider in their sole discretion should be dealt with summarily, the Chief Executive is empowered to impose one or more of the penalties detailed below, subject to the provisions of this Rule. This rule shall apply to any breaches or alleged breaches of the Rules.
85. The Chief Executive shall give notification in writing to a Member against whom a complaint has been made that the matter may be dealt with under this rule and will give the Member the opportunity to either:
 - a. Within 14 days request that the complaint should be referred to the Disciplinary Panel or the Judges Advisory Panel, in which event the Chief Executive must refer the matter either to either the Disciplinary Panel or the Judges Review Panel in his absolute discretion, or
 - b. Agree that the complaint should be dealt with under this rule, in which event the Member should respond to the complaint in writing to the Chief Executive within 14 days. The response should set out in detail any matters which the Member wishes to be considered and supply a copy of any relevant documents or supporting evidence.
86. In the event that no response is received the Chief Executive may proceed to consider the complaint under this rule. If the complaint is to be dealt with under this rule the Chief Executive will consider the complaint and the response and will notify the Member concerned of the decision with 14 days, or as soon as reasonably practical.
87. If the Member disagrees with the decision of the Chief Executive either as to the complaint or the penalty imposed they must within 14 days of the decision request the Chief Executive to refer the complaint either to the Disciplinary Panel or the Judges Advisory Panel.
88. The Disciplinary Panel or the Judges Advisory Panel may impose any one or more of the penalties within its set out in these rules and may impose either a greater or lesser penalty or sanction than that applied by the Chief Executive.
89. For the avoidance of doubt, a Member is not entitled to request that the matter be referred to Sports Resolutions UK.
90. The Chief Executive is empowered to impose any one or more of the following penalties:
 - a. That such Member be warned that the conduct complained of was in breach of the Rules and the Chief Executive may give advice as to appropriate further conduct by the Member.
 - b. That such Member be reprimanded and cautioned as to their future conduct.
 - c. That such Member be suspended from all or any of the rights and privileges of membership for a period not exceeding three months by the Chief Executive.
 - d. That any horse or pony belonging to and/or being ridden by such member at the time of the misconduct be debarred from competing in any competition and shows affiliated to BD, to a foreign federation or to the FEI for a period not

- exceeding 12 months and/or be disqualified from the result of any competition or competitions directly associated with the misconduct.
- e. That any suspension be suspended for a period of up to two years. If during the period of the suspended suspension a Member is found to be in breach of the Rules the Member will be suspended for the period of the original suspension for such other shorter period as the Chief Executive may deem to be appropriate.
- f. That such a Member pay a fine of such sum as the Chief Executive shall in their absolute discretion decide, giving direct due regard to the gravity of the misconduct and any evidence of means supplied by the Respondent.
- g. In the case of the Respondent being a Judge that such a Judge be:
 - i. Suspended from judging for a period not exceeding three months,
 - ii. Be deselected from the Judges List or reduced in status, and/or
 - iii. Required to undergo such additional training or training courses as the Chief Executive considers to be appropriate.
- h. That such Member (excluding Judges) undertakes such training or training courses as the Chief Executive shall consider to be appropriate. The Chief Executive may require that the cost of the training should be paid by the Member in question.

Compliance with the Rules and this Code

- 91. Any deviation from this Code by BD or any of its employees or the Panel will not automatically invalidate any proceeding or findings unless it can be demonstrated that the deviation, omission or irregularity has made the proceedings unreliable or seriously and irredeemably affected the position of the Respondent.
- 92. These Rules and this Code cannot provide for every eventuality. These Rules and this Code shall therefore be interpreted to give effect to the spirit of fair and open competition in a sporting spirit approaching as near as possible to the strict interpretation of the Rules legally to protect the reputation of the sport of Dressage in the UK and the welfare of the horse.

Indebtedness to British Dressage

- 93. Any Member who fails to pay a fine imposed by the Disciplinary Panel, Chief Executive or the FEI, or who fails to pay for goods or services supplied by BD, including the processing of memberships, registrations, etc. or by making such payments by means of a cheque or other instrument, including Variable Amount Direct Debit mandate, which is subsequently dishonoured, may be notified by the Chief Executive of their indebtedness by first class letter.
- 94. If such indebtedness is not fully settled within 30 days of the dispatch of such notification, the Member shall automatically be suspended from all rights and privileges of membership of BD until such time as payment is received. In the case of company membership liability for such debts incurred will be the responsibility of the registered company agent and/or the rider. The Chief Executive shall notify the member accordingly and publish the suspension in BD Magazine.

Publication of findings and penalties

95. BD may at their absolute discretion publish any disciplinary decision, ruling or direction made concerning any person or matter in such manner as they shall think fit whether in the public press circulating throughout or in any part of the United Kingdom, or abroad and/or on television or sound broadcasting, and/or to and through any news or broadcasting agency or agent, or any other governing body or otherwise and every member of BD shall be deemed to have consented thereto, always providing that such publication shall not be made until the expiry of 28 days after notification of the decision to the member.

Disqualification from competition

96. Fines imposed pursuant to these summary powers on an owner, lessee, authorised agent or rider may be levied with or without disqualification of the horse or pony concerned from any competition. If the horse or pony is not so disqualified, any points won in these circumstances will remain on its grading record. A horse or pony competing in a class for which it is not eligible will be disqualified from that competition and all points won and/or qualifications awarded will be forfeit.
97. If a competitor, horse or pony qualifies for a further competition as a result of a competition for which they or it was not eligible for any reason the qualification will be cancelled, whether or not a fine or penalty has been imposed. Provided the cancellation of such qualification has been confirmed by the Chief Executive before the normal closing date for the next round of the competition or championship, the qualification will pass to the next eligible competitor, horse or pony, if any.

Minor Infringements

98. In the event that the Chief Executive or Chair of the Judges Advisory Panel considers in their discretion that any complaint received results in a minor infringement of the rules and considers that it would be inappropriate to either refer the matter to the Disciplinary Panel, the Judges Advisory Panel or Sports Resolutions UK or to deal with the complaint under this rule the Chief Executive may issue a caution/formal warning to the member as to their future conduct.
99. Any such caution/formal warning shall be placed upon the member's record. In the event that the Member disagrees with the caution or formal warning, they may elect to refer the matter to either the Disciplinary Panel or the Judges Advisory Panel (the choice of panel shall be at the Chief Executive's sole discretion) within 14 days of receiving notice of the caution or formal warning.

Summary powers of a team manager

100. The Chef d'Equipe or Team Manager or their duly authorised deputy whilst accompanying members on a course of training or on a championship tour or team camp (whether or not such course of training or championship tour or team camp takes place in Great Britain) shall have power in their absolute discretion to regulate, control and/or adjudicate upon the conduct of Members on such course of training, tour or team visit and shall have the power to direct that a Member shall be suspended from competing or taking part in such course of training or in any competition taking place on such tour or team visit.

Indebtedness to affiliated show

101. If a Member fails to make payment or makes payment to an affiliated show in respect of entry fees or stabling by cheque or other instrument which is subsequently dishonoured, the show secretary may report the name and address of such person, together with the names of the horses and the names and addresses of the owners whose fees the dishonoured instruments were intended to cover. The report must be made in writing to the Chief Executive and must itemise the amount of outstanding fees.
102. On receipt of such notice the Chief Executive shall notify the said member of their indebtedness. If such indebtedness is not fully settled within 30 days the member shall automatically be suspended from all rights and privileges of membership of BD until such time as payment is received. The Chief Executive shall notify the member accordingly and publish the suspension in the BD Magazine.

Provisional suspension

103. The Chief Executive may, at any point prior to the determination of a complaint, provisionally suspend the membership of a member from any part or parts of the rights or benefits of a member for any of the reasons set out below, pending a full investigation by BD and/or the conclusion of any criminal proceedings or other regulatory or statutory investigation or proceedings. Such suspension must be approved by two members of the Disciplinary Panel.
104. Grounds for provisional suspension are that there are reasonable grounds to believe that:
 - a. Children, young people or adults may be at risk.
 - b. It is necessary for the protection of other members, including the respondent.
 - c. Allegations against the Respondent would, if established and upheld amount to a serious breach of the Rules of BD.
 - d. The reputation of BD could be harmed if the Respondent continued to act as a Member.
 - e. The continued involvement of the Member might or could impede any enquiries or investigations.
 - f. Where a Member has been charged or arrested in connection with any sexual offence or offence involving violence or other abuse or any offence relating to children or vulnerable young adults.
105. Suspension under this rule, while a serious matter, is not a disciplinary sanction and should not therefore be viewed as an assumption of guilt. The disciplinary hearing shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable, following notification of the suspension having been given to the member concerned. Any disciplinary hearing will normally follow the conclusion of any police investigation or other investigation by statutory authorities.
106. Disclosure or publication of any provisional suspension under this rule will be made only by the Chief Executive as they deem appropriate. The Chief Executive will maintain a record of those informed of the suspension.
107. A suspension under this rule must be for a defined period and subject to periodic review.

108. A Member who is suspended under this rule shall:

- a. Unless otherwise stipulated by the Chief Executive, be suspended from all rights and privileges of membership.
- b. Still be bound by the Rules.
- c. Remain liable to pay subscriptions, fines or any other indebtedness to BD.

109. If a Member is suspended under this Rule for a period that extends beyond their annual membership renewal date, their membership shall lapse. Any application which they may make for renewal of membership will only be effective, if granted, from the end of the period of suspension.

110. Notwithstanding any lapse of membership or suspension disciplinary action may be taken against a Member, and any disciplinary or appeals process may be commenced or continued in respect of, the Member in question.

111. Any period of Provisional Suspension will be credited against any period of suspension imposed by the Disciplinary Panel at the end of the matter.

Appeal against Provisional Suspension

112. Any Member may apply in writing to the Disciplinary Panel remove or vary the Provisional Suspension. The grounds of any appeal should be either that the allegations are not sufficiently serious or are not urgent enough to justify a provisional suspension or is not otherwise in accordance with these Rules. A copy of the appeal should at the same time be sent to the Chief Executive.

113. The Disciplinary Panel will consider the appeal and notify the respondent of its decision as soon as reasonably practical and in any event within 14 days of the date of the appeal. The Disciplinary Panel may remove, extend or vary the provisional suspension.

114. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in respect of the provisional suspension is final and not subject to further appeal.

FEI Suspension

115. In the event that a rider/owner receives an FEI suspension, such rider/owner will automatically be suspended from all rights and privileges of membership of BD for the same period of time as the FEI suspension.

Disciplinary reciprocity

116. In the event that any Member receives a suspension or period of ineligibility from another member body of the BEF, such rider/coach/owner/official will automatically be suspended from all rights and privileges of membership of BD or automatically ineligible to participate in any capacity in any BD competitions for the same period of time as the suspension or period of ineligibility.

117. A rider under a medical suspension may not compete in another equestrian discipline without the permission of the appropriate governing body.

Rules Adjudication and Feedback Policy for Members

Rules Adjudication Panel

The Chief Executive may, at their discretion, refer any issues that arise relating to the application of the Rules of British Dressage to the Rules Adjudication Panel, or follow the Informal Feedback Process, where it is deemed inappropriate to refer the matter to either the Judges Advisory Panel or the Disciplinary Panel.

Please note that where members believe that clear errors or mistakes have been made, the Objection process should at first be followed on the day of competition to seek a resolution. In the event that a member could have used the Objection process, the Chief Executive may decline to deal with any matter arising.

Where any matters have not been resolved satisfactorily on the day of competition, submissions can be made in writing to the Chief Executive, with supporting evidence, within 48 hours of the competition concluding.

Appointment of the Rules Adjudication Panel

1. The Board will appoint the members of the Rules Adjudication Panel to consider any technical matters relating to the application of the Rules.
2. Appointments will be for a four-year period and may be renewed at the discretion of the Board for a maximum of two terms in total. Members of the Panel must act in an independent and impartial manner.
3. Panel members will have one or more of the following skills or experience:
 - a. A British Dressage List 1 judge.
 - b. At least 10 years' experience in the sport of dressage either as a rider, judge, coach, steward or show secretary.
 - c. Be a current member of the education workforce.

Rule Adjudication Panel Procedure

1. A Member may only raise concerns about the misapplication of the Rules at a competition under this procedure, where they believe a Clear Error has been made.
2. A Clear Error is an error, which is clear and obvious, and more than just a minor error. For example, by way of illustration only, this may include a calculation error, an incorrect score for a missed or incomplete movement, or an incorrect interpretation of a movement. It shall not include a disagreement about a subjective assessment of a test and a score applied by the Judge.
3. The complainant must provide sufficient evidence that a Rule has been applied incorrectly, misinterpreted, or that a Clear Error has been made.
4. Any submission under this procedure must be made within 48 hours of the end of the competition and delivered to the Chief Executive in writing by email or post:

Email: CEO@britishdressage.co.uk, or
 Post: Chief Executive, British Dressage, Meriden Business Park, Copse Drive,
 Meriden, West Midlands, CV5 9RG.

5. As much information as possible should be provided, including any documents, witness statements, video evidence, and test sheets and a written submission setting out the error or mistake complained of and any other evidence to be relied upon.
6. The Chief Executive will review the submission, together with any supporting evidence provided, to determine whether the matter requires further consideration.
7. In the event that any Clear Error identified could be regarded as an administrative error (such as an error or omission in the calculation or addition of the scores) the Chief Executive may correct the error without referring the matter to the Rules Adjudication Panel.
8. The Chief Executive will make such investigations he considers to be appropriate, including discussing the matter with the Chair of the Rules Adjudication Panel and/or an independent List 1 judge.
9. If the Chief Executive determines that there is sufficient evidence that the result of a competition has been affected, including a score, qualification, elimination, ineligibility or exclusion, the matter will be referred to the Rules Adjudication Panel. In any other case, the Chief Executive may decide to either take no further action or deal with the matter under the Informal Feedback Process set out below.
10. The Chief Executive will appoint up to four members of the Rules Adjudication Panel with the relevant technical expertise and knowledge to advise on the correct application of BD Rules. The minimum number of panel members for any matter referred to the Rules Adjudication Panel should be two.
11. Any breach of the Rules relating to conduct, rather than competition rules, will ordinarily be referred to the Disciplinary Panel. Only matters relating to the applied incorrect application of Rules from an error by a Judge will be considered by the Rules Adjudication Panel.
12. The Rules Adjudication Panel should deal with the matter as soon as possible and in any event within 14 days and will then deliver their determination to the Chief Executive, who shall immediately notify the member raising the matter and any other member affected by any change(s) to the scores and/or result.
13. The Chief Executive is entitled to refuse to investigate or deal with any submission relation to the application of Rules not received within the time limit set out above.
14. The decision of the Chief Executive and Rules Adjudication Panel is final and not subject to further appeal.

Informal Feedback Process

In addition to the formal complaints processes, British Dressage also offers an Informal Feedback Process for members to communicate any issues relating to a judging or stewarding issue arising from a competition.

This alternative method should be used to bring matters to the attention of British Dressage, for example, when a competitor does not wish to make a formal complaint, but they feel that providing feedback would be useful for further training and development of BD officials. Competitors are also reminded of the Objections rule that can be used, where appropriate, to resolve matters on the day of the competition. All evidence provided will be reviewed and used as a means of informing the ongoing training and education of the BD workforce.

Feedback forms can be obtained on request from the BD office or downloaded from the BD website. Completed forms should be submitted to: officials@britishdressage.co.uk. Forms can also be sent by post to the registered BD office address.

Process for providing feedback

1. Complete the feedback form with the relevant information and send it via email to: officials@britishdressage.co.uk, together with any supporting evidence.
2. On receipt of the feedback, an acknowledgement will be made, and the matter will be reviewed internally. Those submitting informal feedback will not receive a report outlining the findings of any investigations conducted.
3. The Chief Executive may, at their discretion, decide whether or not to take any further action. In the event that the Chief Executive considers that the matter should be dealt with either as a formal complaint, or as a referral to the Rules Adjudication Panel, the member will be informed accordingly.
4. All matters lodged via the feedback form will be recorded and reviewed as part of the ongoing training and development programme for BD officials. In some cases, follow-up actions may include a phone call or an email to the judge or steward in question to highlight individual points for their professional development.
5. General issues will be addressed through a general notice issued in the next officials newsletter or through ongoing training and development activity.
6. A log of all incidents will be maintained to enable any recurring issues to be identified and rectified through the training of BD officials, as deemed appropriate.
7. Please note that members can use this process to provide informal feedback only, not to lodge a formal complaint. Further correspondence will not be entered into for minor incidents reported via the feedback form.
8. Judge complaints must still be lodged formally through the official complaint procedure, as detailed within the annexes, and they will then be referred to the Judges Advisory Panel, as deemed appropriate.

Whistleblowing Policy

1. Introduction

British Dressage (BD) is committed to the highest standards of transparency, probity, integrity, and accountability and wants to encourage a culture of openness: to protect its members, to uphold the reputation of the sport, and to maintain the public's confidence. This policy sets out the framework for dealing with allegations of improper conduct both within British Dressage, its membership, or within its affiliated venues or events.

British Dressage recognises that the decision to make an allegation can be a difficult one. However, whistleblowers who make serious allegations in the reasonable belief that it is in the public interest to do so, have nothing to fear because they are doing their duty either to British Dressage and / or to those for whom British Dressage is providing a service.

British Dressage will take appropriate action to protect a whistleblower who makes a serious allegation in the reasonable belief that it is in the public interest to do.

As a whistleblower you are protected by law; you should not be untreated unfairly, lose your job, be subjected to victimisation, discrimination, or harassment because you 'blow the whistle'. British Dressage will act where a whistleblower is treated badly or threatened or has other action taken against them.

This policy does not replace other policies and procedures such as the grievance procedure, disciplinary and capability procedure, anti-harassment and bullying, or safeguarding policies and specifically laid down statutory reporting procedures. For example, if an employee has a grievance about their working conditions, they should use the BD Staff Grievance Policy (staff will find this in their Staff Handbook and SharePoint site) or, if a British Dressage member felt they were being treated unfavourably, they should use the Disciplinary and Complaints procedure as detailed in the BD Members' Handbook.

This policy is intended to ensure that British Dressage complies with its duty under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all British Dressage members, volunteers, employees, athletes on a British Equestrian (BEF) funded performance programme, associates, and contractors.

This policy applies to, but is not limited to, allegations about any of the following:

- Breaches of British Dressage rules, regulations, codes or policies by British Dressage or its staff, contractors, or athletes on a BEF funded programme;
- Breaches of Safeguarding and Protecting Children, or Adults at Risk Policies;
- Breaches of the BD Charter for the Horse and Code of Conduct for Horse Welfare;
- Betting, corrupt conduct, inside-information, and match-fixing;
- Serious Health and Safety risks e.g. coercing an athlete to train against medical advice or conducting an unsafe practice;
- Risk of damage or actual damage to the environment;

- A miscarriage of justice;
- Conduct which is a criminal offence or breach of the law;
- Complicity in any of the above matters including the deliberate concealment of any of the above;
- The unauthorised use of public funds;
- Fraud and corruption;
- Abuse of authority; or
- Any other unethical conduct.

3. Confidentiality

All allegations will be treated in confidence as far as possible, and every effort will be made not to reveal a whistleblower's identity unless the whistleblower agrees. However, if the situation develops and British Dressage is not able to resolve the concern without revealing a whistleblower's identity (for instance because a criminal offence has been committed and the matter must be reported to the police, or there is a breach of British Dressage rules or codes of conduct and the matter has to be referred to the Disciplinary Panel), we will consult with the whistleblower on how they would prefer to proceed before making our decision.

British Dressage uses every effort not to disclose the identity of a whistleblower to anyone other than a person involved in the investigation / allegation unless the whistleblower agrees.

4. Anonymous Allegations

British Dressage encourages whistleblowers to put their name to an allegation wherever possible as anonymous allegations may often be difficult to address and to substantiate or prove. Allegations made anonymously may be more difficult to action or investigate but anonymous allegations can be considered at the discretion of British Dressage's CEO.

In exercising discretion to accept an anonymous allegation the following factors are to be taken into account:

- The seriousness of the issue raised;
- The credibility of the allegation; and
- Whether the allegation can realistically be investigated from factors or sources other than the whistleblower.

5. Untrue Allegations

No disciplinary or other action will be taken against a whistleblower who makes an allegation in the reasonable belief that it is in the interest of the welfare and wellbeing of the general public to do so, even if the allegation is not substantiated by an investigation.

However, disciplinary action may be taken against a whistleblower who makes an allegation frivolously, carelessly, maliciously, or for personal gain.

6. Procedure for Making an Allegation

Raising a concern internally

Those who have a concern about misconduct would ideally raise it in the first instance with their Line Manager, alternatively with the COO or CEO. This may be done orally or in writing. The person disclosing must state whether they wish to raise the matter in confidence so the appropriate arrangements can be made.

If, after following these concerns, the person disclosing feels the matter has not been addressed, or if they feel that the matter is so serious that they cannot discuss it with any of the above they should contact the BD Chairman.

The whistleblower may make an allegation directly to:

- The BD CEO via ceo@britishdressage.co.uk, or if the complaint concerns the CEO;
- To the BD Chair via chairman@britishdressage.co.uk

Raising a concern externally

Some professions, such as medicine and physiotherapy, have statutory duties to inform certain categories of disclosure externally. In disclosure cases such as criminal misconduct, child or vulnerable adult abuse, all employees, athletes, contractors and students must inform the regulatory authorities without undue delay.

The disclosure process, when dealt with internally by BD, may be duty bound to report this externally to statutory bodies.

7. Allegation

A whistleblower may make their original report verbally or in writing but should, as soon as possible provide relevant information in writing including:

- The name of the person making the allegation and their contact details;
- The background and history of the allegation (giving relevant dates, names and roles of those who may be in a position to have contributed to the alleged occurrence);
- The specific reason for the allegation. Although someone making an allegation will not be expected to prove that it is true, they will need to provide information, to establish that there are reasonable grounds for the allegation.

Someone making an allegation may be accompanied by another person of their choosing during any meetings or interviews in connection with the allegation. However, if the matter is subsequently dealt with through another procedure or by an external agency, the right to be accompanied will at that stage be in accordance with the relevant procedure or the rules of the relevant agency.

British Dressage urge all those with concerns, when a matter is reported, to provide as much information as possible.

8. Action on receipt of an Allegation by British Dressage

British Dressage's Chief Operating Officer (COO) will record details of the allegation gathering as much information as possible, including:

- The record of the allegation;
- The acknowledgement of the allegation;
- Any documents supplied by the whistleblower.

The COO will ask the whistleblower for their preferred means of communication and contact details and use these for all communications with the whistleblower to preserve confidentiality.

Examples of courses of action depending on their nature:

If the allegation discloses evidence of a criminal offence or financial irregularity it will immediately be reported to the CEO of British Dressage, who will liaise with the Chair and Board of British Dressage as necessary, and a decision will be made as to whether to inform the Police.

If the allegation concerns suspected harm to children, the matter will immediately be referred to the Lead Safeguarding Officer who will deal with the matter in accordance with the BEF and BD Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy including informing the appropriate authorities in line with that policy and the matter will proceed in accordance with that policy.

If the allegation concerns suspected harm to adults at risk, the matter will immediately be referred to the Lead Safeguarding Officer who will deal with the matter in accordance with BEF and BD Safeguarding and Protecting Adults at Risk Policies including informing the appropriate authorities in line with that policy and the matter will proceed in accordance with that policy.

If the allegation concerns a member of British Dressage Staff, the matter will be referred to the BD COO or CEO and will be dealt with in accordance with Staff Disciplinary procedures.

If the allegation concerns a suspected anti-doping rule violation, the information will be reported to the BEF, and the procedure followed as outlined in the BD Members' Handbook.

For any other allegation, if it falls to be considered under an existing British Dressage policy it will be dealt with in accordance with that policy. In any other circumstances the CEO, along with the COO, will decide the appropriate procedure.

Timetable

The whistleblower will receive an acknowledgement of the allegation in writing from British Dressage within five (5) working days with:

- An indication of how British Dressage propose to deal with the matter;
- An estimate of how long it will take to provide a final response;
- An indication of whether any initial enquiries have been made;

- Information on whistleblower support mechanisms;
- Indication whether further investigations will take place and if not, why not.

Where the allegation has been made anonymously, British Dressage will be unable to communicate what action has been taken.

Keeping the BD Board informed

The CEO will notify the BD Chairman when a whistleblowing case has instigated a Panel investigation. Details of the case will not be discussed at that stage. Once the Panel findings are concluded, the Board will be fully informed, in confidence.

9. Support for Whistleblowers

British Dressage will take steps to minimise any difficulties which may be experienced as a result of making an allegation. For instance, if a whistleblower is required to give evidence in criminal or disciplinary proceedings British Dressage will arrange for them to receive advice about the procedure and advise on the available support mechanisms.

The charity Protect supports whistleblowers who call their advice line or complete their online form. More details about this service can be found at www.protect-advice. British Dressage accepts that whistleblowers need to be assured that the matter has been properly addressed. Thus, subject to legal constraints, we will inform those making allegations of the outcome of any investigation.

10. Responsibility for the Procedure

The CEO and Board of British Dressage have overall responsibility for the operation of this policy and for determining the administrative processes to be followed and the format of the records to be kept.

11. Monitoring

A confidential Register kept by the COO will record the following details:

- The name and status (e.g. employee / member / athlete) of the whistleblower;
- The date on which the allegation was received;
- The nature of the allegation;
- Details of the person who received the allegation;
- Whether the allegation is to be investigated and, if yes, by whom;
- The outcome of the investigation;
- Any other relevant details.

The Register will only be available for inspection by the CEO and the Board of British Dressage.

12. Further Information

For your information, some regulatory statutory bodies are listed below: (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/blowing-the-whistle-list-of-prescribed-people-andbodies--2>)

These Regulatory statutory bodies have individual policies and procedures for handling concerns and complaints. Many of their websites contain guidance on issues that you may face which may be helpful in your initial deliberations on whether to make a disclosure.

The Information Commissioner

In relation to compliance with the requirement of legislation relating to data protection and freedom of information. Email: casework@ico.gsi.gov.uk and the website is www.ico.gov.uk

The Health and Safety Executive

This relates to the health and safety of individuals at work or the health and safety of the public that is work-related, in connection with those industries and work activities for which HSE is the enforcing authority. Online form: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/contact/raising-your-concern.htm> and the website is www.hse.gov.uk

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)

Matters relating to child welfare and protection. Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Care Quality Commission

Matters relating to the provision of health and social care. www.cqc.org.uk

General Medical Council

Matters relating to the registration and fitness to practise of a member of the medical profession. www.gmc-uk.org.

Health and Care Professions Council

Matters relating to the registration and fitness to practise of health and care professional (e.g. physiotherapy). www.hpc-uk.org

Protect

Protect is the UK's whistleblowing charity. They aim to stop harm by encouraging safe whistleblowing. Their free, confidential Advice Line supports more than 3,000 whistleblowers each year who have seen malpractice, risk or wrongdoing in the workplace.

British Dressage Members' Legal Assist Line

Full members of British Dressage can benefit from support from our Legal Partners Rothera Bray.

Rothera Bray offer up to 30 minutes of free legal advice from a fully qualified dedicated equine solicitor and access to legal advice for any other legal matter. It operates seven days per week, with an answerphone message for out of hours. You will receive a call back within 24 hours Monday to Friday, (48 hours if weekend or bank holiday).

Legal advice helpline: 0115 841 6669

Email: britishdressage@rotherabray.co.uk

Access to additional legal services

In addition to their specialist equine legal services, Rothera Bray can also support our members on a wide range of other legal matters, including:

- Buying or selling a property
- Family Law
- Wills, Probate & Trusts
- Residential Landlord Services
- Dispute Resolution
- Commercial Legal Services
- Motoring Offences
- Employment Issues
- Personal Injury

Please visit the Member Benefits section on the BD website to find out more about legal support: www.britishdressage.co.uk/membership/member-benefits

British Dressage Members' Insurance

As a member of British Dressage you also receive special discounts on certain classes of business purchased via our brokers KBIS Ltd, such as:

- Tack
- Trainers and grooms
- High value competition horses
- Equestrian yards - competition, training, private yards, riding schools and livery yards
- Horse box and trailer
- Shows and events (including cancellation and abandonment)
- All types of commercial insurance including professional indemnity, public & products liability and many more.

Any queries about these covers should be directed to:

KBIS Ltd,
Cullimore House,
Peasemore,
Newbury,
Berkshire,
RG20 7JN

Tel: 0345 230 2323
Email: ask@kbis.co.uk

Cover Summary Personal Public Liability

As part of your membership, you automatically receive equestrian related Public Liability Insurance, provided you reside in the UK. The following pages give details of the automatic insurances you receive as a member.

The primary level of public liability cover (£10,000,000) provided under the policy is arranged by Avid Insurance Services Ltd and underwritten by Accelerant Insurance Europe SA. The excess layer public liability cover (£20,000,000) is underwritten by JRP Underwriting Limited and Axis Managing Agency Ltd. All insurers are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

You can check this on the FCA's register by visiting the FCA's website at <http://www.fca.org.uk/register> or by contacting the FCA on 0800 111 6768

Avid Insurance Services Ltd can be contacted at:
Avid Insurance Services Ltd 20 St Dunstan's Hill, London EC3R 8HL

British Dressage's Public Liability is an annual contract and may be renewed each year subject to terms and conditions.

This document provides only a summary of the main benefits under the Public Liability policy. For full terms and conditions you should read the policy document, a copy of which is available upon request. If you have any queries, please contact KBIS Ltd on 0345 230 2323.

Significant features and benefits

Members' Public Personal Liability

Members' Public Liability insurance provides an indemnity where you are held liable for accidental injury to a third party or accidental damage to property owned by a third party, subject to your negligence and/or legal liability occurring during the period of insurance and arising out of your equine related activities.

The sums payable as an indemnity are limited to: £30,000,000 any one occurrence.

There are a number of cover extensions including:

1. Grooms Indemnity - cover for any groom engaged in working for an insured member in their work involving the insured horse.
2. Extended Indemnity - cover for other riders when using the insured member's horse with their express prior permission.

The above extensions 1 & 2 shall not cover liability that arises out of the above where a fee has been charged and where such use is in connection with any business.

Significant/unusual exclusions or limitations

Public Liability

The policy document contains a number of exclusions and other limitations. The more significant exclusions applying that will bar any payment are listed below:

1. North America - bodily injury, personal injury, damage or denial of access within North America is excluded.
2. Professional and Business Activities - cover excludes bodily injury, personal injury, damage or denial of access arising out of or from equine activities or related equine activities when undertaken as a professional or being undertaken as part of the insured members business or occupation, irrespective of whether a fee is charged or not including supervision of other riders.
3. Insured Members Family - cover excludes bodily injury or personal injury to any per person who is part of the insureds members' family or household.
4. The first £500 of any claim for third party property damage.
5. If indemnity is available under any other insurance, then the insurance afforded by this policy will be in excess of and will not contribute with such other insurance.
6. BD Community member cover limitation – Cover is only provided to BD Community members when competing in affiliated competitions on a class ticket.

Important information

Your right to cancel

This is a group policy provided by British Dressage which forms part of your membership benefits, as such there are no rights of cancellation should you decide that you do not need or require this cover.

Renewing your policy

If Avid Insurance Services Ltd are willing to invite renewal of the policy; KBIS Ltd will advise you in good time before the expiry of the current policy term, providing the premium and terms & conditions which will apply for the following year.

Claim notification

Should you wish to make a claim you should contact Questgates Ltd.

Tel: 01204 869808

Out of office: 0121 411 0535

Email: boltonccs@questgates.co.uk

You must not admit liability or offer or agree to settle any claim without express written confirmation from the insurers.

Complaint procedure

In the event that you wish to make a formal complaint you should contact Avid Insurance Services Ltd in writing to the address shown below or by telephone to the number shown below:

Avid Insurance Services Ltd, 20 Dunstan's Hill, London EC3R 8HL

Tel: 020 319 57500

Email: info@avidinsurance.co.uk

They will review your complaint and will investigate the circumstances regarding your complaint and write to you within 14 calendar days in response.

If you remain dissatisfied after Avid Insurance Services Ltd have considered your complaint you have the right to refer your complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service. If you are seeking resolution as an individual acting for purposes outside their trade business or profession as a micro-enterprise (a smaller business that has a turnover of annual balance of less than £1,000,000 annual income or of a trust with net asset value of less than £1,000,000) you may refer this to:

Financial Ombudsman Services (FOS), Exchange Tower, Harbour Exchange Square, Isle of Dogs, London E14 9SR.

Tel: 0800 023 4567.

Email: complaint.info@financial-ombudsman.org.uk

Website: www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk

Your rights as a customer to take legal action remain unaffected by the existence or use of any complaints procedure referred to above. However, the Financial Ombudsman Services will not adjudicate on any cases where litigation has commenced. The law and language applicable to the policy: Unless specifically agreed otherwise this Policy will be governed by English law and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of English courts. The language used in this policy and any communications relating to it will be English.

Policy Summary Members Personal Accident Insurance

This is a summary of the cover and does not contain all of the terms and conditions of your Policy, which can be found in the policy document, a copy of which is available upon request.

Please take time to make sure you understand the cover it provides. Cover is underwritten by Amtrust Underwriting on behalf of Ortus Underwriting on Behalf of Canopus Managing Agents Limited for Lloyd's Syndicate 4444.

Features and benefits

Provides cover for accidental death, loss of limb or sight and permanent disablement only as a consequence of:

- a) Horse related accidents other than whilst attending an organised equestrian event as defined in B below
- b) Horse related activities while attending any event or official practice/training session organised by or affiliated to British Dressage, BHDTA, BHS, BS, Pony Club, BHS, Riding Clubs, BE, EGB, BEV or FEI up to a maximum of £5,000 in respect of A and £10,000 in respect of B.

Accidental death is limited to £5,000 in respect of persons up to the age of 16.

Significant or unusual exclusions or limits

This section does not cover injury arising from:

- Committing or attempting to commit suicide or as a result of self inflicted injury.
- Any naturally occurring condition or degenerative process.
- Any gradually operating process.
- Post-traumatic stress disorder or any psychological or psychiatric condition (not resulting from bodily injury following an accident).
- Radioactive contamination whether arising directly or indirectly.
- War or Terrorism occasioned by any Nuclear, Chemical or Biological cause.

Period of insurance

The insurance cover shall apply from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 until notification of change but is subject to the renewal of the Master Insurance and any revised items that such renewal may contain.

Policy cancellation

This policy may be cancelled by either the British Dressage or Amtrust Underwriting by giving 30 days written notice to the Company or the Insured at their last known registered address.

Claim notification

You must place yourself under the care of a duly qualified Medical Practitioner as soon as is reasonably possible and notice of any incident that may give rise to a claim must be made as soon as is feasibly possible.

Claim Notifications should be sent to:
AmTrust Personal Accident and Illness
Claims Telephone: 0844 800 6610
Email: aulclaims@amtrustgroup.com

Complaints procedure

We aim to provide excellent service to all our customers although we recognise that occasionally things go wrong. If this happens we want to hear about it so we can try to put things right. When you are making a complaint please make sure you are able to quote your policy details including your policy number, your name and address.

Making a Complaint

If you wish to make a complaint in relation to your policy, our contact details are:

Complaints,
Canopus Managing Agents Limited,
Gallery 9,
One Lime Street,
London
EC3M 7HA

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7337 3700

Email: A&Hcomplaints@canopus.com and Complaints@canopus.com

If we have responded to your complaint and you are still not satisfied, you may ask the Complaints Department at Lloyd's to review your complaint (this would not affect your rights to take legal action if necessary). Lloyd's contact details are:

The Complaints Team,
Fidentia House,
Walter Burke Way,
Chatham Maritime,
Chatham,
Kent,
ME4 4RN

Telephone: +44 (0)207 327 5693

Fax: +44 (0)207 327 5225

Email: complaints@lloyds.com

Lloyd's Website: www.lloyds.com/complaints

If You Remain Dissatisfied

If you are dissatisfied with Lloyd's Final Response, you may (if eligible) be able to refer your complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service. You must do this within 6 months of receiving Lloyd's Final Response. The Financial Ombudsman Service's contact details are:

Financial Ombudsman Service,
Exchange Tower,
Harbour Exchange Square,
London,
E14 9SR

Telephone: 0800 023 4567 (calls are free from landlines and mobile phones) /
0300 1239123 (calls to this number cost no more than calls to 01 and 02 numbers) /
+44 (0)207 964 0500 (for calls outside the UK)

Email: complaint.info@financial-ombudsman.org.uk

Index

The day-to-day running of British Dressage (BD) is the responsibility of our BD staff based at our HQ at Meriden Business Park in the West Midlands and our regions working to make competitive dressage in Britain happen.

| A | Page No. | C (continued) | Page No. |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Accredited Coaches | 222 | Community membership | 57 |
| Affiliation Agreement | 55 | Competition Structure | 81 |
| Age of horse/pony | 64 | Complaints | 224-244 |
| Age of members | 56 | Conflicts of Interest | 216 |
| Air jackets | 124 | | |
| Appointment of Judges | 215 | D | |
| Area Festival Qualification | 191-194 | Decoration | 135 |
| Arena layout | 142 | Definitions of movements | 28-42 |
| Arena markers | 143 | Disciplinary procedure | 223-226 |
| Associated Championships | 159-161 | Dismounting and/or falling | 147 |
| | | Dispensation | 80, 129 |
| B | | Double bridle | 140-141 |
| Balloting | 110 | Dress | 123 |
| Bandages | 135-6 | Duration of judging | 217 |
| BD Contacts | 7 | | |
| Bitguards | 136 | E | |
| Bits | 136-141 | Electronic devices/headsets | 129 |
| Blinkers | 135 | Eligibility to compete | 81 |
| Blood | 14-21, 153 | Entering arena | 145-146 |
| Body/belly bandages | 135 | Entries | 108 |
| Body protectors | 124 | Equality | 49 |
| Boots | 135 | Errors of course | 148-149 |
| Breastplates/girths | 135 | Errors of the test | 149 |
| Breeches/jodphurs | 125 | Eventing riders | 66, 68 |
| Bridles | 133 | | |
| British Team jacket/flags | 66-68 | F | |
| Bronze Section | 81 | Face masks and ear covers | 135 |
| BD Tests in use | 155-157 | FEI definitions | 28 |
| BD Youth Regional events | 186-189 | Fly fringes | 135 |
| | | Foreign riders | 59 |
| C | | Freestyle to music | 117-118 |
| Cautions | 150 | | |
| CDI Points | 71 | G | |
| Classification: Para | 73 | Gloves | 125 |
| Class Tickets | 109 | Gold Sections | 81 |
| Close of entries | 108 | Grouping of riders | 117 |
| Combined Training | 163-164 | | |
| Commanders | 128 | | |

| H | Page No. |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Hats | 124-125 |
| Hoof boots | 135 |
| HC entries | 109 |
| Horse/pony registration | 59-66 |
| Hyperflexion | 14-21, 153 |

| I | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Imported horses | 65 |
| Insurance | 255-259 |
| International rules | 66-71 |

| J | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Jackets | 123 |
| Judges code of conduct | 219 |
| Judge complaints procedure | 227 |
| Judges decision | 150 |

| K | |
|------------------|-----|
| Kinesiology tape | 135 |

| L | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Lameness | 14-21, 153 |
| Leaving the arena | 147 |
| Legal Helpline | 56, 254 |
| Logos | 124, 131 |
| Lungeing | 136 |

| M | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Martingales | 135 |
| Maximum number of tests | 146 |
| Middle Tour | 208 |
| Membership | 55-59 |
| Members Code of Conduct | 10-12 |
| Music Licence | 117-118 |
| Music (Technical failure) | 148 |

| N | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Names of horses | 63-64 |
| National qualification | 197-206 |
| Neck straps | 135 |
| Nosebands | 132 |
| Nose nets | 75, 135 |
| Numbers | 144 |

| O | Page No. |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Objections | 150 |
| Outside assistance | 145 |

| P | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Passports | 63-64 |
| Para dressage champs | 77-79 |
| Para dressage tests | 79 |
| Para dressage eligibility | 73 |
| Para Home Nations | 188 |
| Penalties (rules) | 151-153 |
| Penalties for errors of course | 149 |
| Points (national) | 115-116 |
| Positioning of judges | 215 |
| Prefixes | 63-64 |
| Prize money | 114 |

| Q | |
|----------|---------|
| Quest | 166-185 |

| R | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Recognised coaches | 222 |
| Refund of entry fees | 111 |
| Regional championships | 197-200 |
| Resistance | 147 |
| Results | 115 |
| Riding boots | 125 |
| Riding the wrong test | 148 |
| Rosettes | 115 |
| Rugs | 135 |

| S | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Saddle cloths | 131 |
| Saddles | 131 |
| Safeguarding | 44-49 |
| Salute | 147 |
| Scale of marks | 144 |
| Scoring | 143 |
| Senior Home Nations | 187 |
| Senior Inter-Regional | 187 |
| Side reins | 136 |
| Silver Sections | 81 |
| Social Media Policy | 50-52 |

| S (continued) | Page No. | V | Page No. |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Spurs | 125-126 | Vaccinations | 64-65 |
| Stallions | 136 | Visually impaired riders | 75-76 |
| Suffixes | 63-64 | Voice | 148 |
| Summer Music | 191-194 | | |
| T | | W | |
| Tack checking | 145 | Waiting lists | 110 |
| The scales of training | 24-26 | Warm up | 145 |
| Trial membership | 57 | Welfare of the horse | 14-21, 153 |
| Trot rising/sitting | 149 | Whips | 126 |
| U | | Whistleblowing Policy | 248-253 |
| Unaffiliated competitions | 112 | Wild cards (National) | 201 |
| Under 25 championships | 188-189 | Wild cards (Quest) | 174, 179 |
| Unsanctioned events | 112-113 | Winter membership | 57 |
| | | Winter Music | 197-201 |
| | | Withdrawals | 111 |
| | | Y | |
| | | Young Horse and Pony | 209-213 |

British Dressage

Equine welfare



British Dressage is committed to the welfare of horses through good horsemanship and excellent training at all levels - it's at the heart of everything we do. Find out more about our Equine Welfare policies:

www.britishdressage.co.uk

THE ORGANISATION — OF HORSEBOX — & TRAILER OWNERS

SPECIALIST HORSEBOX AND TRAILER BREAKDOWN COVER



- Roadside Assistance / Repair
- Professional Horse Transport
- Vehicle Recovery
- Full UK Cover
- Optional European Assistance



Proprietors

www.prprescue.com

01488 657651

info@prprescue.com