

Frequently Asked Questions



When will the new rules come into effect?

The new rules will be effective from 1 January 2026 for the start of the new summer qualifying season. Qualification during the current season for the 2026 Winter Championships and Petplan Area Festival Championships will remain under the existing format.

Will the qualifying periods change?

The qualifying seasons will remain the same for both the Area Festivals and the Regional Championships. The summer season will run from 1 January to 30 June, and the winter season will run from 1 July to 31 December each year.

Will qualification from the Area Festivals to the Area Festival Championships be affected?

Qualification from the Area Festivals to the Area Festivals Championships remains unchanged. The top two combinations from each class, scoring 63% or higher, will qualify for the Area Festival Championships, except where the class is split. If the class is split, the winning combination in each class will qualify, providing they score 63% or higher.

If I qualify for the Area Festival Championships can I still compete at two Area Festivals?

No. 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 Area Festivals and must withdraw with immediate effect.

If I qualify for the Winter or National Championships can I still compete at two Regionals?

No. If a combination achieves qualification for the Winter or National Championships, they may not contest the same level and section or class in the remaining Summer or Winter Regional Championships and must withdraw with immediate effect.

Will qualification for Freestyle to Music classes change?

The number of scores required to qualify for Freestyle to Music classes at the Summer Area Festivals and Winter Regional Championships will remain unchanged. However the percentage requirements for qualification remains under review, and any changes will be announced in the full rule synopsis at the beginning of December.

Will these changes affect any other Championships?

From 1 January 2026, four scores will be required to qualify for the Associated Championships. These four scores will still qualify combinations for all classes (at the relevant level and section) at the Associated Championships. **Please note:** From 1 January 2026, combinations will only be able to contest two consecutive levels across all sections at the Associated Championships.

Any other questions?

Please email operations@britishdressage.co.uk and we will do our best to answer any questions about the changes to our qualification rules for 2026. Our team will also be on hand at the National Championships, Summer Area Festival Championships, and Annual General Meeting over the coming weeks to speak directly to members and help with any queries you may have.