

HT: HORSE TRIALS

BRC runs Horse Trials competitions for Junior and Senior competitors:

- **Mixed HT 70** is a mixed class open to senior and junior teams and individuals, teams may be any combination of seniors and/or juniors, the best three scores to count.
- **Mixed HT 80** is a mixed class open to senior and junior teams and individuals, teams may be any combination of seniors and/or juniors, the best three scores to count.
- **Mixed HT 90** is a mixed class open to senior and junior teams and individuals, teams may be any combination of seniors and/or juniors, the best three scores to count and individuals.
- **Mixed HT 100** is a mixed class open to senior and junior teams and individuals, teams may be any combination of seniors and/or juniors, the best three scores to count and individuals.

HT1: ELIGIBILITY See G6.1

No horse may compete in more than one HT class

Class/ Level	Rider Eligibility	Horse Eligibility
70	(c)	Horses may not have completed a BE90 / BRC HT, CC or AE 90 or above in the previous 12 months. Horses may not have completed a BE 3* or above in the previous 3 years.
80	(c)	Horses may not have completed a BE100 / BRC HT, CC or AE 100 or above in the previous 12 months. Horses may not have completed a BE 3* or above in the previous 3 years.
90	(c)	Horses may not have completed a BE Novice or above in the previous 12 months.
100	(c)	

- (c) Riders not to have completed under FEI Rules in the relevant discipline in the last 5 calendar years. For Eventing restrictions at 70cm – 90cm applies to 3* and above only and for 100cm applies to 4* and above only.

- Horses may only compete at one height

Reserves: see G11

HT1.2.1: Numbers to Qualify

See CR Appendix 8. The number of highest placed individual riders qualifying for the Championships will be governed by the number of arenas required (see Rule G8.3).

HT1.3: DRESSAGE PHASE

HT1.3.1: Dressage Rules

The Dressage phase of the Horse Trials competition will be run under the Dressage rules set out in section D1 unless superseded in this section.

HT1.3.2: Saddlery, Tack and Dress

Full details are at CR Appendices 3A, 3B, 3C and 3D.

HT1.3.3: Tests

Test information is found in Appendix CR1

HT1.3.4: Scoring

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

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

HT1.3.5: Commanders

Dressage tests at Area Qualifiers may be commanded, but not at the Championships. Commanders should be courteous when multiple arenas are running and position themselves to avoid disturbing other riders. Commanders should only read out the printed text or extracts for each movement and must not use any other words or emphasis to prompt the rider.

HT1.4: SHOW JUMPING PHASE

HT1.4.1: The Show Jumping phase of the Horse Trials competition will be run under the Show Jumping rules set out in section SJ1 unless superseded in this section.

HT1.4.2: Saddlery, Tack and Dress

Full details are at CR Appendices 3A, 3B, 3C and 3D.

HT1.4.3: The Course

The course will consist of a designated number of obstacles (see CR Appendix 6) that are to BS/SJA1 standard or above. A proportion of the fences should be built with fillers (brushes, walls etc). Safety cups, to FEI standard, must be used on the back and centre of spread fences. Safety cups must also be used for practice fences.

The maximum height of any obstacle in Area competitions and at Championships will be as per CR Appendix 6.

HT1.4.4: Order of Jumping

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

HT1.4.5: Time Allowed & Penalties

The Time Allowed will be based on a speed of 325mpm (except 70cm where the speed is 300mpm). Every commenced period of 1 second in excess of time allowed will be penalised by 1 time penalty.

HT1.4.6: Jumping Penalties

Jumping penalties will be incurred as follows:

Knocking down any part of an obstacle including the wing	4 penalties
First disobedience on the whole course	4 penalties
Second disobedience on the whole course	8 penalties
Third disobedience on the whole course	Elimination
Fall of rider	Elimination
Fall of horse	Elimination
Exceeding 24 jumping penalties (excluding time penalties)	Compulsory Retirement

HT1.4.7: Scoring

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

HT1.5: CROSS-COUNTRY PHASE

HT1.5.1: Saddlery, Tack and Dress

Full details are at CR Appendices 3A, 3B, 3C and 3D.

HT1.5.2: Heights

The maximum height of any obstacle in Area competitions and at Championships will be as per CR Appendix 6.

HT1.5.3: Plan

A plan of the course shall be displayed. It must include:

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

HT1.5.4: Inspection of the Course

The cross-country course must be completed and ready for inspection by competitors no less than an hour before the first class is due to commence and at least ten minutes before subsequent classes are due to commence. Competitors may view the course on foot only, after 2pm on the day preceding the competition but the course will not be finalised until an hour before the first class. Unauthorised alteration to or tampering with fences or direction markers on the course is strictly forbidden and may be penalised by disqualification.

HT1.5.5: Marking the Course

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

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

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

HT1.5.6: Modifications to the Course

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

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

HT1.5.7: Alternative Fences

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

HT1.5.8: Fences

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

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

HT1.5.9: Measurement of Fences

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

The overall height of a natural hedge or brush fence may not exceed the maximum height by more than 20cm; the brush or hedge above the normal maximum height must be brushable through and must not be likely to injure a horse. (A conventional birch steeplechase type fence does normally meet these criteria, provided the top has only thin branches). There is no limit to the overall height of a bullfinch, provided that the average pony/horse can reasonably be expected to pass through and the fixed and solid part is clearly defined. In the case of a fence with a spread only (e.g. dry ditch, water jump), a guardrail or hedge not exceeding 50cm, which facilitates jumping, is permitted in front, but must be included in the measurement of the spread.

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

HT 70, 80 and 90..... 1.2m
HT 100..... 1.4m

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

HT 70, 80, 90 and 100..... 0.2m

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

HT1.5.10: Dimensions of Fences:

Details of the dimensions of cross-country fences are at CR Appendix 6. Fences do not have to be uniform in terms of height, spread etc. throughout their length, or that these dimensions may never be exceeded anywhere between the red and white flags marking the extent of the fence. It is sufficient if all parts of the fence, where the average pony/horse and rider could reasonably and conveniently be expected to jump; do not exceed the maximum permitted dimensions.

HT1.6: ONE & TWO DAY EVENTS**HT1.6.1: Order of Phases**

The Horse Trials Championships are all run as two day events, and, as such will have the following phases:

	Saturday	Sunday
Mixed 70	Dressage & SJ	XC
Mixed 80	Dressage & SJ	XC
Mixed 90	Dressage & XC	Vet Inspection, SJ
Mixed 100	Dressage & XC	Vet Inspection, SJ

HT1.6.3: Vet Inspection Horse Trials Trot-up:

The HT 90 and HT 100 competitors will have to attend a veterinary inspection or trot up as they are more commonly known. The Vet Inspection will be in the morning on the final day before SJ.

Officials: The trot ups are officiated by an appointed BRC Ground Jury of two assisted by a vet, with a second vet for referrals, and a steward. These inspections are held to ensure the welfare and future competitiveness of your horse is not jeopardised.

Tack:

The following is required:

- bridle, preferably with a snaffle bit (with a bridle tag for a stallion)
- no saddle or other tack
- no head collars
- no bandages or boots
- no studs
- horses should be plaited except for Native Breeds or Arabs.

Dress:

The following is required:

- smart dress (remember suitable and safe shoes for leading a horse in hand no wellington boots except in wet weather, or high heels)
- competition number or bridle number (on both sides of the horse)
- horses should be plaited where applicable
- protective headwear must be worn (see G22.2).

Procedure:

Competitors should report to the steward ahead of your allocated time, the steward will call you forward in order and you will be asked to stand your horse square in front of the jury and then after a static inspection asked to trot up on a hard surface. Once the horse is in trot, let them have a loose rein. The Ground Jury will confer with the vet, if necessary, you may be asked to trot up several times, and you will be told that your horse has either:

Been accepted – your horse has passed the inspection and you may return to the stabling area or go to the appropriate area for your next phase.

Been referred – you will be asked to go to the holding area; there you will be asked to report to the second vet for a further check. The vet will discuss any apparent problem with you. You will then be asked to represent to the Ground Jury for a re-assessment or you may choose to withdraw from the competition. After the second assessment the Ground Jury will advise you that your horse has been accepted or will advise you that your horse will not be allowed to proceed to the next phase.

Appeals:

There can be no appeal against the decision of the Ground Jury however, if requested, the Chairman of the jury must give a reason for the decision after the whole of the inspection has been completed.

HT1.7: METHOD OF STARTING

Competitors must start from within a simple enclosure which must be erected at the start, measuring approximately 5m square, with an open front marked with a red and white flag. Alternatively, a similar sized enclosure may be used with an open front and a gap of approximately 2m in one or both sides from which horses will enter, provide that the sides of the side opening are padded or otherwise constructed to ensure that neither pony/ horse nor rider entering through the side can be injured. The starter will count down from five before giving the signal to start and the competitor may move around the enclosure.

Cantering through a side entrance of the start box may be considered inappropriate or dangerous riding and, as such, may be eliminated at the discretion of the Official Steward.

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

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

HT1.8: SCORING**HT1.8.1 Penalties**

These penalties are cumulative:

First disobedience at a jump.....	20 penalties
Second disobedience at the same jump	40 penalties
Third disobedience at the same jump	Elimination
Fourth disobedience on the whole course	Elimination
Fall of the rider on the course.....	Elimination
Fall of pony/horse at a fence.....	Elimination
Every commenced period of 1 second in excess of the optimum time.....	0.4 penalties
Every commenced period of 1 second in excess of 15 seconds under the optimum time.....	0.4 penalties
Exceeding the time limit (cross-country).....	Elimination
Error of course (omission of jump, boundary flag,not rectified, retaking an obstacle already jumped.....	Elimination
Jumping an obstacle in the wrong order	Elimination
Jumping an obstacle with crossed flags	Elimination
Trapped pony/horse.....	Elimination
Dangerous riding	Discretionary 25 penalties
Inappropriate riding.....	Discretionary 25 penalties
Riding improperly dressed.....	Discretionary Elimination
Starting early.....	Discretionary Elimination

There will be no marked penalty zones. Faults (refusals, run-outs, circling and falls) will be penalised only, if, in the opinion of the judge concerned, they are connected with the negotiation of one of the numbered fences. Jumping penalties will be added to any time penalties to calculate the total cross-country penalties.

HT1.8.2: Pace

Competitors are free to choose their pace whilst on the course, but should be aware that any sudden slowing down in the final third of the course may be categorised as inappropriate riding and penalised accordingly.

HT1.8.3: Definition of Faults

Refusals: A horse is considered to have refused if it stops in front a fence to be jumped and that fence exceeds 30cm. A stop is defined as lack/ceasing of forward momentum. A stop

at fences of 30cm or less in height followed immediately by a standing jump is not penalised. A horse may step sideways, but if the horse steps back, even a single pace, voluntarily or not, or if the halt is prolonged, this constitutes a refusal. If a horse that has already stepped back once is re-presented at the fence and halts or steps back a second time, or if the halt is prolonged and the rider redoubles or changes their effort, still without success, this constitutes a second refusal and so on. After the fourth cumulative refusal the competitor is eliminated.

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

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

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

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

Fences not on the course:

There is no penalty for jumping a fence that is not on the course unless it has crossed flag/s.

Dangerous Riding: A competitor who at any stage of the competition rides in a way which may adversely affect the safety of themselves, the horse or any third party. The following are some examples of dangerous riding:

- riding out of control
- riding fences too fast for the fence in question
- riding fences too slowly for the fence in question (including jumping from a standstill or the horse has slowed down so much that the loss of momentum will seriously reduce the prospects of jumping the fence safely)
- repeatedly standing off fences
- riding the horse with excessive force to the foot of the fence
- riding an unresponsive horse
- repeatedly being ahead/or behind the horses movement when jumping
- riding without regard for rules.

Inappropriate Riding: A competitor who rides in an unsuitable manner, which may not constitute dangerous riding. For example: slowing down in the final third of the course so as not to gain time penalties.

HT1.8.4: Double, Treble or Multiple Fences

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

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

HT1.8.5: Elimination & Retiring

Competitors eliminated or retiring from any part of the course for any reason whatsoever shall leave the course at a walk and shall take every precaution to avoid disturbing other competitors. They shall not jump fences after elimination or retiring. At the discretion of the Official Steward disciplinary action may be taken for contravention of this rule. Any competitor eliminated as a result of a fall must not remount until checked by a doctor or paramedic as G28.

HT1.8.6: Medical Suspension

Any competitor who has had a fall must see the doctor and be passed fit to ride before remounting, riding a different horse or leaving the site.

See also G28.

HT1.9: COMPETITOR IN DIFFICULTY

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

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

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

HT1.10: OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

Outside assistance is not permitted and a discretionary up to 25 penalties or elimination will be given by an Official Steward at a competition for outside assistance if they deem appropriate. Any intervention by a third party, whether solicited or not, with the object of facilitating the task of the rider or helping their horse is considered outside assistance. Similarly, it is forbidden for a competitor to join or accept a lead from another competitor. Examples of outside assistance include:

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

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

The following forms of assistance are allowed:

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

The Official Steward will decide whether or not a competitor has received outside assistance. Fence judges should record the details on the fence score sheets if they consider outside assistance has been given with full details.

HT1.11: OVERTAKING

HT1.11.1: Between Fences

A competitor catching up another may overtake but only at a safe and suitable place. In such circumstances the leading competitor must give way. It is forbidden, under penalty of elimination at the discretion of the Official Steward, for either competitor to wilfully obstruct or cause any damage to the other.

HT1.11.2: At any Fence

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

HT1.12: TIME KEEPING

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

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

HT1.13: SCORING

HT1.13.1: Total Score

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

For the purposes of the final team classification only, a team member who fails for any reason to complete the Competition will be awarded 500 penalty points. Withdrawals will remain as W/D.

HT1.13.2 Ties

If there is equality the total marks for all the riders in the tying teams will be considered in the following order:

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

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

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

HT1.14: AWARDS

See CR Appendix 8.