



RDA Rule Book 2020 including Competition Rules



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Please note for the purpose of this rule book all equines will be referred to as horse

TACK AND EQUIPMENT FOR RDA GROUPS

Introduction

These rules shall apply to all RDA riding activities that take place during RDA Group sessions; discipline specific and competition rules can be found separately.

1. **Horses**

Bridles, saddlery and other equipment used shall be supplied, in good condition, fit the horse and be thoroughly checked regularly.

No bridle, saddlery or other equipment shall be used in a way that causes the horse pain, discomfort or distress.

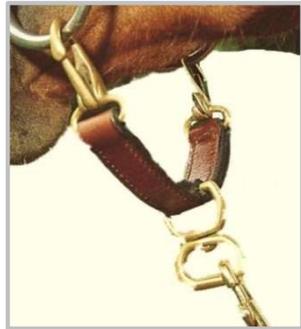
2. **Bridles**

- Only a standard bridle (see noseband section below) or a simple double bridle should be used. If a double bridle is used, its use and fitting must be approved by the Regional Coach or Regional Equine Advisor.
- All reins must be attached to a bit or a head collar, if being led from a coupling that is attached to the bit.
- When a coupling is used, it must be correctly and safely fitted to the bit and short enough so that it doesn't move up and over the horse's chin. Couplings should be fitted below a rider's rein to prevent interference. **Couplings must be removed when ridden off the lead rein.**
- When using head collars under a bridle, the noseband of the bridle must be removed.
- Any rein from any bit in the horse's mouth must be in direct contact with the participant. If there are circumstances where a participant is not using reins, they must be twisted and tied up into the throatlash.

- Only one set of reins should be attached to a bit. If a double bridle is used each bit must have its own rein attached on each side.
- If a participant is unable to use two reins with a Pelham bit they may use Pelham roundings.
- Non-Standard Bridles should not be used. This includes any form of bitless bridle (including hackamores). However, if in exceptional circumstances, a group is considering using one, its use and fitting must be approved by the Regional or County Coach or Regional Equine Advisor.



Pelham Roundings



Coupling fitting

3. Grass/Daisy Reins

Correctly fitted grass/daisy reins are permitted when riding on grass only.

Correctly fitted grass reins should be clipped to the bit with the clip facing outwards then should run up through the browband loop, then back down the horse's neck and attach to the D rings on the saddle.

There should be slack in the reins to allow the horse to bend and lower the neck slightly to stretch.

Daisy reins must be fitted to allow the horse to move and stretch its neck. It must not be fitted too tight where it affects the horse's natural movement.



Correctly Fitted Grass
Reins



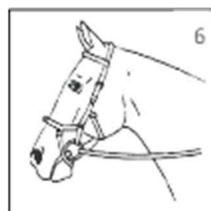
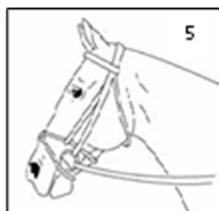
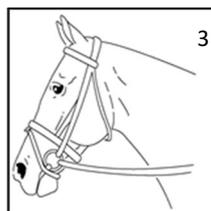
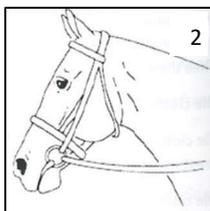
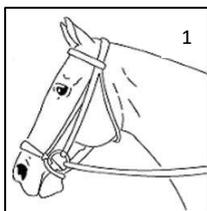
Daisy reins

4. Neck Straps

Neck straps not attached by a breastplate or similar are not permitted.

5. Nosebands

- Only one noseband may be worn.
- The following nosebands are approved for RDA use.



1. Dropped noseband	4. Double bridle with cavesson noseband, bridoon bit and curb chain
2. Cavesson noseband	5. Mexican Grackle
3. Flash noseband	6. Micklem bridle (must be worn with a bit)
N.B. 1,2,3,5 & 6 are not permitted when a double bridle is used.	

6. Permitted Bits

Great care must be used when fitting any bits, for the welfare of our horses. As well as ensuring the bits are correctly fitted, the group must also consider the skills of the rider in each session. If anyone is unsure or needs advice, groups can contact their Regional or County Coach, or Regional Equine Advisor.

If groups intend to compete they **MUST** refer to the general competition and discipline specific rules to ensure they have got an acceptable bit for their competition.

7. Curb Chains

A curb chains must be fitted correctly and ensure that it is not fitting too tight. A lip strap does not need to be worn.



8. Saddles

- Saddles should be worn; English, western and side-saddles can be used.
- Where it is of benefit to a participant, and related to their medical or physical condition, a back pad may be used instead of a saddle. The pad must be secured by a wide webbing surcingle with a buckle fastening. A roller with a handle may also be used to secure the pad. Consideration must be given to the size and shape of the horse being used and the goals of each participant.
- Vaulting rollers are used in approved vaulting groups only.
- Seat savers may be used.
- Saddle cloths and numnahs must be correctly fitted and fit well up into the front arch and gullet of the saddle and must not rub down on the withers.
- **Humane girths (having non-independent straps that will loosen if one of the straps were to break) are not permitted.**

9. Stirrups

- A stirrup iron should be one inch wider than the width of the participant's foot. When the foot is in place, there should be between $\frac{1}{4}$ & $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of space on either side of the foot.
- Velcro Stirrup Straps are permitted.
- Elastic bands may be used where appropriate but must be able to snap easily.
- Peacock Stirrups are permitted however as it is an incomplete stirrup and as such, has an inherent structural weakness. Whilst there is no specific weight limit, great care must be taken not to overload the stirrup and a participant's weight, balance and ability should all be taken into account when considering their suitability to use the stirrups. Only the correct peacock leather fitting and rubber strap can be used; if they break they must be replaced by the correct straps and not any improvised alternatives.
- Riders cannot ride with just 1 stirrup unless they are riding side saddle or when a user of prosthesis (leg) has opted not to wear it whilst riding.
- Participants may ride without stirrups except when showjumping or endurance riding when stirrups MUST be worn.



Velcro Stirrup Straps

10. Suitable Clothing

- Participants and helpers should wear comfortable and suitable clothing (long trousers and long sleeved tops are recommended).
- Jackets and body warmers, if worn, must be fastened.
- It is recommended that any jewellery (including piercings) is removed and that long hair should be tied back.
- Gloves are recommended.

11. Headwear

Participants

An approved hat must be worn at all times when mounted and must comply with the current RDA Health and Safety policy including any temporary standards.

The current standards are:

- PAS015 (1998 or 2011) with BSI Kitemark;
- ASTM F1163 with SEI Kitemark;
- SNELL E2001
- VG1

All hats should be routinely checked for wear, tear and defects. If the hat has been used during a fall, or it has been dropped, it must not be used again.

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

- Non-standard hats (including specially made, by a reputable manufacturer, riding hats, other kite marked helmets e.g. ski, cycle, skateboard), can be assessed by a Regional or County Coach, or someone who has been approved by the Regional Coach. Anyone assessing hat suitability MUST have been on a BETA hat fitting workshop.
- Consent signed on the "Alternative Hat Assessment Form" by the Participant/Parent/Guardian/Carer, confirming they understand that it is a non-standard hat.
- Participant and hat to be re-assessed annually.
- The hat must not be used by another participant without an assessment.
- There may be exceptional circumstances when a carriage driver has to drive without a hat. Before this can happen the "No Hat Form" must be completed and sent to the Carriage Driving Co-ordinator at National Office, along with a written request stating why the driver needs to drive without a hat. This request will then go to the Carriage Driving Committee for approval, before any driver without a hat can drive.
- Children or adults of the Sikh religion are exempted from any hat ruling while they are wearing a turban. Religious head wear (hijabs, yamulkes etc) can be worn providing they will not come undone or are not fixed to the head by a hard object e.g. brooch, or could present a danger to the participant. There are various balaclavas/riding snoods on the market which are made specifically to use under hats instead of hijabs or some other headwear. These are available from www.kramer.co.uk. In these cases, an alternative hat form must be completed.

Hats for volunteers

Although it is not mandatory to wear hats, if an RDA Volunteer chooses to do so, the hat must fit into the current standards listed above.

All coaches/volunteers must wear a hat when mounted.

12. Footwear

- The footwear of all participants must be checked before they are allowed to take part.
- Footwear shall be recognised riding boots or other sturdy smooth soled footwear with a heel. Shoes or boots without heels, or lighter types of footwear are not acceptable for riding, unless toe caps are used.
- For vaulting footwear, please see discipline specific rules.
- Helpers should wear sturdy shoes or boots.

13. Whips

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

14. Spurs

- Spurs may only be worn by participants who are able to control their leg movements.
- 2 matching spurs must be worn unless the participant is riding side-saddle or riding with a prosthesis.
- Spurs should be made of metal & the band around the heel must be smooth.
- Spurs with a smooth rotating rubber, metal or plastic ball on the shank are permitted.
- Swan-neck & 'Comb' spurs are not permitted.

- Any shank on the back of the heel must point towards the rear and the end must be clearly horizontal to the ground or pointing downwards.
- No spur shall extend more than 2.5cm from the rear of the boot.
- Dummy spurs are permitted.

Excessive use* of whips or spurs is forbidden.

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



Dummy Spurs

N.B. Constant leg movement by a participant on a horse's side may also cause rubs or sores which must be avoided.

Special Equipment

Additional Special Equipment may be used to aid a participant, the same rules regarding condition, fit and suppleness must also apply. If in doubt about Special Equipment please contact the RDA Special Equipment Advisor via www.rda.org.uk/running-your-group/special-equipment/

Handling belts

Their use should solely be for mounting and dismounting only.

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

1. Dress

All riders, drivers and vaulters including trainers, coaches and nominated representatives must be correctly dressed when mounted. Leaders and side walkers must wear appropriate foot wear and gloves are recommended. If hats are worn they must be of the current RDA standard.

2. Hats

A hat must be worn at all times when mounted and must comply with current RDA Health and Safety Policy including any temporary standards. Any request for exemption from this rule must be supported by an Alternative Hat Approval form signed by the Regional or County Coach.

3. Footwear

Footwear shall be recognised riding boots or other sturdy smooth soled footwear with a heel. All other footwear requires the use of either an enclosed stirrup or a recognised safety stirrup.

4. Earrings & Piercings

Earrings and/or other items fixed by piercings must not be worn.

5. Whips

- a) One whip, or two if necessary, may be carried.
- b) Neither leaders nor side walkers are permitted to carry a whip in the competition arena.

- c) When saluting the rider must carry the whip(s) in the non-saluting hand.
- d) Shaped whips are permitted for dressage and countryside challenge only.

Please see discipline specific rules for permitted lengths.

6. Spurs

Correctly fitted spurs may only be worn by senior riders able to control their leg movements. Junior riders may only wear spurs with the permission of their Regional Coach.

Spurs may not be worn upside down, must be a pair (except when riding side saddle) and made of metal, although 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, subject to the above restriction.

No spur shall extend more than 2.5cm from the rear of the boot.

Excessive use of spurs is forbidden.

A rider may be required to remove their spurs by a Judge or Steward until any question concerning type or use of spurs is resolved.

7. Saddles

- a) Saddles must be worn, English or continental saddles should be used at the National Championships. N.B. Side saddles may be used. Other types of saddles may be used at the discretion of the Discipline Committee.
- b) Numnahs and seat savers may be used.
- c) Riders may ride without stirrups if their medical condition so demands. Riders will not be allowed to ride with only one stirrup, other than when a side saddle is used, or when a user of prosthesis (leg) has opted not to wear it.
- d) Velcro straps and elastic bands may be used. Velcro must allow the rider to fall free of their horse.

8. Bridles

- a) Only a snaffle bridle or a simple double bridle may be used. If a double bridle is used its use and fitting must be approved by the Regional Coach or Discipline Coordinator.
- b) Bit guards are not allowed. Only one noseband, cavesson, drop or flash may be worn.
- c) All reins must be attached to a bit. Any rein from any bit in the horse's mouth must be in direct contact with the rider. If a double bridle is used each bit must have its own rein attached on each side. Pelham couplings are not permitted. The two reins on one side must either both go to the rider's hand(s) or may be connected into one rein before reaching the rider. Foot reins are usually allowed when no other reins are going to be controlled by arm(s), hand(s) or finger(s) from the upper part of the body of the rider. Exceptions must be confirmed with the Discipline Committee.
- d) The Carl Hester Fantastic Elastic RDA Rein has been approved for RDA use.
- e) Side, bearing or running reins are forbidden as are any sort of bandages, and any sort of blinkers. Martingales, boots,

breast plates, neck straps and cruppers are permitted, please see discipline specific rules for more details.

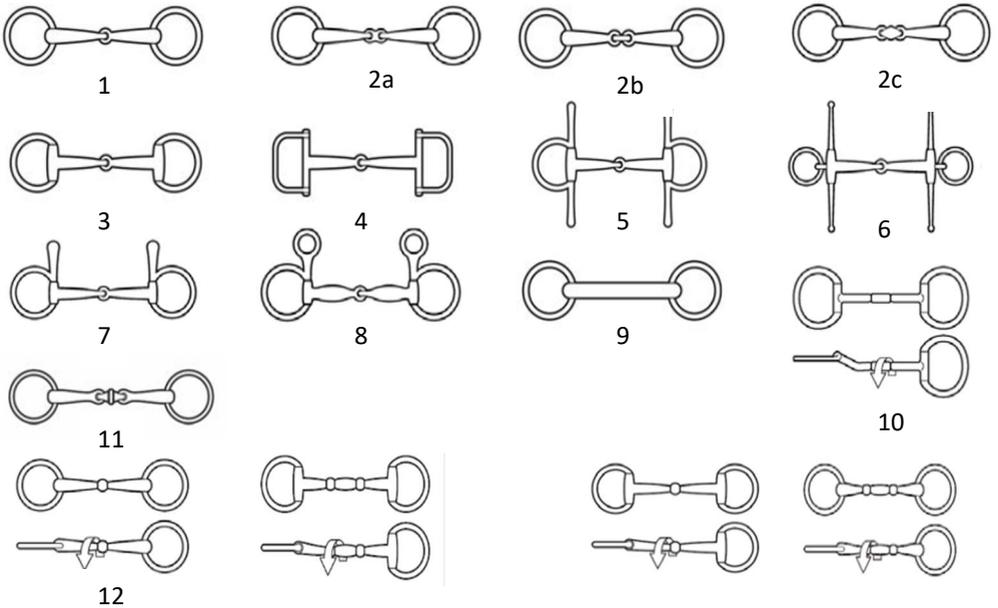
- f) **Ear covers are permitted for all competitions and may also provide noise reduction. Ear cover must not cover the horse's eyes and should be discreet in colour and design. Ear plugs are not permitted during competition but are allowed for prize givings only.**
- g) **Nose nets and face masks are permitted. They must be discreet in colour and should cover the face/nose only, leaving the mouth and bit visible.**
- h) When a lead rein is used from a coupling it must be fitted below the rein and fitted so it doesn't come in front of the horse's chin. A lead rein can also be used with a serviceable headcollar. If a headcollar is used it must replace the noseband of the bridle. **Couplings must be removed when ridden off the lead rein.**
- i) Grass reins & daisy reins are only permitted when competing on grass. They must be fitted correctly.

9. Permitted Bits

Unless bits follow the configuration of those illustrated they are not permitted.

Please see discipline specific rules for any variations on this.

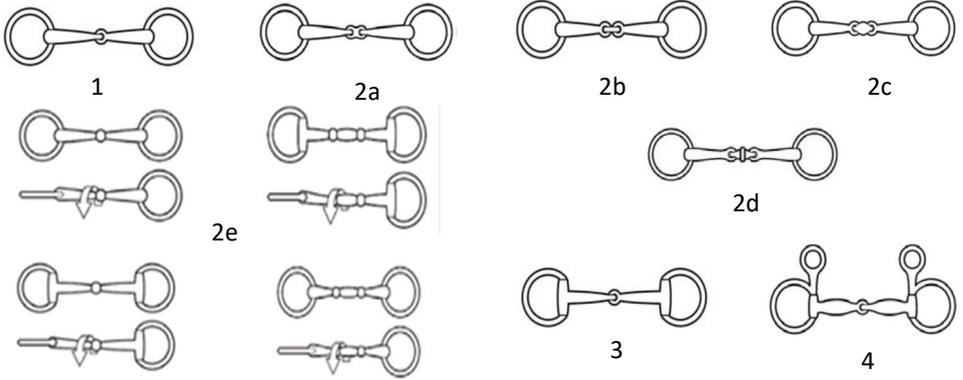
Various Snaffle Bits



1. Loose ring snaffle	7. Snaffle with upper cheeks only
2.a,b,c Snaffle with jointed mouthpiece where middle piece should be rounded	8. Hanging cheek snaffle
3. Egg-butt snaffle	9. Straight bar snaffle. Permitted also with mullen mouth and egg-butt rings
4. Racing snaffle D-ring	10. Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece
5. Egg-butt snaffle with cheeks	11. Snaffle with rotating middle piece
6. Loose ring snaffle with cheeks (Fulmer)	12. Rotary bit with rotating middle piece

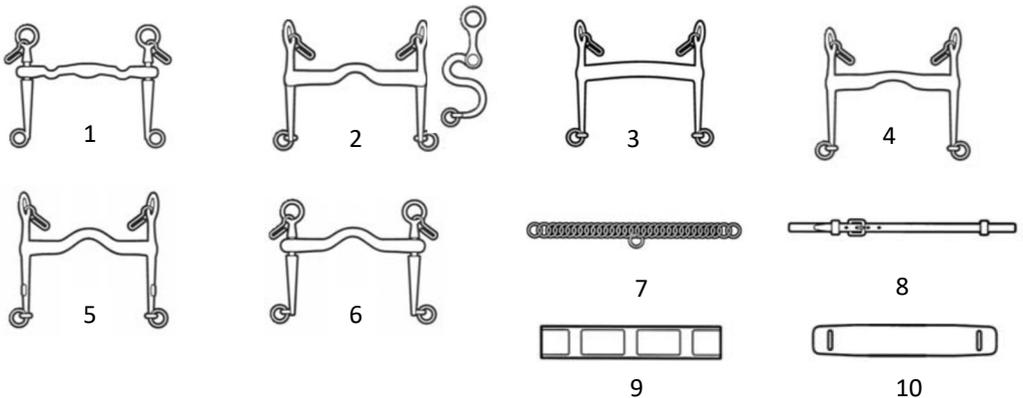
Various Double Bridle Bits

Bridoons



1. Loose ring bridoon bit	2.e, Bridoon rotary bit with rotating middle piece
2. a,b,c, Bridoon bit with jointed mouthpiece where the middle piece should be rounded. Egg-butt sides also allowed	3. Egg-butt bridoon bit
2.d, Bridoon bit with rotating middle piece	4. Bridoon bit with hanging cheeks

Curbs



1.Variation of bits 4, 5, 6	7.Curb chain (metal, leather or combination)
2.Curb bit with S curved cheeks	8.Lip strap
3.Half-moon curb bits	9.Leaner cover for curb chain
4 & 5.Curb bit with straight cheeks and port	10.Rubber cover for curb chain
6.Curb bit with port and sliding mouthpiece (Weymouth)	N.B. a) Curb chain hooks must not be fixed b) A curb with rotating lever arm is also permitted

10. Independent Participants (IP)

By independent participant (IP) we mean a rider/driver who owns or loans (but not from an RDA group) their horse and does not ride/drive in an RDA group session.

The relationship between an IP and their group does vary. It is strongly recommended that Groups and their IP's are in contact regularly, especially when competing. Horse/rider combinations must meet RDA requirements and therefore it is suggested that combinations are seen at least twice a year.

Any group may allow a participant who does not regularly ride/drive with them to compete 'under their banner'. This allows a participant with a disability who, for whatever reason, cannot take part regularly with a group, have access to RDA competitions. Please note that all the appropriate participant rider/driver application forms must be completed as if they were to be taking part at a group session. The horse must also be deemed suitable by their relevant Regional Discipline Coach.

Advantages

- Increase profile of group on the competition circuit.
- Bring more participants/volunteers & support to the group.
- Increase attendance at meetings, AGMs & social events.
- Boost group morale.
- Increase support network to the group.

Group trustees must be under no pressure to accept or refuse a participant. Each group is entirely free to decide whether or not to allow a participant to compete under their name; some may insist that only participants who regularly attend RDA sessions may represent them.

The horse that the participant intends to compete on must be deemed suitable as stated above. Once deemed suitable the horse is covered by RDA insurance for public liability at RDA events only, all other insuring of the horse is the responsibility of the participant or their representative.

The participant, or their representative, will be responsible for all aspects of the competition; financial, provision of animal, transport to and from competition & training etc. unless the group wishes to provide assistance.

We strongly suggest that the relationship expectations be clearly laid out in writing by both parties as soon as possible.

11. Juniors

Juniors may compete as a junior until the end of the year in which they reach the age of 16.

12. Horses

- a) Horses must be 5 years old or over.
- b) Any height of horse is allowed in any class.
- c) In line with standard RDA policy, stallions must not be used in any RDA competitions.
- d) Each horse may only enter a maximum of five ridden classes including lead rein each day. These must not comprise of more than four in any one discipline. At the National Championships the maximum number of classes is 12 over the 3 days of competition. N.B. Each driven class will be the equivalent of 2 ridden classes. A maximum of 2 driven classes only is permitted within one day.
- e) Competitors may compete with more than one horse but may not compete more than one horse in any one class.
- f) Please note it is a legal requirement that all horses are issued with a passport. This must accompany the horse when travelling and competing away from home.
- g) If stabling is required each horse may require a valid equine influenza vaccination record. **Ensure you check each individual events rules. Please note that this is compulsory for those attending RDA Regional Qualifiers and the RDA National Championships.**

Each horse passport should contain a valid influenza vaccination record. The horse must receive a primary course of two injections against equine influenza given no less than 21 days and no more than 92 days apart (only these first two injections need to be given before the horse may compete). In addition, a first booster injection must be given no less than 150 days and no more than 215 days after the second injection of the primary course. Subsequent booster injections must be given at intervals of not more than one year apart, commencing after the first booster injection. **Those horses attending the RDA National Championships must have received a subsequent vaccination in the preceding 6 months of the event.** None of these injections can be given within the

seven days before the day of the competition or entry into competition stables, whichever is sooner.

- h) Horses may be borrowed from other Groups. Both Groups concerned must be happy that the horse rider combination is suitable and this must be arranged prior to competition. Each Group must be present at competitions.

13. Exercise/Warm up

- a) All horses must be exercised/warmed up in the designated areas and shall only walk in other areas. Warm up arenas may not be shared by non-disabled and disabled riders/drivers.
- b) Horses may be introduced to the competition arenas (NOT Countryside Challenge) in walk only at designated times i.e. outside competition hours, in the presence of a Steward. No exercising will be permitted in the car park, horse box area or among spectators.
- c) Competitors should be courteous to one another and to prevent accidents should pass left hand to left hand when meeting a rider coming in the opposite direction.
- d) Horses for all disciplines may be exercised or schooled for up to 20 minutes per day by the trainer/coach or their nominated representative during competition hours. The horse may only be warmed up in permitted saddlery and bits. Only the competitor may ride/drive the horse during the 20 minutes immediately before the test.
- e) Horses may be lunged, in designated areas only, unmounted, by a competent person. Side reins may be used. Running and balancing reins etc. are not permitted. Horses shall not be lunged in an arena where riding or driving is taking place.
- f) No horse, either ridden or led, may enter any arena other than a practice arena during competition hours, except when actually competing, on penalty of elimination.

14. Reporting to Stewards

Competitors or their representative must report to the class steward at least 10 minutes before the start time, by giving their number and name. Failure to keep to the allocated time can result in elimination. Tack and equipment must be checked by the tack check steward prior to reporting to the class steward. It is the responsibility of the competitor or their representative to ensure the judge knows their number.

15. Resistance

Any horse refusing to continue for a period of 60 consecutive seconds during the course of a test may be eliminated.

16. Trot Work

All ridden trot work may be executed sitting or rising at all levels.

17. Use of Voice

The rider may use voice, discreetly, if necessary and as an additional aid.

18. Leaders in Competition

- a) The leader should be one pace away from the horse and level with the horse's shoulders throughout the competition.
- b) The leading rein will be held loosely in the hand furthest away from the horse. The hand nearest the horse should not be used and no influence should be exerted except in an emergency.
- c) The leader should have minimal influence on the pony or rider. The amount of influence will be reflected in the marks.
- d) In a led test the leader looks after the horse and the side walker looks after the safety of the rider. Neither leaders nor side walkers are allowed to carry a whip in the competition arena.

19. Nervous Horse

If a horse is likely to be nervous performing alone, another horse may be led to stand near the arena to make the animal performing feel more secure.

20. Judges Score Sheets

Competition score sheets are only available for collection after the prize giving.

21. Objections

- a) Only the rider or owner of a horse taking part in a competition, their representative or group representative may lodge an objection.
- b) Objections must be made in writing to the Secretary and accompanied by a deposit of £50.00 not later than half an hour after the incident that gave rise to the objection.
- c) The deposit is forfeited unless the objection is upheld or it is decided that there were good and reasonable grounds.

22. Scoreboards & Prize Giving

All scoreboards must be updated regularly, all classes must be completed on the scoreboards within a minimum of 30 minutes before prize giving can commence.

23. Horse Welfare in Competition

In the case of marked lameness the judge informs the rider/driver that they are eliminated. There is no appeal against the decision. If there are any doubts as to the soundness of a horse, the competitor will be allowed to complete the test and any unevenness of pace will be severely penalised.

The judge may ask for a veterinary surgeon's opinion before allowing the competitor's score to go forward for final classification. Refusal to allow this inspection to take place will result in elimination. If the horse appears to be fatigued or distressed the judge can ask the competitor to retire.

If the judge suspects fresh blood anywhere on the horse during the test, they will stop the horse to check for blood. If the horse shows fresh blood in the mouth or area of the spurs, it will be eliminated by the judge. If the judge clarifies that the horse has no fresh blood and is fit to continue, the horse may resume and finish its test. The judge's decision is final.

Please ensure that you consult the RDA weight chart to ensure that your horse/rider combination is suitable and complies with the weight chart.

24. Code of Conduct

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

- All riders and drivers and/or their carers must take responsibility for ensuring they are up to date with the rules; understand and adhere to them.
- All riders, drivers, carers and supporters should recognise the valuable contribution made by all officials, who are usually volunteers. They give their time and resources to enable the event to happen.

- All riders, drivers, carers and supporters must respect officials and their decisions.
- All officials must treat everyone equally and with dignity.
- All those attending the event should treat others with the same level of respect that they would expect to be shown to themselves.
- Everyone must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all; regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity.
- Everyone must ensure that inappropriate language or behaviour is challenged.

If you have a concern:-

If anyone has a concern leading up to the event, please either refer to the RDA Group Safeguarding Officer or contact RDA UK's Lead Safeguarding Officer on 01926 492915.

Any concerns during the event should be reported to the Event Safeguarding Officer - their details will be displayed in the Secretary's Office, Arena 4, Hartpury. Matters will be considered and appropriate action will be taken including, where necessary, removing individual(s) from the venue.

COMPETITION DISCIPLINE RULES

CARRIAGE DRIVING

1. Dress

- a) All drivers when seated in the carriage must be correctly dressed.
- b) Group colours should be worn for all 3 phases at RDA Competitions. This is to include grooms on the ground.
- c) Gloves should be worn if possible.
- d) Drivers must wear their number on their right arm for all phases of the competition.
- e) All hats must conform to the latest hat guidelines and be tagged.

2. Tack/Equipment

- a) It is a fundamental principle of RDA that all horses and equipment must be assessed and judged appropriate to the task at hand before they can be used within an RDA context. This applies to carriages and harness. In each case the assessment must be carried out by an approved RDA Assessor.
- b) All 4 wheel vehicles must have a turntable or an alternative method of articulation. Where possible axles must be set at 138/140cms. Ensure that you provide the width of the vehicle on the entry form. Failing to do so will result in the competition not being set out fairly. Vehicles may be checked at the competition at the discretion of the Organiser.
- c) The driver's reins must be attached to the bit or a low ring on the undercollar.
- d) Bright ribbons must be attached to the secondary reins held by the coach.

3. Permitted Bits

All of the following bits can be used in either straight, mullen or arched mouthpiece. Snaffles, Wilson snaffles and other jointed bits can be used in certain circumstances as agreed by an assessor.



1.Butterfly bit	3.Military or Elbow bit
2.Liverpool bit	4.Kimblewick bit

4. Driver Categories

- a) Novice – Any driver who drives with dual reins and has not won the novice class at the RDA National Championships
- b) Intermediate – Any driver who is qualified to drive with single reins and has not won the intermediate class at the RDA National Championships
- c) Open – Any driver assessed as competent for their coach to back step & drives with single reins.

The winner of the Novice class at the National Championships will move up to the Intermediate class and the winner of the Intermediate class at the National Championships will move up to the Open class for future competitions.

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

5. Competition

The competition consists of a dressage test, a cones course, followed by an obstacle course.

The objective of the driven dressage test is to judge the freedom, regularity of paces, harmony, impulsion, suppleness, lightness, ease of movement and correct bending of the horses on the move. Drivers will also be judged on style, accuracy, and general control of their horses, and on their dress, condition of their harness and carriage and the presentation of their whole turnout.

The cones and obstacles competition is to test the fitness, obedience and suppleness of the horses, and the skill and competence of the driver. Penalties from each phase are then added together and the driver with the lowest number of penalties will win the competition.

6. Scoring & Penalties

Dressage - Drivers will be awarded points out of 10 for each of the 10 movements in the dressage. The score will be converted to penalty points i.e. if a driver gets a mark of 70, this will be converted to 30 penalties.

Arena:

The arena size for the dressage test is 60m x 30m and the markers are laid out 15m apart.

Dressage scoresheets will be available for collection once the competition has finished.

7. Scale of Marks:

The scale of marks for the dressage element is as follows:

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		

Penalties will be awarded as follows:

Dressage – Penalties	Amount of Penalties
Not entering arena within 1 minute of steward's call	1 x every 5 seconds
Error of course	5 x per error
Turnout leaving the arena	20
Calling test in Novice & Intermediate Class	0
Calling test in Open Class	3 x each occurrence
CD Coach taking up contact on reins	3 x each occurrence
Disobedience	5

At the end of the test, the driver salutes. This can be done in the traditional way of raising the whip or it can be a wave, nod or smile, whichever suits the driver. The CD Coach does not salute. On this occasion the CD Coach is acting as a groom and therefore does not salute.

Cones - Drivers are required to negotiate the cones course whilst avoiding knocking off balls placed on top of the cones. The width of the cones will be 30cms wider than the axle.

Penalties will be awarded as follows:

Cones – Penalties	Amount of Penalties
Dislodged ball	3
Error of course	5 per error
Omitting to drive a set of cones	20
Stop/refusal/disobedience	5
CD Coach taking up contact on reins	3 x each occurrence

Obstacles - The objective of this course is to negotiate two obstacles in the shortest possible time. The obstacles are a set of gates marked A-E, driven in alphabetic order. Once the driver has negotiated each gate this will then become 'dead' and can be driven in any direction to enable the driver to get to the next gate in the quickest time. Each obstacle has a timing gate at both the entrance and exit.

Penalties will be awarded as follows:

Obstacles – Penalties	Amount of Penalties
Corrected error of course	5
Uncorrected error of course	20
Time Faults	0.2 penalties per second
Cantering	5 penalties +
CD Coach taking up contact on reins	3 x each occurrence

Penalties will also be awarded for any infringement of RDA Carriage Driving Rules, this will be at the discretion of the discipline organiser.

8. Qualification for National Championships

Competitors should qualify at one of the Regional Qualifiers and be placed 1st or 2nd in their class. In larger classes the first 3 may qualify.

Where there is no qualifier within a reasonable distance, groups may contact the Carriage Driving Co-ordinator at National Office for a possible alternative.

9. Multiple Use of Horses/Vehicles

Horses which are fit enough may be driven by 2 competitors.

Where drivers are sharing horses, carriages or coaches the organisers must be notified at least 2 weeks prior to the event.

At the RDA National Championships - All groups with drivers sharing a turnout must notify the Championships Secretary & Carriage Driving Chairman, by the close of entries which driver they wish to go first so that times can be planned accordingly.

COUNTRYSIDE CHALLENGE

1. Dress

All riders should be dressed in correct riding wear, as far as possible. All concerned should be dressed alike, i.e. all wear group sweatshirts or shirts and jodhpurs. Riding hats for all complete the picture of 'togetherness'. Pay attention to footwear. Black/blue/tweed jackets are perfectly acceptable. A body protector may be worn, provided it is correctly fitted and does not impede or harm the rider.

2. Tack

- a) RDA approved tack adaptations are acceptable, but on no condition must a rope or stirrup leather be secured around a pony's neck. Neck/balance straps attached to a martingale breastplate are permitted.
- b) Grass reins and daisy reins are permitted, provided they are fitted correctly. If you are in doubt over the type of grass/daisy reins that will be accepted, please contact RDA National Office.
- c) When a lead rein is used from a coupling it must be fitted below the rein and fitted so they don't come in front of the horse's chin. A lead rein can also be used with a serviceable head collar. If a head collar is used it must replace the noseband of the bridle. Pelham couplings are not allowed.

3. Rider Categories

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

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

4. Visually Impaired Riders

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

5. Hearing Impaired Riders

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

6. Classes with Leaders & Side walkers

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

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

7. Commanders

In the unled classes, commanders should stand in a central or roving central position. In the led classes, the leader or side helper may act as commander, but should be careful to limit instructions to the text given in bold on the course details. Side

walkers will be allowed to give clearer and more detailed instruction to visually impaired riders.

8. The Competition

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

Classes are split into **the following** categories

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

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

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

9. The Course & Obstacles

It is important that all helpers and side walkers are fully informed and know the permitted instructions as detailed below. They must not bring any papers into the arena with them. Riders, helpers and leaders are strongly advised to walk the course prior to the commencement of the event. It is advised that at some of the obstacles, post box, apple trees etc. that the leader stands in front of the horse.

If a rider has any disability or condition which limits their physical capabilities/performance for this course, this must be highlighted to judges prior to entry. Obstacles will be highlighted for visually impaired riders.

Each rider may attempt each obstacle twice only. If the obstacle is still unsuccessful, the rider must move to the next obstacle.

1. SEVEN OBSTACLES

Bend around 7 numbered obstacles leaving first obstacles to the right (i.e. tyre, cone, feed sack, milk churn, small bin, flower pot and straw bale) placed at varying angles and distances. For led classes leaders must stay to the left of the obstacles, rider to demonstrate ability to steer pony/horse and maintain active walk.

2. ARCH

Walk under the arch. Central approach, maintain rhythm with correct forward swing under archway looking for and taking the correct route towards the centre line between the two barrels.

3. BARRELS

Walk centrally between the two barrels and circle around EITHER the right OR left barrel. To be judged on accuracy, the shape of the circle and maintaining an active walk throughout.

4. APPLE TREES

Halt between Apple Trees. Pick up apple and drop into bucket. Rider to halt centrally, pick apple off one tree and using the same hand, drop into bucket on the **opposite side**. Effort to maintain square halt for apple picking, organisation of reins and overall control.

5. ROAD

Proceed along road to "HALT" sign, halt for 6 seconds then turn left. Following the road turn left again. Leader to lead from the left side, leaders and side walkers must stay on the outside of the road. To be judged on accurate steering, rhythmical walk and up and down transitions. Horses head not to go beyond road line.

6. BRIDLE PATH

Bridle path sign to shrub markers.

Please note that the rider must use the same option for both the Regional Qualifier and National Championships.

6a "WALK ONLY" Halt at bridle path sign, maintain a good square halt for 6 seconds and walk on, showing a good transition from halt to walk, walk centrally over pole showing a light seat position and maintaining a straight active walk throughout. Walk centrally between shrubs.

6b Begin Trot at bridle path sign to go forward into walk at shrub markers. Proceed in sitting or rising trot, trot centrally over pole showing a light seat position. Attempt correct aids for transitions, these may include voice – walk between shrub markers.

6c Trot at bridle path sign, negotiate small jump (independent class only). Show correct position over jump and attempt correct aids for transitions these may include voice - walk between shrub markers.

7. CORRECT APPROACH FROM CENTRE OF SHRUB MARKERS TO BRIDGE

Walk centrally over bridge (leader/side walker to walk over bridge). To show accurate steering on approach and over bridge, maintaining an active walk.

8. POND

Serpentine around Duck Pond. Rider to start a 2 loop serpentine from the bridge around the top of the pond towards the sheep pen whilst maintaining an active walk.

9. SHEEP PEN

Continue 2 loop serpentine around the FRONT of the sheep pen and continue the serpentine towards shrubs, showing an accurate flowing walk. Ride behind shrubs showing an accurate line and approach to the free walk.

10. WALK STRETCHING ON A LONG REIN

Walk stretching on a long rein along farm track of differing 'material' e.g. wood chippings, shavings or straw. **Show controlled walk stretching on a long rein** from start of track, reins to be shortened before leaving track demonstrating an ability to lengthen and shorten reins smoothly while maintaining control.

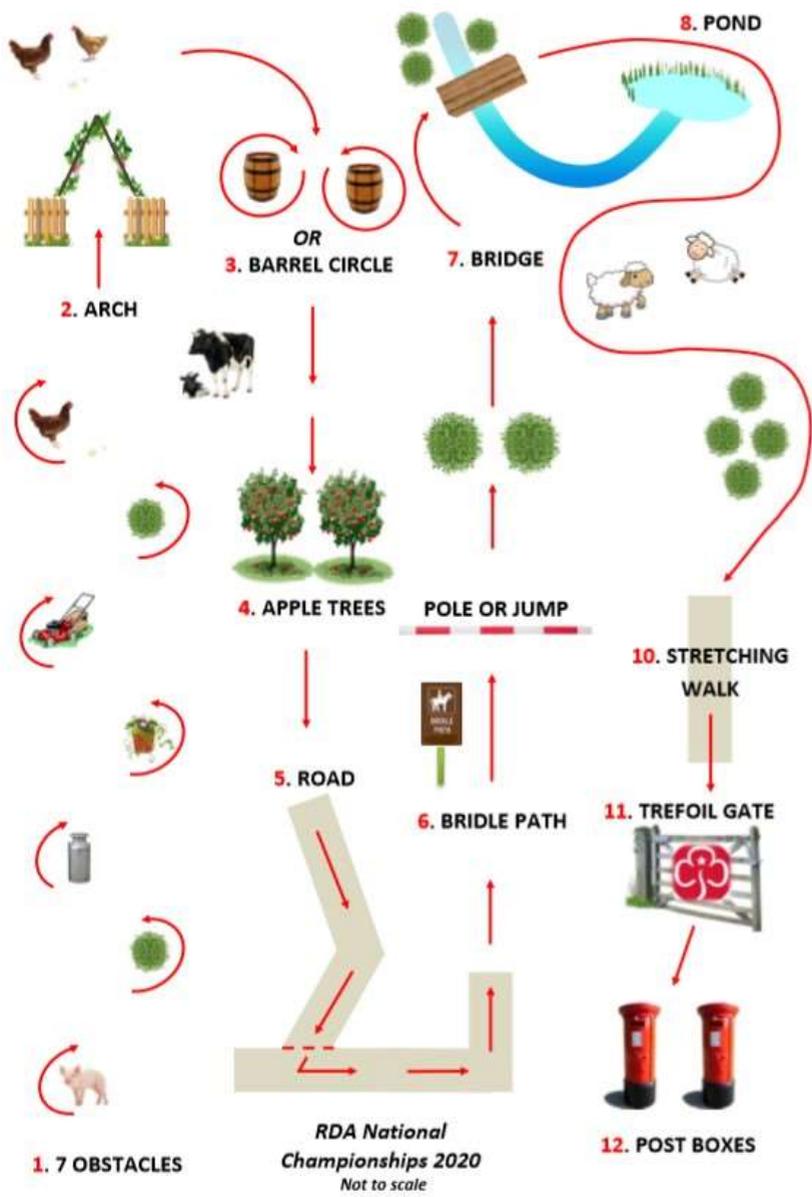
11. TREFOIL GATE

Walk from 'track', open gate and walk through. Thank Farmer. Correct parallel approach to gate. Open gate & walk through. No need to shut it. Thank farmer by raising hand, nodding or voice. **The farmer will hand the rider (or side walker) a letter.**

12. POST BOXES

Active walk to postbox. Show a positive approach to either postbox. Halt and post letter. Reward pony/horse by patting or voice.

Walk on to exit and leave the course when directed to do so. The rider is no longer being judged at this point.



10. Scoring & Penalties

Marks out of 10 will be awarded for the performance of horses/ponies as part of every obstacle. Riders will be marked on effort as well as performance and leaders/helpers are urged to give their riders the time and opportunity to do their own riding as far as is possible. Additional marks are awarded for the general impression of the team, obedience of pony/horse and riders effort and performance. For led classes leaders/side walkers will be marked on their leading/side walking skills.

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

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

11. Scale of Marks

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

Half marks are permitted.

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

mark will decide. If the marks are still identical, the results shall be a tie.

12. Qualification for National Championships

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

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

DRESSAGE

Please note that as of 2017 the FEI renamed the grades for Para Equestrian Riders. Ia is now I, Ib is now II, II is now III, III is now IV, IV is now V and V is now VI. RDA will now be using 1-6.

1. Dress

- a) All riders, when mounted, should be correctly dressed.
 - b) Jodhpurs or breeches must be worn at RDA competitions where possible.
 - c) Jackets must be worn at RDA competitions where possible.
 - d) Gloves should be worn if possible.
- N.B. b and c are compulsory at the RDA National Championships.

2. Tack

Martingales and bearing, side or running reins are forbidden as are any sort of bandages and any sort of blinkers. Boots are not permitted; they may be used for warm up only. Breast plates, neck straps and cruppers are permitted. Neck straps must be attached to a martingale breastplate. All bits approved by BD and which are in their current rule book may be used.

3. Rider Categories

The dressage classes are divided in to Junior, Senior and Open.

- a) Junior Riders – May compete as Juniors until the end of the year in which they reach the age of 16.
- b) Senior Riders – Riders over the age of 16 who are not an Open Rider.

- c) Open Riders – Riders who have competed FEI or BD Para Silver or Bronze Championships in the previous 4 years and those that have been Overall Class Champion in the same class for 2 consecutive years at the RDA National Championships.

4. Visually Impaired Riders

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

5. Leaders in Led Tests

The leader should lead from the inside, changing where necessary.

In a led test where the rider is visually impaired they may have callers as above, this must be declared at time of entry.

6. Assistance in Unled Tests

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

7. The Competition

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

8. Commanders

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

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

Commanders for Hearing Impaired –

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

9. Leaving the Arena

The test begins when the horse enters at A and finishes when it leaves the arena at A after completing the test. Any horse leaving the arena not under control shall be eliminated. **A fall of horse/rider after the final salute may not be penalised, this is at the judges discretion. After a fall, any horse/rider must be checked over before being permitted to continue as per the rider fall rule.**

No marks shall be given for a movement when the horse places all four feet outside the arena. Where the arena is marked by a line only or intermittent boards, it is left to the discretion of the judge as to the marks deducted.

In exceptional circumstances if an unusual occurrence takes place which has a dramatic effect on the horse the rider may at the judge's discretion restart the test from an appropriate place.

10. Freestyle to Music

- a) All competitors must provide their own music on CD and USB. A steward shall be appointed to play the music, but each competitor will be allowed to have their own representative to advise as necessary.

- b) Music must have the rider's name, group and class clearly marked.
- c) Riders or their representatives must deliver their music to the music steward in time for instructions to be given. Competitors are responsible for collecting their music at the end of the class.
- d) The test will be timed from the move off from the first halt till the halt and salute at the end.

11. Scoring of Test

The judge will allot from 0 – 10 marks for each numbered movement. Half marks may be given. These marks are then added together and any penalty marks deducted. If there are two or more judges the resulting totals are added together, to find the total. The score should be expressed as a percentage of the maximum mark.

In freestyle to music tests half marks may be given for both the technical and artistic marks.

12. 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		

Any unauthorised outside assistance or intervention, including coaching by voice, signs etc., will result in elimination by the Judge at C.

In cases where an Athlete stops the test and receives outside assistance in order to turn a temporarily unsafe situation back into a safe situation (in case of a lost stirrup), each judge should give zero (0) for the

particular movement, but allow the Athlete to continue his Test. However, if the danger seems to be of a more permanent character it shall remain the discretion of the Judge at C to eliminate the combination.

13. Error(s) of Course

- a) A rider is judged to have made an error of course when they depart from the direction or pace as laid down in the text of the test.
- b) The test finishes when the horse leaves the arena at A. Any departure from the instructions as to the manner of leaving the arena may be regarded as an error of course and penalised accordingly.
- c) When the rider makes an "error of the test" e.g. does not salute correctly the bell will not be rung but two marks will be deducted by the judge from the marks which would otherwise have been given for the movement.
- d) The judge, on observing that an error of course has occurred, will ring the bell and indicate to the rider, or commander if necessary, the point at which they must take up the test again and the next movement to be executed.

14. Penalties for Error(s) of Course

Every error, whether rectified or not, every omission and every movement in the wrong order is penalised as follows:

First error	-	2 marks
Second error	-	4 marks
Third error	-	8 marks
Fourth error	-	Elimination

15. Riding the Wrong Test

A rider who starts the wrong test for the class may be allowed to restart the test at the judge's discretion so long as they can

do so immediately. They will be penalised for a first error of course.

16. Ties in Scoring

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

17. Time Allowed for Test

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

18. Qualification for National Championships

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

19. National Championships Dressage Tests

- a) All dressage tests will be included in the Championships Schedule for the current year, including the costume and pairs to music.
- b) Please note that Grade 4 and 5 riders who do not wish to canter may ride in the 1-6 (non-graded) walk or walk & trot Championship Classes.**

- c) Riders may also ride a freestyle to music test that corresponds with their Championship class i.e. Grade 3 riders must ride the Grade 3 freestyle and I/D canter test riders must ride the I/D canter freestyle test.
- d) All freestyle tests are to music.
- e) Riders with intellectual disabilities (I/D) must compete within their own classes unless a physical disability allows them to compete in the non-graded classes.

20. Arena Layout

- a) The arena should be set out to the dimensions illustrated in the diagram in this section.
- b) The arena should be level and separated from the public. There should be at least 10m between each arena. If possible canter tests should be ridden on a surface.
- c) The arena should be marked by an appropriate white surround. This should be solid for visually impaired classes.
- d) If the arena is on grass the centre line A-C may be marked by a mown or rolled strip with a short strip mown across it to mark the position of D, X and G.
- e) The markers around the arena must be clearly visible with the letters displayed in black on white, large letters being preferable. They may be placed about $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 metre outside the arena. The colours as shown in the diagram or any other different markers may also be incorporated at the National Championships. It is the Rider/Groups responsibility to supply, erect and remove these before and after their test.
- f) A gap of about one metre each side of the centre line must be left at A to form an entrance and the A marker placed far enough back, 10 metres if possible, to allow the horses to enter the arena on a straight track.
- g) The Dressage Judge is placed at C. Extra judges if required are placed at M and H.
- h) Decorative flowers or trees, if used, must be placed with discretion.

- i) It is ultimately the responsibility of the judges to check that the arena is satisfactory and to have it modified, if necessary, at their discretion.

21. Interpretation of Dressage Tests

- a) 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.
- b) For a simple 'turn right' (or left) the rider will change the 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 'track right' (or left) at any marker the rider will turn in a similar manner but will finish on the outer track or centre line. N.B. the horse must not begin by swinging in the opposite direction and then cross the line of approach. 'To move diagonally' across the arena, say from M to K for a change of rein, the turn from the track should begin at M and the turn to the track should be completed at K. The course between turns will be a straight line passing through X but it will be at a slight angle to the alignment M K.
- c) 'Change of pace' at a given marker. The horse should make the first step of the new pace as the rider passes the marker (it follows that when the transitions are progressive they must begin before reaching the marker).
- d) **'Stretching on a longer rein' – In order to execute the exercise "stretching on a longer rein" 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. An elastic and**

consistent contact with the Athlete's hands must be maintained. To ensure the pace maintains its rhythm during the retake of the reins the horse must accept the contact without resistance in the mouth or poll."

- e) 'Leave the area at A'. After the final salute the rider should move off forward from the halt at the specified pace, turn left or right and proceed directly to the exit at A.
- f) 'Duration of judging'. The judging begins when the rider enters at A and finishes when the rider leaves at A.

22. Directive Ideas for Tests

Entry	The straightness of the entry.
Halt immobility.	The squareness of the halt and the The smoothness and straightness of the move off.
Walk	At all times and in all work, correctness of the pace, rhythm and regularity, activity, acceptance of the bit with a rounded outline. Balance.
Stretching on a Longer Rein	Lengthen the reins as the horse stretches gradually forward and downwards. Elastic and consistent contact, pace to maintain rhythm.
Taking the Reins	The freedom from resistance and tension. The maintenance of rhythm and activity.
Circles, Corners	The bend, balance and shape.

Leg Yield	Flexion in the poll, straightness, crossing with flow, angle, willingness and forwardness.
Shoulder In	The bend, angle and flow. Crossing in front and engagement behind. The willingness and freedom from tension.
Pirouette	Maintenance of walk, crossing in front but not behind, the bend, balance and size.
Rein Back	Smoothness, correctness of stride, straightness, number of strides, the willingness without anticipation.
Trot	At all times and in all work, correctness of pace, rhythm and regularity, impulsion and engagement, acceptance of the bit with a rounded outline, lightness of forehand. Balance.
Medium Trot	The lengthening of stride and frame whilst maintaining rhythm and balance. Cannon bones more or less parallel in diagonal pairs and the engagement. Transitions to and from medium trot coming from behind without resistance.
Some Medium Trot Strides	As medium trot but only a few strides should be shown with clear transitions.
Canter	At all times and in all work, correctness of pace, rhythm and regularity, impulsion and engagement, acceptance of bit with

a rounded outline, lightness of forehand.
Balance.

Medium Canter Lengthening of stride and frame. Straightness and balance. Engagement from behind in transitions to and from medium canter.

Some Medium
Canter Strides As above but only a few strides should be shown with clear transitions.

Counter Canter Canter right on the left rein curve or canter left on a right rein curve.

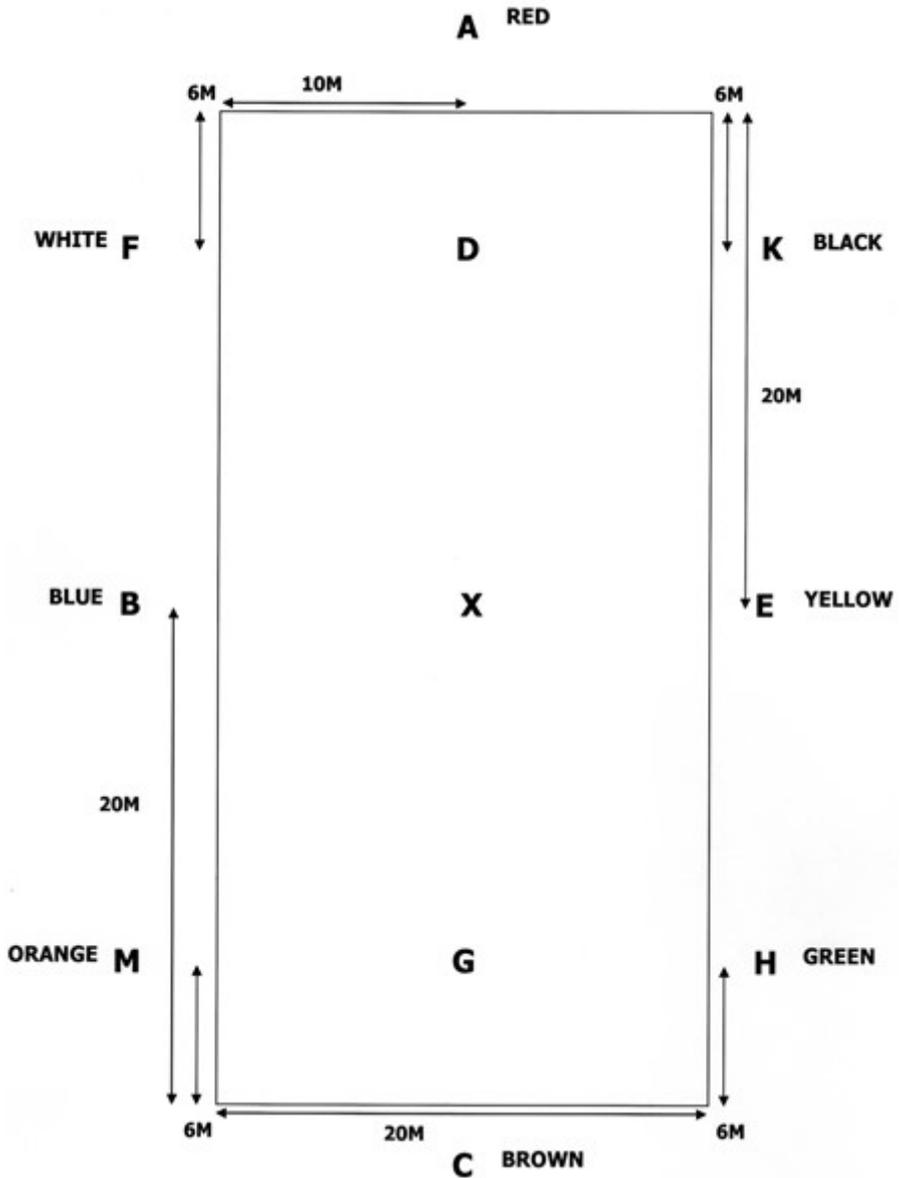
Counter Change
of Hand The definition of counter is: opposite direction or reversed. Counter change of hand is where you change the rein (hand) and back again to the original rein (hand) e.g. if you are on left rein and ride FXM finishing on the left rein (hand), you have done a counter change of hand. (You are on a right rein curve before, through and just after X, then straight and bend left).

Halt Engagement into the halt, straightness, squareness, immobility and attention.

22. Rule Differences between BD, FEI & RDA

Rule	BD	FEI	RDA
Warm up before test	Grades I-III anyone for 30 mins per competition	Grade I, II anyone until 15 mins prior to test. Grade III, IV rider only	Anyone can ride until 20mins prior to test. Rider only may ride in the 20mins prior to test
Time allowed entering arena	45 sec	60 sec	60 sec
Salute	1 hand on reins. Hat off for top hat only	Either hand or nod	Either hand or nod
Commander	Yes (except at Championships) unless given exemption	Exemptions (read twice)	Yes (read twice)
Use of voice	No unless given exemption	Yes I, II, exemptions III & IV	Yes
Resistance	20 sec	60 sec	60 sec
Companion horse	Grade I, II & III only	Yes	Yes
Spurs	Yes	Yes (if legs under control)	Yes (if legs under control)
Rising trot	Up to elementary & in medium & extended trot at medium level	Yes	Yes
Bridle	Snaffle or double, all grades	Snaffle only I, II, double permitted III, IV	Snaffle Double if approved
Whips	Yes	Yes. 2 with exemption	Yes. 2 with exemption
Errors of course	3 rd eliminates	4 th eliminates	4 th eliminates

**Dressage Arena 20m x 40m
(with colours)**



ENDURANCE

1. Dress

- a) All riders should be dressed in correct riding wear as per Section 1 of this document. A body protector may be worn, provided it is correctly fitted and does not impede or harm the rider.
- b) Competitors must wear a number/bib with number on whilst completing the course and during the vet check point.

2. Tack

Please refer to Groups Session Equipment Rules at the front of this book. **Pelham roundings are permitted in Endurance.**

3. Rider Categories

- a) RDA Endurance is split into distance classes. The distances available in RDA currently are:
 - 1km
 - 2km
 - 3km
 - 5km
 - 10km
 - 15km
- b) Distances 1km, 2km and 3km will be split into Led and Unled sections.
- c) Distances 5km, 10km and 15km will be scored as just unled riders.

4. Horses

Endurance equine welfare details can be found on the RDA Endurance webpage, using the guidance notes. www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/endurance

These guidance notes must be followed to ensure a safe and fun ride for riders, volunteers and equines.

5. Ride Speeds

Further guidance is available in our distance guidance notes on the RDA Endurance webpage.

Calculating ride speeds.

- i. To work out ride speeds, use the formula below:
Speed = distance ÷ time

Example:

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

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

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Speed (Km Per Hour)	01:00	0:30	0:20	0:15	0:12	0:10	0:08	0:07	0:07	0:06	0:05	5
Distance (Km)	02:00	1:00	0:40	0:30	0:24	0:20	0:17	0:15	0:13	0:12	0:10	0:10
	03:00	1:30	1:00	0:45	0:36	0:30	0:26	0:22	0:20	0:18	0:16	0:15
	05:00	2:30	1:40	1:15	1:00	0:50	0:43	0:37	0:33	0:30	0:27	0:25
	06:00	03:00	02:00	1:30	01:12	01:00	0:43	0:45	0:40	0:36	0:32	0:30
	07:00	03:30	02:20	01:45	01:24	01:10	01:00	0:52	0:46	0:42	0:38	0:35
	08:00	04:00	02:40	02:00	01:36	01:20	1:09	1:00	0:53	0:48	0:43	0:40
	09:00	04:30	03:00	02:15	01:48	01:30	01:17	1:07	1:00	0:54	0:49	0:45
	10:00	5:00	3:20	2:30	2:00	1:40	1:26	01:15	01:06	01:00	0:54	0:50
	11:00	5:30	3:40	2:45	2:12	1:50	1:34	1:22	1:13	1:06	1:00	0:55
	12:00	6:00	4:00	3:00	2:24	2:00	1:42	1:30	1:20	1:12	1:05	1:00
	13:00	6:00	4:20	3:15	2:36	2:10	1:51	1:37	1:26	1:18	1:10	1:05
	14:00	6:30	4:40	3:30	2:48	2:20	2:00	1:45	1:33	1:24	1:16	1:10
	15:00	7:30	5:00	3:45	3:00	2:30	2:05	1:52	1:40	1:30	1:21	1:15

6. The Course

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

7. Time Allowed

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

Minimum speed = 2km/h

Maximum speed = 12km/h

8. Mounted Escorts & Leading

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

9. Scoring & Penalties

- a) The horse's heart rate should be 64 beats per minute or less within 30 minutes of the end of the ride.
- b) The horses must be fit at the start of the ride and at the end.

10. Qualification for RDA National Championships

Endurance will run as a competition in 2020 qualifying criteria is still to be confirmed.

11. The Competition

The specific performance formula to use for Championship level and the way it is worked out is: (Speed x2 - Minimum Speed) x 100 divided by heart rate; speed in kph; heart rate per minute.

The table matrix with all the competition speeds and further full competition details will be available on the RDA website www.myrda.org.uk

SHOWJUMPING

1. Dress

- a) All riders when mounted should be correctly dressed.
- b) Jodhpurs or breeches must be worn at RDA Competitions where possible.
- c) Level 1, 2 & 3 riders may wear group sweatshirts at RDA Competitions.
- d) Level 4, 5 and all Graded riders must wear traditional style jackets at RDA Competitions where possible.
- e) Gloves are optional.
- f) Body protectors are optional at all levels.
N.B. d is compulsory at the RDA National Championships.

2. Whips

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

3. Tack

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

4. Permitted Bits

a) Pelhams must be used with roundings or two reins.

b) For further information on the bits permitted in RDA showjumping classes please consult the British Showjumping bit rules:

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

5. Rider Categories

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

- a) Level 1 – poles on the ground, led or unled
- b) Level 2 – 15-25 cm, led or unled
- c) Level 3 – 60 cm, unled
- d) Level 4 – 70 cm, unled
- e) Level 5 – 80 cm, unled
- f) Grade 1 – 70 cm, unled
- g) Grade 2 – 80 cm, unled
- h) Grade 3 – 90 cm, unled
- i) Grade 4 – 70 cm (visually impaired), unled

All classes are split into junior/senior

6. Visually Impaired

Visually impaired riders are allowed a (non-coaching) commander within the arena and one other assistant to stand outside the arena in case of an emergency. Alternatively, visually impaired riders may choose to follow a lead horse. It must be made clear that the commander or lead rider is merely guiding the rider round the course and not instructing them. A safe distance must be maintained between the lead rider and competitor at all times, around the course.

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

7. Led Classes

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

8. Commanders

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

9. The Competition

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

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

Level 3 is conducted in canter, trotting only (if needed) to change leads. The rider is required to complete a course of 5 fences including a cross pole, uprights and 1 spread fence. They should ride correct lines on the approach and after a fence, maintain a balanced jumping position and must demonstrate light rein contact whilst riding over the jumps. This class is also not timed.

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

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

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

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

Grade 1 between 10-13 fences, no double.

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

Grade 4 between 10-13 fences, no double.

10. Course Plans

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

For Level 5 and all Graded classes a plan of the course including details of jump off fences and the distance and time allowed must be displayed in the collecting ring at least 1 hour prior to the start of the competition.

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

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

11. Walking the Course

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

A coach is permitted just inside the arena and is to remain at an appropriate safe point during the competition. They are not permitted to instruct or give outside assistance.

12. Time Allowed

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

13. Time Faults

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

14. Scoring & Penalties

Disobedience = Refusal, circling, crossing of tracks.

Level 1 – riders are scored for each fence, the entrance to the arena/ride through the start and turnout of horse and rider. Collective marks will also be awarded for control, effectiveness, suitability and overall performance. Marks will be given out of 10. The judge may decide to deduct marks if trot is shown on more than one occasion.

Penalties will be awarded as follows:

- First disobedience = 4 faults
- Second disobedience = 4 faults
- Third disobedience = elimination
- Error of course = elimination
- 1 mark will be deducted at any pole where the leader or side walkers are seen to be giving help. No additional marks will be given if a rider is working independently.
- Failure to ride through the start and finish will result in elimination.

Level 2 – riders are scored for each fence and the entrance to the arena/ride through the start. Collective marks will also be awarded for control, effectiveness, suitability and overall performance. Marks will be given out of 10. The judge will decide to deduct marks if canter is shown outside the shaded area as shown in the Level 2 course plan. Marks will also be deducted if the rider is seen to be creating impulsion i.e. kicking or use of the whip to encourage the horse to canter in the shaded area. If the horse is seen to be in canter from its own forwardness when landing after fence 1 and fence 4, this is permitted.

Penalties will be awarded as follows:

- Knockdown = 4 faults
- First disobedience = 4 faults
- Second disobedience = 4 faults
- Third disobedience = elimination
- Error of course = elimination
- 1 mark will be deducted at any jump where the leader is seen to be giving help.
- Failure to ride through the start and finish will result in elimination.

Levels 3 & 4 - riders are scored for each fence and the entrance to the arena/ride through the start. Collective marks will also be awarded for control, effectiveness, suitability and overall performance. Marks will be given out of 10. The judge may decide to deduct marks if canter is not maintained on the approach to each jump.

Penalties will be awarded as follows:

- Knockdown = 4 faults
- First disobedience = 4 faults
- Second disobedience = 4 faults
- Third disobedience = elimination
- Error of course = elimination

- Failure to ride through the start and finish will result in elimination.

Level 5 and all Graded Classes

- Knockdown = 4 faults
- First disobedience = 4 faults
- Second disobedience = 4 faults
- Elimination will occur at the third disobedience
- Fall of horse or rider = elimination
- Jumping the wrong course = elimination

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

15. Scale of Marks

For levels 1 – 4 which are equitation classes, they will be scored using the scale of marks as outlined below:

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 10 and 0 must be awarded where the performances warrant their use. By 'not executed' is meant that nothing which is required has been performed.

16. Qualification for National Championships

Levels 2 (unled only) 3 and 4

In order to qualify for the National Championships riders must achieve at least 60% in their class at their Regional Qualifier.

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

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

Level 5

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

Grades 1-4 (I-IV)

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

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

VAULTING

1. Dress

- a) Dress must be formfitting and all articles of clothing, or parts thereof, must remain attached to the Vaulters' body at all times
- b) Dress must in no way compromise the safety of either Vaulters or Horse
- c) Soft shoes must be worn
- d) RDA approved hat without a peak
- e) Dress should be uniform for all team members
- f) Lungers should harmonise with the team and it is recommended that gloves and suitable shoes are worn

4. Tack

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

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

5. Horses

Horses must be approved by a Vaulting Assessor prior to competition and must be 7years or above. Trained vaulting horses can be provided upon request but groups may bring their own. Should the participant need to borrow a vaulting horse, the horse provided will be lunged by an experienced lunger nominated by the organiser.

6. The Competition

The competition will be run according to BEV rules.

For Pre Novice Individuals, Pairs and Teams and will be scored accordingly. The full BEV rules can be found in the BEV rule book on line www.britishvaulting.org/get-involved/rules/bev-rules

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

Team Competition

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

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

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

To give everyone the opportunity to compete, vaulting teams can be made up of vaulters from different RDA Groups. If you need vaulters for your team or have people who would like to join a team please contact the Vaulting Co-ordinator at RDA National Office.

Pairs Competition

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

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

Individual Competition

Individuals will be split into 3 age groups:

- 10 years and under
- 11 – 16 years
- 17 years and over

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

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

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

5. Music

Music must be provided for all three sections on a clearly labelled USB. This must be given to the music official prior to the class and a nominated music helper should be on hand during the team's performance.

For the RDA National Championships music must be emailed to the Vaulting Coordinator three weeks before the National Championships clearly marked with the classes and vaulters names.

6. Competition Running Order

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

7. Scoring & Penalties

As per BEV Ltd Rules

Compulsories:

Basic position with hands by sides

Bench

Leg over & back to both sides or leg swing to centre of the horse and back to the side

Simple dismount

Freestyle: As per BEV Ltd Rules

Scale of Marks

10 excellent

9 very good

8 good

7 fairly good

6 satisfactory

5 sufficient

4 insufficient

3 fairly bad

2 bad

1 very bad

0 not executed or as a result of deductions

8. Qualification for National Championships

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

*RDA Vaulting follow the rules set by British Equestrian Vaulting (BEV) and for further details please refer to the rules set by BEV.

REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

1. Administrative Rules

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

2. Entries

- a) Entries and any fees shall be submitted by the Group Organiser on the required form and by the required dates.
- b) Groups withdrawing competitors from the competition must inform the organiser as soon as possible.
- c) If you would like confirmation of receipt of entries please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your entry.

3. Qualification for the National Championships

- a) When entering a Regional Qualifier it should be the rider/drivers intention to attend and compete at the RDA National Championships. It is important that arrangements have been made to enable this to happen. If there is no intention to attend the National Championships please make this known on your entry form.
- b) Riders and drivers qualify to take part in the National Championships at their Regional Qualifier. In order to qualify riders competing in Dressage and Showjumping must achieve at least 60%, Countryside Challenge riders must achieve 65% or more in their class and be placed 1st or 2nd. Carriage drivers must be placed 1st or 2nd to qualify. Please see each individual discipline for specific criteria.
- c) Dressage and Graded Showjumping riders must be classified prior to the Championships to enter the Graded classes. Dressage riders who are not classified can only ride in the 1-6 (formerly I-V), led or Intellectual Disability (I/D) classes.
- d) Ridden qualifying classes will be split into junior and senior sections. The top two riders in each section will qualify subject to the relevant criteria. In sections of 10 or more the top 3 riders will qualify provided they have met the criteria above.
- e) If the qualifying riders are unable to attend the National Championships the next eligible participant(s) may do so subject to the discipline specific qualifying criteria.
- f) Riders may compete more than once in each discipline e.g. Showjumping Level 2 & 3 or at the same level e.g. same rider on two different horses. Dressage riders may enter more than one qualifying class appropriate for their grade or above. However riders may only compete once in each discipline at the National Championships e.g. Showjumping Level 2 OR 3. This is the same for ALL disciplines.**
- g) Riders should qualify at their own Regional Qualifier. If a rider is unable to compete within their own Region, they may ask to

attend one other Regional Qualifier. They shall not take a qualifying place from that Region but should send their score sheet to the Championships Secretary at RDA National Office for consideration.

- h) At the Regional Qualifier, riders and drivers should compete the horse(s) on which they intend to compete at the National Championships. If after qualification this is not possible, a horse substitution form must be completed and submitted to the Championships Secretary prior to the National Championships.**

4. RDA Weight Chart

Before entering a Regional Qualifier please ensure that you consult the RDA weight chart to ensure that your horse/rider combination is suitable. We will be monitoring this at the Championships

RDA has created an excel calculator to help groups work out the maximum carrying weight a horse can carry. Please see the RDA website (horses and RDA) for further information.

The weight chart should be used for any rider, whether a participant, volunteer or coach.

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

If a combination is found to be outside the parameters action may be taken.

5. Hat Tagging

All hats worn when mounted at the RDA National Championships are required to be checked and tagged to

show that they meet the required safety standard. It is recommended that this is also carried out at Regional Qualifiers. Hat tags can be ordered from the National Championships Secretary at National Office.

6. First Aid Requirements

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

At the very minimum every event must have all of the following:

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

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

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

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

- An Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Ambulance

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

Definitions

Appointed Person

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

Trained First Aider

A person who holds either:

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

First Aid Point

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

Qualified First Aider

A person who holds:

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

Emergency Medical Technician

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

Paramedic

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

Doctor/GP

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

Ambulance

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

7. Vaccination & Veterinary Requirements

All horses competing at a Regional Qualifier must have received a primary course of two injections against equine influenza given no less than 21 days and no more than 92 days apart (only these first two injections need to be given before the horse may compete). In addition, a first booster injection must be given no less than 150 days and no more than 215 days after the second injection of the primary course. Subsequent booster injections must be given at intervals of not more than one year apart, commencing after the first booster injection. Those horses attending the RDA National Championships must have received a subsequent vaccination in the preceding 6 months of the event. None of these injections can be given within the seven days before the day of the competition or entry into competition stables, whichever is sooner.

A Regional Vet shall be in attendance at the Regional Qualifier to assist with the checking of passports and any other veterinary issues that may arise.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Competitor Entries

- a) Riders and drivers who qualify to compete at the RDA National Championships will receive a qualifying pack.
- b) If a competitor qualifies in more than one discipline they may enter as many disciplines as they wish, taking into consideration Rule 12 (d) in General Competition Rules.
- c) If a rider qualifies more than once in the same discipline they must choose which class they wish to compete in at the National Championships. **Please see Section 4, Rule 3f.**
- d) A horse is only permitted to be entered in the same class a maximum of 3 times.
- e) The entry must be submitted to RDA National Office together with the correct entry fee no later than the closing date stated. Late entries will not be accepted. If a rider entered for the Championships is unable to compete the Championships Secretary must be notified immediately.
- f) If you would like confirmation of receipt of entries, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope.
- g) If necessary horse substitutions may be made. Horse and rider/driver combinations must be deemed suitable by either the Regional Coach or Regional Discipline Representative. A substitution form must be completed and submitted to the Championships Secretary.
- h) Withdrawals must be notified to the Championships Secretary at least one week prior to the start of the Championships. Withdrawals made after this time may not be eligible for a refund.
- i) All riders entering Graded classes must send a copy of their classification with their entry.
- j) All visually impaired riders must send a copy of their classification certificate from British Blind Sport.

2. Invitation to Compete

- a) Open dressage riders may apply to the Dressage Committee for an invitation to compete. A scoresheet from a Para-Equestrian competition during the 2 years prior to the competition they wish to enter should be sent to the Dressage Coordinator at RDA National Office for consideration.
- b) In exceptional circumstances riders may apply to the Championships Secretary for an invitation to compete. A scoresheet from a Para-Equestrian competition, RDA Regional Qualifier or RDA National Championships during the 2 years prior to the competition they wish to enter should be sent to the Championships Secretary at RDA National Office for consideration.

3. Order of Riding

Competitors will be able to view their times via the RDA website.

4. Rider Falls

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

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

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

- First aider/paramedic
- Coach
- Ground Jury (Championships Chairman, Championships Secretary, relevant discipline Committee Chairman)

Any falls in vaulting will follow the BEV rules.

5. Prizes

Prizes will be awarded 1st to 6th in all classes.

Where classes are split Junior and Senior, 1 Class Champion Rosette will be awarded to the overall winner.

Prize givings will be scheduled throughout all 3 days; times will be displayed in the main marquee and announced on the PA system.

All scoresheets will be available in the Oliver Wight Marquee after each prize giving.

6. Judges

For all disciplines judges shall be appointed by the Championships Secretary from the official RDA judges list.

7. Jury of Appeal

There will be a jury of appeal consisting of the Championships Chairman, the relevant discipline Committee Chairman and a Senior Discipline Judge.

8. Passports & Vaccinations

All horses travelling to the Championships must have a valid passport from which the horse's identification will be verified. The passport must contain all vaccination details which must be up to date, completely and clearly recorded, signed and stamped by a veterinary surgeon, who is not the owner of the animal. Passports with missing, altered, unclear or incomplete vaccine records will not be accepted and entry to the event may be refused.

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

- None of these injections can be given within the seven days before the day of competing or entry into stables, whichever is sooner.

If your horse has not been vaccinated against equine influenza in accordance with the above requirements, it will not be permitted entry to Hartpury College.

Passports will be kept by the Stable Manager for the duration of the horse's stay. Any questions regarding vaccinations please contact the RDA vet at vet.rda@gmail.com

9. Medically Fit

Competitors must be medically fit for the activities they undertake. It is the responsibility of all competitors to ensure that they are medically fit to compete. Where necessary their parents/guardians must take this responsibility. The organisers reserve the right to require any competitor to withdraw. The complexity of the event requires strict observation of health and safety guidelines at all times by everyone involved. In order to minimise risk of accidents you are asked to comply with any instructions given by a Steward.

10. Prohibited Substances

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

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

The RDA does make certain, specific exceptions to the FEI's list of controlled and banned substances with respect to the population of horses engaging in RDA activities. Some of these medications need to be declared in order to be permitted.

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

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

11. Isolation

To ensure the welfare of participants and all horses on site, horses showing signs of infectious disease may be isolated. If the person responsible for the horse cannot be contacted emergency treatment will be provided as deemed necessary by the attending Veterinary Surgeon.

Once isolated the horse may no longer take part in the competition. Where possible, isolation facilities will be provided on site, however if this is not possible for any reason the RDA Group/person responsible for the horse will be required to make alternative arrangements for the horse to be stabled outside the venue.

For full details please see the Isolation Policy under the National Championships section of the RDA website.

12. Welfare

Horses play a vital role in RDA and their welfare is paramount. Equine welfare will be monitored throughout the competition to ensure horses' welfare needs are being met. This includes freedom from hunger and thirst, discomfort, pain, injury and distress. Any welfare concerns will be investigated, and in the event of a breach sanctions may apply.

13. RDA Weight Chart

Before entering the National Championships please ensure that you consult the RDA weight chart to ensure that your horse/rider combination is suitable. We will be monitoring this at the Championships

RDA has created an excel calculator to help groups work out the maximum carrying weight a horse can carry. Please see the RDA website (Horses and RDA) for further information.

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

If a combination is found to be outside the parameters action may be taken.

14. Hat Tagging

All hats worn when mounted at the RDA National Championships are required to be checked and tagged to show that they meet the required safety standard. This must be done prior to competition.

15. Event Photography & Videos

Riders must be aware that they may be photographed and videoed during the National Championships. If you have any strong objections to either being videoed or photographed please complete the tick box on the rider entry form or by completing the relevant form at the event.

16. Lost Property

Any lost property found or handed in will be kept by National Office for 3 months then disposed of accordingly.

17. Health & Safety

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

Liability

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

18. Cancellation/Abandonment

There may be circumstances where the event has to be postponed, cancelled, abandoned or curtailed as a result of circumstances beyond the control of the organisers, for example as a result of inclement weather making it impractical to hold the event. In such circumstances, once any administration fees have been deducted, entry fees will be refunded. The organisers will have no liability for loss or damage suffered by competitors, horses, spectators or any other persons.

PARA-EQUESTRIAN NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

Classification ensures that athletes compete equitably with other Para-Equestrian athletes and provides a structure for competition. Classification is undertaken to ensure that an athlete's impairment is relevant to performance on the horse. The aim is to put athletes into classes or grades according to how much their impairment impacts on the core determinants of success in the sport.

The purpose of the Para-Equestrian Classification is also to minimise the impact of impairment on the outcome of the competition, so that an athlete's success in competition relies on training and personal equestrian skill. Classification is an on-going process whereby all athletes are under regular observation by classifiers to ensure consistency and fairness for all athletes.

In order to achieve this purpose, athletes are classified according to the extent of activity limitation resulting from their impairment.

Classification has two important roles:

- To determine eligibility to compete as a Para-Equestrian athlete
- To profile athletes for competition in the appropriate corresponding Grade

To be eligible for classification, an athlete must have more than 15% loss of power, range or coordination in any limb or the trunk. (See base line score FEI Classification Manual 5th Edition 2017).

An athlete must have a recognised medical condition that causes impairment which can be measured objectively in compliance with the FEI Classification Manual (5th Edition 2017).

The FEI eligibility criteria define how an athlete may be considered eligible to compete. The criteria are based on the specific functions which are required to compete equitably with other athletes with a disability.

Impairment Groups

- Neurological – impairments with either central or peripheral damage, either congenital or acquired – which include:
 - Spasticity
 - Athetosis
 - Ataxia
 - Mixed - spasticity/athetosis/ataxia/dystonia
 - Peripheral nerve damage
 - Impaired muscle power

- Locomotor – which include:
 - Amputations
 - Limb deficiency and limb length difference
 - Impaired muscle power
 - Impaired passive joint range of motion
 - Multiple impairments that lead to a permanent and verifiable activity limitation

- Spinal cord lesions – complete or incomplete

- Visual impairments: these are classified by ophthalmologist and details are available from British Blind Sport

- Intellectual impairments are classified by an approved psychologist. Currently under FEI rules, an athlete with intellectual disabilities who does not have a physical classification is covered under Profile 39 of the Classification Guide. This profile remains inactive at present so athletes in Profile 39 are not eligible to compete in Para-Equestrian Dressage competition run under FEI rules but are eligible to compete in RDA classes.