



# RDA Rule Book Inserts

## 2021



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1. Drop 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 chain must be fitted correctly and a lip strap must be worn. If a curb chain cover is used please use one that allows a lip strap to be fitted.

## 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.

### The current standards are:

- PAS015 (1998 or 2011) with BSI Kitemark;
- ASTM F1163 with SEI Kitemark;
- SNELL E2001/**E2016**
- 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 RDA 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 Lead 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](http://www.kramer.co.uk). In these cases, an alternative hat form must be completed.
- If body protectors are worn, the BETA 2009 (purple/white label) and 2018 (blue/black label) Level 3 Body Protector Standard meets all the requirements of the respective European standard (EN 13158).
- 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 and be tagged with an RDA hat tag. 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.

- 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.
- e) We reserve the right to challenge misuse of the whip.

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 Championship Lead.
- 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, flash or grackle 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,

## 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. **It is also a legal requirement for horses to be microchipped from 1<sup>st</sup> October in England followed by 12 February in Wales and 28 March in Scotland.**

All horses travelling to the Championships must have a valid passport from which the horse's identification and vaccination record 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. Before unloading your horse at Hartpury you must report to the Stable Manager and have your horse's identification and vaccination record checked by a vet.

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

### 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.

**RDA reserve the right to carry out random or targeted blood testing where appropriate.**

*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.

**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 Marisa Bretherton-Mackay 01926 405973 . NSPCC contact details 0808 800 5000

# **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 RDA Hat Standards 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 and may incur penalties.** 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. **Any driver who drives with single reins and has been assessed to drive with the coach on the back step.**
- d) Bright ribbons must be attached to the secondary reins held by the coach.

## 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, dress, control of the horse and general condition of their horse, harness and carriage. 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.

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 **quickest** 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.

A bell will be rung to start – ENJOY **\*\*ALL NEW\*\***

### **1 – FIVE OR SEVEN OBSTACLES**

**Bend around the numbered obstacles, leaving the first obstacle to the RIGHT** (i.e. tyre, cone, straw bale etc) these will be placed at varying angles and distances. For the led classes the Leader must stay to the LEFT of all the obstacles, Rider to demonstrate ability to steer and maintain an active walk.

### **2 – DOUBLE ARCH**

**Walk centrally under both arches**, (these will be positioned at a slight angle) Rider to show correct swing under archways looking for and taking the correct route towards the centre line between the two barrels, maintaining rhythm.

### **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 – LAURA'S LOGS**

**Active walk to log pile, walk over 1<sup>st</sup> log and HALT centrally between logs for 5 seconds, proceed over 2<sup>nd</sup> log**, to show accurate approach to log pile, position and balance, showing good transitions (Leader/side walker to stay outside the "Halt Box")

### **5 – MAZE**

**Choose correct entrance to maze and walk centrally through the maze**, showing smooth turns and a regular pace (Leader/Side walker to stay to the outside of the track).

## **6 – BRIDLE PATH**

Bridle path sign to Shrub Markers. *Please note that the Rider should use the same option for both the Regional Qualifier and the National Championships.*

**6a - "WALK ONLY" Halt at Bridle Path sign, maintain a square halt for 6 seconds,** walk on, to show good transitions, walk centrally over pole showing a light seat position and maintaining a straight active walk throughout.

**6b - Begin TROT at Bridle Path sign,** proceed in sitting or rising trot, trot centrally over pole showing a light seat position. Attempt correct aids for transitions, these may include voice.

**6c – Begin TROT at Bridle Path sign, negotiate small JUMP** (Independent Class only) To show correct position over jump, attempt correct aids for transitions, these may include voice.

## **7 – SHRUB MARKERS/BRIDGE**

**Walk centrally between shrub markers, show the correct route to and over the bridge** (Leader/Side walker to walk over Bridge with the Rider in the central position) to show accurate steering on approach and over bridge, maintaining an active walk.

## **8 – 3 LOOP SERPENTINE**

**Serpentine around – 1. SCARECROW > 2. SHEEP > 3. POND from the end of the bridge** Rider to show accurate and even loops whilst maintaining an active and regular pace.

## **9 – RIVERSIDE WALK**

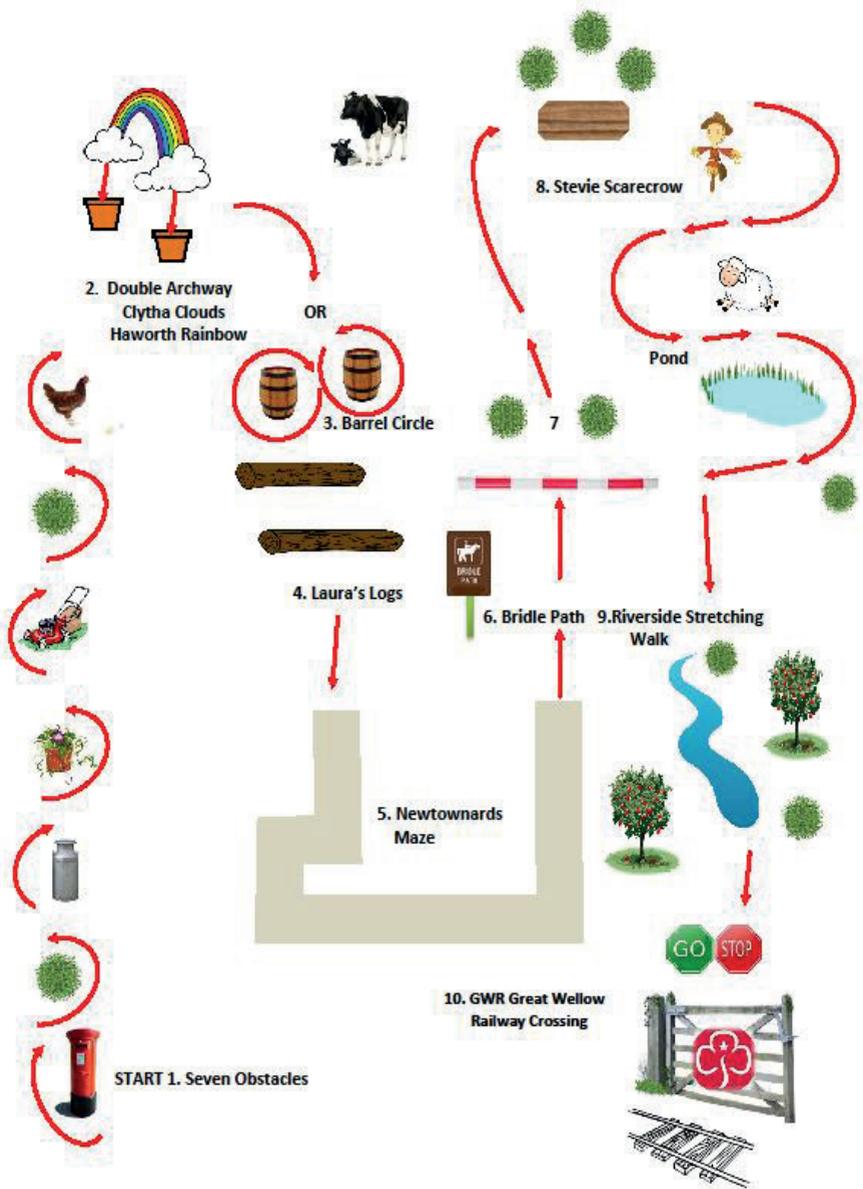
**Controlled walk stretching on a longer rein along the riverside,** Show controlled free walk from start of track, reins to be shortened before leaving track demonstrating an ability to lengthen & shorten reins

smoothly whilst maintaining control. ( Leader/Side walker to stay outside the track)

### **10 – TREFOIL GATE RAILWAY CROSSING**

**Walk from Riverside towards the gate, HALT and wait for SIGNAL to change to GO and the gate is opened, walk centrally through gate, Thank gatekeeper (Don't stop!) and negotiate a safe route over "Railway Lines" to show control, good transitions and a correct balanced route over Railway lines**

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



**RDA National Championships 2021**  
Not to scale

## **ENDURANCE**

### 1. Dress

- a) All riders should be dressed in correct riding wear as per Section 1 of this document. **A correctly fitting body protector may be worn that meets current standards.**
- b) Competitors must wear a number/bib with number on whilst completing the course and during the vet check point/s.

### 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.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**This year endurance will run as a non-competitive event.  
All participants will receive a rosette.**

## 11. The Competition

The specific performance formula to use for Championship level and the way it is worked out is:

$(\text{Speed} \times 2 - \text{Minimum Speed}) \times 100$  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](http://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. If body protectors are worn the BETA 2009 (purple/white label) and 2018 (blue/black label) Level 3 Body Protector Standard meets all the requirements of the respective European standard (EN 13158). N.B. **d** is compulsory at the RDA National Championships.

### 2. Whips

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

### 3. Tack

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

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, pre-novice compulsories and walk freestyle
- 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 should be changed to reflect the requirement from the schedule. 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 and back to both sides

### **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.

## **Showing \*\*ALL NEW\*\***

### **Individual Competition**

Classes are open to individuals, both junior and senior on horses or ponies.

### **Classes**

All classes are ridden:

- led walk & trot
- independent walk & trot
- independent walk, trot & canter

### **Class Format**

Riders will enter in a group at walk on the right rein and will then be asked to line up.

A short individual show will be performed by each rider who will then return to the line up. Riders may then be asked to walk round on the right rein whilst the judges make their final decision. They will then be called in by the Steward in placing order.

### **Individual Shows**

**Walk Trot Led Class:** Walk away from the judge and trot back towards them. Show two 20 metre circles with transitions to walk and then trot. Halt and salute requested at the start and finish.

**Walk Trot Independent:** Walk away from the judge and trot back towards them. Show a combination of walk and trot with a change of rein.

Both individual shows must be under 1.5 minutes. Halt and salute requested at the start and finish.

**Walk, Trot, Canter:** Walk away from the judge and trot back towards them. Show a short section of walk, then trot

and canter. Trot and canter should be performed on both reins. Not to last for more than 2 minutes. Halt and salute requested at the start and finish.

These are guidelines only and individuals may adopt their own show to suit their horse/pony, riding enjoyment/ability.

**Class will be judged on:**

- Turnout – cleanliness and condition of equine/tack
- Conformation of the equine with the suitability for the rider/job in mind
- Overall impression

RDA horses are not bought nor produced as show horses. An overall impression of the suitability of the horse's conformation and type, for the rider should be taken into account.

Conformational issues regarding lumps, bumps and scars should not be a deciding factor.

Clothing for the rider should be neat and tidy. RDA riders may not always have access to the ideal and correct showing equipment. This also applies to the horses tack but tack must fit correctly, be clean and in good condition.

Further information on turnout can be supplied by the RDA if required prior to judging.

For all **SEIB RDA Search for a Star** rules please visit [www.seib.co.uk/competitions/](http://www.seib.co.uk/competitions/)

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) All riders who are unclassified (Grade 6 or Intellectual Disability) and who have qualified and competed in the same class at the RDA National Championships for three years consecutively, must then move up and compete in a higher level test. For example, a competitor in an I/D Walk Test, then moves on to the I/D Walk and Trot Test. If for any reason a rider is not able to move up to compete in a higher level test, then the region can submit a wild card entry if the rider gains the qualifying percentage.

#### 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.



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