

98. Agreement to be bound by the rules

- a) Every member of British Dressage has, by the completion of his membership application form, agreed to be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of British Dressage and all rules, regulations and bye-laws made thereunder and has agreed that the decisions of the Board and other competent authorities of British Dressage given in accordance therewith shall be final and binding upon him. It is the responsibility of every Member at all times to ensure that he or she is familiar with the Rules or any amendments made.
- b) All Rules and Appendices contained in this booklet are valid and in force at the date of publication. Any amendments by British Dressage to these Rules and Appendices shall be validly made and enforceable upon the date of publication (unless otherwise stated in the notice of amendment) provided that notice of such amendment is published in one or more of the following publications or methods:

'British Dressage' magazine

'Horse and Hound'

Show Organisers and Officials Information Briefs

British Dressage website – www.britishdressage.co.uk

Each Show Organiser, by virtue of the submission of affiliated dressage competition schedules to British Dressage, shall be deemed to have agreed to be bound by all rules, regulations and bye-laws of British Dressage and any Code of Conduct published from time to time, and has further agreed to abide by and observe the decisions of the Board and other competent authorities and committees of British Dressage given in accordance therewith. It is the responsibility of every Show Organiser at all times to ensure that he or she is familiar with the Rules, Code of Conduct or any amendments made thereto.

- c) Objections by Members to a British Dressage decision will follow the procedure as outlined in the Introduction para g. Each Show Organiser, by virtue of the submission of affiliated dressage competition schedules to British Dressage, shall be deemed to have agreed to be bound by all rules, regulations and bye-laws of British Dressage and any Code of Conduct published from time to time, and has further agreed to abide by and observe the decisions of the Board and other competent authorities and committees of British Dressage given in accordance therewith. It is the responsibility of every Show Organiser at all times to ensure that he or she is familiar with the Rules, Code of Conduct or any amendments made thereto. You can take off the note now too.

99. Conduct of members

No member of British Dressage shall:

- a) Conduct himself at a show in a manner which is offensive to the public.
- b) Argue at a show with a judge or with a show official or use abusive or threatening language or behave with incivility or contempt towards a judge or show official.
- c) Ill-treat in any way a horse or pony whether inside or outside the arena at a show, or in any circumstance.
- d) Misuse or use excessively a whip or spur.
- e) Deliberately use the action of the bit as a means of punishment and/or misuse any item of saddlery in a manner likely to cause pain or discomfort to the horse or pony.

- f) Allow knowingly or otherwise a horse or pony for which he is responsible as owner, lessee, authorised agent, or rider to compete in any dressage competition under the influence of a forbidden substance as defined in appendix 5. Such member shall be in breach of this rule if the analysis of a sample taken from the said horse or pony shows the presence in its body fluids of any quantity of any substance, which is either a forbidden substance or one of its metabolites or a substance which cannot be traced to normal and ordinary feeding and which by its nature is likely to affect the performance of the horse or pony in competition.

- g) Unreasonably refuse to allow a horse or pony which has competed or is about to compete in a dressage competition to undergo any properly authorised test or examination if requested to do so by an officer of British Dressage or the show organising committee.
- h) Conduct himself in such a manner or make any representation that he has or may have committed or has or may have been party or privy to any breach of any provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association or of any rule, regulation or bye-law of British Dressage.

A member shall be in breach of this Rule in the event that any person who assists, represents or acts on behalf of or in the employment of such member during the course of a show affiliated to British Dressage, to the FEI or to any foreign national federation, conducts himself in such a manner that were he a member of British Dressage he would himself be in breach of any of the provision of Rule 99.

- i) Conduct himself in a manner detrimental to the character and/or prejudicial to the interests of British Dressage.
- j) Make, either orally or in writing, to an officer of British Dressage or of an affiliated show or a third party, a statement on any matter covered by the rules which he knows to be untrue.
- k) Compete as owner or rider or officiate at an unaffiliated show except as provided for in Rule 23.
- l) Compete as owner or rider in a competition for which the horse or pony and the rider are not fully eligible.
- m) Having indicated his availability for selection for an official British national team, unreasonably fail or refuse to compete in such team if selected.
- n) Exercise any of the rights or privileges of membership while suspended therefrom, nor assist represent or act on behalf of any other member of British Dressage at a show affiliated to British Dressage, to the FEI or to any foreign national federation while suspended from all rights and privileges of membership.
- o) Compete as rider in any competition while under the influence of a forbidden substance as defined in appendix 6 A member shall be in breach of this rule if the analysis of a sample taken from him or her shows the presence in his or her body fluids of any quantity of any substance which is a forbidden substance or one of its metabolites, or of a specified amount of an endogenous substance subject to quantitative analysis.
- p) Unreasonably refuse to give a sample of his or her body fluids for the purpose of control of forbidden substances.
- q) Allow a stallion for which he is responsible as owner, lessee, authorised agent, or rider to compete or be prepared to compete, in any dressage competition without taking adequate precautions to ensure other members of the public are not put at risk of injury.
- r) Paragraphs a, c, d, e, h, i, j, m, n, p and q of this Rule shall apply in any circumstance whether or not the offence or offences occur at a show.

100. Complaints of misconduct

Any person wishing to make a complaint of misconduct by a member must do so in writing to the Chief Executive who will refer it to the Disciplinary Sub Committee, if after preliminary investigation he considers that a prima facie case of misconduct exists.

Anyone seeing an incident which they may wish to report, where possible, should note the time, place, names etc. and try and find additional witnesses. They should approach the Steward, Organiser or Senior Judges on site who should inform the individual concerned of the complaint. Every effort should be made to ascertain the condition of the horse and whether it has been marked by bit, spur or whip. All evidence should be written down and submitted to the Chief Executive.

A decision to prosecute a complaint against a member will be in the sole discretion of the Chief Executive and/or Disciplinary Sub Committee. The complainant will be required to give evidence on behalf of British Dressage if such decision is taken but shall take no further part in the proceedings other than as a witness.

101. Welfare procedure

Any distress caused to dressage horses is almost always due to ignorance or over determined riding. Riders are usually very concerned when they are told that their actions amount to abuse and are anxious to co-operate. The person on the ground must keep this in mind when assessing the situation and act accordingly.

If during a competition abuse to a horse is witnessed by an organiser, a judge or a trainer, a second person should be sought to discuss the incident before a decision is taken, unless the situation is very urgent in which case an attempt to stop this abuse should be made immediately. If someone else witnesses what they perceive to be abuse they should immediately draw it to the attention of an organiser, judge or trainer.

It is always preferable to deal with welfare issues on the day on which they have occurred and either while they are occurring or as soon as possible after they have occurred.

If the issue can be dealt with appropriately on the day it may not be necessary to report it. If however the issue can be dealt with on the day but the Technical Delegate (TD)/Organiser/Judge/Trainer/Steward still feels that it is a serious welfare issue then it needs to be reported to the Disciplinary Sub Committee for further action/consideration.

If in the opinion of the TD/Organiser/Judge/Trainer/Steward this issue cannot be dealt with on the day then it should be reported to BD along the following lines:

Make a note of the time and place, name of person and the name and contact details of at least one witness. Report the abuse to BD setting out all of the details as clearly as possible.

If at all possible the competitor involved should be informed on the day that a complaint is being sent to BD about their conduct.

If abuse takes place during a test and abuse of the horse is seen, or blood is seen and this amounts to abuse of the horse as laid out below, then the competitor must be eliminated immediately. The competitor must be informed why they have been eliminated and if the judge feels it appropriate the situation should be reported to BD.

Examples of abuse (this is not an exhaustive list and other incidents or injuries may be considered to be abuse or the result of abuse):

Bit – The bit must never be used as punishment.

Spurs – To use spurs excessively or persistently so as to injure the horse. If a judge/steward sees a spur that is likely to cause injury they can ask the competitor to remove them.

Over-working – To ride/compete an obviously exhausted, lame or injured horse.

Whip – Excessive and inappropriate use of the whip is not acceptable.

Blood – Blood is always a cause of concern.

Lameness – Riding an unsound horse.

Tack – Tack should be correctly fitted to avoid pain.

Distress – To manifest distress of a horse or pony whether caused by the rider or external factors.

102. Notice of complaint

As soon as practically possible after receipt of a complaint against a member, and the Chief Executive considering it appropriate to refer the complaint to the member, a letter identifying the date, venue, and nature of the complaint shall be sent to the member with any other supporting evidence as the Chief Executive deems appropriate.

The accused member shall be given opportunity by the Chief Executive to respond to such complaint. Upon receipt of such response the Chief Executive shall decide whether to proceed with the complaint with pursuant to summary powers under Appendix 4 or refer the complaint to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee for a hearing.

In the event that the Chief Executive decides to proceed with a Disciplinary Sub Committee hearing copies of all the evidence gathered by British Dressage in support of the complaint shall be delivered to the accused member in advance of the hearing. Members are referred to Appendix 3 for procedure at a disciplinary hearing.

Notice of the time and place of the Disciplinary Sub Committee meeting will be sent to the member against whom a complaint has been made at least three weeks before the date of such hearing unless in exceptional circumstances it is not possible to give notice less than 3 weeks when a shorter period of notice shall be given.

103. Forbidden substances – Horses – see Appendix 5

104. Forbidden substances – Riders – see Appendix 6

105. Working with children in horse sports – see Appendix 7

106. FEI Suspensions

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

107. Disciplinary reciprocity

Disciplinary reciprocity will be looked at on a case by case basis by the Disciplinary Sub Committee and recommendations made to the Board where appropriate.

Judges

108. Appointment and deselection

All judges of affiliated classes must be on the Official Judges' Panel. They are appointed by the organisers of competitions or by British Dressage.

Judges must be 18 years or over upon application.

Judges subject to investigation may be suspended until their hearing where appropriate.

A Judge may be deselected from the Official Judges Panel by British Dressage if he or she:

- is in serious or repeated breach of the British Dressage Judges' Code of Conduct;
- brings British Dressage or its name or reputation into any form of disrepute;
- is determined by the Disciplinary Sub-Committee or the Chief Executive (using his Summary powers) to be in breach of any British Dressage Rule; or
- commits any act of dishonesty or criminal offence.

109. Foreign judges

Judges may not officiate at affiliated Dressage Competitions unless they are F.E.I. Official, International or Candidate Judges. Other National judges from abroad may officiate with the permission of the British Dressage Judges Committee.

110. Positioning of judges

A jury usually consists of 2, 3 or 5 judges.

The five points around the arena where Judges may be positioned are; on the outside of the arena at E,H,C,M & B. The President (C) sits on the elongation of the centre line, the two others (M & H) in from and on the inside of the elongation of the long sides. Side Judge (B & E) should be placed on the outside of the arena at B & E. There should always be a Judge at C but the positioning of the other members of the Jury may be decided by the Jury. A jury of two Judges may be positioned close together either side of the elongation of the centre line or one at C and one at E or B.

111. Judging restrictions

The following restrictions for affiliated dressage competitions must be observed:

- The Judge may not be the owner of or have a financial interest in any horse in the class.
- The Judge may not be in a relationship with or a close relative of a rider or owner.
- No Judge may judge a horse at Advanced level which has been in their ownership within 2 years of the date of the competition concerned.
- No Judge may judge a horse at levels up to and including Advanced Medium, if that horse has been in their ownership within one year of the date of the competition concerned.
- The judge should do their best to avoid judging any combination with whose training he/she has been involved on a regular basis, unless exceptional circumstances demand it, (for example at very short notice,) and in this instance a possible conflict of interest must be recorded with the Organiser. Regular training is defined as lessons given fortnightly and would include any training given in the 2 weeks preceding the competition.
- No Judge should judge a musical freestyle if they have participated in the making of a musical tape used by a competitor in the class.
- Judges, writers, course keepers or other persons within earshot of the Judge, may not write up a commentary for publication of the class concerned.

- British Dressage reserves the right to refuse an application from a judge for upgrading to any list, without giving a reason.
- Judging duration – A Judge can reasonably be asked to judge for a recommended four hours, which should include a break of at least half an hour. British Dressage recommends that after judging 10 horses, judges be allowed a 15 minute break.

112. Standards at which judges may officiate

Unless stated only one judge required (See also Special Rules for Qualifiers)

List 1	Tests of all levels. For Grand Prix and Intermediare II (non-qualifiers) one list 1 judge is required but for Grand Prix where possible two Judges would be desirable. Young Horse Qualifiers and Non Qualifiers. All Eventing.
List 2A	All tests up to and including Intermediaire I. Young Horse Qualifiers and Non Qualifiers. All Eventing.
List 2	All tests up to and including Prix St George, Young Horse Qualifiers and Non Qualifiers. All Eventing.
List 3A	All tests up to and including Advanced Medium. Young Horse Non Qualifiers. All Eventing
List 3	All tests up to and including Medium. Young Horse Non Qualifiers. Open Intermediate, Intermediate and Intermediate Novice Eventing.
List 4	All tests up to and including Elementary. Young Horse Non Qualifiers. Open Intermediate, Intermediate and Intermediate Novice Eventing.
List 5	All tests up to and including Novice. Eventing Novice and Open Novice tests. All Riding Club and Pony Club tests.
List 6	Introductory and Preliminary Tests (when not used as a qualifier). Eventing Pre-Novice, Open Pre-Novice and Intro classes. Riding Club tests up to and including Novice standard, except when used as a qualifier. All Pony Club tests.

Judges *(continued)*

113. Special rules for qualifiers and area festivals

a) Qualifiers including Freestyle to Music Qualifiers

Grand Prix	Three judges from List 1
Intermediaire II	Two judges from List 1
Intermediaire I	Two judges from List 1 or One Judge from List 1 and One Judge from List 2A
Prix St Georges	Two judges from List 1 or One judge from List 1 and One from List 2 or 2A or Two judges from List 2A or One judge from List 2A and One from List 2
Advanced Medium	One judge from List 1, 2A, 2 or 3A
Medium	One judge from List 1, 2A, 2, 3A or 3
Elementary	One judge from List 1, 2A, 2, 3A, 3 or 4
Novice	One judge from List 1, 2A, 2, 3A, 3, 4 or 5
Preliminary	One judge from List 1, 2A, 2, 3A, 3, 4 or 5
Young Horse Qualifiers	Please see Appendix 1 of the British Dressage Rule Book 2009.

b) Area Festivals

For classes at Area Festivals at all levels, if dispensation for only one judge is given, he/she must come from a higher list.

PSG	Two Judges, one List 1 and one List 2A/2
Advanced Medium	Two judges, one List Two and one List 3A
Medium	Two judges, one List 3A and one List 3
Elementary	Two judges, one List 3A and one List 3
Novice	Two judges, one List 3 and one List 4
Preliminary	Two judges, one List 3 and one List 4

International Competitions

114. International Equestrian Federation

International Dressage Competitions are run in accordance with the FEI (Federation Equestre International) rules. All riders competing in FEI competitions (including Paralympic riders) will require a FEI riders licence (which includes adherence to the Anti-Doping Rules.)

All horses and riders wishing to compete at any International event, CDI, CDIO, CDIW, whether living in Britain or abroad, MUST be registered with the FEI, via British Dressage. A horse/pony passport cannot be issued without a rider and horse being registered with the FEI and vice versa. All registrations must be completed prior to entry. Please contact the International Officer at British Dressage for further information.

Annual International Championships are held for four categories of competitors:

- Senior Riders
- Young Riders
- Junior Riders
- Pony Riders

Young riders

Young Riders Competitors are eligible to take part in International Young Rider competitions from the beginning of the calendar year of their 16th birthday until the end of the calendar year of their 21st birthday. Their horses must be over 14.2 h.h. (148cm) in height and at least 6 years of age (horses must be 7 years of age for the Young Rider Individual test and Young Rider freestyle test as it is equivalent to PSG standard).

Juniors

Competitors are eligible to take part in Junior International Competitions from the beginning of the year of their 14th birthday until the end of the year of their 18th birthday. They may ride ponies up to the end of the year of their 16th birthday. Horses and ponies must be 6 years old or over.

Ponies

Competitors are eligible to take part in Pony International Competitions from the beginning of the year of their 12th Birthday until the end of the year of the 16th Birthday. They must ride ponies which do not exceed 14.2 h.h. (148 cms) – see rule 12. Ponies must be 6 years old or over.

N.B. Riders cannot compete in Pony and Junior or Junior and Young Rider Championships in the same year.

Suspension

Suspensions, imposed by the F.E.I. on any horse and/or rider will be upheld by British Dressage and they will automatically be suspended from National events.