



Rule changes for 2020

Rule changes and new rules are marked in bold in the new Member's Handbook effective from 1 December 2019.

Horse welfare

- **Microchipping** It will become mandatory in October 2020 (England), February 2021 (Wales) and March 2021 (Scotland) that all horses are microchipped.
- **Hyperflexion or 'rollkur'** This is not permitted or tolerated from any rider or combination. In competition conditions, BD stewards will now refer any hyperflexion seen to the judge at C or the organiser immediately. The combination will be eliminated from the competition. Anyone who witnesses this practice at a BD competition, or any other action that contravenes the BD equine welfare policy, is requested to use our Welfare Form available via the BD website to report such instances to the BD office
- **Blood - For all competitions:**
If the judge at C suspects fresh blood anywhere on the horse during the test, he/she will stop the horse to check for blood. If the horse shows fresh blood, it will be eliminated. The elimination is final. If the judge, through examination, clarifies that the horse has no fresh blood, the horse may resume and finish its test.

Competitions where a BD steward is present:

In addition to the above, if blood is noticed on a horse during the warm up, the BD steward will approach the rider, make them aware of it and inspect the horse. If the horse shows fresh blood, the BD steward will advise the rider to retire. If the rider fails to do so, the BD steward will report the matter with evidence to the judge at C and the horse will be eliminated from that class. The horse may be presented for subsequent classes but the BD steward must be satisfied the horse is fit to continue.

Any fresh blood found by a BD steward during the post-test inspection in the horse's mouth or area of the spurs will be reported to the Judge at C with evidence and the horse will be eliminated from that class. If there is blood on any other areas of the horses body, the BD Steward in consultation with the Judge at C will decide if the horse should be eliminated and/or is fit to continue in any further competition(s) in the event.

Any horse which has a 'sore patch' (an area where hair has been rubbed off and the skin is inflamed) in a location where there is a danger that the skin could be broken if the horse were continued to be ridden, it must be withdrawn from competition. If the sore patch is not noticed until after a test has been completed, then elimination will only occur if the skin is broken. The horse may not continue to compete for the remainder of the competition thereafter, unless approved to continue by an independent vet.

Membership and horse registration

- It is the responsibility of the owner/rider, to ensure that eligibility for the class is checked before entering competitions. Any results gained whilst ineligible will be excluded and will not be shown on either the rider or horse's competition record.
- **Senior, U25 International & Para Riders**

Clarification has been given on the entitlement to wear pocket badges and team coats with red collars and white piping.

Ponies, COH, Junior and Young Riders

Clarification has been given on the entitlement to wear pocket badges and team jackets with red collars and white piping.

- Horses must be microchipped in line with DEFRA regulations, horses that do not have this in place will not be eligible for registration or renewal
- **Equine Influenza vaccination**
 - An initial course of two injections for primary vaccination, not less than 21 days and not more than 92 days apart, are required before being eligible to compete.
 - A first booster injection must be given between 150 and 215 days after the second injection of primary vaccination.
 - Subsequent booster injections must be given at regular intervals of not more than 12 months, commencing after the first booster injection.
 - **The most recent booster injection must have been given within six calendar months +21 days prior to the horse competing. (with effect from 1 December)**
 - The full course or booster must have been administered at least seven days before arriving at the competition..

Horses being found without adequate and up to date vaccinations will not be allowed to compete and will be barred from competing until such a time that they have been given their first and second vaccinations. The registration of any horse found in breach of this rule will be suspended until rectified

- Upon arrival at the venue, riders are required to declare themselves to the secretary/organiser with their passport

Para

- Para riders grades I-III may have their horse warmed up by their trainer or another rider for 30 minutes per competition. This rule also applies for Championship competitions. This rider must clearly identify themselves to the steward and this must be stated on the rider's dispensation certificate.
- A Para Supporter may lead the combination into the arena and make one complete circuit leading the horse. They may remain beside the arena in 'regular' competitions (ie. any competition where Commanders are permitted for all riders) but at Championships must retreat to stay away from the arena next to the exit and at least five metres from the competition arena. They may not communicate with the rider either by voice or gesture their role is purely one for safety of the rider should an untoward event occur. Championships are defined as National/Winter Championships, Area Festivals, Area Festival Championships and Associated Championships. This must be stated on the rider's dispensation certificate.
- Riders with hearing difficulties may wear a Royal Blue armband when warming up and competing in their test

Eligibility, results and rider grading

- Combinations who ride for Great Britain in dressage at an FEI Championship either in the Team or as Individuals must ride in the Gold section of National competitions at the level that they have been selected and below. This means the Gold Section of Elementary and below for Children on Horses, Medium and below for Ponies, Advanced Medium and below for Juniors, Prix St Georges and below for Young Riders.

- Riders up to the end of the calendar year of their 12th birthday may remain in the Bronze section on a horse or pony that exceeds the horse eligibility criteria providing they remain eligible as a rider
- Riders registered with British Eventing or holding a BHS qualification
Event riders wishing to compete with BD must disclose their previous and ongoing BE achievements for points to be allocated accordingly.
Riders that have competed at Intermediate or Advanced in the current or preceding 10 years will be allocated points as below.

Eventing Level	Levels eligible for
BE Advanced (4 or 5*)	25 points Prelim to Medium and 1 point at Advanced Medium
BE Intermediate (3*)	25 points Prelim to Elementary and 1 point at Medium
BE Novice (2*)	0 points added

- Riders joining BD with a BHSI or FBHS qualifications will be allocated 25 points from Prelim to Medium and 1 point at Advanced Medium.

Failure to disclose this information may result in ineligibility and elimination.

- Please note amendments to the Bronze eligibility tables for Prelim to PSG

Competitions and entries

- If a rider is found to be ineligible for a class, they must return prize money and rosettes to the organiser for redistribution. If it is a championship class, it should be returned to the Championships Officer at British Dressage.
- Upon arrival at the venue, riders are required to declare themselves to the secretary/organiser with their horse's passport.
- **HC entries** A horse may not be ridden competitively in a class if it has already been ridden HC by another rider in the same competition day
- **PYO classes** - Only Advanced and FEI tests can be used.
- **Prize money** Organisers must ensure that Prize money to be awarded is made clear on the results board and score sheets. If a competitor has left the venue and not collected prize money, but contacts the organiser on the same day as the competition, the organisers are obliged to pay and the rider should make suitable arrangements for collection / payment. If prize money is not claimed within one working day after the competition, the organiser is not obliged to pay.
- Whips are not permitted at any Championship (including Associate Championships) please refer to table in 2020 Handbook
- Whips are permitted in the warm up arena at a championship however must be dropped before the rider enters the space around the competition arena, failure to do so will result in elimination.
- Spurs must be made of metal and spurs with rowels are now permitted in Young Horse classes.
- Earphones or similar devices are permitted during training and warm-up however must be discussed with the venue prior to warming up as some devices may cause feedback on PA systems (bluetooth devices are preferable)
- Saddles must have a cantle and pommel
- **Maximum numbers of tests per day**
In line with our Horse Welfare policy, there is a maximum number of tests that a horse may perform in a day. The maximum number of tests in a day includes any tests ridden HC. Exceeding the number will result in elimination from the competition.
If a horse competes at Intro/Prelim/Novice it may only compete in four tests at that level (s)

or below per day.

If a horse competes at Elementary/Medium/Advanced Mediums it may only compete in three tests at that level or below per day.

If a horse competes at PSG/Inter I it may only compete in two tests at that level or below per day.

If a horse competes at Inter II/A/B GP it may not compete in any other test on the same day.

Qualification

- **Combined training** - horse and rider can compete in the qualifying rounds on a class ticket, but must upgrade to a minimum of a BD Club membership for horse and rider and the horse must be owned by a paying member
- Prelim and Novice classes open only to combinations who have not competed at Medium or above.
- All-comers/Elementary classes are open to any combination of any level/eligibility
BD Elementary Test 42 Showjumping – maximum height 90cm
BD Elementary Test 50 Showjumping – maximum height 1m
- Whips may not be used in the dressage phase of the Championship, however a BS legal whip may be used in the SJ phase
- If the final score gives equality of marks to two or more competitors, the winner of the class is decided by the highest marks for the dressage test. If there is still equality, the combination with the fastest time recorded in the showjumping phase. If still equal after the above has been applied, then equal placings should be awarded.
- Harmonisation of summer and winter seasons for Area Festival and Regional Championships

1 Dec – 30 Jun	Summer season
1 Jul – 31 Dec	Winter season

Area Festivals

- Two distinct seasons with Winter and a Summer Championship incorporating Summer Music Area Festival Championship
- Combinations who score 68% or higher (70% Music) at the Area Festival Championships, may not compete in an Area Festival at the same level and section or below in the current and future years e.g. a combination gaining 69% in Novice Silver or in any section at Elementary or above at an Area Festival Championship may not compete in an Area Festival at Novice or below in the current and future years.

Level	Points	Offshore points
Prelim Bronze	7	4
Prelim Silver	9	5
Novice Bronze	7	4
Novice Silver	9	5
Elementary Bronze	7	4
Elementary silver	9	5
Medium Bronze	4	2
Medium Silver	6	3

Advanced Medium Bronze	4	2
Advanced Medium Silver	6	3
PSG Bronze	2	2
PSG Silver	4	1
Inter 1 Bronze	2	1
Inter 1 Silver	4	2

- The top two combinations from each class /section will qualify for the Area Festival Championship, except where the class is split. If a class is split due to the number of entries the winner of each class will qualify.

Once qualification is achieved a combination may not contest another Area Festival in the same season.

Wild cards will be issued to the next highest placed percentages across all Area Festivals in the current season after close of entries for the Area Festival Championships, for any class which has not been filled. Entries received after the closing date from prequalified combinations will not be accepted once wildcards have been issued.

Summer Music Area Festivals

During the summer season Summer Area Festivals will be held at 10 of the venues, qualification is gained by achieving success at music classes in the table below

Level	Qualification for Summer AF Music
Preliminary Bronze	2 scores 63%
Preliminary Silver	2 scores 63%
Novice Bronze	2 scores 63%
Novice Silver	2 scores 63%
Elementary Bronze	2 scores 63%
Elementary Silver	2 scores 63%
Medium Bronze	2 scores 63%
Medium Silver	2 scores 63%
Advance Medium Bronze	2 scores 63%
Advance Medium Silver	2 scores 63%
PSG Bronze	2 scores 60%
PSG Silver	2 scores 60%
Inter 1 Bronze	2 scores 60%
Inter 1 Silver	2 scores 60%

- Combinations qualify from Summer Music Area Festivals to the Area Festival Championships providing that the minimum score of 63% is achieved. The top two combinations will automatically qualify with the remaining places allocated by wildcard.

Members will be sent a qualification email from BDHQ to inform them that they have qualified for the Area Festival Championships.

Wild Cards will be issued to the next highest qualified percentages across all Area Festivals after close of entries for the Area Festival Championships, for any class which has not been filled.

- Associated Championships will now include a Gold section.
- Offshore competitors will be required to get two scores over the required percentage