



RULES FOR LOW LEVEL EVENTING

The current rules for EvA80 and above are the Equestrian Australia National Eventing rules which can be found on the Equestrian Australia website.

www.equestrian.org.au

Eventing Queensland acknowledges Eventing New South Wales for their contribution to these Rules and thanks them for allowing us to present them to our clubs for their use.

CODE OF CONDUCT

FOR THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE

The FEI requires all those involved in international equestrian sport to adhere to the FEI Code of Conduct and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the Horse must be paramount. Welfare of the Horse must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.

The following points must be particularly adhered to:

1. General Welfare:

- a) Good Horse management
Stabling and feeding must be compatible with the best Horse management practices. Clean and good quality hay, feed and water must always be available.
- b) Training methods
Horses must only undergo training that matches their physical capabilities and level of maturity for their respective disciplines. They must not be subjected to methods which are abusive or cause fear.
- c) Farriery and tack
Foot care and shoeing must be of a high standard. Tack must be designed and fitted to avoid the risk of pain or injury.
- d) Transport
During transportation, Horses must be fully protected against injuries and other health risks. Vehicles must be safe, well ventilated, maintained to a high standard, disinfected regularly and driven by competent personnel. Competent handlers must always be available to manage the Horses.
- e) Transit
All journeys must be planned carefully, and Horses allowed regular rest periods with access to food and water in line with current FEI guidelines.

2. Fitness to compete:

- a) Fitness and competence
Participation in Competition must be restricted to fit Horses and Athletes of proven competence. Horses must be allowed suitable rest period between training and Competitions; additionally rest periods should be allowed following travelling.
- b) Health status
No Horse deemed unfit to compete may compete or continue to compete; veterinary advice must be sought whenever there is any doubt.
- c) Doping and Medication
Any action or intent of doping and illicit use of medication constitutes a serious welfare issue and will not be tolerated. After any veterinary treatment, sufficient time must be allowed for full recovery before Competition.

- d) **Surgical procedures**
Any surgical procedures that threaten a competing Horse's welfare or the safety of other Horses and/or Athletes must not be allowed.
- e) **Pregnant/recently foaled mares**
Mares must not compete after their fourth month of pregnancy or with foal at foot.
- f) **Misuse of aids**
Abuse of a Horse using natural riding aids or artificial aids (e.g. whips, spurs, etc.) will not be tolerated.

3. Events must not prejudice Horse welfare:

- a) **Competition areas**
Horses must be trained and compete on suitable and safe surfaces. All obstacles and Competition conditions must be designed with the safety of the Horse in mind.
- b) **Ground surfaces**
All ground surfaces on which Horses walk, train or compete must be designed and maintained to reduce factors that could lead to injuries.
- c) **Extreme weather**
Competitions must not take place in extreme weather conditions that may compromise welfare or safety of the Horse. Provision must be made for cooling conditions and equipment for Horses after competing.
- d) **Stabling at Events**
Stables must be safe, hygienic, comfortable, well ventilated and of sufficient size for the type and disposition of the Horse. Washing-down areas and water must always be available.

4. Humane treatment of Horses:

- a) **Veterinary treatment**
Veterinary expertise must always be available at an Event. If a Horse is injured or exhausted during a Competition, the Athlete must stop competing and a veterinary evaluation must be performed.
- b) **Referral centres**
Wherever necessary, the Horse should be collected by ambulance and transported to the nearest relevant treatment centre for further assessment and therapy. Injured Horses must be given full supportive treatment before being transported.
- c) **Competition injuries**
The incidence of injuries sustained in Competition should be monitored. Ground surface conditions, frequency of Competitions and any other risk factors should be examined carefully to indicate ways to minimise injuries.
- d) **Euthanasia**
If injuries are sufficiently severe a Horse may need to be euthanized by a veterinarian as soon as possible on humane grounds, with the sole aim of minimising suffering.

- e) Retirement
Horses must be treated sympathetically and humanely when they retire from Competition.

5. Education:

The FEI urges all those involved in equestrian sport to attain the highest possible levels of education in areas of expertise relevant to the care and management of the Competition Horse. This Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse may be modified from time to time and the views of all are welcomed. Particular attention will be paid to new research findings and the FEI encourages further funding and support for welfare studies.

PREAMBLE

The NSW Branch of Equestrian Australia (ENSW) has developed these Rules for Low Level Events effective from January 2005 and updated April 2013 with the assistance of Eventing New South Wales (EvNSW). They cover all unofficial eventing competitions and training days held in NSW, known as “Low level Events”.

Any activity that includes the jumping of fixed obstacles will be deemed to be Eventing and therefore must be run under EA rules and these guidelines.

ENSW and EvNSW wish to encourage clubs that introduce riders to Eventing, and these clubs are deserving of the protection that affiliation with the EA will provide.

Chicken Runs & training ODEs are a less frightening and more encouraging introduction to the sport of Eventing.

Many EA members wish to experience Eventing at a simple and easy level, and deserve the protection of a proper framework and rules for lower level events. EvNSW has produced these guidelines with the aim of maintaining safety standards, while easing requirements which are not central to safety or the sport.

An OFFICIAL EVENT is defined as any Event in which includes obstacles of 80cms and above. Clubs conducting Official Events must use the National Eventing rules for EvA80 and above and the Queensland Low Level Rules for EvQ60 and EvQ45. Official events must lodge entry lists and results to Eventing Queensland for all classes.

Low level Events are defined as any Event which has obstacles below 80cm in any classes offered. For any height that is not specifically covered in Annex A, the height of those obstacles will be determined by common sense.

Inspection of courses to ensure safety of horse and rider should be conducted by EA accredited course designers or Technical Delegates or an accredited NCAS Level 1 G (or above) Instructor.

As from this date, all other texts covering the same matter (i.e. other editions or amendments) issued previously are superseded.

Although this document sets out the detailed rules for Low Level Eventing, reference should be made to the EA National Eventing Rules, the FEI Rules for Eventing and/or all relevant FEI Rule Books for any eventuality not covered in this rule book. In any unforeseen or exceptional

circumstances, it is the duty of the official(s) responsible to make a decision in a sporting spirit and in accordance with the intention of these rules.

Any new or amended FEI Rules for Eventing will be incorporated into these rules automatically and will be circulated to appropriate bodies, committees and officials.

Eventing Queensland has sought and been granted permission by Eventing New South Wales to reproduce these rules for use by Equestrian Queensland affiliated clubs from 1 January 2015.

Special Note: In these rules, words signifying males only shall extend to and include females.

MEMBERSHIP, CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE

1. ACCEPTANCE OF RULES

Refer EA Rules for Eventing

2. ORDERS

Refer EA Rules for Eventing

3. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Refer EA Rules for Eventing

PARTICIPATION

4. COMPETITORS & OWNERS

Riders and owners are not required to be members of the EA, nor horses required to be registered with the EA. However, Riders **MUST** be members of the Host Club running the event or EA members or Associate members.

There is no age or size limit on horses

As per Equestrian Australia National Rules for Eventing 503.2.1

Riders may compete in EvA80 from the beginning of the calendar year in which the rider turns 8.

Riders may compete in EvQ60 or EvQ45 from the beginning of the calendar year in which the rider turns 8. Such riders will be subject to the consideration of the Technical Delegate.

4. HORSE SPORTS ARE A DANGEROUS ACTIVITY

Participants or their guardians are asked to understand and acknowledge that horse sports are a dangerous activity and that horses can act in a sudden and unpredictable (changeable) way, especially if frightened or hurt.

Participants or their guardians will be asked to understand and acknowledge that serious **INJURY** or **DEATH** may result from horse sport activities, and agree to **PARTICIPATE** at their **OWN RISK**.

5. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

The following disclaimer must be printed on all entry forms, schedules and programs:

Neither the Organising Committee of any event to which these rules apply nor the Equestrian Australia accepts any liability for any accident, damage, injury, or illness to horses, riders, ground, spectators or any other person or property whatsoever.

6. QUALIFICATION OF HORSES

Any horse and any rider may compete at any level that they wish as long as they meet the required minimum standard as in Rule 4.

7. CLASSES

All classes **MUST NOT** exceed 80cms in height.

Organisers may run any or all of the following classes at Low Level Events:

- EvA80 class.
- EvQ60 class.
- EvQ45 class.

Organisers may run classes according to age (for example: under 12, veterans or masters) or any other criteria they wish.

8. TYPES OF EVENTS

Any activity that includes the jumping of fixed obstacles will be deemed to be Eventing.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Unofficial One Day Events
- Chicken Runs
- Hunter Trials
- Cross Country Competitions
- Derby Days
- Training Days

Low Level One Day Events may consist of three separate tests:

- Dressage
- Cross-Country
- Jumping,

the marks of which are cumulative.

9. CLASSIFICATION

A club should publish the basis for any prizes in its program or advertisement or on an official noticeboard, as well as any particular rules and regulations for an event.

Likewise, any scoring rules which deviate from the Rules for Events should be advertised or posted. E.g. The horse with the lowest total penalty score over jumping and cross country phases will win (at an event which has no dressage as part of the competition).

10. ELIMINATED COMPETITORS

Eliminated riders are allowed to compete in subsequent phases but the TD OR Organising Committee retains the discretion to eliminate them from any further participation on the grounds of welfare or safety.

11. COMPETITOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Indemnity Waiver

Competitors must provide a signed indemnity waiver to the event secretary prior to competing in any phase. (exception: current EA members)

Numbers

For purposes of easy identification, competitors may be required to wear numbers in front and on their back during the cross country or other tests.

The same numbers, armbands, back numbers or bridle numbers may be used for the dressage and jumping tests.

Horses are required to have a bridle number or saddlecloth number.

Protective Headgear

At an Event, anyone riding a horse at any time MUST wear an approved helmet.

Approved helmets must be either:

- AS/NZS 3838 (Current Australian Standard), or EN 1384 (Current European Standard)
- ASTN F1163 (Current US Standard)

Failure to wear an approved helmet shall be penalised by elimination at the discretion of the Technical Delegate.

Body protectors are compulsory for the cross country phase.

Saddlery - Exercise Areas

The following are compulsory:

- A saddle;
- Any form of bridle, including double bridle, snaffle, gag or hackamore.

The following are permitted:

- Running martingales (with snaffle only), Irish martingales;
- Bit guards;
- Boots, bandages;
- Fly shields, nose covers and seat covers;
- Single direct side reins, running reins and chambons while lungeing (with only one lunge line).

The following are forbidden, under penalty of elimination:

- Martingales, other than Running or Irish.
- Any kind of gadget (such as bearing, running or balancing reins);
- Any form of blinkers.

12. PRACTICE OBSTACLES

Competitors may only jump in practice those practice obstacles provided by the Organising Committee. The Organising Committee must provide at least one fixed practice obstacle, the dimensions of which may not exceed those for the cross-country test, and should reflect the height of obstacles to be jumped in the class. The Organising Committee must also provide at least two adjustable practice obstacles, one vertical and one spread, in the exercise area near the jumping arena. These obstacles, constructed in the usual manner, must be marked with red and white flags. No part of the obstacle may be held by anyone during practice jumping. These obstacles may not be raised more than 10 cm above the height allowed in the jumping test. The spread may never exceed the maximum permitted.

13. ABUSE OF HORSES AND DANGEROUS RIDING

Any act or series of actions, which, in the opinion of the Technical Delegate can clearly and without doubt, can be defined as abuse of horses or dangerous riding will be penalised by elimination or a penalty (prescribed under EA Rule 525) of 25 penalties.

Similarly, any rider who affects the safety of any horse, rider or third party will be considered to have acted dangerously, and will be penalised by elimination or a penalty (prescribed under EA Rule 524) of 25 penalties.

Abuse of horses includes:

- rapping;
- riding an exhausted horse;
- excessive pressing of a tired horse;
- riding an obviously lame horse (refer also to EA Rule 525);
- excessive use of whip and/or spurs

Officials must report such actions as soon as possible to the Technical Delegate or Organising Committee, supported where possible by a statement from one or more witnesses.

The Technical Delegate or Organising Committee must decide if there is a case to be answered.

14. UNFITNESS OF HORSE AND/OR RIDER

If at any time during the competition a horse is lame or unfit to continue, it may be eliminated on the authority of the Technical Delegate or Organising Committee or any other Technical Delegate or the Chief Cross Country Judge. Competitors are warned that competing with a horse in such a condition can amount to abuse. Similarly these Officials or the Official Doctor may at any time exclude from the competition any competitor who in their opinion is severely injured or unfit, for instance as a result of a fall.

15. DOPING (MEDICATION CONTROL)

The Control of Medication of Horses must be conducted in accordance with the FEI General Regulations and FEI Veterinary Regulations. The Control of Medication of Riders must be conducted in accordance with the FEI General Regulations Article 145, the Australian Sports Doping Agency (ASDA) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

16. OBJECTIONS

Only the owner, or his authorised agent, or the rider of a horse taking part in the competition is entitled to lodge an objection.

17. EMERGENCY SERVICES

Medical

A first aid service must be present at all times.

Emergency vehicles must be able to access all parts of the venue.

Cross Country Test

An ambulance (or paramedic equivalent) MUST be present during the cross-country test.

A Doctor SHOULD be present during the cross-country tests.

If the ambulance (or paramedic equivalent) is not on the ground, then the event must be halted.

Jumping Test

A Doctor (with an appropriately equipped first aid service) and/or a fully equipped emergency ambulance (or paramedic equivalent) should be present during the jumping test.

The EA Branch or its representative (i.e. the Technical Delegate) may vary these requirements in exceptional circumstances.

Veterinary

Ideally an equipped Veterinary Surgeon should be present during the jumping and cross country tests.

At a minimum, a Veterinary Surgeon must be available on call for the duration of the event.

Destruction of Severely Injured Horses

If a horse is so severely injured that on humanitarian grounds it ought to be destroyed, the following procedure will apply:

- If the owner or his authorised representative is present, his agreement will first be obtained by the Veterinary Surgeon.
- If the owner or his representative is not available, the Technical Delegate, acting on the advice of the official Veterinary Surgeon, may order the destruction of the horse.

Communication

Organisers must arrange adequate communication involving all emergency services and key officials.

18. DRESSAGE

Dressage tests should be conducted in a 20 m x 60 m arena. When there are a large number of entries and/or limited areas available, organisers may conduct tests in a 20 m x 40 m arena.

Construction of Arenas:

Arenas must be as safe as possible. Alternative arena construction is encouraged. Examples of alternatives:

Plastic chain, plastic pipes, line marking, and painted 10cm x 2.5cm wooden boards placed on the ground at corners and markers.

19. DRESS & SADDLERY FOR DRESSAGE

Whip

A dressage whip may be used while warming up for dressage.

Carrying a whip of any kind during an eventing dressage test is forbidden, and will result in elimination. However, a competitor at unofficial low level event may ask and receive the judge's permission to ride with a whip. This permission can be sought when presenting to the judge just prior to starting the test. This may be a jumping or dressage type whip.

Spurs

Spurs capable of wounding a horse are forbidden.

Spurs must be of smooth metal. There must be a shank pointing only towards the rear, which must be no more than 3.5 cm long and without rowels. The end must be blunt in order to prevent wounding the horse. If the shank is curved, the spurs should be worn only with the shank directed downwards.

Spurs are not compulsory for any phases

Protective Headgear

At an Official Event, anyone riding a horse MUST wear an approved helmet. See Rule 11 above.

Dress

Dress will be determined by the organizing committee. The essential factor is practicality and safety e.g. fancy dress worn should not have flapping parts capable of upsetting a horse.

Saddlery

The following are compulsory:

- a saddle and a bridle.

Prohibited in dressage test:

- martingales;
- any kind of gadget (such as bearing, side, running/balancing reins etc);
- earplugs; (Protective fly hoods are allowed but must not cover the horses eyes or be used to block sound)
- any kind of boots or bandages;
- nose covers;
- seat covers;
- any form of blinkers including winkers, earmuffs and hoods.

20. SCORING AND RULES

Dressage Test

All tests should ideally be carried out entirely from memory, and all movements must follow in the order laid down in the test.

However, a competitor in EvQ45 and EvQ60 levels at a Low Level Event may ask and receive the judge's permission to have a caller. This permission can be sought when presenting to the judge just prior to starting the test.

Competitors in Official Events, competing in EvQ60 and EvQ45 are encouraged to carry out the test from memory. However, the use of callers will be at the Discretion of the Organising Committee.

Rules and scoring for the Dressage Test should be as in the National Rules for Eventing (Rule 541 & 543). Event organisers may vary these rules if they see fit, but should be advertised in its schedule, program or advertisement or on an official noticeboard.

Dressage tests may be:

- EA 1.1 (2014)
- EA 1.2 (2014)
- Eventing Preliminary 1 (2011)
- Or locally recognised Preparatory Tests.

Cross-Country

Rules and scoring for the Cross Country Test should be as in the National Rules for Eventing (Rule 544), unless referred to below. In addition, Event organisers may vary these rules if they see fit, but should be advertised in its schedule or advertisement or on an official notice board. Again, the essential factor is practicality and safety.

Clubs may stipulate that riders may ride past a jump that they do not wish to jump, or that they may ride past a jump at which they have had two refusals to continue the course.

Alternatively, a club may provide a smaller alternative obstacle which may be attempted.

A third refusal will entail elimination.

It is expected that a course designer be thoroughly familiar with the details of the National Rules for Eventing.

21. DRESS & SADDLERY IN CROSS COUNTRY TEST

Dress:

Lightweight clothing is appropriate for this test.

It is compulsory that back protectors be worn.

Spurs are optional, but if used see Dressage Rule 19 above.

Protective Headgear:

At an Official Event, anyone riding a horse MUST wear an approved helmet see Rule 11 above.

Saddlery

If a whip is carried in the cross-country and/or jumping test it must not be weighted at the end or exceed 75 cm in length.

The type of saddlery is optional with the exception of any form of blinkers, which are forbidden.

Only unrestricted running martingales or Irish martingales are allowed.

Reins must be attached to the bit(s) or directly to the bridle.

Gags or hackamores are allowed.

The stirrup iron and stirrup leathers must hang free from the bar of the saddle and outside of the flap.

There must be no other restrictions or attachments of any kind, or any bit or item of saddlery likely to wound the horse.

Blinkers, side, running or balancing reins, tongue straps and/or tongue-ties are forbidden.

22. OBSTACLES IN CROSS COUNTRY TEST

Definition

Specifications for Obstacles, Distances and Speeds are laid down in Annex A.

Lower distances and speeds may be selected by clubs if they desire, but recommended dimensions, distances and speeds should not be exceeded.

Penalty points should be allocated for competitors who go too fast as per the EA Rules.

A cross country obstacle is considered as such, if and only if, its extremities are marked with a red and white flag or flags and it is numbered.

Nature of Obstacles

The obstacle must be fixed and imposing in shape and appearance.

When natural obstacles are used, they must, if necessary, be reinforced so that they remain in the same state throughout the test.

In all water crossings, the bottom should be firm and consistent.

Number of Jumping Efforts

The total number of cross-country jumping efforts shall be within the limits shown in Annex A.

Dimensions

Within the limits shown in Annex A, the dimensions of obstacles should be related to the quality and standard of the preparation of the competitors. Fences do not need to be built to maximum dimensions and in many cases will be significantly lower. However, the maximum dimensions must not be exceeded, to give competitors certainty as to the requirements of competition, and to foster safety.

The fixed and solid part of an obstacle may not exceed the specified height or spread at any of the points at which the competitor might reasonably be expected to jump.

Measurements

The height of an obstacle is measured from the point where the average horse would take off.

The spread of the obstacle is measured from the outside of the rails or other material making up the obstacle.

The maximum height of the fixed and solid part of a hedge or brush fence must not exceed the dimensions for other fences specified in Annex A.

The drop on the landing side of an obstacle is measured from the highest part of the obstacle to the spot where the average horse would land.

23. PENALTIES

First refusal, run-out or circle - 20 penalties

Second refusal, run-out or circle at the same obstacle - 40 penalties

Third refusal, run-out or circle at the same obstacle - Elimination

Falls

Fall of competitor at an obstacle - Elimination

Fall of horse at an obstacle - Elimination

Fall of Rider and or Horse anywhere - Elimination

Time Faults

Exceeding optimum time completing cross-country course - 0.4 penalty per second

More than 20 seconds under optimum time - 0.4 penalties per second in excess of 20 seconds

Exceeding time limit (twice optimum time) – Elimination

Dangerous Riding

Penalties will be determined by the Technical Delegate in accordance with the rules. In addition to or instead of the possible penalties of warning, fine or disqualification, the Technical Delegate may penalise the competitor with 25 penalties.

Additional Reasons for Elimination

Statutory elimination by the Technical Delegate:

- abuse of horses;
- competing with improper saddlery;
- error of course not rectified (unless otherwise stipulated);
- omission of obstacle (unless otherwise stipulated);
- jumping or incurring a fault at an obstacle in the wrong order
- jumping an obstacle in the wrong direction;
- retaking an obstacle already jumped;

Discretionary elimination by the Technical Delegate:

- dangerous riding;
- wilful obstruction of an overtaking competitor, or failure to follow the instructions of the officials while being overtaken;
- causing danger to another competitor while overtaking that competitor;
- failure to stop when signalled;
- unauthorised assistance;
- jumping or attempting to jump any obstacle without headgear, or with an unfastened helmet strap.

24. DEFINITION OF FAULTS

The following faults at obstacles (refusal, run-out and circle) will be penalised unless, in the opinion of the relevant Official, they are clearly not connected with the negotiation or attempted negotiation of a numbered obstacle or element.

Refusal

Obstacles With Height

At obstacles or elements with height (i.e. exceeding 30 centimetres), a Horse is considered to have refused if it stops in front of the obstacle to be jumped.

Obstacles Without Height

At all other obstacles (i.e. 30 centimetres or less in height) a stop followed immediately by a standing jump is not however penalised, but if the halt is sustained or in any way prolonged, this constitutes a refusal. The Horse may step sideways but if it steps back, this is a refusal.

Multiple Refusals

After a refusal, if an Athlete redoubles or changes his efforts without success, or if the Horse is represented at the obstacle after stepping back and stops or steps back again, this is a second refusal; and so on.

Run out

A Horse is considered to have run out if, having been presented at an element or obstacle on the course, it avoids it in such a way that the head, neck and both shoulders of the Horse fail to pass between the extremities of the element or obstacle as flagged.

Change of Intention

An Athlete is permitted to change his mind as to where he jumps an obstacle or element at any time, without penalty, including as a result of a mistake at a previous obstacle or element. If, however, the Horse avoids part of the obstacle at which it has been presented, he will be considered to have run out.

Judging of Bounce Obstacles

At any obstacle where the distance between elements is 5 meters or less (i.e. a "bounce"), when a Horse has negotiated the first element without penalty, he will be deemed to have been presented at the second element and similarly if the "bounce" is for example the second and third elements of a combination. Thus if an Athlete "changes his mind" while negotiating the first element of a "bounce" and , for example, then goes a longer route, he will still be penalised 20 penalties for a run-out.

Circle

Separately Numbered Obstacles

At separately numbered obstacles, an Athlete may circle between or around them without penalty provided he has not presented his Horse at the second or subsequent obstacles.

Obstacles Composed of Several Elements

At an obstacle composed of several elements (A, B, C, etc) a Horse will be penalised if it passes around any element or circles between elements.

Representing After a Disobedience

After being penalised for a refusal, run-out or circle, an Athlete, in order to make another attempt, is permitted to circle one or more times without penalty, until he again presents his Horse at the obstacle.

At an obstacle composed of several elements if the Athlete refuses, runs out or circles at any element, he is permitted to retake any elements already jumped, although he is liable to be penalised for any fault even if he has previously jumped an element successfully.

If after a refusal, run-out or circle, he wishes to pass through flags in the wrong direction in order to retake an element, he may do so without penalty.

Fall

Athlete

An Athlete is considered to have fallen when he is separated from his Horse in such a way as to necessitate remounting.

Horse

A Horse is considered to have fallen when, at the same time, both its shoulder and quarters have touched either the ground or the obstacle and the ground or when it is trapped in a fence in such a way that it is unable to proceed without assistance or is liable to injure itself.

25. MARKING OF THE COURSE

Red and white boundary flags

- These are used to mark the start and finish and compulsory sections of the course, to define obstacles and to indicate compulsory changes of direction.
- They are placed in such a way that a rider must leave a red flag on his right and a white flag on his left.
- All red or white flags must be respected wherever they occur under penalty of elimination at the discretion of the Technical Delegate.
- They must be passed mounted if on a Cross Country course.

Numbers and Class indicators

- Each obstacle shall be numbered and marked with the relevant number and obstacles with elements or options shall, in addition, be lettered (A, B, C etc) according to the colour indicator code.
- For the convenience of competitors when they are inspecting the course, colour indicators are used to mark the obstacles for the different classes.
- Where different parts of the same obstacle are to be jumped by more than one class, the section of the obstacle applicable to each class will be marked at each end with the appropriate class indicator, one end of which must be marked with the obstacle number/s for the particular classes.

Position for Markers

- Boundary flags and direction markers will be large and placed in conspicuous positions.
- All obstacles, boundary flags, direction markers, and class indicators which have to be observed by competitors must be exactly in position by the time the course is open for inspection by competitors and any variation in the course for the different classes clearly marked. (If this is impractical, the position of the boundary flags, direction markers and class indicators must be clearly indicated to the competitors during the course inspection.)
- Before the commencement of each class, the boundary flags must be repositioned, where necessary, so that they exactly define the course for the class concerned.
- There is no penalty for a competitor for jumping a fence being used in another class, unless dangerous i.e. out of control, providing that the horse was not being presented at the fence belonging to its own class, and providing that the horse jumps all the fences in its own class, in the correct direction and in the correct order.

26. ACCESS TO THE COURSE

The course must be open for inspection by competitors as early as possible on the day of the event, or the first day of the event, if it is held over two days.

Competitors may inspect the course on foot only.

27. PLAN OF THE COURSE

A plan of the course must be displayed by the time the course is open for inspection by competitors.

This plan must include:

- position of the Start and Finish;
- numbered obstacles;
- compulsory passages;
- distance;
- speed;
- optimum time and time limit;
- any decisions made by the Technical Delegate in regard to the course.

28. MODIFICATIONS OF THE COURSE

After the cross-country course is open for inspection by competitors, no alteration may be made, except that, where exceptional circumstances (such as heavy rain) make one or more obstacles unfair or dangerous, the Organiser is authorised, with the sanction of the Technical Delegate, to reduce the severity of or to by-pass such obstacles. In such a case, the changes should be announced if possible over a Public Address system, and every competitor must be personally informed of the proposed alteration by the starter before the start of the test. An official may have to be stationed at the place where an alteration has been made in order to warn the competitors.

If it is necessary in the interests of safety to order an obstacle to be by-passed during the competition, all jumping faults previously incurred at that obstacle shall be cancelled, with the exception of elimination.

A competitor who has been eliminated shall NOT be reinstated in the competition.

Once taken out the obstacle shall NOT be re-introduced.

The Technical Delegate will decide what arbitrary adjustment shall be made to competitor's times.

29. STOPPING COMPETITORS

If any part of an obstacle is obstructed by a competitor in difficulty or if any obstacle has been dismantled to release a fallen horse, or if an obstacle has been broken and is not yet rebuilt, or in any other similar circumstances, subsequent competitors must be halted. In such a case an official should be posted in the path of an oncoming competitor. He shall wave a red flag, to indicate that the competitor must stop.

Failure to stop is penalised by elimination at the discretion of the Technical Delegate.

Competitors may be stopped at obstacles or at Stopping Points on the course. The official will stop competitors only upon the instruction of the Control Centre or during an emergency at his own obstacle. It is clearly intended that the time shall be taken as the competitor gallops past the Stopping Point, not after he halts nor after a start from a halt.

The time during which the competitor was stopped from the moment he passed the Stopping Point until he re-passed that same point after being given the order to restart, will be recorded, passed to the official time-keepers, and deducted from the total time taken by the competitor to complete the course.

30. OVERTAKING

Any competitor who is about to be overtaken by a following competitor must quickly clear the way.

Any competitor overtaking another competitor may do so only at a safe and suitable place.

When the leading competitor is before an obstacle and about to be overtaken, he must follow the directions of the officials.

When the leading competitor is committed to jumping an obstacle, a following competitor may jump that obstacle only in such a way that will cause no inconvenience or danger to either.

The penalty for wilful obstruction of an overtaking competitor, failure to follow the instructions of the officials or causing danger to another competitor is elimination at the discretion of the Technical Delegate.

In the case of a preceding competitor not allowing safe overtaking (for whatever reason), it is the responsibility of the following competitor to draw back or circle to allow a safe distance between himself and the preceding competitor. In such a case, the Technical Delegate will consider a request to deduct the extra time incurred by such a manoeuvre done in the interest of safety.

The time during which the competitor is held up by Officials will be recorded and deducted from the total time taken by the competitor to complete the course.

31. UNAUTHORISED ASSISTANCE (at the discretion of the Technical Delegate)

Any intervention by a third party, whether solicited or not, with the object of facilitating the task of the competitor or of helping the horse, is considered unauthorised assistance and the competitor is liable to be eliminated.

In particular the following are forbidden:

- intentionally to join another competitor and to continue the course in company with him;
- intentionally to take a lead from another competitor;
- to be followed, preceded or accompanied, on any part of the course, by any vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian or horseman not in the competition;
- to post friends at certain points to call directions or make signals in passing;
- to have someone at an obstacle to encourage the horse by any means whatsoever;
- to tamper with the obstacles or any part of the course including, for instance flags, indicators, markers, notices, ropes, trees, branches, wire or fences, whether temporary or permanent.

The use of any electronic receiving apparatus by competitors or officials of a team is strictly forbidden, except for individual mobile telephones, providing the Organising Committee approves, and that they do not interfere with the events communication system. However, mobile telephones may not be carried or used by competitors while mounted during competition.

The use of any other form of electronic receiving device is subject to approval by the Technical Delegate.

Officials or spectators who draw the attention of a competitor to a deviation from the course are giving unauthorised assistance, which may result in the elimination of the competitor. In such a case the official is liable to be disciplined.

Each case of unauthorised assistance will be decided by the Technical Delegate.

Exceptions:

- After a fall, or if a competitor dismounts, he may be assisted to catch his horse, to adjust his saddlery, to remount, or be handed any part of his saddlery or equipment, while he is dismounted or after he has remounted. The competitor cannot continue, they must walk home either mounted or unmounted.
- A competitor may be handed his whip, head gear or spectacles without dismounting.
- A competitor may receive clarification of Jumping Penalties from the Obstacle Judge e.g. after having knocked a flag at a corner obstacle.

32. AFTER ELIMINATION OR RETIRING

A competitor eliminated or retiring for any reason must leave the course at once at a walk and has no right to continue.

A competitor must walk his horse off the course either mounted or dismounted.

Violators shall be warned or fined at the discretion of the Technical Delegate.

33. JUMP JUDGES

Judges must be appointed for all obstacles on the course but one judge may take charge of more than one obstacle, provided they are all clearly visible to him and he is in a position to maintain adequate control.

34. TIMEKEEPING

Unless a competitor starts early, time is counted from the instant the Starter gives the signal to start, until the instant when the mounted horse reaches the finishing line.

Time is counted in whole seconds, parts of a second counting as the next whole second e.g. 30.25 seconds is recorded as 31 seconds.

Periods during which a competitor has been held up by a Jump Judge or officials will be deducted from the above time, to give his correct time for completing the course.

Starting

Competitors at the start of any test must be under the control of the Starter.

Each competitor should be given reasonable warning before the time is due to start, but it is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that he starts at the correct time.

In order to simplify the task of the Starter for the cross-country, an ideal enclosure approximately 5m x 5m would be built with an open front through which horses will start, and a gap in one or both sides through which the horses will enter.

Each competitor must start from within the enclosure and, provided he does not cross the starting line before the signal is given, is at liberty to move around the enclosure as he pleases.

An attendant may lead the horse into the enclosure and may hold the horse until the signal to start is given.

From that instant, the competitor is considered to be on the course no further assistance may be given.

Arrangements should be made to ensure that a competitor is not eliminated through the uncontrollable action of his horse.

If a competitor inadvertently starts early, his time will be recorded from the moment he crossed the start line and five seconds will be added as a penalty.

If for any reason a competitor is not ready to start at his correct time he may be allowed, at the discretion of the Starter, to start when he is ready, subject to the following conditions:

- a late competitor will not be permitted to start if there is any risk of interfering with the subsequent competitor;
- his starting time will be recorded as if he had started at the correct time, if there is no valid reason for being late.

A club may decide to have no timing (i.e. no optimum time or time limit), but must strictly monitor that riders are riding at a safe speed, and at a speed appropriate to the class. They must be sufficiently organized to warn any rider on course who appears to be riding at excessive speed, recklessly approaching fences or riding uncontrollably, and be prepared to eliminate such a rider if they continue in a manner judged to be unsafe.

35. JUMPING RULES

The jumping test consists of one round of the course judged under the FEI Eventing Rules, except where modified below. There is no jump-off. The nature of the course, its length, the speed demanded and the dimensions of the obstacles depend on the degree of difficulty of the whole competition. The aim is to give an inviting straightforward introduction to jumping, with lots of changes of direction to allow horses to rebalance, and avoiding difficult related lines of fences or tricky distances in combinations. Judges and course designers should be familiar with the EA National Rules for Eventing, especially Rules 549.

36. DRESS & SADDLERY

Whips

If a whip is carried in the jumping test it must not be weighted at the end or exceed 75 cm in length. Whips are optional.

Spurs

Spurs are optional, but if used see Dressage Rule 19 above.

Dress

Dress will be determined by the organizing committee. The essential factor is practicality and safety.

Protective Headgear

At any Official Event, anyone riding a horse **MUST** wear an approved helmet see Rule 11 above.

Saddlery

The following are compulsory:

- a saddle and a bridle.
- any form of blinkers, which are forbidden.
- Only unrestricted running martingales or Irish martingales are allowed.
- Reins must be attached to the bit(s) or directly to the bridle.
- Gags or hackamores are allowed.
- In the interest of safety, the stirrup iron and stirrup leathers must hang free from the bar of the saddle and outside of the flap.
- There must be no other restrictions or attachments of any kind.

37. COURSE & OBSTACLES

Within the limits shown in Annex A, Course Designers are free to plan a track suitable to the quality and standard of preparation of the competitors.

The dimensions of the obstacles shall not exceed the limits shown in Annex A. Fences do not need to be built to maximum dimensions and in many cases will be significantly lower. At lower levels, it is prudent to build the first third of the course significantly below height, with the second third more substantial, and the final third having a number of fences built close to maximum dimensions if appropriate. However, the maximum dimensions must not be exceeded, to give competitors certainty as to the requirements of competition, and to foster safety.

Red and white boundary flags mark the start and finish, but need not be used to mark the extremities of the obstacles, provided these are clearly defined.

The plan of the course, which must be posted before the jumping commences, must show:

- position of starting and finishing lines;
- relative position of obstacles;
- type of obstacles (oxer, vertical, triple bar) and numbers;
- the track to be followed marked by a series of arrows showing the direction in which each obstacle must be jumped;
- alternative obstacles;
- length of the course;
- speed;
- time allowed and time limit;
- any decisions made by the Technical Delegate with regard to the course.

Before the commencement of each class a break of 10 minutes minimum should be allowed for competitors to walk the course.

Starting and Finishing Lines

The starting line may be not more than 25 metres nor less than 6 metres from the first obstacle.

The finishing line may not be less than 15 metres nor more than 25 metres from the last obstacle.

The starting and finishing lines may not be more than 15m or less than 6 m from the first and last obstacle. These two lines must each be marked with an entirely red flag on the right and an entirely white flag on the left.

Time of the Round

The time of the round is the time taken by a competitor to complete the round, plus time corrections. After the bell has been rung to signal permission to start, the competitor should cross the starting line within a 45 seconds countdown, after which his time will start. The competitor must not start before the signal has been given. It extends to the moment that the mounted competitor crosses the finishing line having jumped the last obstacle. Both these lines must be crossed in the direction indicated on the plan.

A club may decide to have no timing (i.e. no optimum time or time limit), but must strictly monitor that riders are riding at a safe speed, and at a speed appropriate to the class. The judge must be prepared to warn any rider on course who appears to be riding at excessive speed, recklessly approaching fences or riding uncontrollably, and be prepared to eliminate such a rider if they continue in a manner judged to be unsafe.

38. PENALTIES

Faults on Course

Knocking down an obstacle - 4 penalties

First disobedience in the whole test - 4 penalties

Second disobedience in the whole test - 4 penalties

Third disobedience in the whole test - Elimination

First fall of Competitor - Elimination

Fall of Horse - Elimination

Time Faults

The length of the course and the speed demanded determine the time allowed.

Completing the course in less than the time allowed is not rewarded, but exceeding the time allowed is penalised by one penalty for each second or part of a second in excess of the time allowed up to the time limit which is twice the time allowed.

Exceeding the time limit results in elimination.

Time Corrections

The following time corrections should be added when a disobedience results in an obstacle or a flag being knocked down, and time-off is required. Six seconds will be added to the time of the rider for a knock-down with a refusal, not matter where it occurs on the course.

Reasons for Elimination

Statutory elimination by the Showjumping Judge:

- jumping or attempting to jump an obstacle in the arena before the start of the test;
- starting before the signal is given and jumping the first obstacle of the course;
- a horse resisting for 45 consecutive seconds during the test

Resistance includes:

- taking more than 45 seconds to jump a single obstacle or the first part of a combination and resistance continuously for 45 seconds during the test).
- omitting to cross the starting line and/or finishing line between the flags;
- jumping an obstacle that does not form part of the course during the test;
- omitting to jump an obstacle of the course;
- jumping an obstacle in the wrong order;
- jumping an obstacle in the wrong direction;
- jumping or attempting to jump an obstacle after an interruption without waiting for the bell;
- not jumping all the fences in a combination again after a disobedience;
- not crossing the finishing line mounted before leaving the arena;
- a loose horse leaving the arena before the end of the Test, including before starting, provided the arena is correctly closed in accordance with the rules;
- accepting, while mounted, any object whatsoever during the test, except headgear and/or spectacles;
- error of course not rectified;
- competing with improper saddlery, or with a whip exceeding 75 cm;
- exceeding the time limit;
- third runout or refusal (EvA105 and below events);
- failure to re-attempt an obstacle after a run-out or refusal;
- first fall of rider
- first fall of horse

Discretionary elimination by the Showjumping Judge:

- not entering the arena when the athlete's number is called;
- entering the arena unmounted or leaving the arena unmounted;

- all unauthorised assistance;
- not stopping when the bell is rung during the test;
- jumping or attempting to jump an obstacle without headgear or with an unfastened retention harness.

ANNEX A: Cross Country And Jumping Specifications for Low Level Eventing

	EvQ 45 45 cms	EvQ 60 (Pre-Introductory) 60 cms	EvA 80 (Introductory) 80 cms
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CROSS COUNTRY OBSTACLES

Heights - Fixed	0.45m	0.60m	0.80m
Heights - Brush	0.60m	0.75m	1.00m
Spreads – Highest Point	0.60m	0.80m	0.80m
Spreads – Base	0.80m	1.20m	1.20m
Spreads – without height	1.00m	1.20m	1.40m
Drops – Maximum	0.60m	0.8	1.00m
Height of obstacle/bank into water			
• with drop	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
• without drop	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Water			
• Maximum Depth entry to exit	0.35m	0.35m	0.35m
• Minimum width of crossing	6.0m	6.0m	6.0m
Height of roof/solid barrier above ground	3.50m	3.50m	3.50m

CROSS COUNTRY COURSE

Time	2'.00" – 6'.00" max	3'.00" – 5'.45" max	3.45"- 6.15" max
Speed	325 mpm	350 mpm	400 mpm
Distance	650m – 1950m	1050m – 2015m	1500m – 2500m
Number of efforts	10 – 25	15 – 25	15 - 25

JUMPING TABLE

Length	300m – 600m	300m – 600m	300m – 600m
Speed	300mpm	300mpm	300mpm
Number of Obstacles	9	9	9
Maximum Number of Efforts	10	10	10
Maximum Height	0.45m	0.60m	0.80m
Spreads			
• Oxer Spread	0.50m	0.75m	0.90m
• Triple Bar Spread	0.80m	1.00m	1.20m
Open Water	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Combinations	1 x Double	1 x Double	1 x Double