



HORSE COUNCIL
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Horse Council British Columbia

Rule Book 2026

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www.hcbc.ca

Horse Council BC (HCBC)

Recognized by the Government of British Columbia
as the official organization for Equestrian Sport in BC

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these rules.

It is the duty of the officials and the competition management to make informed decisions in a fair and sporting spirit, approaching as near as possible the intention of these rules, and in doing so protecting the reputation of the sport and the welfare of the horse.

All Competition Organizers hosting HCBC sanctioned competitions, should be familiar with the HCBC rules and policies and should have copies available for the use of exhibitors, parents, volunteers and officials.

The HCBC Rules are reviewed annually and posted on the HCBC website. Submissions for recommended rule changes will be considered until October 1st annually and reviewed for inclusion to the next years' rule book.

Aims, Goals and Objectives

- To ensure that Competition Organizers have the tools and support they need to operate within the recognized sport framework, follow current safety rules and guidelines and be aware of the risk management that is necessary and of the utmost importance for hosting a well-planned, successful competition.
- To provide HCBC sanctioned competitions the support and governance of the current Horse Council BC Rule Book.
- To develop, grow and retain a deep pool of well-educated and knowledgeable officials.
- To capture the activity that demonstrates the value of Equestrian Sport to the government at all levels.
- To provide, through education, participation in a quality structured, grass roots competition system and a well-planned development pathway, a feeder system that will grow and strengthen the development of the discipline sports and equestrian athletes.

Horse Council BC welcomes and encourages all grassroots and entry-level competition organizers to sanction their shows with HCBC. By doing so, the equestrian sport community in BC can work together to ensure an enjoyable and affordable environment within a fair playing field that supports the growth and success of equestrian sport in BC.

Horse Welfare Statement

Statement

HCBC members are responsible for ensuring the well-being, safety, and humane treatment of any equine entrusted to their care. The welfare of the horse shall always take precedence over competition, training goals, or personal objectives. Horses must be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion at all times. The welfare of the horse is paramount. Any inhumane treatment or the abuse of a horse by any person at an approved HCBC show is forbidden.

Scope

This statement applies to all HCBC members, coaches, officials, volunteers, owners, competitors, and any person responsible for the care or handling of a horse participating in HCBC events.

Humane Treatment

- Horses must never be subjected to abuse, neglect, or inhumane handling.
- All handling and training practices must align with generally accepted equine care and competition standards. The standard by which conduct, or treatment will be measured is that which a person who is informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and competition practices would determine to be neither cruel, abusive, nor inhumane.

Responsibility of Care

- Individuals who own, use, or care for horses must exercise skill, compassion, and sound judgment.
- All horses, regardless of financial value or competitive status, must be protected from mistreatment.

Prohibited Practices

- The use of equipment, devices, medications, or substances that alter performance, appearance, or natural function in an unethical or unsafe way is strictly forbidden.
- Any form of inhumane training technique, coercion, or excessive force is prohibited.

Event Requirements

- At HCBC-approved events, horses must be managed to ensure their physical and psychological well-being.
- Any suspected inhumane treatment must be reported immediately to event officials or HCBC representatives.
- It is recommended that competition management include a formal statement in the show program or prize list detailing their commitment to humane horse care and the disciplinary actions that will be enforced for confirmed abuse at a recognized event.

Enforcement

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including removal from events, suspension of membership, or further action as outlined in HCBC disciplinary procedures.

Bio Security

It is strongly recommended that horses be up to date on vaccinations and in good health to perform.

Vaccinations offer horses protection from some infectious diseases, but do not eliminate disease risk. Vaccination guidelines vary by region. This should be taken into consideration when weighing the risk for exposure. While there are costs associated with vaccines, those costs are generally much lower than the costs associated with an infectious disease.

Show management has the right and duty to demand removal of a horse from the grounds if it is deemed unfit to compete. Competition management may enforce vaccination requirements for their competition or venue.

A request for supporting documentation confirming a horse's compliance with mandatory vaccination requirements is an acceptable condition of entry.

For more information on bio security practice please visit <https://hcbc.ca/welfare/disease-animal-health/>

Fair and Inclusive Field of Play

HCBC is committed to providing a fair, safe, and inclusive field of play for all participants at Horse Council BC sanctioned competitions and events. Every competitor, official, volunteer, and supporter has the right to engage in an environment that is respectful, equitable, and free from discrimination. All participants must be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of age, gender, identity, ability, background, or experience. The integrity of competition depends on ethical conduct, transparency, and accountability from everyone involved.

- Participants should educate themselves on safe sport principles, ethical conduct, reporting procedures, and prevention of maltreatment.
- Officials and coaches are expected to model safe, positive, and ethical behavior.
- Concerns related to unsafe behavior, misconduct, or maltreatment must be reported promptly to event management or the designated safe sport authority.
- Reports will be taken seriously, handled confidentially, and addressed according to established procedures.

For more information visit: <https://hcbc.ca/sport/competition/safe-sport/>

Helmet Policy

Horse Council BC (HCBC) strongly recommends that anyone riding or driving a horse should wear ASTM/SEI/BSI/BS EN; EN; AS/NZS; CE VGI approved protective headgear, specifically designed for equestrian activities. ASTM (American Society for Testing Materials); SEI (Safety Equipment Institute, Inc.); BSI/BS EN (British Standards Institution); EN (European Union Standards); AS/NZS (Australian/New Zealand Standards); or CE VG1 01.040 2014-12 (provided they are BSI Kitemarked).

The helmet should be properly fitted with safety harness correctly secured, while mounted, riding or driving. Riders/drivers are encouraged to be fitted for their helmet with their typical riding/driving hairstyle. If your hair changes significantly (length, volume, style), rechecking helmet fit is required. It is advised that long hair be neatly tied in a low ponytail, smoothing hair flat, and avoiding bulky buns or high knots inside the helmet shell.

Youth competitors must wear properly fitted approved ASTM, SEI, BSI/BS EN, EN, AS/NZS/ or CE VG1 protective headgear, with safety harness correctly secured while mounted on the competition or event grounds and in ALL classes and Performance Divisions.

Exception:

The wearing of religious headwear will be accepted for riders/drivers without penalty. The option to wear an approved sports turban helmet for all ages is strongly advised.

Helmets are not required for vaulting.

Concussion Policy

Resources: For concussion education and awareness resources, please visit the Concussion Awareness page on the HCBC website www.hcbc.ca.

Definition: A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury (or TBI), caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head that can change the way the brain normally works. Concussions can also occur from a fall or a blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. All concussions are serious.

Policy Statement: Anyone participating in an activity with horses should understand the signs, symptoms and implications of sustaining a concussion.

It is recommended by health care professionals that anyone presenting symptoms or suspected of sustaining a concussion should cease the activity until they have been evaluated and cleared by medical personnel.

Anyone having contact with, or handling horses is responsible to educate themselves on the prevention and proper management of concussion related injuries.

All Coaches and Instructors recognized by Horse Council BC will be required to participate in concussion awareness training once in every three-year period to maintain current certification status.

Liability

The Horse Council BC (HCBC) Competition Committee, HCBC and co-sponsoring organization, if any, will not be responsible for any accident, injury of horse or person or loss or damage of any article of any kind or nature that may be lost or destroyed or in any way damaged that may occur to, or be caused by, any horse exhibited at a competition.

Each exhibitor, agent or horse owner will be responsible for any injury that may be occasioned to any person, animal or damage to any property while on the competition grounds, by any horse owned, exhibited or in custody or control and shall indemnify and hold harmless HCBC, its officials, staff and Directors individually and collectively, and any co-sponsoring organization, from and against any and all claims, demands, cause of action costs, charges and expenses of every kind or nature whatsoever arising out of, or which may be caused by, or incurred by, reason of the ownership, exhibition, custody or control of any animal exhibited.

HCBC will not be responsible for any financial arrangements between show management, exhibitors, owners, agents, or officials.

All federal, provincial and city laws will be adhered to and shall supersede these rules.

Safety

It is essential that every sanctioned competition/event have an emergency action plan in place.

Competitions must ensure that a First Aid kit is always readily available.

A competition or event must have qualified medical personnel appointed for the duration of the competition who is trained in first aid and emergency medical treatment.

Qualified medical personnel may be defined as the following:

- Doctor
- Professional emergency personnel, such as EMT or Paramedic
- An adult with recognized and valid First Aid certification who is not competing. This individual may act in some other capacity at the competition providing this does not restrict their availability to all areas on the competition grounds.

It is recommended that the minimum certification required for qualified medical personnel be Standard First Aid Certification.

The facility address, emergency contact name and phone number should be posted at the show office and in other appropriate locations for the benefit of the exhibitors and public at any time.

Emergency Phone Numbers: veterinarian, farrier, nearest hospital name and address should be posted at the show office and in other appropriate locations for the benefit of the exhibitors and public at any time.

It is recommended that all shows arrange for a veterinarian and farrier to be available either on-call or on the show grounds for the duration of the show.

In the event where an accident occurs at an HCBC sanctioned competition or event, Accident Report Forms must be filled out and returned to HCBC. Accident Report Forms will be emailed to all organizers as part of the sanctioning package, but can be found on the HCBC website at <https://hcbc.ca/competitions/competition-documents/>

If a competitor suffers a fall in warm-up, on the field of play or anywhere on the competition grounds during hours of the competition, they must be evaluated by the attending medic. Competitors are solely responsible for ensuring on-site medical assistance takes place. If a competitor refuses evaluation, Competition Management may make the decision to disqualify the competitor from the competition.

Administration

Sanctioning

Any organization, club, individual or group may apply to Horse Council British Columbia (HCBC) to sanction an entry level competition or event offering any of the disciplines outlined in the HCBC Rule Book. There is no restriction to prize money offered at the competition.

All management, officials and volunteers at HCBC sanctioned events are held to the HCBC Code of Conduct. For more information visit: <https://hcbc.ca/sport/competition/safe-sport/>

The Person Responsible listed on application must be a current HCBC member and is responsible for the conduct of the competition in accordance with the current Horse Council BC Rule Book.

Organizers must apply through the HCBC/Horse Sport Pro online event sanctioning portal.

All required information, prize list, entry forms and a current, endorsed certificate of insurance must be provided.

Competition applications and all required documentation must be submitted through the online system, preferably at least one month prior to the competition or event date(s).

The competition must be approved before publishing, posting online or circulating the prize list.

Instructions for login and links to the online application process are available on the Competition page of the HCBC website. <https://hcbc.ca/competitions/organizers/>

Every competition must obtain a certificate of insurance endorsed by the insurance carrier to cover law suits, claims or judgment for bodily injury or property damage sustained by spectators, participants, or others arising out of the use of the show grounds or operation necessary or incidental to the show.

All approved competitions will be emailed a Competition Package including a HCBC Certificate of Sanction which is to be printed and displayed in the Competition Office, or other clearly visible location.

The Competition Organizer is required to provide a copy of the approved Competition Prize List to the Official(s).

Competitions or Events should not start earlier than the time listed in prize list or advertised in the schedule.

Competitions sanctioned with another discipline or breed association may apply for dual sanctioning with Horse Council BC for specific divisions. Discipline or Breed Association rules may supersede HCBC rules at a dual sanctioned show in some divisions.

Clubs may include local club rules provided the local rules do not compromise the integrity and safety standards of Horse Council BC sanctioned competition. Any local club rules must be stated clearly in the Prize List and be approved by Horse Council BC during the application process.

Sanctioning Fees

The fee for sanctioning a Horse Council BC Provincial Competition is \$42.00 per competition.

Payment of fees can be processed by credit card through the HCBC Online Sanctioning Portal or by mailing a cheque to the HCBC office.

Sanction fees are not refundable.

An NSF charge of \$75.00 will be applied for any returned fees.

Prize List

All Prize Lists must contain the following disclaimer:

It is the responsibility of the show/event committee, or competition organizers and the facility owners and managers to ensure that all BC Health Authority and WorkSafeBC directives are followed and enforced. Horse Council is not a regulatory body, and it is understood and agreed that sanctioning and approval of a HCBC Provincial competition / event relates to the use of the rule book and approved officials only.

This Competition is a Horse Council BC provincially sanctioned competition and will be governed in accordance with the Horse Council BC Rule Book. Knowledge of the rules is the responsibility of Competition Management, Officials and Competitors.

The Horse Council BC Rule Book, can be found at www.hcbc.ca

<https://hcbc.ca/resource-category/sport-competition/>

Neither Horse Council BC, its Board of Directors, organizing committee, staff, volunteers, officials, or employees of the horse show, will be responsible in any way, for damage, injury, or loss to persons, horses or property of exhibitors, spectators, owners, riders, trainers, or grooms. All competitors and owners of horses must be members of Horse Council BC to participate.

Prize Lists must include:

- The exact competition name, date, and location of the competition (it is recommended a map and/or directions to the competition grounds be included)
- **Management:** List of competition officials (Show Committee, Manager, Entry Secretary, Judges, Course Designers, Provincial Rules Official)
- **Veterinarian:** Name and telephone number of the veterinarian. If on call, the phone number where he/she can be reached during the competition
- **Farrier:** Name and telephone number of the farrier. If on call, the phone number where he/she can be reached during the competition
- Type of Competition
- Entry deadline.
- Entry Blank: waiver and entry agreement
- **Statement:** Competition will be run in accordance with the current Horse Council BC Rule Book. Every class offered which is covered by the rules and specifications of the current HCBC Rule Book be conducted and judged in accordance as such.
- Any local club rules must be stated clearly in the Prize List and be approved by Horse Council BC during the application process
- **HCBC Prizelist Disclaimer** (This must be included in its entirety and placed in a conspicuous position in the prize list and or entry form
- Horse Welfare Statement, (HCBC or Club) <https://hcbc.ca/resource-category/sport-competition/>



- Bio security/vaccination statement
- Fees Statement regarding entry fees, prizes offered in each class
- Refund policy
- Classes numbers and specifications
- Any Age Categories or horse/pony size where classes will be split.
- **Statement:** Management reserves the right to cancel or combine any class that does not have sufficient entries
- **Statement:** regarding post entries or day of adds (are they allowed)
- **Statement:** regarding Hors Concours entries (not to be judged, whether or not Hors Concours rounds are allowed)
- **Statement:** of type of footing available in warm-up areas and competition arenas (example: jumping will be held on grass)
- Number of placings for ribbons in each class and if there are trophies, prizes and /or prize money.
- **Statement:** Prize Money Payment: as to when and how the prize money will be paid (recommended (maximum of 30 days following the competition.)
- Types of Championships or/and Aggregates and how points will be determined.
- .Any special venue rules eg: minors operating motorized vehicles/scooters/bicycles.
- Motorized vehicle statement: If motorized vehicles are prohibited from show grounds, the motorized vehicle statement must still be published in the prize list.
- Dogs allowed or prohibited
- Other statements such as, competition numbers must be worn on competition grounds

Prize and Awards

If prize money is offered in any classes, the amounts and class entry fee must be specified in the Prizelist. Prize money distribution by total percentage breakdown or dollar amount by placings for each class where prize money is offered must be clearly stated.

Show management must make the full payment of prize monies as specified in the competition Prize List.

If High Point Awards are to be presented at the competition, the method of tabulating points for such awards is at the discretion of show management and must be stated in the Prize List.



The following schedule of ribbons is recommended:

First Place	Red
Second place	Blue
Third Place	White
Fourth Place	Yellow
Fifth Place	Green
Sixth Place	Pink
Seventh Place	Purple
Eighth Place	Brown
Champion	Red, Blue, White
Reserve Champion	Blue, White, Yellow

The following point scale may be used for tabulating High Point Awards:

# in class	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
1	1							
2	2	1						
3	3	2	1					
4	4	3	2	1				
5	5	4	3	2	1			
6	6	5	4	3	2	1		
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
9 - 15	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
16 - 20	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
21 - 25	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
26- 30	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
31 - 35	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
36 - 40	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7



Section 1:

General Competition Rules



These are general competition rules only, please see discipline sections for discipline specific rules and exceptions.

1.1 Entries

All exhibitors are required to be current Horse Council BC members when participating in HCBC sanctioned events.

Exception: Lead Line competitors must be accompanied by an adult holding current HCBC membership. Lead line participants may not cross enter into any other classes at the competition.

1.1.1. Hours concours (H/C) Entries:

Hors Concours entries may be accepted at the discretion of the organizing committee. The competition's policy regarding Hors Concours entries must be clearly stated in the prize list.

Hors Concours entries must pay the same entry fee as regular entries (unless otherwise stated in the prize list) and are subject to the same conditions and rules which apply to regular entries.

Hors Concours entries are not eligible for prizes or awards.

1.1.2. Youth Entries

The age limit for a youth competitor is 18 years of age or younger as of January 1st of the current year. A person born on January 1st shall assume the older age as of that date.

Proof of youth's age may be required on entry forms at HCBC sanctioned competitions.

All entry forms for youth exhibitors 18 years of age and under must be signed by parent or legal guardian.

Youth competitors must wear properly fitted approved ASTM, SEI, BSI/BS EN, EN, AS/NZS/ or CE VG1 protective headgear, with safety harness correctly secured at all times while mounted on the competition or event grounds and in ALL classes and Divisions.

Exception: Vaulting

The Youth competitor need not own or lease the horse he or she is competing with to enter any class.

A horse or pony may be entered in any youth age division.

Youth competitors may not show a stallion in any class, regardless of the age or size of the stallion.

1.1.3. Dogs

Dogs are permitted on the competition grounds **at the discretion of Management** and must be on a leash at all times. The prize list must clearly state one of the following:

- “No dogs allowed on the premises.”
OR
- “Dogs are allowed on the premises but must remain on a leash and under control at all times. Dogs are not permitted in warm-up areas on the field of play or at ingates.”

This restriction applies to all dogs, including service dogs and emotional support animals (ESAs).

Persons who rely on a service dog due to a disability may request accommodation under applicable laws (e.g., the BC Human Rights Code and the Guide Dog and Service Dog Act). Each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis, considering safety, competition integrity, and venue limitations. Emotional support animals, which are not recognized as service animals under BC law, do not have the same legal access rights.

1.1.4. Competition Numbers

Competition numbers must be issued by the Show Secretary to each entered horse and must be visible at all times while the horse is competing.

Competition numbers are available for purchase through the HCBC website <https://store.hcbc.ca/>

1.1.5. Officials

HCBC-sanctioned events must be officiated by current, certified Provincial Officials, or by an authorized/approved guest-carded official.

Officials with expired status or recognized by another organization may be used, with a guest card, provided they meet the requirements for that discipline as set out by the body/association responsible for said discipline.

All provincial officials must be current members of Horse Council BC and be listed on the competition or event application. In the event that an official must be substituted, Horse Council BC is to be notified immediately and provided with the name and contact info of the substitute.

Judges are licensed, educated officials. Designation as a judge is considered a privilege and with this comes upholding standards of integrity and ethical decision making. Judges are personally responsible for the decisions made and these are considered final. All judges are responsible for ensuring that horses are treated with kindness, compassion and respect and are not subjected to mistreatment or undue stress. Judges believe in the competitor, and decisions and placings are to be made to assist the competitor in their development. Comments/feedback are meant to be helpful to the competitor. If time permits after the class, the judge may provide feedback.

It is strongly recommended that for the protection of both the official and the competition management, a written contract be completed between both parties.

Officials should arrive on the competition grounds at least ½ before the first class begins.

The Judge's decision is considered as final in all classes.

1.1.5 Officials (cont.)

Judges must be provided with the Prize List and any tests, courses or patterns they will be judging at the competition.

Judges may not be approached without the presence of and prior arrangement with management and or a Provincial Rules Official (PRO).

Judges must be provided before the start of competition (or earlier) with the Prize List and any tests, courses or patterns they will be judging at the competition.

An official shall not discuss the purchase, sale, or lease of a horse with any exhibitor during a show at which that official is officiating.

An official shall not be an exhibitor, rider, driver, trainer, coach, handler, manager, or conditioner of any horse at any show or event at which they are officiating.

A judge may not act as course designer at the same competition in which they are judging.

No horse may be shown under an official that has acted in the capacity as an owner, coach, trainer, agent, or conditioner of the horse, within 30 days prior to the event, 14 days if the official is presiding over a virtual/online event and is not judging entries in person.

The Official must comply with class specifications and rules governing individual classes. (Class specifications should be noted and included on all class judge's cards where possible.)

Officials are prohibited from using tobacco and/or alcohol products, cellular phones, pagers or electronic communication devices in the arena or judges' booth.

Exception: Electronic devices may be used in relation to and if relevant to the competition.

All Officials must always dress appropriately and professionally during competitions (no jeans, shorts, tank tops, etc.)

1.1.6. Competition Management

- Competition Management, Show Committee and Officials are bound by the HCBC Code of Conduct
- Competition Management may not be an exhibitor, rider, driver, judge, course designer, trainer, coach, handler or conditioner of any horse at any show or event they are managing.

1.1.7. Provincial Rules Officials

HCBC Provincial Rules Officials (PRO) may attend provincially sanctioned competitions to offer help and guidance with HCBC rules, assist competition management with the development and rule content in prize lists as well as address questions or concerns arising at a competition. Provincial Rules Officials attendance at competitions will aid to encourage a safe and enjoyable competition experience for both horses and competitors.

1.1.7 Provincial Rules Officials (cont.)

All Provincial Championship designated competitions must have a PRO in attendance.

Provincial Rules Officials are appointed by and will be assigned by HCBC to competitions as requested by competition management or by the HCBC office.

Provincial Rules Officials are governed by the HCBC Officials' Code of Conduct and protocol.

1.1.8. Officials Protocol / Conflict of Interest

Provincially certified officials are trained and qualified in the principles of their respective disciplines and are bound by the HCBC Code of Conduct. Certification as a provincial official is a privilege that carries an expectation of integrity, professionalism, and ethical decision-making. Officials are accountable for the decisions they make, and those decisions are considered final. This responsibility is taken seriously.

All provincial officials are responsible for ensuring that horses are treated with kindness, compassion, and respect, and are never subjected to mistreatment or undue stress. Actions should always align with what an informed and experienced horseperson would consider neither cruel, abusive, nor inhumane. When welfare concerns arise, officials are expected to intervene in accordance with the standards and rules of the governing body.

Provincial officials also play an educational role. They are expected to support, encourage, and contribute to the development of competitors. Decisions made during competition should help guide competitors in their equestrian pursuits, and feedback should be constructive, fair, and aimed at promoting growth. While judges must evaluate individual performances objectively, competitors should be appropriately recognized for their achievements within the standards of the discipline.

Comments and feedback are intended to be helpful to the competitor. When time permits, judges may discuss performances with competitors during the awarding of placings. Additional time for discussion is encouraged, subject to show management's discretion and the judge's availability.

1.1.9. Guest Cards

Uncertified officials may be permitted to officiate at provincially sanctioned competitions under the following conditions:

- Individuals must have extensive experience and knowledge of the discipline being judged and of the current HCBC Rule Book.
- Uncertified officials may be requested to provide HCBC with a minimum of two references.
- Guest card application must be completed during the competition approval application process.
- HCBC will approve a maximum of three guest cards for an uncertified official. Once three guest cards have been issued, any additional guest card applications for that individual will be subject to a \$25.00 fee, charged to the competition. The guest-carded official will then be encouraged to participate in the HCBC Officials Program to obtain provincial certification.



1.1.10. Support Roles (scribes, ingates, timers, jump crew, etc.)

- Those in competition support roles such as scribes, ingates, timers, jump crew, etc. should arrive and check in with the competition office at least forty-five (45) minutes before the start of the competition. This will allow for enough time to gather any paperwork, tests, bell, whistle etc. or any other equipment needed.
- Cell phones (or any other personal electronic device) must be turned off during competition
- All test sheets must be completed in ink. Pencil is not permitted.
- It is the duty of the scribe to ensure that the test sheets include the competitor's entry number, class, description, and Judge's signature if required.
- Before the test sheet is handed in for calculation, the scribe must ensure the test has been reviewed and signed by the Judge.
- Those in support roles must be appropriately dressed (clean and neat, no cut offs, tank tops, etc.)

1.1.11. Elimination / Disqualification

Elimination From a Class

- After an entry enters the arena, if either the horse or the exhibitor becomes ill or is injured and cannot continue, the entry shall be eliminated from that class.
- Obvious unsoundness shall be cause for elimination in all classes. The judge has sole authority to make this determination, which is final and not subject to appeal or protest.
- All horses must be serviceably sound. Any horse showing unsoundness, broken wind, or impairment of vision shall be refused an award.
- Lack of complying to required appointments for a class will result in elimination of the competitor in that class specifying required appointments.
- The judge shall have the authority to eliminate any entry from a class who at their discretion is not under sufficient control and or considered by the judge to be a safety risk.

Disqualification From the Competition

- All artificial appliances are prohibited in any class.
- Any incident in contravention of the HCBC Horse Welfare Statement may at the judge's or Provincial Rules Officials' discretion result in disqualification of the competitor from participating in the remainder of the competition.
- The judge, Provincial Rules Official and/or competition management have the authority to disqualify and or remove from the competition any exhibitor, owner, coach or agent, for cruelty or abuse of a horse or exhibitor.

1.1.12. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Any unsportsmanlike conduct by an owner, exhibitor, agent, or spectator including but not limited to abuse of one's horse, excessive use of foul language, intoxication anywhere on the grounds of the event, blatant disrespect for any other attendee at the event, or any other detrimental conduct shall jeopardize their right to further exhibit at the competition.

At any time, the judge, provincial rules official and/or competition management, may issue a first warning to any exhibitor, owner, or agent for any unsportsmanlike conduct. Upon failure to comply with this warning, the exhibitor, owner, agent, or spectator shall be disqualified from any further participation at the competition.

Any elimination from a class or disqualification from a sanctioned competition for unsportsmanlike conduct by any person may be reviewed by the HCBC disciplinary committee and or applicable breed or discipline association.

No points or awards may be given to any person or person's horses if they are disqualified from a sanctioned competition or event for any unsportsmanlike conduct.

1.1.13. Protests

Protests for any violation of HCBC competition/event rules at any HCBC sanctioned competition/event may be filed by an exhibitor, owner, trainer, spectator and or parent of a youth exhibitor within 12 hours of the incident occurring at the competition or event.

A recommended first step is that an inquiry be made through a member of the competition show management committee or PRO regarding a decision. Should the competitor not be satisfied with the result of the inquiry, an official protest must be lodged to competition management. At no time may the judge be approached directly unless the competition specifically prints an exception to this policy. In the event contact with the judge is permitted, at no time will abusive or confrontational language or gesturing be tolerated, under penalty of elimination and possible further disciplinary action initiated.

No protest will be recognized unless it is accompanied by a deposit of \$100.00 in cash, which shall be forfeited if the protest is not sustained.

Neither HCBC nor any organizing committee of the competition will recognize any protest that is not in writing, not signed, or not accompanied by the protest fee.

An official of the competition /event, a director of HCBC, or Provincial Rules Official may file a claim at any HCBC sanctioned competition/event to either the competition committee or the Board of Directors of HCBC for any violation of HCBC recognized event rules.

Any protest shall be adjudicated by a Protest Committee. The protest committee will consist of a maximum of three people, (a PRO and members of the organizing committee.)



1.1.13 Protests (cont.)

Protest Procedure

Upon receiving a protest or a dispute, the Protest Committee shall promptly hold a hearing and obtain from any witnesses, all necessary information and evidence.

All persons directly involved and concerned shall be immediately notified and given the opportunity to attend a hearing.

The Protest Committee shall then adjudicate the issue impartially, make effective its decision upon the parties of interest and report its decision to the parties of interest. A report of the decision shall also be given to the HCBC Manager of Competition and Sport

Protest Appeals

An appeal of a Protest Committee's decision may be made to the HCBC Manager of Competition and Sport.

Appeals must be made in writing within 20 days of the date of the Protest Committee's decision and must be accompanied by an appeal fee of \$300.00 payable to Horse Council BC.

The hearing on the appeal shall be heard within a 30-day period from date of filing.

The Appeal Committee of the Board of Directors of HCBC shall consist of two members of the HCBC Board plus one member from the competition organizing committee.

The competition organizing committee of a competition at which a protest is lodged and upheld, must hold all awards, points and prize money for the protested classes in escrow for a placed horse and all following horses, until after a 20-day appeal deadline has passed.

If no appeal is filed, then such awards, points and/or prize money will be awarded at the end of the appeal deadline.



Section 4:

Discipline Rules: English

English Performance General Rules

Please see discipline rules section for specific rules and exceptions

Typically, no one horse should do more than five classes in one day

4.1 Attire

- Hunt coats /riding jackets
- Solid coloured breeches or jodhpurs.
- Riders must wear riding boots (plain, laced or with zippers) with heels (tall boots or jodhpur/paddock boots). Half chaps may be worn with paddock boots if they are well fitted and are of matching colour to the boots
- HELMETS: Horse Council BC (HCBC) strongly recommends that anyone riding or driving a horse should wear ASTM/SEI/BSI/ BS EN; EN; AS/NZS; CE VGI approved protective headgear, specifically designed for equestrian activities. ASTM (American Society for Testing Materials); SEI (Safety Equipment Institute, Inc.); BSI/BS EN (British Standards Institution); EN (European Union Standards); AS/NZS (Australian/New Zealand Standards); or CE VG1 01.040 2014-12 (provided they are BSI Kitemarked).
- The helmet should be properly fitted with safety harness correctly secured, while mounted, riding or driving. Riders/drivers are encouraged to be fitted for their helmet with their typical riding/driving hairstyle. If your hair changes significantly (length, volume, style), rechecking helmet fit is required. It is advised that long hair be neatly tied in a low ponytail, smoothing hair flat, and avoiding bulky buns or high knots inside the helmet shell.
- Long or short sleeved collared show shirt, or dress shirt
- Saddle Seat suits or Kentucky jodhpurs unless stipulated in class description are prohibited.
- Safety jackets may be worn without penalty, provided they conform to the rules governing jacket colours
- In case of inclement weather riders may wear a suitable warm or waterproof jacket and waterproof rain breeches.
- In extreme humidity or temperature, the judge may permit riders to ride without jackets
- Black or brown gloves are recommended

4.1.1. Spurs

- The arms of the spur must be smooth and not sharp or pointed
- Rowel spurs must be free to rotate and not sharp (spurs with a notched or serrated rotating disc are not permitted)
- Spurs must be worn in matching pairs, pointing straight back or down from the center
- Metal spurs with round hard plastic, metal knobs or rotating balls are allowed. Rotating balls may be mounted either vertically or horizontally
- The maximum allowable spur length is five cm measured from boot to tip of spur

4.1.1. Spurs (cont.)

Communication Devices

- Communication devices are allowed in warmup areas - one earbud only
- Earphones/Earbuds and/or other electronic communication devices are strictly prohibited in the competition arena, and such usage will be penalized by elimination
- **Exception:** Personal communication devices may not be used to assist someone in competition unless used as documented compensating aid when approved by competition management.

4.1.2. Turn out of Horse

- Manes and tails may be braided
- Coloured thread, wool or braiding elastics and braid charms are permitted

4.1.3. Equipment

Permitted Bits

- Bits must be smooth with a solid surface and no sharp edges on center links and must not put mechanical restraint on the horse's tongue or cause discomfort or pain to the horse
- Snaffles and curbs bits with smooth ridges are permitted
- Snaffle bits, must be made of metal, durable plastic, synthetic material or flexible rubber
- Snaffle bits may be: loose ring, D – ring, egg - butt, full cheek, rotating mouth piece, jointed or double jointed with center roller

Bits for Double Bridles

- Bridoon/ loose, jointed, egg butt
- **Curb Bits**
 - Half moon,
 - Weymouth,
 - straight cheek with port curb chain, (Leather or rubber curb chain cover)

Bridles

- English style correctly fitted black or brown leather bridles with reins (reins may be any type, i.e.: laced, plain, rolled or rubber)
- Bridles may be snaffle, double, or miklem
- The fit of the noseband must be closely regulated to ensure the welfare and comfort of the horse. Nosebands must not be done up so tight that it causes harm or discomfort to the horse.
- Bitless bridles may be used at the discretion of Show Management, Judge and or Provincial Rules Official
- Decorated or coloured brow bands are permitted as long as there is nothing dangling or hanging from the browband (exception: name tags)



4.1.3. Equipment (cont.)

Saddles

- Well fitted English style saddle with stirrups.
- Saddle Pad appropriate to the saddle, white, natural or conservative colour
- Side Saddles are permitted

Other Permitted Equipment

- Cruppers, girth covers, fore girths, breastplates, safety/pommel strap

Prohibited Equipment

- Wire or twisted wire bits
- Tie downs and draw reins
- Tongue ties
- Blinkers
- Whips are NOT permitted in any English general performance hack class
- Peacock safety stirrups

4.1.4. Elimination In The Competition Ring

- Any exhibitor receiving unauthorized assistance may be eliminated at the discretion of the judge.
- Any exhibitor striking a horse forwards of the girth with any object including the hands may be eliminated.
- Excessive schooling or training.
- Excessive use of the whip. The whip may not be used to vent an Athlete's temper.
 - A Horse should never be hit with a whip more than three times in a row.
 - The horse's skin should never be broken due to excessive use of the whip
- Failure of the exhibitor to wear the correct number in a visible manner.
- Use of Earphones/Earbuds and/or other electronic communication devices, unless authorised

4.1.5. Class Splits

- Classes may be held for horses or ponies and may be split or combined at the discretion of Show Management
- If classes are divided by height the following height divisions must apply
 - Small Pony: not to exceed 12.2 hh
 - Medium Pony: to exceed 12.2 hh but not to exceed 13.2 hh
 - Large Pony: to exceed 13.2 hh but not to exceed 14.2hh
 - Horses over 14.2 up to and including 15.3 hands

4.1.5. Class Splits (cont.)

- Horses over 15.3 hands
- When classes for horses are divided by height into three sections:
 - Over 14.2 up to and including 15.2 hands, over 15.2 up to and including 16.0 hh ,16.1 hh and over

4.2 Equitation Division

Equitation is judged on horsemanship and riding skills, with an emphasis on the form and function of the rider

4.2.1. Attire

- See General English Performance Rules
- Neatness is very important in both the turnout of horse and rider in Equitation classes
- Spurs without rowels only

4.2.2. Equipment

- Regular cavessons with snaffles, pelhams, double bridles or kimberwicks
- Leather reins only
- Whips are optional but may not exceed 75 cm (30") in length
- Running or standing martingales are not permitted in Equitation flat classes, except in the flat phase of Equitation classes where further testing over fences will be required
- Boots or conservative-coloured bandages are permitted
- When showing in the Hunter/Jumper Seat Equitation, it is recommended that riders use traditional stirrup irons that promote proper position of the foot in the iron as well as a correct leg position. It is further recommended that riders use stirrup irons that allow judges a clear and unobstructed view of the position of the foot in the stirrup. Judges may not eliminate a rider for using a particular style of stirrup iron. Safety stirrups are permitted.
- Peacock safety stirrups are not permitted

4.2.3. Tests

- All Test patterns and or courses must be posted at least one hour before scheduled time of class
- The Judge must choose a minimum of two individual equitation tests
- Tests chosen should reflect the ability of the exhibitors
- Tests must be announced twice
- Approved tests for Equitation are:
 - Rein back
 - Figure eight at trot, demonstrating change of diagonals



4.2.3. Tests (cont.)

- Extended trot
- Figure eight at canter with simple change of leads through the walk or trot
- Change leads on a straight-line down centre with simple change through the walk or trot
- Turn on haunches through the walk
- Change of leads with flying changes
- Counter canter
- Jump low fences from a walk, trot or canter
- Pull up between fences except in a combination
- Individual demonstration of about one minute on own mount. (Riders must advise the Judge beforehand what he or she plans to demonstrate)

4.2.4. Hunt Seat Equitation

- Riders shall be judged on hands, seat, legs and basic position and on their ability to ride and control the horse correctly in a hunt or forward type seat
- Horses must be shown in both directions of the ring at a walk, trot, and canter
- Riders will line up on command and execute individual tests at the Judge's discretion.
- The Judge may ask questions concerning horsemanship, anatomy of the horse, tack, stable management or other
- If asked to change the rein at the canter, the Judge must specify whether to perform a simple change or flying change

4.2.5. Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences

- Riders shall be judged on their equitation style over a course of hunter type fences
- Horses are to jump a minimum of eight jumps with one required change of direction
- Each exhibitor may circle once before approaching the first obstacle, then must proceed around course, keeping an even pace throughout.
- If a refusal occurs in a combination obstacle, the exhibitor must re- attempt all obstacles in the combination

4.2.6. Jumper Equitation

- Riders shall be judged on their equitation style over a course of jumps
- Riders shall be scored on position and effectiveness in riding track and being close to the time allowed without exceeding it
- Scores are reduced by the same number of faults as per jumper rules. (EG refusal = - 4)
- If a refusal occurs in a combination obstacle, the exhibitor must re- attempt all obstacles in the combination
- The course should include a double or a triple combination but is up to the discretion of the Show Committee and Judge

4.2.6. Jumper Equitation (cont.)

- Time allowed must be established based on 350 meters per minute
- Trainers may walk the course with riders

4.2.7. Elimination

- Fall of horse and or rider
- Two refusals

4.3 Hack Classes

4.3.1. English Pleasure Hack

- Classes may be divided into Saddle Seat or Hunt Seat. Tack and personal appointments to be appropriate to the seat being ridden
- To be judged on 45% performance, 40% manners and 15% conformation
- To be shown both ways of the ring
- Required gaits: a flat-footed walk, normal trot, easy canter, not to hand gallop
- Light contact to be maintained

4.3.2. Road Hack

- To be judged on 55% performance, 20% substance, 15% conformation and 10% manners
- Must present an overall appearance of substance with refinement
- To enter the ring at a walk.
- To be shown in both directions of the ring with a light or medium contact at a flat-footed walk, working trot, strong trot, canter, and hand gallop
- Only 8 horses to hand gallop at one time

4.3.3. Show Hack

- To be judged on 55% performance, 20% quality, 15% conformation and 10% manners
- Must show vitality and animation
- Horses to enter ring at a walk
- To be shown at a walk, trot, canter and hand gallop
- Only 8 horses to hand gallop at one time
- Collected and extended gaits to be called for in both directions
- Trot; free, light and crisp may be required as follows: on contact with upright frame, collected with rider sitting, extended with the rider posting or sitting
- Horses to stand quietly and rein back readily

4.3.4. Faults

- Excessive speed (any gait)
- Excessive slowness (any gait)
- Failure to take gait when called
- Breaking gait
- Head carried too low or too high
- Nosing out or flexing behind the vertical
- Opening mouth
- Wrong lead
- Switching leads or cross cantering
- Stumbling, spooking or shying
- Kicking out,
- Pinning ears or wringing tail

4.3.5. Elimination In The Competition Ring

- Excessive schooling or training
- Bolting or unwillingness
- Fall of horse or Rider

4.4 Hunter Division General Rules

A Hunter should show good manners, ground-covering movement and, if competing in working hunter classes, a steady pace and bold jumping style.

The ideal Hunter is calm, consistent, elegant, and efficient — judges should reward style, presence, smooth gaits, good manners, and jumping form.

4.4.1. Attire

Please see English General Performance Rules

4.4.2. Schooling Area and Practice Jumps

- Competitions must provide a warmup area with a minimum of two schooling jumps
- Ground lines may be placed directly underneath the first part of an obstacle or up to 1 m away on the take-off side. If there is a ground line on the takeoff side of an obstacle, a ground line may be placed on the landing side of the obstacle at an equal distance up to a maximum of 1.00 m.
- Steel pins and jump cups are not allowed, safety cups are recommended
- Only fill and jump materials supplied by the competition may be used.

4.4.3. Course Design

- Courses must be posted at least one hour before the class
- Course Designers must provide distances of all lines and combinations. Distances may be adjusted accordingly for ponies
- A Hunter course should consist of eight to ten fences and shall include at least one change of direction
- Jumps shall simulate obstacles found in the hunting field, such as post and rail, stone walls, chicken coops, hedges etc. and be built to encourage clear rounds (not spooky or scary)
- All jumps should have wings or be of sufficient width to simulate obstacles in the hunting field
- Jumps must be built in such a way that the top element of hunter fences will dislodge if a horse should hit them; solid coops or walls without blocks or poles are not allowed
- Striped poles are not recommended; PVC poles used as rails are not permitted. Standards made of PVC material are not recommended
- Steel pins and jump cups are not allowed, safety cups are recommended

4.4.4. Course Designers

- A Learner Course Designer may not be responsible for designing more than two rings at one competition
- Senior Designer may design up to three rings at one competition
- A Course Designer may not also act as Hunter Judge at the same competition

4.4.5. Permitted Equipment

Please see English General Performance Rules

- All bits must be humane in nature. Snaffle bits may be with or without cheeks. It is permissible to use a snaffle with fixed slots for cheek pieces and/or reins.
- Standing or running martingales are permitted except in Hunter Hack and Hunter Under Saddle classes
- Ear Plugs
- Whips not more than 75cm may be carried without penalty. Excessive or abusive use of the whip will not be tolerated, and elimination will occur

4.4.6. Prohibited Equipment

- Bit Guards
- Boots and or bandages
- Any gimmicks (e.g. nerve lines, tongue ties, gag bits, any bit that acts as a gag, tack nose bands etc.) are illegal
- Cavessons: nosebands below bit are not permissible. Cavessons must be leather and may be soft padded over bridge of nose; nothing else is permissible
- Draw Reins

4.5 Hunter Derby

- The Hunter Derby format should consist of two rounds but may be offered as one round
- Course walk is allowed so it is recommended that time for a course walk is scheduled. The first round is a Classic round, judged on performance, hunter pace, jumping style, quality of substance and movement, with pace and brilliance rewarded. Bonus points are given for higher fence options.
- Round 2, also known as the Handy Hunter round, is judged with the above criteria and bonus points for a handy track and higher options. The handy ride should be bold and showcase the horse's rideability and be judged on direct approaches as well as inside and unique turns
- One or two judges may be used
- Riders are scored on both rounds
- Open numerical scoring is required. A base hunter performance score will be given out of 100. Additionally, up to 10 bonus points for handiness and two points per each option jumped on course (maximum 5 obstacles for maximum 10 points) for a total possible score of 120
- Obstacles are reminiscent of the hunt field and must offer a variety of appearances, such as natural post and rail, stone wall, white board fence or gate, coop, aiken, hedge, oxer, brush, logs and natural foliage. Natural obstacles such as banks and ditches are allowed
- The Handy Hunter Round should simulate riding over hunt country and incorporate options such as tight turns, clever options for jump approaches, hand galloping and trotting a fence. Opening and closing of gates while mounted as well as the use of delivering or retrieving mail from a mail box are also fun additions.
- No Hunter Derby class obstacle height may exceed 3' with a maximum of four high option fences not to exceed 3'3
- Higher option may be jumped four times on course if space is limited.
- Organizers hosting this class must take the level of competition into consideration and the designer must set class obstacle heights accordingly
- Course options can be defined as two obstacles offered with different degrees of difficulty. The options must be clearly marked on the course diagram. Height options should be stated in class conditions

Handy Hunter

- Horse to be judged on manners, quality of movement and response to the rider over obstacles
- Obstacles may include small jumps, ground poles, back through, bridge, gate, side- pass, mail box
- The course shall vary from the normal hunter class routine to include elements that show rideability and handiness
- Faults and maximum heights as per hunter over fences
- It is recommended all three gaits, walk trot and canter are incorporated on course
- The course should vary from the normal hunter class routine to include elements that show rideability and handiness. e.g. turn back, trot fences, option lines. Not recommended for green horses or novice rider classes.

4.6 Hunter Under Saddle

- Horses should move with long low strides reaching forward with ease and smoothness, be able to lengthen their stride and cover ground with relaxed, free flowing movement, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of the proper cadence
- Quality of the movement and consistency of the gaits is a major consideration
- Horses should be obedient, and should respond willingly to the rider with light leg and hand contact
- This class will be judged on performance, condition and conformation at the walk trot and canter both ways of the ring
- At the option of the Judge, exhibitors may be asked to extend the walk or trot or be asked to hand gallop one or both directions
- Horses may be asked to change to the canter from the walk or trot, or from the hand gallop and may be asked to halt and stand quietly on the rail
- Horses may be asked to rein back and should do so quietly and obediently
- Not to jump

4.7 Hunter Hack

- The horse should move in the same style as a working hunter
- The class will be judged on Minimum 70% for over fences, even pace, and maximum 30% flat work, manners and way of going.
- The poll should be level with, or slightly above the withers, to allow proper impulsion behind. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance.
- Horses are to be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring with light contact
- Horses are required to jump two fences, set to a maximum of 2'6"
- If the jumps are set on a line they are recommended to be in increments of 3.5m (12') but adjusted to no less than two strides.
- Martingales not permitted

4.7.1. Faults

- Quick, short, or vertical or choppy strides
- Breaking gait
- Excessive speed or slowness at any gait
- Failure to take the appropriate gait when called for
- Loss of forward movement
- Over flexing so the nose is carried behind the vertical
- Failure to maintain light contact with horse's mouth

4.7.1. Faults (cont.)

- Stumbling/forging
- Wrong lead

4.8 Working Hunter Over Fences

- To be judged on manners, way of going and jumping style
- Confirmation not to be considered
- Horses must enter and exit the ring at a walk
- The maximum height 3'6"

4.8.1. Faults

- Wrong lead, counter cantering or switching leads unintentionally
- Excessive speed or slowness
- Breaking gait
- Head carried too low or too high
- Opening mouth excessively
- Kicking out.
- Adding or leaving a stride out between jumps
- Knockdown or hitting a rail (A fence is considered knocked down when the height is lowered by the horse or rider through contact with fence or rail)
- Refusals
- Spooking or shying
- Pinning ears or wringing tail
- Judges shall penalize unsafe jumping and bad form over fences, whether touched or untouched, this includes twisting over the fences

4.8.2. Elimination In The Competition Ring

- Excessive schooling or training
- Second cumulative refusal, run out or bolting, it shall be deemed a run-out or refusal when the horse avoids an obstacle it is presented to jump.
- Fall of horse or Rider
- Use of prohibited equipment

4.9 Jumper Division General Rules

A jumper class is a timed event where horse and rider are tested over a designated course of obstacles. Horses are judged on performance only. Courses should be designed to demonstrate the athletic ability and obedience of the horse and skill of the rider.

4.9.1. Attire and equipment

General English performance equipment rules apply with the following exceptions

- All equipment must be humane in nature
- Jackets not required but rider must then wear a collared shirt or polo shirt
- Gloves are optional
- Saddle pad may be square and coloured
- Spurs – blunt or rounded
- Blinkers can not exceed 3cm in diameter
- Running martingales must have a single rein stop between the bit and ring of running martingale
- Reins must be attached directly to the bit
- Draw reins are not permitted

4.9.2. Schooling Area and Practice Jumps

- Competitions must provide a warmup area with a minimum of two schooling jumps
- Ground lines may be placed directly underneath the first part of an obstacle or up to 1 m away on the take-off side. If there is a ground line on the takeoff side of a vertical obstacle, a ground line may be placed on the landing side of the obstacle at an equal distance up to a maximum of 1.00 m. A ground line may never be used on the landing side of a spread obstacle
- Steel pins and jump cups are not allowed, safety cups are recommended
- Only fill and jump materials supplied by the competition may be used.
- Directional flags are recommended (red on right, white on left)

4.9.3. Course

- Jumps must be built so that the poles will roll in the cups and never be jammed so tight between the standards that if knocked the whole jump will come down
- Safety of horses and exhibitors is paramount. Should conditions such as weather warrant change, the show committee in consultation with the judge and/or course designer may alter or adjust the course and speed.
- If the condition of the footing becomes unsafe, the Judge, Course Designer or Provincial Rules Official in consultation with Show Management may alter the speed provided in the schedule, before the start of the first competitor of the competition

4.9.3. Course (cont.)

- Once the competition has started only the Judge in consultation with the Course Designer, and the Provincial Rules Official (if present), and Show Management may decide if an error has been committed in the measurement of the course. This may be done after the third competitor has completed the course without a fall(s) or disobedience or any other interruption and before the next competitor has started. In this case, the Judge has the option to alter the time allowed. The score of the competitors who have jumped the course before the time was altered will then be adjusted accordingly.
- Flags are to be used on obstacles to indicate direction of approach, solid coloured red flag on the right side and solid coloured white on the left side
- The obstacles must be numbered consecutively in the order in which they must be jumped. Combinations carry only a single number.
- 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 a red flag on the right and a white flag on the left. The start line and finish line must also be marked with markers with the letters S (= Start) and F (= Finish)
- The total length of the course in metres should never exceed the number of obstacles in the competition multiplied by 60.
- For Jump-Offs, the height and spread of fences may be increased, at the discretion of the Judge and Course Designer, provided none is increased by more than 0.1m (3 inches) and the ability of the competitors is considered.
- Keyhole breakaway track systems are strongly recommended on the back rails of oxers, middle and back rails of triple bars, and all rails over water. Steel cups and pins are not permitted
- Courses should be built to be inviting and to result in a reasonable percentage of clear rounds
- If unforeseen circumstances make it necessary to alter the course map after it has been posted, the change may only be made in agreement with the Jumper Judge and (if present a Provincial Rules Official) In this case all competitors must be advised of the changes to the course map.
- If the class has begun and a rider is already on course, the conditions under which the class is run may not be altered and the course or its obstacles may not be changed unless otherwise stipulated
- If it becomes necessary to interrupt a class (because of a storm or bad light etc.) the class must subsequently be continued using the same obstacles and course, and as much as possible under the same conditions and at the exact point where it was interrupted.
- If deemed necessary by the Jumper Judge a new time allowed and time limit may be set for any altered course

4.9.4. Course Designer and Officials

- The Course Designer must provide the Judge with a copy of the course map showing accurately all the details of the course.
- An exact copy of the course map as provided to the Judge must be posted as close as possible to the entrance of the arena, and should be posted at least one hour before the beginning of each competition
- The track length, the time allowed, timetable, penalties and the time limit for the jump-off must be included on all courses posted

4.9.4. Course Designer and Officials (cont.)

- A Learner Course Designer may not be responsible for designing more than two rings at one competition
- Senior Designers may design up to three rings at one competition
- Judges may not act as Course Designer in the same competition at which they are acting as the Jumper Judge

4.9.5. Timing

- The timekeeper is required to record the competitors' competition number and then time the complete round by the means of an electronic timing system or stopwatches
- Automatic timers should be used, when possible (timers are available for rent from HCBC at no charge)
- At least one hand timer (stopwatch) should be used for back up when automatic timers are in use.
- If Automatic timing is not available, it is recommended that three stop watches be used with the median time being recorded as the official time
- If no two watches agree, the median time is the time indicated by the watch which has neither the fastest nor slowest time
- A timekeeper may not time alone in a class where a family member or clients are competing
- Timing should be recorded in seconds and hundredths of a second
- Timing starts when the mounted competitor passes the starting line in the correct direction providing the starting signal has been given and extends to the moment when
- the mounted competitor crosses the finishing line in the correct direction, after having jumped the last obstacle
- The time allowed for a round in each competition is determined in relation to the length of the course and the speed for the round, the track should be measured with a generous line of travel
- Where the time is taken by stopwatches, the time is to be registered in seconds and in hundredths of a second.
- If the clock is stopped, the competitor remains free to move around until the ringing of the bell gives them permission to start again. The clock is restarted when the horse and rider reach the place where the clock was stopped.
- In the case of a Disobedience with a knock-down, the bell is rung and the clock is stopped until the obstacle has been rebuilt. When the obstacle has been rebuilt the bell is rung to indicate that the course is ready and that the Athlete can continue the round. The Athlete is penalized for a refusal and a time correction of 6 seconds is added to the time taken by the Athlete to complete his round. The clock is restarted at the moment when the horse leaves the ground at the obstacle where the refusal occurred. If a disobedience with the knock-down occurs at the second or subsequent part of a combination the clock is restarted when the horse leaves the ground at the first element of the combination.

4.9.6. Bell or Whistle

A bell, whistle or horn is used to give signal to the competitor

- To start and to activate a forty-five (45) seconds countdown, (The 45 seconds countdown sets the time that the Competitor can spare before commencing their round)
- To stop a competitor on course for any reason or following an unforeseen incident and to signal to continue the round after an interruption
- To indicate to the competitor that an obstacle knocked down following a disobedience has been replaced
- To indicate by prolonged and repeated ringing that the competitor has been eliminated.
- After an interruption, the competitor restarts and jumps or attempts to jump without waiting for the bell to ring, they will be eliminated

4.9.7. Jumper Classes

a. Regular Jumper Classes and Mini Prix Competitions

- Regular and Mini Prix Competitions (the latter must be explicitly designated in the schedule) are those in which performance over obstacles is the principal factor although speed may be introduced to separate ties for first place by a jump-off.
- These competitions are judged under Table I against or not against the clock, but always with a time allowed.
- The course is built primarily to test the ability of the horse over the obstacles. The number of obstacles, their type, their height and spread, within the laid down limits, are the responsibility of Organizing Committees and the Course Designer.

b. Match the clock or optimum time

- Classes are designed to help developing riders learn the skill of riding a course at the posted speed, rather than with the fastest time. Competitors with equal faults will be placed according to how close their time is to the optimum time, which is based on the course being ridden at the posted speed.
- Scoring will be under Table I.
- Optimum time may be used in the first round, the jump off, or a combination of both. Optimum time should be four (4) seconds less than the time allowed. The course designer will calculate the optimum time based on the posted speed.

4.9.8. Jump Off

- The second round of a jumper class in which all riders with no faults, or to break a tie in the first round compete for final placement in an event. It is conducted on an abbreviated version of the first course and is generally the most exciting part of a competition as riders go all out to attempt to have the fastest times with the fewest rails down.
- A jump off course may be shortened to a minimum of six obstacles, which may be raised and spread. Additional efforts may be added in the jump off, providing that competitors have the opportunity to walk the jump off course before the initial round

4.9.8. Jump Off (cont.)

- There are two types of Jump Offs
 - The jump-off takes place after every entrant has completed the first round. This format is commonly used for Grand Prix and Classics
 - Immediate Jump off. The rider must wait for the buzzer to signal the count down to start their jump off immediately after completing a clean first round
- If no provision for a jump-off is specified in the schedule, it is considered that the class will be run with no jump-off

4.9.9. Jump Off Tables

Table 1a → After the class /Jump Off

The jump-off takes place after every entrant has completed the first round. This format is commonly used for Grand Prix and Classics.

Table 1b After the Buzzer / Immediate Jump Off

If the competitor goes clear in the first round, they then must STOP and WAIT for the buzzer that signals the countdown to start your jump-off. Again, emphasis on waiting for the buzzer!

Methods of Scoring

Table 1

Adding the penalties for faults at the obstacles and the time penalties, gives the score obtained by the competitor for his round. Time may be taken into consideration to separate ties for first place and/or following places

Not against the clock

- Competitors with an equal number of penalties share the prizes.
- Competition not against the clock with a time allowed, clear rounds jump off in a jump off round

Against the Clock

- Competitors tied for any place are placed in accordance with their recorded time taken to complete the round. In the event of a tie for first place, there may be a jump-off.
- Against the clock, but in the event of a tie for first place, there will be one jump-off against the clock. Other Athletes are placed according to their penalties and time in the first round.

4.9.10. Penalties

Fault	Penalty
First Disobedience /refusal / run out	4 faults/penalties
Second Disobedience	Elimination
Obstacle Knocked Down /rail down	4 faults/penalties
Exceeding the time allowed	One penalty point for each second over
Fall of horse or rider	Elimination

4.9.11. Elimination From The Competition Ring

- Jumping or attempting to jump an obstacle in the arena before the start of the round
- Jumping the first obstacle of the course before the signal is given
- Taking more than 45 seconds to jump the first obstacle after the time of the round has started, unless due to unforeseen circumstance beyond the competitors' control
- Horse resisting for 45 consecutive seconds during the round
- jumping the first obstacle without crossing the starting line between the flags in the correct direction off course
- Jumping or attempting to jump an obstacle following a refusal which has been knocked down, before it has been rebuilt
- Not crossing the finishing line between the flags mounted in the correct direction, after having jumped the last obstacle
- Loose horse leaving the arena before the end of the round, including prior to starting
- Accepting while mounted any object whatsoever during a round other than headgear and/or glasses
- Using a whip of more than 75 centimeters in length, or weighted at the end,
- Use of the whip more than three times or after elimination.
- Accident/injury to a rider or horse which prevents them from completing the class
- Fall of horse or rider during the round:
 - Jumping or attempting to jump an obstacle in the arena after completing the course round except in cases where circumstances rendered it impossible for the Rider/Horse combination to avoid jumping the obstacle
 - Jumping or attempting to jump an obstacle with an incorrectly fastened or not fastened helmet, unless the circumstances rendered it unsafe for the competitor to stop
- Not stopping when the bell is rung during the round

4.10 Pony Jumpers

- Open to all ponies (14.2 hh and under)
- Pony Jumpers should be run under Table I Optimum Time Rules
- Immediate jump-offs are permitted.
- Stallions may not be ridden by Juniors in Pony Jumpers.

4.11 Jumper Derby

- A Jumper Derby course should not be limited to just stadium jumps but should include natural obstacles such as a water or Liverpool, ditches, grob and other jumps not typically seen in a show jumping class.
- Current rules regarding Jumper heights, tack, attire and equipment apply.
- Heights to be set at the discretion of the designer taking into consideration the level of competition. Heights not to exceed 1.10m.
- The first obstacle should be inviting, not difficult (i.e. no blind corners).
- Course to consist of 15 to 20 jumps.
- There should be at least two changes of direction, preferably more.
- Faults incurred when refusing or knocking down an obstacle or for putting one or more feet in the water (if applicable) and are penalized by adding four seconds for each occurrence.
- Time penalties must be listed on the course plan. All Faults converted to time. A refusal is 4 seconds, rebuilds incur six seconds.
- Time allowed will be determined by the course designer.
- Causes of elimination as per Jumper rules.

4.12 Leadline

Lead line

The exhibitors are to be judged on their basic position in the saddle, seat and hands, and ability to control the horse.

4.12.1. Attire

- Suitable attire
- Helmets are mandatory
- Boots with heels are mandatory
- Adults leading must be suitably attired.



4.12.2. Equipment

- Shown in a bridle. with an attached lead shank for the handler to use for control
- Saddle, lead line saddle or bareback pad with stirrups is mandatory
- Peacock stirrups are not permitted

4.12.3. Rules

- Lead Liners are not required to be HCBC members, but a waiver should be signed by the adult responsible for the entry (adult leaders must hold current HCBC membership)
- No entry in Lead line classes may be tied, buckled or fastened to the saddle in any manner
- In the line-up, the Judge may ask the exhibitors simple questions to help assess the extent of the exhibitor's horsemanship.
- The adult shall only assure that the horse does not get out of control and shall let the exhibitor attempt to cue and control the horse as much as possible.
- Youth entered in a Lead Line Horsemanship class may not cross enter in any other class in that show except for Lead line Equitation, Showmanship.

4.13 Saddle Seat

4.13.1. Attire

- Riding habits will consist of jackets with collars and lapels of the same conservative color, with matching jodhpurs, a collared shirt, tie, vest and complementary gloves, Jodhpur boots
- Conservative colors for informal riding habits include black, blue, grey, burgundy, green, beige, or brown and may contain herringbone, pin stripes, and other combinations of colors that appear solid. Colors not included in this list are not acceptable and must be penalized.
- Protective headgear for adults may be worn without penalty but is strongly recommended

4.13.2. Elimination From The Competition Ring

- The Judge must eliminate and order from the ring any unruly horse whose actions threaten to endanger the rider or other exhibitors.

4.13.3. Equipment

- Entries must be shown in full double bridle (curb and snaffle). Pelham bits are permitted in Pleasure Equitation classes.
- Single snaffles or hackamores are not permitted.
- English-type cut back flat seat or deep seat saddle saddles are required.
- Forward seat, dressage, western and side-saddles, are all prohibited.

4.13.3. *Equipment (cont.)*

- Electronic devices of any kind are prohibited.
- Martingales, or similar tie-downs are all prohibited.
- Blunt spurs, whips, or crops are optional.

4.13.4. Saddle Seat English Pleasure Horse

- Exhibitors enter the arena at a trot, proceeding on the right in a counterclockwise direction.
- To be shown at the flat-footed walk, normal trot and easy canter, shown in both directions
- To be judged on manners (40%), performance (45%), quality and confirmation (15%)

4.13.5. Saddle Seat Equitation

The required Equitation seat should in no way be exaggerated but be thoroughly efficient and most comfortable for riding the type of horse called for at any gait and for any length of time. In Saddle Seat Equitation classes, riders should convey the impression of effective and easy control. Ring generalship must be taken into consideration by the Judge. A complete picture of the whole is of major importance

- Exhibitors enter the arena at a trot, proceeding on the right in a counterclockwise direction.
- To be judged on saddle seat equitation of the rider and overall performance of rail and individual work.
- Exhibitors must be worked equally in both directions of the arena at the walk, trot and canter, reverse, and repeat on command from the judge.
- The canter must be called for from the walk.
- The command to reverse may be executed by turning either direction towards or away from the rail.
- Exhibitors must line up on command and stand quietly.
- The Equitation test pattern will be performed individually.
- The test pattern to be determined and announced on command at the sole discretion of the judge.
- All exhibitors must perform the same individual test pattern for the class.

4.14 English Showmanship

The exhibitor demonstrates his or her ability to show a horse at halter. The ideal showmanship performance consists of a poised, confident, neatly attired exhibitor, leading a well-groomed and conditioned horse that quickly and efficiently performs the requested pattern with promptness, smoothness, and precision. Conformation of the horse is not a factor in judging showmanship.

4.14.1. Attire General

- The exhibitor should be well groomed, neat and clean, and wearing appropriate English attire for either Hunt Seat or Saddle Seat depending on the class requirements.
- Spurs are not permitted
- Youth competitors must wear properly fitted approved BSI or ASTM protective headgear, with safety harness correctly secured at all times.

4.14.1. Attire General (cont.)

Saddle Seat Type Attire

- Exhibitors must wear jackets in conservative colors such as black, blue, grey or brown. Pleasure class exhibitors may wear day coats. Clothing must include Kentucky jodhpurs that match or coordinate with the jacket; a collared shirt; a tie; a derby, soft hat or protective headgear; and jodhpur boots.
- Whips, gloves and small boutonnieres are optional.

English Hunter Type Attire

- Exhibitors must wear hunt-style jackets or blazers in conservative colors (including but not limited to blue, black, hunter green or brown).
- Traditional hunt shirts in conservative colors are required. Riding breeches and hunt boots, or jodhpurs with garters or legging straps and jodhpur boots are required.
- Recommended colors for jodhpurs include tan, rust, grey or olive.
- Protective headgear is required
- Regular ties or stock ties and stock pins are acceptable.

4.14.2. Equipment

Saddle Seat Type Equipment

- Horse may be shown in a bridle if over age 2.
- Whips or crops may be used with discretion.
- Exception: Arabians may be shown in a pleasure type or fine horse show halter at any age
- Boots or wraps are not permitted

English Hunter Type Equipment

- Horse may be shown in a bridle (such as a snaffle, kimberwick or pelham) if over 2 years of age. A plain leather halter with throat latch is also acceptable.
- Whips or crops may be used with discretion
- Boots or wraps are not permitted

4.14.3. Faults

- Failure to recognize and attempt to correct faults in the horse's position
- Kicking or placing the horse's legs into position by hand (actual contact) or visibly cueing the horse by pointing their feet at the horse during the set up.
- Failure to follow the Judge's instructions.
- Failure to stop turning when showing at a walk or trot.
- Failure of the horse to lead properly.

4.14.3. Faults (cont.)

- Failure to back when necessary.
- Turning the horse, the wrong direction
- Losing control of the horse.
- Failure to complete the pattern correctly.
- Visiting or conversing with other exhibitors or spectators during the judging of the class.
- Loud voice commands to the horse.
- Over showing through unnecessary actions.
- Causing the Judge to move to avoid being bumped or stepped on by the horse.
- Blocking or obstructing the Judge's view of the horse.
- Improper or ill-fitting equipment or attire.
- Loss of control or escaping of a horse that endangers other horses, exhibitors, or Judges will be cause for elimination.
- Improper or ill-fitting equipment or attire.

4.14.4. Rules

- Horses' conformation not to be judged
- The exhibitor will show the horse in the required posted pattern.
- Each exhibitor will be required to present his or her horse individually.
- Exhibitors should be prepared to follow any request made by the Judge or the Ringmaster.
- It is permissible for a Judge to ask the exhibitor questions concerning horsemanship and conformation. Questions should be in accordance with the exhibitor's age and knowledge potential.
- When showing the horse in an English bridle, it is correct for the exhibitor to hold the bridle reins similarly to halter shank; in the hands not leading the horse. If the bridle has two reins, one rein (curb rein) may remain over the neck and be secured in the mane or removed.