



The British Horse Society National Riding Schools Competition



RULE BOOK 2012/2013

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Registered charity nos. 210504 and SC038516

Fulfilling your passion for horses

The British Horse Society

National Riding Schools Competition

- 1. Introduction.** This competition is designed:
 - 1.1 To recognise the importance of the welfare of the horse and the part played by correct riding.
 - 1.2 To broaden the base of British riding and identify talent.
 - 1.3 To give opportunities to riding school clients, without their own horses/ponies, to benefit from quality instruction in horse care and equitation.
 - 1.4 To provide a pathway for talented riders to progress to the national and international scene.

The British Horse Society is the sole interpreter of these rules. The rules in this book are established so that competitors may compete against each other under fair conditions. They can, however, never cover every eventuality. Matters which cannot be solved by interpreting the rules to the letter should be resolved by following the spirit of the text to obtain the solution which is fairest to all competitors.

In this rule book if the masculine is used, it should be accepted as referring equally to the feminine.

General : Please note that whilst the competition is run under the auspices of The British Horse Society (BHS), individual riding schools hosting a qualifier are responsible for the detailed running and administration of a competition held at their establishment.

2. The Competition

- 2.1 Competitions will be run at BHS Approved Establishments. Host establishments will be responsible for all competition organisation and will need to provide a steward who must be available in the warm up area at all times. Timings must be clearly communicated to all competitors from outside the host centre. The order of starting will be decided by the organiser.
- 2.2 The first, second and third placed competitors of each class will qualify to ride at the National Championships. In the event of the winner of a qualifier already having qualified, the next highest placed competitor will be eligible to take part in the National Championship.
- 2.3 The prizes will be in kind. The teachers of successful competitors will receive recognition. In the case of a competitor having more than one teacher, only one may be nominated for the competition day. The teacher's name must be given on the entry form. If possible, teachers should be present at the competition.
- 2.4 The decision of the designated judge is final. At the discretion of the judge, a competitor can be asked to withdraw at any stage of the competition.
- 2.5 Organisers are responsible for providing a complete list of competitors, judges, steward and scorer. Organisers are also responsible for providing a safety officer and first aider. Club/Centre Welfare Officer should be in attendance.
- 2.6 Numbers of entries are limited at the discretion of the host establishment to those that can safely be accommodated on the day.

2.7 In the event of a draw for any place, the result will be decided on the jumping marks alone. If this still results in a draw, the marks for the flat test alone will determine the result. If the result remains the same, the written paper mark will be used. With the highest mark determining the final position.

2.8 **Qualifiers** – These may be run by any BHS Approved Establishment. Each venue will be paid £100 to hold the competition and will retain the £7 entry fee per competitor. The BHS will supply rosettes, vouchers and trophies, together with score sheets and results sheets. Employing a judge will be the responsibility of the host establishment and it is a prerequisite that this judge be qualified to a minimum of BHSAI and be currently on the BHS Register of Instructors. The fee for judges will be £50 plus travelling expenses up to a maximum of £50 per claim. Any prizes not awarded must be returned to The British Horse Society.

3. Competitors

3.1 The competition will be run for three age groups. All ages will be taken on the day of the qualifying competition.

18 years & over
17 years & under
13 years & under

3.2 Eligibility:
Clients of BHS Approved Centres and licensed Riding Schools.
The competition is only open to riders who are genuine non horse/pony owners.
Having a horse/pony on lease/loan excludes competitors from this competition.
Any competitor who has competed in any affiliated competition is not eligible to enter this competition.

3.3 No rider may ride in more than one class at a single competition.

3.4 No horse/pony may compete more than twice in one day.

3.5 There is no formal dress code. Preferred dress will, however, be sweatshirt and/or shirt and tie. The requirement for riding hats will continue to be as in normal day to day riding.

4. Horses/Ponies

4.1 Bona-fide riding school horses/ponies (identified on the licence issued by the local authority) must be used. These may travel in from surrounding BHS Approved and Licensed Riding Schools.

4.2 Competitors must ride the same horse/pony in both parts of the competition.

4.3 Tack for all phases is at the discretion of the owner of the horse/pony in all cases. Gadgets will not be permitted.

4.4 No external coaching during the ridden tests is permitted, apart from a dressage commander if utilised.

5. Whips

- 5.1 For jumping, whips must not exceed 2'5" (76cm) in length. For flatwork, a schooling whip no longer than 3'3" (1m) is permitted.
- 5.2 The use of whips is at the discretion of the owner of the horse/pony used in the competition. Misuse of whip will result in immediate disqualification, and the competitor will not be able to enter another competition in the same year.
- 5.3 Spurs of any kind are not permitted.

6. Warming-up

- 6.1 No horse/pony may be overworked prior to performing a test. The steward's decision is final with regard to this issue.
- 6.2 On the day of the competition, no competing horse/pony may be ridden other than by a competitor who is entered on that horse/pony.

7. Entering a Regional Competition

- 7.1 Entries must be made on the competition entry form and be accompanied by the correct entry fee (£7 for 2012/13 qualifiers) and sent to the competition organiser at the host riding establishment.
- 7.2 Entries will close seven calendar days before the date of the competition. Late entries may be taken at the discretion of the organiser.

8. The Regional Competition

- 8.1 The competition will follow a set pattern with emphasis on the correctness of the rider's basic position, accurate figure riding and harmony with the horse/pony.
- 8.2 When jumping, a correct, secure position and accurate presentation at the fences will be emphasised. Three refusals and the competitor will be asked to retire. **Should a rider fall off they will not be allowed to continue.**
- 8.3 The flat test will be ridden individually. The test will be the same for all age groups. It is not necessary for all the competitors in one age group to ride the test, followed by the other age group. Thus, times may be organised so that the competitors travelling in to the host establishment may be given similar times. It is important that the steward maintains the flow of riders and that times are adhered to.
- 8.4 Competitors will be required to answer basic stable management/horse welfare questions in the form of a written multiple choice paper.

9. The Final

- 9.1 The final will be held at a venue nominated by The British Horse Society.
- 9.2 All horses/ponies used in the final will be provided by the competitor. Competitors need not ride the same horse/pony at the final as the one on which they qualified. No horses/ponies will be provided for hire by the BHS.
- 9.3 The dressage test and show jumping course will remain the same as those used in the Regional competitions.

Dressage Test 2012/2013

The Scale of marks is as follows:

1. Very poor
6. Satisfactory

2. Fairly poor
7. Quite good

3. Poor
8. Good

4. Insufficient
9. Very good

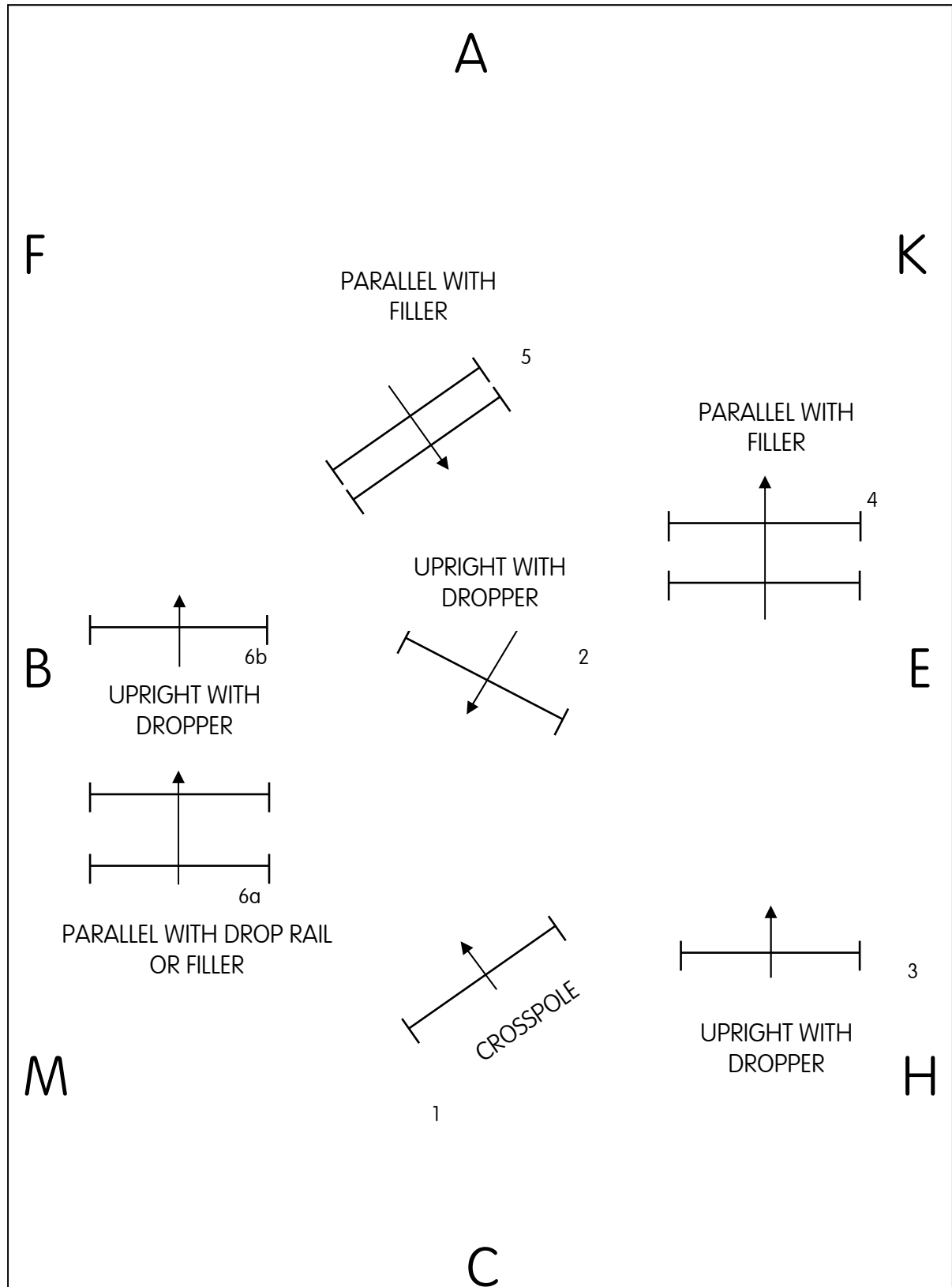
5. Sufficient
10. Excellent

Half Marks may be allowed

1	A Between D & X C	Enter at medium walk Transition to working trot Track right	10
2	MBFAK	Working trot	10
3	KXM MC	Change rein in working trot Working trot	10
	C C	Take sitting trot and 20m circle left Take rising trot	10
5	HK KF	5 meter loop Working trot	10
6	FXH	Rising trot change rein showing a transition to walk at H	10
7	HCM ME EK	Medium walk Change rein free walk on a long rein Medium walk	10
8	K A	Working trot Commence 20m circle with a transition to Canter left over X	10
9	AFBM Between M & C CH	Working canter Working trot Working trot	10
10	HXF	Change the rein	10
11	A	Commence 20m circle with a transition to Canter right over X	10
12	AKEH Between H & C CB	Canter right Working trot Working trot	10
13	B B	Take sitting trot & 20m circle right Take rising trot	10
14	BFAK	Rising trot	10
15	KH	5 meter loop	10
16	HB B BG	Rising trot 1/2 10 meter circle Down centre line	10
17	G	Halt and salute	10
18		Rider position, Including balance, suppleness and straightness	10
19		Correct application of the aids Use of the arena including riding of figures	10
20		Harmony between horse/pony and rider	10

RIDING SCHOOLS COMPETITION JUMPING PLAN

(Fences should be erected to leave the outer track free)



NOT DRAWN TO SCALE - ARENA 20m X 40m
Minimum Size

Jumping Test

Enter, Halt and Salute. Course may be jumped at trot or canter

Jump Heights

Jump	13yrs and Under	17yrs and Under And adults
1. Cross poles	45cm / 1'6" high at centre	60cm / 2' high at centre
2. Vertical with filler	60cm / 2' high	80cm / 2'7" high
3. Vertical with filler	60cm / 2' high	80cm / 2'7" high
4. Parallel with filler	60cm / 2' high 60cm / 2' spread	80cm / 2'7" high 80cm / 2'7" spread
5. Parallel with filler	60cm / 2' high 60cm / 2' spread	80cm / 2'7" high 80cm / 2'7" spread
6. <i>Two elements:</i> a) Parallel with drop rail or filler <i>One non-jumping stride to second element</i> b) Upright with dropper	60cm / 2' high 60cm / 2' spread 60cm / 2' high	80cm / 2'7" high 80cm / 2'7" wide 80cm / 2'7" high

Position of rider, including balance, suppleness and straightness	10
Security of the lower leg	10
Correct application of the aids	10
Use of the arena, including correct lines to fences & leading legs	10
Harmony between horse/pony and rider	10

Judging & Training Guidelines

Dressage Tests

Position - The rider should be working towards a correct, classical position. The hands should be quiet with a light contact on the reins. Hands should be held neither too high or fixed down on the withers. The seat should be as deep, supple and soft as possible. Suppleness of the hips will play a major role in the allocation of marks. Straightness of the rider's position will be important.

The ability to stay in balance, independent of the hands, throughout the test is paramount.

Aids - Note will be taken of correct diagonals and correct canter leads; an incorrect strike off may not be penalised, but not correcting it will be. Correct aids for turns and circles are a key factor. The preparation for upwards and downwards transitions will also be evaluated. The horse/pony does not have to be working "on the bit".

Influence - The ability to ride the horse/pony in a suitable tempo with sufficient impulsion for the movements to be ridden smoothly will be assessed. Riding school figures correctly is important. Showing empathy with the horse/pony is vital. Demonstrating safe procedures at all times is essential.

Jumping Tests

Position - A balanced seat with a secure lower leg and independent hands are the key factors.

Aids - An ability to maintain a suitable tempo and rhythm for the jumps to be undertaken must be shown. Excessive driving with the seat is discouraged but correct use of the legs and artificial aids, when appropriate, will be noted.

Influence - Demonstrate awareness of the importance of the quality of the pace. Show how to ride good lines to the fences.

Know how to deal with refusals or unsuitable behaviour of the horse/pony. The maintenance of rhythm is more important than the number of strides to be taken between fences.

For both flat work and jumping, the level of the horse/pony's schooling will be taken into consideration. Better schooled horses/ponies will not necessarily lead to higher marks; this is a test of the rider, not the horse.

Horse Knowledge

There will be a selection of horse knowledge/welfare questions. The topics will cover any aspect of stable management up to BHS Progressive Riding Test Level 6, to include travelling, feeding, safety around the yard etc.

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