

Official
Horseboarding
International & UK
General Rules



Approved by:
Horseboarding UK National Committee
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I. COMPETENCY & EQUIPMENT

1. BOARD RIDER COMPETENCY

- 1.1** In order to compete in any HBUK competition, all board riders must pass an official assessment, carried out by an HBUK Official Assessor. In order to pass the assessment, the board rider must demonstrate competency in the following:
- (a) show good balance, be able to control the board well enough to stay in line, and demonstrate ability to steer the board to both the left and the right of the horse.
 - (b) Be competent on the board when the horse is cantering, and be able to complete both course A and course B at canter.
 - (c) understanding of the correct protocols for hooking up, attaching and releasing the rope.

2. HORSE RIDER COMPETENCY

- 2.1** In order to compete in any HBUK competition, all horse riders must pass an official assessment carried out by an HBUK Official Assessor. In order to pass the assessment, the horse rider must demonstrate competency in the following:
- (a) be competent to control the horse at walk, trot, canter and gallop.
 - (b) demonstrate that they are able to hold their reins in one hand when releasing the tow rope, while maintaining full control of their horse, in all paces.
 - (c) understand and demonstrate correct procedure for both hooking up and releasing the rope.

3. HORSE COMPETENCY

- 3.3** In order to compete in any HBUK competition, all horses must pass an official assessment carried out by an HBUK Official Assessor. Horses will be assessed on the following:
- (a) ability to accept the rope and the board.
 - (b) ability to be responsive to their rider at all times.
 - (c) not demonstrate dangerous, nervous or stressed behavior.

4. EQUIPMENT

- 4.1** Both horse rider and board rider must wear Kite Marked helmets.
- 4.2** The board rider must wear eye protection in the form of sports goggles or safety glasses, and these must have a CE safety rating. Failure to comply with this rule will result in penalisation.
- 4.3** The minimum body protection required for the Novice & Intermediate boarders is padding and protection for both knees and elbows.

- 4.4** All saddles, harnesses, ropes and quick release systems must be of a standard approved by the regulatory body, Horseboarding UK. All teams taking part in competitions recognized by Horseboarding UK are required to use the ‘Dead Man’s Handle’ safety release belt and release attachments, of a design approved by Horseboarding UK.
- 4.5** There is no minimum length for the rope, but, it must be of sufficient length to prevent the board rider from being kicked by the horse’s hind legs whilst being towed. The rope should be a static type, with minimal stretch and recoil.
- 4.6** Board riders may compete on any type of ATB mountain or kite board that does not produce its own power.
- 4.7** Horseboarding UK officials may, at any time, scrutinize any piece of equipment for safety and suitability to use in competition.

II. HORSE WELFARE

5. HORSE WELFARE

- 5.1** HBUK officials may weigh horses, by means of a weigh tap at any time. If they feel your horse is underweight. If your horse fails to meet the requirements as indicated by the weight chart you may be prevented from competing. Horseboarding UK understands that no two horses are the same and that a horse may be outside of this weight chart limits but still be healthy. If your horse does not fit with in this graph please contact HBUK.

Height	Donkey	Pony	Polo Pony	Arabian	Cob	TB	L/W Hunter	M/W Hunter	H/W Hunter	Draugh
9hh	150kg	200kg								
10hh	200kg	200kg								
12hh	200kg	200kg								
12.2hh	200kg	300kg								
13hh	350kg	300kg								
14hh		300kg		400kg						
14.1hh		400kg		400kg						
14.2hh		400kg	400kg	400kg	450kg					
14.3hh			450kg	450kg	500kg					
15hh			500kg	450kg	500kg	400kg				
15.1hh			500kg	500kg	550kg	400kg	450kg			
15.2hh						450kg	500kg	500kg		
15.3hh						500kg	500kg	550kg	600kg	700kg
16hh						500kg	550kg	600kg	650kg	750kg
16.1hh						550kg	550kg	600kg	650kg	800kg
16.2hh						550kg	550kg	650kg	650kg	850kg
16.3hh						600kg	600kg	650kg	700kg	850kg

- 5.2** Competitors should abide by both the spirit and the letter of the HBUK Rules, and always put the health and welfare of their horse first.

- 5.3** All horses must have a passport issued by a DEFRA approved Passport Issuing Authority, and that passport must accompany the horse to all competitions.
- 5.4** All saddlery must be correctly fitted and in good repair.
- 5.5** Excessive use of either whip or spurs will result in the horse and rider being suspended from the competition.
- 5.6** Any horse which falls while competing in the arena may not be remounted and will be subject to assessment by HBUK Officials and or veterinary examination before taking any further part in the competition. A fall is defined as where any part of the horse above the hock (hind leg) or above the knee (front leg) has touched the ground and the forward momentum of the horse has been interrupted.
- 5.7** Competition Officials may suspend, remove or withdraw any horse from all or any part of any competition at any time, or, the Referee may stop a run, if they/he are satisfied that this action is in the interest of the welfare of the horse to so do.
- 5.8** Competition Officials may at any time and for any reason request a veterinary examination for any horse/pony competing, at the expense of the owner of the animal, if they are satisfied that this action is in the interest of the welfare of the horse/pony.
- 5.9** Where a horse or pony has been withdrawn or suspended from competition for veterinary reasons, Horseboarding UK reserves the right to request a Veterinary Certificate of fitness to compete and or fitness to travel before that horse/pony can compete in future competitions.
- 5.10** All competing horses shall be shod. The only exemption from this rule is for Junior Teams with Ponies under 14.2hh competing in the Novice & Intermediate Categories.
- 5.11** It is recommended that all competing horses are fitted with studs on the outside of the shoes.
- 5.12** Where ponies under 14.2hh in the Novice & Intermediate Categories competing without shoes, HBUK officials may suspend any pony from all or part of any competition at any time, if that pony is slipping to the extent that, in the opinion of the HBUK Officials, there is a safety or welfare risk.
- 5.13** **Ground Conditions.** The condition of the arena surface can change suddenly and at any time. HBUK Officials continually monitor ground conditions, and this information will be relayed to the teams, either at the daily briefing, or, prior to, or, during a heat. Where warnings of poor ground conditions are given, any team which, in the opinion of HBUK Officials, has not given sufficient regard to the warning, will be penalized by HBUK Officials, in accordance with the severity of the infringement.
- 5.14** **Tired Horses.** Where a horse is clearly tired and laboured during a race, the rider is expected to recognize this and abandon the run. HBUK Officials may suspend or remove from the competition any horse at any time, if, in the opinion of the Official, the horse is too tired to continue.

- 5.15** Blood on Horses. During or immediately after any competition, if blood is found by HBUK Officials on any horse, the following policies will apply:
- (a) Blood on sides or flanks caused by use of whip or spurs: suspension from that heat, followed by a further review, at the discretion of the HBUK National Committee.
 - (b) Blood in the mouth: in corners, caused by the bit, temporary suspension from the heat pending further investigation. Bleeding caused by biting the lip or tongue, monitor but continue competing.
 - (c) Bleeding from the nose: temporary suspension from the heat, pending further monitoring and investigation.
 - (d) Blood on legs: temporary suspension may be necessary, at discretion of HBUK Officials, depending on severity of bleeding. Where the cause is superficial cuts or nicks, horses may continue to race provided the blood is removed, and there is no further bleeding.
 - (e) Medication. Horses may not compete using pain killing or performance enhancing medication. If a horse requires ongoing medication for valid veterinary reasons, then this must be declared to HBUK by email at least three days prior to the event. In these circumstances, HBUK will require written veterinary certification that the medication is not performance enhancing, and that it is safe for the horse to undertake strenuous exercise.
- 5.16** Horse riders must not weigh more than 20% of the horse's weight as per registration form. HBUK reserves the right to weigh Horses and Horse Riders at any point. If HBUK officials feel it is necessary to do so.

III. CONDUCT

6. CONDUCT OF COMPETITORS AND THEIR SUPPORT TEAMS

- 6.1** All horse riders, board riders and their support teams must conduct themselves in a manner that is not offensive to other competitors, Officials of the event, Officials of Horseboarding UK, or the public. Breach of this rule may result in suspension from all or part of any competition, at the discretion of the Officials and Management of Horseboarding UK.
- 6.2** Competitors must comply with any reasonable request from Horseboarding UK Officials whilst on the showground.
- 6.3** Competitors, their support teams, and all Officials/employees/volunteers of Horseboarding UK must, whilst on any showground, respect any regulations or codes of conduct put in place by the event organizer, and they must comply with any requests made by the event organiser and their staff.
- 6.4** Any person using Social Media to discredit Horseboarding UK, its management, officials, competitors, associates or events, or to bring the sport of Horseboarding into disrepute, may be refused entry to any competition, venue or event, organised by or on behalf of Horseboarding UK, or, in association with Horseboarding UK, at the discretion of the Management of Horseboarding UK Ltd.

- 6.5** Horseboarding UK operates a 'Zero Tolerance' policy for both recreational and performance enhancing drugs. Breach of this rule will result in suspension and or exclusion from all or any part of any Horseboarding UK competition or event.
- 6.6** Horseboarding UK reserves the right to refuse unconditionally the entry of any person to any competition, event or venue organised by or on behalf of Horseboarding UK.

7. ON SITE CONDUCT RULES

- 7.1** These rules apply to ALL HBUK events and competitions.
- 7.2** All persons on site in the HBUK camp area must be registered with HUBK. This includes competitors, grooms, child minders, volunteers and all under 18's.
- 7.3** Each competing team is allowed to bring one groom.
- 7.4** Grooms and Volunteers are expected to attend daily briefings. Child minders need not attend the briefings, and will not be expected to assist in the running of the event.
- 7.5** Any visitors to the event who are not registered with HUBK must park in the public car park, and enter the event as a paying member of the public.
- 7.6** No fires are permitted on site.
- 7.7** BBQs must be extinguished by 10pm. *
- 7.8** There must be no visible or outdoor gatherings after 11pm. *
- 7.9** All generators must be turned off by 11 pm.
- 7.10** Noise must be kept to a minimum at all times.
- 7.11** Competitors, volunteers and grooms shall not consume alcohol before competing, or, entering the arena as a volunteer/official/groom. Any person found in possession of an open alcohol container prior to competition will be considered to have consumed alcohol and will not be allowed to compete or enter the arena on that day.
- 7.12** Swearing/use of foul language in the arena or in the pits area when the general public is present is not permitted.
- 7.13** No smoking is permitted in the pits area or arena.
- 7.14** Instructions given by on site security should be followed at all times.
- 7.15** HBUK participants should be polite towards others on the showground at all times.
- 7.16** Riding of horses on site: horses must be ridden with a saddle and bridle; horses may not be ridden in public areas; horses may not be ridden in the dark; horse riders must wear appropriate safety footwear and headwear at all times when riding; horses may only be ridden in the arena at times specified by HBUK officials.

- 7.17** Practicing in the arena: this is only permitted at specified times.
- 7.18** Teams should not enter the arena for practicing if the arena is being used by other acts or display, unless with the express permission of that display or act, and should wait patiently for the other displays/acts to finish.
- 7.19** Teams wishing to practice fast runs in the arena should firstly ensure that there are no persons other than HBUK personnel in the arena, and, secondly, that the arena is secure with no gaps in the fence line and all entrance/exit gates are closed.
- 7.20** If any team experiences problems with non-HBUK personnel entering the arena during practice, or, there is any altercation with non-HBUK person/s on the showground, this should be reported to HBUK officials immediately.
- 7.21** All HBUK participants should make themselves aware of the HBUK Drug and Alcohol Policy, and comply with the Policy.
- 7.22** Individuals are in no way to have any abnormal conduct with any trade stand or its contents. Any interaction with a trade stand or its contents out side of normal conduct will result in instant dismissal from the show, the competition, the championship and Horseboarding UK its self. Individuals associated with any abnormal conduct relating to a trade stand may also face disciplinary action up to and including a life time ban from Horseboarding UK.

8. DESCRIPTION OF ARENA BOARDING

IV. ARENA BOARDING

- 8.1** Teams compete against the clock around a course defined by a series of gates and obstacles.
- 8.2** The course comprises a series of gates that should be 4m wide, other obstacles, and designated Start and Finish.
- 8.3** Teams wait in a collecting or pits area, and enter the main part of the arena when called by the pits officials.
- 8.4** The competition comprises runs over Course A and Course B. Course B is the reverse of Course A.

9. OFFICIALS

- 9.1** **THE REFEREE** who stands near to the center of the course. The Referee indicates to the pits officials when the course is ready for the next competitor. The Referee also indicates to the Timekeeper any penalties incurred by a team during their run. The Referee may refer to additional arena officials and or video evidence.

- 9.2 THE TIMEKEEPER** who records the time for each team on each run, details any penalties incurred, and calculates the final placings of the teams.
- 9.3 PIT MANAGER** marshals teams in the pits or collecting area, manage entry and exit gates, and indicate to the next team to compete when they may enter the arena.
- 9.4** The Referee and Pit Manager can issue Yellow card penalties at any point for infringements of safety protocols.

10. HEATS

- 10.1** A heat is defined as a minimum of two runs for each competing team around one course, either Course A or Course B.
- 10.2** One or Two heats will be run on each day of competition. For a one-day competition, this will be over Course A and Course B. For a competition run over two or more days, this can be Course A and Course B on the same day, or, Course A twice or Course B twice, on any one day.
- 10.3** There should be an equal number of chances for each team to complete both courses.
- 10.4** A team can enter more than one horse if they wish but cannot compete more than once in the same competition under the same team name. In National Championship rounds, stand alone or International events; team change rules, specific to the National Championships will apply.
- (a)** Variants of the National Championship rules may apply and will be set out by the officials of that event.
- 10.5** Board riders and horse riders may compete in a number of different teams. In National Championships rounds, team change rules specific to the National Championships will apply. In accordance with rule 10.4a.
- 10.6** Points are scored in National Championships competitions, Stand alone or International events in accordance with National Championships Rules and rule 10.4a
- 10.7** The entering and exiting protocol between the collecting ring or pits area and the main part of the arena may vary from event to event but will be advised by Officials before the start of competition. Failure to follow these protocols may result in penalisation, to the extent you may be width drawn from the heat or asked to leave the arena.

11. TIMING

- 11.1** Timing of the run starts when the horse passes through the Start Gate and breaks the laser. The run ends when the horse passes through the Finish Gate and breaks the laser.

All three elements of the team, Horse rider , Horse and boarder must be connected by the handle and the safety harness system for at the start and end point of the race for

the time to be recorded.

- (a) Where a horse breaks the start line, but the boarder or horse rider are not attached, this will be considered a false start and the team will be allowed to retake their run at the discretion of the referee.

- 11.2 The time for each team on each run will be recorded by the Timekeeping Official.
- 11.3 A two second penalty will be incurred if the ball is knocked off a post or cone. If there is no ball on the post or cone, then the two second penalty will be added if there is clear contact with the post or cone by any of the team's elements.
- 11.4 A ten second penalty will be incurred if any element of a team misses a gate.
- 11.5 A team's fastest time from both course A & B will be recorded. This will determine their finishing position for that course. If a team fails to finish a single run of a course, a penalty time of 200 seconds will be recorded as their fastest time.
 - (a) Teams will score points from each completed course depending on their finishing position which is determined by their fastest time over that course
- 11.6 In the elite class, the fastest time from each heat of races will be recorded. This will determine their finishing position in that heat. If a team fails to finish a single run with in any one heat, a penalty time of 200 seconds will be recorded and stand as their fastest time.
 - (a) Teams will score points from each completed heat depending on their finishing position which is determined by their fastest time over that heat.
- 11.7 If a heat or number of heats are cancelled due to any reason over the course of the event all teams entered in to that event and prepared to enter that heat will receive a 200 second time penalty and the minimum amount of points available to them.
- 11.8 Teams have not entered the event until they have declared and paid entry fees.

12. PENALTIES

- 12.1 Penalties are given by the Referee, Pits Manager and other designated HBUK Officials for breaches of safety and welfare rules.
- 12.2 Any team which receives two yellow cards on the same day for breaches of safety or welfare rules will lose their next run on that day. Yellow cards and missed runs will not be carried forward to the following day.
- 12.3 A team which receives two yellow cards, and misses their next run, can then resume competition. However, if that team then makes another yellow card rule infringement, they will automatically receive a red card and be suspended from competition for the remainder of that day.
- 12.4 More than one yellow card can be issued during any single race. Where three or more yellow cards are issued during one single race, the team will on the discretion of the Referees &

HBUK Officials, receive a red card for the remainder of that day.

12.5 REGISTRATION & APPLICATION WITHDRAWAL

Where a team receives a red card for breaches of safety and welfare rules, the red card will not carry over to the next day of competition, but that team will start the next day of competition on one yellow card. This applies within the round of competition and does not carry forward to the next round of the National Championships.

- 12.6** A team which starts the day of competition on one yellow card, but successfully competes in all runs with no further yellow cards, will have that yellow card removed at the end of the day of competition
- 12.7** The Referee can issue a Medical Red Card if he believes that any team element has sustained injury following a fall.
- 12.8** Where any horse rider or board rider has, as the result of a fall, lost consciousness, appears disorientated or confused, or any HBUK Official believes that a head injury has been sustained, they will, give that person a Medical Red Card.
- 12.9** If an element is issued with a Medical Red Card they are not allowed to continue with in the competition until on site First Aiders have given that element the all clear to compete.
- 12.10** Touching Barriers- Horse: If a horse touches the arena barriers or outer fencing in either the competition arena or the pits area or anywhere that the barrier in question is being used for crowd control an automatic red card will be issued.
- 12.11** Touching Barriers- Board Rider: If a board rider hits the arena barriers or outer fencing, they will receive a yellow card. This rule may be suspended at some specific indoor venues.
- 12.12** No Go Safety Zones- these may be in any part of the arena and will be defined by cones. If a ball is knocked off a safety zone cone, there is a 2 second penalty. If either the horse or the board rider enters the safety zone, there is a 10 second penalty a possible yellow card.

13. REGISTRATION

- 13.1** All persons attending HBUK events as competitors, grooms or support personnel must be registered with HBUK.

14. APPLICATION WITHDRAWAL

- 14.1** Application refusal - In the event of your application to register with Horseboarding UK Ltd as a competitor or volunteer is refused you may receive an email explaining the reasons why. This email will give you the opportunity to resolve the issues raised. Though Horseboarding UK Ltd is in no way bound to give an explanation.
- 14.2** Application suspension - This means that you are suspending in taking part in any HBUK event until a reasonable explanation is given to the events that lead to your suspension. This will normally be explained via an email.
- 14.3** Banned - You are no longer allowed to compete at or attend any HBUK run event with out a full explanation of events to the HBUK committee, which led to the ban being issued. This will be requested as a face to face meeting with part or all the HBUK committee.
- 14.4** Life time Ban - will be issued if actions taken by an individual could permanently damage the reputation or good will of Horseboarding UK limited. You are no longer allowed to compete with HBUK and there is no appeal process.

* These rules apply specifically to all Living Heritage events. Other events may have different requirements and you will be advised of these at events which are not organized by Living Heritage.

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