

2024 Rule Amendment Synopsis

This document outlines the major rule changes in the 2024 Members' Handbook to help members identify new and edited rules ahead of the upcoming season. Any altered or new rules are marked in bold in the Members' Handbook.

Equine Welfare

In consultation with World Horse Welfare, we've recently conducted a full review of our policies and processes relating to horse welfare. Please therefore familiarise yourself with the whole equine welfare section of the BD Members' Handbook, in particular the British Dressage Charter for the Horse and Equine Welfare Code of Conduct.

The Charter for the Horse is comprised of ten commitments to our equine partners, each integral to optimum horse welfare and good horsemanship. Everyone involved in the sport of dressage, regardless of their individual role, has a duty to adhere to these key principles.

At British Dressage our vision is to 'bring people and horses together in harmony' and as part of this we constantly strive to achieve even better standards of horse care and well-being, at all levels of the sport. Our relationship with the horse extends far beyond creating a harmonious picture in front of the judges, and it is of paramount importance that all members understand and embody this in their actions and behaviours.

In all respects, the welfare of the horse must come first. Achieving high standards of horse welfare involves following proven methods of horse management, applying knowledge of good horsemanship, and understanding horse behaviour, while keeping up to date with current scientific knowledge.

Please view page 14 in the Members' Handbook for the full welfare policy documents.

Ref: Rule 87 Whips & Equine Welfare

Summary: *Updated rule regarding use and carrying of the whip*

The whip should be held with the tapered end pointing towards the ground and must be used with care. Any use of the whip other than as a training aid will be deemed unacceptable.

Horse Registration

Ref: Rule 10 Equine Influenza Vaccination

Summary: *V2 date ranges have been reduced from 21- 92 days to 21- 60 days.*

Any Horse receiving a new primary course as of 1 January 2024 must be vaccinated as follows:

- V1 (initial vaccination)
- V2 (second vaccination) – must be administered **21 – 60** days after V1

Horses / ponies may attend a BD competition / activity seven full days after receiving the second vaccination (V2)

- V3 (first booster) must be administered within six months and 21 days of V2.
- Subsequent booster vaccinations must be administered at a maximum of 12-month intervals and not within seven days of a competition.

The vaccination record(s) in the horse's passport, must be completed, signed, and stamped line by line, by an appropriate veterinary surgeon who is neither the owner nor the rider of the horse.

In the interests of equine welfare and to maintain optimum protection levels for your horse, it is strongly recommended that the most recent booster injection is given within six calendar months and 21 days prior to the horse competing.

In the event of an equine influenza outbreak, or increased risk to the health of the horse population, British Dressage reserves the right to amend these vaccination requirements at short notice, which may include mandatory reintroduction of six-monthly booster injections.

Please note that any BD member participating in international competition operating under FEI rules must adhere to the FEI vaccination requirements.

The responsibility to comply with this rule lies with the competitor, who should consult with their veterinarian.

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

Tack, equipment and riding the test

Competitor Dress

Ref: Rule 78 Coats / jackets / waistcoats / shirt

Summary: *Relaxation of colour restrictions and removal of 'conservative' requirement. Transparent waterproof coats are now allowed.*

Any single colour tailcoat or jacket will be allowed. Tweed jackets are permitted but should not have bold patterns. Accents, such as collars, cuffs or points of a different hue, modest patterns (including pinstripes) or crystal decorations are permitted.

Navy jackets with red waistcoat points and red collars with white piping may not be used as this style signifies a British Team rider.

In regular competitions, competitors may choose to ride without jackets. Members can wear a fitted waistcoat in any single colour, but these should not have bold patterns. Accents, such as a collar of a different hue, modest patterns (including pinstripes) or crystal decorations are permitted. Multicoloured coats, jackets or waistcoats are not permitted.

A suitable long or short sleeved shirt of a solid colour that fastens at the neck with a tie, white round collar or correctly fastened stock must be worn.

In all Championships, Regionals, Area Festivals, Premier Leagues and High Profile shows, a jacket must be worn. In the event of hot weather, permission to ride without jackets may be granted at the discretion of the organiser and in consultation with the panel of judges. A fitted waistcoat may be worn when permission has been granted not to wear coats. A suitable long or short sleeved shirt of a solid colour to be worn.

Plain, dark-coloured, or transparent waterproof coats may be worn in wet weather.

Ref: Rule 82 Hat standards

Summary: Updated standard information

Please note that EN1384 2017, which was only permitted for use with another approved standard, and PAS015 (1998) have been removed. PAS015 2011 and subsequent updates will be permitted from 1 January 2024.

Protective hats must meet one of the following standards:

- PAS 015 (2011 and subsequent updates)
- VG1
- EN1384:2023
- SNELL E2016, E2021
- ASTM F1163 2015 and subsequent updates
- AS/NZS 3838 2006 onwards

Ref: Rule 83 Breeches / Jodhpurs

Summary: *Relaxation of colour restrictions*

Breeches or jodhpurs should predominately be of a solid, single colour. Dark-coloured contrast seats are permitted. Striped or bold patterned breeches or jodhpurs are not permitted.

Combined Training

Ref: Rules 136 – 143

Summary: *Introduction of new Dressage levels and Showjumping heights*

Intro classes open only to combinations who have not competed at Elementary or above. Prelim and Novice classes open only to combinations who have not competed at Medium or above. Elementary classes are open to any combination of any level/eligibility.

2024 levels and showjumping heights:

1. BD Intro B Showjumping – maximum height 60cm
2. BD Prelim Test 2 Showjumping - maximum height 70cm
3. BD Prelim Test 18 Showjumping - maximum height 80cm
4. BD Novice Test 24 Showjumping - maximum height 80cm
5. BD Novice Test 34 Showjumping - maximum height 90cm
6. BD Elementary Test 42 Showjumping - maximum height 80cm
7. BD Elementary Test 50 Showjumping - maximum height 90cm

Para Equestrian Rules

Ref: Rule 21 Eligibility of Para Dressage riders

Summary: *Eligibility update and new season changes for Gold riders*

Bronze Qualification, as a rider (on any horse) have you:

- Competed at a CPEDI at any level
- Competed at a Silver Championship and gained a score of 67% or above
- Competed in a Gold semi-final and / or a Gold Championship in the last four years

Ref: 28 Qualification for Para Championships

Gold Qualification period:

- 1 January – 30 June
- Gold Semi-finals now combined with Bronze & Silver Championships in August

Para tests ridden in FEI PYO classes now count towards qualification for all sections, as well as Para PYO's.

Eligibility and Rules

Ref: Rule 35 Prelim Silver eligibility

Summary: Removal of 'As a rider won more than 25 points at Elementary or competed / have any points at the levels above, including music'.

35. Are you eligible for Prelim Silver?

If you answer YES to any of the statements below for rider, horse or combination, please take a look at the criteria for Prelim Gold and above.		
As a rider (on any horse) have you:	YES	NO
Scored 65% (67% Music) or higher at Winter/National Championships at Novice in the last four years?		
Competed at Music/Winter/National Championships/CDI (including CoH, P, J, YR) at Elementary or above in the last four years?		
Scored 68% (70% Music) or higher at Regionals at Elementary in the last four years?		
Scored 65% (67% Music) or higher at Advanced Medium or above at Premier League in the last four years?		
Competed at a Senior CDI?		
Competed at Grand Prix at Premier League or Championships (excluding PYO & Music)		
Has your horse (with any rider):		
Scored 68% (70% Music) or higher at Regional/Winter/National Championships at Elementary or competed any levels above including music at Regional / Winter / National Championships		
Competed at PSG or above at Premier League/CDI (including YR)?		
As a combination have you:		
Scored 65% (67% Music) or higher at Regionals at Novice?		
Competed at Regionals at Elementary/Elementary Music?		
Been placed in the top three at Music/Winter/National Championships at Prelim or above?		
If all of your ticks are in the NO column, the combination is eligible for Prelim Silver. Refer to the sections for the Area Festivals, Regionals and Associated Championships to see how you can get involved and qualify.		

Those riders that will now be eligible to compete at Preliminary Silver from 1 January 2024 may enter the Silver section for qualification towards the Summer season without the need to contact BD Head Office.

Please ensure all other Championship rules have been referred to as these will still stand and may still make combinations / riders ineligible. For example, if a combination has gained 68% in a Prelim Silver Regional, they will still not be eligible for Prelim Silver Area Festivals.

Riders who have gained qualifications for the Gold section in the Winter season will remain in the Gold section for the relevant Championship, whilst competing in the Silver section for the new Summer season.

Ref: Rule 49 Small, Middle and Big Tour

Summary: Minimum eligibility requirements (MER) *for all Tour competition, linked to welfare rules to ensure horse and rider are ready to compete at these levels.*

In order to be eligible to ride at Small, Middle or Big Tour for the first time, all riders must achieve the following to progress through the Tour levels. Please also note that:

- a. Scores cannot be gained using class tickets or HC, and
- b. Foreign riders allocated Group 4 by default must also qualify for the relevant Tour level unless a previous competition record of the level they wish to compete at is supplied to British Dressage.

Small Tour (PSG / Intermediate 1)

- Two scores of 62% or above at Advanced 101,102,105 or YR level tests in the twelve months prior to competing at PSG or Intermediate I for the first time.

Middle Tour (Intermediate II / A /B)

- Two scores of 62% or above at PSG or Intermediate I level tests in the twelve months prior to competing Intermediate II, A/B for the first time.

Big Tour (Grand Prix)

- Two scores of 62% at Intermediate II, A/B level tests in the twelve months prior to competing at Grand Prix for the first time.

Requalification to Small, Middle and Big Tour

If a combination drops below 54% twice in a six-month period, they will need to re-qualify at the relevant level, i.e., if scoring 54% or below at Grand Prix twice, the combination will need to re-qualify at Intermediate II, A/B and achieve two scores of 62% or above.

Entries & competitions

Ref: Rule 70 Prize Money

Prize money is mandatory, except for Quest competition, where a suitable concession should be made on entry fees for these classes.

From 1 July 2024 prize money will be mandatory for Para and Freestyle to Music classes. The allocation of prize money in Para classes will be determined and agreed with venues in advance of schedules being published.

A delayed introduction of this rule has been agreed due to the competition schedules already completed up to 30 June 2024 and class information already set for Para and Freestyle to Music classes in the first half of the year.

Test riding & Penalties

Ref: Rule 115 Warming up

Summary: *National Young Horse exemption and clarification on contravention for two horse one rider in one competition day.*

Only riders entered into a class at a competition may ride their horse for the duration of the show, including those running over multiple days. Riders with multiple horses must liaise with the venue direct to arrange enough warm-up time between classes. Another rider may exercise the horse on a long rein at walk under supervision of the steward or marshal (who is to be notified). **For the Young Horse Final presentation at the National Championships, a rider with two horses in classes running back-to-back may have another rider warm up the second horse if formally requested before the classes start.**

If two riders are to compete the same horse in one day, the rider due to compete later in the day may not ride the horse until after it has competed with the first rider. **Contravention of this rule will result in an elimination for the first rider.**

Horses using the warm-up at a BD competition for experience must be BD registered and ridden by a BD member. Permission must be obtained from the organiser in advance, who may charge an entry fee. For Para riders please refer to rule 30.

Ref: Rule 119 Maximum number of tests per day

Summary: *To include Advanced with PSG/Intermediate I as appropriate for the level of test*

In line with our Code of Conduct for Horse Welfare, there is a maximum number of tests that a horse may perform in a day. The maximum number of tests in a day includes any tests ridden HC. Exceeding the number will result in elimination from the competition.

- If a horse competes at Introductory/Preliminary/Novice, it may only compete in four tests at that level(s) or below per day.
- If a horse competes at Elementary/Medium/Advanced Medium, it may only compete in three tests at that level or below per day.
- If a horse competes at **Advanced**/PSG/Intermediate I, it may only compete in two tests at that level or below per day.
- If a horse competes at Intermediate II/A/B/Grand Prix, it may not compete in any other test on the same day.

Quest Competition

Ref: Rule 147 Quest Entries

Summary: *Warm-up rule included into this section to clarify two horse one rider contravention.*

If two riders are to compete the same horse in one day, the rider due to compete later in the day may not ride the horse until after it has competed with the first rider. Contravention of this rule will result in an elimination for the first rider.

Area Festival Rules

New rider CDI rider rule

Summary: *A change from a combination rule to a rider rule to align with Premier League rule introduced in 2023*

Ref: Rule 192 Exclusions from the Area Festivals

- e. Riders that have competed at a CDI are not eligible to compete at that level or below in an Area Festival (including the Championships) in that year or future years. This is with immediate effect and all qualifications will be withdrawn.
- f. Riders competing in a Children on Horses, Pony, Junior, Young Rider class in a CDI are eligible to compete at Area Festivals (inc. the Championships) on a different horse/pony, providing they are eligible for the level they are competing at.

New tests and rule changes from 1 July 2024

Please refer to separate document, included in the Annexes of the Members' Handbook for further information.