

Rules you should be aware of – please ensure you read

- All horses taking part in the Regional Championships and those going forward to the RDA National Championships must be deemed suitable by the Group Coach, including those owned by independent riders.
- Horses must be age 5 or over.
- Independent riders must be seen and approved by their group coach at least twice a year and must provide dates and venues where they have been assessed. Independent combinations have to be approved by the Regional Coach or the Regional Head of the discipline entered. They must be in contact with their group on a regular basis. If your rider has not been assessed please contact the Regional Coach immediately. Rider and horse combinations cannot be assessed at the regional show. **Independent riders must be accompanied by a representative of their group**
- Any substitution of horses for the National Championships must be reported to RDA National Office; otherwise your entry on the day will not be accepted.
- Horses can only enter up to five classes (including lead rein) each day. They can compete in no more than 4 tests in any one discipline (at National Championships they can do no more than 3 tests in the same class). They can enter a maximum of 12 classes at the National Championships over 3 days.
- Riders may only ride in one class in each discipline. When riding in more than one discipline riders can only qualify at the highest level they are competing, ie. All canter, all walk/trot. If in doubt please ask.
- Riders can compete as a junior until the end of the year in which they are 16. **Riders in junior classes should give a date of birth on the entry form.**
- **New Rule** – Dressage 1.c. A rider who has won the overall championship at the RDA Nationals for 2 consecutive years must enter the open class. The same rule also applies to Countryside Challenge classes.
- Visually impaired riders must be classified by British Blind Sport if they wish to compete in visual classes. They must compete at the Regional Championships to qualify.
- Visually Impaired riders should wear a white armband at all times while mounted.
- VI riders in the led classes can have callers at the letters but the intention to do this should be declared on the entry form.
- In Countryside Challenge riders must achieve a score of over 65% to qualify.
- In Dressage and Jumping they must score over 60% to gain a qualifying place.

- In the Countryside Challenge hearing impaired riders must wear a yellow armband. Please note on the entry form for all events if riders are hearing impaired. Hearing impaired riders can use an FM wireless hearing system but not a wireless personal coaching system. This should be advised on the entry form so that a steward can be present during the test.
- Weight limits apply to all group and independent riders. RDA weight calculator on the RDA website should be referred to before making your entry. Weights may be checked at the Regional Show. This rule applies to anybody riding a horse, including grooms/volunteers.
- All hats will be checked at the Regional Show to ensure they are the current standard. Hats should be brought to the secretary's office before mounting. This includes those of volunteers who wear a helmet. **All hats must be checked and tagged, even if done previously.** Stewards will check for tags before riders enter any arena. **Please see p17-18 of the 2022 rulebook regarding hat standards and body protectors.**
- Please ensure you go to have your tack checked before mounting and entering any arena.
- Please note that humane girths are no longer permitted
- Side walkers in the Countryside Challenge do not have to wear hats. It is recommended that anybody leading wears gloves but it is not compulsory. Sidewalkers in Countryside Challenge should not be in contact with the rider unless it's an emergency.
- See separate rules for led dressage.
- Riders taking part in the Regional Qualifier but not intending to attend the National Championships should note this on the regional entry form. Anybody qualifying but later unable to attend must advise the Regional Chairman in order the place may be passed to another rider.
- If the rider coming 1st or 2nd at the Regional Show cannot go to the National Championship the place can only pass down to the riders coming 3rd or 4th provided they reach the qualifying percentage
- Level 5 Showjumping is for riders who are nominated by the Regional Showjumping rep through National Office. Evidence of competing at this level is required.
- Riders entering Graded classes or visually impaired classes must send a copy of their classification with their entry form. **Entries submitted for graded or TVI/PVI classes without proof of classification will not be accepted.** Riders who were classified over

2 years ago and have not received a 2017 update should contact RDA urgently and ask for an updated card.

- Please ensure you have read the rules regarding passports and vaccinations.
- Passports must be carried at all times when travelling horses. Horses with incomplete, unclear passports will be refused entry. A copy of the passport showing the horse and vaccinations must be sent via email prior to an entry being accepted and also brought to the secretary at the Regional Show to check prior to unloading the horse onto the premises. Identity of the horse will be checked against the passport by the attending vet.
- The use of calmers is prohibited.
- Any horse that is on Bute for long term or within 7 days of the National Championships must be reported to the RDA vet, prior to the event, at vet.rda@gmail.com Failure to do so may lead to elimination if tested. RDA may require substance testing if there is any doubt, with the group being charged if found positive.
- Rider classifications must also be emailed to the show secretary at the time of entry.
- All dressage tests can be found on the RDA website. Please ensure you are using the 2022 version. If tests are being called they must be read from a 'paper' version, not a mobile device. If in doubt please contact the show organiser for advice before the day.
- **New rule – p16.2.h dressage** Unclassified riders who qualify and compete in the same class at the RDA championship for 3 consecutive years must move up and compete at a higher level but should contact the Show Organiser if they are unable to do so.
- Leaders in dressage led classes should wear a helmet and gloves and boots.
- Leaders must lead at 3rd stage leading (i.e. the leader is not influencing the horse). The leader should be at the horse's shoulder with the lead rein in the hand furthest away from the horse.
- In a Countryside Challenge class with sidewalkers, but no leader, a lead rein must be carried. Horses should be lead either from the headcollar or a coupling, which should be correctly fitted.
- Daisy reins/grass reins may only be used when on grass.
- **Rider Falls** – if a rider falls in the warm up they must be assessed by the first aider before remounting. If a rider falls during the class they must retire and be assessed by the first aider before being allowed to continue with other classes.

- If groups are sharing a horse a competent person from each group should be present during competition.
- **Grade 7 riders** (previously named ID) must compete in their own classes unless they have a diagnosed physical disability and classification, which allows them to ride in the non-graded classes (1-6)
- For Countryside Challenge course please see the rule book – obstacles and the course may be different to previous years. Riders may walk the course during the designated time, horses may only be walked round the outside of the course, not in the obstacles, during the designated time. **Any horse that enters the course at this time will be eliminated or the rider will have to ride HC**
- Classes will be split into section of Senior and Junior or Open. Two riders qualify in each section unless there are more than 10 in a section when the first 3 riders will qualify.
- Entry forms for the National Championships will be given separately to the group organisers. Please ensure you collect these at the show. Names should be printed clearly and preferably in capital letters on the entry form.
- **All entries should be made through the group in order to confirm the requirements of the following:**
It is the responsibility of all RDA charities making an entry to ensure that any rider taking part under their name has completed the appropriate rider application within the last 3 years and that all volunteers working under your group have completed the appropriate forms, green cards and DBS checks required by RDA UK.
- After reading these guidelines – please be aware that there may be other changes to rules and you should read the 2022 RDA Rule book. This is now available on the RDA website and has been to be sent to all group organisers. **Make sure riders are doing the new tests**
- Test sheets may only be collected once all Dressage classes/Countryside Challenge classes are completed and presentations have been made. Any uncollected sheets will be sent to the group contact.
- Riders may only enter a show jumping class at the level at which their group and coach are registered. (e.g. if entering the level 2 the group and coach must be registered for level 2)
- Please make all riders aware that photographs and/or videos may be taken at the event. These may be used in publicity for the region. As this is classed as a public event photographs may be taken for use by RDA North West and information on results and anybody contravening the code of conduct will be passed to RDA National Office. You should bring this to the awareness of anybody attending on behalf of your

charity. If anybody objects to photographs being taken it is your responsibility to bring it advise the show secretary.

- Any rider who qualifies in a Dressage class who wishes to then enter the costume freestyle class at the National Championships must have their routine approved by either the regional coach or the regional dressage coordinator before going to the Championships.
- The region has a zero tolerance policy to abuse. Groups should ensure anybody representing their group is provided with a copy of the attached code of conduct. Anybody behaving contrary to this policy may be disqualified and may be asked to leave the venue. Please remember that everybody is a volunteer and has given up their time freely.
- No smoking is allowed.
- Only assistance dogs are allowed with prior permission and should wear identification as such.
- Horses may only be grazed in hand in the areas indicated and only when handled by a competent person. They are not permitted in any spectator area.
- There will be an appointed Safeguarding Officer, Equine Welfare officer and Covid Officer on site. Names will be posted at the Secretary's office. RDA UK's lead Safeguarding Officer can be contacted on 01926 405973. See page 2 & 3 of the 2022 rulebook regarding safeguarding.
- **Covid regulations** – Anybody leading and/or sidewalking must adhere to current covid regulations. If required face coverings should be worn.
- It is an RDA requirement that groups must make and keep a list of everybody attending on behalf of their group, this includes but is not exclusive to – riders, volunteers, parents, carers. It is their responsibility to explain this to their 'representative's' and to ensure that only those on the list attend. The list must be kept for 21 days for Track and Trace purposes. It is possible that the lists may be checked on the day.
- It is also the group's responsibility to check on the day, before attending, if anybody on their list has any symptoms – in which case they should not come onto the site.
- A face covering must be worn when indoors – this does not apply to riders when mounted. This rules does not apply to those who are exempt but please do not be offended if checks are made.