

Rules you should be aware of – please ensure you read

Urgent - The regional show takes a lot of work and requires a lot of volunteers to run it. The regional committee are therefore requesting that each group attending provides at least two named volunteer for the day. If the volunteer can only attend for half a day more volunteers need to be put forward. We ask that each group attending send the names and contact details to our email address no later than 1st May in order that roles may be allocated. We also hope to arrange a zoom meeting for volunteers beforehand. Please send names and contact details to: rdaregionalshow@gmail.com

All horses taking part in the Regional championship and those going forward to the RDA National championships must be deemed suitable by the Group Coach, Horses must be age 5 or over. **Please note there are new rules regarding participants with their own horses. You must read these and ensure those participants and horses have been assessed – if not you should contact the show organiser via the above email to arrange assessment. Own horse participants should be accompanied by a group representative at the show. See p16-19 RDA rule book 2025**

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 can do no more than 3 tests in the same class).

Riders may only ride in one class in each discipline at the national championship. When riding in more than one class or discipline at regionals riders can only qualify at the highest level they are competing, i.e. All canter, all walk/trot. If in doubt please ask. Riders must tell us beforehand which class they wish to qualify in.

Times will be sent by email. Riders must present themselves to the tack check in plenty of time and must come forward to ride in their class at the time given, unless changed with the approval of the secretary. Anybody not coming forward at the correct time and/or without prior approval may be eliminated from the class as time may not allow them to fit in later.

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 – A rider who has won the overall championship at the RDA Nationals for 2 consecutive years must enter the open class. This applies to all disciplines.

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. Large dressage arena letters or beacons may be used but the group must bring their own and advise of this on the entry form.

See RDA rule book regarding percentage requirements to qualify

Hearing impaired riders must wear a blue 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 own horse riders. Please refer to the RDA weight calculator on the RDA website. Weights may be checked at the regional show. This rule applies to anybody riding a horse, including grooms/volunteers

All rider and volunteer hats must be checked and tagged, even if done previously. Hats should be taken to the secretary before mounting. Stewards will check for tags before riders enter any arena. If a rider qualifies for Hartpury please leave the tag on. **Please see the 2025 rulebook regarding hat standards and body protectors.**

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.**

Tack must be checked at the tack checking area before entering the warm up or competition arena. Please refer to the rulebook for tack allowed. Footwear will also be checked

There is a new rule regarding loop/Alice reins. This was changed in January 2025. Please ensure you are using the new version if you are going to the National championships. Old style loop reins are only usable until June 2025.

You should note on the entry form if you **do not** intend to go to the National Championships. 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. The number qualifying in each class depends on the number of entries in that class. (see rule book)**

Riders entering any Graded class 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.**

Please ensure you have read the rules regarding passports and vaccinations. Passports must be carried at all times when travelling horses. **Horse with Incomplete, unclear passports will be refused entry. A copy of the passport showing the horse and vaccinations must be sent with the entry form (see below) 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 or steward.** Please read the RDA rulebook on the use of bute and/or calmers.

All dressage tests can be found on the RDA website. Please ensure you are using the latest version. If tests are being called they must be read from a 'paper' version, not a mobile device. (you need to bring your own as we may not have a spare copy) If in doubt please contact the show organiser for advice before the day. **There are some new tests for 2025.**

Please ensure you read the rules on requirements for leaders in the dressage led classes. **Gloves and helmets are required for leaders and sidewalkers and for anybody leading a horse in a course walk in any discipline. Horses must wear a bridle when in the arena or course walk**

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. **The same hat may not be used again after a fall or if dropped**

If groups are sharing a horse a competent person from each group should be present during competition.

Please refer to the rule book on what classes Grade 7 riders may/may not enter

For Countryside Challenge course please see the RDA website – 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. **A steward must be present before anybody can enter the course walk. Horses only may be led around the course during designated horse times**

Classes will be split into section of Senior and Junior and open. Two riders qualify in each section, if there are more than 10 in a class when the first 3 riders in each section will qualify, 4 riders qualify if 15 in a class and 5 if 20 in a class. There are new open classes, these are split on ages and 1st placed junior and senior will qualify

Entry forms for the national championship 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 they do not cover all rules in the 2025 RDA Rule book. This is available on the RDA website. You need to contact RDA if you require a paper version and have not received one. **Make sure riders are entered into the correct tests. Riders who qualify for Hartpury must enter the same test in which they qualified, please make a note of the class number.**

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.

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

Please read the rule book if any rider who qualifies in a dressage class wishes to then enter the costume freestyle class at the national 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 of 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 support dogs are allowed with prior permission and should wear identification as such.

Horses may only be grazed in hand in the areas indicated, if space allows, and only when handled by a competent person. They are not permitted in any spectator area.

There is no area for lunging, horses can be ridden/schooled by a designated person from each group for 20 minutes if needed, only the competitor may ride a horse during the 20 minutes immediately before a test.

Groups should read section 5.2 (p85) and 5.3 (p87) regarding supervision and transport guidance in relation to participants.

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.

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