

Eligibility of Horse & Rider Combinations for Mercian Team Competitions

	Preliminary Level Dressage	Novice Level Dressage	Elementary Level Dressage	Unaffiliated Show Jumping		British Eventing Current & past		British Jumping Current & past	British Dressage Current & past	
	Horse/pony and rider combination placed 1st in Prelim Dressage	Horse/pony and rider combination placed 3 x 1st in Novice Dressage	Horse/pony and rider combination placed 3 x 1st in Elementary Dressage	Horse/pony and rider combination placed 1st at 2' 9"	Horse/pony and rider combination placed 1 st at 3' 3"	Horse and rider combination competing BE80 level or above	Horse and rider combination with foundation points	Horse and rider combination placed 1st at Discovery (3' 3")	Horse and rider combination with No points	Horse and rider combination up to 10 points
Introductory Dressage	X	X	X						X	X
Preliminary Dressage		X	X						X	X
Novice Dressage			X							
Riding Tests										
Dressage to Music										
Mini CT		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Novice CT					X		X	X		
Novice Show Jumping				X	X	X	X	X		
Intermediate Show Jumping					X		X	X		
Novice Style Jumping				X	X	X	X	X		
Intermediate Style Jumping					X		X	X		
Mini Arena Eventing				X	X	X	X	X		X
Novice Arena Eventing							X			
Mini ODE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Novice ODE							X			
Mini Two Phase / Eventer Challenge				X	X	X	X	X		
Novice Two Phase / Eventer Challenge							X			
Mini Hunter Trials				X	X	X	X	X		
Novice Hunter Trials							X			

NOTE:- Horses are to be entered for Competitions under their full name not stable name, Passports to be available if necessary.

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Please refer to your British Riding Clubs Handbook for official rules regarding tack and dress code for all the disciplines (except for arena eventing which a new discipline).

Rules for Mercian Team Arena Eventing

Both jumping phases will be held on all-weather arenas. There will be a practice fence in the show jumping arena to be used as a warm up – the bell will ring when the rider is to start the show jumping round followed immediately by the timed cross country style obstacles. The initial show jumping round will not be timed but jumping penalties will count. Competitors must wear cross country colours and medical armbands for the jumping phase and correct dressage attire for the dressage phase. Body protectors are recommended but not compulsory. No whips allowed in the dressage test. Hats must comply with British Riding Clubs rules.

The dressage phase will be judged under British Eventing rules; the jumping sections judged under British Eventing Rules for the jumping sections of Winter JAS competition. The penalty score will consist of the dressage score expressed as a percentage and converted to a penalty mark added to the cross country time penalties and jumping penalties incurred during both sections indicated above. The winners will be the team with the lowest overall penalty score counting the best three team members, poorest score dropped.

Penalties for EACH Jumping Section (Show Jumping & Cross Country Style Obstacles)

Knockdown	4 penalties
1 st disobedience	4 penalties
2 nd disobedience	8 penalties
3 rd disobedience	Elimination
Fall of rider	8 penalties
2 nd fall of rider	Elimination
Retaking an obstacle already jumped	Compulsory Retirement
Every commenced second in excess of time allowed	1 penalty
Exceeding time limit (three times time allowed)	Elimination



RULES OF COMPETITION FOR POINTS CHAMPIONSHIP

To be read in conjunction with the current Riding Clubs Rule Book

General

- *- The Competitions are open to any senior member of an Affiliated Riding Club within the Mercian Group, i.e. 18 years old and over.
- *- Riders may ride for more than one Club in one season, in different competitions, but not for different Clubs on the same day.
- *- Clubs may enter teams in either the Mini Class or Novice Class or both (or Novice & Intermediate where appropriate), but no horse may compete in both levels on the same day.
- *- Horses must be entered and listed under the name stated on their passport and not under their stable or nick-names.
- *- No horse which has been placed in the first three at any competition at Riding Clubs Championship level in any discipline will be eligible for that Mercian Competition with the same rider for three years. Rules for Mercian Competitions will be as per the current Rule Book for Riding Club Competitions, with the exceptions given here.

Scoring for Mercian Points Cup

1st Place = 12 points; 2nd = 10; 3rd = 8; 4th = 6; 5th = 4; 6th = 2

Each unplaced team that participates = 1 point

Any entered team that attends a competition but is unable to compete (e.g. only two people actually present as fit on the day) will be counted as participating = 1 point

While Clubs may enter as many teams as they wish, only two teams per Club may gain place points, i.e. if one Club's Team are placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd, then the 3rd team will gain only 1 point (for attendance) and the next placed Club will gain the 3rd place points, etc.

Club representatives gain 1 point for their Club by attending Meetings.

Rules for Individual Competitions

NOTE: Unless otherwise specified, eligibility should also be checked against the latest issue of the table "Eligibility of Horse & Rider combinations for Mercian team competitions".

Arena Eventing

Teams of four, best three scores to count, all to ride Prelim Tests. Mini Course: Heights of fences for both Show Jumping and Cross Country not to exceed 2 feet 3 inches. Novice Course: Height of fences for both Show Jumping and Cross Country not to exceed 2 feet 6 inches. No restriction on height of horses, which must be at least four years old.

Combined Training

Teams of four, best three scores to count. Mini CT Class: two riders Walk & Trot Test, two riders Prelim Test – fences 2 feet 3 inches. Novice CT Class – two riders Prelim Test, two riders Novice Test: fences 2 feet 6 inches. NOTE: If competitors have entered another class, they may not jump that round and their Mercian round consecutively; they must nominate their Mercian round before entering the ring.

Eventer Challenge

Teams of four, best three scores to count. Mini Course: Heights of fences for both Show Jumping and Cross Country not to exceed 2 feet 3 inches. Novice Course: Height of fences for both Show Jumping and Cross Country not to exceed 2 feet 6 inches. No restriction on height of horses, which must be at least four years old.

Dressage

Teams of four - one Walk & Trot test, two Preliminary tests & one Novice test. Scoring is W & T Test, Novice Test and best Prelim.

Hunter Trials

Teams of four, best three scores to count.
Mini Course: Heights of fences not to exceed 2 feet 3 inches.
Novice Course: Heights of fences not to exceed 2 feet 6 inches.

One Day Event

Teams of four, best three scores to count, all to ride Prelim Tests. Mini Course: Heights of fences for both Show Jumping and Cross Country not to exceed 2 feet 3 inches. Novice Course: Height of fences for both Show Jumping and Cross Country not to exceed 2 feet 9 inches. No restriction on height of horses, which must be at least four years old.

Show Jumping & Style Jumping - Outdoor

Teams of four, best three scores to count. No restriction on height of horses, which must be at least four years old. The Competition to be run as a BSJA Single Phase - which means that all competitors jump the un-timed 1st section and then continue straight onto the timed 2nd section (unless eliminated) so only one round is jumped. Faults may be accrued in either (or both) sections.

Show Jumping & Style Jumping – Outdoor(Continued)

Novice Course: First Phase height 2 feet 3 inches (spread 2 feet 6 inches); Second Phase height 2 feet 6 inches (spread 2 feet 9 inches).
Intermediate Course: First Phase fences not to exceed 2 feet 6 inches (2 feet 9 inches spread); Second Phase fences 2 feet 9 inches (3 feet spread).

Showing Classes

Teams of four, best three scores to count. To score, each member of the team has to compete in a different Class, nominating that class as their Mercian entry. Classes to consist: Riding Club Horse/Pony (snaffle bridle), Ridden Coloured (Skew, Pie, Appaloosa, Dun, Cremello, Palamino, Grey. Almost anything but Bay or Chestnut!), Working Hunter (fences not to exceed 2 feet 6 inches) and Ridden Veteran (16 years and over). This competition does not have additional rules on eligibility.

Entry fees for Teams

It is assumed that in most cases the Mercian Competitions will be run as part of a larger class. Team members will automatically also be entered in that class and be eligible for individual awards with no further entry fee being payable.
Team entry fees are: The Class Entry Fee x number of team members + £1 per team (to allow for admin/rosettes) = TEAM ENTRY FEE. These fees are the maximum. Actual entry fees are at the discretion of the organising Club.

Rosettes – presented down to sixth place.

Competition Scoring – based on placing not on percentage (i.e. 1st, 2nd etc.).

Entries

- (a) Team entries will close one week before announced date for closure of entries, to give the organising Club the opportunity to fill the class with outside entries.
- (b) It is possible that, Clubs having entered a team beforehand, the names of those actually competing may be given in on the Day but BEFORE the Competition starts.
- (c) No horse may compete more than once in each Competition, but a rider may compete in different teams ON DIFFERENT HORSES **but not** for different Clubs on the same day. A rider may not compete more than once in the same team, even on different horses.

Cancellation of Competitions

- (a) There must be at least two Clubs represented for the resulting points to count towards the annual total.
- (b) If only one Club is entered up to two days before the Competition, then it is void and it is for the organising Club to inform the entered Club of the situation.

Reporting of Competition Results

When your Club hosts a competition, please send results A.S.A.P. afterwards (including all placings and list of all non-placed teams who took part) to:

Joy Starkey (Email: joy@hillcottageonline.co.uk)
Hill Cottage, Astwood Lane, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove B60 4BA