

# RULE CHANGES – EFFECTIVE FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2010

## EVENT RULES

**48.8 – Amend numbering to read a), b), c)**

**48.9.3 – Amend numbering to read 48.9.3.1 and 48.9.3.2**

### **Add New Event Rule 3.2.5**

3.2.5 To gain Official status, Show Jumping Events must either appoint an Official Course Designer or apply to the JSC for approval to use a named unofficial Course Designer (eg an EA official Course Designer)

### **Add New Event Rule 7.4.6 (relating to Stallion rules)**

7.4.6 Failure to abide by these rules will result in elimination of the horse from the event and forfeiture of any prizes or points. The owner/rider will be required to remove said horse from the venue as soon as possible.

**Amend Event Rule 37 to read as follows:**

### **37. CRUELTY & UNFITNESS OF HORSE**

- 37.1 Any incident of cruelty should be reported to the Ground Jury on the day of the event. Failure to report the matter to the Ground Jury does not preclude a complainant from reporting the matter to the HRCAV under the Complaint Handling Rules.
- 37.2 Cruelty can be defined as intentionally causing pain or unnecessary discomfort to a horse. As examples, an act of cruelty can be any of the following:
- To whip or beat a horse excessively.
  - To subject a horse to any kind of electric shock device.
  - To use spurs, or to jab the horse in the mouth with the bit, excessively or persistently.
  - To ride an obviously exhausted, lame or injured horse.
  - To 'rap' a horse anywhere in or outside the grounds of the Event.
  - To hyper-sensitise any part of a horse.
  - To leave a horse without adequate food, drink and exercise.
- 37.3 Officials, or any other persons, reporting a case of cruelty should, if possible, secure one or more witnesses to the incident, or any other form of evidence, and either bring them to the Organising Committee to which the report is addressed, or obtain written statements from them, duly signed, together with their names and addresses.
- 37.4 Any act or series of actions which, in the opinion of the Ground Jury, can clearly and without doubt be defined as cruelty, shall be penalised by disqualification from the event. The Organising Committee must also refer details of the matter to the HRCAV Executive Committee within 30 days of the event for consideration under the Complaint Handling rules regardless of whether the complaint was acted upon at the event.

### **Add new Event Rule E48.9.6**

48.9.6 For Navigation Ride only, in the event of equal team placings, the team with pairs closest to the time allowed shall be placed higher.

## DRESSAGE RULES

### **Amend Dressage Rule 26.1 (f)**

Add the underlined sentence as indicated '...for a minimum of five tests per level. The presiding judge must be accredited to judge Level 3 and above....'

## LEVEL ASSESSMENT RULES

### Add new Level Assessment rule 11.7

11.7 In line with rule 11.1, riders who have competed at an equivalent to level 1 or above in non HRCVA competition should not be assessed lower than level 3 in that discipline unless such an assessment is justified by exceptional circumstances. Reasons for assessment of experienced riders at level 4 or lower must be noted on the LA form for review by the Level Assessor Sub Committee.

## COMBINED TRAINING AND HORSE TRIALS RULES

Amend the CT and HT Rules listed below as indicated:

Please note that Appendix 11 (referred to in several rules) will be available shortly. Check HRCVA website.

3.2.1 The Dressage Test must always be ridden first. The order of the Cross-Country and Showjumping phases is optional but consideration should be given where possible to running cross country first, with the order clearly stated in the Program. The draw must provide for Competitors to have an interval of 30 minutes between completion of one phase and the start of the next. When Showjumping takes place after the Cross-Country, Competitors must be allowed an interval of 40 minutes between these phases. In exceptional circumstances the Ground Jury may authorise a reasonable reduction in these minimum intervals.

4.6 In the event of equality of penalty points in Horse Trials, the winner and place getters will be the Competitors with the least Cross-Country penalties (total of jumping and time penalties). If there is still a tie, the winner will be the Competitor whose cross-country time was the closest to the time allowed. If there is equality of time, then the Competitor with the least Show Jumping Penalties shall be the winner. If there is still a tie, then the Competitor with the time closest to Time Allowed in Show Jumping shall be the winner. If there is still a tie after Show Jumping, they shall be considered equal.

## 12. COURSE SPECIFICATIONS

Table of Obstacle Specifications

Description of fence	1	2	Levels 3	4	5
Vertical Fence	1050	900	750	600	450
Minimum width of face (Maximum of two obstacles)	1200	1350	1500	1800	2100
Drop Fence - flat landing	1400	1000	850	700	500
down hill landing	1600	1350	1050	800	500
Brush Fence - brush height	1200	1050	900	750	600
front rail height	900	750	650	500	350
rear rail height	800	650	550	400	250
Spread without height	2400	2000	1350	900	600
Spread with height					
- at the highest point	1200	900	650	500	450
- at the base	1800	1500	1000	750	600
Height limit when using maximum spread	900	750	600	500	450
Height of obstacle or bank into water (max depth 300mm)					
- with a drop	800	650	500	0	n/a
- without a drop	800	650	500	0	n/a
- drop not to exceed	1200	900	800	400	0
- height of jump out of water	900	750	500	0	n/a
- depth of water	300	300	300	300	300
- width of crossing	9000	9000	6000	6000	6000

15.3 Wire fencing adjacent to obstacles must be protected eg. with rails or bags for a distance not less than 5 mtrs in either

direction. Obstacles should be built as wide as possible. Refer to minimum face width in Table of Obstacle Specifications.

17.1 The obstacles must be fixed, imposing in shape and appearance, and left as far as possible, in their natural state. When natural obstacles are used they should, if necessary, be reinforced so they remain in the same state throughout the Competition. Artificial obstacles must not be designed or intended to give an unpleasant or unfair surprise to Competitors. Unnatural obstacles not normally found on a Cross-Country ride should not be used in the course. Obstacles should at all times be inviting and designed to build confidence. If advertising signs are used they must be placed on the landing side of the obstacles.

17.2 The fixed and solid part of an obstacle may not exceed the specified height or spread at any of the points at which the Competitor might reasonably attempt to negotiate the obstacle. Brush fences, bull-finches, etc. may exceed the maximum height, only provided that the solid part of the obstacle, below which a horse cannot pass through with impunity, does not exceed the maximum height. In the case of brush fences only, the overall height will not exceed the regulation maximum by more than 150mm. Brush used in fences must be measurable and made of flexible and deformable material that will not injure a horse. A Bullfinch is a thin brush or hedge through which a horse can be reasonably expected to jump. Provision must be made to maintain the bullfinch throughout the section. Refer Appendix 11 page 8

17.3 The drop on the landing side of an obstacle or those which are jumped as a "Ski Jump" are measured from the highest part of the obstacle to the spot where the average horse would normally land. The drop must not exceed the dimensions set down for each Level. The number of obstacles in the course with a drop landing should not be excessive. Refer Appendix 11 page 2

17.4 At obstacles where the horse is compelled to jump into water (ford, lake or wide river) the depth of water must be uniform throughout and shallow. The bottom must be firm and unyielding. Dams are potentially dangerous and must not be used. The length of a water crossing must be at least six (6) metres between entry and exit except where an exit step/s or fence is jumped directly out of water in which case the minimum must be nine (9) metres Refer Appendix 11 page 7.

17.5 Levels 1, 2 and 3 may jump an obstacle into and/or out of water but may not jump water to water. The obstacle into water must be a sloping fence or large log. Brush or spread fences should never be used. Level 4 may drop or step down into water and be able to walk out. Stepping up out of water is not considered a walk out. Level 5 must be able to walk in and walk out of water. Dropping into or stepping up out of water is not considered a walk in/walk out. All water jumps should be wide enough on the approach side to allow an obstacle 3.6 metres wide to be constructed with a small panel 1.2 metres high on either side to stop bold horses attempting to apex the corner. Refer Appendix 11 page 7.

17.6 *Rule deleted as now amalgamated with 17.2*

17.7 The spread of the obstacle is measured from the outside of the rails or other material making up the obstacle. Refer Appendix 11 Page 2

18.3 Where an obstacle may be jumped in one effort but has options involving two or more efforts, each of these options must be lettered as an element. Where each element has an alternative or option,\* a Competitor may jump either the element of the direct route or the option route but must not jump both.

\*(Any option must be identified with exactly the same number/letter as the direct route element. Both the direct route element and the option shall have the red boundary flag marked with black tape). Refer also to 31.5

21.2.1 At obstacles or elements with height, (exceeding 30cm), a horse is considered to have refused if it stops in front of the obstacle/element to be jumped. At all other obstacles or elements, (ie., 30cm or less in height), a stop of not more than 3 seconds followed immediately by a standing jump is not however penalised. The horse may step sideways, but if it steps back this is a refusal.

23.1 If in attempting to negotiate an obstacle a horse should be trapped in such a way that it is liable to injure itself or be unable to proceed without assistance, the Fence Judge or such persons as determined by Event Rule 32. shall decide if parts of the obstacle shall be dismantled or if any other assistance shall be given to extricate the horse.

24.3 The Jump Judge will stop Competitors only upon instruction from the Control Centre or during an emergency at his own obstacle or when it is apparent that a fence ahead of his own is already dealing with an emergency. The fence judge shall not undertake to eliminate a rider for incidents other than those that have occurred solely at their own obstacle without clear and

concise direction from the Ground Jury or such persons as determined by Event Rule 32,

25.6 If a Competitor dismounts, he may be assisted to catch his horse, to adjust saddlery, to remount, or be handed any part of his saddlery or equipment, while he is dismounted or after he has remounted.

25.8 A Competitor may be handed his whip, hat or spectacles, or any aids as pre-approved by the HRCVA at any time without incurring penalties.

29.3 A plan of the course must be displayed by the time the course is open for inspection by Competitors. This plan must include:-

- a) Position of the Start and Finish.
- b) Numbered obstacles and options.
- c) Compulsory flags.
- d) Distance.
- e) Speed.
- f) Number of Obstacles/Efforts
- g) Time Allowed and Time Limit.

30.2 In such a case, every Competitor must be officially and personally informed of the proposed alteration before the start of the Competition. An Official may have to be stationed at the place where an alteration has been made, in order to warn the Competitors. If it is necessary in the interests of safety or in order for an obstacle to be by-passed during the Competition, all jumping faults previously incurred at that obstacle shall be cancelled with the exception of elimination. A Competitor who has been eliminated shall NOT be reinstated in the Competition. Once taken out the obstacle shall NOT be re-introduced. Exception may be made for an adjustable obstacle that serves more than one level. The Ground Jury, or such persons as described in Event Rule 32, will decide what arbitrary adjustment shall be made to Competitors' times.

31.1 Red and white boundary flags are used to mark the start and finish and compulsory sections of the course, to define obstacles and to indicate compulsory changes of direction. They are placed in such a way that a Competitor must leave a red flag on his right and a white flag on his left. All red or white flags must be respected wherever they occur (except as provided in Rule 18.2) under penalty of elimination. They must be passed mounted. Compulsory Flags are intended to maintain distance and/or for safety reasons and should not be used to introduce an un-numbered obstacle or jumping effort. Red and white boundary flags must be mounted in such a way as to allow safe passage of the Competitor. Materials that are, or may become dangerous, are not to be used. E.g. Bamboo, thin dowelling, metal pipe or rod. (Doubled up fencing wire may be used if the length is less than 250mm and there are no sharp ends.) Timber stakes must have a nominal cross section of 40mm or greater. Where PVC pipe or conduit is to be used, it is strongly recommended that minimum 25mm electrical conduit be used. 20mm PVC pipe, is not considered suitable. It is highly recommended that breakaway clips be used.

#### **New Rule**

31.5 *Black Tagged options.* Where an option obstacle is to be given, it may be indicated by placing black tape around the red flag of the obstacle on the direct route and the option itself. The option should be numbered exactly the same as the direct route obstacle. The option shall be marked separately on the map. Where the intended option is to be shared by more than one level, whether as an option or primary fence, a separate number and flag/s for each level must be used. In this instance, black tape should be added to the appropriate levels number on the option in addition to on the flag. Eg, Level 2 riders have an option at 12c. The intended option is also Obstacle 10b for Level 3. Therefore a separate red flag bearing a black vertical line through it and the number 12c, also bearing a black line shall be affixed to the option obstacle.

32.1 Competitors at the start of the cross-country phase must be under the control of a Starter. The horse does not have to stand absolutely immobile, but the Competitor must not get any advantage from a flying start. Each Competitor should be given reasonable warning before the time is due to start, but it is the Competitor's responsibility to ensure that he starts at the correct time. If, after a period of 30 seconds from being given the signal to start, the competitor has not left the start area to commence their cross country phase, they may, at the discretion of the Start Judge, be eliminated.

32.3 An Official should be stationed at a convenient distance from the start, who can halt the Competitor by waving a red flag if the start is in any way false. The Competitor must, under penalty of elimination, return and recross the start line but his starting time will be recorded as if he had started when originally given the signal. In the event of said Official not being utilised, a Competitor observed to jump the start, shall, at the discretion of the Start Judge, be penalised 10 seconds.

36.3 For Cross-Country there must be a Chief Cross-Country Judge, who may be the organiser, to supervise the Jump Judges, Mounted Stewards, Rapid Response Team/s Time-keepers and Scorers. (Note:- that any Stewards mounted on horses must be members of the HRCav or EA and may not be competitors. Refer also to Event Rule 32 for further personnel.

38.1 Any act or series of actions which, in the opinion of the Ground Jury, can clearly and without doubt be defined as abuse of horses, shall be penalised by disqualification. Such acts include:

- a) Rapping. Refer Show Jumping Rule 46
- b) Riding an exhausted horse
- c) Excessive pressing of a tired horse
- d) Riding an obviously lame horse
- e) Excessive use of whip and/or spurs

## SHOW JUMPING RULES

**53.6 - Amend reference to rules 50.1 & 50.2 to read 53.1 & 53.2.**

Delete current rule **66.4** and replace with the following:

66.4 In order to maintain their official status, Course Designers must:

- Remain financial members of an affiliated Club and
- attend a seminar led by an expert recognised by the jumping subcommittee at least once every two years. This may have been arranged by EA or PC as well as HRCav and
- Design show jumping courses for official HRCav events (including Combined Training and Horse Trials events) at least twice per calendar year.

Course Designers who fail to maintain their official status may regain it by:

- Attending a seminar led by an expert recognised by the jumping subcommittee as above

And

- Successfully designing & constructing two courses under the supervision of an examiner nominated by the JSC. The examiner is to report back to the JSC on how the courses rode and were received by competitors.

And

- Sitting an open book theory examination on the HRCav Rules for Show Jumping and the show jumping part of HT & CT. A pass mark of at least 90% is required.

## COMPLAINT HANDLING RULES

Add new rule 1.2

1.2 Complaints relating to horse abuse or cruelty should be reported to the Ground Jury for consideration and appropriate action on the day of the event as per Event rule 37. The host Club is also required to forward details of the complaint to the HRCav for consideration under the Complaint Handling Rules. Failure to report the matter to the Ground Jury does not preclude a complainant from reporting the matter to the HRCav under the Complaint Handling Rules.