

Rules you should be aware of:

(New rules are shown in bold)

All horses taking part in the Regional competition 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 the regional coach at least twice a year and must provide dates they have been assessed. 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. Riders may also be assessed at the Regional show as necessary.**

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 and no more than 3 times in the same class. They can enter a maximum of 12 classes at the national championships over 3 days.

Riders can compete as a junior until the end of the year in which they are 16.

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. 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.

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

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 are riding, leading or side walking. If not already done hats will be tagged, these will be accepted at the national championships. Stewards will check for tags before riders enter any arena.

Side walkers in the countryside challenge do not have to wear hats.

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.

Riders may now qualify in more than one discipline, but bear in mind limits on the number of classes each horse can do. Because of this there will be no combined training at the nationals. **There will be no automatic qualification to the national championships, therefore every rider needs to qualify.**

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 new classification with their entry form**. The organiser will not follow up missing classification so entries without will not be accepted. Riders who were classified over 2 years ago and have not received a 2017 update should contact Sarah Hadley at 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. **The use of calmers is prohibited. See RDA banned substance list for other prohibited substances. Any horse who 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 medicine testing if there is any doubt, with the group being charged if found positive.

All dressage tests can be found on the RDA website. please ensure you are using the current version. Some tests have been updated for 2018. 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.

ID riders must compete in their own classes unless they have a diagnosed physical disability which allows them to ride in the non-graded classes (1-6)

There have been changes to the course for Countryside Challenge – see the rule book

Classes will be split into section of Senior and Junior. If there are more than 10 in a section the first 3 riders will qualify.

Qualifying riders will receive a pack but the entry forms will be given separately to the group organisers. Please ensure you collect these at the show. **All entries should be made through the group. Names should be printed clearly and preferably in capital letters**
After reading these guidelines – please be aware that there may be other changes to rules and you should read the 2018 RDA Rule book. This is now available on the RDA website and shortly to be sent to all group organisers.

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. **Due to new rules on data protection consent is now required and groups should ask riders and volunteers to complete the attached form, which also confirms information on qualification may be passed to RDA UK**

Please ensure that all those attending the show be given a copy of the attached Code of Conduct. Anybody breaching the code may be asked to leave the show & may be eliminated.

No smoking is allowed. Only support dogs are allowed with prior permission

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