

HX2: Festival of the Horse

The Festival of the Horse Challenge (FOTH Challenge) is a test of the ability of a pony/horse and rider to negotiate a show jumping course together with a cross-country course. BRC runs six Challenge competitions for both Junior and Senior riders:

Junior Novice and Intermediate for teams of four riders, (the best three scores to count) and individuals.

Junior Pairs for teams of two junior members.

Senior Novice and Intermediate for teams of four riders, (the best three scores to count) and individuals .

Senior Pairs for teams of two senior members.

All pair's competitions at Area and at the Championships will be run after the corresponding Team/Individual Novice competition.

HX2.1: ELIGIBILITY OF PONIES/HORSES

See Appendix 2

A pony or horse may compete from 1 January in the calendar year that it becomes five years old.

No pony or horse may compete in more than one section of the Area Qualifier or the Championships, with the exception of the pairs, when the horse/pony may compete once in either of the relevant open or novice competition and once in a pair's competition. A rider may compete as an individual and as a team member provided that a different pony/horse is used.

Junior and Senior Pairs: A pair may consist of two ponies/horses that are eligible for either the Novice or Intermediate competitions. No junior may compete in the senior competition and no senior in the junior competition.

Downgrading of winnings: By application; forms available on the BRC website.

Reserves: A reserve for the FOTH Championship must have completed a cross-country or an FOTH Challenge course to the required standard within two years prior of the Championships. This must be verified by a club official on the championship entry form.

Horses practicing over obstacles: See Rule HX1.1.1 ***Area qualifiers must not be held at the championship venue.***

HX2.1.1 ELIGIBILITY OF RIDERS

See Appendix 3.

Any rider, who competes at the Championships, may not have ridden over or through any cross-country fences, elements, obstacles, ditches, steps or water at the same venue as the Championship course during the two weeks(13 days) prior to the day of the Championships.

HX2.2: NUMBERS TO QUALIFY

See Appendix 10.

HX2.3: SADDLERY, TACK AND DRESS

Full details are at Appendices 4, 5, 6 and 7.

HX2.4: THE COURSE

The course will consist of 7 - 10 show jumping obstacles followed by 15 - 28 cross-country jumping efforts.

HX2.4.1: Heights

The maximum height of any obstacle in Area competitions and at Championships will be as per Appendix 8.

HX2.4.2: Plan

A plan of the entire course shall be displayed by the time it is open for inspection. It must include:

- The course to be followed and its length
- Which fences are show jumps which are cross-country jumps
- The numbering of the fences
- Any compulsory turning points
- Fences with alternatives

HX2.4.3: Inspection of the Course

See Rules SJ1.5 and HX1.5.4

HX2.4.4: Marking the Course

See Rule HX1.5.5

HX2.4.5: Modifications to the Course

See Rule HX1.5.6

HX2.4.6: Alternative Fences

See Rule HX1.5.7

HX2.4.7: Fences

Show Jumping:

The show jumping course will:

- consist of 7 - 10 show jumps, including at least one double (at least two doubles at the Championships), and include a proportion with fillers (brushes, walls etc)
- be built to BS standards
- have safety cups, to FEI, standard on the back and centre of spread fences
- fences should be flagged as per cross-country course fences
- black flag alternatives may be used
- offset doubles may be used

Cross-country:

The FOTH Challenge course:

- will consist of 15 – 28 jumping efforts
- will be strongly built with a good ground line and should look imposing
- will have all fences flagged and numbered
- will have any fence at which a pony/horse, in falling, is liable to be trapped or to injure itself, secured by cord in such a way that parts of the fence can be quickly dismantled and rebuilt exactly as before
- may include up to 3 dressing fences in the Junior and Senior Pairs
- Championships (optional at Area)

HX2.4.8: Measurement of Fences

See Rule HX1.5.9

HX2.4.9: Dimensions of Fences:

See Rule HX1.5.10 and Appendix 8

HX2.5: METHOD OF STARTING

HX2.5.1: Team & Individual competitions:

The rider will, when instructed by the judge to do so, commence their show jumping round, once they have completed show jumping they will then go directly onto the cross-country course, they must go through the show jumping finish and the cross-country start lines, these may be combined if necessary.

HX2.5.2: Pairs Competitions

The show jumping phase will be run as a pair's relay, the second rider to wait in a designated area whilst the first rider competes and until the first rider has passed a whip to them to commence their round. The whip must be exchanged in the box. If the whip is dropped by either pair, they may dismount in order to pick it up and request help to remount from the box steward. When the second rider has completed their show jumping round the pair will go directly onto the cross-country course. (If the first rider requires a whip for the cross-country phase this may be held for them by the change-over steward and handed to them prior to leaving the box). If a rider leaves the box prior to hand over of the whip they must return to exchange correctly.

The second rider will go directly from show jumping onto the cross-country phase, the first rider may leave the box when the second rider has jumped their last show jump.

HX2.6: SCORING

HX2.6.1 Penalties

Show Jumping Phase:

Jumping penalties will be incurred as follows:

Knocking down any part of an obstacle including the wing.....	4 Penalties
First disobedience	4 penalties
Second disobedience	8 penalties
Third disobedience	Elimination
First fall of rider.....	8 penalties
First fall of horse	Elimination
Second fall of horse and/or rider.....	Elimination

Cross-country Phase:

Penalties will be incurred as follows, these penalties are cumulative:

First disobedience at a jump	20 penalties
Second disobedience at the same jump	40 penalties
Third disobedience at the same jump	Elimination
Fourth disobedience on the whole course.....	Elimination
Fall of rider at a fence	65 penalties
Second fall of rider on the course	Elimination
Fall of pony/horse at a fence	Elimination
Error of course (omission of jump, boundary flag etc) not rectified, retaking an obstacle already jumped	Elimination
Trapped pony/horse.....	Elimination
Inappropriate or dangerous riding	Discretionary Elimination

HX2.6.2: Dressing Fence Penalties

Horses jump side-by-side	no penalties
Horses separated by up to ½ length.....	5 penalties
Horses separated by between ½ and 1 length	10 penalties
Horses separated by between 1 and 2 lengths.....	20 penalties
Horses separated by more than 2 lengths.....	40 penalties

HX2.6.3: Time

Show Jumping Phase:

The Time allowed will be based on a speed of 325mpm. Every commenced period of 1 second in excess of time allowed will be penalised by 1 time penalty.

Cross-country Phase:

The Optimum Time will be based on a speed of 450mpm (Novice) or 475mpm (Intermediate)

The time penalties being:

Every commenced period of 1 second in excess of optimum time	0.4 penalties
Every commenced period of 1 second under the optimum time	0.4 penalties
If any Novice competitor exceeds the Intermediate speed (475mpm) -	
Every commenced period of one second under the open speed.....	1 penalty
If any Intermediate competitor exceeds the Open Horse Trials speed (520mpm) -	
Every commenced period of one second under the Open Horse Trials	
Speed	1 penalty

HX2.6.4: Definition of Faults

See Rules SJ1.11 and HX1.8.2

HX2.6.5: Double, Treble or Multiple Fences

See Rule HX1.8.3

HX2.6.6: Elimination & Retiring

See Rules SJ1.11.2/3 and HX1.8.4

HX2.7: COMPETITOR IN DIFFICULTY

See Rule HX1.9

HX2.8: OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

See Rules SJ1.10.15 and HX1.10

HX2.9: OVERTAKING

See Rule HX1.11

HX2.10: TIME KEEPING

The entire competition will be timed. The show jumping and cross county phases will be separately timed. Manual time is counted in whole seconds, fractions being taken to the next second (i.e. 30.4 seconds is recorded as 31 seconds). Automatic time is counted to fractions of a second.

The time in the pairs competitions is counted from the signal to start the first rider in each phase to when the second pony's/horse's nose passes the finish after each phase.

Periods when a cross-country fence judge or an official has held a competitor will be deducted from the total time on the course in order to give the actual time for completing the course.

HX2.11: SCORING

HX2.11.1: Total Score

The team total is obtained by adding together the three lowest individual penalty scores per team.

The pairs total is obtained by adding together each rider's penalty scores.

HX2.11.2 Ties

In the event of a tie for any place in a competition, the score of the fourth rider will be taken into consideration. If there is still equality the total marks for all the riders in the tying teams will be considered in the following order:

- lowest total penalties
- fastest show jumping times
- nearest to cross-country optimum time (if still equal preference will be given to the nearest OVER the time allowed)

In the event of a tie for any place in an individual competition, the riders will be placed by considering their marks in the following order:

- lowest total penalties
- fastest show jumping time
- nearest to cross-country optimum time (if still equal preference will be given to the nearest OVER the time allowed)

In the event of a tie for any place in a pair's competition, the pairs will be placed by considering their marks in the following order:

- lowest total penalties
- fastest show jumping times
- nearest to cross-country optimum time (if still equal preference will be given to the nearest OVER the time allowed) for the pair

HX2.12: AWARDS

See Appendix 10.