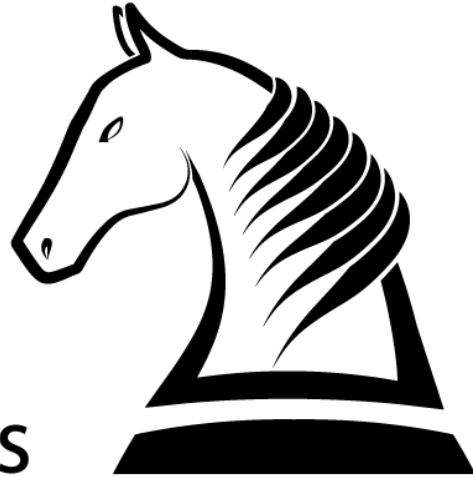


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A.I.R.C.

Association of
Irish Riding Clubs



Rules

Effective 1st January 2019

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Section 1 – General Rules	4
1. Interpretation of the Rules	4
2. Membership	4
3. Members & Show Organisers Responsibilities	5
a) Members Responsibilities	5
i. Rules	5
ii. Code of Conduct	5
iii. Social Media	5
iv. Competitions	5
b) Show Organisers Responsibilities	5
4. Prohibition of Prizes.....	5
5. Eligibility of Riders, Officials, Show Officials, Trainers and Instructors.....	6
a) Age.....	6
b) Club Representation.....	6
c) Membership Cards	6
d) Officials.....	6
e) Show Officials, Trainers and Instructors.....	6
6. Riders - Grading	7
a) Riders are graded so that:	7
b) There are six grades of rider, they are:	7
c) Grade Span	9
d) Multi-Disciplined Competitions.....	9
e) Downgrading	9
f) Upgrading	9
g) Grading Appeals	10
7. Horses - Eligibility for Competition	12
a) Age.....	12
b) Height	13
c) Use of the Horse	13
d) Points Allowed (Dressage Ireland, Show Jumping Ireland and Eventing Ireland).....	13
e) Young Horse Competitions.....	13
f) Green Horse Competitions.....	13
g) Novice Horse Competitions.....	13
h) Stallions	14
8. Competitions	14
a) Dressage	14
b) Show Jumping.....	14
c) Horse Trials	15
d) Cross Jump.....	17
i. The Course.....	17
ii. Timing	17
iii. Speeds.....	18
iv. Fence Dimensions.....	18
v. Penalties	18
vi. Dress / Equipment	18
e) Hunter Trials.....	18
i. Competitors.....	18
ii. Dress / Equipment	19
iii. Course.....	19

Index

iv. Penalties	19
v. Definition of Faults	20
vi. Time Allowed	21
vii. Marking the course.....	21
viii. Plan or Map of the Course.....	21
ix. Competitor in Difficulty at an Obstacle	21
x. Modification of the Course.....	21
xi. Forbidden Assistance.....	21
xii. Elimination and Retiring	22
xiii. Timekeeping	22
xiv. Disqualification	22
9. National Championships	22
10. Special competitions and conditions.....	22
11. International Participation	23
12. Event Notification, Results and Show Reports.....	23
13. Prohibition of competing	23
14. Withdrawing.....	23
15. Substitutes / Reserves.....	23
16. Prize Giving.....	24
17. Safety Officers	24
18. Medical Cover.....	24
19. Complaints	24
20. Sanctioned Activities.....	24
21. Disqualification.....	24
22. Exercise	25
23. Insurance.....	25
24. Dress	25
a) Riding Hats.....	25
b) Body Protectors	25
c) Spurs	25
d) Whips.....	26
e) Clothing.....	26
f) Half Chaps, Leather Gaiters	26
g) Medical Armbands.....	26
h) Jewellery	26
i) Timing Devices.....	26
j) Helmet Cameras	26
25. Hors Concours	26
26. Tack.....	26
27. Horse Welfare.....	27
28. Unattended Horses	27
29. Horse Registrations.....	27
30. Equine Passports.....	27
31. Equine Influenza	27
32. Falls.....	28
33. Photographers & Trade Exhibitors	28
Section 2 Safety Rules	29
1. Registered Safety Officer(s)	29
2. Competitions	29
3. Headgear.....	29

Index

4. Footwear.....	29
5. Before a show.....	29
Section 3 Disciplinary Procedures	31
A. Disciplinary and Appeals Procedure	31
B. Procedure for notification of matters to the Referrals and Discipline Committee.....	33
C. Appeals Committee	36
Section 4 National Championships.....	38
1. Team Show Jumping Championship.....	38
2. Dressage Championships.....	40
3. Show Jumping Championships	41
4. Eventing Championships	41
Section 5 Show Officials	42
1. A.I.R.C. Officials List	42
2. Dressage.....	42
3. Horse Trials.....	42
4. Show Jumping	42
Section 6 Rider Equipment	43
Section 7 At A Glance	48
1. Grading System Guidelines.....	48
2. Eligibility of the Horse	49
3. Horse Trials.....	49
4. Show Jumping	49
Appendix 1 Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Youths and Vulnerable Adults	50
Appendix 2 Prohibited Substances / Anti Doping	50
1. Prohibited Substances – Competitors	50
2. Prohibited Substances – Horses.....	50
Appendix 3 Conversion Table of Yards and Feet to Metres	51
Appendix 4 Calculation of Time Allowed.....	52

Section 1

Section 1 – General Rules

Rules for Club, Inter-Club (Regional) and National Competitions

1. Interpretation of the Rules

The Executive Committee of the Association of Irish Riding Clubs shall be the sole interpreter of the rules.

2. Membership

- a) In order to become a member of an A.I.R.C. Affiliated Club or for a member to successfully renew their membership to such a club he/she must be over seventeen years of age. He/she must pay the annual subscription due in full and have submitted their details on the official membership application form to the relevant A.I.R.C. Affiliated Club Secretary who will process them and forward same to National Office.

Membership will not be acquired/renewed by the individual in question until such a time as National Office is in receipt of the proposed members forwarded details and annual payment due and they have date stamped and processed same. Upon completion of this membership application/renewal process, the member will be issued an annual membership card from National Office.

The annual subscription will be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee.

The annual subscription fee shall be payable on or before January 1st of each year. Any member whose subscription is in arrears will be deemed to have resigned from the A.I.R.C. affiliated club, (and the A.I.R.C.), and may have his or her name removed from the membership list after written notice to the effect that their name may be removed from the membership list should they not pay the subscription due within a time limit specified in the notice has been sent to him or her.

(Members of A.I.R.C. affiliated clubs are referred to as Associate members in the A.I.R.C. Articles of Association but all A.I.R.C. members as defined by said Articles of Association will simply be referred to as members throughout this text as all members are bound equally by the rules herein.)

- b) There shall be two broad categories of membership of an A.I.R.C. Affiliated Riding Club:
- (i) Riding
Riding members may enter and part take in all mounted and unmounted activities of the club and those of other affiliated clubs, if invited to do so, and any such events that fall under the auspices of the A.I.R.C. including national A.I.R.C. events and A.I.R.C. championship events.
 - (ii) Non-Riding
Non-Riding members are restricted to part taking in unmounted events and roles of the A.I.R.C. Affiliated Club, Affiliated Inter Club events, and all events under the auspices of the A.I.R.C. including national A.I.R.C. events and A.I.R.C. Championship events only.

Riding members may only join another club as a Secondary Member. They must be a registered member of the Association and their Secondary Membership must be notified to National Office using the official form. There is currently no fee for this registration.

Section 1

Secondary members are only permitted to enter and part take in all mounted and unmounted training and social activities of the club. They are not permitted to part take in competitions at club, regional or national events or championships.

3. Members & Show Organisers Responsibilities

Club members, by acceptance of their membership to an affiliated club, agree to the following:

a) Members Responsibilities

i. Rules

To be fully conversant and bound by the rules and regulations of the Association.

ii. Code of Conduct

No member shall:

- Conduct themselves at any event in a manner which is offensive to the public.
- At any event, argue, behave with incivility or contempt, or use abusive or threatening language, towards a judge, official or other person.
- Conduct themselves in a manner detrimental to the character and/or prejudicial to the interests of the Association.
- Make, either orally or in writing, to an officer of the Association or Club, or a third party, a statement on a matter covered by the rules which they know to be untrue.

iii. Social Media

Whilst A.I.R.C. acknowledge that social media can be an ideal way to communicate with both members and the wider equestrian community, any defamatory comments relating to members, officials, volunteers and staff or A.I.R.C. will not be tolerated. An online post is libellous if it is damaging to a person's reputation. Reposting or retweeting can be seen as an endorsement of the original comment. A.I.R.C. members and clubs may be subject to disciplinary action if found in breach of this rule.

iv. Competitions

Members are responsible to ensure that they only enter competitions for which they are eligible for as stated on their membership card. The competitors club may also be held accountable to ensure that its members only enter competitions for which they are eligible for as stated on their membership card. Failure to comply with this can result in disciplinary action and/or a maximum fine of up to €1,000.

b) Show Organisers Responsibilities

Clubs/Regions hosting activities must ensure that competitors are members of the Association and are entered into competitions for which they are eligible for, as stated on their membership card. Organisers must also ensure that any AIRC activity is run in accordance with AIRC rules. Failure to comply with this can result in disciplinary action and/or a maximum fine of up to €1,000.

4. Prohibition of Prizes

Prizes in kind to a maximum of €100 per class are permitted in any club, inter-club competitions or championship qualifiers. No money prizes are allowed at any level.

General Rules

Section 1

5. Eligibility of Riders, Officials, Show Officials, Trainers and Instructors

a) Age

All members taking part in A.I.R.C. competitions must be over seventeen years of age on the date of the event/competition and must be bona fide members of an affiliated riding club.

b) Club Representation

A member may only represent one club in inter-club competitions, qualifiers and championship competitions in any Association subscription year, which runs from 1st January to 31st December, and this is the club stated on the members card and recorded on the national database.

c) Membership Cards

No member may enter or take part in any riding club or inter-club activity until such time as they are in possession of their official A.I.R.C. membership card. These cards are strictly non-transferable. Any misuse of a current A.I.R.C. membership card or any breach of A.I.R.C. rules will incur automatic suspension, and a maximum fine of up to €1,000.

When attending inter-club competitions, it is the responsibility of each member to produce their membership card for inspection. If they are unable to produce their card for whatever reason, they will be unable to compete unless their membership status can be verified by their Regional Secretary using the Membership Online service. A search will incur a €5 administrative charge and this will be retained by the event organisers.

d) Officials

Regional officers or committee members at any level must be paid up members of the A.I.R.C. no later than the 30th March. All club officials of a registered riding club must be paid up members of A.I.R.C. on the date of registering the club and must possess a current A.I.R.C. membership card.

e) Show Officials, Trainers and Instructors

The following officials are required at shows and for organisers using officials who are not already listed on a Dressage Ireland / Eventing Ireland or Show Jumping Ireland list, they must register them with National Office to be included on the National Database:

Dressage

Club Show:	Dressage Ireland judge or judge approved by club committee
Inter Club:	Dressage Ireland judge or judge approved by regional committee
National & Championships:	Dressage Ireland judge or AIRC approved judge
Qualifiers:	as for National and Championships

Show Jumping

Club Show: <i>Judge:</i>	Approved SJI deputy judge or judge approved by club committee
<i>Course Designer:</i>	Approved SJI course designer or course designer approved by club committee
Inter-Club: <i>Judge:</i>	Approved SJI judge or judge approved by regional committee
<i>Course Designer:</i>	Approved SJI regional panel or above course designer or course designer approved by regional committee
National & Championships:	
<i>Judge:</i>	Approved SJI judge or AIRC approved judge
<i>Course Designer:</i>	Approved SJI national panel or above course designer or AIRC approved course designer

General Rules

Section 1

Qualifiers: *Judge:* as for National and Championships
Course Designer: as for National and Championships

Horse Trials / Hunter Trials / Cross Jump

The above apply in each phase. In addition, a suitable Technical Delegate (Chief Steward) agreed by A.I.R.C. Horse Trials Committee must be appointed by the organising committee for horse trials and hunter trials.

Trainers and Instructors

Any instructor or trainer engaged in training riding club members at a riding club activity must hold a recognised qualification or have suitable experience in accordance with the criteria published in document D70/12.

6. Riders - Grading

a) Riders are graded so that:

- i. They are not asked in competition to do anything which is above or below their level of expertise and which would prove personally dangerous or impose unnecessary hardship on the horses.
- ii. To standardise, throughout the country, competition standards with the object of placing as many riders as possible on as equal a footing as possible.
- iii. Grading of individual members is the responsibility of the club grading committee, with the advice where appropriate of a recognised instructor. The onus is on the grading committee to grade their riders fairly and in a sporting manner. The grading committee may adopt the Grading in their Club (D32/13) official document when forming their own rules and methods of grading their members.

b) There are six grades of rider, they are:

i. Primary

Is to cater for the beginner rider and therefore it is imperative that this grade is not abused. They may compete at club level and inter club level under A.I.R.C. rules.

Dressage: They may not compete in Dressage Ireland competitions.

Show Jumping: They may not compete in SJAI competitions.

Horse Trials: They may only train over specifically designed fences.

Cross Jump: They may compete in competitions that are specifically designed for them.

Trec: They may compete in competitions that are specifically designed for them. The orienteering phase must be specifically designed and be able to be monitored.

They may not wear spurs. Primary riders are not graded for cross-country. Primary riders may upgrade in dressage without changing their show jumping grade, however they will not be graded in cross-country.

ii. Advanced Primary

Is to cater for the more experienced Primary rider, who is in search of the principles of riding and training.

Dressage: They may compete in Dressage Ireland competitions or unregistered Dressage Ireland competitions, up to and including Preliminary standard. Should they attain ~~60~~ 65% or higher or the equivalent points on ~~three~~ five occasions in registered and unregistered Dressage Ireland competitions in a calendar year, they will be required to upgrade to Intermediate.

General Rules

Section 1

- Show Jumping: They may not compete in classes exceeding 0.80m.
Horse Trials: They may only compete in club and inter-club competitions over a specifically designed course.
Hunter Trials: They may only compete in club and inter-club competitions over a specifically designed course.
Cross Jump: They may compete in competitions at an appropriate height.
Trec: They may compete in Le Trec.

They may not wear spurs.

iii. Intermediate

Is to cater for the more competent rider in search of developing the principles of riding and training.

- Dressage: They may compete and gain points at Preliminary level only in registered and unregistered Dressage Ireland competitions. Should they obtain 72% or higher on three occasions in registered and unregistered Dressage Ireland competitions, they will be required to upgrade to Advanced Intermediate.
Show Jumping: They may not compete in classes exceeding 0.90m.
Horse Trials: They may not compete in classes where they exceed the dimensions as prescribed in 7, b for this grade.
Hunter Trials: They may compete in competitions at an appropriate height.
Cross Jump: They may compete in competitions at an appropriate height.
Trec: They may compete in Le Trec.

iv. Advanced Intermediate

Is to cater for the more active rider who is beginning to understand the principles of riding and training.

- Dressage: They may compete and gain points up to and including Novice level in registered and unregistered Dressage Ireland competitions. Should they obtain 72% or higher on three occasions at Novice level in registered and unregistered Dressage Ireland competitions, they will be required to upgrade to Open.
Show Jumping: They may not compete in classes exceeding 1.00m with the exception of Amateur A level only.
Horse Trials: They may not compete in classes where they exceed the dimensions as prescribed in 7, b for this grade.
Hunter Trials: They may compete in competitions at an appropriate height.
Cross Jump: They may compete in competitions at an appropriate height.
Trec: They may compete in Le Trec.

v. Open

Is to cater for the more experienced and active rider.

- Dressage: They may compete and gain points up to and including Elementary level in registered and unregistered Dressage Ireland competitions.
Show Jumping: They may not compete in classes exceeding 1.10m with the exception of Amateur AA level.
Horse Trials: They may not compete in classes where they exceed the dimensions as prescribed in 7, b for this grade.
Hunter Trials: They may compete in competitions at an appropriate height.
Cross Jump: They may compete in competitions at an appropriate height.

General Rules

Section 1

Trec: They may compete in Le Trec.

vi. Advanced Open

The Advanced Open rider may compete at any level in Dressage Ireland, Eventing Ireland and Show Jumping Ireland competitions.

c) Grade Span

The riders will be graded for the disciplines of dressage, show jumping and horse trials. A rider may not have a span of more than one different grade i.e. if they are graded Advanced Primary in any discipline then they may be no higher than Intermediate in any other discipline, or if they are Open in any discipline then they may be no lower than Advanced Intermediate in any other discipline. The cross-country grade must not be higher than the show jumping grade at any level.

In circumstances where the show jumping and cross-country grades are permitted to be two grades lower than the dressage grade, the two jumping grades must be the same.

In extraordinary circumstances where the show jumping and cross-country grades are permitted to be three or more grades lower than the dressage grade, the two jumping grades must be the same. Approval for these grades must be approved their respective regional committee and sanctioned by National Office.

Primary riders may upgrade in dressage without changing their show jumping grade, however they will not be graded in cross-country.

d) Multi-Disciplined Competitions

In multi-disciplined competitions where the rider has split gradings, then their grade for that competition will be as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| i. Combined Training: | Competitors will compete at their show jumping grade. |
| ii. Horse Trials: | Competitors will compete at their cross-country grade. |
| iii. Cross Jump: | Competitors will compete at their cross-country grade.
Although Primary riders are not issued with a cross-country grade, it is understood that they may still compete at Primary level over a specifically designed course. |

This is done in order to prevent the rider from being asked to jump above their level of competence and so minimise risks to personal safety and prevent abuse of the horse.

e) Downgrading

In special circumstances the riders may apply to their regional committee, through their club secretary, for downgrading. Special forms are provided for both regional and club secretaries and these must be submitted to A.I.R.C. National Office by both parties. If granted, this downgrading applies for a specific period as stipulated by the regional committee. The regional committee may take whatever steps they deem necessary in arriving at a decision to down grade. In the event of a dispute, members have the right to appeal their case to the Executive Committee of A.I.R.C. through their club secretary.

f) Upgrading

No member may upgrade themselves "on the day" of any competition. Upgrading can only be permitted by application to the regional committee, through their club secretary. Special forms are provided for both regional and club secretaries and these must be submitted to National Office by both parties. This is to minimise risks to personal safety and prevent abuse of the horse.

General Rules

Section 1

g) Grading Appeals

The grading appeals process is outlined below:

a. Regional Grading Committee

- i. There shall be a regional grading committee comprised of the grading officers of each club for that region and the regional grading officer of the region. The regional grading officer will assume the position of chairperson for the committee.
- ii. The committee may meet annually within one month of the AIRC Annual General Meeting and thereafter when necessary.
- iii. (a) Where an AIRC Affiliated Club disputes the grade of a member of another AIRC Affiliated Club where both clubs are in the same region, the complainant club shall refer the matter in writing using the prescribed form as provided to all club and regional secretaries to the National Office who will refer the matter on to the Regional Grading Committee. (A fee of €200 must accompany this referral. This may be refunded should the complaint be upheld). The club of the member's grade who is being questioned will be informed as soon as possible of the query being raised.

(b) The Regional Grading Committee may investigate the matter as they see fit and may seek to look at databases such as those belonging to Eventing Ireland, Show Jumping Ireland and Dressage Ireland and may meet to discuss their conclusions. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 3 members. If they are satisfied after their investigation that the member in question is at the correct grade they shall take no further action but will inform both clubs of their decision within seven days of making same. If they are not satisfied after this process the member in question will be invited to a regional assessment day at a time and venue nominated by the regional grading committee.

The assessment day will be presided over by 3 members of the committee to include where possible the chairperson. The member in question will be notified of the date, time and place of the assessment day no later than 14 days beforehand by the committee.

- iv. The committee may hold at least one grading assessment day annually.
- v. Where it is not possible to have cross country grading at a regional assessment day due to ground conditions, if the committee fears a member is graded at too high or low a level in that grade, he/she may be suspended from this level/compete at a lower level (or the same level where the committee fears the member is competing at too low a level) in this discipline at the grading officer's discretion until such a time as that member can be assessed in this discipline.
- vi. At the grading day, the member will be assessed in all disciplines over which the member's grade is queried by the regional grading committee. The regional grading committee may be assisted by a dressage Ireland judge/experienced senior competitor, Eventing Ireland Official/experienced senior rider or a show jumping Ireland Judge/experienced senior rider. After this process, the committee may decide to:
 - a. Upgrade the member;

General Rules

Section 1

- b. Downgrade the member;
 - c. Leave the member's grade unchanged.
- vii. Where a member is dissatisfied with the new grade that is awarded to him or where the complainant is unhappy with the decision of the regional grading committee he/she shall have the right to appeal the matter to the Grading Appeals Committee of the A.I.R.C. no later than fourteen days of the receipt of the committee's decision by the member's club secretary.

The Committee shall write to the member through their Club secretary as soon as may be after making their decision and shall at the same time notify the complainant club of their decision (where necessary). The appeal shall be made in writing setting out briefly the grounds for appeal and shall include a fee of €200 which may be refunded should the appellant be successful.

- viii. Where an A.I.R.C. Affiliated Club disputes the grade of a member of another A.I.R.C. Affiliated Club but both clubs are not in the same region, the matter will be referred to the national committee in writing using the prescribed form as provided to all club and regional secretaries (together with a fee of €200) who will in turn nominate an independent regional grading committee to assess the member and thereafter the process in rules (6, g, a, iii, a) – (6, g, a, vi) above applies.

Any member dissatisfied with the new grade awarded to them or any complainant club unhappy with the decision of the committee shall have the right to appeal the matter to the Grading Appeals Committee of the A.I.R.C. as per (6, g, a, vii) above.

- ix. Where an A.I.R.C. affiliated Riding Club Grading Officer is not happy to make a decision on the grade of any particular member at a club assessment day, (as per the individual club grading guidelines), whether that member elected to be assessed for the purposes of changing grades or the grading officer queried that persons grade in the first instance, the grading officer shall have jurisdiction to refer, using the prescribed form supplied to all grading officers, that member's assessment to the regional grading committee as a matter of first instance. The Committee shall follow the process in rules (6, g, a, iii, a) – (6, g, a, vi) and the member shall have the right to appeal the grade awarded to him/her by the committee to the Grading Appeals Committee of the A.I.R.C. as per (6, g, a, vii) above.
- x. Where the member of an A.I.R.C. Affiliated Club who was assessed by their own club's grading officer at an assessment day or otherwise, either at their own election for the purposes of changing their grade or at the bidding of the club's grading officer, is unsatisfied with his/her grade, that member will have the right of a final appeal of the matter to the regional grading committee in writing using the form supplied to their club secretary and together with a fee of €200 which may be refunded should the appellant be successful. Thereafter the process in (6, g, a, iii, a) – (6, g, a, vi) shall be followed. As this is a final right of appeal the appellant member will not have the right to appeal the decision of the Regional Grading Committee to the Grading Appeals Committee of the A.I.R.C.

- b. Grading Appeals Committee of the A.I.R.C.

Section 1

- i. There shall be Grading Appeals Committee of the A.I.R.C. It shall consist of an 8-person panel who shall be appointed by the National Committee at one of their meetings and upon obtaining the permission from such persons. The persons appointed may be members of the A.I.R.C. or an A.I.R.C. affiliated riding club and will be either:
 - a. A Show Jumping Ireland Judge;
 - b. A Dressage Ireland Judge;
 - c. A Senior Eventing Ireland Society Steward;
 - d. A professional Show Jumper or coach;
 - e. A professional/semi-professional dressage rider or coach;
 - f. A professional eventer or coach.
- ii. The Executive Committee shall appoint a three-member committee, one of which will be appointed chairperson, to hear any appeals referred to the panel.
- iii. If a member of the Grading Appeals Committee retires, the National Committee will appoint a replacement.
- iv. Appeals can be heard by this committee from the categories of person set out in Rule 6 above.
- v. Where a member is dissatisfied with the new grade that is awarded to him/her by the regional grading committee, (where this was a decision at first instance and not an appeal from a grading officer's decision), or where a complainant is unhappy with the decision of the regional grading committee he/she shall have the right to appeal the matter to the Grading Appeals Committee of the A.I.R.C. no later than 14 days of the receipt of the committee's decision by the member's club secretary. The appeal shall be made in writing setting out briefly the grounds for appeal and shall include a fee of €200 which may be refunded should the appellant be successful. National Office will notify the member and/or complainant of the time and date of the hearing. All parties will be given an opportunity to put forward their arguments.
- vi. Where the grading appeals committee feels it is appropriate, they may elect to re-assess the member in question's riding skills at a time, place and date to which all parties will be notified by National Office.
- vii. The grading appeals committee may:
 - a. Upgrade the member;
 - b. Downgrade the member;
 - c. Leave the member's grade unchanged.
- viii. The grading appeals committee will notify National Office of their decision as soon as is practically possible and National Office will in turn notify the member and/or complainant in question of the decision from the grading appeals committee.

7. Horses - Eligibility for Competition

a) Age

No horse under four years of age is eligible to compete in riding club competitions. In cross-country type competitions, no horse may be under five years of age with the exception of young horse competitions.

General Rules

Section 1

b) Height

Both horses and ponies 143 cms & over are eligible to compete in riding club competitions, except in cross-country competitions, where they must be 148 cms or over. Horse or ponies of any height may be ridden in training and social activities.

c) Use of the Horse

Show Jumping:	Where a horse is being used excessively on any one day the host club or safety officer has the right to refuse to allow a horse to compete to prevent over-use. In team competitions, horses may only start twice, once on each team representing one club. However, they may only jump-off against the clock once in the competition for one team.
Horse Trials:	A horse may only compete once in a day.
Hunter Trials:	A horse may only start twice in a day.
Cross Jump:	A horse may only start twice in a day.

d) Points Allowed (Dressage Ireland, Show Jumping Ireland and Eventing Ireland)

Dressage: No horse competing in A.I.R.C. dressage competitions may have won more than 249 Dressage Ireland points, or if exceeding these points may not have competed under Dressage Ireland rules within the previous calendar year. Advanced Open riders may compete on any horse, unrestricted, in individual graded competitions only.

Show Jumping: No horse competing in A.I.R.C. show jumping competitions may have competed at 1.30m or higher under SJI rules within the previous calendar year. No pony competing in A.I.R.C. show jumping competitions may have competed at 1.20m or higher under SJI rules within the previous calendar year. Advanced Open riders may compete on any horse, unrestricted, in individual graded competitions only.

Horse Trials: No horse competing in A.I.R.C. horse trials may have competed at FEI 3* level or higher within the previous calendar year. Advanced Open riders may compete on any horse, unrestricted, in individual graded competitions only.

e) Young Horse Competitions

Young Horse competitions are open to horses aged 4 & 5 years as stated on the animals passport. The date of birth only applies to their year and not the day or month. Riders competing in this class must be of Advanced Intermediate standard and above.

f) Green Horse Competitions

Green Horse competitions are open to horses needing experience out of their riders' graded class. Riders competing in this class must be of Advanced Intermediate standard and above. This applies for one calendar year commencing 1st January for the discipline in which they compete.

g) Novice Horse Competitions

Novice Horse is open to riders of any grade wishing to compete at a lower level than their stated grade. Horses that compete as a Novice Horse will not be eligible to enter any other competition in that discipline on the day. They may only, if eligible, compete in two adjacent competitions on

General Rules

Section 1

the day. Novice horses may only be awarded clear round rosettes and will not be eligible for the prizes or be recorded in the competitions results.

h) Stallions

Competitors must inform the organiser of any A.I.R.C. event, in advance, if they intend on riding a stallion at their show. They must also wear a red sash.

8. Competitions

a) Dressage

If a member wins a pure dressage competition, twice in a two-year period at the same grade, at the Riding Clubs Festival or Dressage Championships, they must upgrade to the next level in their dressage. This only applies to individual graded pure dressage competitions and excludes team, dressage to music, pairs dressage and other novelty dressage competitions.

b) Show Jumping

Competitions will be run under current Show Jumping Ireland rules. Treble combinations may not be included in courses for grades below Intermediate.

Grade:	P	AP	I	AI	O	AO
Max. Height	0.70m	0.80m	0.90m	1.00m	1.10m	1.20m
Max. Spread	0.60m	0.80m	0.90m	1.00m	1.10m	1.20m

(m = metres)

It should be noted that these are the maximum heights. For the Primary and Advanced Primary classes the recommended height is 0.65m for Primary and 0.75m for Advanced Primary in their first round of competition.

The heights laid down apply to all jumping courses in all competitions unless special competition rules apply (see special competitions.)

All fences must be knockable in derby competitions with the exception of natural type obstacles deemed appropriate by the course designer.

Safety cups must be used as support for back poles of a spread obstacle and in the case of a triple-bar, to support the centre and back poles of the obstacle. Safety cups must also be used in the exercise arena. Where no safety cups are available, the course cannot include spreads.

Special or S Competitions

Event organisers may include Special or S competitions at their shows from 1st September until 31st December each year.

These competitions allow competitors to compete at 0.05m higher and or/ wider in each grade. They must be run as a separate class for each grade (i.e. Intermediate S, Primary S and so on).

Time Allowed

The course must be measured by wheel by the course builder. The following times should be applied:

Grade:	P	AP	I	AI	O/AO	Derby
Indoor	300 mpm	325 mpm	325 mpm	325 mpm	325 mpm	350 mpm

General Rules

Section 1

Outdoor	325 mpm	350 mpm	350 mpm	350 mpm	350 mpm	375 mpm
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(mpm = metres per minute)

Optimum Time

When using optimum time for Primary competitions, the winner is the rider nearest to the time with the lowest penalties, whether under or over the time. In primary competitions, the optimum time will be calculated by subtracting 3 seconds from the time allowed.

In the event of more than one rider having the same time difference, the person under the time is placed higher than the person on the same time difference, over the optimum time. The next nearest, under or over is placed next.

The optimum time for a primary competition should be announced at the beginning of a class. It should not be shown whilst a rider is jumping but displayed at the completion of each round.

In Advanced Primary competitions, the first round will be a time allowed round and time penalties will apply to those who exceed the time allowed. In the second round, the optimum time will be calculated by subtracting 3 seconds from the time allowed thus creating a 3 second window for those exceeding the optimum time to bring it in line with the time allowed where riders exceeding the time allowed will incur time penalties. The winner is the rider nearest to the time with the lowest penalties.

The time allowed (i.e. optimum time) for an advanced primary competition should be announced at the beginning of the class. It may be displayed whilst a rider is jumping.

c) Horse Trials

Competitions will be run under current Eventing Ireland rules for horse trials. For eligibility of horses, consult rule 6.

Phase One - Dressage

We recommend horse trials dressage tests to be used in this phase. The test will be ridden from memory. The test may not be commanded. Tests will be announced annually and will be ridden under the current rules for dressage. The Dressage Ireland rules apply except for A.I.R.C. rule number 24 (d).

A coefficient score will be applied to competitors who are registered with a dressage grade higher than their cross-country grade in graded classes only. The coefficient will be applied to the riders score after dressage. A coefficient will apply as follows:

Grade:	AP XC	I XC	AI XC	O XC	AO XC
AP D	1.0	1.0	-	-	-
I D	1.1	1.0	1.0	-	-
AI D	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	-
O D	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0
AO D	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0

(D = Dressage XC = Cross-Country)

Phase Two - Cross Country

General Rules

Section 1

The Course - The length of the course shall be not less than one mile. The fences will be fixed, and there must not be less than 14 fences. The Eventing Ireland rules apply except for A.I.R.C. rule number 24 (d).

Grade:	AP	YH	I	AI	O/AO
Speed:	275-375 mpm	300-400 mpm	350-450 mpm	350-450 mpm	400-500 mpm

(mpm = metres per minute)

Speed for Roads & Tracks 180-220 mpm; Steeplechase: 400 – 550 mpm for Intermediate, Advanced Intermediate and Open at the discretion of the Technical Delegate.

Size of Obstacles: It should be remembered that in the construction and measuring of cross-country obstacles, that heights and widths are taken from where a horse would normally be expected to take off from. Brush fences are allowed up to 10cms in excess of the maximum height in each grade.

Advanced Open/Open

Maximum height	1.10m
Maximum spread	1.25m above ground
Ground measurement of fence with ditch	1.85m
Plain stream, ditch etc.	2.15m
Drop fences would not normally exceed	1.40m
Brush fence	1.20m

Where a fixed obstacle exceeds the dimensions as laid down, then an easier alternative must be provided.

Advanced Intermediate

Maximum height	1.00m
Maximum spread	1.25m above ground
Ground measurement of fence with ditch	1.50m
Plain stream, ditch etc.	1.70m
Drop fences would not normally exceed	1.20m
Brush fence	1.10m

Where a fixed obstacle on the course exceeds the dimensions as laid down, then an easier alternative must be included.

Intermediate

Maximum height	0.90m
Maximum spread	1.10m above ground
Ground measurement of fence with ditch	1.20m
Plain stream, ditch etc.	1.30m
Drop fences would not normally exceed	1.00m
Brush fence	1.00m

Where a fixed obstacle exceeds the dimensions as laid down, then an easier alternative must be provided.

General Rules

Section 1

Advanced Primary

The course must be *encouraging* to this grade and it must be borne in mind that this is the most novice of our grades.

Maximum height	0.80m
Maximum spread	0.80m
Ground measurement of fence with ditch	1.20m
Plain stream, ditch etc.	0.90m
Drop or Step	0.80m
Brush fence	0.80m

The course should have approx 15 fences and should be approximately one mile in length.

Times will not exceed:

Advanced Open and Open	500 metres per minute
Advanced Intermediate	450 metres per minute
Intermediate	450 metres per minute
Advanced Primary	375 metres per minute

Phase 3 - Show Jumping

Heights as prescribed in 7, a. Anyone eliminated in the show jumping phase must seek permission from the Technical Delegate (Chief Steward) to start the cross-country phase.

Competitors, of all grades including Advanced Primary, exceeding the optimum time in show jumping shall incur one penalty for every second, up to the time limit, which is twice the optimum time. Exceeding the time limit incurs elimination.

Equality of Marks

In the event of equality between two or more riders, the classification is decided by:

1. The best cross-country score including faults at obstacles and time penalties.
2. If there is still equality, the classification is decided in favour of the rider whose cross-country time was closest to the optimum time.
3. If there is still equality, the rider with the best show jumping score (time & obstacles).
4. If there is still equality, the classification will be decided in favour of the rider with the best percentage score in the dressage test.
5. If there is still equality the tie will remain in the final classification and the result will be a tie.

d) Cross Jump

This is a competition over a course comprising of a mixture of show jumps, cross-country jumps and natural type fences over a distance of approximately 1 mile (1.6 kilometres) of open, undulating terrain.

i. The Course

The course is designed with two sections of 5 show jumps and another section of 10 cross-country / natural type fences. The start and finish line are positioned together for timing. The show jumps should be enclosed with five on each side of the arena. The course is measured from the start to finish line.

ii. Timing

The time starts when the competitor has been counted down and is stopped when the competitor crosses the finish line. All classes will be judged on optimum time.

General Rules

Section 1

iii. Speeds

The following speeds are permitted for Cross Jump competitions:

Grade:	P	AP	I	AI	O/AO
SJ	325 mpm	350 mpm	350 mpm	350 mpm	350 mpm
XC	325 mpm	350 mpm	400 mpm	400 mpm	400 mpm

iv. Fence Dimensions

As those permitted for each grade in show jumping and cross-country. In the Primary class, all fences must be within the same area and must not exceed 70cms.

v. Penalties

Knocking down an obstacle, classed as knockable:	5 penalties
First refusal, run out or circle at an obstacle:	10 penalties
Second refusal, run out or circle at an obstacle:	20 penalties
Third refusal, run out or circle at an obstacle:	Elimination
Fall of rider:	Elimination
Fall of horse:	Elimination

A competitor is considered to have fallen when he is separated from his horse in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle.

A horse is considered to have fallen when at the same time both its shoulder and quarters have touched either the ground or the obstacle and the ground or when it is trapped in a fence in such a way that it is unable to proceed without assistance or is liable to injure itself. A fall will always be penalised when it occurs between the elements of a multiple obstacle.

The above penalties are cumulative.

Error of course not rectified, omission of obstacle or boundary flag, jumping obstacle in wrong direction, or re-taking an obstacle already jumped:	Elimination
Continuing the course without crash helmet or with chin strap undone:	Elimination
Running through fence already down:	5 penalties

If a knockable fence is knocked down by a competitor in refusing, the competitor or team, as the case may be, may jump it in that condition and penalties both for the refusal and knock down are incurred. If, however, the competitor waits for the obstacle to be adjusted, no allowance will be made for the time involved. In this case, the fence judge's instruction must be obeyed.

vi. Dress / Equipment

The rules for dress and equipment as per the rules for the cross-country section of Horse Trials.

e) Hunter Trials

i. Competitors

Riders may compete as individuals, pairs or teams. The organisers may run all or some of these classes. In pairs or team competitions if they are of mixed grades they must compete over a course suitable for the lowest grade allowed in that pair / team. In the event of classes being

General Rules

Section 1

oversubscribed, the organisers have the right to ballot out entries - competitors with 2 or more horses entered will be balloted first.

ii. Dress / Equipment

The rules for dress and equipment are as the rules for the cross-country section of Eventing.

iii. Course

The course should be between 2-3 kilometres in length, with a maximum of 24 fences. The start and finish should be adjacent to assist timing and control. Fences should utilise and resemble natural fences and should be strongly built. A reasonable number of fences should be knockable but constructed so that they are not easily dislodged.

The dimensions of fences should be as per eventing rules for each grade. All obstacles must be flagged and numbered.

a) Hazards

Certain natural features, not regarded as obstacles, may be classified as hazards. The only penalty at a hazard shall be elimination if a horse resists the rider for 60 consecutive seconds. Riders may not dismount and lead through a hazard, if they do, they will be eliminated.

b) Faults

- There are no penalty zones. Faults will be penalised only if, in the opinion of the fence judge, they are connected with the negotiation, or attempted negotiation, of one of the numbered obstacles.
- However, if, after the signal to start, a horse resists its rider anywhere on the course for 60 consecutive seconds, they shall be eliminated.

iv. Penalties

Knocking down an obstacle, classed as knockable:	5 penalties
First refusal, run out or circle at an obstacle:	10 penalties
Second refusal, run out or circle at an obstacle:	20 penalties
Third refusal, run out or circle at an obstacle:	Elimination
Fall of rider:	Elimination
Fall of horse:	Elimination

A competitor is considered to have fallen when he is separated from his horse in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle.

A horse is considered to have fallen when at the same time both its shoulder and quarters have touched either the ground or the obstacle and the ground or when it is trapped in a fence in such a way that it is unable to proceed without assistance or is liable to injure itself. A fall will always be penalised when it occurs between the elements of a multiple obstacle.

The above penalties are cumulative.

Error of course not rectified, omission of obstacle or boundary flag, jumping obstacle in wrong direction, or re-taking an obstacle already jumped:	Elimination
Continuing the course without crash helmet or with chin strap undone:	Elimination
Running through fence already down:	5 penalties

Section 1

If a knockable fence is knocked down by a competitor in refusing, the competitor or team, as the case may be, may jump it in that condition and penalties both for the refusal and knock down are incurred. If, however, the competitor waits for the obstacle to be adjusted, no allowance will be made for the time involved. In this case, the fence judge's instruction must be obeyed.

If one member of a team knocks down an obstacle, the remaining members of the team will jump it in that state and only 5 penalties are incurred.

Refusals at an obstacle are cumulative, irrespective of whether they are incurred by the same competitor or by different members of a team. i.e. should each rider in a team of three have one refusal, the team is eliminated.

When a fence is knocked down by the previous team, the fence judge shall, if necessary, hold up the next team while the fence is adjusted. In this case, the time shall be recorded and deducted from the team's overall time.

Stones knocked from a loose wall do not count as a knock down.

Double, Treble or Multiple Obstacles:

If two or more obstacles, although sited together, are designed as separate problems each will be numbered and judged independently. A competitor may circle between them without penalty, providing that this is not a result of attempting to negotiate the obstacle. He must not, under penalty of elimination retake any obstacle, which he has already jumped.

If however, an obstacle is formed of several elements, such as banks or steps, normal or angled combinations, each part shall be flagged and marked with a different letter (A, B, C, etc) but only the first element shall be numbered and it will be judged as one obstacle. A competitor may refuse only twice in all without incurring elimination and any circle is penalised as for a refusal, but, if a competitor refuses at any part, he is at liberty to retake the complete obstacle.

v. Definition of Faults

A horse is considered to have refused if it stops in front of the obstacle to be jumped. Stopping without stepping back, followed immediately by a standing jump is penalised. If the halt is sustained, or if the horse steps back even a single pace, is then re-presented at the obstacle and halts or steps back a second time, this constitutes a second refusal, and so on.

A horse is considered to have run out if he avoids an obstacle to be jumped and runs out to one side or the other. A horse is considered to have circled if it re-crosses its original track, from whichever direction, while negotiating or attempting to negotiate an obstacle. If a horse completes a circle while being re-presented at an obstacle after a refusal or run-out, it is only penalised for the refusal or run-out as a result of negotiating the obstacle.

A competitor may circle without penalty between two obstacles even if they are quite close together, provided he/she clearly does not present his/her horse in an attempt to negotiate the second obstacle after jumping the first. However, if two or more elements of the obstacle are lettered A, B, C, i.e. are designed as an integral test, then any circling between these elements will be penalised.

Section 1

A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulders and quarters of the horse have touched either the ground or the obstacle and the ground as a result of negotiating the fence.

A rider is considered to have fallen if it is necessary to remount his horse. A fall of horse and rider incurs compulsory retirement.

vi. Time Allowed

The winner will be the rider or team who completes the course with the least jumping penalties and closest to the optimum time. Time penalties are only considered after jumping penalties have been accounted for. The optimum time will be calculated using cross country speeds for each grade.

A rider who exceeds or is slower than the set optimum time by 10 seconds or more will incur penalty points at the rate of one penalty per second or part thereof. In team or pairs competitions the optimum time must be as for the lowest grade allowed in that class.

vii. Marking the course

Red and white boundary flags or indicators are used to mark the start and finish and compulsory changes of direction. They are placed in such a way that a rider must leave all red flags on his right and all white flags on his left. Such red and white flags must be respected under penalty of elimination, wherever they may occur on the course, whether singly or in pairs. Only obstacles which are numbered and marked by two boundary flags are judged as obstacles. All boundary and turning flags must be in position prior to the inspection of the course by competitors.

Yellow and orange directional flags or indicators are placed so as to mark the route and help the rider in keeping to the course. They may be passed on either side and keeping close to them is not necessary. Boundary and Direction flags shall be large and placed in a conspicuous place.

viii. Plan or Map of the Course

A plan or map of the course shall be displayed by the time it is open for inspection.

ix. Competitor in Difficulty at an Obstacle

A competitor or team in difficulty at an obstacle must give way to the following competitor or team by quickly clearing away from the obstacle.

x. Modification of the Course

After the course is open for inspection by competitors, no alteration may be made, except that, where exceptional circumstances (such as heavy rain) make one or more obstacles unfair or dangerous, the organiser is authorised, with the sanction of the Chief Steward, to reduce the severity of, or by pass such obstacles. Such alterations to be announced over the PA system and a note to that effect must be prominently displayed on the official plan of the course.

xi. Forbidden Assistance

Outside assistance is forbidden and is liable to result in elimination. Any intervention by a third party, whether solicited or not, with the object of facilitating the task of the rider or helping his horse is considered forbidden assistance. Similarly, it is forbidden for one competitor to join or accept a lead from another. It is forbidden for a Fence Judge, Official or any Third Party to call back or assist a competitor by directions to rectify an error of course, except to prevent injury or accident (for example faulty saddlery).

Section 1

Catching a loose horse after a fall, or providing he dismounts, helping a competitor adjust his saddlery and to remount, is permitted. In such a case, the course must be resumed at the exact spot at which it was interrupted. Whether or not a competitor has received forbidden assistance and is to be left to the discretion of the Chief Steward. Fence Judges should report any incidents to the Chief Steward for consideration.

xii. Elimination and Retiring

Competitors eliminated as a result of a fall or retiring from any part of the competition for any reason whatsoever shall do so at walk and shall take every precaution to avoid disturbing other competitors. They shall not jump any obstacle after retiring.

xiii. Timekeeping

Time is counted from the signal to start until the instant when the team's last horse's nose (or an individual horse's nose in an individual event) passes the finishing post. The starter will give reasonable warning before giving the signal to start. Although in principle it should be a standing start this does not mean that the horse must be stationary. He may be moving in any direction other than towards the starting line, but time is invariably counted from the instant the starter gives the signal to start. If the horse fails to cross the starting line within 60 seconds the competitor is eliminated. Assistance at the start is permitted provided it ceases immediately the signal to start is given.

When it is necessary for an official to stop a team/competitor on the course while an obstacle is being repaired or because of an accident the period during which a team/competitor was held up will be deducted from his total time taken as in the above paragraph to give his correct time for completing the course. Time will be taken from when the last member of the team reaches stopping point until the first member restarts. The time taken to replace an obstacle that has been knocked down by refusing will not be deducted unless it is unduly prolonged.

xiv. Disqualification

The Technical Delegate (Chief Steward) may disqualify a competitor at any stage of the competition and this decision is final;

1. For dangerous riding, or
2. If, in his opinion, the horse is lame, sick or exhausted, or
3. For misuse of whip or spur, or ill-treatment of the horse, or
4. For unseemly behaviour, including bad language or for any breach of the rules.

9. National Championships

Dates for qualifiers for national championships are co-ordinated by National Office each year. Each region must submit at least two alternative dates for each championship no later than 1st November each year.

Inter-club events are not permitted to take place on the same dates as National Championships with the exception of the Team Show Jumping Championship where qualification is necessary.

10. Special competitions and conditions

The Board of Directors may from time to time sanction special national and international competitions and qualifiers. These will have rules that supersede the various heights and spreads as laid down in rule 7 and any other special conditions.

Section 1

11. International Participation

The International Affairs Committee (IAC), appointed by the Executive committee, may be formed for Riding Club members seeking to participate in international competitions on behalf of the Association.

The IAC, in conjunction with the Board of Directors, will determine the qualifying criteria for selection to compete internationally. All riders/clubs wishing to compete at International events must apply in writing to the Executive Committee.

12. Event Notification, Results and Show Reports

For inter-club (regional) activities (i.e. shows, training events, championship qualifiers, regional meetings. etc) the organising club or regional secretary must notify National Office of the activity 28 days in advance of the date of it taking place on the official event notification form or via the online form available on www.airc.ie.

For club events, secretaries must record details of any activities in the club committee meeting minutes in advance of them taking place. National Office does not need to be notified of club activities.

Secretaries must return a show summary report for any inter-club (regional) show/event to National Office on the Show Summary Report Form (F52/14) which is available to download on www.airc.ie. This must be returned to National Office within 14 days of the date of it taking place.

Organisers of championship qualifiers must also return results to National Office within 3 days of it taking place on the official results form.

A fine of up to €200 may be imposed on clubs failing to comply with this rule by their region.

13. Prohibition of competing

Members of affiliated clubs being members of A.I.R.C. are prohibited from taking part in competitions for riding club members unless those competitions conform to the rules of A.I.R.C.

14. Withdrawing

Any team or individual who does not intend to compete at the championships must inform both the regional secretary and A.I.R.C. immediately after the regional competition or as soon as is practicable. In the case of illness or lameness, A.I.R.C. can decide whether or not to accept the next highest placed team or individual or substitutes.

15. Substitutes / Reserves

Substitutes will be permitted at the regional competition on condition that the organiser is informed at least 30 minutes before the competition is scheduled to start and that the club concerned has given the authorisation for a substitution in writing. Failure to do so will render the competitor liable to disqualification. All substitutes must conform to the following conditions

- a) Both at regional competitions and at the championships no substitutions are allowed after the competition has started.
- b) No substitutions allowed, other than those declared at any competitions for which qualifiers have been held.

Section 1

16. Prize Giving

At all events, all teams and individuals must be present at the prize giving, correctly dressed. Failure to do so may well result in disqualification for the team or individual.

17. Safety Officers

Safety officers must be appointed for each event, both club and inter-club. Abuse of safety rules will incur disqualification from the competition.

18. Medical Cover

For cross-country competitions (i.e. hunter trials, horse trials, cross jump), the organising club must ensure that there is an ambulance on course prior to the event. If the ambulance has to leave the field at any time the event must be suspended until it returns. A doctor and vet must be on call. For all other events, it is mandatory to have medical personnel present and a vet on call. It is advisable to have an ambulance on the grounds.

19. Complaints

Protests or complaints may be lodged only by the chairman of the competing riding club (or their representatives appointed in writing). These must be in writing and accompanied by a deposit of €50. They must be addressed to the organiser of the competition.

Protests must be made not later than half an hour after the occurrence which gave rise to them, half an hour after the marks have been published, or in the case of protests against qualification of competitors or horses, one hour after the start of the event. The steward will give his decision after investigation, and his decision will be final.

The deposit is forfeit unless the objection is upheld, or it is decided that there were good and reasonable grounds for the lodging of an objection. All protests must be made and handled in an orderly and mature manner.

Competitors are not permitted to enter the scoring area at a competition under any circumstances. Any queries or objections must be brought to the attention of the event secretary and dealt with through them.

20. Sanctioned Activities

Any activity organised by a committee of an affiliated club or by a regional committee and open to members of the Association of Irish Riding Clubs only.

21. Disqualification

The official steward, safety officer, or the chief judge of any competition may disqualify a competitor at any stage of the competition for:

- a) Dangerous riding.
- b) For misuse of whip or spur, or ill treatment of the horse.
- c) If in their opinion the horse is lame, sick or exhausted, unless this is refuted by a veterinary surgeon.
- d) For any breach of the rules.
- e) Abuse of the safety rules or safety officer.
- f) For failing to wear the correct hat or skull cap, with the chin strap correctly fastened, while mounted at a riding club event, and for not wearing a back protector for cross-country.
- g) Failure to produce their grading card at all riding club events.

General Rules

Section 1

- h) Excessive or abusive language.
- i) Prohibited substances (See appendix 1).

22. Exercise

Competitors may only exercise their horses in the area provided. They may not ride on, over or near any part of the cross-country course. They must not enter or practice in the dressage or show jumping arenas. No horse may be schooled except by the competitor competing on that horse on the day.

23. Insurance

Only paid up bona fide members of clubs of the A.I.R.C. in possession of a current membership card qualify for cover under the A.I.R.C. Public Liability Policy. Each member is strongly advised to obtain their own Personal Accident Policy.

Un-notified shows to National Office may jeopardise that club's insurance.

24. Dress

The correct dress as laid down in Dressage Ireland, SJAI or Eventing Ireland rules must be worn in A.I.R.C. competitions except:

a) Riding Hats

It is compulsory that riding hats/skull caps conform to the following standard(s) and must be worn with the harness correctly fastened when mounted at any A.I.R.C. activity:

- PAS 015
- ASTM F1163 2004a onwards with SEI mark
- Snell E2001
- AS/NZS 3838: 2003
- VG1 01.040 2014-12 with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark

Please note that the CE mark on its own is not an acceptable standard.

Skull caps are compulsory for cross-country. Advanced Open riders if wearing a tailcoat in dressage may wear a top hat. In side-saddle classes, riders may use appropriate headwear for the competition.

Competitors must ensure their hat is suitable and safe for use. If a hat has been dropped or the rider has fallen and hit their head, it is recommended that the hat be replaced immediately.

b) Body Protectors

Level three (purple) or higher body protectors are compulsory for cross-country events. It is recommended that body protectors are also used whilst show jumping.

Members are advised, if purchasing a new body protector, to ensure it is Level 3 (purple) from 2009 onwards.

c) Spurs

Blunt spurs only of plain metal may be used and the tip must contain metal. Spurs that have a smooth rotating rubber or plastic ball on the shank are also permitted.

Judges or examiners may have riders remove their spurs if they are of the opinion that the rider cannot use them correctly and so cause unnecessary hardship to the horse.

Section 1

Spurs must not be worn by primary riders during competition, in the practice area or riding on the show grounds. Advanced Primary riders may wear spurs, maximum of 2 cms, in pure dressage or showing classes only (not including performance hunter, working hunter, dressage at eventing or dressage at combined training).

d) Whips

The rules as laid down by the Dressage Ireland, or SJI apply except at the National Dressage Championships where riders are allowed to carry whips. Primary riders are allowed to carry whips at all times.

e) Clothing

Upper arms must be covered at all times. A correctly fitted hunting tie or neck support is compulsory for cross-country competitions.

f) Half Chaps, Leather Gaiters

The wearing of half chaps is strongly discouraged, and they are not permitted in certain disciplines (i.e. dressage). Leather gaiters, worn with matching boots are permitted.

g) Medical Armbands

Medical Armbands, complete with photographic I.D., are recommended for all cross-country competitions.

h) Jewellery

All jewellery is considered to be hazardous and should not be worn. It is the riders' responsibility, if it is worn.

i) Timing Devices

Timing devices including stopwatches are banned from use in Advanced Primary and Intermediate cross-country competitions including cross jump with the exception of horse trials. Competitors who are found in possession of a timing device will be eliminated from the competition.

j) Helmet Cameras

A rider wishing to wear a mounted head camera may do so provided that it does not compromise the integrity of the helmet. It must be mounted to the helmet by an easily detachable method such as velcro or elastic straps. Cameras may not be mounted on any other part of the body. If a rider wishes to wear a head cam, they do so entirely at their own risk, as the Association of Irish Riding Clubs Ltd accepts no liability for their use. Members should note that recorded materials are not permissible in the event of a dispute/complaint.

25. Hors Concours

This enables both horse and/or rider to compete in a lower grade. This horse and rider combination having competed Hors Concours, must remain so for the rest of the day. Members may not compete Hors Concours at a higher grade.

26. Tack

The national rules of Dressage Ireland, Show Jumping Ireland and Eventing Ireland apply except:

- a) No horse may be ridden in running or side reins.
- b) Bearing or balancing reins are prohibited.
- c) Running martingales must be fitted correctly so as not to act on the reins when the horse's head is within a normal range of positions.

Section 1

- d) In certain grades, standing martingales, correctly fitted, are permitted for show jumping only. (See equipment guide)
- e) The use of side saddles is only permitted in side saddle specific classes. A Primary rider may only use a side saddle in a specific side saddle class for primary riders only.

There are a number of prohibited bits under Dressage Ireland, Eventing Ireland and Show Jumping Ireland rules and the same will apply within to AIRC competitions.

27. Horse Welfare

All members are bound by the FEI code of conduct for the welfare of horses. This states the following:

- The Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) requires all those involved in equestrian sport to adhere to the FEI's Code of Conduct and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount and must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.
- At all stages during the preparation and training of competition horses, welfare must take precedence over all other demands. This includes good horse management, training methods, farriery and tack, and transportation.
- Horses and competitors must be fit, competent and in good health before they are allowed to compete. This encompasses medication use, surgical procedures that threaten welfare or safety, pregnancy in mares and the misuse of aids.
- Events must not prejudice horse welfare. This involves paying careful attention to the competition areas, ground surfaces, weather conditions, stabling, site safety and fitness of the horse for onward travel after the event.
- Every effort must be made to ensure that horses receive proper attention after they have competed and that they are treated humanely when their competition careers are over. This covers proper veterinary care, competition injuries, euthanasia and retirement.

28. Unattended Horses

It is prohibited to leave any horse unattended when tied in an unconfined area under penalty of elimination and or a fine. Temporary enclosures are not permitted, save with express permission of the organiser.

29. Horse Registrations

All horses competing at national championships must be registered with the Association of Irish Riding Clubs. Horses may only be recorded as its registered name. To register a horse, the animal must have an equine passport, issued by a recognised PIO, in which the animal is named. A.I.R.C. reserves the right to refuse to register a horse.

30. Equine Passports

Members must present their equine passport, if requested, at the secretary's office on the day of the competition. Competitors are responsible to have the correct identification at all A.I.R.C. events as required under current legislation. Failure to produce this document when requested may result in a fine of up to €1,000.

31. Equine Influenza

All horses competing at A.I.R.C. events must be inoculated against equine influenza. The primary vaccination course must consist of two vaccinations against equine influenza given between 21 and 92 days apart.

Section 1

Booster given between one-hundred-and-fifty days (5 months) and two-hundred-and-fifteen days (7 months) after the primary vaccination. The annual booster dose must be administered within twelve months of the previous inoculation. None of these injections must have been given within the preceding 7 days including the day of the competition or of entry into the competition stables. This must be properly documented on the animal's passport.

32. Falls

Dressage (Dressage Ireland Rules)

Fall of horse and/or rider: **Elimination**

Show Jumping (SJI rules)

First fall of rider: Elimination

First fall of horse: Elimination

Horse Trials (Eventing Ireland rules)

Dressage phase, fall of horse and/or rider: Elimination

Show Jumping phase, **fall of horse and/or rider: Elimination**

Cross-country phase, **fall of horse and/or rider: Elimination** and leave the course at walk

A competitor is considered to have fallen, anywhere on the course, when he is separated from his horse in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle.

A horse is considered to have fallen when at the same time both its shoulder and quarters have touched either the ground or the obstacle and the ground or when it is trapped in a fence in such a way that it is unable to proceed without assistance or is liable to injure itself.

All falls and injuries incurred during the competition either directly or indirectly must be reported to the medical personnel on duty who will have the absolute discretion as to whether that competitor is fit to continue on that day.

33. Photographers & Trade Exhibitors

Only Official photographers/traders shall be permitted at AIRC national events with full prior permission from the event organiser. Official photographers/traders shall be in possession of valid public liability insurance, a copy of which must be given to the event organiser in addition to other information requested.

Any unofficial photographer/trader who has not been given permission to attend the event shall be asked to cease their activity immediately and leave the premises. Unofficial photographs of the event used for commercial gain shall not be published. If they are available on any website or social media pages, the publisher shall be asked to remove them immediately.

If the unofficial photographer/trader is a member of the Association, they may be prevented from entering AIRC national events, and/or have their membership suspended or revoked. It will be a matter for the Board to decide the outcome.

AIRC national events are run on private property and therefore the landowner and event organiser can impose these restrictions on all persons entering the event.

Section 2

Section 2 Safety Rules

1. Registered Safety Officer(s)

Each club must have at least one registered Safety Officer.

2. Competitions

At all competitions, there should be a Safety Officer and at least 1-2 Safety Stewards or more as required. Safety officers should not have any function or duties at a show other than those of a safety officer.

3. Headgear

Proper headgear conforming to the latest recognised standard must be worn and strapped on at all times when mounted.

4. Footwear

Proper footwear must be worn when mounted (only footwear with heels)

5. Before a show

Before the show commences the safety officer should:

1. Patrol the grounds to ensure that all dangerous objects, holes, ditches, etc. are removed or cordoned off.
2. Ensure that areas to be used in the unloading, practice and warming up of horses are roped off from public access, and that the approaches from these areas to the arena are separated from the public access.
3. Ensure that a steward is in position and responsible for each practice arena.
4. Ensure that fences in the practice arena are flagged (and maximum heights are marked with tape on the wings of said fences)
5. Ensure that public car parking is kept back from the side of the arena.
6. Ensure that First Aid personnel are on hand and a Medical Officer is on call.

Dressage

Hats must be strapped on when mounted. The warm up arena should be big enough to enable as many competitors as necessary to warm up as some horses take longer than others. This area must be supervised at all times and normal school rules apply.

Show Jumping

At show jumping competitions, the warm up area must be in a roped off area and must be supervised at all times, normal school rules should apply, i.e. left hand to left hand, walk on inner track etc. The practice fences provided by the show are the only ones the competitors may jump in practice. Tape should be placed on wings of jumps at max height for each class so that the steward can see competitors are not jumping over their height. There should be no more than 2 practice jumps in the warm up area and, depending on size of the area, the safety steward should decide how many riders and horses to let in at any one time. However, there should never be more than 10. In the case of someone monopolising the practice jump or jumps, priority should be given to the earliest competitor. If the practice area and show jumping area are not adjacent, proper channels should be provided to the jumping arena. (Safety stewards are not there to rebuild practise fences)

Safety Rules

Section 2

Cross-Country

Back protectors must be worn for cross-country. A Skullcap conforming to the latest recognised A.I.R.C. standards must be worn. Practice fences should be flagged as outlined in the show jumping section above and tape should be placed on wings at the maximum height for each class. It is the safety officer or safety steward's responsibility to check for back or body protectors.

Separate Practice Areas and Monitoring at Competitions

For multi-disciplined competitions i.e. Combined Training, One Day Events etc., a separate practice area must be provided for each section of the competition, and a Safety Steward appointed to look after each area. There should be Safety Stewards in attendance throughout the whole of the competition and not just in the practice areas. The Safety Officer should check that the person taking entries is checking that each competitor has a current A.I.R.C. card and is competing in their correct grade.

Any forms of cruelty, rapping, use of illegal bits, etc. will incur immediate disqualification from the competition and will become the subject of disciplinary action. Cruelty will not be tolerated.

Safety officers and safety stewards are there for the protection of the Association and members who act as safety officers give up their time freely, so please show consideration and obey their instructions at all times

Section 3

Section 3 Disciplinary Procedures

The following procedures are divided into three sections:

- A. Disciplinary and Appeals Procedure
- B. Procedure for notification of matters to the Referrals and Discipline Committee
- C. Appeals Committee

A. Disciplinary and Appeals Procedure

1. Internal club discipline and disputes, whether discipline issues and disputes arising at a club show or otherwise, will be dealt with by the committee of the individual club or any sub-committee or officer they choose to appoint to deal with same. It is suggested that each individual club adopt a format similar to that hereunder and that same be included in the individual club constitution. Where the Club find that, despite their best efforts, they cannot resolve a particular matter at Club level, they may refer the matter to the Referrals and Discipline Committee as a matter of final resort/appeal.

(b.) No Member of the A.I.R.C. shall conduct him/herself in a manner or be guilty of behaviour which is derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interests of the A.I.R.C. and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) no Member shall behave in an offensive or abusive or unpleasant manner to any person at any competition, event or gathering.
2. Every Steward/Official at an A.I.R.C. event or competition from inter-club level up is empowered to administer a verbal warning which may result in the issuing of a warning card, (or in the case of a third verbal warning within two years of the first warning card having issued, a referral warning card), and/or disqualify a horse or rider from a competition for any offences including but not limited to:
 - Blatant abuse or breach of these rules
 - Failure to adhere to the code of conduct
 - Excessive or abusive language
 - The taking by a member of prohibited substances (See appendix 1 and 2).
 - Failure to produce their grading card at all riding club events.
 - Abuse of the safety rules or safety officer or any other Steward or Officer.
 - For failing to wear the correct hat or skull cap, with the chin strap correctly fastened, while mounted at a riding club event, and for not wearing a back protector for cross-country.
 - Failure to adhere to the code of ethics.
 - Failure to adhere to the welfare of horses including but not limited to; misuse of whip or spur, or ill treatment of the horse
 - Dangerous riding
 - Any incident deemed to warrant the issuing of a warning card.
3. Cards
 - a. The administration of a first verbal warning by a steward/official to a member shall result in a first warning card being issued in writing to the member by National Office upon said office being notified by the Steward/Official in question of the administration of such a verbal warning. The first warning card will be removed from a member's record after two years, (730 days) have elapsed from the date of its issuing.

Disciplinary Procedures

Section 3

- b. A second warning card will issue to a member upon them receiving a second verbal warning from a Steward/Official within two years, (730 days) from the date of receiving the first. The procedure for issuing same will be as a. above. The second warning card will be removed from a member's record after two years, (730 days) have elapsed from the date of its issuing.
- c. Where a third verbal warning is administered to a member within two years (730 days) of their receiving their first warning card, a referral warning card will issue to that member in a like manner to a. and b. above. Where a member receives a referral warning card the matter will be looked into and dealt with by the Referrals and Discipline committee, (as defined in the amended Articles of Association). The member in question will be alerted to this fact at the same time as the referral warning card is issued to him in writing by National Office. The referral warning card will be removed from a member's record after two years, (730 days), have elapsed from the date of its issuing.

If a referral warning card is issued the offending party may be summonsed by the Referrals and Discipline Committee to a disciplinary hearing.

(NOTE: where any member receives a third verbal warning as outlined above but this falls outside the two year period from their receipt of their first warning card, this will not constitute a referral warning card but will be a second warning card, or in the case where the members receipt of a third verbal warning is outside the two year period since their receipt of the second warning card their third verbal warning shall result in a new first warning card, the member's prior warning cards having been struck from their record after the prescribed time.)

- d. Where a member is guilty of such blatant misconduct and/or breach of the rules the Steward/Official can chose to refer the matter directly in writing to the Referrals and Discipline committee through the National Office. The member in question will be notified of such a decision by National Office and will also be forwarded a copy of the steward/official's written referral. At this point the Referrals and Discipline committee may investigate the matter and if the matter so warrants they may summon the member in question to attend a hearing where they will have an opportunity to make their submissions on the matter. After this hearing the committee may choose to issue a referral warning card to the member in question irrespective of whether they have no previous warning cards or received no previous warnings and/or may issue one of the penalties within their jurisdiction to the member, (see B.2 below).
4. Record of Incident
National Office will record the issuing of a warning card to any member in the disciplinary database and will make a note of same on the member's personal record to include the date that any card was issued. Any cards received by a member will be removed from that member's record by National Office after the prescribed time, as outlined above, for their removal has been reached.
 5. Hearings and Quorum for the Referrals and Discipline Committee
The quorum for a hearing conducted by the Referrals and Discipline Committee shall be three. As per Article 52 of the Articles of Association of the Association, where a Referrals and Discipline hearing is to be convened, the Executive Committee shall select three members from the eight-member panel to sit at the hearing. At least one of the members selected to sit at the hearing will

Section 3

be a committee member who is also a member or associate member of the Association and at least one of the panel members selected shall be an independent member of the committee, i.e. those committee members who are either a member of the legal profession or a mediator and who are completely independent of the Association. The Executive Committee shall appoint the chairperson of the hearing from amongst these three individuals.

B. Procedure for notification of matters to the Referrals and Discipline Committee

1. Where any A.I.R.C. member has been issued with a Referral Warning Card, the National Office will have issued same to the member in question and will in turn notify the Referrals and Discipline committee of the card being issued. The Referrals and Discipline Committee may meet to discuss the situation and where they deem that the Referral Warning card issued represents a serious matter and warrants a hearing they may summon the member in question to such a hearing providing said member with reasons in writing for their being summonsed, (in the event that they feel that the Referral Warning card does not represent a serious matter, no further action will be taken.). The member in question will be given notice of the date time and place of the hearing. The member in question will be given an opportunity to put forward any submissions they may wish to make at the hearing.

Alternatively, where a member has been issued with any warning card and wishes to appeal the decision of the steward, he/she may appeal the matter to a hearing of the Referrals and Discipline Committee as per the procedure laid out in B6 below and they will be notified of the details of the hearing of the Committee as per the manner laid out in B7

2. The Referrals and Discipline Committee will have the power to Question the Member before them and may call any witnesses they feel they wish to hear, for instance any steward or official who issued the member with warning card. The Referrals and Discipline committee shall have the jurisdiction to penalise the member in any of the following ways:
 - To admonish the member for their behaviour;
 - Suspend the member from the Association and/or their local club and all activities of both for a period of up to three months;
 - To uphold or overturn the issuing of a card by an official/ steward to any member;
 - Disqualify a member/horse from the competition at which these rules were breached and/or a repugnant incident occurred;
 - Issue the member with a fine of up to €200; time limit also appealing
 - Suspend a member from all competitive A.I.R.C. riding events until such a time as they familiarise themselves fully with this rule book, which time is to be determined by the committee;
 - In the case of very grievous wrong-doing, misconduct or breaches of the rules such as blatant and wilful cruelty to horses or an assault upon another member, the committee may recommend the expulsion of the member from the AIRC and his local riding club to the national committee. The procedure for the expulsion of a member of the Association as laid out in the Articles of Association shall be followed. Any member who is expelled from the Association will not be permitted to re-join the AIRC, his own riding club or join any other A.I.R.C. affiliated riding club in the future unless there are very compelling reasons for such a member to be allowed to do so.
3. The Committee shall not give their decision on the matter on the day of the hearing but will forward their report including their decision as soon as may be after the hearing to National Office

Disciplinary Procedures

Section 3

who will in turn forward a copy of the decision and report to the club secretary of the member in question. The result of the hearing will be recorded in the disciplinary record book or database.

4. Where a member who has been penalised by the Referrals and Discipline committee is dissatisfied with the result of his hearing or the penalty handed down he/she may appeal the matter to the Appeals Committee as per the procedure laid out in section C. below, (save in the case of a referral of an internal matter from a club where the hearing of the Referrals and Discipline Committee is the final right of appeal). A stay will be placed on any fine or suspension received by such a member until such a time as their appeal has been heard.
5. The Referrals and Discipline Committee will have jurisdiction to hear disputes arising between different clubs at inter-club, regional or national level that occur either at competitions or otherwise with the exception of disputes regarding grading. Grading disputes are dealt with at section 2 of these rules. The Referrals and Discipline Committee will also have jurisdiction to hear complaints from clubs relating to matters involving the National Committee, the Executive and/or the Association as an organisation, including but not limited to complaints regarding qualification and the disqualification of a horse or rider from a competition.
6. Where one club has a complaint about another club or one of the club's members, or there is a dispute between two, (or more), clubs or their members, or a club wishes to make a complaint relating to matters involving the National Committee, the Executive, the Association as an organisation and/or the decision of a steward/official to disqualify one of their members at a competition/event, any such club may refer the matter to a hearing of the Referrals and Discipline Committee upon the submission by the complainant club secretary of a short statement outlining the grounds for the complaint and a fee of €200 to National Office. The €200 may be refunded should the complaint be upheld. Where the complaint/dispute is regarding an occurrence at a particular AIRC competition or event, the complaint must be lodged within seven days of the date of said competition or event.
7. Upon receipt of the submission from the complainant club in national office, it will as soon as may be provide the complainant club with a date, time and place for the hearing of the matter. The Respondent Club(s)/member(s)/body will be notified of the hearing in like manner and will also be provided with a copy of the complainant club's statement of grounds. All parties will be given notice of the date of the hearing.
8. All parties will be given an opportunity to put forward their oral submissions to the committee. The Referrals and Discipline committee will have the power to Question the Member before them and may call any witnesses they feel they wish to hear.
9. The Referrals and Discipline Committee will have Jurisdiction to penalise any club member or club in the following manner:
 - Admonish a member or club for their behaviour;
 - Suspend the club/Club member from the Association and all its activities for a period of up to three months;
 - Disqualify a member/horse from the competition at which these rules were breached and/or a repugnant incident occurred;
 - Issue the club/club member with a fine of up to €1,000;
 - Suspend a Club/ club member from all competition until such a time as they/the club member familiarise themselves fully with this rule book, which time is to be determined by the committee;

Disciplinary Procedures

Section 3

- In the case of very grievous wrong-doing, misconduct or breaches of the rules such as blatant and wilful cruelty to horses or an assault upon another member, the committee may recommend the expulsion of any member(s) from the AIRC and his local riding club to the National committee. The procedure for the expulsion of a member of the Association as laid out in the Articles of Association shall be followed. Any member who is expelled from the Association will not be permitted to re-join the A.I.R.C. in the future unless there are very compelling reasons for such a member to be allowed to do so.
10. The Committee will also have the power to make recommendations to the complainant and respondent as to methods that they could adopt in order to settle their differences.
 11. The Committee shall have jurisdiction to overturn any decision of the National Committee or the Executive Committee or a Steward/Official or any other committee within the A.I.R.C. save for the Appeals Committee where they feel it is just and equitable and in the interest of fair sport to do so.
 12. The Committee shall not give their decision on the matter on the day of the hearing but will forward their report including their decision as soon as may be after the date of the hearing to National Office who will in turn forward a copy of the decision and report to the club secretary of the complainant and respondent club/member/body in question. The result of the hearing will be recorded in the disciplinary record book/ database.
 13. Where any club who has referred a matter to the Referrals and Appeals Committee, or any club or member who has received a penalty as a result of such a referral is dissatisfied with the outcome of the hearing of the matter or the penalty handed down, such club will have a final right of appeal to the Appeals Committee who will convene a hearing as per the terms of section C. below. The National and Executive committees shall not have such a right of appeal. A stay will be placed on any fine or suspension received by any member or club until such a time as the appeal has been heard.
 14. In any instance where any member/club is given notice to attend a hearing of the Referrals and Complaints Committee such member/club must attend the hearing unless they can give good reasons for not being in a position to attend. Should a member/Club who have been given notice to attend a hearing not attend at said hearing without attempting to tender a valid reason for their non-attendance, the hearing will commence in their absence and the committee will proceed to make their decision.
 15. In the event that a member of the Referrals and Discipline Committee should find themselves a party to any complaint or dispute or otherwise that is being investigated or adjudicated upon by that committee, that committee member will, for the duration that the matter is being dealt with, step down from that committee and have no part in the investigation, adjudication or otherwise of that matter.

Disciplinary Procedures

Section 3

C. Appeals Committee

Meetings and Quorum for the Appeals Committee

16. The Quorum for any hearings of the Appeals Committee shall be three. The three panel members of the Appeals committee to sit at such a hearing will be selected by the Executive Committee who will also appoint a chairperson from amongst these three.
17. Where any Club or member is dissatisfied with the outcome of the hearing of the Referrals and Discipline committee, said club or member will have a final right of appeal to the Appeals committee, (as defined in the Articles of Association of the A.I.R.C.
18. In order to lodge a valid appeal, the club secretary of the club/ member in question must forward a brief outline of the grounds of appeal together with a fee of €200, which may be refunded should the appeal be upheld, to National Office within fourteen days of the receipt of the decision of the Referrals and Discipline Committee by the club secretary.
19. Upon receipt of appeal documents in National Office, a date, time and place will be arranged by National Office with the Appeals Committee for an Appeal hearing and the club secretary of the member/club in question and any other clubs/members involved or who the appeals commission wish to attend will be notified of same. The secretary of the respondent club will be provided with a copy of the Appellant Club/member's grounds of appeal. The club secretaries in question will be given notice of the details of the appeal hearing.
20. The appellant member/club and the Respondent member/club will be given an opportunity to make oral submissions in relation to their appeal. The Appeals committee will have the power to Question the Member/Club Representative before them and may call any witnesses they feel they wish to hear.
21. The Appeals Committee may: a.) uphold the decision of the Referrals and Discipline Committee, b.) overturn the decision of the Referrals and Discipline Committee, c.) increase the amount of a fine handed down by the Referrals and Discipline Committee up to a maximum of €1,500, d.) increase the length of a suspension handed down by the Referrals and Discipline Committee up to a maximum of 18 months, e.) make any other decision or recommendation that they feel is necessary and equitable and in the interest of sport within the scope of these rules.
22. The Decision of the Appeals Committee is final.
23. The Committee shall not give their decision on the matter on the day of the hearing but will forward their report including their decision as soon as may be after the date of the hearing to National office who will in turn forward a copy of the decision and report to the club secretary of the appellant and respondent member/club. The result of the hearing will be recorded in the disciplinary record book and/or the Association's database.
24. In any instance where any member/club is given notice to attend a hearing of the Appeals Committee such member/club must attend the hearing unless they can give good reasons for not being in a position to attend. Should a member/Club who have been given notice to attend a hearing not attend at said hearing without attempting to tender a valid reason for their non-

Disciplinary Procedures

Section 3

attendance, the hearing will commence in their absence and the committee will proceed to make their decision.

25. In the unlikely event that a member of the Appeals Committee should find themselves a party to any appeal that is being investigated or adjudicated upon by that committee, that committee member will, for the duration that the matter is being dealt with, step down from that committee and have no part in the investigation, adjudication or otherwise of that matter.
26. Record of Incident
National Office will record the outcome of a hearing of the Referrals and Discipline Committee or a hearing of the Appeals Committee in the Association's database and will make a note on the outcome of same on the penalised member/club's personal/club record to include the date of the hearing.
27. Where a member of the Association who has not yet reached their 18th birthday is called to/or is party to the hearing of the Referrals and Discipline Committee, the Appeals Committee or called before a Steward or Official of the Association that member must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or appropriate adult acting in loco parentis.

Section 4

Section 4 National Championships

1. Team Show Jumping Championship

1. The country will be divided into eight regions. Each of the eight regions will be asked to hold a qualifier to determine which club will represent their region at the final.
2. Only registered members whose clubs are affiliated to A.I.R.C. and whose team members are affiliated to A.I.R.C. before 30th April can take part.
3. The teams shall consist of three or four members, made up of two riders who will jump a 0.90m course (these could be made up of two Intermediate or one Intermediate and one Advanced Intermediate) and two riders who will jump a course not exceeding 1.00m (these could be made up of any of the following grades: Advanced Intermediate, Open or Advanced Open with a maximum of one Advanced Open. An Intermediate rider must be declared on the team on the official entry form.

The two 0.90m course riders will be numbers one and two on the team. Once all the 0.90m course riders have jumped their first round, the fences will be raised and the 1.00m course riders, numbers three and four on the team, will jump. This format will then be repeated for the second round. A horse/rider combination may only compete once.

A panel of up to two reserve riders and two reserve horses may be nominated on the official entry form for each team.

A club may share up to a maximum of one rider on another team but they must ride a different horse. They may not act as captain on more than one team.

A horse may be shared on another team under a different rider and may only start twice on the day of the qualifier. The horse cannot be ridden by two team captains on the day.

4. The number of teams permitted at each regional qualifier will be double the number of clubs in that region (i.e. 12 clubs = 24 teams at the qualifier). Each club will be entitled to send at least two teams. In the event that all clubs do not take up their allocation of teams, the balance available may be allocated on a 'wild card' basis by the regional committee. In the event that a club does not have enough horses to make up a second team, they may borrow from the first team. Should this 'B' team win the regional qualifier, then that team is deemed to be the team to take part in the final. No change of horses or riders can be made after the Regional Qualifier, unless reserves are being used which were declared before the qualifier started.
5. *Horses:* Horses must be entered under their registered name, as described on their passport, at any championship qualifiers and at the final. Consult rule 6 for eligibility for riding club activities.
6. *Format:* The course for the regional qualifier must be built by a registered SJI course designer from the regional panel or above. The course shall be of at least eight fences, one of which should be a double (A treble combination is not permitted). The competition must be judged by an SJI Judge in accordance with the FEI rules for Nations Cups. An electronic timing clock must be used.

Section 4

7. Should a jump-off be necessary to determine the winner, the team captain who must come from the 1.00m section (Advanced Intermediate, Open or Advanced Open grade) will be required to jump a shortened course against the clock. Teams not involved in the jump-off will be placed according to Article 238.22.
8. The team that wins the regional qualifier goes forward to the final. The second placed team from each qualifier will go forward to the Wild Card Qualifier at the Riding Club Festival. The winner of this competition will go forward to the final. Should a qualified team be unable to attend the wildcard qualifier or the championship final, the place will not be re-allocated.

Only one team per club will qualify at a regional championship qualifier (i.e. if the second placed team represents the same club as the winning team, the wild card place will be allocated to the next highest placed club.)

9. Entry to the regional qualifier must be made through the secretary of the club/region hosting the qualifier on the official entry form issued by National Office.

Changes to an entered team, between the close of entry and the regional qualifier taking place, is not permitted with the exception of using declared reserves.

10. Insurance for the qualifiers will be covered under the Associations insurance policies. It will be the responsibility of the organising club/region to ensure that all A.I.R.C. directives are adhered to, i.e. the wearing of the correct headgear, appointment of a Safety Officer, etc.
11. All qualifiers must be run in conjunction with the guidelines issued by A.I.R.C. These will be issued directly to the host club / region.
12. Two judges must officiate at each regional qualifier, one of which must be of judge status or higher. The other judge may be unlisted but must be approved by National Office prior to the entries closing for the qualifier.

Section 4

2. Dressage Championships

1. The country will be divided into eight regions. Each of the eight regions will be asked to hold a qualifier to determine which teams will go forward to the final. Individuals must also qualify at one of the qualifiers. Qualifiers must take place before the close of entries each year.
2. Only registered members whose clubs are affiliated to A.I.R.C. and whose team members are affiliated to A.I.R.C. before 30th April can take part.
3. Teams must consist of 3 or 4 riders with no more than 2 riders from any one grade representing no less than two grades. Teams may, however, only have a maximum of one Advanced Open rider. A rider may only compete once on a team.

A panel of up to two reserve riders and two reserve horses may be nominated on the official entry form for each team.

A club may share up to a maximum of one rider on another team but they must ride a different horse. A horse may be shared on another team under a different rider.

4. The number of teams permitted at each regional qualifier will be double the number of clubs in that region (i.e. 12 clubs = 24 teams at the qualifier). Each club will be entitled to send at least two teams. In the event that all clubs do not take up their allocation of teams, the balance available may be allocated on a 'wild card' basis by the regional committee.
5. One team will qualify for every four teams, or part thereof, which start on the day of the qualifier. The top six rider & horse combinations from the Advanced Primary, Intermediate and Advanced Intermediate individual championship classes at each qualifier will go forward to the championship final. If a rider & horse combination has already qualified at a previous qualifier, the next best placed rider will go forward to the final. Qualification is not sought for the Advanced Open, Open or Primary championships.

Should a qualified team or individual be unable to attend the championship final, the place will not be re-allocated.

6. *Format:* Each member of the team will perform a test appropriate for their grade. In the final, competitors will perform two tests on the day, with all three scores from the morning session being added to all three scores from the afternoon session to get the final result.
7. A rider/horse combination must have qualified in the grade they are competing at, at the championship final.
8. Non-qualified riders may compete in national classes, subject to availability of classes.
9. Horses must be entered under their registered name, as described on their passport, at any championship qualifiers and at the final. Consult rule 6 for eligibility for riding club activities.
10. Tests cannot be commanded at the championships final

Section 4

Competitors: A.I.R.C. rules permit the use of whips and/or spurs (except for Primary and ~~Advanced Primary~~ riders who may only use whips as they are not allowed to wear spurs) at the qualifiers or at the finals.

3. Show Jumping Championships

1. Championship classes will be held for Primary, Advanced Primary, Intermediate, Advanced Intermediate, Open and Advanced Open show jumping graded members.
2. *Format:* A qualifying competition will be held in the morning for each graded competition at the National Championships. This will take the form of a two-round competition (Article 238) (Optimum time for Primary and Advanced Primary riders).

Up to 16 riders from each grade from the morning qualifier will go forward to the championship final. Additional places may be allocated in the final on the grounds of equality of penalties. Competitors who are eliminated or retire in the qualifying competition will not go forward to the final.

3. *Horses:* Horses must be entered under their registered name, as described on their passport, at any championship qualifiers and at the final. Consult rule 6 for eligibility for riding club activities.

4. Eventing Championships

1. Open to registered members of the Association of Irish Riding Clubs.
2. *Horses:* Horses must be entered under their registered name as described on their passport, at any championship qualifier and at the final. Consult rule 6 for eligibility criteria for riding club activities.
3. The club team championship is open to teams of 3 or 4 riders from one club competing in any class. Teams must consist of 3 or 4 riders with no more than 2 riders from any one grade. A rider may only compete once on a team.
4. The best three scores will count towards the teams overall score. A club may only nominate one team for the championship and this must be submitted before the close of entries.
5. Competitors are required to have completed a minimum of one, AIRC one-day event between the 1st of April and the close of entries for the championships.
6. A new scoring format will be used at the championships. Please consult Appendix 1 in [D71/12 Scoring Horse Trials Competitions](#) for further details.

Section 5

Section 5 Show Officials

1. A.I.R.C. Officials List

A list of show jumping judges and course designers approved by the AIRC is available to download from our website. A copy of this may be obtained on www.airc.ie/showofficials/.

2. Dressage

All members are asked to familiarise themselves with Dressage Ireland rules, as all A.I.R.C. dressage competitions are run under those rules. A copy of these may be obtained by:

- Downloading a copy from www.dressageireland.ie and then click on “Downloads”.

Dressage Judges:

For an up-to-date list of dressage judges, please visit Dressage Irelands website and download a copy from www.dressageireland.ie by:

- Clicking on “Judges” and then select “Judges List.”

3. Horse Trials

All members are asked to familiarise themselves with Eventing Ireland rules, as all A.I.R.C. horse trials competitions are run under those rules. A copy of these may be obtained by:

- Downloading a copy from www.eventingireland.com by clicking on “Downloads” and then “Rules and Constitution”.

Technical Delegates / Society Stewards:

For an up-to-date list of technical delegates / society stewards, please visit Eventing Irelands website and download a copy from their site (www.eventingireland.com) by:

- Clicking on “Downloads” and then “Society Stewards”.

4. Show Jumping

All members are asked to familiarise themselves with Show Jumping Ireland rules, as all A.I.R.C. show jumping competitions are run under those rules. A copy of these may be obtained by:

- Downloading a copy from www.sji.ie by clicking on “Shows” and then “Rules”.

Show Jumping Judges / Course Designers:

For an up-to-date list of show jumping judges and course designers, please visit www.sji.ie and download a copy by:

- Judges - click on “Home” and then “Check your points online”. Then select “Preview Judges Report.”
- Course Designers - click on “Home” and then “Check points online.” Then select “Preview Course Designers Report.”

Rider Equipment

Section 6

Section 6 Rider Equipment

Please note:

- These guidelines must be read in conjunction with the A.I.R.C. rule book.
- Spurs must be made entirely of metal and point downwards.
- Riders with long hair should wear a hairnet or tie the hair back.
- Riders should always wear a shirt/tie or stock. Ladies may wear a high collared shirt.

PRIMARY RIDER EQUIPMENT GUIDE							
Equipment	Pure Dressage	Show Jumping	Combined Training		Cross Jump	Showing	P Hunter / W Hunter Hunter
			Dressage	Jumping			
Riding Hat to current standards	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Body Protector	R	R	R	R	C	P	R
Whip	P	75cms max	P	75cms max	P	P	P
Gloves	C	R	C	R	R	R	R
Spurs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Correct Neck Wear	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Timing Device	P	P	P	P	X	X	-
Snaffle Bridle	C	P	C	P	P	P	P
Pelham Bridle (Roundings with 1 rein)	X	P	X	P	P	P	P
Double Bridle	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Running Martingale	X	P	X	P	P	-	P
Standing Martingale	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Boots / Bandages	X	P	X	P	P	X	P
Running Reins	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Saddle Cloth	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Fly Fringe	P	P	P	P	P	X	X

C = Compulsory

P = Permitted

R = Recommended

X = Not Allowed

Rider Equipment

Section 6

ADVANCED PRIMARY RIDER EQUIPMENT GUIDE

Equipment	Pure Dressage	Show Jumping	Horse Trials			Combined Training		Hunter Trials	Showing	P Hunter / W Hunter
			D	SJ	XC	D	SJ			
Riding Hat to current standards	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Body Protector	R	R	R	R	C	R	R	C	P	P
Medical Armband (with photographic ID)	-	-	-	-	R	-	-	R	-	-
Whip	P	75cms max	P	75cms max	75cms max	P	75cms max	75cms max	P	P
Gloves	C	R	C	R	R	C	R	R	R	R
Spurs	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	X
Correct Neck Wear	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Timing Device	-	-	-	-	P	-	-	X	-	-
Snaffle Bridle	C	P	C	P	P	C	P	P	P	P
Pelham Bridle	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	P	P
Double Bridle	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	P
Running Martingale	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	-	P
Standing Martingale	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Boots / Bandages	X	P	X	P	R	X	P	R	X	P
Running Reins	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Saddle Cloth	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Fly Fringe	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	X

C = Compulsory

P = Permitted

R = Recommended

X = Not Allowed

Rider Equipment

Section 6

INTERMEDIATE RIDER EQUIPMENT GUIDE

Equipment	Pure Dressage	Show Jumping	Horse Trials			Combined Training		Hunter Trials	Showing	P Hunter / W Hunter
			D	SJ	XC	D	SJ			
Riding Hat up to current standards	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Body Protector	R	R	R	R	C	R	R	C	P	P
Medical Armband (with photographic ID)	-	-	-	-	R	-	-	R	-	-
Whip	P	75cms max	P	75cms max	75cms max	P	75cms max	75cms max	P	P
Gloves	C	R	C	R	R	C	R	R	R	R
Spurs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Correct Neck Wear	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Timing Device	-	-	-	-	P	-	-	X	-	-
Snaffle Bridle	C	P	C	P	P	C	P	P	P	P
Pelham Bridle	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	P	P
Double Bridle	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	P	P
Running Martingale	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	-	P
Standing Martingale	X	P	X	P	X	X	P	X	-	P
Boots / Bandages	X	P	X	P	R	X	P	R	X	P
Running Reins	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Saddle Cloth	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Fly Fringe	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	X

C = Compulsory

P = Permitted

R = Recommended

X = Not Allowed

Rider Equipment

Section 6

ADVANCED INTERMEDIATE RIDER EQUIPMENT GUIDE

Equipment	Pure Dressage	Show Jumping	Horse Trials			Combined Training		Hunter Trials	Showing	P Hunter / W Hunter
			D	SJ	XC	D	SJ			
Riding Hat up to current standards	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Body Protector	R	R	R	R	C	R	R	C	P	P
Medical Armband (with photographic ID)	-	-	-	-	R	-	-	R	-	-
Whip	P	75cms max	P	75cms max	75cms max	P	75cms max	75cms max	P	P
Gloves	C	R	C	R	R	C	R	R	R	R
Spurs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Correct Neck Wear	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Timing Device	-	-	-	-	P	-	-	P	-	-
Snaffle Bridle	C	P	C	P	P	C	P	P	P	P
Pelham Bridle	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	P	P
Double Bridle	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	P	P
Running Martingale	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	-	P
Standing Martingale	X	P	X	P	X	X	P	X	-	P
Boots / Bandages	X	P	X	P	R	X	P	R	X	P
Running Reins	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Saddle Cloth	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Fly Fringe	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	X

C = Compulsory

P = Permitted

R = Recommended

X = Not Allowed

Rider Equipment

Section 6

ADVANCED OPEN / OPEN RIDER EQUIPMENT GUIDE

Equipment	Pure Dressage	Show Jumping	Horse Trials			Combined Training		Hunter Trials	Showing	P Hunter / W Hunter
			D	SJ	XC	D	SJ			
Riding Hat up to current standard	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Body Protector	R	R	R	R	C	R	R	C	P	P
Medical Armband (with photographic ID)	-	-	-	-	R	-	-	R	-	-
Whip	P	75cms max	P	75cms max	75cms max	P	75cms max	75cms max	P	P
Gloves	C	R	C	R	R	C	R	R	R	R
Spurs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Correct Neck Wear	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Timing Device	-	-	-	-	P	-	-	P	-	-
Snaffle Bridle	C	P	C	P	P	C	P	P	P	P
Pelham Bridle	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	P	P
Double Bridle	P*	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	P	P
Running Martingale	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	-	P
Standing Martingale	X	P	X	P	X	X	P	X	-	P
Boots / Bandages	X	P	X	P	R	X	P	R	X	P
Running Reins	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Saddle Cloth	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Fly Fringe	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	X

(* see Dressage Ireland rules)

C = Compulsory

P = Permitted

R = Recommended

X = Not Allowed

Section 7

Section 7 At A Glance

1. Grading System Guidelines

Events	P	AP	I	AI	O	AO
Dressage Ireland						
Preliminary	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Novice	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Elementary	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Combined Training	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prix Caprilli	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Show Jumping Ireland						
0.90 metres	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Amateur Competitions	No	No	No	Yes A	Yes AA	Yes
1.10 metres	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
1.20 metres	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Eventing Ireland						
Novice / CNC *	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Inter & Higher	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
EI 100	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
EI 90	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Others						
Cross Jump	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Showing Classes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Working Hunter <small>(non A.I.R.C.)</small>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trec	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Exam Guidelines						
Pony Club		D+	C	C+/B	B	A
A.I.R.C.	See exams					
BHS		1 / 2	2 / 3	3	Up to 4	I.I & I
ICES	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

N.B. with proliferation of modern qualifications, please consult with your grading officer.

2. Eligibility of the Horse

No horse may have won more than:

Dressage Ireland 249 points

Show Jumping Ireland Horse (not compete at 1.30m or higher), Pony (not compete at 1.20m or higher) in the previous calendar year.

Eventing Ireland Not to have competed at FEI 3* level or higher within the previous calendar year.

Advanced Open riders may compete on any horse, unrestricted, in individual graded competitions only.

Events	P	AP	I	AI	O	AO
Show Jumping [Fence Dimensions]						
Maximum Height	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.20
Maximum Spread	0.60	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.20
Cross-Country [Fence Dimensions]						
Maximum height	-	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.10
Maximum spread (above Ground)	-	0.80	1.10	1.25	1.25	1.25
Ground measurement of fence with ditch	-	1.20	1.20	1.50	1.85	1.85
Plain stream, ditch, etc.	-	0.90	1.30	1.70	2.15	2.15
Drop fences	-	0.80	1.00	1.20	1.40	1.40
Brush Fence	-	0.80	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.20
Time Allowed (metres per minute)	-	275-375	350-450	350-450	400-500	400-500

3. Horse Trials

Length of course: not less than one mile, and not more than one and a half miles.

No. of Fences: not more than 25 and not less than 14 including at least one ditch with or without a fence.

Advanced Primary courses should have approximately 15 fences and should be approx one mile in length.

4. Show Jumping

Optimum Time:	Primary & Advanced Primary	300 mpm (indoor)	325 mpm (outdoor)
	Advanced Primary	325 mpm (indoor)	350 mpm (outdoor)
Time Allowed:	Intermediate	325 mpm (indoor)	350 mpm (outdoor)
	Advanced Intermediate	325 mpm (indoor)	350 mpm (outdoor)
	Open/Advanced Open	325 mpm (indoor)	350 mpm (outdoor)
	Derby	350 mpm (indoor)	375 mpm (outdoor)

Appendix 1 & 2

Appendix 1 Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Youths and Vulnerable Adults

The Association has adopted Horse Sport Ireland's Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Youths and Vulnerable Adults in our Sport ("HSI Code of Ethics"), as may be amended from time to time, and the HSI Code of Ethics shall have effect and be binding upon all persons required to be vetted under the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012 and all persons referred to in the HSI Code of Ethics, and all such persons shall be deemed to have agreed to be bound by and to comply strictly with the HSI Code of Ethics."

Appendix 2 Prohibited Substances / Anti Doping

1. Prohibited Substances – Competitors

The Association of Irish Riding Clubs anti-doping rules are the Irish anti-doping rules as adopted by the Irish Sports Council, as amended from time to time. The rules contained in the said Irish anti-doping rules shall have effect and be construed as rules of the Association of Irish Riding Clubs.

Further information is available on the Irish Sports Council website, www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/Anti-Doping

2. Prohibited Substances – Horses

Based on the welfare of the animal an application may be made to the Association to permit the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines in aged ponies and horses competing in A.I.R.C. competitions.

The application must be accompanied by a report from the owner's Veterinary Surgeon verifying that the administration of Bute will enable the named animal to continue its 'sporting life'.

The Association reserves the right to seek a second opinion, if deemed necessary. If such an application is granted the name of the animal will be entered in a 'Register to Compete', which will be maintained at National Office. This will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Association strongly urges all competitors to seek veterinary advice before using any medication during and before competition.

Further information is available from the FEI website, www.fei.org.

Conversion Table

Appendix 3

Appendix 3 Conversion Table of Yards and Feet to Metres

1 inch	=	0.025m
1 foot	=	0.30m
2 ft	=	0.61m
1 yard	=	0.91m
4 ft	=	1.22m
4' 3"	=	1.30m
4' 6"	=	1.37m
4' 9"	=	1.45m
5 ft	=	1.52m
5' 3"	=	1.60m
5' 6"	=	1.68m
6 ft	=	1.83m
6' 6"	=	1.91m
7 ft	=	2.13m
8 ft	=	2.44m
9 ft	=	2.74m
10 ft	=	3.05m
15 ft	=	4.57m
20 ft	=	6.10m
10 yards	=	9.14m
25 yards	=	22.86m
50 yards	=	45.72m
100 yards	=	91.44m
1000 yards	=	914.40m

1.00m	=	3' 3"
1.10m	=	3' 7"
1.20m	=	3' 11"
1.30m	=	4' 3"
1.40m	=	4' 7"
1.50m	=	4' 11"
1.60m	=	5' 3"
1.70m	=	5' 7"
1.80m	=	5' 11"
1.90m	=	6' 3"
2.00m	=	6' 7"
3.00m	=	9' 10"
4.00m	=	13' 1"
5.00m	=	16' 5"
6.00m	=	19' 8"
7.00m	=	22' 11"
8.00m	=	26' 3"
9.00m	=	29' 6"
10.00m	=	32' 10"
25.00m	=	82 ft
100.00m	=	109 yards
300.00m	=	327 yards
325.00m	=	382 yards
375.00m	=	409.25 yards
400.00m	=	436 yards

Conversion Table

Appendix 4

Appendix 4 Calculation of Time Allowed

300 metres per minute

M	00	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
1	20"	22"	24"	26"	28"	30"	32"	34"	36"	38"
2	40"	42"	44"	46"	48"	50"	52"	54"	56"	58"
3	60"	62"	64"	66"	68"	70"	72"	74"	76"	78"
4	80"	82"	84"	86"	88"	90"	92"	94"	96"	98"
5	100"	102"	104"	106"	108"	110"	112"	114"	116"	118"
6	120"	122"	124"	126"	128"	130"	132"	134"	136"	138"
7	140"	142"	144"	146"	148"	150"	152"	154"	156"	158"
8	160"	162"	164"	166"	168"	170"	172"	174"	176"	178"
9	180"	182"	184"	186"	188"	190"	192"	194"	196"	198"

325 metres per minute

M	00	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
1	19"	21"	23"	24"	26"	28"	30"	32"	34"	36"
2	37"	39"	41"	43"	45"	47"	48"	50"	52"	54"
3	56"	58"	60"	61"	63"	65"	67"	69"	71"	72"
4	74"	76"	78"	80"	82"	84"	85"	87"	89"	91"
5	93"	95"	96"	98"	100"	102"	104"	106"	108"	109"
6	111"	112"	115"	117"	119"	120"	122"	124"	126"	128"
7	130"	132"	133"	135"	137"	139"	141"	143"	144"	146"
8	148"	150"	152"	154"	156"	157"	159"	161"	163"	165"
9	167"	168"	170"	172"	174"	176"	178"	180"	181"	183"

Conversion Table

Appendix 4

350 metres per minute

M	00	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
1	18"	19"	21"	23"	24"	26"	28"	30"	31"	33"
2	35"	36"	38"	40"	42"	43"	45"	47"	48"	50"
3	52"	54"	55"	57"	59"	60"	62"	64"	66"	67"
4	69"	71"	72"	74"	76"	78"	79"	81"	83"	84"
5	86"	88"	90"	91"	93"	95"	96"	98"	100"	102"
6	103"	105"	107"	108"	110"	112"	114"	115"	117"	119"
7	120"	122"	124"	126"	127"	129"	131"	132"	134"	136"
8	138"	139"	141"	143"	144"	146"	148"	150"	151"	153"
9	155"	156"	158"	160"	162"	163"	165"	167"	168"	170"

375 metres per minute

M	00	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
1	16"	18"	20"	21"	23"	24"	26"	28"	29"	31"
2	32"	34"	36"	37"	39"	40"	42"	44"	45"	47"
3	48"	50"	52"	53"	55"	56"	58"	60"	61"	63"
4	64"	66"	68"	69"	71"	72"	74"	76"	77"	79"
5	80"	82"	84"	85"	87"	88"	90"	92"	93"	95"
6	96"	98"	100"	101"	103"	104"	106"	108"	109"	111"
7	112"	114"	116"	117"	119"	120"	122"	124"	125"	127"
8	128"	130"	132"	133"	135"	136"	138"	140"	141"	143"
9	144"	146"	148"	149"	151"	152"	154"	156"	157"	159"