

RDS JUNIOR EQUITATION

Guidelines for Judges, Competitors and Trainers

Equitation Jumping is judged on the performance of the rider only.

Equitation Jumping is about developing a rider's natural talent and riding skills, and the basis for this is an effective and correct seat, therefore the riders position - taking either the jumping or flat seat - must always be appropriate to their place on the course.

- 1 The task of the rider is to display his talent, whilst adopting the correct seat to create the required impulsion, balance and straightness and thus enable the horse to perform to the maximum of its ability.
- 2 The rider will be judged on his overall balance, position and effectiveness and on his influence on and harmony with his mount. His position (whether two or three point) should be appropriate to the job in hand.
- 3 The legs should be positioned and used to establish and maintain true engagement of the hocks. Ankles should be flexed and the calf in constant contact with the animal's side. The lower leg should be on or just behind the girth with the irons resting on the ball of the foot. The legs must be soft with the knee joints open, ankle joints closed, both being fully relaxed. The toes should be pulled up and pointed to the bit.
- 4 The hands should be carried higher than and slightly in front of the withers, making a direct line from elbow through wrist to animal's mouth. They should be held vertically, close together and with thumbs pointed to bit. Any form of 'Hand Riding' like pulling, sawing or holding off a fence will be heavily penalised. Conversely, loose reins or erratic contact will also be penalised.

Domination of hands over legs will be most severely punished.

- 5 The rider should demonstrate an overall relaxed and never forced seat, a balanced and controlled upper body, with arms and wrists fully relaxed. In all, the rider must be correctly positioned, effective and relaxed.
- 6 Riders will be rewarded for demonstrating their ability to correctly effect the canter leads on landing after a fence. Dis-united or cross cantering will be heavily penalised. While 'flying changes' are desired, correctly executed 'simple changes' will be allowed. Trotting between fences will be heavily penalised. All distances should be executed in the correct number of strides.

INTERPRETATION

Q1 What is Equitation Jumping?

Equitation Jumping is the physical application of correct riding techniques whilst jumping a simple course of fences. Equitation jumping is judged over one round where the performance of the rider only is judged. The class will not be decided on jumping faults or time as in show jumping, but rather in accordance with the published guidelines.

Q2 What is the benefit of Equitation Jumping?

Given natural talent a rider must nevertheless develop his riding skills and the basis for this is an effective and correct seat.

Q3 What are the courses like?

The course for the qualifying rounds will consist of eight fences and will include a double, off set lines, 'dog legs' and related distances.

Q4 What does the rider get penalised for?

Domination of hands over legs. Incorrect seat. Poor application of the aids. Lack of pace or unevenness. Missing strides. Lack of straightness in lines. Wrong leads or disunited canter. Trotting during the round. Refusals and fences down may be penalised when considered to be the consequence of poor riding skills.

The following will incur elimination:

- (a) Three refusals (b) Wrong course and (c) Fall of pony/rider