

Appendix 20: The Criteria for BRC Style Jumping

Objectives

1. It is to encourage better pace and rhythm in competitions and improved rider training in jumping competitions.
2. To demonstrate the riders knowledge and effect of developing the canter at 350 meters per minute and its amenability for riding a course
3. For judges to provide good constructive comments for the benefit of the competitors.

Aims

It is not to be judged on the horses ability or style, but the rider's ability to demonstrate a good jumping technique from a light balanced position prior to the jumping, including changes of pace, whilst maintaining an independent and balanced position during the course and the track; showing ability to ride suitable turns and approaches and immediately concluding the round. The difficulty of the horses way of going is expected to be taken into account by the judges.

Time

To be ridden at 350 meters per minute. 350 m.p.m is quite forward. We expect that the measurement of the course to be generous. This is meant to encourage the riders to ride more forward, demonstrating the ability to ride forward in pace, maintaining balance and rhythm. The course should be well spread about the arena with seven fences to include a stile or narrow fence, with plenty of dog legs and finishing with the double but a spread in and an upright out - not a spread out.

Method of Judging

The judge will watch the rider continuously and give marks for the position before and after the round and for each fence, while the assistant writes down these marks on the score sheet, as well as deducting any jumping penalties. The judge assessing the rider should not, therefore, deduct the penalties for refusals or knockdowns from their good marks + time penalties, for which a timing judge will be necessary. Particular attention being paid to the development of a 350 m.p.m canter and its balance and rhythm in a variety of circles and turns

In case of equality of marks, jumping penalties will decide, then the time closest to the optimum time.

Assessment

In assessing the competitors, judges should take into account how they negotiate the whole course and, in particular, how they ride the turns and present the horse to the fence. The rider needs to show balanced approaches to the fences whilst able to maintain a good forward canter, the position of the rider at take-off, in the air, on landing and in the following strides should be included in the assessment for each fence. Correct judgement of pace is another point to be taken into consideration. It is assumed that the horse should be on the correct leg, unless it is capable of a well-balanced counter canter. A flying change, if correctly and quietly executed, is also acceptable. If not a suitable correction is fine.

Marking the Double

This is marked as two separate obstacles, i.e. 10 marks for each part. If the horse refuses at the second part the rider has to retake the whole combination. In this case, the mark for position for the first element has already been awarded and should not be re-marked. However, any additional jumping penalties incurred in retaking the combination should be deducted.

Tack

Judges should ensure that the rule regarding saddlery etc. is observed (see Riding Club rulebook).

Rules

Judges should refer to the BS rules regarding all points not covered by the specific competition rules as shown in the Riding Clubs rulebook. The rules regarding restrictions on horses and riders apply to all official competitions. Clubs are strongly encouraged to put on their own open and novice classes if they so wish, to encourage competitors e.g. novice classes could have lower fences with no fillers etc.

The Test

The actual form of the competition is as follows: the horse enters the arena, the rider halts and salutes the judges, then proceeds in canter whilst their position and balance is assessed before jumping. They are expected to work mainly in canter showing changes of paces and transitions on straight lines and small circles. Up to 10 marks will be awarded at this stage. The signal to start is then given and the course jumped, with up to 10 marks available for the rider's position and method of presentation at each fence. After completing the course, the rider continues in canter and their effectiveness (including their riding of the track) is awarded a mark out of 10. A further 30 marks are awarded for position, security and balance. When the judge has finished their final assessment the signal to leave the arena is given. There is no need to salute the judge before leaving the arena. The relative value of the marks should correspond to those used in dressage tests.