

HX3: Regional Hunter Trials

A Hunter Trials competition is a test of the pony/horse and rider to negotiate a piece of hunting country well, at a fair hunting pace. BRC holds three Hunter Trials Championships, Northern, Central and Southern (for 2011 it will be held in the Northern region only), for both Junior and Senior riders, which will be split into two different categories, Open and Restricted :

Junior Novice and Intermediate Hunter Trials for individuals

Junior Novice Pairs Hunter Trials for teams of two

Senior Novice and Intermediate Hunter Trials for individuals

Senior Novice Pairs Hunter Trials for teams of two

Qualification for the Hunter Trials Championship will take place at club level and may be part of an existing competitions or maybe a separate competition for this purpose.

Competitions may be run as an optimum time class where the whole course is timed and the combination which finishes the course closest to the optimum time with the least penalties wins. Or, it may be run as a fastest time class, where the winner is the rider with the least number of penalties who has the fastest time for the timed section of the course.

All pair's competitions at Clubs and at the Championships will be run after the appropriate Individual Novice competition

HX3.1: ELIGIBILITY OF PONIES/HORSES AND RIDERS

See Appendix 2.

Classes to be split into two sections; Open and Restricted.

Open Classes – Riders may be registered with British Eventing but only to have competed at BE90 (intro) or BE100(Pre-Novice). Horses may be registered with British Eventing but not to have been placed first to sixth in any BE100 (Pre-Novice) or competed at BE Novice or above.

Restricted Classes – Riders must not be registered with British Eventing in the current year or any preceding year. Horses must not be registered with British Eventing in the current year or any preceding year.

Pairs Classes – For pairs classes both horse and rider of both pairs must fulfil the criteria for either Open or Restricted.

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

No pony or horse may compete in more than one section of the Club Qualifier or the Championships, with the exception of the pairs, when the horse/pony may compete once in either of the relevant intermediate or novice competition and once in a pairs competition.

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

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Downgrading of winnings: The Downgrading system does not apply to this competition.

Reserves: A reserve for the Pairs Hunter Trials Championship must have completed the Hunter Trials qualifier.

Horses practicing over obstacles: No Horse or Pony may have ridden over any obstacle at the relevant championship venue for which they have qualified during the two weeks prior to the championship.

HX3.2: NUMBERS TO QUALIFY

The first eligible combination in each class, individual or pairs, will qualify. BRC reserve the right to increase the number to qualify should the need arise. From each BRC club there is the potential to qualify the following:

Junior Novice Open	Senior Novice Open
Junior Novice Restricted	Senior Novice Restricted
Junior Intermediate Open	Senior Intermediate Open
Junior Intermediate Restricted	Senior Intermediate Restricted
Junior Novice Pairs Open	Senior Novice Pairs Open
Junior Novice Pairs Restricted	Senior Novice Pairs Restricted

HX3.3: SADDLERY, TACK AND DRESS

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

HX3.4: THE COURSE

HX3.4.1: Heights

Maximum heights of obstacles will be 75cm for the Novice section and for the Intermediate section will be 85cm.

HX3.4.2: Plan

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

- The course to be followed and its length
- The numbering of the fences
- Any compulsory turning points
- Fences with alternatives
- Test of skill, e.g. hunting gate to be opened and closed
- The time allowed for any test of skill (if any)
- The beginning and end of the timed section (if any)
- Details of timing e.g. an optimum time class or fastest through the timed section

HX3.4.3: Inspection of the Course

The cross-country course must be completed and ready for inspection by competitors by 9am on the day of the competition. Competitors may view the course on foot only, after 2pm on the day preceding the competition, but the course will not be finalised until 9am on the day of the competition. Unauthorised tampering with fences or direction markers on the course is strictly forbidden and may be penalised by elimination.

HX3.4.4: Marking the Course

See Rule HX1.5.5

HX3.4.5: Modifications to the Course

See Rule HX1.5.6

HX3.4.6: Alternative Fences

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See Rule HX1.5.7

HX3.4.7: Fences See Rule H.1.5.8

- Fences should be similar to those likely to be met when hunting
- Fences should be strongly built with a good ground line and should look imposing
- A proportion may be capable of being knocked down. Such fences should be clearly labelled for the benefit of those walking the course. All other fences should be fixed
- All fences must be flagged and numbered
- Any fence at which a pony/horse, in falling, is liable to be trapped or to injure itself, must be secured by cord in such a way that parts of the fence can be quickly dismantled and rebuilt exactly as before
- There will be dressing fences in the Junior and Senior Pairs Hunter Trials competitions

HX3.4.8: Measurement of Fences See Rule HX1.5.9

Drop fences: The depth of a drop is measured from the highest point of the obstacle, including from the top of the brush, to where the average pony/horse would normally land. The maximum depth of the drop must not exceed the following:

Novice 0.8m Intermediate 1m

Water: Where a pony/horse is required to jump a fence in or out of water, or where there is a fence in the water, the depth of the water is measured from firm ground where the pony/horse would normally take off or land. Elsewhere the water should not greatly exceed the maximum depth. In order to discourage a pony/horse from attempting to jump over it, any water crossing ought to be as long as possible and should ideally be not less than 6m from point of entry to point of exit. The maximum depth of the water in a drop in/out of water must not exceed the following:

Novice 0.2m Intermediate 0.3m

Overhead Obstructions: Any roof or other fixed and solid barrier over a fence must be not less than 3.36m above ground level.

HX3.4.9: Dimensions of Fences:

Details of the dimensions of cross country fences are at Appendix 8. Fences do not have to be uniform in terms of height, spread etc throughout their length, or that these dimensions may never be exceeded anywhere between the red and white flags marking the extent of the fence. It is sufficient if all parts of the fence, where the average pony/horse and rider could reasonably and conveniently be expected to jump; do not exceed the maximum permitted dimensions.

HX3.5: TESTS OF SKILL

A Test of Skill should be placed early in the course for fastest time competitions (not for BRC qualifiers or Championships) and in sight of the starter (who can then regulate the starting to avoid congestion) and there should be a maximum time allowed for any such test. The test should be either:

- opening and shutting a gate, or
- removing a slip rail, riding through and closing it again, or
- it may include four or five elements in a short timed section

For example, a test may include a knockdown rail followed by a short turn to a gate to be

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opened and shut, followed by another short turn to a second knockdown fence. It may consist of up to six fences and it should test the handiness of the pony/horse rather than its galloping ability. The start and finish of the test should be clearly marked by flags. It is essential that the test can be controlled and timed.

A test of skills can be very time consuming when there are a large number of competitors.

If a competitor fails to complete the test of skill they should be sent to the next fence and penalised as per Rule HX3.7.1

HX3.6: METHOD OF STARTING See Rule HX1.7
(Order of starting for teams is not relevant).

HX3.7: FAULTS

HX3.7.1 Penalties

These penalties are cumulative:

Knocking down a fence	10 penalties
First disobedience at a jump	20 penalties
Second disobedience at the same jump	40 penalties
Third disobedience at the same jump.....	Elimination
Fourth disobedience on the whole course	Elimination
Failing to negotiate the Test of Skill correctly	20 Penalties
Missing out Test of Skill	Elimination
Fall of rider at a fence.....	65 penalties
Second fall of rider on the course	Elimination
Fall of pony/horse at a fence	Elimination
Error of course (omission of jump, boundary flag etc) not rectified, retaking an obstacle already jumped.....	Elimination
Trapped pony/horse	Elimination
Inappropriate or dangerous riding.....	Discretionary Elimination
Riding improperly dressed.....	Discretionary Elimination
Starting early	Discretionary Elimination

Faults will be penalised only if in the opinion of the fence judge, they are connected with the negotiation of one of the numbered obstacles.

HX3.7.2: Definition of Faults See Rule HX1.8.2

HX3.7.3: Double, Treble or Multiple Fences See Rule HX1.8.3

HX3.7.4: Elimination & Retiring See Rule HX1.8.4

HX3.7.5: Medical Suspension See Rule HX1.8.5

HX3.7.6: Dressing Fence Penalties

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

HX3.8: COMPETITOR IN DIFFICULTY See Rule HX1.9

HX3.9: OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE See Rule HX1.10

HX3.10: OVERTAKING See Rule HX1.11

HX3.11: TIME KEEPING

Time is counted from the signal to start until when the pony's/horse's nose passes the finish. If running with a timed section only the recorded time starts when the horse or pony's nose passes through the flags marking the start of the timed section and likewise the time finishes when the horse or pony's nose passes through the flags marking the finish of the timed section. Time is counted in whole seconds, fractions being taken to the next second (ie 30.4 seconds is recorded as 31 seconds). Periods when a competitor has been held by a fence judge or an official will be deducted from the total time on the course in order to give the actual time for completing the course.

In the event of a timing error the Official Steward is allowed to make an accurate estimate of a competitor's time utilising official times taken in the timed section.

The time in the pairs competitions is counted from when the first horse's nose passes through the flags at the start of the timed section to when the second pony's/horse's nose passes the finish flags.

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

HX3.12: SCORING

HX3.12.1: Total Score

The individual score is obtained by adding together the penalties awarded at each of the obstacles. The individual with the least penalties and closest to the optimum time in the timed section will be declared the winner. The pairs total is obtained by adding together each rider's penalty scores and the penalties the pair accrued at any dressing fences and at the Test of Skill. The pair with the least penalties and closest to the optimum time will be declared the winner.

HX3.12.2 Ties

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

- lowest total cross country penalties (jumping and test of skill)
- nearest over the optimum time
- nearest under the optimum time

In the event of a tie for any place in a pairs Hunter Trial, the pairs will be placed by considering their marks in the following order:

- lowest total cross country penalties (jumping, dressing and test of skill)
- nearest over the optimum time
- nearest under the optimum time

HX3.13: AWARDS

See Appendix 10 for championship awards.
At the qualifier, as per the club schedule.