



# **THE BARRIER SPRING FESTIVAL: SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND 2023**

## **DRESSAGE RULES**

**For PC70, Grassroots Novice,  
Intermediate and Open Levels**

**(For England & Wales see Regional Rules)**

**Final to be held at Morris Equestrian  
1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023**

Issued by The Pony Club  
Lowlands Equestrian Centre, Old Warwick Road, Warwick, CV35 7AX  
Tel: 02476 698300 Email: [dressage@pcuk.org](mailto:dressage@pcuk.org)  
[www.pcuk.org](http://www.pcuk.org)

**Except where varied in these rules, this competition will be judged in accordance with the Pony Club Dressage Rule Book as per below:**

**Preliminary Rounds and the Final** will run in accordance with the current Pony Club Dressage Rule Book and The Pony Club Spring Festival Dressage Rules 2022/23.

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these rules. In any unforeseen circumstances, it is the duty of the relevant officials to make a decision in a sporting spirit and to approach as nearly as possible to the intention of these rules.

### **SADDLERY & DRESS**

At **Preliminary Round Competitions** either The Pony Club or British Dressage rules apply.

At the **Final**, The Pony Club Saddlery and Dress Rules apply.

### **COMMANDERS**

Commanders are permitted at Preliminary Rounds but **not** at the Final.

### **WHIPS**

Whips are permitted at all levels and at the Final.

### **SUBSTITUTIONS**

Substitutions of horse/pony or rider will not be accepted at the Final.

### **QUALIFYING STAGES**

There are two stages of the Barrier Spring Festival Dressage competition in Scotland & Northern Ireland:

1. Preliminary Rounds for Dressage will be held between April 2022 and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
2. Those who were successful at the Preliminary Rounds will go forward to the Barrier Spring Festival Finals in April 2023 at Morris Equestrian. Branches at this stage may combine three or four qualifiers at any level to create a mixed level team from all classes except Freestyle Dressage to Music, with no more than two members at the same level.

## **Eligibility Rules**

### **PC70 ELIGIBILITY**

Riders must be aged 13 and under on 1st January 2022.

Riders are NOT eligible if they have:

- previously completed at any Novice or above Area or Regional Competition for Dressage.

### **GRASSROOTS ELIGIBILITY**

Riders are NOT eligible if they have:

- previously represented their Branch or Centre at Intermediate level or above in any Dressage or Eventing Area Competitions

Combination of horse/pony and rider are NOT eligible if they have:

- competed above Prelim level with British Dressage (or DI) or competed at BD Novice My/Team Quest

### **NOVICE ELIGIBILITY**

Riders are NOT eligible if they have:

- Competed at an Open Area level or above competition in Dressage in the current year or done so in previous years
- Won any BD points (BD Preliminary points do not count for the purposes of this rule)
- Competed at BD Elementary level or above (BD Team/My Quest competitions do not count for the purposes of this rule)
- Competed in BD Novice Music classes

Horses are NOT eligible if they have:

- Advanced Medium points or above, and have competed in BD in the last two years

### **INTERMEDIATE ELIGIBILITY**

Riders are NOT eligible if they have:

- Represented GB internationally

Horses are NOT eligible if they have:

- Advanced Medium points or above, and have competed in BD in the last two years

Combination of horse/pony and rider are NOT eligible if they have:

- Competed at an Open Area level or above competition in Dressage in the current year or done so in previous years
- Won any BD points at Elementary level or above
- Competed at BD Medium level or above (BD Team/My Quest competitions do not count for the purpose of this rule)

### **OPEN ELIGIBILITY**

Open to all Members of The Pony Club

**It is not necessary to qualify for the Open Competition, entries can be made directly for the Final.**

### **FREESTYLE DRESSAGE TO MUSIC COMPETITION**

See page 10 for eligibility and rules.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Multiple Horses** – competitors may qualify a maximum of two horses for the Final in any one class. In the event of a rider qualifying more than two horses for the Final, they must nominate which two they will take at the Preliminary Round. The other qualifying place will be passed down the line.

**Multiple Riders** – horses may be ridden by up to two different riders at a Preliminary Round but by only one rider at the Final.

**Multiple Levels** – subject to eligibility, combination of horse/pony and rider CAN qualify for both the Novice and Intermediate Final in the same year but CANNOT also take part in the Open Final.

Combination of horse/pony and rider CAN compete in the Intermediate Final and the direct entry Open Final.

Riders cannot compete in more than two consecutive classes per day on the same horse/pony. Horses/ponies cannot compete more than once in each class or in more than two classes on the day.

### **NEW! TEAM COMPETITION – SHOW JUMPING, ARENA EVENTING AND DRESSAGE**

Should a Branch/Centre have three or four members qualify at any Preliminary Competition, at any level, these members can combine to compete as a mixed level team at the Spring Festival Final. The team members can compete at different levels with a maximum of two members at the same level (excluding Freestyle to Music classes). A team must comprise of at least three members (i.e., one member may ride two horses) and the top three scores to count at the Final. Teams must be declared prior to entries closing for the Spring Festival Final in March.

### **TEAM COMPETITION SCORING**

When all the tests have been totaled, the competitors in each arena shall be placed in order. Points shall be awarded to each team competitor depending on their placing (1st =1 point, 2nd = 2 points etc.) relative only to other team competitors in that arena and not on their overall placing in that arena. Any competitors riding as an individual in the same arena as team competitors should not be given points. The points for the three best-placed team members shall be added together to give the team score. The winning team will be the team with the least points.

In the event of equality of team scores, the collective scores of the three best team members are added together, the highest-placed team is the one with the highest collectives. If the total of the collective marks is also equal, then the mark for 'Submission' should be consulted and the team with the higher mark shall take the higher placing. If the mark for Submission is also equal the teams concerned shall be given the same placing.

## **INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION SCORING**

Individuals will be ranked by percentage scores. In the event of a tie for individual placings the collective marks shall be added together and the rider with the highest total shall take the higher place.

In the event of equality of total marks, the collective marks should be added together and the competitor with the higher collective marks shall take the higher placing. If the total of the collective marks is also equal, then the mark for 'Submission' should be consulted and the competitor with the higher mark shall take the higher placing. If the mark for Submission is also equal the competitors concerned shall be given the same placing.

## **Preliminary Round Rules – PC70, Grassroots, Novice & Intermediate**

***Held in Scotland & Northern Ireland (England and Wales have a separate Spring Festival) from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023.***

Preliminary Round dates can be found on The Pony Club website.

**There will be no Area Competitions for Scotland & Northern Ireland. Combinations who qualify at their Preliminary Round will go on to the Scotland & Northern Ireland Spring Festival Final.**

Pony Club members and non-members may compete and qualify at Preliminary Rounds in Area 1, 17 or 19. Non-members in a qualifying position must join before the date of the Final if they wish to compete.

### **JUDGES**

The Show Organiser shall appoint Judges (one per arena) from the British Dressage Judges Panel Lists 1 - 6 for the Preliminary Rounds.

### **PRELIMINARY ROUND DRESSAGE TESTS**

**PC70** – The Pony Club PC70 Dressage Test 2022

**Grassroots** – The Pony Club Grassroots Dressage Test 2018

**Novice** – The Pony Club Novice Dressage Test 2020

**Intermediate** – The Pony Club Intermediate Dressage Test 2022

Test sheets are available to download from [The Pony Club Website](#)

Score sheets are available to purchase from [The Pony Club Shop](#)

### **NUMERS TO QUALIFY**

**The first TWO highest placed individuals from each Preliminary Round will qualify for the Final and be eligible for their Branch team selection. Branches may make up as many teams as they can from their qualifiers.**

The first TWO highest placed from Area 1, Area 17 and Area 19 in each section at each Preliminary Round and any tying for these places qualify for the Final. Competitors may qualify a maximum of two horses and/or ponies for any one Championship Class. Riders/horses/ponies and/or combination of horse and rider can qualify for more than one Championship Class.

### **QUALIFIER CARDS**

Organisers should contact Laura at Head Office for downloadable Qualifier Cards [laura.Armstrong@pcuk.org](mailto:laura.Armstrong@pcuk.org)

### **PASSING DOWN THE LINE**

**On the day** - If a competitor is unable to go to the Final then the qualifying places will be passed down the line. Please ensure every competitor confirms to the organiser/steward that they are intending to enter the Final. **Organisers should check the published list of recent qualifiers to ensure Qualifier places are passed down the line on the day.**

**After the Preliminary Round** – If a competitor is unable to go to the Final, they must notify [area19@pcuk.org](mailto:area19@pcuk.org) as soon as possible so that their qualifying place can be passed down the line. This will only be done **up until ten days prior to the Final.**

### **PRELIMINARY ROUND ENTRY FEES**

Entry fee to be set by the organising Branch/Centre or Venue of this. The Organisers will be responsible for providing rosettes.

Please contact the relevant Show Secretary for details, these can also be found on The Pony Club website.

### **PRELIMINARY ROUND COMPETITION RESULTS**

All Preliminary Round competition organisers must submit the results of their competition, including the combinations in a qualifying position as soon as the competition has finished. If the competition is cancelled or there are no qualifiers, please ensure the office is notified.

Results are to be submitted online at <http://events.pcuk.org/?p=9820>

Please ensure you submit your results quickly after your event as this ensures the published list of current Qualifiers are up-to-date and passed down places can be offered.

### **FIRST AID**

See The Pony Club Health and Safety Rule Book.



## **The Barrier Spring Festival Final** **Rules – Novice, Intermediate & Open**

If numbers permit, there will be more than one section/arena at each level at the Final. In this case there will be a ride-off. The first two competitors in each section/arena will qualify for the ride off.

### **JUDGES**

Judges for the Final shall be appointed by The Pony Club Office who should be on the British Dressage Judges Panel on Lists 1 – 4.

### **DRESSAGE TESTS**

**PC70 – The Pony Club PC70 Dressage Test 2022**

**Grassroots – The Pony Club Grassroots Dressage Test 2018**

**Novice – The Pony Club Novice Dressage Championship Test 2017**

**Intermediate – The Pony Club Intermediate Dressage Championship Test 2014**

**Open – The Pony Club Open Dressage Championship Test 2018**

### **COMMANDERS**

Commanders are not permitted at the Final.

Test sheets are available to download from [The Pony Club Website](#)

Score sheets are available to purchase from [The Pony Club Shop](#)

## **Freestyle Dressage to Music Competition**

All classes held in 20m x 60m arena.

**Novice Individuals** – Open to all Pony Club combinations who have not:

- represented their Branch/Centre in Dressage at Open or Intermediate Area level.
- have not been placed 1st in an individual Pony Club Dressage to Music Competition at The Pony Club summer or winter Championships.
- competed in any British Dressage competitions above Preliminary level.

**Test:** Novice Freestyle Dressage to Music 2012

**Intermediate Individuals** – Open to all Pony Club combinations who have not:

- represented their Branch/Centre in Dressage at Open Area level
- been placed 1st in an Open or Intermediate individual Pony Club Dressage to Music Competition at The Pony Club summer or winter Championships.
- competed in any British Dressage competitions above Novice level.

**Test:** Intermediate Freestyle Dressage to Music 2012

**Open Individuals** – Open to all Pony Club Members.

**Test:** Open Freestyle Dressage to Music 2015

**Pairs** – Open to pairs from any Branch, Centre or combination of Branches or Centres.

**Test:** Pairs Freestyle Dressage to Music 2012

**Test sheets are available to download from** [The Pony Club Website](#)

**Score sheets are available to purchase from** [The Pony Club Shop](#)

### **RULES**

1. To be run in accordance with the current Pony Club Dressage Rules.
2. Age as on 1<sup>st</sup> January of the current year.
3. Test sheets can be downloaded from the [Dressage Test page](#) of the website.
4. The test may not contain movements above the standard of The Pony Club Test indicated on the relevant test sheet. If included, marks may be deducted.
5. The test should not be of more than 5 minutes in duration. The time is taken from the exact moment when the horse/pony moves forward from halt at the beginning of the test. The test finishes with a halt and salute anywhere on the centre line facing the Judge.

6. The music may start either before the entry at A or after the first halt and shall be provided by competitors on their own CDs containing only the music for this competition. It is recommended that a second CD is kept by the competitor to act as a back-up. Competitors need to be aware that some CDRW discs cannot be read by all CD machines, so it is advisable to use CDR discs.

7. Classes may be split into junior and senior sections at the discretion of the organiser.

8. CDs must be clearly marked with the rider's name and class number, have a PPL sticker and be handed in to the Commentary box on arrival.

9. Failure to complete the test in the allotted time will not incur time faults but may be taken into consideration when marking the 'Artistic Marks'.

10. There are no errors of course and the bell will not be rung should a rider make an obvious mistake, but marks may be deducted under 'Artistic Marks'.

11. The test should be simple and pleasing to watch.

12. In the case of a technical failure interfering with the competition, the judge at C will ring the bell. In the case of the rider's music failing, skipping or jumping during a test, the rider may make one request to restart, or the judge can suggest that they restart. When possible, the restart should be immediate but if not, the rider should return to complete or restart their test during a scheduled break or at the end of the competition. It is up to the rider whether to restart the test from the beginning or to commence from the point the music failed. In either case, the marks already given to the point at which the music failed will not be changed.

### **Ride-Off**

If numbers permit, there will be ride off at the Final. The first two competitors in each level/section/arena will qualify for the ride off.

## **ENTRY FEES**

**Warm-up Competitions** \* subject to time & entries                      Entry Fee: £20.00

Entries for teams and individuals who have qualified for the Final should be made through the organiser.

**Championship Classes**    Entry Fee: £28.00

Entries for teams and individuals who have qualified for the Final should be made through the organiser.

**Music Classes**    Entry Fee: £25.00

Entries for teams and individuals who have qualified for the Final should be made through the organiser.

**Entry deadline is 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023**