

## **GUIDELINES FOR PONY CLUB ARENA EVENTING**

Arena Eventing is a two-phase competition, which can be run on either an indoor arena, outdoor surface or a grass arena. General rules follow the current Pony Club Eventing Rule book except as modified below.

- Competitors will jump a course of show jumps immediately followed by a course of cross-country style fences\*\*.
- There will be no more than 20 (dependent on size of arena) jumping efforts in total.
- The optimum time should be based on a speed of 325 mpm (PC80 and below), and 375 mpm (PC90 and above).
- Horses/Ponies must be aged 5 years old and over.
- Stop watches are not permitted.
- The winner will be the competitor with the lowest number of penalties.
- In the event of a tie the winner will be the one closest to, but under the optimum time.
- There should be a drawn order and, where possible, approximate start times given in advance of the day
- The course will only be open for walking before the class starts.
- The Judge's decision is final.

### **PENALTIES**

#### **Show Jumping Phase:**

- Knocking down obstacle 4 penalties
- First disobedience of horse 4 penalties
- Second disobedience of horse in whole course 8 penalties
- Third disobedience of horse in whole course Elimination\*  
(Each circle or crossing tracks between fences counts as one disobedience)
- Fall of rider Elimination\*
- Fall of Horse Elimination\*
- Error of course not rectified Elimination\*
- Failure to start or jump next fence within 60 seconds Elimination\*
- Starting before the Bell Elimination\*
- Continuing the course without a hat, or with chinstrap undone Elimination\*

\*Competitors eliminated in this phase may not proceed to the XC phase

#### **Cross Country Phase:**

- Knocking down an obstacle 4 penalties
- First refusal, run-out or circle of horse at obstacle 20 penalties
- Second refusal, run-out or circle at same obstacle 40 penalties
- Third refusal, run-out or circle at same obstacle Elimination
- Four refusals around the course Elimination
- Fall of horse Elimination
- Fall of rider Elimination
- Error of Course not rectified Elimination
- Horse trapped in obstacle Elimination
- Horse resisting rider for 60 consecutive seconds anywhere on the course Elimination
- Failure to cross the finish line mounted Elimination
- Continuing the course without a hat, or with chinstrap undone Elimination
- Time will be taken overall:

- For every commenced second in excess of the optimum time 0.4 penalty
- Every commenced second in excess of 5 seconds under the optimum time 0.4 penalty
- Exceeding the time limit Elimination (Time limit is twice the optimum time).

## NOTES

**\*\*XC Portable Fences/Fixed Fences** – These must not be used unless they can be properly and safely anchored. (See Eventing Organisers Handbook, and [Guidance on Cross Country Fences](#).) **On a surface where this is not possible, provided the course is prepared by an experienced course builder conversant with the standards for BE Arena Eventing, they may be secured using a suitable ballast method (Aggregate, Concrete, Water, etc.) to ensure enough weight is added to the fence to ensure it cannot move, tip, or roll if hit by a horse or pony.** In their place, and especially on surfaces, knock down substitutes should be used, i.e. rustic show jumps or those supplied by specialist manufacturers such as “Jump for Joy”

If local conditions dictate, Organisers can choose not to time the Show Jumping Phase, but the XC phase must be timed.

**Safety Cups** – Safety Cups are mandatory for all Pony Club Show Jumping Competitions including any practice fences. They must be used on the back rails of spread fences and middle and back rails of triple bars. They should also be used for all knock down fences in the XC Phase.

It is recommended a BS Course Designer, preferably one with Arena Eventing experience, is used if possible. For Area Competitions this is mandatory. If the course designer is not qualified, then approval must be sought from The Pony Club.

Courses should be built within the dimensions set out in The Pony Club Eventing Rules 2020.

**First Aid** – See The Pony Club Health and Safety Rule Book.