



# **THE BARRIER SPRING FESTIVAL: ENGLAND & WALES 2024**

## **ARENA EVENTING RULES**

**(For Scotland & Northern Ireland see Regional Rules)**

**Valid for 2024 Competitions**

**Championships to be held at Arena UK  
24<sup>th</sup> –25<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Issued by The Pony Club  
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[www.pcuk.org](http://www.pcuk.org)

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 the intention of these rules.

### **SADDLERY AND DRESS**

Cross Country compliant XC kit and saddlery should be worn. The Pony Club Saddlery and Dress rules apply at all Area Competitions and the Championships.

### **QUALIFYING STAGES**

There are two stages of the Barrier Spring Festival Arena Eventing competition in England and Wales:

1. Area Competitions for Arena Eventing will be held any time before 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Members do not need to qualify for their Area Qualifier
2. Those who are successful at their Area Competition will go forward to the Barrier Spring Festival Championships on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Arena UK

**Branches are to be encouraged to hold friendly or league competitions to give members some practice before the Area competition.**

### **CLASS HEIGHTS**

70, 80, 90, and 100 cm.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Open to all Members of The Pony Club.

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

Competitors may qualify a maximum of two horses and/or ponies for any one Championship Class. Riders/horses/ponies and/or a combination of horse and rider can qualify for more than one Championship Class.

**70cm class** - Riders in this class must be aged 14 years and under on 1st January 2023, even if the Area competition is in 2024.

### **TEAM COMPETITION**

Branches/Centres may enter a team of three or four in the Arena Eventing Area qualifying competitions. The four can compete at different levels or all at the same level or a mixture of the two. The team must comprise at least three members (i.e. one member may ride two horses) and the top three scores to count. The winning Branch/Centre team at each Area competition will qualify for the Spring Festival. If any of the individual qualifiers are in a qualifying team their place will be passed down the line.

## **TEAM COMPETITION SCORING**

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 class and not on their overall placing in that class. Any competitors riding as an individual in the same class 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. If there is a tie for team qualifying places both teams will qualify.

## **NUMBERS TO QUALIFY**

Qualification at Area Competitions will work on a ratio basis as below:

### **70cm/80cm/90cm**

<b>Number of starters</b>	<b>Number to qualify (plus any tying for these places)</b>
0 – 20	2
21 – 30	3
31 – 40	4
41 – 50	5
And pro rata	

### **100cm**

<b>Number of starters</b>	<b>Number to qualify (plus any tying for these places)</b>
0 – 10	2
11 – 15	3
16 – 20	4
And pro rata	

## **PASSING DOWN THE QUALIFICATION**

**On the day** - If a competitor is unable to go to the Championships, then the qualifying place/s will be passed down the line. Please ensure every competitor confirms to the organiser/steward that they are intending to enter the Championships. If a member is in a qualifying team his/her place will pass down the line.

**After the Area Qualifier** – If a competitor is unable to go to the Championships, they must notify The Pony Club Office as soon as possible so that their qualifying place can be passed down the line. This will only be done up until five days prior to the Championships.

## **COMPETITION RESULTS**

All qualifier organisers must submit the results of their competition, including the teams and 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.

**It must be clear on the results which teams and riders are in a qualifying position.**

Please use [www.ponyclubresults.co.uk](http://www.ponyclubresults.co.uk) to deliver live results, this is a free service that enables scorers to enter the scores as they happen. More information can be found at <https://www.ponyclubresults.co.uk/site/about.php>. Please contact Miranda Collett at [miranda@eventingscores.co.uk](mailto:miranda@eventingscores.co.uk) for support.

**It is very important that the teams and individuals that have qualified for the championships are clearly marked on the results with a Q for individuals and a T for team members.**

A link to your results can be submitted online at <https://events.pcuk.org/?p=11103>

## **SUBSTITUTIONS**

**Teams** – the DC/Centre Proprietor may substitute rider(s) and/or horse(s) in the Team before entering. If a horse has to be substituted an alternative rider may be nominated. If a rider has to be substituted an alternative horse may be nominated. If a Branch/Centre has qualified more than one team, a substitution may be made from one team to another. The substitute rider(s) / horse(s) must have completed the Area competition.

If a team of three qualifies for the Championships, then a fourth team member may be entered at the Championships, as long as both the horse and rider are eligible and have completed the Area Competition.

**Individuals** – A substitute horse may be entered but not a substitute rider. The horse must have completed the Area Competition.

No substitutes shall be allowed after the Competition has started.

## **ENTRY FEES**

**Area Competitions:** can be set by the organising Branch/Centre or Area. The Organisers will be responsible for providing rosettes.

**Championships:** £35.00

# **GUIDELINES FOR PONY CLUB ARENA EVENTING**

## **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 the size of the arena) jumping efforts in total. **This may be increased to 25 jumping efforts at the Championships.**

**The course at the Spring Festival Championships will finish with the last fence as a show jump, the joker fence, which will be approximately 5cm higher than the rest of the course. Area Competitions may include a joker show jump fence to finish the course if they wish.**

**If entry numbers exceed expectations, the competition at the Spring Festival Championships may be run in two arenas, show jumping in one and the cross-country section in another with only the cross-country section being timed.**

The optimum time should be based on a speed of 325mpm **for PC70, 350mpm for PC80,** and 375mpm for PC90 and PC100.

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 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**

### **SJ 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)	
First 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

### **XC 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.

Exceeding the time limit	Elimination
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
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](#). In their place, and especially on surfaces, knockdown 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. To be used on the back rails of spread fences and middle and back rails of triple bars. They should also be used for all knockdown fences in the XC Phase.

It is recommended a BS or BE 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.

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