

# TRAILBLAZERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

## GENERAL RULES COVERING ALL DISCIPLINES

*(Revised 1 September 2023)*

FINAL

### 1. Definitions

**1.1** In these Trailblazers Rules the term “**Competitor**” refers to any rider participating at a Trailblazers Qualifier or the Trailblazers Championship Finals, along with any associate of the rider, supporter or entourage. The term “**Show Organiser**” refers to the person / persons or company organising any Trailblazers Qualifier or the Trailblazers Championship Finals.

### 2. Qualification of a Partnership

Dressage

**2.1** Only qualified partnerships (horse / pony and rider) from a Trailblazers First Round Qualifier are eligible to compete at the Trailblazers Second Round Qualifiers.

**2.2** Only qualified partnerships (horse / pony and rider) from a Trailblazers Second Round Qualifier are eligible to compete at the Trailblazers Championship Finals.

#### Show Jumping / Combined Training

**2.3** Only qualified partnerships (horse / pony and rider) from a Trailblazers Direct Qualifier are eligible to compete at the Trailblazers Championship Finals.

#### All Disciplines

**2.4** In the event of a partnership (horse / pony and rider) ceasing, then the qualification (whether for Trailblazers Second Round Qualifiers or for the Trailblazers Championship Finals) will cease. If a partnership ceases the competitor would not be eligible for a refund for the cost of their Trailblazers Second Round Qualification Card/s and / or Trailblazers Direct Qualification Card/s. The refund policy regarding the Trailblazers Championship Finals is available in the Trailblazers Championship Finals Schedule.

**2.5** The horse / pony name used on the qualification card and the name as stated on the animal's passport must be the name used when entering the Trailblazers Championship Finals.

**2.6** It is the responsibility of any Competitor who has a change of contact details to contact the Trailblazers Central Office to update their details.

### 3. Qualification – Dressage

First Round Qualification

**3.1** The qualifying period for dressage first rounds for each Championship Final is from 1 September the previous year until 2 July in the year of the Championship Final.

**3.2** Competitors need a score of 58% or over in a Trailblazer First Round to qualify for the Trailblazers Second Rounds. First round qualification is required at each level to compete at a Second Round at that level.

**3.3** Once a Competitor has qualified at a First Round Qualifier, they should then purchase a Dressage Qualification Card from the Venue at which they qualified.

**3.4** The Dressage Qualification Card must be completed and returned to the Trailblazers Central Office. The Competitor will be issued with a Second Round Qualification Form for the horse or pony / rider at the level concerned.

### **Second Round Qualification**

**3.4** Second Round Qualifiers will be held in March, April, May or June in the year of the Championship Final.

**3.5** Every Show Organiser must run one Second Round Qualifier at their Venue at each level for which have run First Round Qualifiers.

**3.6** There is no restriction on the number of Second Rounds at the level qualified that a competitor may compete at to try to qualify for the Trailblazers Championship Finals.

**3.7** Once a competitor has achieved second round qualification, they must have the Show Secretary sign the Second Round Qualification Form and the Competitor must then return the form to the Trailblazers Central Office to finalise their qualification.

**3.8** The number to qualify for the Trailblazers Championship Finals from Second Round Qualifiers are listed in the Trailblazers Dressage Rules.

## **4. Qualification – Show Jumping**

### **Direct Qualification**

**4.1** The qualifying period for Direct Qualifiers for each Championship Final is from 1 September the previous year till 2 July in the year of the Championship Final.

**4.2** Competitors that qualify may purchase a Qualification Card from the venue at which they have qualified. The competitors must then complete the Qualification Card and send it the Trailblazers Central Office to register their qualification.

**4.3** Competitors must qualify and purchase a Qualification Card for each show jumping level in which they wish to compete at the Championship Finals.

**4.4** The number to qualify for the Trailblazers Championship Finals from each qualifier are listed in the Show Jumping Rules.

**4.5** Competitors must qualify and purchase a Qualification Card for each level in which they wish to compete at the Championship Finals and send the card to the Trailblazers Central Office to finalise their qualification.

## **5. Qualification – Combined Training**

### **Direct Qualification**

**5.1** The qualifying period for Direct Qualifiers for each Championship Final is from 1 September the previous year till 2 July in the year of the Championship Final.

**5.2** Competitors that qualify may purchase a Qualification Card from the venue at which they have qualified. The competitors must then complete the Qualification Card and send it the Trailblazers Central Office to register their qualification.

**5.3** Competitors must qualify and purchase a Qualification Card for each combined training level in which they wish to compete at the Championship Finals.

**5.4** The number to qualify for the Trailblazers Championship Finals from each qualifier are listed in the Combined Training Rules.

**5.5** Competitors must qualify and purchase a Qualification Card for each level in which they wish to compete at the Championship Finals.

### **Qualifying at Separate Dressage and Show Jumping Competitions**

**5.6** A horse or pony / rider combination may qualify at separate dressage and show jumping competitions run at Trailblazers venues. To do so, riders must download a Combined Training Special Qualification Form from the Trailblazers website.

**5.7** The combination may qualify the dressage by competing at the relevant level and achieving a score of 58% or above. The rider must have the dressage section of the form signed off by the show secretary.

**5.8** The same combination may also qualify the show jumping by competing at the relevant level and being placed in the top 8 in the competition. The rider must have the show jumping section of the form signed off by the show secretary.

**5.9** When both sections are complete, the Combined Training Special Qualification Form may be returned to Trailblazers Central Office to purchase a Direct Qualification Card and register their qualification. Alternatively, a card may be purchased from the venue after completion of the second part of the qualification and returned, together with the form.

**5.10** Competitors must qualify and purchase a Qualification Card for each combined training level in which they wish to compete at the Championship Finals.

## **6. Objections**

**6.1** Any objections must be made in writing to the show secretary at the event within 30 minutes of the competitors leaving the arena following the conclusion of the prize giving of the competition for which the objection is associated. The objection must be accompanied by a cash deposit of £100.00 or such sum as the schedule indicates.

**6.2** The decision of the Judge cannot be overruled. However, the Judge may, in light of evidence presented to them, and in accordance with these Trailblazers General Rules and the appropriate Trailblazers discipline specific rules, reconsider their decision, but the final decision rests with the Judge alone.

**6.3** Should the objection be other than a judging issue then the objection will be heard by the Show Organiser for the event in question whose decision upon reviewing the evidence presented, and in accordance with these Trailblazers General Rules and the appropriate Trailblazers discipline specific rules, will be final. Trailblazers Central Office may not overrule the decision of the Show Organiser.

**6.4** If the objection is overruled, the objector's deposit is forfeited to the event. If the objection is upheld the deposit will be returned to the objector.

## **7. Stallions**

**7.1** No person shall allow a stallion for which he / she is responsible as owner, lessee, authorised agent or rider to compete or be prepared to compete, in any class without taking adequate precautions to ensure other persons are not put at risk of injury. Stallions must be clearly identified whilst on the show ground.

**7.2** It is highly recommended that stallions should wear a stallion disc and that it is the responsibility of the Competitor to ensure that their stallion is clearly identified as such by other Competitors.

## 8. Presentations / Prize Giving

**8.1** The Show Organiser may reserve the right to withhold prizes if Competitors do not attend the Official Prize Giving. Competitors must attend the Official Prize Giving dressed in the manner in which they competed or required by the Show Organiser.

## 9. Equine Influenza Records

**9.1** It is the responsibility of the Competitor to ascertain (by direct contact with the individual venue) whether an Equine Influenza Record is required for a venue at which they may wish to compete.

**9.2** All horses / ponies competing at the Trailblazers Championship Finals must have a current and valid record of vaccination against Equine Influenza. Horses / Ponies must have been fully vaccinated within the past twelve months before arriving at the event and must have received the full course of vaccinations or the booster at least 7 days before arriving at the Championships. There will be random checking of records and any horse or pony found without a valid record will not be permitted to remain at the Trailblazers Championship Finals.

## 10. Social Media

**10.1** Trailblazers recognise that the internet provides unique opportunities to participate in interactive discussions and share information on particular topics using a wide variety of social media. However, all Trailblazers Members and / or Competitors must comply with the requirements of this rule whenever they use any form of social networking websites that now exist or may exist in the future.

**10.2** In their use of the internet and all social media, Members of Trailblazers and / or Competitors must not post any threatening, derogatory, obscene, indecent, seditious, offensive, pornographic, abusive, disparaging, racist, discriminatory, menacing, inflammatory, blasphemous, or defamatory statements or material, including, but not limited to, statements or material concerning Trailblazers, Members or former Members of Trailblazers, Show Direct, associates of Trailblazers and / or sponsors of Trailblazers. Members and / or Competitors will not make any statements that could directly or indirectly damage the name or reputation of Trailblazers.

**10.3** Trailblazers reserves the right to monitor, intercept and review, without further notice, social media postings and activities that include references to it and / or its members, to ensure that its rules are being complied with and for legitimate business purposes. All Trailblazers Members and / or Competitor consent to such monitoring by their agreeing to abide by these rules.

**10.4** Trailblazers may require Members and / or Competitor to remove postings, comments or any other submissions made using social media that are deemed to constitute a breach of this rule. Failure to comply with such a request may in itself result in suspension of membership.

**10.5** Trailblazers will fully comply with any law, request by any governmental or other regulatory authority; order by a court or other authority of competent jurisdiction, that requires Trailblazers to disclose the identity or location of any Member and / or Competitors posting any material in breach of the requirements of this rule. Trailblazers may share a member's personal information with the police or any other governmental authority if it is asked to do so in connection with the investigation of suspected illegal activities.

**10.6** Failure by a Trailblazers Member and / or Competitor to comply with the provisions of this rule may result in Trailblazers suspending that Member's membership and therefore right to compete in Second Round Qualifiers and Trailblazers Championship

Finals. Civil and / or criminal proceedings could also be brought against any Member and / or Competitor for breach of this rule where applicable.

## **11. Conduct**

**11.1** Unacceptable conduct, cruelty and / or anti-social behaviour will be dealt with at the discretion of the Show Organiser.

## **12. Management of Qualifier Shows**

**12.1** It is understood and agreed by Competitors that the event management, organisation and insurance of individual shows at which Trailblazers qualifiers are hosted, whether they be direct, first or second round qualifiers are the sole responsibility of the Show Organiser for that individual show.

## **13. Terms & Conditions for Trailblazers Venues**

**13.1** By entering any Trailblazers competition in any discipline, the Competitor understands and agrees to comply to the Trailblazers Rules (as set out on the website [www.trailblazerschampionships.com](http://www.trailblazerschampionships.com)) and to the Terms & Conditions of the individual venue at which they are competing. The decision of the Show Organiser of the venue at which the Competitor is competing is deemed final.

## **14. Refunds**

### **Qualifiers**

**14.1** Any refund for any reason for entries, stables etc. for any direct, first or second round qualifiers is at the sole discretion of the Show Organiser for that individual show.

### **Qualification Cards**

**14.2** Once a Qualification Card has been purchased by a Competitor or a Trailblazers Venue, no refund is available for any Direct or First Round Qualification Cards, no matter the reason.

### **Trailblazers Championship Finals**

**14.3** The refund policy for entries, stables, medical and hook ups etc. at the Trailblazers Championship Finals is available in the Trailblazers Championship Finals Schedule which is released prior to the start of the Championship Finals entry process each year.

## **15. Rule Amendments**

**15.1** Show Direct Ltd reserves the right to make alterations without notice to any Trailblazers Rules in any discipline. Should any such changes be made they will immediately be published on [www.trailblazerschampionships.com](http://www.trailblazerschampionships.com)