

TRAILBLAZERS SHOW JUMPING RULES.

(
(Effective 1 October 2025)

1. Trailblazers Show Jumping Competitions

1.1 Show jumping competitions are available at the following levels:-

Junior Trailblazers 60cm 12 years and under Championship
Junior Trailblazers 60cm Championship
Junior Trailblazers 70cm Championship
Junior Trailblazers 80cm Championship
Junior Trailblazers 90cm Championship
Junior Trailblazers 1m Championship

Senior Trailblazers 60cm Championship
Senior Trailblazers 70cm Championship
Senior Trailblazers 80cm Championship
Senior Trailblazers 90cm Championship
Senior Trailblazers 1m Championship

Seniors on Ponies Trailblazers 60cm Championship
Seniors on Ponies Trailblazers 70cm Championship
Seniors on Ponies Trailblazers 80cm Championship

1.2 Competitions for First Round Qualification may be combined but must be split for qualification purposes.

1.3 All junior competitions are for ponies 148cm and under.

1.4 All senior competitions are for horses over 148cm; with the exception of seniors on ponies. Seniors may compete on ponies (148cm and under) in the senior 60cm, 70cm and 80cm competitions in order to qualify for the Senior on Ponies Championships. However, should the Judge for the competition deem the senior and pony completely incompatible the Judge has the right to exclude the Competitor from the competition.

Competing in a 60cm qualifier and subsequent 80cm and above qualifiers:

1.5 Should either a senior or junior competitor compete in a 60cm competition then the same combination of horse / pony and rider would not be eligible to compete competitively on the same day in competitions of 80cms or above. However, the competitor may on the same day compete competitively on a different horse / pony in competitions 80cms or above. This applies to the Trailblazers First Rounds and the Trailblazers Championship Finals. At the Trailblazers Championship Finals this rule applies even if the classes are on different days.

Qualifying from combined junior 60cm qualifiers:

1.6 Should a Junior Trailblazers 60cms 12 years and under Championship Qualifier and a Junior Trailblazers 60cms Championship Qualifier be run as a combined competition then a 12 years and under competitor must nominate which Championship for which they wish to qualify. They may not qualify for both championships in one competition; however, they may compete in another qualifier to qualify for the other Championship.

Seniors on ponies

1.7 Seniors may compete on ponies (148cm and under) in the senior 60cm, 70cm and 80cm competitions. However, should the Judge for the competition deem the senior and pony completely incompatible the Judge has the right to exclude the Competitor from the competition. The Judge's decision is final. In such an instance, the Show Organiser would not be liable for any refund of any fees to the excluded Competitor.

1.8 At the Trailblazers Championship Finals, there will be a separate 60cm, 70cm and 80cm Championship for seniors who have qualified on ponies.

2. Junior and Senior Age Eligibility for Trailblazers

Juniors

2.1 Juniors riding ponies (148cms and under) must not have attained their 17th birthday before the first day (show jumping warm up day) of the Trailblazers Championship Finals. In the case of any dispute, birth certificates must be available if requested.

2.2 Juniors competing in the Junior Trailblazers 60cm 12 years and under Championship must not have attained their 13th birthday before the first day (show jumping warm up day) of the Trailblazers Championship Finals. In the case of any dispute, birth certificates must be available if requested.

Seniors

2.3 Once a competitor has attained their 17th birthday they may only compete in senior competitions.

2.4 Juniors may compete in senior competitions on horses (over 148cm) on or after their 12th birthday. In the case of any dispute, birth certificates must be available if requested.

2.5 Seniors may compete on ponies (148cm and under) in the senior 60cm, 70cm and 80cm competitions from on or after their 17th birthday to attain qualification for Senior on Ponies Championships. However, should the Judge for the competition deem the senior and pony completely incompatible the Judge has the right to exclude the Competitor from the competition.

3. Pony and Horse Eligibility for Trailblazers

Pony

3.1 Any JA pony that is currently registered with British Showjumping will not be permitted to compete at the Trailblazers Championship Finals. In the case of any dispute, proof of when membership was concluded must be available if requested.

3.2 Any JA pony previously registered with British Showjumping will not be permitted to compete at the Trailblazers Championships Finals with the rider who competed the pony in British Showjumping competitions.

3.3 BS Club. Any pony that has previously been competed as JA but is currently registered with British Showjumping solely for Club competitions may compete in Trailblazers classes. However, should the pony revert to full affiliated status as JA, any qualifications gained will immediately be cancelled and the pony will not be eligible to compete in further Trailblazers classes nor the Championships per rules 3.1 and 3.2 above.

3.4 Any pony and rider combination that has represented their country in any FEI and / or British Showjumping competition is not eligible to compete at the Trailblazers Championship Finals.

3.5 If it is proved that a pony is competing at the Championship Finals under a different name as registered with British Showjumping then it shall be eliminated.

3.6 No other restrictions on pony eligibility or winning are applied for any Trailblazers show jumping competitions.

Horse

3.6 Any Grade A or B horses that are currently registered with British Showjumping will not be permitted to compete at the Trailblazers Championship Finals. In the case of any dispute, proof of when membership was concluded must be available if requested.

3.7 Any Grade A or B horses previously registered with British Showjumping will not be permitted to compete at the Trailblazers Championships Finals with the rider who competed the horse in British Showjumping competitions.

3.8 BS Club. Any horse that has previously been competed as Grade A or B but is currently registered with British Showjumping solely for Club competitions may compete in Trailblazers classes. However, should the horse revert to full affiliated status as Grade A or B, any qualifications gained will immediately be cancelled and the Horse will not be eligible to compete in further Trailblazers classes nor the Championships per rules 3.6 and 3.7 above.

3.9 Any horse and rider combination that has represented their country in any FEI and / or British Showjumping competition are not eligible to compete at the Trailblazers Championship Finals.

3.10 If it is proved that a horse is competing at the Championship Finals under a different name as registered with British Showjumping then it shall be eliminated.

3.11 No other restrictions on horse eligibility or winnings are applied for any Trailblazers show jumping competitions.

Horse and Pony

3.12 Height Certificate for Horse or Pony

Horses suspected of being under 149cms competing in a Show Jumping Horse Championship, other than as declared below, may be asked for a life height certificate. Ponies suspected of being over 148cms competing in a Show Jumping Pony Championship may be asked for a life height certificate. Failure to be able to prove a horse's or pony's height may result in elimination from the competition.

Ponies of 142cm – 148cm may compete in Horse classes if formally declared to the show secretary on making their entry.

4. Senior Rider Restriction

4.1 Senior riders listed on the British Showjumping Gold List from the 1 August of the year prior to the finals are not eligible to compete at the Trailblazers Championship Finals.

5. Officials and Courses

5.1 Competitions must be judged by a minimum of one recognised judge and one writer. Show jumping courses to be built by a recognised course designer.

5.2 The course plan must be available for competitors to view at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the competition, with an identical plan provided to the Judge.

5.3 Courses for:

- Junior Trailblazers 60cm 12 years and under Championship
- Junior Trailblazers 60cm Championship
- Senior Trailblazers 60cm Championship
- Seniors on Ponies Trailblazers 60cm Championship

To consist of a minimum of 9 numbered obstacles to include 1 double combination or 2 double combinations. A water tray or triple combination may not be used in these competitions.

5.4 Courses for:

- Junior Trailblazers 70cm Championship
- Junior Trailblazers 80cm Championship
- Junior Trailblazers 90cm Championship
- Junior Trailblazers 1.00m Championship
- Senior Trailblazers 70cm Championship
- Senior Trailblazers 80cm Championship
- Senior Trailblazers 90cm Championship
- Senior Trailblazers 1m Championship
- Seniors on Ponies Trailblazers 70cm Championship
- Seniors on Ponies Trailblazers 80cm Championship

Courses for all Trailblazers competitions must consist of minimum of 9 numbered obstacles to include 1 double combination, 2 double combinations or 1 double combination and 1 treble combination. A water tray may be used.

Jump off courses for all competitions

5.5 Jump off courses must consist of a minimum of 5 numbered obstacles to include one double combination. The distance between obstacles forming part of a combination must not be changed from what was jumped in the previous round, but an obstacle forming part of a combination may be removed

5.6 The height of obstacles in a jump off must not exceed the height of the highest obstacle in the previous round or jump-off by more than 10cms. The heights of the obstacles must remain unchanged from those in the previous round or jump off if the horses / ponies to jump off have all incurred faults in the previous round or jump off.

5.7 Obstacles not being included in the jump off course should be blanked off, but failure to blank off an obstacle will not preclude the elimination of a competitor for jumping an obstacle not forming part of the course.

5.8 Three fences not jumped in the first round may be included in the jump off course. These fences must be built and in position when competitors walk the course prior to the start of the competition and may include reversing a spread fence that was used in the first round.

6. Practice Area

6.1 A practice area should be provided for each competition arena.

6.2 At least one upright and one spread obstacle should be provided. The wings must be marked with red to the right and white to the left and may only be jumped in this direction.

6.3 Practice fences may not be more than 10cms higher than the maximum height of the first round fences in the competition arena.

6.4 These obstacles are intended for warming up purposes prior to competing and they are not to be used for prolonged schooling by competitors or others immediately before, during or after a competition.

6.5 All elements of practice obstacles must be capable of being knocked down in the normal manner and must not be fixed, jammed or positioned in a manner which prevents or hinders them from falling. One pole only may be laid flat on the ground at the ground line or up to 1m from the ground line. False ground lines are not allowed. Alternate sloping top poles are not to be used.

6.6 Practice spread obstacles are not to be jumped in such a direction that the front element is higher than the rear element. No pole or obstacle of any kind is to be held by hand for a horse to jump.

7. Jumping Faults

7.1

Knock Down	4 faults
First Disobedience	4 faults
Second Disobedience	8 faults
Third Disobedience	Elimination
Fall of Rider	Elimination (rider must leave the arena on foot)

Knock Down

7.2 An obstacle is considered to have been knocked down when, through the fault of the horse / pony or rider, the whole or any part of the top element falls, even if the part which falls is subsequently arrested in its fall before reaching the ground; or at least one of its ends no longer rests on any part of its support; or if any wing or support intended to maintain the stability of the obstacle falls; or the pillars or wings with a wall fall.

Disobediences

7.3 The following are considered as disobediences and are penalised as such:

- 1 Refusals
- 2 Run outs
- 3 Resistances
- 4 Circles
- 5 Passing outside the flags or markers of the finishing line

Disobediences during interrupted time are not penalised.

Refusal

7.4 It is a refusal when a horse / pony stops or fails to take off at an obstacle, whether or not the obstacle is knocked down or displaced.

Run Out

7.5 It is a run out when the horse or any part of the horse passes to one side of the fence to be jumped.

7.6 It is also a run out if the horse / pony jumps the wing of the obstacle, whether or not the wing is knocked down.

7.7 Following a run out the rider must return and attempt the obstacle again. Failure to do so incurs elimination.

Resistance

7.8 It is a resistance when the horse for whatever reason ceases to go forward, halts, rears, turns on the spot or steps back.

7.9 Uninterrupted resistances are penalised as a single disobedience but if after retaking the track the horse / pony again resists this is penalised as a separate disobedience.

Circle

7.10 It is a circle if the competitor deviates from the course as set out on the course plan and in so doing crosses over his / her previous track. Following a circle, any further circles made without retaking the track are not penalised, but if after retaking the track the competitor again circles again this is penalised as a separate disobedience.

Fall of Rider

7.11 One fall eliminates horse and rider. The rider must not remount and must leave the arena on foot.

7.12 A rider who dismounts for any reason after entering the competition arena and before passing through the finish will be eliminated. If a competitor dismounts after passing through the finish they must remount before exiting the competition arena unless they have dismounted for a medical or safety reason.

8. Competition Tables

8.1

- | | |
|----|---|
| T1 | One round against the clock. |
| T2 | One round and one jump off against the clock. |
| T3 | One round, shorter second round and one jump off against the clock. |
| T4 | Two Phase competition |
| T5 | Single Phase competition |

If required lower placing are determined according to a competitor's penalties and time in the previous round.

T4 – Two phase competitions

8.2 This competition comprises of two phases, the finishing line for the first phase being the starting line for the second phase. The first phase is not against the clock but with a time allowed and the second phase with a time allowed and against the clock. The first phase is a course of 7 to 9 obstacles. The second phase takes place over 4 to 6 obstacles. Competitors penalised in the first phase are halted by ringing the bell after they pass through the finish of the first phase. Competitors not penalised in the first phase continue the course, which finishes after crossing the second phase finishing line.

8.3 Competitors are placed according to penalties and time in the second phase. Should no competitor, or not enough competitors complete phase one to fill the awards the first phase placing will be split by their faults then by the time taken for the round.

T5 – Single phase competitions

8.4 This competition comprises of a one round course but in two sections, the finishing line for the first section being the starting line for the second section. The competitor will

jump the whole course unless they are eliminated. Faults are accumulated over both sections. First and second sections are with a time allowed and time limit. The second section is against the clock. The first section is a course of 5 to 7 obstacles and the second section also takes place over 5 to 7 obstacles; however, there must be a total of 12 fences in both sections.

8.5 Double and treble combinations will apply as per the rules for a first round as listed in Point 5 of these Show Jumping Rules and may be included in either or both sections.

8.6 The winner is the competitor with the least faults from both sections. In the case of equality of faults the competitors with the fastest time in the second section will be deemed the winner.

9. Start and Finish

9.1 The start and finish line must be a minimum of 6 metres and maximum of 25 metres from the first and last fence.

10. Timing Equipment

10.1 Time equipment will be used in competitions in which time is a deciding factor and/or in which faults are awarded for exceeding the time allowed.

10.2 Shows may choose (this rule is optional and at the discretion of the Show Organiser) to operate a 45 second countdown. After the bell has been rung, the competitor must cross the starting line in the correct direction within 45 seconds; the timing equipment will show a count down from 45 seconds on a public display beside the arena, which is visible to the competitor. If the competitor has not crossed the starting line in the correct direction when the 45 seconds expire, the time of the round will start at that moment. The competitor is not eliminated if they do not cross the starting line within the 45 seconds. Once the bell has been sounded for the competitor to start their round, the Judge has the right to interrupt the 45 seconds countdown, as a result of unforeseen circumstances.

10.3 Should a horse or rider come into contact with the timing equipment before, during or after their round, including interrupted time, elimination is incurred, except as a result of contact with the cable only.

11. Speed

11.1 Course will be measured at 325mpm for all competitions.

12. Time Allowed, Time Faults and Time Limit

Time Allowed

12.1 Each course will be accurately measured and the time allowed included on the course plan. If the Judge considers that the time allowed is in error they have absolute discretion, after consultation with the Course Designer, to amend the time allowed; providing not more than five horses have completed the course without a refusal and without departing unduly from the track. No competitor or other person has the right to demand the re-measurement of the course or alteration of the time allowed.

Time Faults

12.2 In all rounds under T1, T2, T3, T4 & T5 one time fault is incurred for each commenced second in excess of the time allowed.

Time Limit

12.3 In all rounds under T1, T2, T3, T4 & T5 the time limit is twice the time allowed. Failure to complete the course within the time limit incurs elimination. The time limit should be included on the course plan for each competition.

Time Penalties

12.4 Time penalties are incurred when an obstacle is displaced as the result of a disobedience. These are added as follows:

At a single obstacle, at the first obstacle of an open or closed combination or at subsequent obstacles of a closed combination	Six seconds
At the second obstacle of an open combination	Six seconds
At the third or subsequent obstacles of an open combination	Six seconds

Time penalties are added to the time taken to complete the round before the calculation of any time faults.

13. Non-Competitive Rounds

13.1 Competitors may elect to go non-competitive (Hors Concours) any number of times but the first round of jumping will be the competitive scoring round. They may then compete in the next class as normal.

14. Prize money

14.1 Any single prize may not exceed £20. The number of prizes and places given per class is at the individual Show Organisers discretion.

15. Competitor Dress

Hats	Must conform to current safety standards and be worn at all times when mounted.
Long Hair	For the purpose of safety, long hair should be tidy and secured appropriately.
Jewellery	Should jewellery be worn anywhere on the body it can increase the risk of injury and competitors are strongly recommended to remove all jewellery.
Jackets	Should be of a traditionally tailored style. Trailblazers members are requested to refrain from wearing blouson style jackets while competing.
Shirts	White or pastel coloured shirts with a tie or stock. Ladies or girls may wear white or pastel coloured show jumping shirts with show jumping white collars. All shirts may have long or short sleeves.
Gloves	Optional, but if worn should be in a plain colour.
Body Protectors	Optional including the air bag style and may be worn over or under the jacket.
Breeches / Jodhpurs	Must be white, pale yellow, beige, grey or fawn in colour.
Long Boots	Must be black, brown or navy blue and may be with or without mahogany or patent tops.
Jodhpur Boots	Must be leather and may be black brown or navy blue.
Gaiters / Half Chaps	Must be a plain black, brown or navy blue with no fringes and to be worn with matching leather black, brown or navy blue jodhpur boots.

Spurs	Spurs are only to be worn in the traditionally correct manner, with the curve of the neck of the spur directed downwards. The neck of the spur must not exceed 3cm when measured from the back of the boot. Spurs with rowels, roughened or cutting edges, serrated spurs, with or without necks are not permitted. Metal spurs with a plastic ball on the end are allowed.
Whips	Only one padded baton, as defined in detail in the British Showjumping Member Handbook, may be carried in the competition arena, practice arena or anywhere, on, or in the immediate vicinity of the showground. The padded baton, if carried, must be held in the hand by the handle with the handle at the top. Failure to comply, or use of any other kind of whip by rider or associated personnel, may incur disqualification. The maximum length of the Padded baton is 70cm and must be no less than 45cm. The contact area, is considered to be 2/5's (two fifths) of the overall length of the padded baton and must be covered with a pad.
Branding	Company or Private Logos may be worn on pocket badges, saddle cloths, rugs or on upper arm of the rider's competition jacket.

16. Tack and Equipment

16.1 No item of saddlery or equipment is to be misused. Dress and tack requirements must be adhered to at all times when a horse / pony is ridden on the show ground.

16.2 The only martingales permitted are standing and / or running martingales. A standing martingale may only be attached to a cavesson noseband.

16.3 A Market Harborough is permitted for Senior Competitions, but can only be used with a plain snaffle, not a gag.

16.4 Running reins or draw reins are not permitted to be used in the competition arena at any time.

16.5 Juniors are not permitted to use running reins, Market Harborough, hackamores, bitless bridles and / or combination bits at any time while on the show ground.

16.6 No string, wire, twine or cord may be used in or around the mouth of a horse or pony. Properly constructed tongue guards, which are detached from the reins and bit, are permitted.

16.7 Blinkers are forbidden. Leather, sheepskin or similar material may be used on each cheek piece of the bridle providing the material does not exceed 3cms in diameter measured from the horse's or pony's cheek.

16.7 A stallion disc must be displayed and clearly visible on a stallion's bridle at all times at shows. In addition, a white ribbon may be worn in the tail.

17. Qualification for the Championship Finals

Qualifying Period

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

17.2 Each venue's show organiser has the option to run multiple Trailblazers qualifying competitions during the qualifying period.

Numbers to Qualify

17.3 The 8 highest placed combinations, regardless of the number of starters in the qualifier, will qualify to compete at the Championship Finals.

17.4 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.

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

Championship Final Schedule

17.6 Once a competitor has qualified at a qualifying competition, purchased their Qualification Card and registered the Card for the level that they have qualified, a link for a digital Championship Final schedule will be sent to the competitor by the Trailblazers Central Office in June in the Year of the Championship Final.

Reference to the Trailblazers General Rules

17.7 Also see Points 2 & 4 in “General Rules Covering all Disciplines”.

18. Competing at the Trailblazers Championship Finals

18.1 Riders can only jump a maximum of four horses or ponies in any one competition at the Trailblazers Championship Finals.

18.2 Riders can only jump a pony / horse in four different Championships at the Trailblazers Championships Finals.

18.3 Riders may still proceed to the Championship Day 2 competition, even if eliminated in the competition on Day 1 of the Trailblazers Championship Finals.

18.4 On Day 2 of each Championship Final, competitors will compete in reverse order of placings on Day 1. Riders with multiple horses in the class will have the lower placed horse(s) moved earlier in the draw if required.

18.5 Also see point 1.5 in “Trailblazers Show Jumping Rules”

18.6 Also see Point 2 in “General Rules Covering all Disciplines”.

19. British Showjumping Rules

19.1 British Showjumping rules (published on www.britishshowjumping.co.uk) will apply to Trailblazers competitions unless superseded by the Trailblazers Rules.