

Association of Irish Riding Clubs

Competitions and Grading 2022

Information Circular

This document aims to provide clarity around the new grades and what competitions a member is eligible for, depending on their grade for the discipline.

The new grades were introduced on 1st January 2022 after Member Clubs overwhelming endorsed the proposed changes in 2021.

This document is provided for information purposes and should be read in conjunction with the rule book. In the event of any discrepancies, the rule book shall take precedent.

The Grades

The grades for dressage, show jumping, and cross-country are as follows:

Dressage	Show Jumping	Cross-Country	Level	Previous Name
RC 1 (Prelim 1)	RC 70	No Grade	1	Primary
RC 2 (Prelim 2)	RC 80	RC 80	2	Advanced Primary
RC P3 (Prelim 3)	RC 90	RC 90	3	Intermediate
RC N (Novice)	RC 100	RC 100	4	Advanced Intermediate
RC E (Elementary)	RC 110	RC 110	5	Open
RC M (Medium)	RC 120	RC 120	6	Advanced Open

Competitions

There are two categories of competitions and they are as follows:

1. Standard Competitions (including Championships)
These are the standard set of competitions which are included at shows and championships.

Dressage	Show Jumping	Cross-Country	Previous Grade
RC P1	RC 70	-	Primary
RC P2	RC 80	RC 80	Advanced Primary
RC P3	RC 90	RC 90	Intermediate
RC N	RC 100	RC 100	Adv. Intermediate
RC E	RC 110	RC 110	Open
RC M	RC 120	RC 120	Advanced Open

Members who are graded at this level are only permitted to compete at their respective competitions at the grade registered on their membership card at the time of the competition.

Members, however, may also compete at the next highest level only in standard competitions. They may not, however, compete at the next highest level in an 'open' competition as defined in 8.1.2.

Members are not permitted to compete up a level at National Championships or qualifiers for National Championships.

2. Open Competitions

These are additional competitions that show organisers may run at shows to permit those of a higher level to compete at a lower level. They are as follows:

Dressage	Show Jumping	Cross- Country	Previous Grade
RC P1 Open	RC 70 Open	-	Primary
RC P2 Open	RC 80 Open	RC 80 Open	Advanced Primary
RC P3 Open	RC 90 Open	RC 90 Open	Intermediate
RC N Open	RC 100 Open	RC 100 Open	Adv. Intermediate
RC E Open	RC 110 Open	RC 110 Open	Open
RC M Open	RC 120 Open	RC 120 Open	Advanced Open

Members who compete in open classes may only compete at two consecutive levels, on any day, at any show, on the same horse. For example, a RC 100 rider may decide to ride in an RC 80 open class at a show and they may also only compete in the RC 90 open class as well. They may not go on and also compete in the RC 100 open class.

Only members who are graded equal to the open class or of a higher grade may compete in an open class. For example, an RC 80 open show jumping class would be open to anyone graded RC 80 or higher.

The format of an open competition will follow that of the standard competition. For example, in show jumping an RC 80 open competition will run under optimum time while an RC 90 open class will run against the clock.

Who is eligible for a competition?

The following tables outline what grades are eligible for various competitions.

Dressage

Competition	Who's Eligible
RC P1 (Preliminary 1)	RC P1
RC P1 (Preliminary 1) Open	RC P1, RC P2, RC P3, RC N, RC E, RC M
RC P2 (Preliminary 2)	RC P1, RC P2
RC P2 (Preliminary 2) Open	RC P2, RC P3, RC N, RC E, RC M
RC P3 (Preliminary 3)	RC P2, RC P3
RC P3 (Preliminary 3) Open	RC P3, RC N, RC E, RC M
RC N (Novice)	RC P3, RC N
RC N (Novice) Open	RC N, RC E, RC M
RC E (Elementary)	RC N, RC E
RC E (Elementary) Open	RC E, RC M
RC M (Medium)	RC E, RC M

Show Jumping

Competition	Who's Eligible
Newcomers	RC 70, RC 80
RC 70	RC 70
RC 70 Open	RC 70, RC 80, RC 90, RC 100, RC 110, RC 120
RC 80	RC 70, RC 80
RC 80 Open	RC 80, RC 90, RC 100, RC 110, RC 120
RC 90	RC 80, RC 90
RC 90 Open	RC 90, RC 100, RC 110, RC 120
RC 100	RC 90, RC 100
RC 100 Open	RC 100, RC 110, RC 120
RC 110	RC 100, RC 110
RC 110 Open	RC 110, RC 120
RC 120	RC 110, RC 120

Eventing / Hunter Trials

Competition	Who's Eligible
RC 80	RC 80
RC 80 Open	RC 80, RC 90, RC 100, RC 110, RC 120
RC 90	RC 80, RC 90
RC 90 Open	RC 90, RC 100, RC 110, RC 120
RC 100	RC 90, RC 100
RC 100 Open	RC 100, RC 110, RC 120
RC 110	RC 100, RC 110
RC 110 Open	RC 110, RC 120
RC 120	RC 110, RC 120

Prizes

In regional leagues, organisers may award rosettes only at each leg of the league with overall prizes awarded for the league at the final. Regions cannot exclude members from another region from the league prizes.

Ratio of Prizes to Starters

Prizes and rosettes should be awarded as follows in all classes where prizes and rosettes are awarded as minimum:

Starters	Placings	Prizes	Rosettes
1 to 3	1 st only	-	1 st only
4 to 5	1 st to 3 rd	1 st only	1 st to 3 rd
6 to 10	1 st to 6 th	1 st to 2 nd only	1 st to 6 th
11 or more	1 st to 6 th	1 st to 3 rd	1 st to 6 th

Results

Secretaries must return a show summary report submit results of any inter-club (regional) show/event on the official Inter-Club Show Results Form which is available to download on www.airc.ie

This must be submitted to your regional results coordinator and National Office no later than 14 days after the show.

Organisers of championship qualifiers must return results to National Office within 3 days of it taking place on the official results form.

An automatic fine of €50 may be imposed on clubs failing to comply with this.