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Rules

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General Rules

Section 1

Section 1 – General Rules

1. Interpretation of the Rules

The Board of Directors of the Association of Irish Riding Clubs CLG shall be the sole interpreter of the rules.

2. Membership

2.1. Individual Membership

In order to become a member of an AIRC Affiliated Club or for a member to successfully renew their membership to such a club he/she must be 17 years or age or older. over seventeen years of age. He/she must pay the annual subscription due in full and have submitted their details on the official membership application form to the relevant AIRC Affiliated Club Secretary who will process them and forward same to National Office.

Membership will not be acquired/renewed by the individual in question until such a time as National Office is in receipt of the proposed members forwarded details and annual payment due and they have date stamped and processed same. Upon completion of this membership application/renewal process, the member will be issued an annual membership card from National Office.

The annual subscription will be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors.

The annual subscription fee shall be payable on or before January 1st of each year. Any member whose subscription is in arrears will be deemed to have resigned from the AIRC affiliated club, (and the AIRC), and may have his or her name removed from the membership list after written notice to the effect that their name may be removed from the membership list should they not pay the subscription due within a time limit specified in the notice has been sent to him or her.

(Members of affiliated clubs are referred to as Associate members in the AIRC Articles of Association but all AIRC members as defined by said Articles of Association will simply be referred to as members throughout this text as all members are bound equally by the rules herein.)

2.2. Membership Categories

There shall be two broad categories of membership of an AIRC Affiliated Riding Club:

2.2.3. Riding Membership

Riding members may enter and take part in all mounted and unmounted activities of the club and those of other affiliated clubs, if invited to do so, and any such events that fall under the auspices of the AIRC including national AIRC events and AIRC championship events.

2.2.4. Non-Riding Membership

Non-Riding members are restricted to part taking in unmounted events and roles of the AIRC Affiliated Club, Affiliated Inter Club events, and all events under the auspices of the AIRC including national AIRC events and AIRC Championship events only.

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2.3. Secondary Membership

Riding members may only join another club as a Secondary Member. Before they can be registered as a Secondary Member of another club, they must be a registered member of an affiliated member club of the Association.

Secondary members are only permitted to enter and take part in all mounted and unmounted training and social activities of the club. They are not permitted to take part in competitions at club, regional or national events or championships.

2.4. Membership Applications

Applications for membership are non-refundable and non-transferable once submitted to National Office. Clubs must allow a minimum of two working days, and up to 10 working days for applications to be processed upon receipt of payment and order confirmation. National Office will only correspond with Club Secretaries with regard to any membership application.

3. Members & Show Organisers Responsibilities

Members of affiliated clubs, by acceptance of their membership, agree to the following:

3.1. Members Responsibilities

3.1.1. Rules

To be fully conversant and bound by the rules and regulations of the Association.

3.1.2. Code of Conduct

No member shall:

- Conduct themselves at any event in a manner which is offensive to the public.
- At any event, argue, behave with incivility or contempt, or use abusive or threatening language, towards a judge, official or other person.
- Conduct themselves in a manner detrimental to the character and/or prejudicial to the interests of the Association.
- Make, either orally or in writing, to an officer of the Association or Club, or a third party, a statement on a matter covered by the rules which they know to be untrue.

3.1.3. Social Media

Whilst AIRC acknowledge that social media can be an ideal way to communicate with both members and the wider equestrian community, any defamatory comments relating to members, officials, volunteers and staff or AIRC will not be tolerated. An online post is libellous if it is damaging to a person's reputation. Reposting or retweeting can be seen as an endorsement of the original comment. AIRC members and clubs may be subject to disciplinary action if found in breach of this rule.

3.1.4. Competitions

Members are responsible to ensure that they only enter competitions for which they are eligible for as stated on their membership card. The competitors club may also be held accountable to ensure that its members only enter competitions for which they are eligible for as stated on their membership card. Failure to comply with this can result in disciplinary action and/or a maximum fine of up to €1,000.

3.2. Organisers Responsibilities

Clubs/Regions hosting activities must ensure that participants are members of an affiliated club and are entered into activities or competitions for which they are eligible for, as stated on their AIRC membership card. Membership Cards must be checked for all participants whether beforehand or on the day of the activity at all activities.

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Organisers must also ensure that any AIRC activity is run in accordance with AIRC rules.

Failure to comply with this can result in disciplinary action and/or a maximum fine of up to €1,000.

4. Prizes

Prizes in kind to a maximum of €100 per class are permitted in any club, inter-club competitions or championship qualifiers. Cash or money prizes are not permitted.

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.

4.1. 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

5. Eligibility of Members, Officials, Show Officials, Trainers and Instructors

5.1. Age

All members must be 17 years of age or older on the date of registering their membership with AIRC.

5.2. Club Representation

A member may only represent one club in inter-club competitions, qualifiers, and championship competitions in any Association subscription year, which runs from 1st January to 31st December, and this is the club stated on the members card and recorded on the national database.

5.3. Membership Cards

No member may enter or take part in any club or inter-club activity until such time as they are in possession of their official AIRC membership card, whether via the official AIRC app on a smart device or a traditional plastic membership card. These cards are strictly non-transferable and remain property of the Association. Any misuse of a current AIRC membership card or any breach of AIRC rules will incur automatic suspension, and a maximum fine of up to €1,000.

When attending inter-club activities, it is the responsibility of each member to produce their membership card for inspection. If they are unable to produce their card for whatever reason, they will be unable to take part.

5.4. Officials

Regional officers or committee members at any level must be paid up members of the AIRC no later than the 31st March. All club officials of a registered riding club must be paid up members of AIRC on the date of registering the club and must possess a current AIRC membership card.

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5.5. Show Officials

The following officials are required at shows and for organisers using officials who are not already listed on a Dressage Ireland / Eventing Ireland or Show Jumping Ireland list, they must register them with National Office to be included on the National Database:

5.5.1. Dressage

Club Shows	Dressage Ireland judge or judge approved by club committee on the AIRC Show Officials List
Inter-Club Shows	Dressage Ireland judge or judge approved by club committee on the AIRC Show Officials List
National & Championships	Dressage Ireland judge or AIRC approved judge
Qualifiers:	As for National and Championships

5.5.2. Show Jumping

Club Shows	Judge: SJI deputy judge or judge approved by club committee on AIRC Show Officials List. Course Designer: SJI course designer or course designer approved by club committee on the AIRC Show Officials List.
Inter-Club Shows	Judge: SJI judge or judge approved by regional committee on the AIRC Show Officials List. Course Designer: SJI regional or above course designer or course designer approved by club committee on the AIRC Show Officials List.
National & Championships	Judge: SJI judge or AIRC approved judge Course Designer: SJI national or above course designer or AIRC approved course designer
Qualifiers:	Judge: As for National and Championships Course Designer: As for National and Championships

5.5.3. Horse Trials / Hunter Trials / Cross Jump

The above apply in each phase. In addition, a suitable Technical Delegate (Chief Steward) agreed by AIRC must be appointed by the organising committee for horse trials and hunter trials.

5.6. Trainers and Instructors

Any instructor or trainer engaged in training riding club members at a riding club activity must hold a recognised qualification or have suitable experience in accordance with the criteria published in document D70/12.

6. Grading of Members

6.1. Members are graded so that:

- They are not asked in competition to do anything which is above or below their level of expertise and which would impose unnecessary hardship on the horse.
- To standardise, throughout the country, competition standards with the object of placing as many riders as possible on as equal a footing as possible.
- The grading of individual members is the responsibility of the club committee, with the advice where appropriate of a recognised instructor. The onus is on the club committee to grade their riders fairly and in a sporting manner.

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6.2. The Grades

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

Dressage	Show Jumping	Cross-Country	Previous Name
RC 1 (Prelim 1)	RC 70	-	Primary
RC 2 (Prelim 2)	RC 80	RC 80	Advanced Primary
RC P3 (Prelim 3)	RC 90	RC 90	Intermediate
RC N (Novice)	RC 100	RC 100	Adv. Intermediate
RC E (Elementary)	RC 110	RC 110	Open
RC M (Medium)	RC 120	RC 120	Advanced Open

6.3. Eligibility Criteria

6.3.1. RC P1 (Preliminary 1) / RC 70

This grade is to cater for the beginner or very novice rider who is able to walk and trot and is beginning to canter.

Members at this level may not have attained any riding qualification from the British Horse Society or any other similar qualification. They may, however, hold an Irish Pony Club efficiency test in E, D or D+.

In order to be eligible for this grade, the individual may not exceed the thresholds outlined below in competitions, unaffiliated or otherwise:

<i>Dressage Ireland or other unaffiliated competitions</i>
They may not compete in Dressage Ireland competitions.
<i>Show Jumping Ireland or other unaffiliated</i>
They may not compete in Show Jumping Ireland competitions.
<i>Eventing Ireland or other unaffiliated competitions</i>
They may not compete in Eventing Ireland competitions.
<i>Hunter Trials or other unaffiliated competitions</i>
They may not compete in Hunter Trials competitions.
<i>AIRC affiliated competitions</i>
They may compete in RC P2 (dressage) and/or RC 80 show jumping competitions, however they must upgrade to the next level should they compete be placed on 5 or more occasions in the previous 12-month period.
They may not compete in RC 80 cross-country competitions.

Members at this level are not graded for cross-country and therefore may only train over cross-country fences, under supervision, not exceeding the permitted heights for their show jumping competitions.

They may not wear spurs. Riders at this level are not graded for cross-country. Riders at this level may upgrade in dressage without changing their show jumping grade, however they will not be graded in cross-country.

6.3.2. RC P2 (Preliminary 2) / RC 80

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Is to cater for the more experienced rider, who is in search of the principles of riding and training.

Members at this level may not have attained in the past three years any riding qualification above the following standards – British Horse Society Riding 1, Irish Pony Club C or any other similar qualification.

In order to be eligible for this grade, the individual may not exceed the thresholds below in competitions, unaffiliated or otherwise:

<p><i>Dressage Ireland or other unaffiliated competitions</i></p> <p>They may compete in DI competitions or other unaffiliated competitions, up to and including Preliminary standard.</p> <p>Members who compete in Preliminary DI or unaffiliated competitions must upgrade to the next level they are competing in if they compete and are placed on five or more occasions within the previous 12-month period.</p> <p>Members who compete in Novice DI or unaffiliated competitions, can be compulsory upgraded to RC Novice the next level with immediate effect.</p>
<p><i>Show Jumping Ireland or other unaffiliated</i></p> <p>They may compete in classes not exceeding 80cms their grade (80cms).</p> <p>Members who compete above their grade in 90cms SJI or unaffiliated competitions must upgrade to the next level if they compete on five or more occasions within the previous 12-month period.</p> <p>Members who compete in 100cms (or higher) SJI or unaffiliated competitions, can be compulsory upgraded to the next level with immediate effect.</p>
<p><i>Eventing Ireland or other unaffiliated competitions</i></p> <p>They may compete in classes not exceeding 80cms their grade (80cms).</p> <p>Members who compete above their grade in 90cms EI or unaffiliated competitions must upgrade to the next level if they compete 5 or more times within the previous 12-month period.</p> <p>Members who compete in 100cms (or higher) unaffiliated competitions, can be compulsory upgraded to the next level with immediate effect.</p>
<p><i>Hunter Trials or other unaffiliated competitions</i></p> <p>They may compete in classes not exceeding 80cms their grade (80cms).</p> <p>Members who compete above their grade in 90cms competitions must upgrade to the next level if they compete 5 or more times within the previous 12-month period.</p> <p>Members who compete in 100cms (or higher) unaffiliated competitions, can be compulsory upgraded to the next level with immediate effect.</p>
<p><i>AIRC affiliated competitions</i></p>

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They may compete in RC P3 / RC 90 competitions, however they must upgrade to the next level should they **compete** ~~be placed on~~ 5 or more occasions in the previous 12-month period.

Members at this level may also compete in Cross Jump competitions up to but not exceeding 80cms.

Members at this level may not wear spurs in show jumping or cross-country but may for pure dressage competitions only.

6.3.3. RC P3 (Preliminary 3) / RC 90

Is to cater for the more competent rider in search of developing the principles of riding and training.

Members at this level may not have attained in the past three years any riding qualification above the following standards – British Horse Society Riding 2, Irish Pony Club C+ or any other similar qualification.

In order to be eligible for this grade, the individual may not exceed the thresholds below in competitions, unaffiliated or otherwise:

Dressage Ireland or other unaffiliated competitions

They may compete in DI competitions or other unaffiliated competitions, up to and including Preliminary standard.

Members who compete **above their grade** in ~~Novice~~ DI or unaffiliated competitions must upgrade to the **next level they are competing in** if they compete on five or more occasions within the previous 12-month period.

Members who compete in Elementary DI or unaffiliated competitions, can be compulsory upgraded to **RC Elementary** ~~the next level~~ with immediate effect.

Show Jumping Ireland or other unaffiliated

They may compete in classes not exceeding ~~90cms~~ **their grade (90cms)**. **They may compete in SJI Amateur A 90cm specific classes.**

Members who compete **above their grade** in ~~100cms~~ SJI or unaffiliated competitions must upgrade to the next level if they compete on five or more occasions within the previous 12-month period.

Members who compete in 110cms (or higher) SJI or unaffiliated competitions, can be compulsory upgraded to the next level with immediate effect.

Eventing Ireland or other unaffiliated competitions

They may compete in classes not exceeding ~~90cms~~ **their grade (90cms)**.

Members who compete **above their grade** in ~~100cms~~ EI or unaffiliated competitions must upgrade to the next level if they compete 5 or more times within the previous 12-month period.

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Members who compete in 110cms (or higher) unaffiliated competitions, can be compulsory upgraded to the next level with immediate effect.
<i>Hunter Trials or other unaffiliated competitions</i>
They may compete in classes not exceeding 90cms their grade(90cms) .
Members who compete above their grade in 100cms competitions must upgrade to the next level if they compete 5 or more times within the previous 12-month period.
Members who compete in 110cms (or higher) unaffiliated competitions, can be compulsory upgraded to the next level with immediate effect.
<i>AIRC affiliated competitions</i>
They may compete in RC N / RC 100 competitions, however they must upgrade to the next level should they compete be placed on 5 or more occasions in the previous 12-month period.

Members at this level may also compete in Cross Jump competitions up to but not exceeding 90cms.

6.3.4. RC N (Novice) / RC 100

Is to cater for the more active rider who is beginning to understand the principles of riding and training.

Members at this level may not have attained in the past three years any riding qualification above the following standards – British Horse Society Riding 3, Irish Pony Club B or any other similar qualification.

In order to be eligible for this grade, the individual may not exceed the thresholds below in competitions, unaffiliated or otherwise:

<i>Dressage Ireland or other unaffiliated competitions</i>
They may compete in DI competitions or other unaffiliated competitions, up to and including Novice standard.
Members who compete in Elementary DI or unaffiliated competitions must upgrade to the next level they are competing in if they compete on five or more occasions within the previous 12-month period.
Members who compete in Medium DI or unaffiliated competitions, can be compulsory upgraded to RC Medium the next level with immediate effect.
<i>Show Jumping Ireland or other unaffiliated</i>
They may compete in classes not exceeding 100cms their grade (100cms) . They may compete in SJI Amateur A 100cm specific classes.
Members who compete above their grade in excess of 100cms SJI or unaffiliated competitions must upgrade to the next level if they compete on five or more occasions within the previous 12-month period. <i>(This includes Amateur A competitions above 100cms)</i>

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Members who compete in 120cms (or higher) SJI or unaffiliated competitions, can be compulsory upgraded to the next level with immediate effect.
<i>Eventing Ireland or other unaffiliated competitions</i>
They may compete in classes not exceeding 100cms their grade (100cms) .
Members who compete above their grade in 110cms EI or unaffiliated competitions must upgrade to the next level if they compete 5 or more times within the previous 12- month period.
Members who compete in 120cms (or higher) unaffiliated competitions, can be compulsory upgraded to the next level with immediate effect.
<i>Hunter Trials or other unaffiliated competitions</i>
They may compete in classes not exceeding 100cms their grade (100cms) .
Members who compete above their grade in 110cms competitions must upgrade to the next level if they compete 5 or more times within the previous 12-month period.
Members who compete in 120cms (or higher) unaffiliated competitions, can be compulsory upgraded to the next level with immediate effect.
<i>AIRC affiliated competitions</i>
They may compete in RC E / RC 110 competitions, however they must upgrade to the next level should they compete be placed on 5 or more occasions in the previous 12-month period.

Members at this level may also compete in Cross Jump competitions up to but not exceeding 100cms.

6.3.5. RC E (Elementary) / RC 110

Is to cater for the more experienced and active rider.

Members at this level may not have attained in the past three years any riding qualification above the following standards – British Horse Society Riding 3, Irish Pony Club B or any other similar qualification.

In order to be eligible for this grade, the individual may not exceed the thresholds below in competitions, unaffiliated or otherwise:

<i>Dressage Ireland or other unaffiliated competitions</i>
They may compete in DI competitions or other unaffiliated competitions, up to and including Elementary standard.
Members who compete in Medium DI or unaffiliated competitions must upgrade to the next the next level they are competing in if they compete on five or more occasions within the previous 12-month period.

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Members who compete in Advanced Medium DI or unaffiliated competitions, can be compulsory upgraded to the next level with immediate effect.
<i>Show Jumping Ireland or other unaffiliated</i>
They may compete in classes not exceeding 110cms their grade (110cms) .
Members who compete above their grade in excess of 110cms SJI or unaffiliated competitions must upgrade to the next level if they compete on five or more occasions within the previous 12-month period. <i>(This includes Amateur AA competitions)</i>
Members who compete in 130cms (or higher) SJI or unaffiliated competitions, can be compulsory upgraded to the next level with immediate effect.
<i>Eventing Ireland or other unaffiliated competitions</i>
They may compete in classes not exceeding 110cms their grade (110cms) .
Members who compete above their grade in 120cms EI or unaffiliated competitions must upgrade to the next level if they compete 5 or more times within the previous 12- month period.
Members who compete in 130cms (or higher) unaffiliated competitions, can be compulsory upgraded to the next level with immediate effect.
<i>Hunter Trials or other unaffiliated competitions</i>
They may compete in classes not exceeding 110cms their grade (110cms) . Members who compete in competitions in excess of this must upgrade if they compete 5 or more times within the previous 12-month period.
<i>AIRC affiliated competitions</i>
They may compete in RC M / RC 120 competitions, however they must upgrade to the next level should they compete be placed on 5 or more occasions in the previous 12-month period.

6.3.6. RC M (Medium) / RC 120

Members at this level may compete at any level in Dressage Ireland, Eventing Ireland, Show Jumping Ireland or in other unaffiliated competitions.

6.4. Grade Span

The riders will be graded for the disciplines of dressage, show jumping and horse trials. A rider may not have a span of more than one different grade i.e. if they are graded RC P2 / RC 80 in any discipline then they may be no higher than RC P3 / RC 80 in any other discipline, or if they are RC E / RC 110 in any discipline then they may be no lower than RC N / RC 100 in any other discipline. The cross-country grade must not be higher than the show jumping grade at any level.

In circumstances where the show jumping and cross-country grades are permitted to be two grades lower than the dressage grade, the two jumping grades must be the same.

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An Extraordinary Grade Change is only to be used for grade changes where the rider is applying for a dressage grade higher, by more than two grades, than their jumping grades.

RC P1 riders may upgrade in dressage without changing their show jumping grade, however they will not be graded in cross-country.

6.5. Change of Grade

6.5.1. Upgrades

Club Committees may authorise an upgrade for a member of their own club, only. They cannot, however, upgrade a member on the day of a show. To upgrade a member, the club must submit the official form and payment to National Office. The member is only eligible to compete at the new grades once the changes have been recorded on the Membership Online Database and the members card has been amended.

AIRC reserves the right to deny an application for upgrading should it see fit to do so.

6.5.2. Downgrades

Clubs may apply to their regional grading advisory committee (RGAC) for a downgrade on behalf of one of their members on the official form. Before submitting the requisite form, the club must ensure that their member has attained the performance metrics as outlined below:

1. A member, who wishes to downgrade in Dressage, must compete in an 'open' class at an Inter-Club Show at the level they wish to downgrade too on two separate occasions within the 12-month period before the application is submitted. Their results and information must accompany the official form. In dressage, the official must be DI listed judge.
2. A review must be undertaken of the members performance results in AIRC competitions and unaffiliated competitions within the previous two-year period.

Applications for downgrade will only be considered where evidence of the above is provided. The RGAC may take whatever steps they deem necessary in arriving at a decision regarding the application.

Where a downgrade is approved by the RGAC, it may be reviewed at any time, up to 12 months from when the downgrade application was processed at National Office, and they may revoke the downgrade if they deem it necessary.

The RGAC may consider an application for downgrading, without any AIRC open class (as defined in rule 8.1.2) performance results if it sees fit, only in exceptional circumstances whereby an individual's membership has lapsed for 3 or more years.

AIRC reserves the right to deny an application for downgrading should it see fit to do so.

6.5.3. Downgrading Criteria

The following criteria will apply to any application for a downgrade:

- 6.5.3.1. A member may not downgrade in dressage to RC P1 from a higher grade.
- 6.5.3.2. A member may not downgrade more than one grade span or level in any discipline.
- 6.5.3.3. Where a membership has lapsed for 3 or more consecutive years, the member may not downgrade more than two grade spans or levels in any discipline.

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- 6.5.3.4. A member may not downgrade to a lower level if they have competed at a level higher than the grade they wish to downgrade to in a DI/EI/SJI competitions within the past 12 months.
- 6.5.3.5. A club committee may only submit one application on behalf of the same member for consideration after 6 months lapsed from the previous application.

6.6. Grading Appeals

The grading appeals process is outlined below:

6.6.1. Regional Grading Committee

- 6.6.1.1. There shall be a regional grading committee comprised of the grading officers of each club for that region and the regional grading officer of the region. The regional grading officer will assume the position of chairperson for the committee.
- 6.6.1.2. The committee may meet annually within one month of the AIRC Annual General Meeting and thereafter when necessary.
- 6.6.1.3. (a) Where an AIRC Affiliated Club disputes the grade of a member of another AIRC Affiliated Club where both clubs are in the same region, the complainant club shall refer the matter in writing using the prescribed form as provided to all club and regional secretaries to the National Office who will refer the matter on to the Regional Grading Committee. (A fee of €200 must accompany this referral. This may be refunded should the complaint be upheld). The club of the member's grade who is being questioned will be informed as soon as possible of the query being raised.

(b) The Regional Grading Committee may investigate the matter as they see fit and may seek to look at databases such as those belonging to Eventing Ireland, Show Jumping Ireland and Dressage Ireland and may meet to discuss their conclusions. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 3 members. If they are satisfied after their investigation that the member in question is at the correct grade they shall take no further action but will inform both clubs of their decision within seven days of making same. If they are not satisfied after this process the member in question will be invited to a regional assessment day at a time and venue nominated by the regional grading committee.

The assessment day will be presided over by 3 members of the committee to include where possible the chairperson. The member in question will be notified of the date, time and place of the assessment day no later than 14 days beforehand by the committee.

- 6.6.1.4. The committee may hold at least one grading assessment day annually.
- 6.6.1.5. Where it is not possible to have cross country grading at a regional assessment day due to ground conditions, if the committee fears a member is graded at too high or low a level in that grade, he/she may be suspended from this level/compete at a lower level (or the same level where the committee fears the member is competing at too low a level) in this discipline at the grading officer's discretion until such a time as that member can be assessed in this discipline.
- 6.6.1.6. At the grading day, the member will be assessed in all disciplines over which the member's grade is queried by the regional grading committee. The regional grading

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committee may be assisted by a dressage Ireland judge/experienced senior competitor, Eventing Ireland Official/experienced senior rider or a show jumping Ireland Judge/experienced senior rider. After this process, the committee may decide to:

- Upgrade the member;
- Downgrade the member;
- Leave the member's grade unchanged.

6.6.1.7. Where a member is dissatisfied with the new grade that is awarded to him or where the complainant is unhappy with the decision of the regional grading committee he/she shall have the right to appeal the matter to the Grading Appeals Committee of the AIRC no later than fourteen days of the receipt of the committee's decision by the member's club secretary.

The Committee shall write to the member through their Club secretary as soon as may be after making their decision and shall at the same time notify the complainant club of their decision (where necessary). The appeal shall be made in writing setting out briefly the grounds for appeal and shall include a fee of €200 which may be refunded should the appellant be successful.

6.6.1.8. Where an AIRC Affiliated Club disputes the grade of a member of another AIRC Affiliated Club but both clubs are not in the same region, the matter will be referred to the national committee in writing using the prescribed form as provided to all club and regional secretaries (together with a fee of €200) who will in turn nominate an independent regional grading committee to assess the member and thereafter the process in rules (6.6.1.3 to 6.6.1.6) above applies.

Any member dissatisfied with the new grade awarded to them or any complainant club unhappy with the decision of the committee shall have the right to appeal the matter to the Grading Appeals Committee of the AIRC as per (6.6.1.7) above.

6.6.1.9. Where an AIRC affiliated Riding Club Grading Officer is not happy to make a decision on the grade of any particular member at a club assessment day, (as per the individual club grading guidelines), whether that member elected to be assessed for the purposes of changing grades or the grading officer queried that persons grade in the first instance, the grading officer shall have jurisdiction to refer, using the prescribed form supplied to all grading officers, that member's assessment to the regional grading committee as a matter of first instance. The Committee shall follow the process in rules (6.6.1.3 to 6.6.1.6) and the member shall have the right to appeal the grade awarded to him/her by the committee to the Grading Appeals Committee of the AIRC as per (6.6.1.7) above.

6.6.1.10. Where the member of an AIRC Affiliated Club who was assessed by their own club's grading officer at an assessment day or otherwise, either at their own election for the purposes of changing their grade or at the bidding of the club's grading officer, is unsatisfied with his/her grade, that member will have the right of a final appeal of the matter to the regional grading committee in writing using the form supplied to their club secretary and together with a fee of €200 which may be refunded should the appellant be successful. Thereafter the process in (6.6.1.3 to 6.6.1.6) shall be followed. As this is a final right of appeal the appellant member will

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not have the right to appeal the decision of the Regional Grading Committee to the Grading Appeals Committee of the AIRC

6.6.2. Grading Appeals Committee of the AIRC

6.6.2.1. There shall be Grading Appeals Committee of the AIRC. It shall consist of an 8-person panel who shall be appointed by the National Committee at one of their meetings and upon obtaining the permission from such persons. The persons appointed may be members of the AIRC or an AIRC affiliated riding club and will be either:

- A Show Jumping Ireland Judge;
- A Dressage Ireland Judge;
- A Senior Eventing Ireland Society Steward;
- A professional Show Jumper or coach;
- A professional/semi-professional dressage rider or coach;
- A professional eventer or coach.

6.6.2.2. The Board of Directors shall appoint a three-member committee, one of which will be appointed chairperson, to hear any appeals referred to the panel.

6.6.2.3. If a member of the Grading Appeals Committee retires, the National Committee will appoint a replacement.

6.6.2.4. Appeals can be heard by this committee from the categories of person set out in Rule 6 above.

6.6.2.5. Where a member is dissatisfied with the new grade that is awarded to him/her by the regional grading committee, (where this was a decision at first instance and not an appeal from a grading officer's decision), or where a complainant is unhappy with the decision of the regional grading committee he/she shall have the right to appeal the matter to the Grading Appeals Committee of the AIRC no later than 14 days of the receipt of the committee's decision by the member's club secretary. The appeal shall be made in writing setting out briefly the grounds for appeal and shall include a fee of €200 which may be refunded should the appellant be successful. National Office will notify the member and/or complainant of the time and date of the hearing. All parties will be given an opportunity to put forward their arguments.

6.6.2.6. Where the grading appeals committee feels it is appropriate, they may elect to re-assess the member in question's riding skills at a time, place and date to which all parties will be notified by National Office.

6.6.2.7. The grading appeals committee may:

- Upgrade the member;
- Downgrade the member;
- Leave the member's grade unchanged.

6.6.2.8. The grading appeals committee will notify National Office of their decision as soon as is practically possible and National Office will in turn notify the member and/or complainant in question of the decision from the grading appeals committee.

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6.7. Multi-Discipline Competitions

In multi-disciplined competitions where the rider has split gradings, then their grade for that competition will be as follows:

<u>Combined Training:</u>	Competitors will compete at their show jumping grade.
<u>Horse Trials:</u>	Competitors will compete at their cross-country grade.
<u>Cross Jump:</u>	Competitors will compete at their cross-country grade. Although RC P1 / RC 70 riders are not issued with a cross-country grade, it is understood that they may still compete at RC 70 over a specifically designed course.

7. Horse – Eligibility for Competition

7.1. Age

No horse under four years of age is eligible to compete in riding club competitions. In cross-country type competitions, no horse may be under five years of age with the exception of young horse competitions.

7.2. Height

Both horses and ponies 143cms & over are eligible to compete in riding club competitions, except in cross-country competitions, where they must be 148cms or over. Horse or ponies of any height may be ridden in training and social activities.

7.3. Use of Horse

Dressage:	A horse may only start up to four times in a day.
Show Jumping:	Where a horse is being used excessively on any one day the host club or safety officer has the right to refuse to allow a horse to compete to prevent over-use. In team competitions, horses may only start twice, once on each team representing one club. However, they may only jump-off against the clock once in the competition for one team.
Horse Trials:	A horse may only compete once in a day.
Hunter Trials:	A horse may only start twice in a day.
Cross Jump:	A horse may only start twice in a day.

7.4. Points Allowed

Dressage:	No horse competing in AIRC dressage competitions may have more points than those permitted for Medium in Dressage Ireland competitions, or if exceeding these points may not have competed under Dressage Ireland rules within the previous calendar year. RC M graded riders may compete on any horse, unrestricted, in individual graded competitions only.
Show Jumping:	No horse competing in AIRC show jumping competitions may have competed at 1.30m or higher under SJI rules within the previous calendar year. No pony competing in AIRC show jumping competitions may have competed at 1.20m or higher under SJI rules within the previous calendar year. RC 120 riders may compete on any horse, unrestricted, in individual graded competitions only.

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Horse Trials:	No horse competing in AIRC horse trials may have competed at FEI 3* level or higher within the previous calendar year. RC 120 riders may compete on any horse, unrestricted, in individual graded competitions only.
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7.5. Young Horse Competitions

Young Horse competitions are open to horses aged 4 & 5 years as stated on the animals passport. The date of birth only applies to their year and not the day or month. Riders competing in this class must be graded RC P3 / RC 90 or higher.

7.6. Stallions

Competitors must inform the organiser of any AIRC event, in advance, if they intend on riding a stallion at their show. They must also wear a red sash.

8. Competitions

8.1. Category of Competitions

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

8.1.1. 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.

8.1.2. 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 and 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

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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 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.

The rules for open class apply to the grade of the class for example, RC 80 open class riders must adhere to RC 80 rules i.e. no riders are permitted to wear spurs.

8.2. Dressage

8.2.1. Dressage Grade

If a member wins a pure dressage competition, twice in a five-year period at the same grade, at the Riding Clubs Festival or Dressage Championships, they must upgrade to the next level in their dressage. This only applies to individual graded pure dressage competitions and excludes team, dressage to music, pairs dressage and other novelty dressage competitions.

8.2.2. Commanding of Tests

It is permissible for tests run under AIRC rules to be commanded once the show organisers have agreed to this. Competitors must notify the show organiser before the close of entries if they wish to have their test commanded.

Where commanders are allowed, it is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that only the printed text or extracts from it are read out, and no other form of assistance is given. Failure to observe this rule may entail elimination. Repetition of any part of the text may incur an error of course if used to redirect a competitor in the process of making such an error.

Commanders should be careful when multiple arenas are running and position themselves to avoid disturbing other riders. Where two arenas are side by side the commander should position them at the side furthest away from the adjoining arena.

Commanders may only be introduced part way through a test at the judge's discretion. Ear pieces are not permitted in order for tests to be called (with the exception of para riders with a dispensation card – in this instance prior notice must be given on entry to make sure a steward is available). Background music cannot be adjusted to accommodate riders having tests called.

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8.3. Show Jumping

Competitions are run under current Show Jumping Ireland rules.

8.3.1. Fence Dimensions & Fence Types

The following are the maximum permitted dimensions for each grade:

Grade	RC 70	RC 80	RC 90	RC 100	RC 110	RC 120
Max. Height	0.70m	0.80m	0.90m	1.00m	1.10m	1.20m
Max. Spread	0.60m	0.80m	0.90m	1.00m	1.10m	1.20m

(m = metres)

For the RC 70 and RC 80 classes the recommended height is 0.65m for RC 70 and 0.75m for RC 80 in their first round of competition.

Treble combinations may not be included in courses for grades below RC 90.

The heights laid down apply to all jumping courses in all competitions unless special competition rules apply (see special competitions.)

All fences must be knockable in derby competitions except for natural type obstacles deemed appropriate by the course designer.

8.3.2. Time Allowed

The course must be measured by wheel by the course builder. The following times should be applied:

Grade	RC 70	RC 80	RC 90	RC 100	RC 110	RC 120	Derby
Indoor	300 mpm	325 mpm	325 mpm	325 mpm	325 mpm	325 mpm	350 mpm
Outdoor	325 mpm	350 mpm	350 mpm	350 mpm	350 mpm	350 mpm	375 mpm

(mpm = metres per minute)

8.3.3. Optimum Time

8.3.3.1. RC 70 Competitions (formerly Primary)

When using optimum time for RC 70 competitions, the winner is the rider nearest to the time with the lowest penalties, whether under or over the time. In RC 70 competitions, the optimum time will be calculated by subtracting 3 seconds from the time allowed.

In the event of more than one rider having the same time difference, the person under the time is placed higher than the person on the same time difference, over the optimum time. The next nearest, under or over is placed next.

The optimum time for a RC 70 competition should be announced at the beginning of a class. It should not be shown whilst a rider is jumping but displayed at the completion of each round.

8.3.3.2. RC 80 Competitions (formerly Advanced Primary)

In RC 80 competitions, the first round will be a time allowed round and time penalties will apply to those who exceed the time allowed. In the second round, the optimum time will

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be calculated by subtracting three seconds from the time allowed thus creating a three second window for those exceeding the optimum time to bring it in line with the time allowed where riders exceeding the time allowed will incur time penalties. The winner is the rider nearest to the time with the lowest penalties.

The time allowed (i.e. optimum time) for an RC 80 competition should be announced at the beginning of the class. It may be displayed whilst a rider is jumping.

8.3.4. Safety Cups

Safety cups must be used as support for back poles of a spread obstacle and in the case of a triple- bar, to support the centre and back poles of the obstacle. Safety cups must also be used in the exercise arena. Where no safety cups are available, the course cannot include spreads.

8.4. Horse Trials / Eventing

Competitions are run under current Eventing Ireland rules.

8.4.1. Dressage (Phase 1)

It is recommended that horse trials dressage tests be used in this phase. The test will be ridden from memory. The test may not be commanded. Tests will be announced annually and will be ridden under the current rules for dressage. The Dressage Ireland rules apply except for AIRC rule 24.4.

A coefficient score will be applied to competitors who are registered with a dressage grade higher than their cross-country grade in graded classes only. The coefficient will be applied to the riders score after dressage. A coefficient will apply as follows:

Grade	RC 80	RC 90	RC 100	RC 110	RC 120
RC P2	1.0	1.0	-	-	-
RC P3	1.1	1.0	1.0	-	-
RC N	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	-
RC E	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0
RC M	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0

8.4.2. Cross Country (Phase 2)

8.4.2.1. The Course (Length & Speed)

The length of the course should not be less than approximately 1.5 kilometres.

Grade	RC 80	RC 90	RC 100	RC 110	RC 120	YH
Speed	275 - 375 mpm	350 - 450 mpm	350 - 450 mpm	400 - 500 mpm	400 - 500 mpm	300 - 400 mpm

(mpm – metres per minute)

Speed for Roads & Tracks 180-220 mpm; Steeplechase: 400 – 550 mpm for RC 90, RC 100 and RC 110 / RC 120 at the discretion of the Technical Delegate.

8.4.2.2. Fence Dimensions & Fence Types

Size of Obstacles: It should be remembered that in the construction and measuring of cross- country obstacles, that heights and widths are taken from where a horse would normally be expected to take off from. Brush fences are allowed up to 10cms in excess of the maximum height in each grade.

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	RC 80	RC 90	RC 100	RC 110 / 120
Max. Height	0.80m	0.90m	1.00m	1.10m
Max. Spread	0.80m	1.10m <i>above ground</i>	1.25m <i>above ground</i>	1.25m <i>above ground</i>
Ground measurement of fence with a ditch	1.20m	1.20m	1.50m	1.85m
Plains stream, ditch, etc.	0.90m	1.30m	1.70m	2.15m
Drop or Step	0.80m	1.00m <i>Would normally not exceed</i>	1.20m <i>Would normally not exceed</i>	1.40m <i>Would normally not exceed</i>
Brush fence	0.80m	1.00m	1.10m	1.20m

Where a fixed obstacle exceeds the dimensions as laid down above, an easier alternative must be provided.

8.4.3. Show Jumping (Phase 3)

8.4.3.1. Fence Dimensions

Heights as prescribed in 8.3.1. Anyone eliminated in the show jumping phase must seek permission from the Technical Delegate (Chief Steward) to start the cross-country phase.

8.4.3.2. Optimum Time

Competitors, of all grades, exceeding the optimum time in show jumping shall incur one penalty for every second, up to the time limit, which is twice the optimum time. Exceeding the time limit incurs elimination.

8.4.3.3. Penalties

The following penalties shall apply in the show jumping phase:

Fault	Penalty
Knockdown	4 penalties
First disobedience	4 penalties
Second disobedience in whole test	8 penalties
Third disobedience in whole test	Elimination
Fall of rider	Elimination
Fall of horse	Elimination
Error of course not rectified	Elimination
Omission of obstacle or boundary flag	Elimination
Retaking an obstacle already jumped	Elimination
Jumping an obstacle in wrong order	Elimination
Time Faults for every commenced second in excess of the time allowed	0.4 penalty
Exceeding the Time Limit (which is twice the time allowed)	Elimination

Where a competitor is eliminated on a technicality, they must seek permission from the Technical Delegate / Society Steward on the day before going to the cross-country phase.

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8.4.4. Equality of Marks

In the event of equality between two or more riders, the classification is decided by:

1. The best cross-country score including penalties for faults at obstacles, time penalties and any other penalty that they may have incurred on the cross-country test.
2. If there is still equality, the classification is decided in favour of the rider whose cross-country time was closest to the optimum time.
3. If there is still equality, the rider with the best show jumping score including penalties at obstacles and time penalties.
4. If there is still equality, the athlete with the fastest time in the jumping test.
5. If there is still equality, the classification will be decided in favour of the rider with the best total of collective marks in the dressage test.
6. If there is still equality the tie will remain in the final classification.

8.5. *Hunter Trials*

8.5.1. Competitors

Riders may compete as individuals, pairs or teams. The organisers may run all or some of these classes. In pairs or team competitions if they are of mixed grades they must compete over a course suitable for the lowest grade allowed in that pair / team. In the event of classes being oversubscribed, the organisers have the right to ballot out entries - competitors with 2 or more horses entered will be balloted first.

8.5.2. Dress / Equipment

The rules for dress and equipment are as the rules for the cross-country section of Eventing.

8.5.3. The Course

The course should be between 2-3 kilometres in length, with a maximum of 24 fences. The start and finish should be adjacent to assist timing and control. Fences should utilise and resemble natural fences and should be strongly built. A reasonable number of fences should be knockable but constructed so that they are not easily dislodged.

The dimensions of fences should be as per eventing rules for each grade. All obstacles must be flagged and numbered.

8.5.3.1. Hazards

Certain natural features, not regarded as obstacles, may be classified as hazards. The only penalty at a hazard shall be elimination if a horse resists the rider for 60 consecutive seconds. Riders may not dismount and lead through a hazard, if they do, they will be eliminated.

8.5.3.2. Faults

There are no penalty zones. Faults will be penalised only if, in the opinion of the fence judge, they are connected with the negotiation, or attempted negotiation, of one of the numbered obstacles.

However, if, after the signal to start, a horse resists its rider anywhere on the course for 60 consecutive seconds, they shall be eliminated.

8.5.4. Penalties

Knocking down an obstacle, classed as knockable:	5 penalties
First refusal, run out or circle at an obstacle:	10 penalties
Second refusal, run out or circle at an obstacle:	20 penalties
Third refusal, run out or circle at an obstacle:	Elimination
Fall of rider:	Elimination
Fall of horse:	Elimination

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A competitor is considered to have fallen when he is separated from his horse in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle.

A horse is considered to have fallen when at the same time both its shoulder and quarters have touched either the ground or the obstacle and the ground or when it is trapped in a fence in such a way that it is unable to proceed without assistance or is liable to injure itself. A fall will always be penalised when it occurs between the elements of a multiple obstacle.

The above penalties are cumulative.

Error of course not rectified, omission of obstacle or boundary flag, jumping obstacle in wrong direction, or re-taking an obstacle already jumped:	Elimination
Continuing the course without crash helmet or with chin strap undone:	Elimination
Running through fence already down:	5 penalties

If a knockable fence is knocked down by a competitor in refusing, the competitor or team, as the case may be, may jump it in that condition and penalties both for the refusal and knock down are incurred. If, however, the competitor waits for the obstacle to be adjusted, no allowance will be made for the time involved. In this case, the fence judge's instruction must be obeyed.

If one member of a team knocks down an obstacle, the remaining members of the team will jump it in that state and only 5 penalties are incurred.

Refusals at an obstacle are cumulative, irrespective of whether they are incurred by the same competitor or by different members of a team. ie. should each rider in a team of three have one refusal, the team is eliminated.

When a fence is knocked down by the previous team, the fence judge shall, if necessary, hold up the next team while the fence is adjusted. In this case, the time shall be recorded and deducted from the team's overall time.

Stones knocked from a loose wall do not count as a knock down.

Double, Treble or Multiple Obstacles:

If two or more obstacles, although sited together, are designed as separate problems each will be numbered and judged independently. A competitor may circle between them without penalty, providing that this is not a result of attempting to negotiate the obstacle. He must not, under penalty of elimination retake any obstacle, which he has already jumped.

If, however, an obstacle is formed of several elements, such as banks or steps, normal or angled combinations, each part shall be flagged and marked with a different letter (A, B, C, etc) but only the first element shall be numbered and it will be judged as one obstacle. A competitor may refuse only twice in all without incurring elimination and any circle is penalised as for a refusal, but, if a competitor refuses at any part, he is at liberty to retake the complete obstacle.

8.5.5. Definition of Faults

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A horse is considered to have refused if it stops in front of the obstacle to be jumped. Stopping without stepping back, followed immediately by a standing jump is penalised. If the halt is sustained, or if the horse steps back even a single pace, is then re-presented at the obstacle and halts or steps back a second time, this constitutes a second refusal, and so on.

A horse is considered to have run out if he avoids an obstacle to be jumped and runs out to one side or the other. A horse is considered to have circled if it re-crosses its original track, from whichever direction, while negotiating or attempting to negotiate an obstacle. If a horse completes a circle while being re-presented at an obstacle after a refusal or run-out, it is only penalised for the refusal or run-out as a result of negotiating the obstacle.

A competitor may circle without penalty between two obstacles even if they are quite close together, provided he/she clearly does not present his/her horse in an attempt to negotiate the second obstacle after jumping the first. However, if two or more elements of the obstacle are lettered A, B, C, ie. are designed as an integral test, then any circling between these elements will be penalised.

A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulders and quarters of the horse have touched either the ground or the obstacle and the ground as a result of negotiating the fence.

A rider is considered to have fallen if it is necessary to remount his horse. A fall of horse and rider incurs compulsory retirement.

8.5.6. Time Allowed

The winner will be the rider or team who completes the course with the least jumping penalties and closest to the optimum time. Time penalties are only considered after jumping penalties have been accounted for. The optimum time will be calculated using cross country speeds for each grade.

A rider who exceeds or is slower than the set optimum time by 10 seconds or more will incur penalty points at the rate of one penalty per second or part thereof. In team or pairs competitions the optimum time must be as for the lowest grade allowed in that class.

8.5.7. Marking the course

Red and white boundary flags or indicators are used to mark the start and finish and compulsory changes of direction. They are placed in such a way that a rider must leave all red flags on his right and all white flags on his left. Such red and white flags must be respected under penalty of elimination, wherever they may occur on the course, whether singly or in pairs. Only obstacles which are numbered and marked by two boundary flags are judged as obstacles. All boundary and turning flags must be in position prior to the inspection of the course by competitors.

Yellow and orange directional flags or indicators are placed so as to mark the route and help the rider in keeping to the course. They may be passed on either side and keeping close to them is not necessary. Boundary and Direction flags shall be large and placed in a conspicuous place.

8.5.8. Plan or Map of the Course

A plan or map of the course shall be displayed by the time it is open for inspection.

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Competitor in Difficulty at an Obstacle

A competitor or team in difficulty at an obstacle must give way to the following competitor or team by quickly clearing away from the obstacle.

8.5.9. Modification of the Course

After the course is open for inspection by competitors, no alteration may be made, except that, where exceptional circumstances (such as heavy rain) make one or more obstacles unfair or dangerous, the organiser is authorised, with the sanction of the Chief Steward, to reduce the severity of, or bypass such obstacles. Such alterations to be announced over the PA system and a note to that effect must be prominently displayed on the official plan of the course.

8.5.10. Forbidden Assistance

Outside assistance is forbidden and is liable to result in elimination. Any intervention by a third party, whether solicited or not, with the object of facilitating the task of the rider or helping his horse is considered forbidden assistance. Similarly, it is forbidden for one competitor to join or accept a lead from another. It is forbidden for a Fence Judge, Official or any Third Party to call back or assist a competitor by directions to rectify an error of course, except to prevent injury or accident (for example faulty saddlery).

Catching a loose horse after a fall, or providing he dismounts, helping a competitor adjust his saddlery and to remount, is permitted. In such a case, the course must be resumed at the exact spot at which it was interrupted. Whether or not a competitor has received forbidden assistance and is to be left to the discretion of the Chief Steward. Fence Judges should report any incidents to the Chief Steward for consideration.

8.5.11. Elimination and Retiring

Competitors eliminated as a result of a fall or retiring from any part of the competition for any reason whatsoever shall do so at walk and shall take every precaution to avoid disturbing other competitors. They shall not jump any obstacle after retiring.

8.5.12. Timekeeping

Time is counted from the signal to start until the instant when the team's last horse's nose (or an individual horse's nose in an individual event) passes the finishing post. The starter will give reasonable warning before giving the signal to start. Although in principle it should be a standing start this does not mean that the horse must be stationary. He may be moving in any direction other than towards the starting line, but time is invariably counted from the instant the starter gives the signal to start. If the horse fails to cross the starting line within 60 seconds the competitor is eliminated. Assistance at the start is permitted provided it ceases immediately the signal to start is given.

When it is necessary for an official to stop a team/competitor on the course while an obstacle is being repaired or because of an accident the period during which a team/competitor was held up will be deducted from his total time taken as in the above paragraph to give his correct time for completing the course. Time will be taken from when the last member of the team reaches stopping point until the first member restarts. The time taken to replace an obstacle that has been knocked down by refusing will not be deducted unless it is unduly prolonged.

8.5.13. Disqualification

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The Technical Delegate (Chief Steward) may disqualify a competitor at any stage of the competition and this decision is final:

1. For dangerous riding, or
2. If, in his opinion, the horse is lame, sick or exhausted, or
3. For misuse of whip or spur, or ill-treatment of the horse, or
4. For unseemly behaviour, including bad language or for any breach of the rules.

8.6. Arena Eventing

Rules are under consideration for Arena Eventing and will be published when available.

8.7. Cross Jump

This is a competition over a course comprising of a mixture of show jumps, cross-country jumps and natural type fences over a distance of approximately 1 mile (1.6 kilometres) of open, undulating terrain.

8.7.1. The Course

The course is designed with two sections of 5 show jumps and another section of 10 cross-country / natural type fences. The start and finish line are positioned together for timing. The show jumps should be enclosed with five on each side of the arena. The course is measured from the start to finish line.

8.7.2. Timing

The time starts when the competitor has been counted down and is stopped when the competitor crosses the finish line. All classes will be judged on optimum time.

8.7.3. Speeds

The following speeds are permitted for Cross Jump competitions:

Grade	RC 70	RC 80	RC 90	RC 100	RC 110/120
SJ	325 mpm	350 mpm	350 mpm	350 mpm	350 mpm
XC	325 mpm	350 mpm	400 mpm	400 mpm	400 mpm

8.7.4. Fence Dimensions

As those permitted for each grade in show jumping and cross-country. In the RC 70 class, all fences must be within the same area and must not exceed 70cms.

8.7.5. Penalties

Knocking down an obstacle, classed as knockable:	5 penalties
First refusal, run out or circle at an obstacle:	10 penalties
Second refusal, run out or circle at an obstacle:	20 penalties
Third refusal, run out or circle at an obstacle:	Elimination
Fall of rider:	Elimination
Fall of horse:	Elimination

A competitor is considered to have fallen when he is separated from his horse in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle.

A horse is considered to have fallen when at the same time both its shoulder and quarters have touched either the ground or the obstacle and the ground or when it is trapped in a fence in such a way that it is unable to proceed without assistance or is liable to injure itself. A fall will always be penalised when it occurs between the elements of a multiple obstacle.

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The above penalties are cumulative.

Error of course not rectified, omission of obstacle or boundary flag, jumping obstacle in wrong direction, or re-taking an obstacle already jumped:	Elimination
Continuing the course without crash helmet or with chin strap undone:	Elimination
Running through fence already down:	5 penalties

If a knockable fence is knocked down by a competitor in refusing, the competitor or team, as the case may be, may jump it in that condition and penalties both for the refusal and knock down are incurred. If, however, the competitor waits for the obstacle to be adjusted, no allowance will be made for the time involved. In this case, the fence judge's instruction must be obeyed.

8.7.6. Dress / Equipment

The rules for dress and equipment as per the rules for the cross-country section of Horse Trials.

9. National Championships & Entries

9.1. *National Championship Qualifiers*

Dates for qualifiers for national championships are co-ordinated by National Office each year. Each region must submit at least two alternative dates for each championship by the given deadline each year.

9.2. *National Championships*

Inter-club events are not permitted to take place on the same dates as National Championships with the exception of the Team Show Jumping Championship where qualification is necessary.

9.3. *Online Entries*

Entries for National Championships and Events will only be accepted via the AIRC Membership Online portal, unless otherwise stated in the event schedule. An entry will only be considered valid if the entry is marked as complete and the member is in receipt of an order confirmation email and a payment receipt email.

Where someone encounters an issue with submitting an entry online, they must contact National Office, via email, before the close of entries, otherwise the entry cannot be accepted.

9.4. *Team Entries*

Team entries must be submitted by the Club Secretary for national championships including qualifiers.

10. Special Competitions and Conditions

The Board of Directors may from time-to-time sanction special national and international competitions and qualifiers. These will have rules that supersede the various heights and spreads as laid down in rule 8 and any other special conditions.

11. International Participation

The International Affairs Committee (IAC), appointed by the Board of Directors, may be formed for Riding Club members seeking to participate in international competitions on behalf of the Association.

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The IAC, in conjunction with the Board of Directors, will determine the qualifying criteria for selection to compete internationally. All riders/clubs wishing to compete at International events must apply in writing to the Board of Directors.

12. Event Notification, Results and Show Reports

12.1. *Event Notification*

For inter-club (regional) activities (i.e., shows, training events, championship qualifiers, regional meetings. etc) the organising club or regional secretary must notify National Office of the activity 14 days in advance of the date of it taking place on the official event notification form or via the online form available on www.airc.ie.

For club events, secretaries must record details of any activities in the club committee meeting minutes in advance of them taking place. National Office does not need to be notified of club activities.

Un-notified shows to National Office may jeopardise that club's insurance.

12.2. *Results and Show Reports*

~~Secretaries must submit results of any inter-club (regional) show/event on the official Inter-Club Show Results Form (F10/22) which is available to download on www.airc.ie~~

~~This must be submitted to your regional result coordinator no later than 14 days after the show.~~

Secretaries must return a show summary report for any inter-club (regional) show/event to National Office on the Show Summary Report Form (F52/14) which is available to download on www.airc.ie.

This must be returned to National Office within 14 days of the date of the show taking place.

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.

13. Prohibition of Competing

Members of affiliated clubs being members of AIRC are prohibited from taking part in competitions for riding club members unless those competitions conform to the rules of AIRC.

14. Withdrawing

Any team or individual who does not intend to compete at the championships must inform both the regional secretary and AIRC immediately after the regional competition or as soon as is practicable. In the case of illness or lameness, AIRC can decide whether to accept the next highest placed team or individual or substitutes.

15. Substitutes / Reserves

Substitutes will be permitted at competitions on condition that the organiser is informed at least 30 minutes before the competition is scheduled to start and that the club concerned has given the authorisation for a substitution in writing. Failure to do so will render the competitor liable to disqualification. All substitutes must conform to the following conditions:

- a) Both at regional competitions and at the championships no substitutions are allowed after the competition has started.

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- b) No substitutions allowed, other than those declared at any competitions for which qualifiers have been held.

16. Prize Giving

At all events, all teams and individuals must be present at the prize giving, correctly dressed. Failure to do so may well result in disqualification for the team or individual.

17. Safety Officers

Safety officers must be appointed for each event, both club and inter-club. Abuse of safety rules will incur disqualification from the competition.

18. Medical Cover

For cross-country competitions (i.e. hunter trials, horse trials, cross jump, etc.), the organisers must ensure that there is an ambulance on course prior to the event starting. If the ambulance has to leave the field at any time the event must be suspended until it returns. A doctor and/or paramedic must be on site before the jumping phases commence and a vet must be on call.

For all other events or activities, it is mandatory to have medical personnel present. It is advisable to have an ambulance on the grounds.

19. Objections

All objections may be lodged only by the chairperson of the competing riding club (or their representatives **of the club appointed in writing**). These must be in writing and accompanied by a deposit of €50. They must be addressed to the organiser of the competition and must be lodged with the Show Secretary.

All objections must be made not later than half an hour after the occurrence which gave rise to them, or half an hour after the marks have been published **for competitions where scores are posted. For competitions where prize giving is in the arena you must submit objections 30 minutes after the competition starts, or in the case of protests against qualification of competitors or horses, one hour after the start of the event.** The **show committee** steward will give his **their** decision after investigation, and his decision will be final.

~~Objections regarding the grading of a rider must be made no later than half an hour after the start of the competition.~~

The deposit is forfeit unless the objection is upheld, or it is decided that there were good and reasonable grounds for the lodging of an objection. All objections must be made and handled in an orderly and mature manner.

Competitors are not permitted to enter the scoring area at a competition under any circumstances. Any queries or objections must be brought to the attention of the event secretary and dealt with through them.

To avoid any misunderstanding, only official photographs or video recordings can be used as evidence in the event of an objection.

20. Sanctioned Activities

Any activity organised by a committee of an affiliated club or by a regional committee and open to members of the Association of Irish Riding Clubs only. Only sanctioned activities are listed on the events calendar of the AIRC website.

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21. Disqualification

The official steward, safety officer, or the chief judge of any competition may disqualify a competitor at any stage of the competition for:

- a) Dangerous riding.
- b) For misuse of whip or spur, or ill treatment of the horse.
- c) If in their opinion the horse is lame, sick or exhausted, unless this is refuted by a veterinary surgeon.
- d) For any breach of the rules.
- e) Abuse of the safety rules or safety officer.
- f) For failing to wear the correct hat or skull cap, with the chin strap correctly fastened, while mounted at a riding club event, and for not wearing a back protector for cross-country.
- g) Failure to produce their grading card at all riding club events.
- h) Excessive or abusive language.
- i) Prohibited substances (See Appendix 2).

22. Exercise

Competitors may only exercise their horses in the area provided. They may not ride on, over or near any part of the cross-country course. They must not enter or practice in the dressage or show jumping arenas. No horse may be schooled except by the competitor competing on that horse on the day.

23. Insurance






Only paid-up bona fide members of clubs of the AIRC in possession of a current membership card qualify for cover under the AIRC Public Liability Policy. Members are strongly advised to obtain their own Personal Accident policy which is adequate for their needs as the Association does not provide any cover.

24. Dress / Equipment

The correct dress as laid down in Dressage Ireland, SJI or Eventing Ireland rules must be worn in AIRC competitions except:

24.1. Riding Hats

It is compulsory that protective riding helmets conform to the following standard(s) and must be worn with the harness correctly fastened when mounted at any AIRC activity:

Region	Permitted Hat Standard	Safety Mark
EU	PAS 015 (2011)	with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark 
EU	VG1 01.040 2014-12	with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark 
USA	ASTM F1163 2004a or 04a onwards	with SEI Mark 
USA	Snell E2016	with official Snell label and number 
AUS/NZ	AS/NZS 3838 (2006 onwards)	With SAI Global Mark 

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Please note that the CE mark on its own is not an acceptable standard.

From 1 January 2023, the following hat standards are no longer be accepted due to the age of hats made to these standards:


- PAS 015 1998
- SNELL 2001

Fixed peak hats used for dressage and show jumping are NOT permitted for cross country. Skull/jockey hats (with covers) are acceptable for dressage, show jumping and cross-country phases. Competition rules apply for all training and leisure activities.

In side-saddle classes, riders may use appropriate headwear for the competition.

Members must ensure their hat is suitable and safe for use. Members are strongly recommended to check their headgear regularly and to replace if damaged, i.e. if dropped or following a fall.

All protective riding hats worn in AIRC National competitions must show a visible current AIRC hat tag. Untagged hats must be checked at all other activities including training and leisure activities.

Hat Type	Accepted Discipline	Approved Hat Tag	
Skull Cap (No Peak)	DR, SJ & XC	Red	
Fixed Peak	D, SJ Only	Red & White	

24.2. **Body Protectors**

Level three (2018) or higher body protectors are compulsory for cross-country events. It is recommended that body protectors are also used whilst show jumping.

From the 1st January 2024, the Level 3 body protector with the year 2009 (purple label) shown on the label will no longer be accepted.

24.3. **Inflatable / Air Jackets**

It is recommended that competitors wear air jackets for any jumping phases (for both training and competition). If a competitor chooses to wear an airbag style body protector, it must be worn over a permitted body protector for the cross-country phase. Inflatable/air jackets may be worn for the show jumping and dressage phases without a body protector.

24.4. **Spurs**

Blunt spurs only of plain metal may be used and the tip must contain metal. Spurs that have a smooth rotating rubber or plastic ball on the shank are also permitted.

Judges or examiners may have riders remove their spurs if they are of the opinion that the rider cannot use them correctly and so cause unnecessary hardship to the horse.

Spurs are not permitted to be worn RC P1 / RC 70 riders during competition, in the practice area or riding on the show grounds. RC P2 / RC 80 riders may wear spurs,

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maximum of 2 cms, in pure dressage or showing classes only (not including performance hunter, working hunter, dressage at eventing or dressage at combined training).

24.5. Whips

Whips not exceeding 120cms may be used in any pure dressage competition. Whips not exceeding 75cms may be used in show jumping and cross-country competitions. Whips must not be weighted.

24.6. Clothing

Upper arms must be covered at all times. A correctly fitted hunting tie or neck support is compulsory for cross-country competitions.

Dark coloured jodhpurs are permitted but are not permitted for National Championships.

24.7. Half Chaps, Leather Gaiters

The wearing of half chaps is strongly discouraged, and they are not permitted in certain disciplines (i.e. dressage). Leather gaiters, worn with matching boots are permitted.

24.8. Medical Armbands

Medical Armbands, complete with photographic I.D., are recommended for all cross-country competitions.

24.9. Jewellery

All jewellery is considered to be hazardous and should not be worn. It is the riders' responsibility, if it is worn.

24.10. Timing Devices

Timing devices including stopwatches are banned from use in RC 80 and RC 90 cross-country competitions including cross jump with the exception of horse trials. Competitors who are found in possession of a timing device will be eliminated from the competition.

24.11. Helmet Cameras

A rider wishing to wear a mounted head camera may do so provided that it does not compromise the integrity of the helmet. It must be mounted to the helmet by an easily detachable method such as velcro or elastic straps. Cameras may not be mounted on any other part of the body. If a rider wishes to wear a head cam, they do so entirely at their own risk, as the Association of Irish Riding Clubs Ltd accepts no liability for their use. Members should note that recorded materials are not permissible in the event of a dispute/complaint.

24.12. Competitor Number

Where a competitor number has been issued for the purpose of identification at a show, riders must ensure their number is visible at all times. In dressage, show jumping and showing competitions the type of number worn is at the discretion of the rider. Number bibs must be worn for cross-country with numbers on the front and back. It is the riders responsibility to own/wear a bib, to ensure that the correct number is worn, and that it is clearly visible at all times. Failure to do so can result in disqualification from the competition.

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25. Hors Concours

This enables both horse and/or rider to compete in a lower grade. This horse and rider combination having competed Hors Concours, must remain so for the rest of the day. Members may not compete Hors Concours at a higher grade.

26. Tack

The national rules of Dressage Ireland, Show Jumping Ireland and Eventing Ireland apply except:

- a) No horse may be ridden in running or side reins.
- b) Bearing or balancing reins are prohibited.
- c) Running martingales must be fitted correctly so as not to act on the reins when the horse's head is within a normal range of positions.
- d) In certain grades, standing martingales, correctly fitted, are permitted for show jumping only. (See equipment guides)
- e) An english type saddle is only permitted for all AIRC activities.
- f) The use of side-saddles is only permitted in side-saddle specific classes. A RC P1 / RC 70 rider may only use a side-saddle in a specific side-saddle class for RC P1 / RC 70 riders only.

There are a number of prohibited bits under Dressage Ireland, Eventing Ireland and Show Jumping Ireland rules and the same will apply within to AIRC competitions.

27. Horse Welfare

All members are bound by the FEI code of conduct for the welfare of horses. This states the following:

- The Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) requires all those involved in equestrian sport to adhere to the FEI's Code of Conduct and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount and must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.
- At all stages during the preparation and training of competition horses, welfare must take precedence over all other demands. This includes good horse management, training methods, farriery and tack, and transportation.
- Horses and competitors must be fit, competent and in good health before they are allowed to compete. This encompasses medication use, surgical procedures that threaten welfare or safety, pregnancy in mares and the misuse of aids.
- Events must not prejudice horse welfare. This involves paying careful attention to the competition areas, ground surfaces, weather conditions, stabling, site safety and fitness of the horse for onward travel after the event.
- Every effort must be made to ensure that horses receive proper attention after they have competed and that they are treated humanely when their competition careers are over. This covers proper veterinary care, competition injuries, euthanasia, and retirement.

28. Unattended Horses

It is prohibited to leave any horse unattended when tied in an unconfined area under penalty of elimination and or a fine. Temporary enclosures are not permitted, save with express permission of the organiser.

29. Horse Registrations

All horses competing at national championships must be registered with the Association of Irish Riding Clubs. Horses may only be recorded as its registered name. To register a horse, the animal must have an equine passport, issued by a recognised PIO, in which the animal is named. AIRC reserves the right to refuse to register a horse without providing an explanation.

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Members must allow a minimum of two working days, and up to 10 working days, for applications to be processed.

A fee will be applicable for any Horse Registration application received from the 1st April until the 30th June each year. The service will continue to be free outside of this period.

30. Equine Passports

Members must present their equine passport, if requested, at the secretary's office on the day of the competition. Competitors are responsible to have the correct identification at all AIRC events as required under current legislation. Failure to produce this document when requested may result in a fine of up to €1,000.

31. Equine Influenza

All horses competing at AIRC events must be inoculated against equine influenza. The primary vaccination course must consist of two vaccinations against equine influenza given between 21 and 92 days apart.

Booster given between one-hundred-and-fifty days (5 months) and two-hundred-and-fifteen days (7 months) after the primary vaccination. The annual booster dose must be administered within twelve months of the previous inoculation. None of these injections must have been given within the preceding 7 days including the day of the competition or of entry into the competition stables. This must be properly documented on the animal's passport.

32. Falls

Dressage (Dressage Ireland Rules) Fall of horse and/or rider: Elimination

Show Jumping (SJI rules) First fall of rider: Elimination
First fall of horse: Elimination

Horse Trials (Eventing Ireland rules)

Dressage phase, fall of horse and/or rider: Elimination
Show Jumping phase, fall of horse and/or rider: Elimination
Cross-country phase, fall of horse and/or rider: Elimination & leave course at walk. The rider must leave on foot and must not remount.

A competitor is considered to have fallen, anywhere on the course, when he is separated from his horse in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle.

A horse is considered to have fallen when at the same time both its shoulder and quarters have touched either the ground or the obstacle and the ground or when it is trapped in a fence in such a way that it is unable to proceed without assistance or is liable to injure itself.

All falls and injuries incurred during the competition either directly or indirectly must be reported to the medical personnel on duty who will have the absolute discretion as to whether that competitor is fit to continue on that day.

33. Concussion

If an accident results in loss of consciousness, concussion or suspected concussion it is the rider's responsibility to comply with the following suspension periods, whether or not confirmed by a medical professional:

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- no loss of consciousness and no sign of concussion = no mandatory suspension;
- no loss of consciousness but with brief symptoms of concussion (symptoms resolving within 15 minutes) = minimum of 7 days mandatory suspension;
- any loss of consciousness, however brief, or symptoms of concussion persisting after 15 minutes = Minimum 21 days mandatory suspension.

The day of injury counts as the first day of the suspension period. If a rider is taken to hospital from an event, a minimum of 21 days mandatory suspension shall automatically apply.

Once a rider is suspended, they may not take part in any AIRC activity until the period of suspension has elapsed AND the rider has written confirmation from a registered medical practitioner that they are fit to compete in events, and this information has been passed to AIRC National Office.

It is the rider's responsibility to comply with these rules.

34. Photographers & Trade Exhibitors

Only Official photographers/traders shall be permitted at AIRC national events with full prior permission from the event organiser. Official photographers/traders shall be in possession of valid public liability insurance, a copy of which must be given to the event organiser in addition to other information requested.

Any unofficial photographer/trader who has not been given permission to attend the event shall be asked to cease their activity immediately and leave the premises. Unofficial photographs of the event used for commercial gain shall not be published. If they are available on any website or social media pages, the publisher shall be asked to remove them immediately.

If the unofficial photographer/trader is a member of the Association, they may be prevented from entering AIRC national events, and/or have their membership suspended or revoked. It will be a matter for the Board to decide the outcome.

AIRC national events are run on private property and therefore the landowner and event organiser can impose these restrictions on all persons entering the event.

35. Sanctions

The Board of Directors reserve the right to sanction a club should they fail to adhere to the rules, regulations, and policies of the Association of Irish Riding Clubs CLG.

36. Grants / Funding

Clubs applying for grants or funding in excess of €2,500 must notify National Office of their application prior to them submitting it to the relevant authority and they must provide a copy of their application upon request.

Safety Rules

Section 2

Section 2 – Safety Rules

1. Club Safety Officer

Each club must register a Club Safety Officer when registering their club each year.

2. Activities

At all activities, there should be a Safety Officer on duty and they should be accompanied by a number of Safety Stewards as determined by the Risk Assessment for that activity. Safety officers should not have any function or duties at a show other than those of a safety officer.

3. Headgear

Proper headgear conforming to the latest recognised standard must be worn and strapped on at all times when mounted.

4. Footwear

Proper footwear must be worn when mounted (only footwear with heels)

5. Preparations Before a show

Before the show commences the safety officer should:

1. Conduct a risk assessment.
2. Patrol the grounds to ensure that all dangerous objects, holes, ditches, etc. are removed or cordoned off.
3. Ensure that areas to be used in the unloading, practice and warming up of horses are roped off from public access, and that the approaches from these areas to the arena are separated from the public access.
4. Ensure that a steward is in position and responsible for each practice arena.
5. Ensure that fences in the practice arena are flagged (and maximum heights are marked with tape on the wings of the fences)
6. Ensure that public car parking is kept back from the side of the arena.
7. Ensure that First Aid personnel are on hand and a Medical Officer is on call.

Dressage

Hats must be strapped on when mounted. The warm-up arena should be big enough to enable as many competitors as necessary to warm up as some horses take longer than others. This area must be supervised at all times and normal school rules apply.

Show Jumping

At show jumping competitions, the warm-up area must be in a roped off area and must be supervised at all times, normal school rules should apply, i.e., left hand to left hand, walk on inner track etc. The practice fences provided by the show are the only ones the competitors may jump in practice. Tape should be placed on wings of jumps at max height for each class so that the steward can see competitors are not jumping over their height. There should be no more than 2 practice jumps in the warm-up area and, depending on size of the area, the safety steward should decide how many riders and horses to let in at any one time. However, there should never be more than 10. In the case of someone monopolising the practice jump or jumps, priority should be given to the earliest competitor. If the practice area and show jumping area are not adjacent, proper channels should be provided to the jumping arena. (Safety stewards are not there to rebuild practise fences)

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Cross-Country

Back protectors must be worn for cross-country. A skullcap conforming to the latest AIRC standards must be worn. Practice fences should be flagged as outlined in the show jumping section above and tape should be placed on wings at the maximum height for each class. It is the safety officer or safety steward's responsibility to check for back or body protectors.

Separate Practice Areas and Monitoring at Competitions

For multi-disciplined competitions i.e., Combined Training, One Day Events etc., a separate practice area must be provided for each section of the competition, and a Safety Steward appointed to look after each area. There should be Safety Stewards in attendance throughout the whole of the competition and not just in the practice areas. The Safety Officer should check that the person taking entries is checking that each competitor has a current AIRC card and is competing in their correct grade.

Any forms of cruelty, rapping, use of illegal bits, etc. will incur immediate disqualification from the competition and will become the subject of disciplinary action. Cruelty will not be tolerated. Safety officers and safety stewards are there for the protection of the Association and members who act as safety officers give up their time freely, so please show consideration and obey their instructions at all times.

Section 3 Disciplinary Procedures

The following procedures are divided into three sections:

- 1) Disciplinary and Appeals Procedure
- 2) Procedure for notification of matters to the Referrals and Discipline Committee
- 3) Appeals Committee

1. Disciplinary and Appeals Procedure

1.1. Club Discipline

Internal club discipline and disputes, whether discipline issues and disputes arising at a club show or otherwise, will be dealt with by the committee of the individual club or any sub-committee or officer they choose to appoint to deal with same. It is suggested that each individual club adopt a format similar to that hereunder and that same be included in the individual club constitution.

No Member of the AIRC shall conduct him/herself in a manner or be guilty of behaviour which is derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interests of the AIRC and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) no Member shall behave in an offensive or abusive or unpleasant manner to any person at any competition, event or gathering.

1.2. Warnings

Every Steward/Official at an AIRC event or competition from inter-club level up is empowered to administer a verbal warning which may result in the issuing of a warning card, (or in the case of a third verbal warning within two years of the first warning card having issued, a referral warning card), and/or disqualify a horse or rider from a competition for any offences including but not limited to:

- Blatant abuse or breach of these rules
- Failure to adhere to the code of conduct
- Excessive or abusive language
- The taking by a member of prohibited substances (See appendix 1 and 2). Failure to produce their grading card at all riding club events.
- Abuse of the safety rules or safety officer or any other Steward or Officer.
- For failing to wear the correct hat or skull cap, with the chin strap correctly fastened, while mounted at a riding club event, and for not wearing a back protector for cross-country. Failure to adhere to the code of ethics.
- Failure to adhere to the welfare of horses including but not limited to; misuse of whip or spur, or ill treatment of the horse
- Dangerous riding
- Any incident deemed to warrant the issuing of a warning card.

1.3. Warning Cards

1.3.1. First Warning

The administration of a first verbal warning by a steward/official to a member shall result in a first warning card being issued in writing to the member by National Office upon said office being notified by the Steward/Official in question of the administration of such a verbal warning. The first warning card will be removed from a member's record after two years, (730 days) have elapsed from the date of its issuing.

1.3.2. Second Warning

A second warning card will issue to a member upon them receiving a second verbal warning from a Steward/Official within two years, (730 days) from the date of receiving

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the first. The procedure for issuing same will be as a. above. The second warning card will be removed from a member's record after two years, (730 days) have elapsed from the date of its issuing.

1.3.3. Third Warning

Where a third verbal warning is administered to a member within two years (730 days) of their receiving their first warning card, a referral warning card will issue to that member in a like manner to a. and b. above. Where a member receives a referral warning card the matter will be looked into and dealt with by the Referrals and Discipline committee, (as defined in the amended Articles of Association). The member in question will be alerted to this fact at the same time as the referral warning card is issued to him in writing by National Office. The referral warning card will be removed from a member's record after two years, (730 days), have elapsed from the date of its issuing.

If a referral warning card is issued the offending party may be summonsed by the Referrals and Discipline Committee to a disciplinary hearing.

(NOTE: where any member receives a third verbal warning as outlined above but this falls outside the two year period from their receipt of their first warning card, this will not constitute a referral warning card but will be a second warning card, or in the case where the members receipt of a third verbal warning is outside the two year period since their receipt of the second warning card their third verbal warning shall result in a new first warning card, the member's prior warning cards having been struck from their record after the prescribed time.)

1.3.4. Blatant Misconduct / Breach of Rules

Where a member is guilty of such blatant misconduct and/or breach of the rules the Steward/Official can chose to refer the matter directly in writing to the Referrals and Discipline committee through the National Office. The member in question will be notified of such a decision by National Office and will also be forwarded a copy of the steward/official's written referral. At this point the Referrals and Discipline committee may investigate the matter and if the matter so warrants, they may summon the member in question to attend a hearing where they will have an opportunity to make their submissions on the matter. After this hearing the committee may choose to issue a referral warning card to the member in question irrespective of whether they have no previous warning cards or received no previous warnings and/or may issue one of the penalties within their jurisdiction to the member, (see B.2 below).

1.4. Record of Incident

National Office will record the issuing of a warning card to any member in the disciplinary database and will make a note of same on the member's personal record to include the date that any card was issued. Any cards received by a member will be removed from that member's record by National Office after the prescribed time, as outlined above, for their removal has been reached.

1.5. Hearings and Quorum for the Referrals and Discipline Committee

The quorum for a hearing conducted by the Referrals and Discipline Committee shall be three. As per Article 52 of the Articles of Association of the Association, where a Referrals and Discipline hearing is to be convened, the Board of Directors shall select three members from the eight-member panel to sit at the hearing. At least one of the members selected to sit at the hearing will be a committee member who is also a member or associate member of the

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Association and at least one of the panel members selected shall be an independent member of the committee, i.e. those committee members who are either a member of the legal profession or a mediator and who are completely independent of the Association. The Board of Directors shall appoint the chairperson of the hearing from amongst these three individuals.

2. Procedure for notification of matters to the Referrals and Discipline Committee

2.1. *Notifying Referrals and Discipline Committee*

Where any AIRC member has been issued with a Referral Warning Card, the National Office will have issued same to the member in question and will in turn notify the Referrals and Discipline committee of the card being issued. The Referrals and Discipline Committee may meet to discuss the situation and where they deem that the Referral Warning card issued represents a serious matter and warrants a hearing they may summon the member in question to such a hearing providing said member with reasons in writing for their being summonsed, (in the event that they feel that the Referral Warning card does not represent a serious matter, no further action will be taken.). The member in question will be given notice of the date time and place of the hearing. The member in question will be given an opportunity to put forward any submissions they may wish to make at the hearing.

Alternatively, where a member has been issued with any warning card and wishes to appeal the decision of the steward, he/she may appeal the matter to a hearing of the Referrals and Discipline Committee as per the procedure laid out in B6 below and they will be notified of the details of the hearing of the Committee as per the manner laid out in B7

2.2. *Sanctions*

The Referrals and Discipline Committee will have the power to Question the Member before them and may call any witnesses they feel they wish to hear, for instance any steward or official who issued the member with warning card. The Referrals and Discipline committee shall have the jurisdiction to penalise the member in any of the following ways:

- To admonish the member for their behaviour;
- Suspend the member from the Association and/or their local club and all activities of both for a period of up to three months;
- To uphold or overturn the issuing of a card by an official/ steward to any member;
- Disqualify a member/horse from the competition at which these rules were breached and/or a repugnant incident occurred;
- Issue the member with a fine of up to €200; time limit also appealing
- Suspend a member from all competitive AIRC riding events until such a time as they familiarise themselves fully with this rule book, which time is to be determined by the committee;
- In the case of very grievous wrong-doing, misconduct or breaches of the rules such as blatant and wilful cruelty to horses or an assault upon another member, the committee may recommend the expulsion of the member from the AIRC and his local riding club to the national committee. The procedure for the expulsion of a member of the Association as laid out in the Articles of Association shall be followed. Any member who is expelled from the Association will not be permitted to re-join the AIRC, his own riding club or join any other AIRC affiliated riding club in the future unless there are very compelling reasons for such a member to be allowed to do so.

2.3. *Decisions of the Committee*

The Committee shall not give their decision on the matter on the day of the hearing but will forward their report including their decision as soon as may be after the hearing to National Office who will in turn forward a copy of the decision and report to the club secretary of the

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member in question. The result of the hearing will be recorded in the disciplinary record book or database.

2.4. Appeals Committee

Where a member who has been penalised by the Referrals and Discipline committee is dissatisfied with the result of his hearing or the penalty handed down he/she may appeal the matter to the Appeals Committee as per the procedure laid out in section C. below, (save in the case of a referral of an internal matter from a club where the hearing of the Referrals and Discipline Committee is the final right of appeal). A stay will be placed on any fine or suspension received by such a member until such a time as their appeal has been heard.

2.5. Inter-Club Disputes

The Referrals and Discipline Committee will have jurisdiction to hear disputes arising between different clubs at inter-club, regional or national level that occur either at competitions or otherwise with the exception of disputes regarding grading. Grading disputes are dealt with at section 2 of these rules. The Referrals and Discipline Committee will also have jurisdiction to hear complaints from clubs relating to matters involving the National Committee, the Board of Directors and/or the Association as an organisation, including but not limited to complaints regarding qualification and the disqualification of a horse or rider from a competition.

Where one club has a complaint about another club or one of the club's members, or there is a dispute between two, (or more), clubs or their members, or a club wishes to make a complaint relating to matters involving the National Committee, the Executive, the Association as an organisation and/or the decision of a steward/official to disqualify one of their members at a competition/event, any such club may refer the matter to a hearing of the Referrals and Discipline Committee upon the submission by the complainant club secretary of a short statement outlining the grounds for the complaint and a fee of €200 to National Office. The €200 may be refunded should the complaint be upheld. Where the complaint/dispute is regarding an occurrence at a particular AIRC competition or event, the complaint must be lodged within seven days of the date of said competition or event.

2.6. Hearings

Upon receipt of the submission from the complainant club in national office, it will as soon as may be provide the complainant club with a date, time and place for the hearing of the matter. The Respondent Club(s)/member(s)/body will be notified of the hearing in like manner and will also be provided with a copy of the complainant club's statement of grounds. All parties will be given notice of the date of the hearing.

All parties will be given an opportunity to put forward their oral submissions to the committee. The Referrals and Discipline committee will have the power to Question the Member before them and may call any witnesses they feel they wish to hear.

2.7. Sanctions

The Referrals and Discipline Committee will have Jurisdiction to penalise any club member or club in the following manner:

- Admonish a member or club for their behaviour; Suspend the club/Club member from the Association and all its activities for a period of up to three months;
- Disqualify a member/horse from the competition at which these rules were breached and/or a repugnant incident occurred;
- Issue the club/club member with a fine of up to €1,000;

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- Suspend a Club/ club member from all competition until such a time as they/the club member familiarise themselves fully with this rule book, which time is to be determined by the committee;
- In the case of very grievous wrong-doing, misconduct or breaches of the rules such as blatant and wilful cruelty to horses or an assault upon another member, the committee may recommend the expulsion of any member(s) from the AIRC and his local riding club to the National committee. The procedure for the expulsion of a member of the Association as laid out in the Articles of Association shall be followed. Any member who is expelled from the Association will not be permitted to re-join the AIRC in the future unless there are very compelling reasons for such a member to be allowed to do so.

2.8. Committee Recommendations

The Committee will also have the power to make recommendations to the complainant and respondent as to methods that they could adopt in order to settle their differences.

2.9. Overturn Decisions

The Committee shall have jurisdiction to overturn any decision of the National Committee or the Board of Directors or a Steward/Official or any other committee within the AIRC save for the Appeals Committee where they feel it is just and equitable and in the interest of fair sport to do so.

2.10. Committee Decisions

The Committee shall not give their decision on the matter on the day of the hearing but will forward their report including their decision as soon as may be after the date of the hearing to National Office who will in turn forward a copy of the decision and report to the club secretary of the complainant and respondent club/member/body in question. The result of the hearing will be recorded in the disciplinary record book/ database.

2.11. Appeals Committee

Where any club who has referred a matter to the Referrals and Appeals Committee, or any club or member who has received a penalty as a result of such a referral is dissatisfied with the outcome of the hearing of the matter or the penalty handed down, such club will have a final right of appeal to the Appeals Committee who will convene a hearing as per the terms of section C. below. The National and Board of Directors shall not have such a right of appeal. A stay will be placed on any fine or suspension received by any member or club until such a time as the appeal has been heard.

2.12. Hearing Attendance

In any instance where any member/club is given notice to attend a hearing of the Referrals and Complaints Committee such member/club must attend the hearing unless they can give good reasons for not being in a position to attend. Should a member/Club who have been given notice to attend a hearing not attend at said hearing without attempting to tender a valid reason for their non-attendance, the hearing will commence in their absence and the committee will proceed to make their decision.

2.13. Conflict of Interest – Committee Members

In the event that a member of the Referrals and Discipline Committee should find themselves a party to any complaint or dispute or otherwise that is being investigated or adjudicated upon by that committee, that committee member will, for the duration that the matter is being dealt

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with, step down from that committee and have no part in the investigation, adjudication or otherwise of that matter.

3. Appeals Committee

3.1. Meetings and Quorum for the Appeals Committee

- 1) The Quorum for any hearings of the Appeals Committee shall be three. The three panel members of the Appeals committee to sit at such a hearing will be selected by the Board of Directors who will also appoint a chairperson from amongst these three.
- 2) Where any Club or member is dissatisfied with the outcome of the hearing of the Referrals and Discipline committee, said club or member will have a final right of appeal to the Appeals committee, (as defined in the Articles of Association of the AIRC)
- 3) In order to lodge a valid appeal, the club secretary of the club/ member in question must forward a brief outline of the grounds of appeal together with a fee of €200, which may be refunded should the appeal be upheld, to National Office within fourteen days of the receipt of the decision of the Referrals and Discipline Committee by the club secretary.
- 4) Upon receipt of appeal documents in National Office, a date, time and place will be arranged by National Office with the Appeals Committee for an Appeal hearing and the club secretary of the member/club in question and any other clubs/members involved or who the appeals commission wish to attend will be notified of same. The secretary of the respondent club will be provided with a copy of the Appellant Club/member's grounds of appeal. The club secretaries in question will be given notice of the details of the appeal hearing.
- 5) The appellant member/club and the Respondent member/club will be given an opportunity to make oral submissions in relation to their appeal. The Appeals committee will have the power to Question the Member/Club Representative before them and may call any witnesses they feel they wish to hear.
- 6) The Appeals Committee may: a.) uphold the decision of the Referrals and Discipline Committee, b.) overturn the decision of the Referrals and Discipline Committee, c.) increase the amount of a fine handed down by the Referrals and Discipline Committee up to a maximum of €1,500, d.) increase the length of a suspension handed down by the Referrals and Discipline Committee up to a maximum of 18 months, e.) make any other decision or recommendation that they feel is necessary and equitable and in the interest of sport within the scope of these rules.
- 7) The Decision of the Appeals Committee is final.
- 8) The Committee shall not give their decision on the matter on the day of the hearing but will forward their report including their decision as soon as may be after the date of the hearing to National office who will in turn forward a copy of the decision and report to the club secretary of the appellant and respondent member/club. The result of the hearing will be recorded in the disciplinary record book and/or the Association's database.
- 9) In any instance where any member/club is given notice to attend a hearing of the Appeals Committee such member/club must attend the hearing unless they can give good reasons for not being in a position to attend. Should a member/Club who have been given notice to attend a hearing not attend at said hearing without attempting to tender a valid reason for their non-attendance, the hearing will commence in their absence and the committee will proceed to make their decision.
- 10) In the unlikely event that a member of the Appeals Committee should find themselves a party to any appeal that is being investigated or adjudicated upon by that committee, that committee member will, for the duration that the matter is being dealt with, step

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down from that committee and have no part in the investigation, adjudication or otherwise of that matter.

- 11) National Office will record the outcome of a hearing of the Referrals and Discipline Committee or a hearing of the Appeals Committee in the Association's database and will make a note on the outcome of same on the penalised member/club's personal/club record to include the date of the hearing.
- 12) Where a member of the Association who has not yet reached their 18th birthday is called to/or is party to the hearing of the Referrals and Discipline Committee, the Appeals Committee or called before a Steward or Official of the Association that member must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or appropriate adult acting in loco parentis.

National Championships

Section 4

Section 4 National Championships

1. Team Show Jumping Championship

1.1. Qualifiers

Each region of the Association will hold a qualifier to determine which club will qualify for the wildcard qualifier and the Championship final.

1.2. Eligible Riders

Only affiliated member clubs are permitted to enter the championship and any team member(s) must be registered as a member on or before the 30th April in order to be eligible to compete. It is the club committee's responsibility to ensure that each member of their team(s) is eligible to compete at the grade they are currently graded at, upon entry.

1.3. Number of Teams & Balloting

Clubs may only submit a maximum of four teams to their respective qualifier. However, should the qualifier be oversubscribed, entries may be balloted as follows:

- a) Clubs with 4 or more teams shall be balloted out first.
- b) Clubs with 3 or more teams shall then be balloted out.

Balloting is at the sole discretion of the regional committee whether for timetabling or for any other reason. A club may choose which of their teams are to be balloted out if they are required to do so. Each club is entitled to send at least two teams, irrespective of balloting.

1.4. Teams

The teams shall consist of three or four members, made up of two riders who will jump a 0.90m course (these could be made up of two RC 90 or one RC 90 and one RC 100) and two riders who will jump a course not exceeding 1.00m (these could be made up of any of the following grades: RC 100, RC 110 or RC 120 with a maximum of one RC 120). A team with four riders must consist of a minimum of one RC 90 rider.

A rider and horse combination may only compete once in a qualifier. A club may share up to a maximum of one rider on another team but they must ride a different horse. They may not act as captain on more than one team.

A horse may be shared on another team under a different rider and may only start twice on the day of a qualifier. The horse cannot be ridden by two team captains.

1.5. Reserves ~~Substitutions~~

A panel of up to two reserve riders and two reserve horses may be nominated on the official entry form for each team.

1.6. Horses

Horses must be registered with National Office prior to the entries closing for their respective qualifier and entered under their registered name, as described on their passport, at any championship qualifier and at the final. Consult rule 7 for eligibility for riding club activities.

1.7. Competition Format

The two 0.90m course riders will be numbers one and two on the team. Once all the 0.90m course riders have jumped their first round, the fences will be raised and the 1.00m course riders, numbers three and four on the team, will jump. This format will then be repeated for the second round.

The course shall be of at least eight fences, one of which should be a double. The competition must be judged by an SJI Judge in accordance with the FEI rules for Nations Cups. An electronic timing clock must be used.

Should a jump-off be necessary to determine the winner, the team captain who must come from the 1.00m section (RC 100, RC 110 or RC 120 grade) will be required to jump a shortened course against the clock. Teams not involved in the jump-off will be placed according to Article 238.22.

In the event of a jump-off being abandoned, the placings will be decided by the accumulated time of the team's best three scores, in their second round.

1.8. Qualification

The highest-placed eligible team shall receive an invitation to enter the championship final. The second highest-placed eligible team shall receive an invitation to enter the wild card qualifier at the AIRC Riding Club Festival.

Should a qualified team be unable to attend the wild card qualifier or the championship final, the place will not be re-allocated.

Only one team per club will qualify at any championship qualifier (i.e. if the second-placed team represents the same club as the highest eligible team, the wild card place will be allocated to the next highest-placed eligible club.)

1.9. Entries

Entry to the qualifier must be submitted to the show organiser using the official entry form issued by National Office. Team captains must be nominated on the team entry. Entries must close a minimum of 7 days prior to the qualifier taking.

Changes to an entered team, between the close of entry and the qualifier taking place, is not permitted except for using declared reserves.

A full list of entries must be published by the organisers of the qualifier, by the Wednesday, or earlier, prior to the qualifier taking place.

1.10. Officials

Two judges must officiate at each regional qualifier, one of which must be of judge status or higher. The other judge may be unlisted but must be approved by the Regional Committee.

1.11. Organisers Guidelines

All qualifiers must be run in conjunction with the guidelines issued by AIRC. These will be issued directly to the host club / region.

1.12. Clubs Responsibilities

Club committees are responsible to ensure any team they enter complies with the following:

1. Riders were registered with National Office on or before the 30th April.

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2. Riders are eligible for the grade they are registered at, at the time of the qualifier and any subsequent stage of the championship.
3. Horses are registered on the AIRC Membership Online portal.
4. Horses are entered using their registered name on the AIRC Membership Online portal.

Where a team is found in breach of the above, they may be disqualified and may face further sanctions as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

National Championships

Section 4

2. Team RC 70 & RC 80 Show Jumping Championship

2.1. Qualifiers

Each region of the Association will hold a qualifier to determine which club will qualify for the final at the AIRC Riding Clubs Festival.

2.2. Eligible Riders

Only affiliated member clubs are permitted to enter the championship and any team member(s) must be registered as a member on or before the 30th April in order to be eligible to compete. It is the club committee's responsibility to ensure that each member of their team(s) is eligible to compete at the grade they are currently graded at, upon entry.

2.3. Number of Teams & Balloting

Clubs may only submit a maximum of four teams to their respective regional qualifier. However, should the qualifier be oversubscribed, entries may be balloted as follows:

- c) Clubs with 4 or more teams shall be balloted out first.
- d) Clubs with 3 or more teams shall then be balloted out.

Balloting is at the sole discretion of the regional committee whether for timetabling or for any other reason. A club may choose which of their teams are to be balloted out if they are required to do so. Each club is entitled to send at least two teams, irrespective of balloting.

2.4. Teams

The teams shall consist of three or four members, made up of two riders who will jump a 0.70m course (these could be made up of two RC 70 or one RC 70 and one RC 80) and two riders who will jump a course not exceeding 0.80m (these could be made up two RC 80). A team with four riders must consist of a minimum of one RC 70 rider.

A rider and horse combination may only compete once in a qualifier. A club may share up to a maximum of one rider on another team but they must ride a different horse. They may not act as captain on more than one team.

A horse may be shared on another team under a different rider and may only start twice on the day of a qualifier. The horse cannot be ridden by two team captains.

2.5. Reserves

A panel of up to two reserve riders and two reserve horses may be nominated on the official entry form for each team.

2.6. Horses

Horses must be registered with National Office prior to the entries closing for their respective qualifier and entered under their registered name, as described on their passport, at any championship qualifier and at the final. Consult rule 7 for eligibility for riding club activities.

2.7. Competition Format

The two 0.70m course riders will be numbers one and two on the team. Once all the 0.70m course riders have jumped their first round, the fences will be raised and the 0.80m course riders, numbers three and four on the team, will jump. This format will then be repeated for the second round.

The course shall be of at least eight fences, one of which should be a double. The competition must be judged by an SJI Judge in accordance with the FEI rules for Nations Cups. An electronic timing clock must be used.

Should a jump-off be necessary to determine the winner, the two team members who jumped the 0.80 will be required to jump a shortened course against the clock (optimum time). Teams not involved in the jump-off will be placed according to Article 238.22.

In the event of a jump-off being abandoned, the placings will be decided by the accumulated time of the team's best three scores, in their second round.

2.8. Qualification

The highest-placed eligible team shall receive an invitation to enter the championship final. Should a qualified team be unable to attend the final, the place will not be re-allocated.

2.9. Entries

Entry to the qualifier must be submitted to the show organiser using the official entry form issued by National Office. Team captains must be nominated on the team entry. Entries must close a minimum of 7 days prior to the qualifier taking place.

Changes to an entered team, between the close of entry and the qualifier taking place, is not permitted except for using declared reserves.

A full list of entries must be published by the organisers of the qualifier, by the Wednesday, or earlier, prior to the qualifier taking place.

2.10. Officials

Two judges must officiate at each regional qualifier, one of which must be of judge status or higher. The other judge may be unlisted but must be approved by the Regional Committee.

2.11. Organisers Guidelines

All qualifiers must be run in conjunction with the guidelines issued by AIRC. These will be issued directly to the host club / region.

2.12. Clubs Responsibilities

Club committees are responsible to ensure any team they enter complies with the following:

1. Riders were registered with National Office on or before the 30th April.
2. Riders are eligible for the grade they are registered at, at the time of the qualifier and any subsequent stage of the championship.
3. Horses are registered on the AIRC Membership Online portal.
4. Horses are entered using their registered name on the AIRC Membership Online portal.

Where a team is found in breach of the above, they may be disqualified and may face further sanctions as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

National Championships

Section 4

3. Dressage Championships

3.1. Qualifiers

Each region of the Association will hold a qualifier to determine what teams and individuals will qualify for the Championships. The qualifier classes must be run as standalone classes and not be merged with any other competition.

3.2. Eligible Riders

Open to registered members of the Association of Irish Riding Clubs. Any team member(s) must be registered as a member on or before the 30th April in order to be eligible to compete. It is the club committee's responsibility to ensure that each member of their team(s) is eligible to compete at the grade they are currently graded at, upon entry.

3.3. Number of Teams & Balloting

Clubs may only submit a maximum of 4 teams to their respective qualifier. However, should the qualifier be oversubscribed, the entries may be balloted as follows:

- a) Clubs with 4 or more teams shall be balloted out first
- b) Clubs with 3 teams shall then be balloted out

Balloting is at the sole discretion of the regional committee whether for timetabling or for any other reason. A club may choose which of their teams are to be balloted out if they are required to do so. Each club is entitled to send at least two teams, irrespective of balloting.

3.4. Teams

A team shall consist of three or four members with no more than two riders from any one grade representing no less than two grades.

A rider and horse combination may only compete once in a qualifier. A club may share up to a maximum of one rider on another team but they must ride a different horse.

A horse may be shared on another team under a different rider and may only start twice on the day of the qualifier.

3.5. Reserves

A panel of up to two reserve riders and two reserve horses may be nominated on the official entry form for each team.

Teams may substitution any rider, using a declared reserve, at any point up to the close of entries. Once entries close, teams may only substitution a rider, using a declared reserve of the same grade, if they declared one, up to 30 minutes before the start of the qualifier or final. Horses may be substituted, using a declared reserve, at any point up to 30 minutes before the start of the qualifier or final.

3.6. Horses

Horses must be registered with National Office prior to the entries closing for their respective qualifier and entered under their registered name, as described on their passport, at any championship qualifier and at the final. Consult rule 7 for eligibility for riding club activities.

3.7. Qualification

One team will qualify for every four teams, or part thereof, which start on the day of the qualifier. The highest-placed eligible team shall receive an invitation to enter the championship final.

The top three rider and horse combinations from the RC P2, RC P3 and RC N individual championship classes at each qualifier will go forward to the championship final.

If a rider & horse combination has already qualified at a previous qualifier, the next best placed rider will go forward to the final. Qualification is not sought for the RC P1, RC E or RC M championships.

Should a qualified team or individual be unable to attend the championship final, the place will not be re-allocated.

A rider and horse combination must have qualified in the grade they are competing at, at the championship final.

3.8. Format

In the team championship, each member will perform a test appropriate for their grade. In the final, competitors will perform two tests on the day, with the best three scores counting from first test being added to the best three scores from the second test to determine the result of the team championship. Individuals will ride two tests with their combined score determining the result.

3.9. Entries

The team entry to the qualifier must be submitted to the show organiser using the official entry form issued by National Office. Entries must close a minimum of 7 days prior to the qualifier taking place or earlier if required by National Office.

Changes to an entered team, between the close of entry and the qualifier taking place, is not permitted except for using declared reserves.

A full list of entries must be published by the organisers of the qualifier, by the Wednesday, or earlier, prior to the qualifier taking place.

3.10. Officials

The judge must be on the Dressage Ireland judges list or the AIRC Show Officials list.

3.11. Organisers Guidelines

All qualifiers must be run in conjunction with the guidelines issued by AIRC. These will be issued directly to the host club / region.

3.12. Clubs Responsibilities

Club committees are responsible to ensure any team they enter complies with the following:

1. Riders were registered with National Office on or before the 30th April.
2. Riders are eligible for the grade they are registered at, at the time of the qualifier and any subsequent stage of the championship.
3. Horses are registered on the AIRC Membership Online portal.
4. Horses are entered using their registered name on the AIRC Membership Online portal.

National Championships

Section 4



Where a team is found in breach of the above, they may be disqualified and may face further sanctions as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

3.13. Test Sheets

Test sheets must be made available to competitors no later than the publication of results for their competition.

Please note: AIRC rule 24.4 permits the use of whips by RC P1 riders at all times in dressage competitions. RC P2 riders may use a whip and/or wear spurs at the qualifiers or at the finals as per rule 24.3 and 24.4.

National Championships

Section 4

4. Show Jumping Championships

- 1) Open to registered members of the Association of Irish Riding Clubs
- 2) Qualification: There is no specific qualification criteria for this event.
- 3) Format: The championship classes will take form of a three-round competition. Competitors will jump two rounds and penalties are cumulative. Those competitors who are level on equality of penalties for first place after the two rounds will jump-off against the clock (Optimum time for PC 70 and RC 80).

Minor placings will be decided by their cumulative score from the two rounds with their time taken from the second round.

Competitors who are disqualified, eliminated or retire in the first round of the competition will not go forward to the second round.

- 4) Horses: Horses must be entered under their registered name, as described on their passport. Consult rule 6 for eligibility for riding club activities.

5. Eventing Championships

- 1) Open to registered members of the Association of Irish Riding Clubs.
- 2) Horses: Horses must be entered under their registered name as described on their passport, at any championship qualifier and at the final. Consult rule 6 for eligibility criteria for riding club activities.
- 3) The club team championship is open to teams of 3 or 4 riders from one club competing in any class. Teams must consist of 3 or 4 riders with no more than 2 riders from any one grade. A rider may only compete once on a team.
- 4) The best three scores will count towards the team's overall score. A club may only enter one team for the championship and this must be submitted by the club secretary before the close of entries.
- 5) It is recommended that all competitors have completed a minimum of one, AIRC one-day event between the 1st of April and the close of entries for the championships.
- 6) Please consult Appendix 1 in D71/12 Scoring Horse Trials Competitions for further information on the scoring format for these championships.

Show Officials

Section 5

Section 5 Show Officials

1. AIRC Officials

A list of show jumping judges and course designers approved by the AIRC is available to download from our website. A copy of this may be obtained on <https://airc.ie/shows/showofficials/>.

2. Dressage

All members are asked to familiarise themselves with Dressage Ireland rules, as all AIRC dressage competitions are run under those rules. A copy of these may be obtained on www.dressageireland.ie

Dressage Judges:

For an up-to-date list of dressage judges, please visit Dressage Irelands website by clicking on "Judges" and then select "Judges List."

3. Horse Trials / Eventing

All members are asked to familiarise themselves with Eventing Ireland rules, as all AIRC horse trials competitions are run under those rules. A copy of these may be obtained on www.eventingireland.com

Technical Delegates / Society Stewards:

For an up-to-date list of technical delegates / society stewards, please consult Eventing Irelands rule book.

4. Show Jumping

All members are asked to familiarise themselves with Show Jumping Ireland rules, as all AIRC show jumping competitions are run under those rules. A copy of these may be obtained on www.sji.ie/Shows/Rules

Show Jumping Judges / Course Designers:

For an up-to-date list of show jumping judges and course designers, please visit www.sji.ie:

→ Judges - click on "Shows" and then "Judges".

→ Course Designers - click on "Shows" and then "Course Designers."

Rider Equipment Guides

Section 6

Section 6 Rider Equipment Guides

Please note:

- These guidelines must be read in conjunction with the AIRC rule book.
- Spurs must be made entirely of metal and point downwards. See rule 24.3.
- Riders with long hair should wear a hairnet or tie their hair back.
- Riders should always wear a shirt/tie or stock. Ladies may wear a high collared shirt.

RC P1 / RC 70 Rider Equipment Guide

Equipment	Pure Dressage	Show Jumping	Combined Training		Cross Jump	Showing	Perform. Hunter / Working Hunter
			Dressage	Jumping			
Riding Hat to current standards	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Body Protector	R	R	R	R	C	P	R
Bellyband	X	P	X	P	P	X	X
Whip	P	75cm max	P	75cm max	P	P	P
Gloves	C	R	C	R	R	R	R
Spurs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Correct Neck Wear	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Timing Device	P	P	P	P	X	X	-
Snaffle Bridle	C	P	C	P	P	P	P
Pelham Bridle (Roundings with 1 rein)	X	P	X	P	P	P	P
Double Bridle	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Running Martingale	X	P	X	P	P	-	P
Standing Martingale	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Boots / Bandages	X	P	X	P	P	X	P
Running Reins	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Saddle Cloth	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Fly Fringe	P	P	P	P	P	X	X

C = Compulsory

P = Permitted

R = Recommended

X = Not Allowed

Rider Equipment Guides

Section 6

RC P2 / RC 80 Rider Equipment Guide

Equipment	Pure Dressage	Show Jumping	Horse Trials			Combined Training		Hunter Trials	Showing	Perform. Hunter / Working Hunter
			D	SJ	XC	D	SJ			
Riding Hat to current standards	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Body Protector	R	R	R	R	C	R	R	C	P	P
Bellyband	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	X	X
Medical Armband (with photographic ID)	-	-	-	-	R	-	-	R	-	-
Whip	P	75cms max	P	75cms max	75cms max	P	75cms max	75cms max	P	P
Gloves	C	R	C	R	R	C	R	R	R	R
Spurs	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	X
Correct Neck Wear	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Timing Device	-	-	-	-	P	-	-	X	-	-
Snaffle Bridle	C	P	C	P	P	C	P	P	P	P
Pelham Bridle	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	P	P
Double Bridle	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	P
Running Martingale	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	-	P
Standing Martingale	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Boots / Bandages	X	P	X	P	R	X	P	R	X	P
Running Reins	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Saddle Cloth	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Fly Fringe	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	X

C = Compulsory

P = Permitted

R = Recommended

X = Not Allowed

Rider Equipment Guides

Section 6

RC P3 / RC 90 Rider Equipment Guide

Equipment	Pure Dressage	Show Jumping	Horse Trials			Combined Training		Hunter Trials	Showing	Perform. Hunter / Working Hunter
			D	SJ	XC	D	SJ			
Riding Hat to current standards	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Body Protector	R	R	R	R	C	R	R	C	P	P
Bellybands	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	X	X
Medical Armband (with photographic ID)	-	-	-	-	R	-	-	R	-	-
Whip	P	75cms max	P	75cms max	75cms max	P	75cms max	75cms max	P	P
Gloves	C	R	C	R	R	C	R	R	R	R
Spurs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Correct Neck Wear	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Timing Device	-	-	-	-	P	-	-	X	-	-
Snaffle Bridle	C	P	C	P	P	C	P	P	P	P
Pelham Bridle	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	P	P
Double Bridle	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	P	P
Running Martingale	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	-	P
Standing Martingale	X	P	X	P	X	X	P	X	-	P
Boots / Bandages	X	P	X	P	R	X	P	R	X	P
Running Reins	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Saddle Cloth	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Fly Fringe	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	X

C = Compulsory

P = Permitted

R = Recommended

X = Not Allowed

Rider Equipment Guides

Section 6

RC N / RC 100 Rider Equipment Guide

Equipment	Pure Dressage	Show Jumping	Horse Trials			Combined Training		Hunter Trials	Showing	Perform. Hunter / Working Hunter
			D	SJ	XC	D	SJ			
Riding Hat to current standards	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Body Protector	R	R	R	R	C	R	R	C	P	P
Bellybands	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	X	X
Medical Armband (with photographic ID)	-	-	-	-	R	-	-	R	-	-
Whip	P	75cms max	P	75cms max	75cms max	P	75cms max	75cms max	P	P
Gloves	C	R	C	R	R	C	R	R	R	R
Spurs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Correct Neck Wear	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Timing Device	-	-	-	-	P	-	-	P	-	-
Snaffle Bridle	C	P	C	P	P	C	P	P	P	P
Pelham Bridle	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	P	P
Double Bridle	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	P	P
Running Martingale	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	-	P
Standing Martingale	X	P	X	P	X	X	P	X	-	P
Boots / Bandages	X	P	X	P	R	X	P	R	X	P
Running Reins	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Saddle Cloth	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Fly Fringe	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	X

C = Compulsory

P = Permitted

R = Recommended

X = Not Allowed

Rider Equipment Guides

Section 6

RC E / RC 110 & RC N / RC 120 Rider Equipment Guide

Equipment	Pure Dressage	Show Jumping	Horse Trials			Combined Training		Hunter Trials	Showing	Perform. Hunter / Working Hunter
			D	SJ	XC	D	SJ			
Riding Hat to current standards	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Body Protector	R	R	R	R	C	R	R	C	P	P
Bellyband	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	X	X
Medical Armband (with photographic ID)	-	-	-	-	R	-	-	R	-	-
Whip	P	75cms max	P	75cms max	75cms max	P	75cms max	75cms max	P	P
Gloves	C	R	C	R	R	C	R	R	R	R
Spurs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Correct Neck Wear	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Timing Device	-	-	-	-	P	-	-	P	-	-
Snaffle Bridle	C	P	C	P	P	C	P	P	P	P
Pelham Bridle	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	P	P
Double Bridle	P*	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	P	P
Running Martingale	X	P	X	P	P	X	P	P	-	P
Standing Martingale	X	P	X	P	X	X	P	X	-	P
Boots / Bandages	X	P	X	P	R	X	P	R	X	P
Running Reins	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Saddle Cloth	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Fly Fringe	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	X

(* see Dressage Ireland rules)

C = Compulsory

P = Permitted

R = Recommended

X = Not Allowe

Prohibited Substances

Appendix 1 & 2

Appendix 1 - Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Youths and Vulnerable Adults

The Association has adopted Horse Sport Ireland's Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Youths and Vulnerable Adults in our Sport ("HSI Code of Ethics"), as may be amended from time to time, and the HSI Code of Ethics shall have effect and be binding upon all persons required to be vetted under the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012 and all persons referred to in the HSI Code of Ethics, and all such persons shall be deemed to have agreed to be bound by and to comply strictly with the HSI Code of Ethics."

Appendix 2 - Prohibited Substances / Anti-Doping

1. Prohibited Substances – Competitors

The Association of Irish Riding Clubs anti-doping rules are the Irish anti-doping rules as adopted by the Irish Sports Council, as amended from time to time. The rules contained in the said Irish anti-doping rules shall have effect and be construed as rules of the Association of Irish Riding Clubs.

Further information is available on the Irish Sports Council website, www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/Anti-Doping

2. Prohibited Substances – Horses

Based on the welfare of the animal an application may be made to the Association to permit the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines in aged ponies and horses competing in AIRC competitions.

The application must be accompanied by a report from the owner's Veterinary Surgeon verifying that the administration of Bute will enable the named animal to continue its 'sporting life'.

The Association reserves the right to seek a second opinion, if deemed necessary. If such an application is granted the name of the animal will be entered in a 'Register to Compete', which will be maintained at National Office. This will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Association strongly urges all competitors to seek veterinary advice before using any medication during and before competition.

Further information is available from the FEI website, www.fei.org.

Conversion Tables

Appendix 3

Appendix 3 – Eligibility for Competitions

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

Conversion Tables

Appendix 3

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

Conversion Tables

Appendix 4

Appendix 4 - Conversion Table of Yards and Feet to Metres

1 inch	=	0.025m
1 foot	=	0.30m
2 ft	=	0.61m
1 yard	=	0.91m
4 ft	=	1.22m
4' 3"	=	1.30m
4' 6"	=	1.37m
4' 9"	=	1.45m
5 ft	=	1.52m
5' 3"	=	1.60m
5' 6"	=	1.68m
6 ft	=	1.83m
6' 6"	=	1.91m
7 ft	=	2.13m
8 ft	=	2.44m
9 ft	=	2.74m
10 ft	=	3.05m
15 ft	=	4.57m
20 ft	=	6.10m
10 yards	=	9.14m
25 yards	=	22.86m
50 yards	=	45.72m
100 yards	=	91.44m
1000 yards	=	914.40m

1.00m	=	3' 3"
1.10m	=	3' 7"
1.20m	=	3' 11"
1.30m	=	4' 3"
1.40m	=	4' 7"
1.50m	=	4' 11"
1.60m	=	5' 3"
1.70m	=	5' 7"
1.80m	=	5' 11"
1.90m	=	6' 3"
2.00m	=	6' 7"
3.00m	=	9' 10"
4.00m	=	13' 1"
5.00m	=	16' 5"
6.00m	=	19' 8"
7.00m	=	22' 11"
8.00m	=	26' 3"
9.00m	=	29' 6"
10.00m	=	32' 10"
25.00m	=	82 ft
100.00m	=	109 yards
300.00m	=	327 yards
325.00m	=	382 yards
375.00m	=	409.25 yards
400.00m	=	436 yards

Conversion Tables

Appendix 4

Appendix 4 - Calculation of Time Allowed

300 metres per minute

M	00	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
1	20"	22"	24"	26"	28"	30"	32"	34"	36"	38"
2	40"	42"	44"	46"	48"	50"	52"	54"	56"	58"
3	60"	62"	64"	66"	68"	70"	72"	74"	76"	78"
4	80"	82"	84"	86"	88"	90"	92"	94"	96"	98"
5	100"	102"	104"	106"	108"	110"	112"	114"	116"	118"
6	120"	122"	124"	126"	128"	130"	132"	134"	136"	138"
7	140"	142"	144"	146"	148"	150"	152"	154"	156"	158"
8	160"	162"	164"	166"	168"	170"	172"	174"	176"	178"
9	180"	182"	184"	186"	188"	190"	192"	194"	196"	198"

325 metres per minute

M	00	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
1	19"	21"	23"	24"	26"	28"	30"	32"	34"	36"
2	37"	39"	41"	43"	45"	47"	48"	50"	52"	54"
3	56"	58"	60"	61"	63"	65"	67"	69"	71"	72"
4	74"	76"	78"	80"	82"	84"	85"	87"	89"	91"
5	93"	95"	96"	98"	100"	102"	104"	106"	108"	109"
6	111"	112"	115"	117"	119"	120"	122"	124"	126"	128"
7	130"	132"	133"	135"	137"	139"	141"	143"	144"	146"
8	148"	150"	152"	154"	156"	157"	159"	161"	163"	165"
9	167"	168"	170"	172"	174"	176"	178"	180"	181"	183"

Conversion Tables

Appendix 4

350 metres per minute

M	00	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
1	18"	19"	21"	23"	24"	26"	28"	30"	31"	33"
2	35"	36"	38"	40"	42"	43"	45"	47"	48"	50"
3	52"	54"	55"	57"	59"	60"	62"	64"	66"	67"
4	69"	71"	72"	74"	76"	78"	79"	81"	83"	84"
5	86"	88"	90"	91"	93"	95"	96"	98"	100"	102"
6	103"	105"	107"	108"	110"	112"	114"	115"	117"	119"
7	120"	122"	124"	126"	127"	129"	131"	132"	134"	136"
8	138"	139"	141"	143"	144"	146"	148"	150"	151"	153"
9	155"	156"	158"	160"	162"	163"	165"	167"	168"	170"

375 metres per minute

M	00	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
1	16"	18"	20"	21"	23"	24"	26"	28"	29"	31"
2	32"	34"	36"	37"	39"	40"	42"	44"	45"	47"
3	48"	50"	52"	53"	55"	56"	58"	60"	61"	63"
4	64"	66"	68"	69"	71"	72"	74"	76"	77"	79"
5	80"	82"	84"	85"	87"	88"	90"	92"	93"	95"
6	96"	98"	100"	101"	103"	104"	106"	108"	109"	111"
7	112"	114"	116"	117"	119"	120"	122"	124"	125"	127"
8	128"	130"	132"	133"	135"	136"	138"	140"	141"	143"
9	144"	146"	148"	149"	151"	152"	154"	156"	157"	159"