A.I.R.C.
Association of
Irish Riding Clubs

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Amended:

Grading in the Club

Riders 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 prove personally dangerous or impose unnecessary hardship on the horses; 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 grading committee, with the advice where appropriate of a recognised instructor. The onus is on the grading committee to grade their riders fairly and in a sporting manner.

Clubs are encouraged to adopt the following procedures when grading its members:

1. **Appointment of a Club Grading Officer**
   Appointment of a club grading officer by the club committee, this shall be a riding member of the club who has experience, (more than three years), of riding at RC P3 dressage minimum, or an instructor with a BHS AI or HSI level 1 qualification or higher at minimum. in the alternative a non-riding member who had experience, (more than three years), of riding at RC P3 dressage level or above in all disciplines or the Eventing Ireland, Show Jumping Ireland and Dressage Ireland equivalent. This non riding member must have had the relevant experience at the required level in all three disciplines.

2. **Club Membership Form**
   All members, including new members and those renewing their annual membership submit their official membership application forms stating the grade or grades at which they ride and/or compete. A sample club membership form (is available to download on www.airc.ie in club resources.

3. **Assessment of Individual Members**
   The grading officer for each club assesses the grade of each member. Where he/she is happy that the member is situated at the correct grade, no further action will be taken. Where the grading officer is dissatisfied with the members grade he/she shall do the following:

   a. Check the databases of Eventing Ireland, Show Jumping Ireland, Dressage Ireland and any other relevant databases to ascertain as to what level the member has been competing at in those particular societies. Where he/she is satisfied that the member's results in these societies correctly reflect the member's grade no further action will be taken.

   b. Where he/she is not satisfied that the member's results reflect their grade that member will be invited to a grading assessment day at a time and venue nominated by the club in question. It is suggested that there be at least one annual grading assessment day no later than the end of February each year.

      Where it is not possible to have cross-country grading at an assessment day due to ground conditions, if a grading officer fears a member is graded at too high or too low a level in that grade, he/she may be suspended from this level/compete at a lower level, (in the case of a member who may be graded too high), or at the same level, (in the case of a member

who may be graded too low) in this discipline at the grading officer's discretion until such a time as that member can be assessed in this discipline.

c. At the grading day the member will be assessed in all disciplines over which the member's grade is queried by the grading officer. The grading officer may be assisted by a dressage Ireland judge/experienced senior competitor, Eventing Ireland Official/experienced senior competitor or a show jumping Ireland Judge/experienced senior competitor. After this process the grading officer may decide to:
    (a.) Upgrade the member;
    (b.) Downgrade the member;
    (c.) Leave the member's grade unchanged;
    (d.) Refer the matter to the regional grading committee.

4. Appeals

Where a member is dissatisfied with the new grade that is awarded to him/her, he/she shall have the right to appeal the matter to the Regional Grading Committee.

5. Upgrades or Downgrades

Any member wishing to upgrade or downgrade may be assessed at the grading assessment day of the club. Where the grading officer is not happy to make a decision on a particular member he may refer the matter to the regional grading committee who will review the matter and if necessary invite the member to a regional assessment day.

This document is provided for guidance purposes only and in the case of discrepancies, the Rules and Bye Laws (D04/12) take precedent over this document. Errors and Omissions Excluded.