

Association of Irish Riding Clubs

Rule Amendments 2023

Rule No.	Rule	Rationale
2.4	<p>Membership Applications</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><i>To provide clarify with regard to the timelines for when applications will be processed.</i></p>
3.2	<p>Show Organisers Responsibilities</p> <p>Clubs/Regions hosting activities must ensure that participants competitors are members of an affiliated club Association 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.</p> <p>Organisers must also ensure that any AIRC activity is run in accordance with AIRC rules.</p> <p>Failure to comply with this can result in disciplinary action and/or a maximum fine of up to €1,000.</p>	<p><i>To provide clarity to the existing rule..</i></p>
6.5.2.	<p>Downgrades</p> <p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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 three-month period before the application is submitted. Their results and information must accompany be documented on 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.	<p><i>To ensure there is some degree of metrics required for downgrade requests in Dressage.</i></p> <p><i>To give authority to RGAC to review any downgrade applications should they need to.</i></p>

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	<p>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.</p> <p>Where a downgrade is approved by the RGAC, it may be for a specified period of time after which it can 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.</p> <p>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. Where the RGAC considers an application for downgrading in exceptional circumstances, they may only downgrade a members dressage grade by one level only.</p> <p>AIRC reserves the right to deny an application for downgrading should it see fit to do so.</p>	
<p>6.5.3.</p>	<p>The following criteria will apply to any application for a downgrade:</p> <p>6.5.3.1. A member may not downgrade in dressage to RC P1 from a higher grade.</p> <p>6.5.3.2. A member may not downgrade more than one grade span or level in any discipline.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><i>Adding existing criteria to the rule book which was introduced during 2022.</i></p>
<p>8.2</p>	<p><i>Dressage</i></p> <p>If a member wins a pure dressage competition, twice in a two 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.</p>	<p><i>To ensure fairness and to take into account the break caused by Covid-19.</i></p>

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9.3	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><i>To provide clarity as to what outlines a valid entry for a National Event.</i></p>
18.	<p>Medical Cover For cross-country competitions (i.e. hunter trials, horse trials, cross jump, etc.), the organisers club 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.</p> <p>For all other events or activities, it is mandatory to have medical personnel present and a vet on call. It is advisable to have an ambulance on the grounds and a vet on call.</p>	<p><i>To permit paramedics to provide cover for cross-country competitions.</i></p>
24.2	<p>Body Protectors Level three (purple) or higher body protectors are compulsory for cross-country events. It is recommended that body protectors are also used whilst show jumping.</p> <p>Members are advised, if purchasing a new body protector, to ensure it is Level 3 (purple) from 2009 or Level 3 (blue and black) 2018 or onwards.</p> <p>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. (The 2018 level 3 purple label will only be acceptable from next year.)</p>	<p><i>To stay in line with many many leading UK equestrian organisations (BE, BRC, PC) and Eventing Ireland who are introducing this from 1st Jan next year!</i></p>
24.2	<p>Riding Hats PAS 015 (2011) Snell E2016</p>	<p><i>Updated to reflect changes already announced.</i></p>

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	<p>As from 1 January 2023, the following hat standards are no longer be accepted due to the age of hats made to these standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAS 015 1998 • SNELL 2001 	
24.3	<p>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.</p>	<p><i>To provide clarity with regard to the use of Air Jackets.</i></p>
29.	<p>Horse Registrations Members must allow a minimum of two working days, and up to 10 working days, for applications to be processed.</p>	<p><i>To provide clarify with regard to the timelines for when applications will be processed.</i></p>

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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:

- 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.

To provide clarity around concussion which is more prevalent in sport.

1.7 (Sect 4)	Team Show Jumping Championship 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.	<i>To provide clarity as to what happens should a jump-off be abandoned.</i>
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