

Horseboarding UK
Championship Rules
2025



Approved by:
Horseboarding UK National Committee
Effective of 01/02/2025

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CHAMPIONSHIP, CATEGORIES & INVOLVEMENT

1. Description

- 1.1** The National Horseboarding Championships are an annual competition, with points being scored in various categories of the Championships, during a series of rounds held at various venues during the year.

2. National Championships Categories

2.1 Novice Category:

- Novice Team Championship
- Novice Board Rider Championship
- Novice Horse Rider Championship
- Novice Horse Championship

2.2 Intermediate Category:

- Intermediate Team Championship
- Intermediate Board Rider Championship
- Intermediate Horse Rider Championship
- Intermediate Horse Championship

2.3 Advanced category:

- Advanced Team Championship
- Advanced Board Rider Championship
- Advanced Horse Rider Championship
- Advanced Horse Championship

2.4 Elite category:

- Elite Team Championship
- Elite Board Rider Championship
- Elite Horse Rider Championship
- Elite Horse Championship



3. National Championship Points

- 3.1 In each round, points are awarded in all categories, dependent on finishing position. In the Novice, Intermediate, Advanced & Elite categories, depending on their finishing positions from each heat, points are awarded as follows:

<u>Course A</u>			
<u>Heat 1</u>		<u>Heat 2</u>	
1st Place	10 Points	1st Place	10 Points
2nd Place	9 Points	2nd Place	9 Points
3rd Place	8 Points	3rd Place	8 Points
4th Place	7 Points	4th Place	7 Points
5th Place	6 Points	5th Place	6 Points
6th Place	5 Points	6th Place	5 Points
7th Place	4 Points	7th Place	4 Points
8th Place	3 Points	8th Place	3 Points
9th Place	2 Points	9th Place	2 Points
10th Place	1 Points	10th Place	1 Points
<u>Course B</u>			
<u>Heat 1</u>		<u>Heat 2</u>	
1st Place	10 Points	1st Place	10 Points
2nd Place	9 Points	2nd Place	9 Points
3rd Place	8 Points	3rd Place	8 Points
4th Place	7 Points	4th Place	7 Points
5th Place	6 Points	5th Place	6 Points
6th Place	5 Points	6th Place	5 Points
7th Place	4 Points	7th Place	4 Points
8th Place	3 Points	8th Place	3 Points
9th Place	2 Points	9th Place	2 Points
10th Place	1 Points	10th Place	1 Points

- 3.2 Teams may compete at any or all of the rounds they are qualified for and where third-party restrictions do not apply. Points are awarded according to their highest finishing position in each heat. These points are added directly to the Championship totals. The team or individual with the highest number of points in each category, accumulated over all the rounds, becomes the National Champion of that team or

individual category.

- 3.3 To determine the final rankings in the Championships, if there are teams or elements with the same number of points at the end of the season, the order will be determined based on the number of first places, followed by second places, and so on.
- 3.4 Each heat consists of a minimum of 2 rotations, with a maximum of 4.
- 3.5 **A team that has the fastest time in a rotation will score 1 bonus point.**
- (a) **A team may only score 1 bonus point per heat.**
 - (b) **Bonus points cannot be scored in the final rotation.**
 - (c) **If a team wins the heat in the final rotation, any other bonus points earned by other teams will be lost.**
- 3.6 In the event where two or more teams finish a heat with the same time down to 1/100th of a second, they will be both awarded the same number of points depending on their joint finishing position.
- 3.7 In the event where two or more teams score the same number of points over the round, their fastest times of the weekend will determine the finishing positions between those teams.
- (a) If the teams have the same fastest times down to 1/100th of a second, their next fastest times will be considered and so on.
 - (b) Teams that finish a round on the same number of points will not lose any points once their ranking position has been clarified. Refer to rule 3.5 & 3.6a

Novice Championship

- 3.8 **A Novice Ranked team starts in the Novice Championships upon entering the season.**
- 3.9 Upon earning 80 points a Novice Ranked team qualifies as an Intermediate Ranked team and enters the Intermediate Championship.
- (a) A team that earns the necessary points to rank up to the Intermediate Category during a competition, will qualify and be able to compete in the Intermediate Category in the next competitive heat.
- 3.10 Novice Championship points are capped at 80 and do not transfer into the Intermediate Championship.
- 3.11 The qualifying team starts on zero points upon entering the Intermediate Category.
- 3.12 Once competing in the Intermediate category, points earned in the Intermediate Championship will also be added to the Novice Championship points.

Intermediate Championship

- 3.13 **An Intermediate Ranked team starts in the Intermediate Championships upon entering the season.**

3.14 **Qualification to Advanced Rank is subject to selection only by the Horseboarding UK National Committee.**

The National Committee's selection criteria include:

- Experience
- Professionalism
- Team Ability
- Competitive Ranking
- Adherence to the code of conduct

The National Committee may also relegate an Advanced Ranked team at any point. The criteria for relegation are as follows:

- Safety Concerns for Public and competitors
- Excessive penalisation in competition (verbal warnings and Yellow or Red Cards)
- Team Ability
- Professionalism
- Adherence to the code of conduct
- Horse welfare concerns

Advanced Championship

3.15 **Teams will start the season at Advanced Rank, if selected by the Horseboarding UK National Committee.**

3.16 Upon entering the Advanced Championship, points earned in the Advanced Championships will also be added to the Intermediate Championship points.

(a) Points will only be added into the Intermediate Championship when there is a Intermediate category competing at the same event.

(b) **Points will only be added to the Intermediate category if that team has qualified up from Intermediate to the Advanced category in that season**

3.17 Upon earning 100 points an Advanced Ranked team qualifies as an Elite Ranked team and enters the Elite Championships.

(a) Qualifying to Elite Rank is subject to review by the HBUK National Committee.

(b) A team that earns the necessary points to rank up to the Elite Category during a competition, will qualify and be able to compete in the Elite Category on the next competitive heat, **if approved by the HBUK National Committee.**

(c) To qualify into the Elite Category a team must have ranked 1st on at least one competition **event (minimum 2 heats)** in the Advanced Championship.

3.18 Teams that do not advance to the Elite Ranked status **(due to HBUK National Committee decision)** will not have points capped at 100. They will continue scoring

points in the Advanced category.

- 3.19 A team and its elements may, under certain circumstances be given the option to qualify to Elite at any time by the HBUK National Committee.
- 3.20 Advanced Championship points are capped at 100 for teams qualifying to Elite Rank and moving into the Elite Championships.
- 3.21 The qualifying team starts on zero points upon entering the Elite Championships.
- 3.22 Once competing in the Elite category, points earned in the Elite Championships will also be added to the Advanced Championship points.
- 3.23 **If a team is relegated from a class, their points will be added to the lower class if they have not already been added into that classes' championship.**

Elite Championship

- 3.24 **An Elite Ranked team starts in the Elite Championships upon entering the 2025 season.**

4. Taking part

- 4.1 All individuals and horses taking part must be registered on the HBUK database.
- 4.2 All team names, and their colours, must be registered and approved on the HBUK database.
 - (a) Team names, colours & logos are considered unapproved until competitors have received an approval email from HBUK.
 - (b) All team kits must include two HBUK badges on either the front and back or each shoulder.
 - (c) Upon qualifying from the Intermediate Category, badges are mandatory for competitors to wear on their team kit.
 - (d) Teams found to be racing in kit that is not in keeping with their registered colours & design will be subject to penalisation.
 - (e) **Penalisation for team kit infractions are, 1 second time penalties, yellow cards, or disqualification, at the discretion of the Referees on the day.**
- 4.3 Team names, colours & designs will be taken off the HBUK database if a team has not competed in any official HBUK competition for three years.
 - (a) The owner of a team name & its colours may complete a Colour Reserve Form to hold their team's name and colours for another three years.
- 4.4 All competing teams, including Novice teams & Individuals competing for the first time must have passed their HBUK team & individual assessments.
- 4.5 All teams wishing to compete in the National Championships must register their

team and name the three elements of that team (horse, horse rider and board rider) prior to the start of that season's competition, or, prior to competing, if they enter the competition after the first round.

4.6 The three named elements of each team will be valid for that season's competition only and can only be changed during the season in accordance with the two element rule and registration rules.

4.7 There will be an entry fee of £20 per team per day of competition at Away Venues, this also includes your public liability insurance.

4.8 There will be a variable entry fee per team per day of competition at Home Venues, this also includes your public liability insurance.

4.9 All teams need to notify HBUK of their intention to compete at each specific venue, by accepted social media forms or by emailing admin@horseboardinguk.org for each round of the National Horseboarding Championships.

(a) Accepted social media forms are on Facebook event pages set up by Horseboarding UK.



RANK & QUALIFICATION

6. Rank

- 6.1 Teams will compete in categories of Novice, Intermediate, Advanced or Elite for the 2025 National Horseboarding Championship.**
- 6.2 Subject to the 'Two Element Rule', a team's category will be determined in accordance with the Rank of each element registered to that team for the 2025 season.**
- 6.3 Rank for individual elements will be determined on points scored in the previous season.**
- (a) **Novice Rank will be given to teams who.**
- i. **Scored under 60 points in the Novice Championship.**
 - ii. **Scored under 40 points in the **Intermediate** or Advanced Championship.**
 - iii. **Have never previously competed in a Horseboarding National Championship.**
- (b) **Intermediate Rank will be given to teams who.**
- i. **Scored over 60 points in the Novice Championship.**
 - ii. **Scored over 40 points in the Intermediate or Advanced Championship.**
- (c) Elements selected by the National Committee and ranked as Advanced will be classified as Advanced for the season. Teams & elements may be selected from any category and reclassified as Advanced.**
- (d) Elements who qualified for the Elite Category and ranked Elite in the previous season will be classified as Elite.**
- 6.4 The Horseboarding UK National Committee may, at any time, reclassify teams and individual elements based on their performance to a rank higher or lower than rule 6.3 and sub-rules, would place them.**
- (a) **If a team or individual elements are reclassified, they will be notified via email.**
 - (b) **A team or individual element's finishing positions and points will be reviewed.**
 - (c) **All penalisations a team or individual elements have received will be reviewed.**
 - (d) **A team or its individual elements may be asked to take an assessment based on the category they are currently ranked.**
 - (e) **A team may be asked to perform a qualifying run based on the category that they are currently ranked.**
 - (f) **Any team or elements that reached Elite Rank but have not competed in the Horseboarding UK National Championships for 3 years or more will be reclassified to Intermediate Rank.**

6.5 A team will be ranked in accordance with the 'Two Element Rule'.

- (a) A team with two or more Novice elements will be classified as a Novice team.
- (b) A team with two or more Intermediate elements will be classified as an Intermediate team.
- (c) A team with two or more Advanced elements will be classified as an Advanced team.
- (d) A team with two or more Elite elements will be classified as an Elite team.
- (e) A team with one Novice, one Intermediate and one Elite element will be classified as an Intermediate team.
- (f) A team with one Intermediate, one Advanced and one Elite element will be classified as an Advanced team.
- (g) **A team with two Elite elements and a person under 18 years old who has not been granted special dispensation will be classified as an Intermediate team unless ranked Advanced by the HBUK National Committee.**
 - I. The person under 18 years old may score points in their individual championship.**
 - II. The team may score points towards the Intermediate Team Championship.**
 - III. The Elite ranked elements will remain Elite ranked.**
 - IV. Only a guardian of a person under 18 years old can request special dispensation to be ranked Elite. This must be done via email to the HBUK Committee.**

7. Qualification

7.1 Novice ranked team qualifies to Intermediate rank upon the team and two of its elements earning 80 points, in the Novice Team Championship.

- (a) Two elements of a team, comprised of three Novice ranked elements, must earn 80 points in their individual Novice Championship, to qualify the team for Intermediate rank.
- (b) In the case where a team is comprised of two Novice ranked elements and one Intermediate/Advanced/Elite ranked element, both Novice ranked elements must earn 80 points in their individual Novice Championship to qualify the team for Intermediate rank.
- (c) In the case where two elements of a team have scored 80 points in their individual Novice Championships, but the team has not scored 80 points in the Novice Team Championship, the team does not qualify for Intermediate rank.
- (d) In the case where a team is comprised of two Novice ranked elements and one Intermediate/Advanced/Elite ranked element: Where one Novice ranked element has earned 80 points in their individual Novice Championship, but the team has not scored 80 points in the Novice Team Championship, the team does

not qualify for Intermediate rank.

7.2 An Intermediate ranked team qualifies to Advanced rank upon selection by the National Committee.

7.3 An Advanced ranked team qualifies to Elite rank upon the team, and two of its elements earning 100 points, in the Advanced Team Championship.

(a) Two elements of a team, comprised of three Advanced ranked elements, must earn 100 points in their individual Advanced Championships, to qualify the team for Elite rank.

(b) In the case where a team is comprised of two Advanced Ranked elements and one Elite Ranked element, both Advanced Ranked elements must earn 100 points in their individual Advanced Championship to qualify the team for Elite rank.

(c) In the case where two elements of a team have scored 80 points in their individual Intermediate Championships, but the team has not scored 80 points in the Advanced Team Championship, the team does not qualify for Elite rank.

(d) In the case where a team is comprised of two Advanced Ranked elements and one Elite Ranked element: Where one Advanced Ranked element has earned 100 points in their individual Advanced Championship, but the team has not scored 100 points in the Advanced Team Championship, the team does not qualify for Elite rank.

7.4 Qualification to the Elite Category and obtaining Elite rank is subject to review by the Horseboarding UK National Committee.

(a) If a team has any elements under the age of 18, they will not qualify as an Elite Ranked team and will not enter the Elite Championship.

I. A team with members under the age of under 18 may be given special dispensation from the Horseboarding UK National Committee, to allow them to qualify as an Elite ranked team and compete in the Elite Championship.

(b) Criteria for Elite rank reviews are set out in Rule 6.4

7.5 Qualification to competitions and special events outside of the National Championship are subject to selection by the Horseboarding UK National Committee.

7.6 Selection for international events is detailed in the HBI General Rules

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS & STAR RATINGS

8. International Event Selection

- 8.1 International events are by invitation only from the Horseboarding UK National Committee or the Horseboarding International Committee.
- (a) Affiliated organisations and committees will have an opportunity to put teams forward for international events that take place in their country.
 - (b) Affiliated organisations and committees may be offered the opportunity to put teams forward for international events, that do not take place in their country.
 - (c) Affiliated organisations and committees will only be eligible to put teams forward for international events, that match or are lower to the International Star Rating of their organisation.
 - (d) Eligibility for an affiliated organisation and committee to put forward teams for international events, does not guarantee those teams will be selected for invitation.
 - I. A team's performance, National rank, experience and conduct will be taken into account during selection for international events.
 - II. Horseboarding International may invite teams and their support crew to join events in a non-competitive capacity, which may help with a team's experience or conduct in future international event selection.
 - III. The Horseboarding International Committee reserves the right to invite any team or element to any international event, regardless of their rank or organisation's star rating.

9. International Event Star Ranking

- 9.1 International events all hold a star rating. This indicates which level of affiliated organisation and their teams that may be eligible for invitation to the event.

9.2 1-STAR EVENTS

- (a) Affiliate organisations and committees that run a National Championship in their country with only one tier level, recognised as the Novice Category, will be eligible for selection to 1-STAR events.
- (b) Teams & Elements from non-affiliated countries without an organisation or committee may also be eligible for invitation to 1-STAR events dependent on the completion of assessments and any other requirements set by the Horseboarding International Committee.
- (c) All affiliated organisations with an international star rating of one or higher, will also be eligible for invitation.

9.3 2-STAR EVENTS

- (a) **Affiliate organisations and committees that run a National Championship in their country with two tier levels, recognised as Novice & Intermediate Categories, will be eligible for selection to 2-STAR events.**
- (b) **All affiliated organisations with an International star rating of two or higher, will also be eligible for invitation.**

9.4 3-STAR EVENTS ★★☆☆☆

- (a) **Affiliate organisations and committees that run a National Championship in their country with three tier levels, recognised as Novice, Intermediate & Elite Categories, will be eligible for selection to 3-STAR events.**
- (b) **All affiliated organisations with an International star rating of three or higher, will also be eligible for invitation.**

9.5 4-STAR EVENTS ★★★☆☆

- (a) **Affiliate organisations and committees that run a National Championship in their country with five tier levels, recognised as Novice, Novice Advanced, Intermediate, Intermediate Advanced & Elite Categories, will be eligible for selection to 4-STAR events.**
- (b) **All affiliated organisations with an International star rating of four or higher, will also be eligible for invitation.**

9.6 5-STAR EVENTS ★★★★★

- (a) **Affiliate organisations and committees that have been running a National Championship in their country with five tier levels, recognised as the Novice, Novice Advanced, Intermediate, Intermediate Advanced & Elite Categories, for five years or more, will be eligible for selection to 5-STAR events.**
- (b) **Teams & elements from affiliated organisations will only be eligible for invitation if they have held elite rank for 5 years or more.**
- (c) **All affiliated organisations with an International star rating of five, will be eligible for invitation.**

ELEMENTS, REGISTRATION & SUBSTITUTION

10. Team Elements

- 10.1** An Element is either a Horse Rider, Board Rider ('Boarder') or Horse.
- 10.2** An Element may compete in a category lower than its rank, in accordance with the 'Two Element Rule'.
- (a) An element competing in a category lower than its rank cannot score points in that category.
- 10.3** An Element may compete in a category higher than its rank, in accordance with the 'Two Element Rule'.
- (a) An Element competing in a higher category than its rank may earn points toward the championships in that category.
- (b) Points scored in the higher category will be held over until that element has qualified for the higher category and then will be added to their points scored in the lower category, unless they are racing in two or more categories at the same event.
- (c) When an element has scored 40 points in a category higher than its rank within the season, the elements rank will be changed to the higher category.
- (d) **Where an element is registered with two or more teams in separate categories, and has a rank matching the lower category team, Rule 10.3(c) will not take effect.**
- 10.4** Boarders & Horse Riders may compete with more than one team.
- (a) If an element races with multiple teams within the same category, they will only receive points based on the highest-ranking team's performance.
- (b) If an element competes with teams across more than one category, then points can be scored in each of those categories. In accordance with rule 10.3(a) & 10.3(d).
- 10.5** Elements may register with teams in two or more categories, but an element cannot double score.
- (a) If an element is registered with teams in different categories and their rank matches the lower category team, their points earned towards the individual championship table in the higher category will not be added to the lower category's individual championship. This is because doing so would result in double scoring, which is not permissible.
- (b) If an element is registered with two or more teams in different categories and their rank matches the lower category team upon registration, points earned with the higher category team will not be added to the lower categories' individual championship points.
- (c) If an element races in two or more categories and has the rank matching the lower category and is a substitute on all teams, upon earning 40 points in the higher category, they will be ranked to the higher category, and they will no

longer be able to score points in the lower categories' championship.

11. Registration

(Fees that apply to registration are detailed in the Horseboarding International General Rules)

- 11.1 All individuals wishing to be involved with the Horseboarding UK National Championships, as volunteers, grooms, child minders or competitors must complete the Individual Registration Form (IRF).**
- (a) Anyone wishing to compete their horse in the Horseboarding UK National Championships must complete the IRF for their horse.
- 11.2 Anyone wishing to Volunteer for Horseboarding UK Events must complete the Volunteer Registration Form (VRF)**
- 11.3 To register a new team with Horseboarding UK the Team Registration Form (TRF) must be completed.**
- 11.4 A Team wishing to compete in the Horseboarding UK National Championships, must complete the Annual Team Declaration Form (ATD).**
- (a) Once a team's ATD has been submitted and accepted by Horseboarding UK, the three elements that are indicated in the form will be recognised as that team.
- (b) The team and its recognised elements will be subject to the 'Two Element Rule' upon declaring for a competition for the first time in the season.
- 11.5 A team may submit an ATD with one Stand-In element indicated.**
- (a) When a team registers its three named elements for the current season's Championships, those three elements will be regarded as that team. However, a team may register two permanent elements and one 'stand-in' element and still be regarded as a team.
- (b) Stand-In Elements are regarded as substitutes.
- (c) Teams may change a Stand-In element to a permanent named element at any time during the season.
- 11.6 Registration Forms will not be processed 7 days prior to or over competition dates.**
- (a) In the situation where a registration form is accepted and processed within seven days of a competition date, extra administration fees will apply.

12. Substitution

- 12.1 A team may substitute any one of its three registered elements.**
- 12.2 Teams that have a registered a Stand-In element cannot substitute any named elements within the team.**

12.3 Teams may substitute an element that is of a different classification to one which it replaces. Rules 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4 will apply for points scoring.

12.4 Where such a substitution changes the category in which the team may compete, then any points scored by that team in the new category, for the duration of the substitution, will be held over until that team qualifies up to that category, and will not be added to their points in their original competing category until they have qualified into the higher category.

12.5 When a substitution changes the category of the team to one lower than the one in which it would normally compete, that team will continue to compete, with its substitute element, in its original category, and not move down to the lower category, as this would not give the team any tactical advantage.

12.6 Teams will have 1 emergency substitution card per round.

- a) The emergency substitution card allows a team to change an element between heats on any day of competition.
- b) Teams must notify HBUK officials if they are going to use an emergency substitution card at least 1 hour before a heat.
- c) A team representative must sign the declaration sheets confirming the change.

The 'Two Element Rule'

12.9 A team must always keep two of its three registered elements to continue to compete and be recognised as that same named team.

- (a) If a team change two registered elements at the same time during the current season, it will no longer be regarded as the same team and will need to re-register as a different team with a different name. The new team will start competing in the team championship with zero points, but any individual points already scored by individual elements will still count towards their individual points total for the season. The colours registered to the original team can be transferred to the new team, on a temporary basis, provided that the original team is no longer competing.
- (b) Where two or more teams share two registered elements, they may not substitute between teams as all three elements will be locked to those teams.

12.10 In very exceptional circumstances, HBUK reserves the right to waive the Two Element rule. This will only be considered on the written appeal of the team & elements concerned to the National Committee, each appeal will be considered by the National Committee on its own merits, and a written decision given.



COMPETITION SAFETY & CONDUCT

13. SAFETY

13.1 All teams must adhere to the rules on safety detailed in the General Rules, the On-Site Conduct Rules, and the safety rules, detailed in the Arena Boarding section of the General Rules.

13.2 All horse riders must always have good control of their horse.

(a) In conjunction with Safety & Welfare rules in the General rules, HBUK officials may penalise or remove the horse and horse rider from the competition, if they believe they are not in good control of their horse.

(b) Good control is deemed as including but not limited to the following:

- I. Directing and managing the horse's movements, speed, and behaviour safely and effectively
- II. Maintaining proper balance and posture
- III. Using appropriate cues or aids to communicate with the horse
- IV. Responding appropriately to the horse's actions and reactions
- V. Maintaining focus, concentration, and situational awareness
- VI. Anticipating and responding to potential hazards or challenges
- VII. Guiding and navigating the horse through different gaits, movements, and manoeuvres
- VIII. Ensuring the safety and well-being of both the horse and the rider.

13.3 All board riders must always have good control of their board.

(a) A boarder shall endeavor to not overtake the horse while still attached to the handle.

- I. A boarder may marginally overtake a horse if it avoids dropping the handle where it could catch a cone or pole.
 - (b) A boarder should avoid dropping the handle where it could catch on a cone or pole.
- 13.4 A board rider is deemed to have lost control when the board is behind them from the direction of travel. This is deemed unrecoverable and an excess burden on the horse. The board rider should release the handle straight away to avoid penalisation.
- (a) A board rider does not need to be in control of their board upon crossing the finish line if they have not become a burden on the horse or deemed to be dragging with the board behind them.
 - (b) When a boarder has lost momentum and control of their board, and where the horse is pulling their full weight, this is deemed as dragging and therefore a burden on the horse.
 - (c) If you are deemed to be flying or sliding with momentum you are not deemed to be dragging.

Pit Allocated Area

- 13.5 Each team will be allocated a position at the front of the pits and must remain in their designated area until beginning preparation for their next race. This includes warming the horse up for the next race. There is currently no limit on the amount of time that a team may take in preparing for their next race prior to the team's allotted race time or order.
- 13.6 Within the pit area, teams must always follow the instructions of the Pit Manager and Pit Officials.
- 13.7 **Teams are permitted to cool their horses off after racing but must not obstruct other teams or officials, and must always give way to any teams preparing for a race.**

Hooking Up

- 13.8 A team must hook-up safely and under control in the pits.
- (a) A team may choose or be advised to hook up in the arena.
 - (b) A team may use a lead to help guide the horse in hooking up, the rider must stay in full control of their horse as detailed in rule 13.2 and sub rules.
 - (c) Hooking up in the arena should take place in the designated hooking up area which will be confirmed by HBUK officials during the morning safety briefings.
- 13.9 Once a team is hooked up and ready to race, they must leave the pits at no more than a trot and must go through the allocated pre-race gates before crossing the start line.
- (a) Teams that hook up in the arena must still go through the allocated pre-race gates before crossing the start line.

- (b) Teams that leave the pits faster than a trot may be liable to penalisation at the discretion of HBUK Officials.
- (c) Teams that leave the pits at a gallop will have their race stopped by HBUK Officials and no time will be recorded. The team will lose that run and be issued a yellow card.
- (d) Teams should not go any faster than a trot before passing the first allocated pre-race gate. If a team is going faster than a trot they may be liable to penalisation at the discretion of HBUK Officials.**
- (e) Teams that gallop before the passing the last allocated pre-race gate may have their race stopped by HBUK Officials. In this instance, no time will be recorded. The team will lose that run and be issued a yellow card.
- (f) There will be a minimum of two pre-race gates.
- (g) Repeated failure to go through pre-race gates will incur the same time penalty as a touch for each gate missed.**

13.10 Launching is deemed as an unsafe way of hooking up or starting a race and will incur penalties.

Rearing

13.11 Rearing in any form is deemed to be unsafe and may be penalised at the referee's discretion.

- (a) Smaller rears may receive a verbal warning or yellow card.
- (b) Medium to vertical rears may receive anywhere between a yellow or red card for the first offence.
- (c) Any rear within 1 metre of a fence line may receive a yellow card or an instant red card.
- (d) A horse that rears up as a part of previous escalating behaviour, will face more severe penalties compared to a horse that rears up without any prior signs of escalating behaviour.

13.12 Launching is deemed as a rear.

Returning to the pits at the end of a run

13.13 The horse rider shall aim to release the handle once the board rider has crossed the finish line. The board rider should keep hold of the handle until the horse rider has successfully released it from the saddle. The board rider should safely take in the handle, keeping it under control until they can stop their board.

13.14 Horses & horse riders must enter the run-off shoot while decelerating and enter the first run-off gate at no faster than a trot. They must come to a full stop before the second run-off gate into the pits is opened.

- (a) The handle must have been released before entering the run-off shoot.

- (b) A boarder should avoid dropping the handle where it could catch on a cone or pole.
- (c) Horse riders should perform a controlled deceleration circle before entering the runoff gate. **This may become mandatory if directed at the morning safety briefing or by the Referee or Pit Manager during the heat.**
- (d) Horse riders may be asked to go through a pre-race gate to finish the race, if this is the case it will be a requirement.
- (e) Horse riders *shall* bring the horse to a complete stop in the runoff shoot. Failure to do so could result in penalisation.

13.15 Once the horse and horse rider have come to a complete stop, they will be allowed back into the main pit area. They must return to their allocated place and not disrupt any teams starting a run or getting ready for a run in accordance with rule 13.7.

13.16 Board riders can only enter the pit area via the arena exit gate (run-off shoot) if remaining on their board. They can do this carrying speed but must not overtake or impede the horse in any way. If the board rider does not use the exit gate, they must stop the board whilst in the arena and remove it from their feet. They may then, with consideration to other competitors, enter the pits via the entry gate or under the **bunting** when safe to do so. Board riders may not ride their boards under the **bunting** into the pits.

13.17 If a boarder rides their board under the bunting, they will be penalised with a minimum of a yellow card.

Late Release

13.18 In the event of a boarder falling off, a horse rider must endeavour to release the handle before starting to slow the horse down.

13.19 A late release is deemed to be when the handle is being dragged by the horse for an extended period after the boarder is no longer holding the handle.

13.20 An extended period is defined to be more than 5 seconds from the boarder falling.

13.21 Once the team has crossed the finish line or the boarder has fallen and no longer has hold of the handle, the horse rider must first release the handle when safe and ride away from it before slowing the horse.

13.22 The horse rider should make good effort to release the handle once the board rider has crossed the finish line, when safe to do so. The board rider should keep hold of the handle until the horse rider has successfully released it from the saddle. The board rider should safely take in the handle, keeping it under control until they can stop their board.

13.23 If the horse rider has problems releasing the handle, or the rope becomes stuck they should reduce speed slowly to a walk, making sure they do not turn the horse onto the rope until the handle can be released, or until HBUK Officials can advise and assist. The board rider should remain with the handle for as long as possible to

control the handle when released.

- (a) A horse rider should do a large circle before entering the runoff area. In accordance with rule 13.3
- (b) Horse riders may be asked to go through pre-race gates to finish their run. If this has been specified and a gate is missed, a minimum of a yellow card will be issued.

13.24 If the horse rider cannot release the handle and the boarder needs to let go of the handle to decelerate safely, they should place the handle on the ground, taking care to avoid it becoming entangled with the board. At no point should they throw the handle away from themselves, behind them, or, in the direction of the horse.

13.25 A penalty will be given, at the discretion of the Referee if the Referee decides that insufficient effort was made to effectively release the handle and/or slow the horse in the correct manner.

13.26 If there is an apparent failure of the release mechanism, this will be inspected in the pits by HBUK Officials immediately after the run.

13.27 The team does not have to release the handle directly after the finish line if the boarder is still holding on.

13.28 In some situations, the team may be asked to slow down in the arena and then exit with the boarder still attached. If this is the case, it will be described during the morning safety briefing.

13.29 When releasing the handle, the horse rider should continue moving the horse forward, away from the handle, where it is safe to do so.

- (a) A horse rider must not stop the horse or turn onto the rope before or during a release.

13.30 Once the handle is released, the horse is not allowed to stop with 4 meters of the handles finishing position on the ground. Failure to do this will indicate that the release procedure was incorrectly followed, and a yellow card may be issued.

13.31 The panic release is a spring-loaded system that can snap shut on gloves, clothes, and other loose materials. If this happens the riders are advised to keep the horse in a forward motion reducing the speed to a walk and executing a 10-meter circle, keeping the handle on the inside of the circle and continue this until HBUK Officials can approach the horse and make the handle safe.

Release Procedure

13.32 During a Horseboarding competition, it's important that horse riders release the rope properly when required.

- (a) Horse riders are advised to have the panic release on the same side as the boarder's dominant foot.
- (b) During the release horse riders must keep the horse moving forward.
- (c) Horse riders need to unclip the panic release from the safety belt while lifting their arm into the air straight to the side of their body.

- (d) Horse riders need to maintain balance and control on the horse.
- (e) Horse riders must let go of the panic release to the side of them once it has safely unclipped from the harness.
- (f) If a rider does not follow the correct procedure, they may be penalised by HBUK Officials.
- (g) For incorrect release procedure HBUK Officials will give a time penalty of 1 second.
- (h) For incorrect release procedure that presents a dangerous situation HBUK Officials will issue a yellow or red card, depending on the severity of the risk.

* It's crucial that riders release the rope safely and effectively to avoid accidents and ensure the well-being of both the rider and the horse. Following the proper release procedure will minimise the risk of the rope left laying across the horse's back or any further complications that may come from that.

Extended periods of trot

- 13.33 Teams may not trot around the course for an extended period beyond that used to negotiate a particular obstacle or situation. A yellow card will be issued for extended periods of trot. Repeated offences of extended periods of trot may result in a team being re-assessed.
- 13.34 An extended period of trot is deemed to be the more than the distance between two race gates.
- 13.35 Obstacles can be done in a trot but a canter must be resumed before the next race gate. Obstacles include the weave, 90 degree turn and chicane.
- 13.36 At the discretion of the Referee, a race can be stopped if insufficient effort has been made to attempt the course in canter.

Obstacles

- 13.37 Obstacles on the Horseboarding UK National Championship course are the Weave, Double Gate, the 90 Degree and the Chicane.
 - (a) The weave is considered as one obstacle and can earn a maximum of one miss and three touches.
 - (b) The Double Gate is considered as one obstacle and can earn a maximum of one miss and four touches.
 - (c) The 90 Degree is considered as one obstacle and can earn a maximum of one miss and four touches.
 - (d) The Chicane is considered as one obstacle and can earn a maximum of three misses and six touches.

Team Colours & Logos

- 13.1 Team colours & Horseboarding UK logos must be visible to compete in competition.
 - (a) Only Official Horseboarding UK logos supplied by Horseboarding UK will be accepted.
 - (b) Use of a non-official Horseboarding UK logos will result in penalisation.
 - I. Copyright laws apply.

(c) Only approved team colours will be accepted.

13.2 Horse Riders & Boarders must have two visible Horseboarding UK logos on their race tops, either on the front and back or one on either shoulder. Variations of this may be accepted.

13.3 Teams and elements may be penalised if Logos and Team colours are not distinguishable.

13.4 If elements are competing on two or more teams, they must be wearing the correct team colours, or they may be penalised.



DECLERATIONS, AWARDS & SPECIAL ROSETTS

14. DECLARATIONS

- 14.1 **On the morning of each day of competition, every competing team must formally declare to the appropriate HBUK Official the named elements of their team that are racing on that day, with exception according to rule 12.6 (b)**
- 14.2 **All volunteers, teams and support personal must attend the morning briefing to hear the safety brief for the day's competition.**
- 14.3 **At times the HBUK National Committee may ask for a vote in regard to course layouts and other competition matters. If this is the case, only the votes of those attending briefing will be counted.**
- 14.4 **Declarations will be made at the Morning Briefing, and there will be a cut-off time, after which declarations will not be accepted. Teams that have not declared will not be eligible to race on that day.**
- 14.5 **Once a team has declared, and named its competing elements for that day, no further changes or substitutions can be made on that day of competition, with the exception of the emergency substitution card, as described in Rule 12.6.**
- 14.6 **Any teams wishing to take part in a competition must declare on the first day of competition before the cut off time at the morning briefing.**

15. AWARDS

- 15.1 **In each round of the National Championships awards will be as follows: In all categories, there will be two trophies/medals for the winning team, and two rosettes per team for the teams placed 1st to 6th.**
- 15.2 **Rosettes and trophies will be presented to the team, regardless of the classification of its individual elements, in accordance with its finishing position for that round. This does not affect the way in which National Championship points are earned, which will continue to be in accordance with the rules on classification and points, as detailed in the National Championships Rules.**
- 15.3 **Where a team element cannot take their points because they are not eligible to score points in that category, those points not taken by that element will be passed down to the next highest placed eligible element.**
- 15.4 **Where an element has competed with two or more placed teams in the same category, they take the points earned by the highest placed of those teams only, and the points which they are not able to take are not passed down and are lost.**
- 15.5 **On occasion Horseboarding UK may give prizes on behalf of sponsors. These are not**

guaranteed.

- 15.6 If a team or its elements does not collect its rosettes, trophies or prizes that have been earned during a competition at the presentation, Horseboarding UK does not take any responsibility for those rosettes, trophies or prize(s).**
- 15.7 If a team or its elements does not collect its rosettes, trophies or prizes that have been earned during the season at the end of season awards ceremony, Horseboarding UK does not take any responsibility for those rosettes, trophies or prizes.**

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Glossary

HBUK

Horseboarding UK, the official organisation managing the championships.

Novice Category

The entry-level competition category for new teams.

Intermediate Category

The next level of competition for teams progressing from the Novice Category.

Advanced Category

A higher competition level for teams with significant experience.

Elite Category

The highest competition level for the most skilled teams.

Team Elements

The three parts of a team: horse, horse rider, and board rider.

Two Element Rule

A rule requiring two of a team's three elements to remain constant for the team to keep its identity.

Panic Release

A safety mechanism used to quickly detach the handle from the horse rider's equipment.

Heat

A single round of competition within a course.

Pre-Race Gates

Designated gates teams must pass through before starting a race.

Video Review Rules:

- **New rules to be added** (no existing rule number for video reviews).

Point Scoring System:

- **Rules 3.8 - 3.12:** Review how points are handled across novice, intermediate, advanced, and elite categories to ensure transitions between ranks are smooth and points transfer correctly.

Rank Classification and Movement:

- **Rules 3.9 - 3.14:** Intermediate points cap at 100 should be addressed here.

Category Rules:

- **Rules 3.8, 3.13, and 3.14:** Review novice and intermediate category handling.

Kit and Registration Rules:

- **Rules 4.2 - 4.6:** Update penalties for kit infractions and remove references to outdated rules like "8.4 and 9.12."

Elite Team Reclassification:

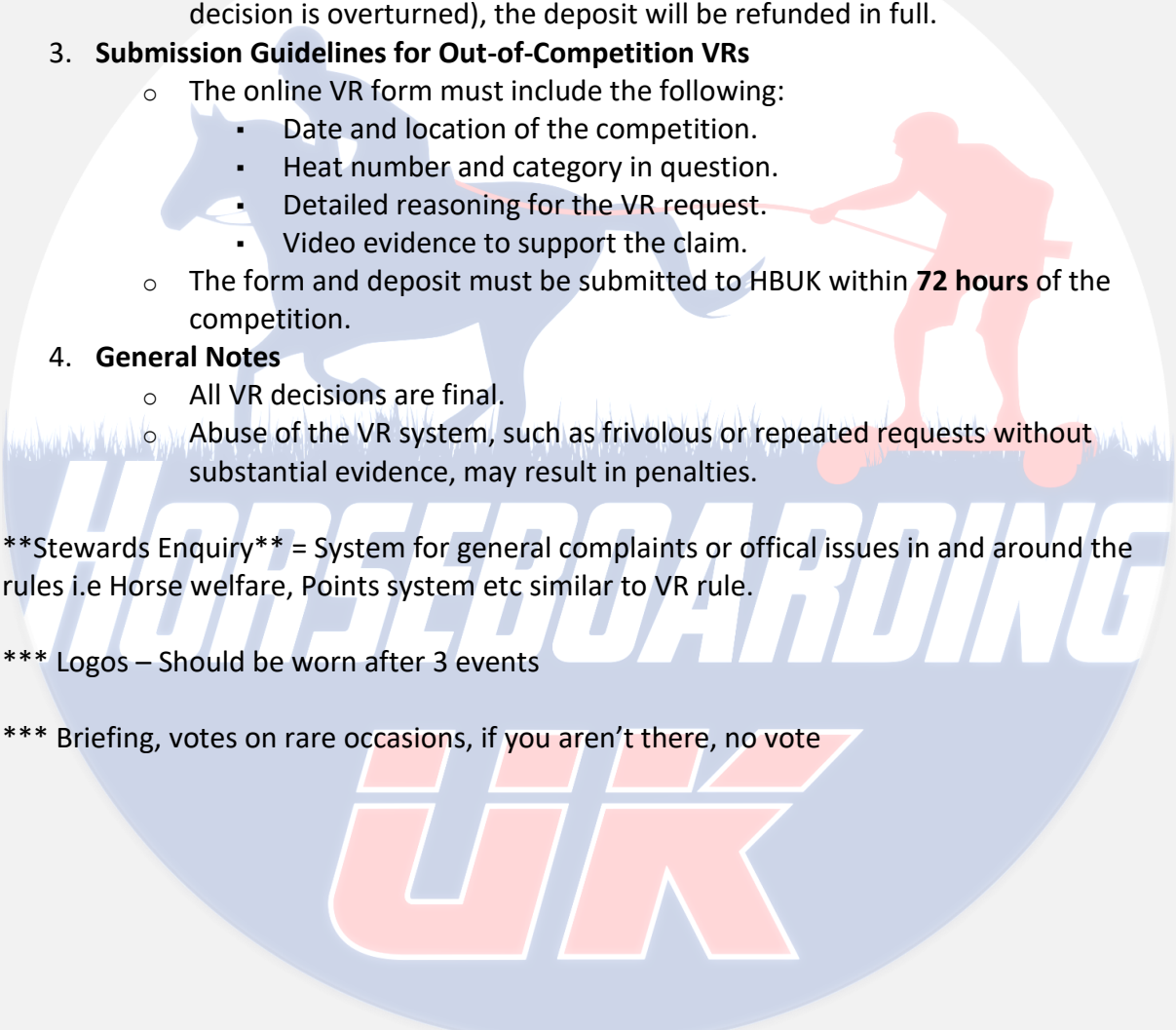
- **Rule 6.4(f):** Teams inactive for over three years to be reclassified from elite to intermediate.

Assessment and Qualifying Runs:

- **Rules 6.4(d) and 6.4(e):** Introduce provisions for teams to perform qualifying runs after significant changes (e.g., new horse or board rider).

Video Review (VR) Rule

1. **In-Competition Video Reviews**

- 
- Competitive teams or ground crew may call for a Video Review (VR) during competition weekends, up to **one hour after the completion of a heat**.
 - Requests for VR during competition weekends must be made to the HBUK Officials onsite.
 - All in-competition VRs are subject to immediate review, and decisions will be communicated as promptly as possible.
- 2. Out-of-Competition Video Reviews**
- If a VR is requested outside a competition weekend, an **online Video Review form** must be completed and submitted to HBUK as an official request.
 - A **£50 deposit** is required for all out-of-competition VR requests.
 - If the Video Review results in the VR claim being upheld (i.e., the original decision is overturned), the deposit will be refunded in full.
- 3. Submission Guidelines for Out-of-Competition VRs**
- The online VR form must include the following:
 - Date and location of the competition.
 - Heat number and category in question.
 - Detailed reasoning for the VR request.
 - Video evidence to support the claim.
 - The form and deposit must be submitted to HBUK within **72 hours** of the competition.
- 4. General Notes**
- All VR decisions are final.
 - Abuse of the VR system, such as frivolous or repeated requests without substantial evidence, may result in penalties.

****Stewards Enquiry**** = System for general complaints or official issues in and around the rules i.e Horse welfare, Points system etc similar to VR rule.

***** Logos** – Should be worn after 3 events

***** Briefing**, votes on rare occasions, if you aren't there, no vote