

JD RULES QUESTIONNAIRE

Download a copy of the Rules from the EA website and see if you can answer the following questions:

Who is ultimately responsible for knowing the rules? [The rider/competitor.](#)

Making your entry to a competition.

Competitions are run at the following levels and there is an entry requirement for each level. Years are determined by the year in which horse or rider turns at age.

Riders are encouraged to join Equestrian Australia, Eventing NSW and/or the club that is holding an event. There are two membership levels of Equestrian Australia, participant (P) and competition (C). In addition, for some levels of competition there are performance requirements which must be obtained at a lower level. These are known as Minimum – Eligibility Requirements (MER). Fill in the following table so you know the requirements at each level of competition:

Competition level	Minimum age of horse	Minimum age of rider	Membership type	Horse registered with EA?	MER required?	Colour for jump nos
45cm (EvA45)	Year in which horse turns 4	Year in which rider turns 11. Or with NCAS letter/email of competency or PC ODE card with a performance	Particip. or club. Or Jnr or Competition	No	No	Varies Usually Purple
60cm (EvA60)	Same	Year when rider turns 11. Or with NCAS letter/email of competency or PC ODE card with a performance	Particip. or club Or Jnr or Competition	No	No	Varies Usually Orange
80cm (EvA80)	Same	Year when rider turns 11.	Particip. or club Or Jnr or Competition	No	No	White

95cm (EvA95)	Same	Year when rider turns 11.	Comp. or Junior	Yes	No	Red or Grey (2014)
105cm (EvA105)	Same	Year when rider turns	Comp. or Junior	Yes	No	Pink
1* (CNC*)	Horse turns 6	Year when rider turns	Comp. or Junior	Yes	Yes	Yellow
2* (CNC**)	Horse turns 6	Year when rider turns	Comp.	Yes	Yes	Green
3*(CNC***)	Horse turns 7	Year when rider turns	Comp.	Yes	Yes	Pale blue

Eventing NSW encourages its junior members to remain at a level until they have achieved final scores of less than 60 and for riders competing at EvA80 and above Performance Patches are awarded to riders who achieve three such results on the same horse in the same level. These patches are coloured to match the level of the course ridden.

There is a restriction on the size for Performance or Sponsorship patches, what is this?

They may appear only once per item of clothing, and/or equipment and solely on a surface area not exceeding: - three square centimetres (3 cm²) for clothing or equipment.

What are the restrictions on displaying State or National emblems on riding jackets?

These may only be worn in the competition at which the rider is representing his/her state or country except where the rider has represented at a World or Olympic games.

A rider may not enter a class at a level higher than the lower level of either his or his horse's grade – applies to EvA105 and above. (Example: a Preliminary rider may not ride a 2* horse higher than EvA105.)

What is a Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) and to which classes does it apply?

An MER is obtained when the rider completes a competition with **not more than 75** penalty points in the dressage phase, with **a clear jump round** in the cross country test, and not more than 90 seconds (36 penalties) over time or 120 secs at 4* level, and **no more than 16 penalties** at obstacles in the jumping test. MERs for junior riders must be achieved as a combination. They apply to 1, 2 and 3* classes.

What is a Reverse Qualification?

This is the obligation for a **horse** to show restored competence at a lower level after two consecutive cross country eliminations or a total of three within a 12 month rolling period of time. Reasons for such eliminations include 3 refusals, fall of horse or rider, dangerous riding.

From which level of competition can this be applied? [From EvA95 upwards.](#)

How does a rider return to the original level?

[The horse and rider must obtain an MER at the lower level.](#)

Riders in higher classes may ride down one level without penalty but if they rider down two levels (Example: 3-star horse entering in 1-star class where a higher level is offered), what is the penalty? [10 penalty points.](#)

At the competition

Each competition is run by a committee of volunteers who appoint officials to oversee various aspects of it. These officials are highly trained for the position. Experienced **judges** are used in the dressage and jumping phases but clubs rely on **volunteers** at each fence for the cross country. The cross country is overseen by a **Central Controller** and two or more **Sector Controllers** who are all in radio contact with jump judges and the **Technical Delegate** (TD) who is ultimately responsible for the safety and rules for the whole of the competition. At some events there are **Stewards** who liaise with the TD and the riders, usually through a **Rider Representative**. The Rider Representative's name and phone number will be on the notice board. So there are three people to whom you can go for help or information at every event. In addition, any **JDC coach** will always help you with any other problems you have.

Check the rules to see when the following equipment should be worn, used or carried and any limits on type and size. Mark with a * those that have options as to type/length etc.

Equipment	Practice Arena	Dressage	Jumping	Cross Country
Dressage whip	Yes	No	No	No
Riding crop	Yes	No	Yes *	Yes *
Back number	No	Bridle No	Bridle No	Yes
Back protector	No	No	No	Yes
Bridle Number	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Medical armband	No	No	No	Yes
Spurs	Yes	Yes *	Yes *	Yes *
Bridle	Any	Permitted only	Any	Any
Approved helmet	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Whip option: A whip **no longer than 75 centimetres** and not weighted at the end is allowed while jumping any obstacle. A whip is not allowed entering the space around the arena and during the Test.

Spurs option: Spurs capable of wounding a Horse are forbidden. Spurs must be of smooth material (metal or plastic). If there is a shank it must **not be more than four centimetres** long (the overall shank must be measured **from the boot to the end of the spur**) and must point only towards the rear. Spurs are optional at all levels in all phases.

Can you lunge a horse at the event? **Yes, but only one lunge rope is allowed. Chambon, side reins are allowed.**

Who may ride your horse at the event and if not the entered rider what may this person do? **A groom may ride (as in, sit upon) a horse but must not school the horse.**

Welfare of the Horse

There are rules regarding horse welfare. These include actions which can be deemed as abuse of the horse, which is broadly defined as an action or omission which causes or is likely to cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a Horse. Name these:

1. **Rapping.** *(check out what it is that constitutes 'rapping')*
2. **Riding an exhausted Horse.**
3. **Excessive pressing of a tired Horse.**
4. **Riding an obviously lame Horse.**
5. **Excessive use of whip, bit and/or spurs.**
6. **Horses bleeding on the flank(s) or back indicating excessive use of the whip and/or spurs.**

What constitutes dangerous riding: ***(NOTE these carefully - many juniors are unaware of the extent of these provisions)***

1. **Riding out of control** (Horse clearly not responding to the Athletes restraining or driving aids).
2. **Riding fences too fast or too slow.**
3. **Repeatedly standing off fences too far** (pushing the Horse to the foot of the fence, firing the Horse to the fence).
4. **Repeatedly being ahead or behind** the Horse movement when jumping.
5. **Series of dangerous jumps.**
6. **Severe lack of responsiveness from the Horse or the Athlete.**
7. **Continuing after three clear refusals, a fall or any form of elimination in 1* and above.**
8. **Continuing after four clear refusals, 3 refusals at the same jump,** or a fall in CNC/CCN , EvA105 and below.
9. **Endangering the public** in any way (e.g. jumping out of the roped track).
10. **Jumping obstacles not part of the course.**
11. **Wilful obstruction of an overtaking Athlete** and/or not following the instructions of the Officials causing danger to another Athlete.

What are the penalties that could be given to a rider for abuse of the horse?

1. **Recorded verbal warning.**
2. **Yellow Warning Card.** *(which will be displayed on the notice board at the event, embarrassing!)*

3. 25 penalties.
4. 25 penalties + Yellow Warning Card.
5. Elimination.
6. Elimination + Yellow Warning Card.
7. 25 penalties will count as Cross Country obstacles penalties in the results.

Under what circumstances may a rider NOT use the whip?

1. The whip is not to be used to vent an Athlete temper.
2. The whip is not to be used after elimination.
3. The whip is not to be used after a Horse has jumped the last fence on a course.
4. The whip is not to be used overhand, (i.e. a whip in the right hand being used on the left flank).
5. The whip is not to be used on a Horse head.
6. The whip is not to be used more than three times for any one incident.
7. If a Horse skin is broken the use of the whip is always excessive.

What is the 'blood' rule?

Blood on Horses **may be an indication of abuse** of Horse and must be reviewed case by case by the Ground Jury. In minor cases of blood in the mouth, such as where a Horse appears to have bitten its tongue or lip, or minor bleeding on limbs, after investigation the Ground Jury (or TD in conjunction with the Vet at CNC) may authorise the Athlete to continue.

In the case of **riders under the age of 18 years**, a Parent/Guardian must be present when personally delivering the Yellow Warning Card or Official Warning.

All Yellow Warning Cards and Official Warnings must be posted on the Official notice board even if personally delivered.

A rider receiving Two Yellow Warning Cards within a 12 month period for the same offence, will incur an automatic disqualification.

Can a horse from any class in the competition be drug tested (swabbed)? **Yes**

Why should you not use 'bute' before a competition, given that it is against the rules, what is its effect on the horse and what could result from its being used?

Bute masks the feeling of pain to the horse. You may do even more damage by riding a horse who is no longer able to react to pain. No horse, no more riding.

What does the display on a horse of a green disc indicate? **That the horse is entire (i.e. a stallion. (You should keep well away from stallions, especially if you ride a mare.)**

Dressage Phase

Can you carry a whip into the dressage arena? **No, you will receive a penalty from each judge and you must drop the whip when asked by the Judge.**

Are dressage whips allowed in the practice arena? **The use of one whip, with a total maximum length of 120 cm, in the practice area is allowed. The whip must be dropped before entering the space around the competition arena or the athlete will entail a penalty.**

What is the rule regarding leaving the arena during a dressage test? **A horse leaving the arena with all four feet between the time of entry at A and the time of exit at A will incur elimination if the arena is fully enclosed to the recommended minimum height of 30cms and the gate at A has been closed.**

If the surrounds are marked with intermittent boards or line a horse will be awarded an error of course for the movement.

How are movements in the dressage test scored?' Each movement is awarded a mark out of 10. However, some movements have a coefficient of 2 and are thus worth more marks. There is a loss of 2 penalty points for error of course. The 2nd error of course has 4 penalty points and the 3rd error of course is elimination. (Excludes Other Errors) The total number of points as a percentage of possible marks are moderated to provide a negative (or penalty) score for the phase.

How many errors of course are allowed before elimination? **Two.**

Jumping Phase

In the practice area for jumping (and for cross country) there will be some obstacles that you can jump. They will be flagged.

What is the colour of the flag which you must leave on your right? **Red.**

By how much can the height of the practice jumps be increased? **10cms above the maximum height permitted for the jumping phase by the relevant test but no higher. For Cross-Country the practice jumps cannot exceed those of the class.**

What is the appropriate dress for walking a show jumping course? **Full showjumping dress but a rider may carry his/her coat, hat and whip.**

The cross country

Can a rider be led into the start box? **Yes, an attendant may lead the horse into and may hold it only until the signal to start is given.**

Can a rider ride through the start box before the start is given? Yes, the rider may move through and around the enclosure as he pleases between the previous rider leaving the box and his turn provided he is behind the start line when the signal to start is given.

What constitutes 'outside assistance'?

1. To take intentionally a lead from another Athlete.
2. To be followed, preceded or accompanied, on any part of the course, by any vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian, or Horseman not in the Competition.
3. To post friends at certain points to call directions or make signals in passing.
4. To have someone at an obstacle to encourage the Horse by any means whatsoever.
5. To tamper with the obstacles or any part of the course, including, for instance, flags, indicators, markers, notices, ropes, trees, branches, wire or fences, whether temporary or permanent.

in what circumstance can assistance be rendered without penalty?

1. Whip, headgear or spectacles may be handed to an Athlete without dismounting during the Cross Country Test.
2. An Athlete may ask and receive clarification of jumping penalties from the Fence Judge.
3. An Athlete, after having knocked a flag at an obstacle as a consequence of a run out, may ask the fence Judge for the flag to be repositioned, but no time will be deducted.

What is the criterion for 'clearing' a fence? The horse's head, neck and both shoulders must pass between the flags marking the extremities of the fence.

Can you jump any fence on course that is not in your course and flagged if it is lower than your course? Absolutely NOT. Unless authorised by the TD with a notice on the board.

What is a black flag option? A black flag indicates that there is an option to the fence. The option is usually an easier but longer route. Only one obstacle of the element has to be jumped so that an athlete may change from one black flagged line to another without penalty but only if he has not presented to the next element of the original line. All the elements will be appropriately numbered and riders must jump one of each option. Penalties are the same as for any multi-part obstacle.

Can a horse step sideways without penalty? Only in the case of an obstacle without height (i.e. less than 30cm) where he momentarily ceases to go forwards as he assesses the fence. However, if he steps back this classifies as a refusal.

Can a horse circle before a jump without penalty? Yes, provided the horse has not been presented to the jump. Here the only penalties incurred would be time.

If you have a fall on the cross country, you are eliminated from that class. What must you do before leaving the competition or getting on another horse? Be checked by the medics.

What is the penalty for not complying with this rule? Disqualification from competition and a compulsory Yellow card.

What is the designated speed (in metres/minute) for each of the classes in a competition:

Class	EvA45	EvA60	EvA80	EvA95	EvA105	CNC1*
Speed/min	300m/min	350m/min	400m/min	450m/min	500m/min	520m/min

What is the optimum time on course? This is the time calculated for riding the course at the nominated speed.

What is the time limit? The time limit is twice the optimum time and any combination failing to finish within this is eliminated.

Which levels have penalties for riding faster than the optimum time? All levels EvA105 and below.

How many seconds faster than the optimum time is allowed before penalties accrue in these classes? 20 seconds

Can a rider dismount during the cross country? Yes, he may dismount to fix saddlery or check on his horse or if held by an official for any reason.

When might an athlete be stopped on course and is there any penalty? An athlete might be stopped by an official for a broken fence, an accident, for medical or veterinary reason or to make way when a rider is being overtaken by the rider behind. For all these reasons, the time is taken of the time for which the rider is held and this is credited back by the scorers. The rider may also voluntarily dismount during this time..

What is the overtaking rule? A rider must clear the way if it is safe to do so and he has not presented to a fence. If the leading rider is before a fence, the fence judge may elect to ask this rider to circle and take the time required to do so for later adjustment to time on course. At all times, safety is horse/rider is paramount.

How many refusals on course in NSW are you allowed in EvA80 and below? Four.

What are the penalty options for a rider intentionally 'wasting' time riding circles or zig-zags to avoid time penalties in classes EvA105 and below where there are optimum time penalties? The rider may be Officially Warned or given a Yellow Warning Card and or given 25 penalties. Alternatively, the finish time keeper may elect to stop the clock.

If you have a refusal at part B of a two-part fence, do you have to re-take part A? No

If you have a refusal at part A after a refusal at part B, does this constitute a second refusal at this fence? Yes.

How many refusals at any one jump are you allowed in any class before being eliminated?
Three.

When may you circle before or around a fence without being given jumping penalties? At separately numbered obstacles, an Athlete may circle between or around them without penalty provided he has not presented his Horse at the second or subsequent obstacles. An Athlete is permitted to change his mind as to where he jumps an obstacle or element at any time, without penalty, including as a result of a mistake at a previous obstacle or element.

Are you allowed to ride the horse back after being eliminated? Yes, but this must be at the walk.

How are placing decided in the event of two or more competitors finishing on the same penalty score?

1. The **best cross-country score** including penalties for faults at obstacles, time penalties and any other penalty that he may have incurred on the Cross Country Test.
2. If there is still equality, the classification is decided in favour of the Athlete whose **cross-country time was closest to the optimum time**.
3. If there is still equality, the Athlete with the **best 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 Athlete 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.

If you believe that there has been an error in the scoring, what is the process for (a) making an enquiry, or (b) lodging a protest? (c) Is there a time frame for either of these?

- a) Only the owner or his authorised agent or the rider can lodge an objection/query. This will be dealt with and if the answer is insufficient a protest may be lodged.
- b) Protests shall be in writing with supporting evidence, names of witnesses and deposit of \$50 minimum.
- c) Not later than 30 mins after posting of results.