NSEA Rules 2026

If any further amendments are made, these rules will be re-published and a notification will go out on the NSEA News page and Facebook page.

Please read the entire document to ensure that you know the rules and are aware of any changes.

These Rules apply to membership, all competitions and include specific rules applying to particular events including the following: -

1) **Grass Roots Qualifiers & Championships Festival for Show Jumping & GR Scoresheet (Pages 11-14)**
2) **Regional Points Leagues for teams and also RPL Individual qualifiers for 2026 (Pages 14-16)**
3) **Oliver Bonas County Show Jumping & Mochara Dressage Qualifiers & Championships 2026 (Pages 16-18)**
4) **NSEA Eventers Challenge Series 2026 (Pages 18-19)**
5) **NSEA New Windsor Challenge Team Show Jumping Qualifiers (Page 19)**
6) **Hickstead Elite Show Jumping Qualifiers 2026 (Page 20)**
7) **NSEA Team & Individual Eventing (Page 20)**
8) **NSEA Pop-Up Dressage Winter Points League (Pages 20-21**
9) **NSEA National Championships Qualifier Rules for Dressage, Show Jumping, Arena Eventing (JWS), Combined Training & Nations Cup (Pages 21-26)**
10) **Rules applying to all Championships (Pages 26-28)**
11) **Arena Eventing (JWS) style judging sheet and Glossary of Terms (Pages 29-30)**

Section 1

A) Eligibility and Membership

A1) All Competing Schools must be current members of the NSEA.

A2) Membership runs from September 1st to August 31st inclusive each academic year and must be renewed before competing at NSEA competitions held after August 31st.

A3) To be eligible to compete at NSEA competitions, riders must be in full time education at the school they represent (see Competition Rules D2 for more information).
A member school must have registered the rider's name with the NSEA, as part of their riding squad. New riders coming into the school must be added to the affiliated list before they compete. Once a rider has been named as a member of the riding squad and a membership number has been given, they cannot be swapped for another, within the current membership year.

A4) Riders who are Home Schooled may compete as individuals and the Home School is registered in the usual way. A Home Schooled group may compete as a team, providing they are all educated at the same home school and this is agreed with the NSEA Membership Office. Riders who are on full apprenticeships may also be registered.

A5) Whoever registers the squad must obtain the consent of the Head Teacher in order to compete on behalf of their school; this consent should take the form of a positive response by the Head Teacher, to the approval request email sent by the NSEA at the time of the school's initial registration.

B) Team Managers

B1) Each School must nominate a Team Manager (who is the school's spokesperson with the NSEA).
In addition, two Team Assistants may be nominated. The Team Manager & Team Assistants may be members of the school staff or parents.
If the Team Manager changes, please inform the NSEA promptly.

B2) The Team Manager will be expected to know the NSEA RULES and to communicate them to the parents of riders competing. We understand that many Schools' Team Managers are volunteer parents, rather than professionals, so please note that, although these vary between competitions, the rules are kept as clear, easy to understand and concise as possible. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the Team Manager enters their son/daughter in competitions at an appropriate level commensurate with the child's ability and experience.
The Team Manager also needs to ensure that all their horses have up to date flu vaccinations recorded in their passports. Please see rule D13 for vaccination requirements.
Team Managers should always act in the spirit of the competition. Sportsmanship and good manners are paramount and this extends to all riders in their squad and to their parents.

B3) ONLY the Team Manager is to deal with the Secretary and/or officials of an event.
Changes to team members / individuals must be made before the day of the competition and preferably before start times have been published. Changes on the day may only be made before the start of the class and only if there is an injury or incident which prevents a horse or rider from competing and will be at the discretion of the Competition Secretary. The NSEA will handle communications through the Team Manager.

B4) In the event of an objection, the Team Manager must lodge a written objection with the Secretary within five minutes of the end of the class. This must be accompanied by a £40 deposit, which may be forfeited in the event of an unsuccessful appeal.

B5) The Team Manager is responsible for the conduct of all riders, parents and persons associated with their School, which includes the appropriate use of social media (See C4).

C) Codes of Conduct

C1) Team Managers.
The Team Manager is the school representative on the day.
They need to ensure that riders and parents from their school display good sportsmanship, horsemanship and equine welfare at all times and adhere to the NSEA rules.

C2) Competitors' Code of Conduct
Competitors need to be aware of and abide by the rules of competition.
Competitors need to be correctly turned out, according to the rules, whilst competing and also at prize givings.
Competitors must be aware that they are representing their school at all times and they need to be polite and considerate to all officials and fellow competitors.
The welfare of their horse/pony is of paramount importance at all times whilst on the show ground. Whips and spurs must be used correctly, to reinforce a leg aid and NEVER in temper.
Neither the whip or spur may be used on the horse after the last fence has been jumped, or after leaving the arena. This is abuse of the horse/pony and could result in elimination.
Competitors may be eliminated for dangerous riding which could be a threat to themselves or others (mounted or on foot)
Competitors are expected to attend official Prize Givings, **dressed in appropriate competition dress** ie show jackets for show jumping and dressage and XC kit for arena eventing. If a competitor is unable to attend, they will need to send a representative to attend for them. Competitors will forfeit any prizes / rosettes not collected at the prizegiving.
Competitors are encouraged to thank the Show Organisers and Officials of the competition, before they leave. It is much appreciated, as many of them are volunteers and give up their time free of charge.

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C3) Parents' Code of Conduct

The Team Manager acts for the school. Parents must always defer to the Team Manager, including when making enquiries.

Parents need to be aware of the NSEA competition rules and agree to abide by them.

There should be no outside assistance, except within the ring in Grass Roots classes (40 & 50cm) and if calling a test in Dressage Qualifiers. See specific Grass Roots and Dressage Rules for guidance.

Parents should be reminded that whilst NSEA events are competitive, it is the rider and not the parent who is competing. Sportsmanship and respect for officials, Team Managers, other competitors and fellow Parents is of utmost importance.

The welfare of the horse/pony and child is of paramount importance.

All competitors and siblings need to be under the guidance of their parents at all times. They may not ride if they are not competing.

C4) Social Media

Whilst the NSEA recognises the need for communication through social media, it must not be used as a medium to undermine the NSEA's reputation, in any way, by team managers, parents, riders or their connected parties, nor to compromise the NSEA's confidentiality and child safeguarding policies. Whilst videoing is permitted during a round, it may only be done so from the side of the ring. You may not video in warm up arenas, on horse walks etc.

Competition Rules that apply to ALL NSEA events

The following rules are for all competitions listed on the NSEA website.

Every possible situation and circumstance cannot be provided for in the NSEA Rules. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the adjudication committee or person acting on their behalf, to make a decision in a the spirit of the Rules by applying, as near as possible, the intention of the NSEA Rules.

In addition, the following will also apply to the relevant discipline :

Show Jumping – British Show Jumping Rules 2026

Dressage – British Dressage Rules 2026

Eventing – British Eventing Rules 2026

Jumping with Style – NSEA JwS Rules 2026 for scoring, British Eventing Rules 2026 for tack etc

D) Horses and Riders

D1) The 30cm Rule

Any combination of horse and rider cannot compete in a jumping class at an NSEA competition, except hors concours, where the height is 30cm lower than that at which they have previously completed, (any round height) in any competition (not just NSEA competitions). This restriction does not apply to Open or Advanced Open classes. Therefore, Horse/Rider combinations jumping 1.30m or over may compete in NSEA Open or Advanced Open classes. If competing in a County Competition, please also see rule CchJQ1.

Please note: a rider competing hors concours in one class is not automatically excluded from competing in other classes above that height, at the same competition. Also see rule applying to qualifications on page 22.

In addition, a rider who has jumped 1m cannot compete in the 70cm class, except h/c on any horse.

D2) Changing Schools

The definition of the word "Championships" as used in sub paragraphs a), b), c) & d) below includes Grass Roots Regional Finals, County Championships (May 2026), Eventers Challenge Championships (May 2026), Hickstead Elite Championships (1m team May 2026, 1.10 Individuals June 2026) and the National Championships (October 2026)

a) A rider who changes schools in 2025/26 can only then compete for their new school, unless they qualified with their previous school, for the 2026 Championships, prior to moving schools, in which case, they can represent their previous school, but only at the Championships, with the Head Teacher of the previous School's permission.

b) If a rider qualifies for one school, then changes school, they may ride at the Championships for the original school (see "a" above). However, if they also qualify, in the same class, for their new school, they may compete for either school but not for both in the same class, unless on different horses. They cannot be used as a substitute for their old school, once they have started at the new school.

c) Riders may represent more than one School at the Championships providing the necessary permission is obtained from each School.

d) Once a rider leaves a school, they may no longer compete for that school (except at the Championships and providing they have qualified to do so, as detailed above). They may not, therefore, be used as a team "Wild Card" substitute for the Championships without prior qualification, as detailed above. A rider may not compete for their new school until they are enrolled at that school, and the academic School Year has started. Any rider who competes for a school they do not attend may forfeit any qualifications for Championships and their NSEA membership for the following year.

D3) School logos may be placed (in moderation) up to the maximum dimensions as follows:-
Saddlecloths – 200 sq cm
Hat covers – 3cm x 3cm
Jackets – 3cm x 3cm on the breast pocket
XC tops – 200sq cm (or 100 sq cm per arm)
Breeches (left leg only) – 20cm long, 4 cm wide
Sponsors logos may only appear once on either the horse or rider but not both and must be smaller than the school logo dimensions above.

D4) All horses are required to have an equine passport and must be entered in NSEA classes under their PASSPORT NAME (not stable name) and may only compete once per class (except grass roots). The passport must display their valid vaccination record (see rule D13) and microchip number and be taken to all NSEA competitions, where spot checks may take place.
To compete, horses and ponies must be a minimum of 4 years of age and a minimum of 5 years of age to compete at a Championships.

D5a) Stallions may only compete in NSEA competitions with prior written permission from the competition organiser, in advance of the competition, and should be identified on the competition entry form. This must be sought in advance of the entry closure date. The stallion must then wear a stallion disc & a ribbon in the tail. Please be mindful that not all competitors will realise that the horse is a stallion, even if wearing the appropriate kit.

D5b) The horse/pony must be an appropriate height for the rider.

D6) All competitors and horses should look clean, neat and tidy. Long hair should be put in a hairnet for all disciplines including Dressage, One Day Events, Arena Eventing and Show Jumping. Specific dress according to discipline. Hair should not be worn below collar length in any NSEA competitions.

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SAFETY EQUIPMENT
D7) Hat Rules
Team Managers should ensure that their riding squad have hats & safety equipment of the correct standard and that they are checked regularly. Competitors are strongly advised to check their hats regularly or take them to a reputable hat supplier to be checked. The NSEA recommend that hats are replaced following a fall or checked after any impact.
XC/ JWS/ ODE only a 'Jockey Skull Cap is allowed, with a removable hat cover with a light, flexible peak. No fixed peaks.
Head / Body Cams are prohibited at all NSEA competitions.
Hat Standard

VG1 with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark
Pas 015 2011 with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark
EN1384: 2023 with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark
Snell E2016 & 2021 with the official Snell label/number
ASTM-F1163 2015 & 2023 with the SEI kitemark
AS/NZS 3838, 2006 onwards with SAI Global Mark

Hats no longer accepted from January 2023
SNELL 2001
Pas 015 1998

Body Protectors

All body protectors need to comply with the BETA 2018 Level 3 standard (blue & black label)

A body protector is compulsory in Arena Eventing (JWS), Eventers Challenge and XC classes (with or without an air jacket)

Air Jackets

An air jacket / vest may be used for show jumping without a body protector underneath, if it is designed for SJ use. It may only be worn over as a top layer, not underneath a jacket or base layer.

Stirrups

It is important that stirrup irons (made of metal, carbon or similar) and have ¼'' clearance at either side of the width of the rider's foot. Stirrups should not be too wide nor too narrow. Stirrups may not be attached to the girth or riders foot. Magnetic or interlocking stirrups that attach to the rider's boot are not allowed.

D8) Tack should fit correctly and all safety equipment should be of working standard and worn at all necessary times.

D9) The NSEA recommends that any competitor who falls off during any sort of warm up should always find the First Aid Team to be checked over before they compete. Any official attending will be able to advise on the location of the First Aid Team. **Two falls in the warm up will result in elimination**.

D10) Boys and girls will compete in the same classes.

D11) All competitors attending prize givings must be correctly dressed.(See C2) An Organiser reserves the right to withhold rosettes and prizes if they see fit.

D12) Horses may only be ridden by NSEA competitors at an NSEA competition and may jump in a maximum of 3 classes per day (two as a part of a team and one as an individual) at a qualifier and four at a Championship. A horse is not to be ridden or warmed up by anyone other than the rider who is competing that horse or an NSEA team mate, at that competition.

Horses may only be lunged in designated lunging areas, (if available) by prior permission of the Show Organiser.

D13) All horses / ponies competing in NSEA events **must be vaccinated against equine influenza** as follows:-

a) Two injections for the primary vaccination, not less than 21 days or more than 92 days apart. Both are required before a horse/pony may compete.

b) A booster injection 150-215 days after the second injection of the primary vaccination.

c) Subsequent booster injections must be given each year, within and not exceeding the 1 year period (see below), commencing after the first booster injection.

d) Horses may not compete within 7 days of a vaccination.

Please check the schedule and with the Show Secretary of the relevant competition for the most recent updates in accordance with veterinary and governing body guidance.

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D14) Disability

The NSEA aims to be as inclusive as possible, whilst not compromising safety. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Medical exemptions / special requirements

If medical exemption or special requirements are needed for a rider, the Team Manager should email the NSEA, at the time the rider is added to the school's squad, providing the relevant information regarding what the rider is able/unable to do in the ring and outlining what is needed. The NSEA will provide a letter confirming the details of the exemption/special requirements, which can be shown to show secretaries (if required).

At the time a competition entry is made, the Team Manager must contact the event show organiser/secretary and make them aware of the above and the details of the agreed medical exemption with regard to the rules.

D15) Training Aids

Training aids or any attachments used by the horse or rider may not be worn at NSEA **competitions in the arena or in warm up areas unless permission is granted by the NSEA**. These include any attachments to the rider or horse.

Balance reins / Grass Reins may be used only in Grass Roots 40 & 50cm.

As stated above, a note needs to be submitted to the show secretary, at the time of entry, if permission has been granted by the NSEA, for a training aid to be used. The NSEA will put any permissions in writing.

D16) At multi-day shows, a rider who is taken to hospital may not compete on subsequent days without permission from the school.

D17) Concussion policy. If a rider has been sent to hospital with suspected concussion (in any sport), they are then automatically suspended from NSEA events for 21 days .

D18) Horse Welfare
The welfare of the horse is paramount at all times.
Abuse through rough handling, over use of the stick, voice, spurs or the bit, may be deemed to be unacceptable and could result in elimination.
Presenting any horse that is deemed to be in very poor condition, ill, lame, insufficiently fit to compete, suffering from heat stress or over-tiredness could result in elimination.
A horse will be eliminated for spur marks that break the skin or signs of blood on the horse's sides.

D19) NSEA Whip Rule
A whip should only ever be used to re-enforce a leg aid. Never in temper.

A whip, if carried, must be held in the hand by the handle with the handle at the top. Padded baton only for jumping classes.

In summary the key points of the rule for jumping are as follows:
1. The maximum length of the whip in jumping is 75cm and it must not be less than 45cm.
2. A rider may only carry one whip and no substitute for a whip may be carried.
3. The pad of the whip must be smooth and there must be no wording or personalisation on the whip that would change to smooth surface.

When using a whip anywhere on the showground the following applies:-
It should only be used for good reason, when a horse lacks impulsion.
It may be used down the shoulder or behind the leg but never with the whip raised above shoulder height or with it turned over in the hand
It should only be used with an appropriate amount of force.
A whip may only be used by the rider whilst mounted. It may not be used from the ground by anyone.

During a jumping round the whip should not be used before the start of the round or after elimination. Both could result in elimination from the competition.
A whip should not be used after a horse has jumped a fence, only as it is approaching a fence if required.
A whip must never be used after the horse has left the arena.
Whips used in the warm up must also be BE/BS show jumping compliant. No schooling whips allowed in jumping competitions.

The whip should only be used a maximum of 3 times during the course of the round (4 in a longer JWS or Eventers Challenge course) and use beyond this could be considered inappropriate and will be addressed by the judges.

D20) Spurs
Spurs must be smooth with no sharp or serrated edges and can be made of metal or plastic. The end of the shank must be blunt and point towards the rear of the horse or downwards. Spurs must be incapable of wounding a horse and are to be used appropriately ie to reinforce a leg aid.
a) Spurs for jumping
Spurs cannot be used in Grass Roots classes 40-70cm
Spurs with a maximum length shank **of 2.5cm** (measured from the back of the rider's boot to the end of the shank), may be used by riders aged **16 and under** in 70cm classes upwards (except Grass Roots)
Riders on horses (not ponies), providing they are over the age of 16yrs, may use spurs up to 4cm . This is measured from the back of the rider's boot to the end of the shank.
No rowelled spurs, of any kind, may be used.
Prince of Wales, dummy and ball-ended or ball shaped spurs are permitted.
b) Spurs for dressage
Spurs to a length of 4cm shank may be used. This is measured from the back of the rider's boot to the end of the shank.
Smooth rowelled spurs are allowed in dressage competitions.

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E) Teams/Individuals

E1) Teams to consist of at least three, and at most four, different riders. No horse or rider may compete twice in the same team and no horse/rider combination may compete twice in a class, (unless the rules that are specific to a particular competition, state otherwise).

E2) At competitions where both teams & individuals are taking part, the scores of all team competitors, obtained whilst riding as a team member, will automatically also count as their individual score, when determining the individual placings. This also applies to team riders competing at the NSEA Championships, who have also qualified to compete as individuals. Please note that all horse/rider combinations must have pre-qualified to compete as individuals at the Championships. There is a 'Best of the Rest' prize awarded to the highest placed team rider who is not eligible for the Individual Championships.

E3) The best three scores count in a team competition. A team which does not register at least three valid scores will be eliminated. However, any individual scores, registered as part of an eliminated team, will still be counted in individual competitions, where applicable.

E4) All riders must be from the same Member School and be registered with the NSEA in the riding squad of that School. (see Competition Rules D2 for more information)

E5) Riders may only compete once in a team, so may not ride two horses in the same team, except in Grass Roots competitions – see specific Grass Roots rules.

E6) At local level (RPL) jumping, an individual may ride 3 different horses in any one class, and those horses may be ridden in up to 3 classes (two as a part of a team and one as an individual) – see specific Grass Roots and RPL rules.

In County qualifying Competitions (Cchq), an individual may ride a maximum of three different horses in any one class and a horse/rider combination may compete in 2 teams at the County qualifier, providing that they are at 2 different adjacent heights. (ie 70cm & 80cm, 80cm & 90cm, 90cm & 1m but not 70cm & 90cm or 80 & 1m see rule CchJQ1) No rider may compete in 70cm & 1m classes.

E7) Each team of four at a Championships must include two out of the original qualified four horse/rider combinations. **However, if, in exceptional circumstances, a previously qualified team has only one of the original horse/rider combinations remaining, the School may be permitted, at the discretion of the NSEA, to substitute two new horse/rider combinations to make up a team of three.**
A Team Manager may have up to two wild card substitutions providing they fulfil the following criteria and all other restrictions listed in these rules:

a) The substitute horse/rider combination, should have successfully completed an NSEA Competition in the same year or a BE, BS or Pony Club competition, at the same level or above, or may, in some cases, be included at the discretion of the Team Manager, providing the circumstances have been discussed with and agreed by the NSEA.

b) A team may qualify with a team of only three riders, then take a fourth as one wild card, providing they fulfil the above criteria (see 'a')

c) If a team rider is eliminated at a qualifier and their team goes on to qualify, that rider may not compete at the Championships unless they successfully complete at another competition, at the same level or above and their entry is sent with an authorising letter from their Team Manager. The eliminated rider cannot be counted as an original combination. They will be counted as a substitute for the Championships.

d) A school, having qualified a team, may not qualify the same team of horse/rider combinations again, in the same class (same discipline, same height) and then split that team, to create two teams comprising two of the original horse/rider combinations in each team and drafting in two wild card substitute combinations into each, in order to turn the original qualified team of four horse/rider combinations into two teams for the Championships.

E8) Individual qualification refers to the horse/rider combination and therefore, neither the horse nor rider may be substituted at a Championships.

E9) Any team or individual who has already qualified OR is unable to attend any Championships, must notify the show organiser, so that the qualification may be passed down on the day, to the next in line.

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F) Powers of Judges/Show Organisers

F1) The Judges and Show Organisers have the right to stop any competitor during their warm up and/or in competition and subsequently eliminate them if they deem the following:
That a rider, horse or combination is unsafe or poses an unacceptable risk to themselves, their horse or others anywhere on the showground.
That a rider is unfit to compete.
That a horse is unsound or distressed.
That a rider or person associated with the rider, has used any unacceptable force on a horse, anywhere at an event.
That a person has, in the opinion of the Organiser or Judges, forced a child to compete against their express wishes. (This is not to discourage encouraging the child to challenge their abilities.)
Any rider who has benefitted unfairly from outside assistance. This is not to discourage support and encouragement.
Any rider, Team Manager, Parent, supporter or other associated person who is abusive, uncooperative, or rude to any Official.
Show organisers reserve the right to alter classes / times, as appropriate if light / weather/ conditions determine it necessary. Notification will be given, where possible, via announcements & social media.

In the event of a dispute, the NSEA will act as the final arbiter.

F2) The Judges and Show Organisers have the right to require any competitor to satisfactorily complete the following before they are permitted to compete:

- An examination of the rider by a member of medical staff.
- An examination of the horse by a vet.
- An examination by an official of any item of equipment or tack.
- An examination of evidence of their Membership of their School's Riding Squad.

F3) The end of the show will be deemed to be half an hour after the last horse competes.

F4) The NSEA Knockdown/Late Drop Rule
The 'knockdown rule' is to be applied in all NSEA Jumping competitions. It is to be used over the British Eventing and British Show Jumping rules covering knockdowns and 'late drops'. The rule is designed to bring clarity and uniformity to NSEA jumping competitions.
A 'knockdown' is interpreted as the lowering of the height of a fence caused by the competitor. The lowering of the fence must have occurred before the competitor crosses the finish line.
The pole does not need to actually strike the ground, merely come to a position lower than its starting place.
Knocking down lower poles or planks will not count as a penalty - only the upper pole.

The examples below are hoped to provide some 'practical application' of the rule - all are taken from real scenarios.
Example 1 - the pole falls onto a filler, not the floor.
4 faults as the fence's height was lowered by the competitor.
Example 2 - the pole does not leave the cup, but the retractable wing/stand's height is reduced by an impact.
4 faults as the fence's height was lowered by the competitor.
Example 3 - planks begin swinging in the cup due to an impact from a competitor, but actually leave the cup and fall AFTER the competitor has crossed the finish line.
No faults. The alteration in the height of the fence occurred after the competitor had crossed the line, even if the cause of that alteration occurred prior to the finish.

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F5) Entering NSEA Competitions

Only pupils currently registered with the NSEA, may be entered into any NSEA competition.

Pupils may only compete if they have permission from the Head Teacher / Team Manager

The online entry system for events is set up on a first-come, first served basis.

Refunds. In the event of a withdrawal/cancellation request of an entry, from an NSEA organised and run competition, refunds will be given as follows:-

Prior to close of entries – Providing the entry cancellation request is made via the website, a full refund less £5 admin fee per horse/rider combination per class.

After close of entries - a vet/doctors note is required. If provided, a full refund less £5 admin fee per transaction.

After times are published – no refund

If a competition is postponed or cancelled, entries will either be carried over to the re-scheduled date or refunded less a £5 admin fee per transaction, UNLESS THE SHOW SCHEDULE FOR A SPECIFIC SHOW STATES OTHERWISE.

Last minute changes to entries may incur a £5 admin fee

All refunds are made after the competition has run.

If an NSEA organised and run competition is cancelled (or postponed and if a competitor is unable to attend the new date), a refund of entry fees will be made less a £5 admin fee per transaction.

If the event is run by an external centre or organiser, please see their refund policy before entering.

Cancellations due to extreme weather

At the venue in question, if a red or amber weather warning is given by the Met office for the duration of the event, the competition will be cancelled. However, if a yellow warning is in place, the event is likely to run.

Whilst the NSEA takes every care and consideration in deciding to run, it is the parent who must apply common sense to determine whether it is appropriate and safe to travel to the event from their own location.

The NSEA will not be held responsible for any financial loss incurred by any entrant, their associates or attendees as a result of a re-arrangement to the schedule, postponement or cancellation of any NSEA competition.

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Section 2
Rules applying to Specific NSEA Competitions

1) Grass Roots Qualifiers & Championships Festival for Show Jumping & GR Scoresheet (Pages 11-14)
2) Regional Points Leagues for teams and also RPL Individual qualifiers for 2026 (Pages 14-16)
3) Oliver Bonas County Show Jumping & Mochara Dressage Qualifiers & Championships 2026 (Pages 16-18)
4) NSEA Eventers Challenge Series 2026 (Pages 18-19)
5) NSEA New Windsor Challenge Team Show Jumping Qualifiers (Page 19)
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The number of teams/individuals to qualify for different Championships

Qualifying Competition for:-	Teams to qualify per qualifier	Individuals to qualify per qualifier	Rider Age
Grass Roots Regional Champs and Grass Roots Hickstead Festival	6	6	U19 1st Jan 2026
RPL Team Points Leagues (NSEA Champs)	4 per Region	Team Only	U19 1st Jan 2026
RPL Individual 70, 80, 90	Individuals only	6	U19 1st Jan 2026
County Show Jumping & Dressage	1	1	U19 1st Jan 2026
Eventers Challenge (Hickstead) May	2	4	U19 1st Jan 2026
New Windsor Challenge	1 team (also 1 team ONLY per school to compete at NSEA Champs)	Team only	U19 1st Jan 2026
Hickstead Elite	2 x 1m	1.10 only 2 x pony, 2 x horse	U19 1st Jan 2026
Pop Up Dressage	Individual only	8 in each section	U19 1st Jan 2026
3 DE Eventing Champs	4	6	U19 1st Jan 2026
National Champs (Addington) 2026 (CHQ) SJ, JWS, CT, **	2	4	U14 1st Jan 2026 for mini (70/75cm) classes only U19 1st Jan 2026 (80 upwards)
National Champs (CHQ) DR **	2	4 total	U19 1st Jan 2026

** Rules for the October NSEA National Championships at Addington, will be updated in November following the Championships

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1) NSEA Grass Roots Competitions (GR)

The purpose of the Grass Roots programme is to provide very novice riders with the opportunity to experience the excitement of competition, whilst still learning their craft. The rules are, therefore, kept as flexible as possible but, please embrace the "spirit" of the rules. Please do not use Grass Roots competitions as an easy opportunity to "pot hunt," as it is not in the spirit of the competition.

The top 6 teams & individuals at qualifiers will be eligible to compete at any Regional Grass Roots Championships. In addition, pony/rider combinations who have qualified for any Grass Roots Regional Championships (these run in the winter prior to the NSEA GR Championship Festival) are also eligible to compete at the **NSEA Grass Roots Championships Festival at Hickstead, August 2026**. See the Competition Dates page on the NSEA website for more information.

GR1) Tack
The NSEA 30cm jumping rule also applies to Grass Roots. *No schooling whips- padded whips only.*
No spurs may be worn at Grass Roots competitions.
Grass Reins may be used in 40cm & 50cm classes. Balance reins can be used in 40-70cm Grass Roots classes.

GR2) Eligibility for Grass Roots classes

Grass Roots 40 classes (for very novice riders only)
40cm Grass Roots classes are ring fenced for riders who have never competed at 70cm in ANY competition on ANY pony. A GR rider may not jump in 70cm and 40cm classes.
40cm Grass Roots is split into 2 sections:
40a) Led or Closely Assisted (run beside rider)
40b) Unled (run at a distance from rider)
(Riders may be led or assisted from within the ring) The Assistant cannot carry a whip.
The class is judged by using a combination of show jumping penalties and style marks over a simple course of fences. (See table P14)
Rider's placings in the class are determined, first by show jumping penalties, with the ultimate placings, of those on the same jumping penalties, determined by style marks. The winner, therefore, is the rider, from those with the fewest jumping penalties, who has the highest style mark.
There is a, very generous, maximum time that a rider can spend in the ring (4mins)
ANY RIDER who has competed in ANY 70cm class (or higher) on ANY pony at ANY competition (not just NSEA) is NOT eligible for this class, (except h/c if space permits)

At Championships level, the 40cm class will be split into 3 sections;
Led, Closely Assisted (run beside rider) and Unled (run at a distance from rider).
(Riders competing in the 50cm at the Championships will not be able to compete in the led section of the 40cm, they will enter either the Unled or Closely Assisted section)

50cm Grass Roots Riders may be assisted (but not led) from within the ring only. The assistant cannot carry a whip. No assistance from outside the arena.
Optimum time. The winner will be the horse/rider combination who have the fewest jumping penalties and are closest to the optimum time.
Riders who have competed at 80cm at ANY competition (not just NSEA) are not allowed to compete in these classes, except HC. (30cm Rule)

Anyone assisting a rider in 40 / 50cm classes may only do so from within the ring. Coaching from outside the arena shall be deemed outside assistance and could lead to elimination. No videoing from within the ring.

Grass Roots 60 & 70cm (for novice riders) are run as single phase competitions are open to Grass Roots riders who might also compete in RPL, County and National Championships (Addington) Qualifiers.

60cm Grass Roots
No outside assistance.

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70cm Grass Roots
No outside assistance
Riders jumping at this level are not eligible for 40cm Grass Roots on ANY pony.

Please note that once a rider has completed 5 x 80cm competitions of any kind, they can only compete in Grass Roots 60 & 70cm classes as a team rider (they may not compete as an individual)
Riders who have competed at 90cm are not eligible for Grass Roots, except hors concors.

GR3 Riders NOT eligible for Grass Roots include-
Once a rider has competed at 90cm on any horse, they are no longer eligible to be a Grass Roots rider and may not take part in any further Grass Roots qualifiers or Grass Roots Regional Championships.
Riders who qualify for the Grass Roots Championships and then subsequently jump themselves out of their qualification are able to upgrade their qualification to the NSEA RPL Individual Championships (70-90cm) which runs at Hickstead in August at the same time as the Grass Roots Championships.
Horse / Rider combinations who have been placed 1 – 8th in the INDIVIDUAL section at the NSEA Championships at Addington are no longer eligible to ride at Grass Roots.

GR4) Riders are U19 on 1st Jan 2026. Minimum age 4 years. Riders must attend a school/college , pre-prep or be home-schooled. (see Rules of Membership)

GR5) The rider will be eliminated on the 3rd refusal in all Grass Roots classes

GR6) At a Grass Roots competition, **a** rider may ride two ponies/horses in the same team or two riders may ride the same pony/horse in the same team.

GR7) Pony/rider combinations may only compete in consecutive classes at qualifiers.
Scenario**:** A rider may enter pony A in 40 & 50 classes, then ride pony B in 50 & 60. However, a rider may not ride pony A in 40 & 50 and then pony B in 60 & 70 as no rider can compete in 40 & 70cm classes. A rider can ride in the 50, 60 & 70 classes.

GR8) A pony may jump a maximum of 3 rounds in a day or 4, if it is shared between 2 riders at any Grass Roots Qualifier or Regional Championships. A pony / rider combination may only compete once in any class.

GR9) An Organiser reserves the right to refuse an entry if he / she feels that the spirit of Grass Roots Rules is being challenged, in order to gain an un-fair advantage.

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GR10) No spurs or schooling whips are allowed in any of the Grass Roots classes or warm up areas. Baton whips only may be used in competition.

GR11) Parents may not use a whip / lead rein to encourage the pony from the ground.

GR12) Novice riders may be assisted and/or led at 40cm and assisted (not led) at 50cm with the Team Manager's permission. People entering the ring to assist do so at their own risk and may not video their child whilst in the ring. 40cm classes will be split led & assisted and teams can be made up from either/both.

GR13) 60cm and above are not allowed to have any assistance in or outside the arena.

Grass Roots Regional Championships and Championships Festival .

GR14) Riders may compete in ANY of the Grass Roots Regional Championship within 12 months of qualifying.

GR15) Individual Qualifications are for the combination of pony/horse & rider, not just the rider or pony/horse.
Therefore, you may not substitute either the qualified pony/horse OR the rider to compete at the Regional Championships.

GR16) Team Qualifications
Each team of four at a Grass Roots Regional Championships must include two out of the original qualified four horse/rider combinations. **However, if, in exceptional circumstances, a previously qualified team has only one of the original horse/rider combinations remaining, the School may be permitted, at the discretion of the NSEA, to substitute two new horse/rider combinations to make up a team of three.**

GR17) The NSEA recognizes that children can progress quickly up the grades, therefore, if riders are competing at a higher level than they have qualified for, it is possible to 'up-grade' your qualification to the next class up. Please speak to the NSEA Grass Roots Championships Show Secretary.

GR18)

Grass Roots Heights table

40cm	Teams & individuals. Riders may be a) led / closely assisted or b) assisted from a distance. Judged on jumping penalties, with style penalties deciding the placings if jumping penalties are equal. Generous maximum time allowed. 1st – 6th to qualify.
50cm	Teams & individuals. May be assisted (not led). Optimum time of 300m/m in the second part of the course. Best rider prize 1st – 6th to qualify.
60cm	Teams & individuals No assistance. Single phase. 1st – 6th to qualify.
70cm	Teams & Individuals A basic, transitional course to prepare riders for 70cm County & National Championships Qualifiers. No assistance. Single phase. 1st – 6th to qualify.

NSEA Grass Roots National Championships Festival

Hickstead mid- August each year (see Competition Dates on the NSEA website) Qualifications run from the preceding September.

Other Grass Roots Competitions (aimed at preparing riders for the next level of competition.)

GR19) Grass Roots Dressage (non-qualifier)

Walk & Trot tests, which may be led / assisted on a loose lead rein (the ride must steer)

Competitions may also include a simple Prelim test, which may be called but not led or assisted. See also Pop-Up Dressage.

GR20) Grass Roots Eventers Challenge 50/60cm (non-qualifiers)

Rustic fences. These are often warm up classes at EC Qualifiers and follow EC Rules. Riders in EC 50 & 60 classes who are placed in the top 6 may enter the equivalent SJ class at the August Grass Roots Championships Festival.

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Rider & pony: ----------

Criteria for Grass Roots Style Marks:
40cm classes

Rider position: Straight line from ear to shoulder, hip to heel. Calf in contact, ankles flexed. Heels down and stirrup on ball of foot.	Rider still developing correct seat.	Rider meets some but not all criteria or all but inconsistently.	Rider meets most criteria with some consistency.	Exceeds expectations, ready to proceed to next level.	
	1-8	**9-15**	**16-21**	**22-25**	/25
Rider jumping position: In time with pony. Secure lower leg, folding at hips. Soft hands. Looking ahead.	Rider still developing balance over jumps.	Rider meets some but not all criteria or all but inconsistently.	Rider meets most criteria with some consistency.	Exceeds expectations, ready to proceed to next level.	
	1-8	**9-15**	**16-21**	**22-25**	/25
Use of aids and control: Rider is directing pony and using appropriate aids. Hands are holding the reins correctly and have a contact.	Rider still relies on handler to direct pony (ON LEAD). Rider still developing control of pony (OFF LEAD).	Rider makes some contribution to round, but also reliant on handler (ON LEAD). Rider meets some criteria or all but not consistently (OFF LEAD).	Rider contributing to round with some consistency (ON LEAD). Rider meets most criteria with some consistency (OFF LEAD).	Exceeds expectations, ready to proceed to next level.	
	1-8	**9-15**	**16-21**	**22-25**	/25
Ring craft: Rider is looking up and towards the next fence, guiding the pony with hand and leg. Lines between jumps are smooth.	Rider still developing confidence & skills to navigate accurately.	Rider meets some but not all criteria or all but inconsistently.	Rider meets most criteria with some consistency.	Exceeds expectations, ready to proceed to next level.	
	1-8	**9-15**	**16-21**	**22-25**	/25
				TOTAL	**/100**
				Jumping Faults:	

Led riders. The highest marks will be awarded to the led riders that are attempting to steer and ride the pony independently, not those who are merely sitting on the pony.
Jumping penalties take priority over style **penalties** to determine the final score

2) Regional Points Team Leagues (RPL) and Individual Qualifiers

The RPL competitions are for both Teams and Individuals.

RPL TEAMS – schools gain points through the academic year at a variety of competitions, in whichever Region/s they choose to compete. The top 4 teams (by accumulating the most points), in each region, qualify to compete at the NSEA National Championships to be held at Addington. It is possible to be included in two or more Region's league tables, if you compete in different Regions. However, points gained are specific to a Region and therefore, points gained in more than one Region cannot be added together. Schools are represented once at the RPL Mixed Height Team Championships.

The disciplines listed below are included in the RPL Points Leagues.
(points are awarded in the region of the event's location)

Points for RPL team leagues can be gained at :
- National Qualifiers for Dressage, Show Jumping, JWS, NSEA team ODE classes
- County Dressage & Show Jumping team Qualifiers
- Eventers Team Challenge Qualifiers
- New Windsor Challenge Show Jumping Team Qualifiers
- RPL Team SJ classes

RPL Individual Show Jumping Qualifiers 70, 80 and 90cm

Individuals, unlike Teams, do not accumulate points, but gain a Championship qualification. That qualification may be gained by taking part in 70, 80 & 90cm classes at RPL and County qualifier competitions (top 6 riders at each height qualify) and in 70, 80 & 90cm show jumping classes at National Championships qualifiers (5th & 6th places at each height qualify – (1st- 4th having qualified for the National Championships at Addington)
The qualification is for the RPL Individual Championships to be held at Hickstead in August 2026.

Points league for Grass Roots (Teams Only)
Grass Roots 40-70cm team classes will now be included in separate Grass Roots Regional Points Leagues. Results will be posted on the NSEA News page termly.

Points or qualification cannot be gained whilst competing in any Championships classes.

RPL1) Regional Points are allocated in the region in which you compete, NOT where the school is located.

Region	Counties where competitions are held
1 South West	Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset
2 South Central	Surrey, Berks, Bucks, Hertfordshire, Greater London
3 South East	Hants, Isle of Wight, W Sussex, E. Sussex, Kent
4 Central West & South Wales	Wilts, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, South Wales
5 East	Cambs, Norfolk, Essex, Suffolk
6 Midlands West & North Wales	Hereford, Worcs, W Mid, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, North Wales
7 Midlands East	Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire & Rutland, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Bedfordshire & Milton Keynes
8 North	Yorkshire, Co Durham, Cleveland, Northumberland, Cumbria
9 Scotland	Scotland

RPL2) Points shall be awarded as follows 1st = 6pts, 2nd = 5pts, 3rd = 4pts, 4th = 3pts, 5th = 2pts, 6th = 1pt.

RPL3) The winning team from each Region, at the end of August, shall be deemed the Regional Points League winner. **The top 4 schools in each region** will qualify to compete in the NSEA Regional Points Leagues Team Mixed Height Finals at the NSEA Championships in October. Heights start at 70cm.
- The squad of up to 8 separate horse/rider combinations, who are entered to compete at the Championships, must have represented the School at RPL competitions in any discipline, during that qualifying year.
- The squad may comprise of up to 2 riders at each of the following heights 2 x 70cm, 2 x 80cm, 2 x 90cm & 2 x 1m. The best **4** scores to count. The 30cm rule applies. The final at the Championships is a show jumping competition and may include a range of show jumps eg a stile, planks, a viaduct wall, brush fence etc.

RPL4) Regional Points Leagues competitions at the Championships are single phase.

RPL5) A horse/rider combination may compete in 3 teams at different heights (but not at 70cm if they jump at 1m).

RPL6) Riders will be eliminated on the second refusal.

RPL7) In RPL Competitions, riders competing in a 70cm class may be any age up to U19 on 1st Jan 2026. However, if that class is also a NCHQ Qualifier (teams) then all the riders in the class must be U14 on the 1st January 2026.

RPL8) Any combination of horse and rider cannot compete in a jumping class at an NSEA competition, except hors concours, where the height is 30cm lower than that at which they have previously completed, (height in any round) in **any** competition (not just NSEA competitions). This restriction does not apply to Open or Advanced Open classes. Therefore, Horse/Rider combinations jumping 1.30m or over may compete in NSEA Open or Advanced Open classes. If competing in a County Competition, please also see rule CchJQ1.
Please note: a rider competing hors concours in one class is not automatically excluded from competing in other classes above that height, at the same competition.
In addition, **a rider** who has jumped 1m, on any horse, cannot compete in the 70cm class, except h/c.

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70cm	Riders who have jumped 1m or above, may not compete in RPL 70 classes
80cm	Combinations may not have jumped 1.10m or above
90cm	Combinations may not have jumped 1.20m or above.
1m & 1.10m	Open to all competitors and combinations

3) County Show Jumping & Dressage Qualifiers (CchQ)

CchQ1) To be eligible to gain a qualification in this competition, the school must be situated in the County for which the qualifying competition is held.

CchQ2) There is only **ONE County qualifying competition, per discipline, per County, per annum**. The venue of the competition might not be located in the County for which the competition is a qualifier. Schools may also take part in County Qualifier Competitions which are not qualifiers for their County, and although they cannot gain a County qualification, they can gain RPL team points and individual RPL qualifications.

CchQ3) **The highest placed Team and Individual, at each level, from a school located in the relevant County, will qualify to represent their school and their County, at the NSEA Inter- County Championships**. At a competition, that is a Qualifier for more than one County, the highest placed Team & Individual, from a school located in each relevant County will qualify.
In the event of a tie, there will be a jump off/ride off to determine the winner.
INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS – Further Qualifications
At the Inter-County Championships at NSEA Hickstead in May, the winning placed team & individual National County Team & Individual Champion and 2nd place (Reserve Team & Individual Champion) in both the dressage & show jumping disciplines will qualify to compete at the NSEA National Championships in the following October.
See also Nations Cup (page 26)

3A) County Show Jumping Qualifying Competitions (CchJQ)

The NSEA Inter- County Championships 2026 is at the All England Jumping Course, Hickstead 23-25th May 2026
The aim of this competition is for riders to compete at levels that are not age- related (eg U14, U16 etc, like other sports). There is a County-specific rule which states that HORSE / RIDER COMBINATIONS may only compete in 2 consecutive height classes (see below). Also, **No rider** may compete in 70 & 1m or 80 & 1.10 classes at County qualifiers or the Championships.

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CchJQ1) Qualifying heights for teams and individuals County competitions are 70, 80, 90cm, 1m plus 1.10 (for individuals). Horse/Rider combinations may only compete in a team or as an individual at **two consecutive heights** and these can be 70cm & 80cm, 80cm & 90cm, 90cm & 1m but not 70cm & 90cm or 80 & 1m etc

However, if the 1.10 County competition class is also a Hickstead Elite qualifier, a rider can jump in the 90 & 1m COUNTY Qualifier and also jump the 1.10 Hickstead Elite class, but their result will not be counted in the County 1.10 qualifier placings.

In County qualifying Competitions (Cchq), an individual may ride a maximum of three different horses in any one class and a horse/rider combination may compete in 2 teams at the County qualifier, providing that they are at 2 different adjacent heights. No rider may compete in 70cm & 1m classes.

CchJQ2) NO RIDER WHO COMPETES AT 1M MAY JUMP IN THE 70CM CLASS ON ANY HORSE/PONY
There is no age restriction in 70cm classes.
Horse/Rider combinations jumping 1.30m or over may compete in NSEA Open 1m classes as a team member but will not be eligible for individual qualification.

CchJQ3) County Show Jumping Qualifiers will be single phase competitions. However, the format may be changed at the Championships.(see show schedule)

CchJQ4) Riders are eliminated on the 2nd refusal.

CchJQ5) Each team of four at a Championships must include two out of the original qualified four horse/rider combinations. **However, if, in exceptional circumstances, a previously qualified team has only one of the original horse/rider combinations remaining, the School may be permitted, at the discretion of the NSEA, to substitute two new horse/rider combinations to make up a team of three.**
Any wild card riders who are substituted into a team must either have completed a competition, at the relevant height, or be at the discretion of the Team Manager and confirmed by the NSEA.
Individual qualification refers to the horse/rider combination and therefore, neither the horse nor rider may be substituted at the Championships.

CchJQ6) **The 30cm Rule (General) applies** Any combination of horse and rider cannot compete in a jumping class at an NSEA competition, except hors concours, where the height is 30cm lower than that at which they have previously completed**, (height in any round of a competition)** in **any** competition (not just NSEA competitions). This restriction does not apply to Open or Advanced Open classes. Therefore, Horse/Rider combinations jumping 1.30m or over may compete in NSEA Open or Advanced Open classes. If competing in a County Competition, please also see rule CchJQ1.
CchJQ7) A rider competing hors concours in one class is not automatically excluded from competing in other classes above that height, at the same competition.
In addition, **a rider** who has jumped 1m cannot compete in the 70cm class, except h/c on any horse.

CchJQ8) No outside assistance is allowed.

Mini (Team & Individual)	70cm	U19 on Jan 1st 2026 Horse/rider combination cannot also compete at 90cm County Qualifier (2 consecutive heights). A rider who has jumped 1m, at any competition, cannot compete in this class, except h/c. Also see 30cm Rule Top team & top individual to qualify for Inter-County Championships at Hickstead May Top 6 placed individuals qualify for RPL Individual Championships at Hickstead August
Novice (Team & Individual)	80cm	U19 on Jan 1st 2026. Horse/rider combination cannot also compete at 1.00m County Qualifier (2 consecutive heights). Also see 30cm Rule Top team & top individual to qualify for Inter-County Championships at Hickstead May Top 6 placed individuals qualify for RPL Individual Championships at Hickstead August
Intermediate (Team & Individual)	90cm	U19 on Jan 1st 2026. Horse/rider combination cannot also compete at 1.10m County Qualifier (2 consecutive heights). See 30cm Rule Combination may not have jumped 1.20m Top team & top individual to qualify for Inter-County Championships at Hickstead May Top 6 placed individuals qualify for RPL Individual Championships at Hickstead August
Open (Team & Individual)	1.00m	U19 on Jan 1st 2026 **THE RIDER** IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO JUMP IN THE 70CM Q if competing at 1m Also see 30cm Rule Top team & top individual to qualify for Inter-County Championships at Hickstead May
Individual 1.10m	1.10m	U19 on Jan 1st 2026 Classes split for horses & ponies in order that distances can be adjusted for ponies Top 1 pony & top 1 horse to qualify for Inter-County Championships at Hickstead May

3B) County Team & Individual Dressage Qualifying Competitions (CchDQ)

The NSEA Inter- County Championships is at the NSEA, Hickstead 23rd – 25th May 2026
NSEA Competition & BD Rules.

Individuals
County Prelim Restricted Individual – open to riders that have never ridden above BD bronze prelim level, in any novice level dressage (affiliated or unaffiliated,) open pony club or novice BE eventing
County Prelim Open level – open to all horse/rider combinations not to have competed at Elementary level or above or BE Intermediate level.

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County Novice Individual – open to rider/horse combinations not to have competed at BD Medium level or above or BE Intermediate level.

Teams (of 3 or 4 , the best 3 percentage scores to count)
County Prelim Restricted Teams (4 x prelim riders that have never ridden above BD bronze prelim level, any novice level dressage (affiliated or unaffiliated,) open pony club or novice BE eventing.
County Open Teams (2 x prelim riders & 2 x novice riders) open to all.
Prelim section is open to horse & rider combinations that have not competed at British Dressage Elementary level or above. Novice section is open to all.

A horse/rider combination may only compete in one team.

CchDQ1) The test for 2025-26 Team and Individual Prelim
Prelim Restricted classes in Prelim 2 (2024)
Prelim Open Qualifiers is Prelim 3 (2024)

CchDQ2) The test for 2025-26 Team and Individual Novice Qualifiers is Novice 2 (2024)

CchDQ3) Dressage tests may be called at qualifiers, however, **not at the Championships, when tests must be ridden from memory, unless special dispensation has been agreed, prior to the event.** Headsets may be used in the warm up area but not during any test at any competition. Dressage whips may be carried in warm up arenas and during tests at qualifiers but not during the test at County Championships.

CchDQ4) NSEA Mochara County Dressage Championships at Hickstead, May 2026
Two horse/ rider combinations from the original qualifying team MUST be included and declared at the Championships.
If a horse/rider combination competes at a higher level than the qualification rules allow, following their qualification, that qualification will be forfeited and they are no longer able to compete at the County Championships.
Individual qualification refers to the horse/rider combination and therefore, neither the horse nor rider may be substituted at the Championships.

4) NSEA Eventers Challenge Series 2025-26 (EC)

The Eventers Challenge Championships is at the All England Jumping Course, Hickstead 23rd-25th May 2026
The intention of these rules is to reward riders who have a clear round and to penalise riders who have jumping penalties or who are significantly faster than the Optimum Time. Riders are penalised for riding too fast rather than too slow in order to encourage good riding .

Riders aim to complete their round as close to the Optimum time as possible. Where there are several competitors with a clear round, then the nearest to the Optimum Time will win, rewarding an appropriate judgement of pace around the course.

EC1) Open to Teams and Individuals

- Riders will jump a course of 5-8 show jumps and then proceed immediately into the XC phase of 10-15 simulated XC fences, depending on the size of the arena.
- The speed for the combined SJ & XC phases will be between 325m/m to 375m/m depending on the size of the arena – smaller arena = tighter turns which slow you down. A larger arena with flowing lines will ride on a quicker time. The speed for each class will be given in the schedule or on the noticeboard at the event. Times will be recorded to one-hundredth of a second, if the timing equipment allows. The judges reserve the right to adjust the Optimum Time after the first 8 horses (if they deem the Optimum time has been set too fast / too slow) and will notify competitors of any change immediately.
  The Optimum time will be published, but the display clock should not be visible, as it could influence the rider to go faster / slower.
- NSEA/BE Eventing Rules for tack and rider equipment for XC. No stopwatches allowed. No outside assistance. A bridle with a bit (worn in the horse's mouth) browband and noseband is compulsory and must be used in the conventionally accepted manner.
- There will be no style mark.

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- Top two teams and 4 Individuals at each height (70cm, 80cm, 90cm & 1m) to qualify for the NSEA Eventers Challenge Championship to be held at Hickstead in May. (Full details on the NSEA website)
- **A rider who competes at 1.00m on any horse, at any competition, may not compete at 70cm at any NSEA competition**
- No age restriction on the 70/75cm class

EC2) Dress: XC colours, body protectors are compulsory. Hair must be above collar length, long hair to be kept in place in a hair net. Rider must wear BE approved skull caps, no fixed peak SJ hats.

EC3) The competitor with the fewest penalties wins. In the event of a tie, the competitor closest to the optimum time will be the winner. In the team competition, the total of the best three scores is used to place the team. The combined difference from the Optimum Time of the 3 best scores is used to break any ties.

EC4) Organisers are asked to ensure that the XC phase includes elements that give a choice about the track and therefore, the time taken. Organisers are asked not to display a clock showing the time taken, visible to the rider, as the aim is to educate riders to ride by rhythm and feel, rather than looking at a clock or stopwatch.
XC fences may include fences that you would see on a XC course. Larger arenas may include banks, steps, water complexes and BE style approved portable fences etc. Other XC type fences may include rustic show jumps, palisades, brushes & arrowheads etc that may knock down (incurring jumping penalties)

Penalties are awarded as follows

Knockdown (to include SJ and knockable XC fences)	4 penalties
1st Refusal	4 penalties
2nd Refusal	8 penalties
3rd Refusal	Elimination
Rider Fall	Elimination
Horse Fall	Elimination
Starting before the bell, retaking an obstacle already jumped, error of course or outside assistance	Elimination
Where the Optimum Time is 120 seconds or less, for every commenced second in excess of 15 seconds under the optimum time	1 Penalty
Where the Optimum Time is more than 120 seconds, for every commenced second in excess of 15 seconds under the optimum time	1 penalty
Exceeding time limit (2 times the Optimum Time)	Elimination

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NSEA Eventer's Challenge/ Jumping with Style Super Qualifiers

NEW FOR 2025-26. The Eventer's Challenge format/rules outlined above have not changed. However, at Super Qualifiers, riders can gain both an EC Qualification for Hickstead and with style penalties added to their EC scores, a JWS qualification for the JWS Championships at Addington.
Therefore, all competitors scores will automatically count for both qualifications. See page 29 for the new JWS scoresheet.

5) New Windsor Intermediate Team Challenge SJ Qualifiers

In order to compete in the NSEA New Windsor Challenge Championships Gala Evening at the NSEA Championships 2026, schools need to qualify at one of the limited number of qualifying competitions held throughout the country. (See NSEA website for details) **The highest placed team, from each qualifier, will qualify to compete at the Championships,** providing the school has not already qualified. For the full list of qualifiers, please go to the NSEA Competitions page on the NSEA website / NSEA NEWS Page for the New Windsor Challenge.
A school may only qualify ONE team for this Championships, which will run under Nations Cup Rules. (1st rider of each team followed by 2nd rider etc)
A horse/rider combination who has competed at 1.20m may not compete in this competition.
Two horse/ rider combinations from the original qualifying team MUST be included and declared at the New Windsor Championship. Teams to be made up of 3 or 4 riders, the best 3 scores to count at both qualifiers & the Championship.
The 30cm rule applies.

6) The Hickstead Elite Show Jumping Qualifiers (HEQ)

In order to compete in the Hickstead Elite Championships classes at Hickstead in May / June 2026, schools need to qualify at one of the limited number of qualifying competitions held throughout the country. Single phase. Fences may be raised 5cm at the Championships

There will be two qualifying classes

a) Hickstead Elite 1m Teams (Championships May 2026)

Top 2 teams to qualify. If a school qualifies more than one team, those qualifying teams must comprise different horse/rider combinations.

Two horse/ rider combinations from the original qualifying team MUST be included and declared at the Hickstead Championships.

b) Hickstead Elite 1.10m Individuals (Championships June 2026)

This class is split into a) horses and b) ponies

The horse/rider combination must be the same one that qualified. No substitutions of horse or rider may be made in this class.

The top 2 horses & top 2 ponies will qualify, providing they complete with fewer than a total of 8 penalties.

7) NSEA Team & Individual ODE Challenge and 3DE Eventing Final

Teams & Individual riders can compete at NSEA ODE qualifiers / equivalent PC / RC or Cotswold Cup competitions around courses of BE standard and qualify for the NSEA 3DE Championships at Moreton, Dorset in September 2026

Teams of riders from the same school will be made up for the final from of 3 or 4 riders who have all gained the minimum qualification requirement. (maximum 8 penalties in the SJ phase and no XC jumping penalties).

There is also a 3DE in April 2026 at Moreton

ODE1) NSEA competitors must be dressed correctly at events, hair below collar length must be kept in a hairnet in all phases. Horses are to be plaited.

8) Pop-Up Dressage Winter Series 2025-26

The aim of this series is to allow individual NSEA members to compete in a national dressage league without leaving home. November - March.

POP1) All riders must be NSEA members and the test videoed must be ridden by the rider named on the entry.

POP2) Horses must be entered under their registered name.

POP3) Tests may be called

POP4) BD rules for tack & clothing (show or smart jacket and jodhpurs/breeches which may be pale or navy)
Horses may wear brushing boots in the test.

POP5) Horses do not need to be plaited for these competitions, but should be neatly turned out.

POP6) Dressage Tests may be ridden in any 20 x 40m arena on a surface or on grass.

POP7) Tests must be videoed from the 'C' end of the arena and must be completed in one session, as you would in any competition.

Stand back approx. 3m from C, as if you were in the position of the dressage judge.

Make sure that the whole horse is in the video at all times (Tests may be videoed from a phone, iPad or camera)

POP8) You may only submit one horse/rider combination video per class and two different horse/rider combination video tests per month. **You may not re-submit any video that has already been previously judged in any competition**.

POP9) Put your video on YouTube – include your <u>first name only and the name of your horse</u> in your code. Make sure that your password takes you to your YouTube video- please test that it works.

POP10) Points for the league will be awarded 1st place= 8points down to 8th place = 1pt. The winner of the league will be the horse/rider combination with the most points. All tests will be judged by a dressage judge. In the event of a tie, the last test submitted will be judged by an additional judge and the placings will be taken from that.

POP11) A horse may be ridden by 2 different riders in the same test.

POP12) A rider may only compete in consecutive classes and may compete up to 3 different horses in the dressage series.

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POP13) A horse/rider combination may only compete at one level below the level at which they normally compete. Classes 1 & 2 (Walk & Trot Test plus first Prelim test) are restricted to riders who have not qualified individually to compete at the NSEA Dressage Championships or the County Dressage Championships. Riders competing at Elementary level may only compete in Class 4 (Novice) and 5 (Elementary). Riders competing at Novice level may not compete in Class 2 (first Prelim test)
POP14) Riders in the Walk & Trot may be led but will be deemed Hors Concours.
POP15) A test may only be submitted once and CANNOT be included from any previous competition.
POP 16) At the end of the series, in March, the winning horse/rider combination in each class, will be the one with the highest number of points in each section, will win a rug and be declared Champion of their respective classes. Additionally, the top 8 horse/rider combinations from each class qualify to compete at the 'Champion of Champions' Pop Up Final at NSEA Hickstead in May 2026. This will be judged by judges who have not previously judged classes during the series.
There will be one overall winner who, based on their percentage score, will be crowned Champion of Champions. Also, the top 3 in each section will receive rosettes and prizes.

9) NSEA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

to be held at Addington Manor October 16-18th 2026

NSEA NATIONAL DRESSAGE Qualifier RULES

British Dressage Rules 2026 for (tests, tack etc) and NSEA Rules 2026
Dressage tests may be called at qualifiers, however, **not at the Championships, when tests must be ridden from memory, unless special dispensation has been agreed, prior to the event. (See Rule D14)**
Headsets may be used in the warm up area but not during any test at any competition.

Dressage whips may be carried in warm up arenas and during tests at qualifiers but not during a test at a Championships.

Qualifying Classes – those who qualify
Top 4 individuals and 2 Teams, per class, to qualify for the NSEA Championships 2026

DQ1) Prelim Individual Qualifiers
Open to horse & rider combinations that have not competed at British Dressage Elementary level or above. Riders may not have competed at Medium level

DQ2) Novice Individual Qualifiers
Horse/rider combinations never to have competed at Medium level or above.
However, riders may have done, but on a different horse.

DQ3) Elementary (Individual) - No restrictions on horse or rider

DQ4) At qualifiers for individual classes, if there are fewer than 5 riders, then the top 2 riders only will qualify, unless the 3rd & 4th placed riders achieve a score of 65% or above, in which case they will also qualify.

DQ5) Teams
Teams shall be made up of 3 or 4 riders, best 3 scores to count. 2 riders compete at Prelim level and 2 riders compete at Novice level.
Riders may compete in either or both tests (Prelim & Novice) providing they are in different teams on different horses. However, a second team may not be made up of the same 4 riders on different horses.
Prelim & Novice riders in a team must fulfil the relevant rules criteria (See rules DQ1 & DQ2). Prelim section is open to horse & rider combinations that have not competed at British Dressage Elementary level or above. Novice riders in a team have no restriction.
The top two teams will qualify for the Championships at each qualifier.

All tests at qualifiers are 20 x 40m. Team tests at Championships are also in 20 x 40 arenas.
Individual Championships tests will take place in 20x60m arenas

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NSEA NATIONAL SHOW JUMPING Qualifier RULES

TEAM & INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS / CHAMPIONSHIPS
NSEA Rules 2026 see also British Show Jumping Rules 2026

JQ1) Mini (70-75cm) Riders to be under 14 on 1st January 2026. The minimum age of a rider is 7yrs of age to compete in mini classes at the Championships (the rider must have reached their 7th birthday by the first day of the Championships.
Riders cannot have competed at 1m on ANY horse, to be eligible for this class.
The minimum age for 80cm classes is 8yrs of age on the first day of the Championships

JQ2) The 30cm Rule applies – Any combination of horse and rider cannot compete in a jumping class at an NSEA competition, except hors concours, where the height is 30cm lower than that at which they have previously completed, in **any** competition (not just NSEA competitions). This restriction does not apply to Open or Advanced Open classes. Therefore, Horse/Rider combinations jumping 1.30m or over may compete in NSEA Open or Advanced Open classes. If competing in a County Competition, please also see rule CchJQ1.
Please note: a rider competing hors concours in one class is not automatically excluded from competing in other classes above that height, at the same competition.
In addition, **a rider** who has jumped 1m cannot compete in the 70cm class, except h/c on any horse.

Any combination of horse and rider that qualifies at one height, and then completes at a height 30cm higher than that qualification height, in **any competition (not just NSEA competitions)**, will forfeit their qualification. **This rule does apply across disciplines.** That is, if you complete at 1.10m, in any jumping discipline, you cannot jump at 80cm on the same horse/pony, in any NSEA jumping discipline.
This restriction does not apply to Open or Advanced Open qualifications. (If you jump 1.30m you wouldn't forfeit a 1m qualification).

JQ3) Qualifiers shall be run as single phase competitions. Riders will be eliminated on the second refusal at Qualifiers and the Championships. Heights in the first part of the round shall be as follows, and can be raised by 5cm in the jump off phase:
Mini – 70cm (team & individual)
Novice – 80cm (team & individual)
Intermediate – 90cm (team & individual)
Open – 1m (team & individual)
Advanced Open – 1.10m (individual) (split into horse & pony sections)

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JQ4) There will be a 1.10m team competition at the Championships for riders who have qualified in 1m & 1.10 classes. These qualifications may be gained in either Show Jumping or Arena Eventing classes. The team must be made up of riders from the same school. 1.10m ponies must have a current JMB measurement at 148cm or under.

JQ5) Heights may be raised a further 5cm in each round at the Championships.

Show Jumping at a glance…

Mini	70 – 75cm single phase	Riders minimum age 7yrs on the first day of Championships, maximum age U14 on 1st January 2026 **A rider who competes at 1.00m on any horse, at any competition, may not compete at 70cm at any NSEA competition.** 30cm Rule applies. Horse/Rider combination not to have jumped in ANY affiliated or unaffiliated 1.00m jumping discipline Top 2 teams & top 4 individuals to qualify for National Championships at Addington 5th& 6th placed individuals qualify for RPL Individual Championships at Hickstead
Novice	80 – 85cm single phase	Age – U19 on 1st Jan 2026. 30cm Rule applies. Minimum age 8yrs on the first day of the Championships. Horse/ Rider combination not to have competed in 1.10m classes, but riders may have competed in 1.10m classes on a different horse. Top 2 teams & top 4 individuals to qualify for National Championships at Addington 5th& 6th placed individuals qualify for RPL Individual Championships at Hickstead

Intermediate	90 – 95cm single phase	Age – U19 on 1st Jan 2026. 30cm Rule applies. Horse/rider combinations not to have competed at 1.20 Top 2 teams & top 4 individuals to qualify for National Championships at Addington 5th& 6th placed individuals qualify for RPL Individual Championships at Hickstead
Open	1m-1.05m	Age – U19 on 1st Jan 2026. Top 2 teams & top 4 individuals to qualify for Championships
Advanced Open	1.10m-1.15m	Age- U 19 on 1st Jan 2026 Individual only class Top 2 horses & top 2 ponies to qualify for Championships

NSEA NATIONAL ARENA EVENTING Qualifier RULES - (Jumping with Style)

JWS Rules remain unchanged EXCEPT when combined **with Eventer Challenge at a SUPER QUALIFIER**

(Note these rules are different to the NSEA Eventers Challenge Rules which you will find on pages 18/19 of these Rules.
Arena Eventing ('Jumping with Style') penalty score is the combination of four marks - SJ penalties, XC penalties, time penalties and a style penalty mark. The winner is the rider with the fewest penalties overall, so like eventing, you do not necessarily need to jump a clear round, however, there is a strong emphasis on good riding. Courses tend to be more technical than Eventers Challenge and also, slightly slower in speed, to enable the rider to show the style judge how well they can ride lines. There is no penalty for riding too fast, but style may be compromised. The very best rounds will be with no jumping penalties, the rider demonstrating good show jumping technique and also the ability to go up a gear and ride forwards with accuracy & balance in the XC phase.
XC lines to include a curving line, a simple serpentine and two fences on an angle on 2 strides or more. Angles and skinny fences increase in severity through the different levels of competition, but should still be built on flowing lines.

There is an emphasis on the rider's **style and effectiveness**, and the **harmony between horse and rider**.

NSEA JwS Rules (as follows) plus British Eventing Rules 2026

JwS1) Mini (70-75cm) Riders to be under 14 on 1st January 2026. Riders cannot have competed at 1m on ANY horse, to be eligible for this class.

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JwS2) The competition begins with a show jumping round started by a bell. The rider completes the show jumping section, then passes through a timing beam into the XC phase (which has an optimum time) and completes the XC phase, which will include angled rails, arrowheads and other simulated XC fences.
Some XC fences have a knock down top rail. If this is knocked down, 4 penalties will be added to the penalty score. This all takes place in one arena.

JwS3) Arena Eventing is an Eventing Competition. The winner will be the individual/team with the combination of the fewest penalties, once the following four components have been added together:
- SJ jumping penalties
- XC jumping penalties
- XC time penalties
- Overall style penalties (awarded for both SJ & XC phases combined)

THEREFORE – a team or individual having had fences down, can be placed ahead of a team or individual which has jumped clear rounds. As this is an Eventing competition, much more is taken into consideration than simply jumping clear.

JwS4) In the event of a tie, the competitor with the highest style mark (fewest style penalties) will be the winner. If still equal, the one closest to the optimum time will be the winner.

JwS5) All team members are automatically eligible for individual placings, except at the NSEA Championships where Individuals must have pre-qualified.

JwS6) The 30cm Rule applies - Any combination of horse and rider cannot compete in a jumping class at an NSEA competition, except hors concours, where the height is 30cm lower than that at which they have previously completed, in **any** competition (not just NSEA competitions). This restriction does not apply to Open or Advanced Open classes. Therefore, Horse/Rider combinations jumping 1.30m or over may compete in NSEA Open or Advanced Open classes. If competing in a County Competition, please also see rule CchJQ1.
Please note: a rider competing hors concours in one class is not automatically excluded from competing in other classes above that height, at the same competition.
In addition, **a rider** who has jumped 1m cannot compete in the 70cm class, except h/c on any horse.
Any combination of horse and rider that qualifies at one height, and then completes at a height 30cm higher than that qualification height in **any competition (not just NSEA competitions)**, will forfeit their qualification. **This rule does apply across disciplines.** That is, if you jump at 1.10m, in any jumping discipline, you cannot jump at 80cm on the same horse/pony, in any NSEA jumping discipline.
This restriction does not apply to Open or Advanced Open qualifications. (If you jump 1.30m you wouldn't forfeit a 1m qualification).

JwS7) Dress

XC colours to be worn – including body protector & jockey skull cap to comply with BE Rules. (See hat rule D7)
BETA Level 3 body protector 2018 blue & black label
No fixed peak hats.
Hair to be worn above the collar.
Gloves should be worn.
No earrings or other visible piercings.

JwS8) Competitions are for Teams & Individuals

Arena Eventing at a glance …

Mini	70-75cm	Age – U14 on 1st Jan 2026. Riders minimum age 8yrs on the first day of Championships, **A rider who competes at 1.00m on any horse, at any competition, may not compete at 70cm at any NSEA competition, except h/c.** 30cm Rule applies Top 2 teams & 4 individuals to qualify for Championships
Novice	80-85cm	Open to combinations of horses and riders who have not completed at BE 100 or higher or Badminton Grass Roots 90 Final. 30cm Rule applies. Age – U19 on 1st Jan 2026 Top 2 teams & 4 individuals to qualify for Championships
Intermediate	90-95cm	Age – U19 on 1st Jan 2026. Open to all except horse/rider combinations that have completed at BE U18 Novice Champs, 1*, Junior or Pony Final Trials & Champs or Badminton Grass Roots 100 Final. 30cm Rule applies. Top 2 teams & 4 individuals to qualify for Championships
Open	1m-1.05m	Age – U19 on 1st Jan 2026 Open to all. Top 2 teams & 4 individuals to qualify for Championships
Advanced Open	1.10m-1.15m	Age – U19 on 1st Jan 2026 Open to all. Top 2 horses & top 2 ponies to qualify for Championships

Championships – all courses may be raised a further 5cm at the Championships.

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JwS9) PENALTIES FOR S.J AND X.C PHASES (combined) OF ARENA EVENTING

Knockdown	4 penalties
1st Refusal	4 penalties
2nd Refusal	8 penalties
3rd Refusal	Elimination
Rider Fall	Elimination
Horse Fall	Elimination
Starting before the bell /Retaking an obstacle already jumped/ Error of course	Elimination
Every commenced second over the optimum time	1 penalty
Exceeding time limit (3 times the time allowed)	Elimination

Please Note – A horse which crosses its tracks in Show Jumping will be awarded penalties. In the Cross Country phase, a horse will only be penalised if it has been presented at a fence, except when going through a combination marked A,B,C.

JwS10) SPEED FOR SJ PHASE OF ARENA EVENTING
MINI – 300 m/m
NOVICE – OPEN = 325 m/m**

JwS11) SPEED FOR X.C. PHASE OF ARENA EVENTING
Mini = 325m/m
Novice, Intermediate & Open = 325 – 350 m/m** **(at the judge's discretion, depending on the size & shape of the arena. The judges reserve the right to adjust the optimum time after the first 8 horses, if necessary)**
A rider will not receive time penalties for going too fast- but may lose style marks if they look untidy/unsafe
NOTE – NO STOP WATCHES ALLOWED. The OPTIMUM TIME is not published before the start of the class as it may give competitors who compete towards the end of the section an unfair advantage.

JwS12) There will be a 2 minute warning given to riders not ready to jump, before elimination.

JwS13) Under NSEA Rules, a bit must be worn XC.
A bridle with a bit (worn in the horse's mouth) browband and noseband is compulsory and must be used in the conventionally accepted manner.

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See the page 29 for a copy of an Arena Eventing (JWS) judge's score sheet

NSEA COMBINED TRAINING Qualifier RULES

Combined training classes for the NSEA Championships at Addington 2026 (Dressage is run under BD Rules and Show Jumping under BS Rules) for teams and individuals.
Riders complete a dressage test and then jump a round of show jumps. Jumping penalties are added to dressage penalties to give the total score.

For 2026, there will be TWO team mixed height sections and THREE Individual qualifying sections.
Teams are made up of 3 or 4 riders
1) Combined Teams Novice / Intermediate (2 riders jump 80cm and 2 riders jump 90cm)
2) Combined Teams Intermediate/Open (2 riders jump 90cm and two riders jump 1m)
Team riders will automatically count as individuals.

All riders will ride the same test BD Dressage Test Prelim 2 (2024) before jumping one of the 3 height sections 80, 90 and 1m. A horse/rider combination may only compete once in the intermediate section.

Novice	Dressage Prelim 2 (2004), Show Jumping 80/85cm
Intermediate	Dressage Prelim 2 (2024), Show Jumping 90/95cm
Open	Dressage Prelim 2(2024), Show Jumping 1m/1.05

The top 2 teams in each class and 4 individuals (per height section) qualify for the NSEA Championships

Nations Cup Show Jumping

Horse/rider combinations will be invited to compete in the NSEA Nations Cup Mixed Height Competition to be held at the NSEA National Championships in October.
One rider at 70cm, 80cm, 90cm & 1m to compete for the Nations Cup Show Jumping Team. Teams of 4, best 3 scores to count.

Scotland
England North
Wales
Middle England
England South

Each squad will parade prior to the start of the competition and will line up for the prize giving afterwards.

How to qualify…

ENGLAND South & Middle – The fastest clear round (from team and individual sections) at 70cm, 80cm 90cm & 1m at the National Inter-County Show Jumping Championships at Hickstead in May.
WALES - North Welsh schools can qualify at South View in September & Southern Welsh Schools at Hartpury in September. Best 4 results (1 per height) from the combined Welsh entries.
SCOTLAND & England North - Scottish schools qualifier will be at the Northern Championships at Alnwick Ford in September. (see NSEA website for details).

10) Specific Rules that apply to <u>all</u> NSEA Championships (at a glance)

Grass Roots Championships (August)
RPL Individual Championships (August)
RPL Team Points League Championships (October)
County Dressage & Show Jumping Championships (May)
Eventers Challenge Championships (May)
Pop Up Dressage Championships (May)
Hickstead Elite (May/June) & New Windsor Championships (October)
National Dressage, SJ & JWS Championships (October)

CH1 / D2) Changing Schools

a) *A rider who changes schools in 2025/26 can only then compete for their new school, unless they qualified with their previous school, for the 2026 Championships, prior to moving schools, in which case, they can represent their previous school, <u>but only at the Championships,</u> with the Head Teacher of the previous School's permission.*
b) *If a rider qualifies for one school, then changes school, they may ride at the Championships for the original school (see "a" above). However, if they also qualify, in the same class, for their new school, they may compete for either school but <u>not</u> for both in the same class, unless on different horses. They cannot be used as a substitute for their old school, once they have started at the new school.*
c) *Riders may represent more than one School at the Championships providing the necessary permission is obtained from each School.*
d) *Once a rider leaves a school, they may no longer compete for that school (<u>except</u> at the Championships and providing they have qualified to do so, as detailed above). They may not, therefore, be used as a team "Wild Card" substitute for the Championships without prior qualification, as detailed above. A rider may not compete for their new school until they are enrolled at that school, and the academic School Year has started. Any rider who competes for a school they do not attend may forfeit any qualifications for Championships and their NSEA membership for the following year.*

CH2 / D4*) To compete, horses and ponies must be a minimum of 4 years of age and a minimum of 5 years of age to compete at a Championships*

CH3/ E7) *Each team of four at a Championships must include two out of the original qualified four horse/rider combinations.*

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However, if, in exceptional circumstances, a previously qualified team has only one of the original horse/rider combinations remaining, the School may be permitted, at the discretion of the NSEA, to substitute two new horse/rider combinations to make up a team of three.
A Team Manager may have up to two wild card substitutions providing they fulfil the following criteria and all other restrictions listed in these rules:

a) *The substitute horse/rider combination, should have successfully completed an NSEA Competition in the same year or a BE, BS or Pony Club competition, at the same level or above, or may, in some cases, be included at the discretion of the Team Manager, providing the circumstances have been discussed with and agreed by the NSEA.*

b) *A team may qualify with a team of only three riders, then take a fourth as one wild card, providing they fulfil the above criteria (see 'a')*

c) *If a team rider is eliminated at a qualifier and their team goes on to qualify, that rider may not compete at the Championships unless they successfully complete at another competition, at the same level or above and their entry is sent with an authorising letter from their Team Manager. The eliminated rider cannot be counted as an original combination. They will be counted as a substitute for the Championships.*

d) *A school, having qualified a team, may not qualify the same team of horse/rider combinations again, in the same class (same discipline, same height) and then split that team, to create two teams comprising two of the original horse/rider combinations in each team and drafting in two wild card substitute combinations into each, in order to turn the original qualified team of four horse/rider combinations into two teams for the Championships.*

CH4/ E8) *Individual qualification refers to the horse/rider combination and therefore, neither the horse nor rider may be substituted at a Championships.*

CH5) *At CHAMPIONSHIPS only, in the event of a serious accident to a horse or rider in the ring, whereby a vet or paramedic on site deems that the horse or rider is unfit to continue competing in any further classes throughout the duration of the championships, a team manager may substitute a different horse/rider into other classes within 30mins of the accident/injury occurring.*

CH6) Dressage Championships-
No Callers - tests to be ridden from memory unless special dispensation has been agreed, prior to the event.
No whips.

CH7) At an NSEA Championships, qualified horses may compete in 4 classes per day, or 6 classes on two consecutive days. However, for the welfare of the horse, the Organisers reserve the right to withdraw any horse, which the judges feel has competed excessively.

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CH8) Team SJ Championship Jump Off's. The top 8 teams (and individuals) qualify from an initial round, for the final jump off round at the Championships. Qualified teams will carry their team score from the first round through to the final jump off and they will jump in reverse order of penalties, including any time penalties.
The team score from the first round will then be added to the team score in the second round, so teams are placed on their team faults from both rounds, plus the time from the second round.
It is not the combined scores from each individual rider that count for the final team score, but the best 3 scores from each round)

CH9) Horses are to be plaited for Championships and Championships Prize Givings
Most Prize Givings are un-mounted. The top 8 teams and individuals are expected to be correctly dressed in competition kit and hat, and attend prize givings. Prizes are to be collected at the prize giving ceremony. They will not be sent out afterwards. Therefore, if necessary, a representative needs to attend in the rider's absence.

CH10) Horse/rider combinations may not school / compete at a venue within 7 days of a National Qualifier if the venue will be using the same fences / course at the qualifier.

CH11) Horses must be 5 yrs old in order to compete at a Championships.

CH12) Declarations for Championships must be made to the Show Secretary at the time of entry (stating where & when the team / individual qualified) on the Declaration Form on the schedule.

CH13) SJ and JWS. Jumps may be raised up to 5cm at a Championships (except Grass Roots)

CH14) Riders to be correctly dressed in Competition Dress at all Championships prize givings.
If a rider is unable to attend a prize giving, they need to find a representative to collect rosettes/ prizes. No rosettes or prizes will be sent on after the event, without prior agreement from the Show Secretary and only on receipt of a SAE.

NSEA Show Jumping Plate Championships has now been replaced by the RPL Individual Championships.

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NSEA Jumping with Style

Score Sheet 2025-26

Rider…….School……..No…..

Rider	SJ / 15 marks	XC / 15 marks
Position		
Balance		
Lines		
Pace		
Partnership		
Sub total (out of max. 150)		
Mark X **0.04** multiply total x 0.04 for a style mark out of 6		
TOTAL STYLE PENALTIES (convert to penalties by deducting the style mark from 6 - lowest is best)		

Style marks are awarded in both SJ & XC phases separately
Position *– secure and effective lower leg, rider following the movement rather than going ahead of it. Sympathetic hands. Use of upper body to help balance the horse.*
Balance *- of rider around the turns. Use of both reins in contact and an ability to support for the outside shoulder, rather than turning on the inside hand.*
Lines- *Clear and confident lines. Ability to plan ahead and adjust accordingly.*
Pace*- an ability to adjust the pace through the course, showing a change of gear in the XC phase, where appropriate.*
Partnership*- the overall impression of harmony & empathy in order to create a positive impression in both phases.*

Positive comment…….

Something to work on…….

Signature……

Admin	
Style Penalties = EC Penalties =	
TOTAL JWS PENALTIES =	

Glossary of Terms

Single Phase Show Jumping Competitions
The course is in two parts. Having jumped the first part of the course, all competitors will immediately continue, even if they have faults (unless they have been eliminated), to jump the second part of the course, which is against the clock. The winner is the rider with the fewest (or zero) faults, accumulated over both sections, with the fastest time over the second part of the course.
Maximum Time- twice the optimum time allowed to complete the course.

Refusals
In Grass Roots competitions, riders are eliminated on the 3rd refusal.
County Championships, Qualifiers and Regional Points League Competitions, riders are eliminated on the 2nd refusal.
National Championships, Qualifiers for the National Championships, Hickstead Elite and Windsor Classes, riders are eliminated on the 2nd refusal.

Eventers Challenge
Show jumping & simulated XC fences with an optimum time & no style marks. Jumping penalties have priority over time faults – so ideally, you need to go clear to win! The courses can be more twisty than JwS – with 'inside' & 'outside' lines on turns to make riders think (and not ride recklessly fast) The time should be a fair pace (but not a flat out gallop) The optimum time is between 325-375 m/m and will be set according to the size /shape of the arena.

Arena Eventing (Jumping with Style)
A four part competition made up of SJ and XC fences. Riders are judged on style, time, SJ & XC penalties added together.

EC/JWS Super-Qualifiers for 2025-26
NEW FOR 2025-26. A small number of Super-QUALIFIERS (COMBINED EC & JWS) qualifiers will run. Therefore, all competitors will automatically count for both qualifications.
EC jumping rules will apply at these events. The JWS winner will be the rider with the lowest number of penalties from EC & Style phases.
See page 29 for the new JWS scoresheet NSEA Rules 2026.

Competition Codes
The meaning of the competition codes, used in the rules and on the website, are as follows:-
GR – Grass Roots Competition
GRQ – Grass Roots Qualifier.
RPL – Regional Points Leagues Competition
Cchq SJ – County Show Jumping Qualifier
Cchq DR– County Dressage Qualifier.
NCHQ – National Championships Qualifier.
JwS CHQ- National Jumping with Style Qualifier
SJ CHQ – National Show Jumping Qualifier
DR CHQ – National Dressage Qualifier
ECQ- Eventers Challenge Qualifier

Ascending levels of Dressage in NSEA competitions…
Introductory- Walk & Trot (Grass Roots level)
Preliminary (prelim)
Novice,
Elementary (Ele),
Medium