



# **THE BARRIER SPRING FESTIVAL: ENGLAND & WALES 2026**

**(For Scotland & Northern Ireland see Regional Rules)**

## **RULES FOR ARENA EVENTING, DRESSAGE & SHOW JUMPING**

**Championships to be held at Addington  
Equestrian  
28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

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# 1. GENERAL RULES FOR ALL SPORTS

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these rules. In any unforeseen circumstances, it is the duty of the relevant officials to make a decision in a sporting spirit and to approach as nearly as possible the intention of these rules.

If not covered by these rules, please refer to the relevant current Pony Club Sport Rulebook.

## **1.1 QUALIFYING STAGES**

There are two stages of the Barrier Spring Festival competition in England and Wales:

1. Area Competitions will be held any time before 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Members do not need to qualify for their Area Qualifier
2. Those who are successful at their Area Competition will go forward to the Barrier Spring Festival Championships in March 2026

The competition comprises:

- The individual competition – the scores for all competitors in the competition automatically count for this competition. It is also open to all competitors in the team competition (below).
- The team competition – open to teams that must consist of three members from each Branch/Centre with all three scores to count.

## **1.2 TEAM COMPETITION**

Branches/Centres may enter a team of **three** members in each section of the Area Qualifier competitions. The team members must compete in the same level of competition. The team must comprise of **three** members and **all three scores count**.

Area/Mixed Teams will not be eligible to qualify for the Championships.

## **1.3 SADDLERY & DRESS**

The current Pony Club saddlery and dress rules for each sport apply.

## **1.4 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY**

- All competitors must be members of the Pony Club both at the closing date for entries to the competition and at the date of the competition.
- A combination of horse and rider can compete at two adjacent levels of the same sport.
- No horse may be ridden more than once in the same class.
- Riders may ride a maximum of three horses at the Area Competition and two horses at the Championships in any one class.
- Horses may only be ridden by one rider in a class at the Area Competitions and at the Championships.

## **2. AREA COMPETITION RULES FOR ALL SPORTS**

Held in 16 Areas throughout the country any time before 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Area Competition dates can be found on The Pony Club website.

**All members must attend their own Area Qualifier, no exemptions will be given.**

Competitors may ride a maximum of three horses at the Area Competition and two horses at the Championships in any one class. In the event of a rider qualifying more than two horses for the Championships, they must nominate which two they will take at the Area Competition. The other qualifying place will be passed down the line.

### **2.1 SUBSTITUTIONS**

After the closing date of declarations, no substitutions may be made of horses or riders except in cases of illness, lameness or other unavoidable circumstances which must be certified by the District Commissioner or their appointed Representative.

In such a case:

- If a horse has to be substituted an alternative rider may be nominated.
- If a rider has to be substituted an alternative horse may be nominated.
- If a Branch/Centre enters two teams, substitution may be made from one team to the other.

### **2.2 PASSING DOWN THE QUALIFICATION**

**On the day** - If a competitor is unable to go to the Championships, then the qualifying places will be passed down the line. Please ensure every competitor confirms to the organiser/steward that they are intending to enter the Championships. If any of the individual qualifiers are in a qualifying team their place will be passed down the line.

**After the Area Qualifier** – If a competitor is unable to go to the Championships, they must notify The Pony Club Office as soon as possible so that their qualifying place can be passed down the line. This will only be done up until the closing date for entry to the Championships.

### **2.3 ENTRY FEE**

Entry fee to be set by the organising Branch/Centre or venue.

Please contact the relevant Show Secretary for details, these can also be found on The Pony Club website.

### 3. CHAMPIONSHIP RULES FOR ALL SPORTS

#### **3.1 SUBSTITUTIONS**

Any substituted horse/rider that makes a new combination must be eligible for the level at which it is the substitute.

**Teams** – the DC/Centre Proprietor may substitute rider(s) and/or horse(s) in the Team before entering, but at least two combinations of horse and rider must be the same as those that started in the qualifying team at the Area Competition. If a horse has to be substituted an alternative rider may be nominated. If a rider has to be substituted an alternative horse may be nominated. **Substitute riders and horses must have completed the Area Competition in the sport that they are entering.**

**Individuals** – A substitute horse may be entered but not a substitute rider.

No substitutes shall be allowed after the competition has started.

#### **3.2 ENTRY FEE**

Entries for competitors, who have qualified for the Championships, should be made through the online entry system as soon as possible after their Area Competition.

- Championship Classes - £37.00 per combination
- Warm-Up / Support Classes (if run) - £27.00 per combination

## 4. ARENA EVENTING RULES

### 4.1 SADDLERY AND DRESS

Cross Country compliant kit and saddlery should be worn.  
Stop watches are not permitted.

### 4.2 ELIGIBILITY

**Horses/ponies** must be aged 5 years or older.

**PC70** – Riders in this class must be aged 13 years and under on 1st January 2025, even if the Area competition is in 2025.

**PC80, PC90, and PC100** – Open to all Members of The Pony Club.

### 4.3 NUMBERS TO QUALIFY FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Qualification at Area Competitions will work on a ratio basis as below. If any of the individual qualifiers are in a qualifying team their place will be passed down the line.

#### Teams:

The top Branch/Centre team from each Area at each height will qualify. Where a qualifying individual is a member of a qualifying team, the qualifying individual place should be passed down the line.

#### 70cm Individuals:

Number of starters	Number to qualify (plus any tying for these places)
0 – 40	2
41 and above	3

#### 80cm Individuals

Number of starters	Number to qualify (plus any tying for these places)
0 – 40	2
41 and above	3

#### 90cm Individuals

Number of starters	Number to qualify (plus any tying for these places)
0 – 30	2
31 and above	3

#### 100cm Individuals

Number of starters	Number to qualify (plus any tying for these places)
0 – 20	2
21 and above	3

### 4.4 GUIDELINES FOR PONY CLUB ARENA EVENTING

Arena Eventing is a two-phase competition, which can be run on either an indoor arena, outdoor surface, or a grass arena. General rules follow the current Pony Club Eventing Rule book except as modified below.

Competitors will jump a course of show jumps immediately followed by a course of cross-country style fences\*\*. There will be no more than 20 (dependent on the size of the arena) jumping efforts in total. This may be increased to 25 jumping efforts at the Championships.

The course at the Spring Festival Championships will finish with the last fence as a show jump, the Bogey Fence, which may be up to 10cm higher than the rest of the course. Knocking down the Bogey Fence will incur 6 penalties, for all other penalties the Bogey Fence will be deemed as part of the Show Jumping section. Area Competitions may include a bogey show jump fence to finish the course if they wish.

The optimum time should be based on a speed of 325mpm for PC70, 350mpm for PC80 and PC90, and 375mpm for PC100.

The winner will be the competitor with the lowest number of penalties. In the event of a tie the winner will be the one closest to the optimum time.

There should be a drawn order and, where possible, approximate start times given in advance of the day.

The course will only be open for walking before the class starts.

The Judge's decision is final.

#### **4.5. NOTES**

**\*\*XC Portable Fences/Fixed Fences** – These must not be used unless they can be properly and safely anchored. (See Eventing Organisers Handbook and [Guidance on Cross Country Fences](#). In their place, and especially on surfaces, knockdown substitutes should be used, i.e. rustic show jumps or those supplied by specialist manufacturers such as “Jump for Joy”

Both the Show Jumping and Cross-Country sections must be timed for all competitions.

**Safety Cups** – Safety Cups are mandatory for all Pony Club Show Jumping Competitions including any practice fences. To be used on the back rails of spread fences and middle and back rails of triple bars. They should also be used for all knockdown fences in the XC Phase.

It is recommended a BS or BE Course Designer, preferably one with Arena Eventing experience, is used if possible. For Area Competitions this is mandatory. If the course designer is not qualified, then approval must be sought from The Pony Club.

Courses should be built within the dimensions set out in The Pony Club Eventing Rules.

#### **4.6 PENALTIES**

##### **SJ Phase:**

Knocking down obstacle	4 penalties
Knocking down Bogey Fence (if applicable)	6 penalties
First disobedience of horse	4 penalties
Second disobedience of horse in whole course	8 penalties
Third disobedience of horse in whole course	Elimination*
(Each circle or crossing tracks between fences counts as one disobedience)	
First fall of rider	Elimination*
Fall of Horse	Elimination*
Error of course not rectified	Elimination*
Failure to start or jump next fence within 60 seconds	Elimination*
Starting before the Bell	Elimination*
Continuing the course without a hat, or with chinstrap undone	Elimination*

\*Competitors eliminated in this phase may not proceed to the XC phase

##### **XC Phase**

Knocking down an obstacle	4 penalties
First refusal, run-out or circle of horse at obstacle	5 penalties
Second refusal, run-out or circle at same obstacle	10 penalties
Third refusal, run-out or circle at same obstacle	Elimination
Four refusals around the course	Elimination
Fall of horse	Elimination

Fall of rider	Elimination
Error of Course not rectified	Elimination
Horse trapped in obstacle	Elimination
Horse resisting rider for 60 consecutive seconds anywhere on the course	Elimination
Failure to cross the finish line mounted	Elimination
Continuing the course without a hat, or with chinstrap undone	Elimination
Time will be taken overall.	
Exceeding the time limit	Elimination
For every commenced second in excess of the optimum time	0.4 penalty
Every commenced second in excess of 5 seconds under the optimum time	0.4 penalty
Time limit is twice the optimum time.	

### **AREAS & CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**In the Arena Eventing Team Competition, if a member is eliminated or retires, they will receive a finishing score of 100 penalties, for the purposes of the team competition.**

## 5. DRESSAGE RULES

### 5.1 COMMANDERS

**Novice/Intermediate/Open** – commanders are not permitted at Area Competitions or the Championships.

**Grassroots PC80** – commanders are permitted at Area Competitions but not at the Championships.

**Preliminary PC70** – commanders are permitted at Area Competitions and at the Championships.

*Reasonable Adjustment may be considered if required, please see*

<https://pcuk.org/officials/equality-diversity/reasonable-adjustment/>.

Commanders are permitted for warm-up classes if run.

### 5.2 ELIGIBILITY

**Preliminary PC70:** Riders in this class must be aged 13 years and under on 1st January 2025, even if the Area competition is in 2025. Combination of horse/pony are NOT eligible if they have:

- completed a Novice Area level or above summer competition in Dressage or Eventing in the current year or have done so in previous years.
- completed above Prelim level with British Dressage (or DI) or at BD Novice Team/My Quest.
- been placed 1st - 4th on more than two occasions at a previous Preliminary PC70 Regional Championships.

**Grassroots PC80:** Combination of horse/pony and rider are NOT eligible if they have:

- completed an Intermediate Area level or above summer competition in Dressage or Eventing in the current year or have done so in previous years.
- completed above Prelim level with British Dressage or at BD Novice My/Team Quest

**Novice:** Combination of horse/pony and rider are NOT eligible if they have:

- completed an Open Area level or above summer competition in Dressage in the current year or have done so in previous years
- won any BD points (BD Preliminary points do not count for the purposes of this rule)
- completed at BD Elementary level or above (BD Team/My Quest competitions do not count for the purpose of this rule)
- completed in BD Novice Music classes.

**Intermediate:** Combination of horse/pony and rider are NOT eligible if they have:

- won any BD points at Elementary level or above.
- completed at BD Medium level or above (BD Team/My Quest competitions do not count for the purpose of this rule)

**Open:** Open to all members of The Pony Club.

### 5.3 SECTIONS

If there are 30 competitors or less the section **MUST** be held in one arena. If there are more than 30 competitors, the section may be split into two arenas. In this case two team members should be in one section, and the third team member along with remaining individuals in the second section.

#### **5.4 TEAM SCORING**

Points shall be awarded to each team competitor depending on their placing (1st =1 point, 2nd = 2 points, etc.) relative only to other team competitors in that class and not on their overall placing in that class. Any competitors riding as an individual in the same class as team competitors should not be given points. The points for the three team members shall be added together to give the team score. The winning team will be the team with the least points.

#### **5.4 NUMBERS TO QUALIFY FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

##### **Individuals:**

The top two individuals from each arena will qualify. If any of the individual qualifiers are in a qualifying team their place will be passed down the line.

##### **Teams:**

The top Branch/Centre team from each Area at each level will qualify. Where a qualifying individual is a member of a qualifying team, the qualifying individual place should be passed down the line.

#### **5.5 DRESSAGE TESTS**

	<b>Area Competitions</b>	<b>Championships</b>
<b>Preliminary</b>	Preliminary PC70 Dressage Test 2022	Preliminary PC70 Dressage Test 2022
<b>Grassroots</b>	Grassroots PC80 Dressage Test 2018	Grassroots PC80 Dressage Championship Test 2024
<b>Novice</b>	Novice Dressage Test 2020	<b>Novice Dressage Championship Test 2025</b>
<b>Intermediate</b>	Intermediate Dressage Test 2024	Intermediate Dressage Championship Test 2023
<b>Open</b>	Open Dressage Test 2020	Open Dressage Championship Test 2018

**Test and score sheets are available to download from: [The Pony Club Website](#)**

## 6. SHOW JUMPING RULES

### 6.1 SADDLERY & DRESS

At all times the whip must only be used for good reason, as an aid to encourage the horse forward. In all Pony Club Show Jumping, excessive use of the whip, including repeated slapping down the shoulder, is prohibited. The rules (see Pony Club Show Jumping Rulebook) state that the whip may be used a **maximum of three times** after entering the arena. Use of the whip will be monitored, especially at the Championships, and excessive use may result in elimination at the discretion of the judges.

### 6.2 ELIGIBILITY

**PC70 – Riders in this class must be aged 13 years and under on 1st January 2025, even if the Area competition is in 2025. A combination of horse/pony are NOT eligible if they have:**

- **Previously achieved a double clear in any competition with a starting height of 90cm or above in the previous or current calendar year.**

**PC80 – A combination of horse/pony and rider are NOT eligible if they have:**

- **Previously achieved a double clear in any competition with a starting height of 100cm or above in the previous or current calendar year.**

**PC90 – A combination of horse/pony and rider are NOT eligible if they have:**

- **Previously achieved a double clear in any competition with a starting height of 110cm or above in the previous or current calendar year.**

**PC100 – A combination of horse/pony and rider are NOT eligible if they have:**

- **Previously achieved a double clear in any competition with a starting height of 120cm or above in the previous or current calendar year.**

**PC110 GRAND PRIX – Riders CANNOT compete in the Open Grand Prix Area Competition if they have ridden in the PC80 Spring Festival Area Competition in the same year.**

### 6.3 NUMBERS TO QUALIFY FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Qualification at Area Competitions will work on a ratio basis as below. If any of the individual qualifiers are in a qualifying team their place will be passed down the line.

#### Teams

The top Branch/Centre team from each Area at each height will qualify. Where a qualifying individual is a member of a qualifying team, the qualifying individual place should be passed down the line.

#### PC70, 80, PC90, & PC100 Individuals

Number of starters	Number to qualify (plus any tying for these places)
0 – 50	4
51 – 60	5
61 – 70	6
And pro rata	

#### PC110 Grand Prix Individuals

Any combination eliminated or retired in round one will NOT qualify.

Number of starters	Number to qualify (plus any tying for these places)
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<b>0 – 15</b>	4
<b>16 and above</b>	5

#### **6.4 COURSE DIMENSIONS – AREA COMPETITIONS**

**PC70, PC80, PC90, and PC100** Area Competitions can run as EITHER Single Phase or Table A7. For Area Competitions run as single phase there must be a minimum of 10 fences, with at least 5 in the second phase. For Area Competitions run as Table A7 there must be a minimum of 9 fences in the first round and a minimum of 6 in the jump-off.

**PC110** Area Competitions are to be run as Table A7. For ponies (148cm and under), the distances in the doubles and combinations will be changed to the recommended 148cm distances. Riders must declare clearly on the entry form if they are riding in the 148cm and under section or the horse section.

**All dimensions apply to the first round of each competition. The jump-off or the timed section of a single phase will have two/three fences at 5cm higher than the class height.**

##### **PC70 - Area Competitions**

Speed 325 metres per minute

1 double combination (uprights only on two non-jumping strides) **0.70 m**

Maximum height & spread **0.70 m**

Area Competitions to be built to maximum height and dimensions

##### **PC80 - Area Competitions**

Speed 325 metres per minute

1 or 2 double combinations (uprights only on two non-jumping strides) **0.80 m**

Maximum height & spread **0.80 m**

Area Competitions to be built to maximum height and dimensions

##### **PC90 - Area Competitions**

Speed 325 metres per minute

1 or 2 double combinations (on two non-jumping strides, second part must be upright) **0.90 m**

Maximum height & spread **0.90 m**

Area Competitions to be built to maximum height and dimensions

##### **PC100 - Area Competitions**

Speed 325 metres per minute

1 or 2 double combinations (on two non-jumping strides, second part must be upright) **1.00 m**

Maximum height & spread **1.00 m**

Area Competitions to be built to maximum height and dimensions

##### **PC110 Grand Prix- Area Competitions**

To be judged under BS Table A7 unless there is equality for qualifying places then a jump-off will decide. If minor non-qualifying places are needed, then time in the first round will decide.

Speed 325 metres per minute	
1 or 2 double combinations (on two non-jumping strides, second part must be upright)	<b>1.05 m</b>
Maximum height & spread	<b>1.10 m</b>
Area Competitions to be built to maximum height and dimensions	

## **6.5 COURSE DIMENSIONS – CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**All dimensions apply to the first round of each competition. The jump-off will have two/three fences at 5cm higher than the class height.**

### **PC70 - Championships**

Speed 325 metres per minute	
1 double combinations (on two non-jumping strides, second part must be upright)	<b>0.70 m</b>
Maximum height & spread	<b>0.70 m</b>

### **PC80 - Championships**

Speed 325 metres per minute	
1 or 2 double combinations (on two non-jumping strides, second part must be upright)	<b>0.80 m</b>
Maximum height & spread	<b>0.80 m</b>

### **PC90 - Championships**

Speed 325 metres per minute	
1 or 2 double combinations (on two non-jumping strides, second part must be upright)	<b>0.90 m</b>
Maximum height & spread	<b>0.90 m</b>

### **PC100 - Championships**

Speed 325 metres per minute	
1 or 2 double combinations (on two non-jumping strides, second part must be upright)	<b>1.00 m</b>
Maximum height & spread	<b>1.00 m</b>

### **PC110 Grand Prix- Championships**

Speed 325 metres per minute	
1 or 2 double combinations (on two non-jumping strides, second part must be upright)	<b>1.10 m</b>
Maximum height & spread of fences in the first round	<b>1.10 m</b>

All clear rounds or the top 10 competitors (from the first round) will go through to the second round. In the event of equality of faults, time will decide. All scores in the round will be carried forward to the second round.

Other competitors will be placed according to their faults and time.

All those placed equal first on faults for the two rounds will go through to the jump-off which will be against the clock.

Other competitors will be placed on faults and time.

## 6.6 NOTES TO COURSE DESIGNERS

**For Area Competitions a BS Course Designer is mandatory.** If the course designer is not qualified, then approval must be sought from The Pony Club.

It is important to use some 'fill-in material' so that the fences look inviting and hollow plastic poles are not allowed.

**Safety Cups - are mandatory for all Pony Club Show Jumping Competitions including any practice fences. To be used on the back rails of spread fences and middle and back rails of triple bars**

### The Course:

- If possible, the first two fences should be sited to be jumped towards the collecting ring.
- One third to one half of the obstacles should be spreads and must include at least one square oxer.
- Distances - unless the competition class stipulates the height of pony the distances should be for horses.
- In a course designed for a mixed class (horses and ponies) it is important not to use difficult committed distances so that ponies can adjust their strides. There should be no three-stride distances anywhere in the course. There must be no less than five strides on the approach or following any combination (either double or treble). Except where the rules for the competition stipulate and there is a significant mix of sizes of ponies/horses, one or two double combinations instead of a double and a treble may be better suited to the competition.
- The second element of a double combination must be an upright.

## 6.7 BRITISH SHOWJUMPING TABLE DEFINITIONS

Table A7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All equal clears (or equal faults if no clears) go through to a jump-off</li><li>• One jump-off against the clock</li><li>• Competitors placed on faults and time</li></ul>
Single Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Faults cumulative over both sections</li><li>• Second section against the clock</li><li>• Five to seven fences in each section (minimum 10 &amp; maximum 13 fences overall. Minimum 12 numbered fences in qualifying competitions)</li><li>• Competitors must complete the whole course to be eligible for a prize placing</li></ul>