

RULE CHANGES

Effective 1st January 2026

EVENT RULES

STALLIONS – Event rule 7.4

Stallions and rigs cannot be excluded from Official Events except in Showing where the over-riding body of a Show does not allow stallions or if the event is being run in conjunction with an equestrian body that does not allow stallions.

CLIPPING - Event Rule 67.1.2

Clipping, shaving, or otherwise shortening the hair inside the rim of the horse's ears (auricle) is not permitted at any Official HRCAV event.

Riders may neuten the outer edges of the ear for presentation purposes, provided that the inner ear hair remains intact and unaltered.

An exemption may be granted for horses whose sensory (tactile) hairs have been removed as part of necessary veterinary treatment. In such cases, the owner or rider must carry a **veterinary certificate** detailing the nature and date of the treatment. This certificate must be produced upon request at any HRCAV event to verify that the removal was for legitimate medical reasons.

- From 1 January to 30 June 2026, competitors found in breach of this rule will receive a warning.
- From 1 July 2026 onwards, any horse presented with the inner ear hair clipped or removed will be subject to elimination from the event

CHIEF COURSE DESIGNER ROLE

EVENT RULES

32.1.2 The JSC may appoint a Chief Course Designer (CCD) to oversee the design and construction of Show Jumping courses to ensure that courses are built in accordance with HRCAV specifications and recommendations for course design. The CCD shall have the authority to make changes to courses to address compliance and/or safety issues.

Add 43.6 Course Designers are to be approved in advance by the JSC who may decide approval is subject to a Chief Course Designer (TD equivalent) being appointed to check the courses on the day (refer Event Rule 32)

Delete 43.7 Course accreditation by the Technical Delegate – refer ER 33

Delete 44.6 Course accreditation by the Technical Delegate – refer ER 33

Add 44.6 SJ Course Designers are to be approved in advance by the JSC who may decide approval is subject to a Chief Course Designer (TD equivalent) being appointed to check the courses on the day (refer Event Rule 32)

SPOT VET CHECKS

EVENT RULES

Add new rule 37.8 (Rule 37 is Cruelty and Abuse of Horse)

Spot vet checks may be undertaken at any event at any time at the discretion of the HRCAV, to determine whether the Horse Welfare Policy has been breached. Checks will follow protocols outlined in Appendix 16 (new appendix)

- a) All costs associated with the vet checks are to be borne by HRCAV
- b) If the vet check is made during or before the commencement of the event and the vet determines that the horse is not in a fit state to continue in the event, it will be immediately eliminated and a report sent to the HRCAV who will determine whether further action under the Complaint Handling Rules is appropriate.
- c) If the vet check is made after the combination has already finished competing for the day and the vet determines that the horse is lame, exhausted or suffering from some other health issue causing it serious distress, it will be immediately eliminated and a report sent to the HRCAV who will determine whether further action under the Complaint Handling Rules is appropriate.
- d) If a vet is present, any Official who is part of the event organisation may request a spot vet check at any time before, during or after a combination has taken part in the event.

Appendix 16 Spot Vet check Protocols

1. HRCAV Office will book the vet and liaise with Event Organising Committee.
2. Host Club must provide HRCAV Office with the final draw for the Event as soon as it is released.

3. Host Club must keep the existence of the vet check confidential until riders arrive on the day of the Event, but make appropriate adjustments to timing of the day eg require riders to report earlier than usual for gear check if checks are to be performed before commencement of the event
4. Host Club must provide suitable facilities for the vet check, including a space for trotting up and lungeing (part of an arena)
5. HRCAV Office will liaise with the vet over selection of combinations to check
6. The vet will check for lameness, fitness, general condition and any signs of a serious health issue. No samples are to be taken from the horse unless Swabbing has also been declared in accordance with Event Rule 35.3

The vet will advise the Host Club if any combinations are to be eliminated and provide a report to HRCAV Office

MONITORING OF HORSES' FITNESS

NAVIGATION RIDE RULES

Add to 9.1 The name of the steward is to be communicated to HRCAV Office before the commencement of the event

Add to 9.2 The Ground Jury must report to the HRCAV any combinations eliminated from the event or which withdraw during the event on fitness grounds.

Add new rule 9.3 (Rule 9 is Monitoring of Horses' Fitness). Spot vet checks may be made before, during or after the combination has taken part in the event in accordance with Event Rule 37.8. This may include trotting in an arena before and or after the event, either under saddle or in hand.

LEVEL 2 3PE STYLE PHASE

Update to Level 2 Style Phase – Judging Criteria

Obstacles Affected:

13. Pole Pick Up
14. The Ring
15. Pole Drop Off

Change: Remove “Walk” as an acceptable gait for these obstacles.

LEVEL 3 GATE OBSTACLE IN 3PE

Updated Wording – Obstacle 7: Gate

Replace current wording: Level 3 and above, hand must remain on the gate or rope. Riders are not required to dismount to replace the rope if dropped – must move onto the next obstacle.

With: For Level 3 and above, a hand must remain on the solid gate or rope gate at all times during the manoeuvre. However, if the solid gate or rope gate is dropped, it may be picked up to complete the task without the rider dismounting.

HORSE TRIALS DRESSAGE TESTS

HORSE TRIALS RULES

6.2. **The following Official HRCAV Dressage Tests must be used for Horse Trials only:**

- Level 1 Competitors – Test 1.A and 1.B
- Level 2 Competitors – Test 2.A and 2.B
- Level 3 Competitors – Test 3.1 & 3.2
- Level 4 Competitors – Test 4.1 & 4.2
- Level 5 Competitors – Test 5.1 & 5.2