

# General Rules



## SECTION 2

Inter-Club: *Judge:* as for National and Championships or judge agreed by regional committee

*Course Designer:* from approved SJAI regional panel or above/EFI/AIRC panel

National & Championships:

*Judge:* Judge from approved SJAI/EFI/AIRC panel

*Course Designer:* Course builder from approved SJAI/EFI/AIRC panel

Qualifiers: *Judge:* as for National and Championships

*Course Designer:* as for National and Championships

### Horse Trials

The above apply in each phase. In addition, a suitable Technical Delegate (Chief Steward) agreed by A.I.R.C. Horse Trials Committee must be appointed by the organising committee.

## 5. Riders - Grading

### (a) Riders are graded so that:

- i. They are not asked in competition to do anything which is above or below their level of expertise and which would prove personally dangerous or impose unnecessary hardship on the horses.
- ii. To standardise, throughout the country, competition standards with the object of placing as many riders as possible on as equal a footing as possible.
- iii. Grading of individual members is the responsibility of the club grading committee, with the advice where appropriate of a recognised instructor. The onus is on the grading committee to grade their riders fairly and in a sporting manner.

### (b) There are six grades of rider, they are:

#### i. Primary

Is to cater for the beginner rider and therefore it is imperative that this grade is not abused.

They may compete at club level and inter club level under A.I.R.C. rules.

**Dressage:** They may not compete in Dressage Ireland competitions.

**Show Jumping:** They may not compete in SJAI competitions.

**Horse Trials:** They may only train over specifically designed fences.

**Cross Jump:** They may compete in competitions that are specifically designed for them.

**Le Trec:** They may compete in competitions that are specifically designed for them. The orienteering phase must be specifically designed and be able to be monitored.

They may not wear spurs. Primary riders are not graded for cross-country. Primary riders may upgrade in dressage without changing their show jumping grade, however they will not be graded in cross-country.

#### ii. Advanced Primary

Is to cater for the more experienced Primary rider, who is in search of the principles of riding and training.

**Dressage:** They may compete in Dressage Ireland competitions up to and including Preliminary standard on the understanding, should they obtain points, they will be required to upgrade to Intermediate.

**Show Jumping:** They may not compete in classes exceeding 0.80m.

**Horse Trials:** They may only compete in club and inter-club competitions over a specifically designed course.

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- Hunter Trials: They may only compete in club and inter-club competitions over a specifically designed course.  
Cross Jump: They may compete in competitions at an appropriate height.  
Le Trec: They may compete in Le Trec.

They may not wear spurs.

### iii. Intermediate

Is to cater for the more competent rider in search of developing the principles of riding and training.

Dressage: They may compete in Dressage Ireland competitions up to and including Preliminary standard.

**Show Jumping: They may not compete in classes exceeding 0.90m.**

**Horse Trials: They may not compete in classes where they exceed the dimensions as prescribed in 7, b for this grade.**

Hunter Trials: They may compete in competitions at an appropriate height.

Cross Jump: They may compete in competitions at an appropriate height.

Le Trec: They may compete in Le Trec.

### iv. Advanced Intermediate

Is to cater for the more active rider who is beginning to understand the principles of riding and training.

Dressage: They may compete in Dressage Ireland competitions up to and including Novice standard.

**Show Jumping: They may not compete in classes exceeding 1.00m with the exception of Amateur A level only.**

**Horse Trials: They may not compete in classes where they exceed the dimensions as prescribed in 7, b for this grade.**

Hunter Trials: They may compete in competitions at an appropriate height.

Cross Jump: They may compete in competitions at an appropriate height.

Le Trec: They may compete in Le Trec.

### v. Open

Is to cater for the more experienced and active rider.

Dressage: They may compete at Dressage Ireland classes up to Elementary Standard.

**Show Jumping: They may not compete in classes exceeding 1.10m with the exception of Amateur AA level.**

**Horse Trials: They may not compete in classes where they exceed the dimensions as prescribed in 7, b for this grade.**

Hunter Trials: They may compete in competitions at an appropriate height.

Cross Jump: They may compete in competitions at an appropriate height.

Le Trec: They may compete in Le Trec.

### vi. Advanced Open

The Advanced Open rider may compete at any level in Dressage Ireland, Eventing Ireland and S.J.A.I. competitions.

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### (c) Grade Span

The riders will be graded for the disciplines of dressage, show jumping and horse trials. A rider may not have a span of more than one different grade i.e. if they are graded Advanced Primary in any discipline then they may be no higher than Intermediate in any other discipline, or if they are Open in any discipline then they may be no lower than Advanced Intermediate in any other discipline. The cross-country grade must not be higher than the show jumping grade at any level.

In special circumstances where the show jumping and cross-country grades are permitted to be two grades lower than the dressage grade, the two jumping grades must be the same. Primary riders may upgrade in dressage without changing their show jumping grade, however they will not be graded in cross-country.

### (d) Multi-Disciplined Competitions

In multi-disciplined competitions where the rider has split gradings, then their grade for that competition will be as follows:

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| i. Combined Training: | Competitors will compete at their show jumping grade.   |
| ii. Horse Trials:     | Competitors will compete at their cross-country grade.  |
| iii. Cross Jump:      | Competitors will compete at their cross-country grade.<br>Although Primary riders are not issued with a cross-country grade, it is understood that they may still compete at Primary level over a specifically designed course. |

This is done in order to prevent the rider from being asked to either show jump or Cross Jump-country above the level of competence and so minimise risks to personal safety and prevent abuse of the horse.

### (e) Downgrading

In special circumstances the riders may apply to their regional committee, through their club secretary, for downgrading. Special forms are provided for both regional and club secretaries and these must be submitted to A.I.R.C. Head Office by both parties. If granted, this downgrading applies for a specific period as stipulated by the regional committee. The regional committee may take whatever steps they deem necessary in arriving at a decision to down grade. In the event of a dispute, members have the right to appeal their case to the Executive Committee of A.I.R.C. through their club secretary.

### (f) Upgrading

No member may upgrade themselves "on the day" of any competition. Upgrading can only be permitted by application to the regional committee, through their club secretary. Special forms are provided for both regional and club secretaries and these must be submitted to A.I.R.C. Head Office by both parties. This is to minimise risks to personal safety and prevent abuse of the horse.

### (g) Grading Appeal

A member may appeal his/her grade to the Executive Committee, who will appoint an Appeals Grading Committee and venue where the grade can be clarified.

## 6. Horses - Eligibility for Competition

### a) Age

No horse under four years of age is eligible to compete in riding club competitions. In **cross-country type competitions**, no horse may be under five years of age.

# At a Glance



## SECTION 8

### A.I.R.C. GRADING SYSTEM GUIDELINES

Events	P	AP	I	AI	O	AO
<b>DRESSAGE IRELAND</b>						
Preliminary	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Novice	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Elementary	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Combined Training	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prix Caprilli	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>SJAI</b>						
0.90 metres	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Amateur Competitions	No	No	No	Yes A	Yes AA	Yes
1.10 metres	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
1.20 metres	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
<b>EVENTING IRELAND</b>						
Novice	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Inter & Higher	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Training / Pre Novice	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>OTHERS</b>						
Cross Jump	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Showing Classes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Working Hunter <small>(non A.I.R.C.)</small>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Le Trec	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>GRADE EXAM GUIDELINES</b>						
Pony Club		D+	C	C+/B	B	A
A.I.R.C.	See exam handbook					
BHS		1 / 2	2 / 3	3	Up to 4	I.I & I
ICES	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

**N.B. with proliferation of modern qualifications, please consult your grading officer.**

# At a Glance



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### ELIGIBILITY OF THE HORSE

No horse may have won more than:

Dressage Ireland 149 points

SJAI Horse (not compete at 1.30m or higher), Pony (not compete at 1.20m or higher) in the last three years.

Eventing Ireland Not to have competed at FEI 3\* level or higher within the last three years.

Events	P	AP	I	AI	O	AO
<b>Show Jumping [Fence Dimensions]</b>						
Maximum Height	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.20
Maximum Spread	0.60	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.20
<b>Cross-Country [Fence Dimensions]</b>						
Maximum height	-	0.75	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.10
Brush Fence	-	0.60	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.20
Maximum spread (above Ground)	-	0.90	1.10	1.25	1.25	1.25
Ground measurement of fence with ditch	-	1.20	1.22	1.50	1.85	1.85
Height of fence	-	0.60	0.60	0.70	0.90	0.90
Plain stream, ditch, etc.	-	0.90	1.30	1.70	2.15	2.15
Drop fences would not normally exceed	-	0.75	1.00	1.20	1.40	1.40
Times will not exceed (metres per minute)	-	275-375	350-450	350-450	400-500	400-500

### HORSE TRIALS

Length of course: not less than one mile, and not more than one and a half miles.

No. of Fences: not more than 25 and not less than 14 including at least one ditch with or without a fence.

Advanced Primary courses should have approximately 15 fences and should be approximately one mile in length.

### SHOW JUMPING

Optimum Time:	Primary & Advanced Primary	300 mpm (indoor)	325 mpm (outdoor)
	Advanced Primary	325 mpm (indoor)	350 mpm (outdoor)
Time Allowed:	Intermediate	325 mpm (indoor)	350 mpm (outdoor)
	Advanced Intermediate	325 mpm (indoor)	350 mpm (outdoor)
	Open/Advanced Open	325 mpm (indoor)	350 mpm (outdoor)
	Derby	350 mpm (indoor)	375 mpm (outdoor)